



# The House of Six Doors

**Author Patricia Selbert-Dunk was born in Venezuela, raised in four different countries, speaks four different languages, is now an American citizen with a truly multicultural background. She was born to an 'Antillean' mother and a Dutch father and is the niece (her mother was 'Fody da Costa Gomez) of one of the greatest politicians and statesmen in the history of the Netherlands Antilles, Moises Frumencio da Costa Gomez, better known as 'Doctor'.**

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Selbert has written numerous articles for magazines, newspapers and short stories and her debut novel, *The House of Six Doors*, will be launched on February 22. Although the novel was inspired by events in her own life, all the characters are fictional. Selbert has a special love for Curaçao; she feels the island "holds her roots and the history of half of her ancestry. Curaçao is where her imagination soars."

## HORSES

Horses have played a major role in Selbert's life and she claims: "my experience training horses proved to be essential in my writing: Emotions are what motivate not only animals but also humans. As a horse trainer I had to learn to sense my horses' emotions in order to know how they were going to behave at any particular moment. When writing a novel I tune into my characters and imagine what emotions they would be experiencing which helps me to discover how they will behave. I find that it is important to not only to articulate the narrative story but also the underlying emotional story." Patricia had a successful career as an equestrienne and carried the flag of the Netherlands Antilles at the Pan American Games, the World Equestrian Games and the Olympic stadium in Stockholm, a flag that will never be carried again by an equestrian or any other athlete because since October 10th of last year the constellation of six and then five Dutch Caribbean islands ceased to exist. She mourns the dissolution of a country she was proud to be a citizen of but welcomes the birth of the new country of Curaçao.

After a successful career as an equestrienne Selbert went back to college to earn a BA in communications. When she was diagnosed with dyslexia, she accepted the new challenge and now freely expresses herself writing the stories that fill her heart. She is already working on her next novel, about three women looking for the secret to eternal love and happiness

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Patricia's young life was like an emotional roller coaster. She was dragged by her parents from country to country and learned to communicate with people of different cultures in Dutch, Spanish, Papiamentu and English. At the young age of thirteen they moved to the United States where she had to face all the challenges that most immigrants encounter. They settled down in Santa Barbara California where Patricia met the man of her dreams, Jim, and became a mom of two wonderful boys Stefan and Spencer. The three men she calls 'the loves of my life' and dedicated her first novel to.

After her career as an equestrienne, Patricia went back to college to earn a BA in communications. Patricia: "when I was diagnosed with dyslexia, I accepted the new challenge and now freely express myself writing the stories that fill my heart." She is already working on her next novel about three wealthy women, looking for the secret to eternal love and happiness.

## HOUSE OF SIX DOORS

'The House of Six Doors' is about a young girl who leaves her beloved island Curaçao in the nineteen-seventies to live with her family in California. It narrates all the challenges she faces as an immigrant, how to absorb the changes, adjust and expand her principles, values and expectations. Serena tries to live up to her bi-polar mother's unattainably high expectations; afraid not to send her in another bout of depression. Her grandmother (Oma) is the sturdy and wise figure who passes on wisdom and the family's history. Although Oma remains in Curaçao, thousands of miles away, Serena clings to her memory for support and comfort. The House of Six doors described in the book shows a resemblance to many monumental and beautiful 'landhuizen' (large country houses) that have been restored in Curaçao during the past decades. "The title captures the heart of the novel". Most 'landhuizen' have one big room in the centre and three doors on either side to let the North East trade winds breeze through. "Three doors to bring in gratitude, wisdom and compassion and three doors to let out greed, ignorance and anger."

Although all characters in the book are mainly fictional, Patricia acknowledges that the story is loosely based on her life. The main character, Serena, also immigrates to the U.S. as a young girl and learns to grasp the opportunity, while struggling against all the challenges, to create a new life for herself.

Author Patricia wants to uphold the tradition of her island, Curaçao and has prepared her 'bolo pretu' many months in advance. "I have cut all my fruit, soaked them in liquor and baked the bolo's over six months ago; every two weeks I carefully drizzle liquor on the bolo so that it can steep to perfection for the big day. I'm looking forward to sharing a taste of my island with my friends and guest."

\*Bolo Pretu is a traditional black fruit cake made in Curaçao for very special occasions like weddings. Many different dried fruit like dates, prunes, currants, raisins, figs, cherries, pineapples, and papaya are cut or grinded and soaked in different kinds of liquors (rum, brandy, Marsala wine, Curacao liquors) for up to six months.

The House of Six Doors is available through bookstores, online retailers worldwide and on the book's website [www.thehouseofsixdoors.com](http://www.thehouseofsixdoors.com)

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A series of book trailers featuring beautiful photography of Curaçao as well as additional author information and video is available at [www.youtube.com/publishingbytheseas](http://www.youtube.com/publishingbytheseas).

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