

## *Dating Your Character* Chapter 1 Excerpt:

Never having frequented the track before, it was especially interesting to go behind the scenes and meet the quirky and unlikely characters that make up that community. Like Bess, the woman who tailors the “colors” the jockeys wear, which reflect the history and emotion of a particular owner or jockey.

As often happens, in the midst of researching a character, you could be sitting somewhere and the perfect expert you need is in the seat right next to you. Keep your mind and heart accessible. Curiosity may have killed the cat, but for a writer, it is what keeps our stories fresh and alive.