

Kori D. Miller

Author * Essayist * Storyteller

What is *Deadly Sins* about?

The book introduces the reader to Dezeray Jackson. She's a private investigator hired to solve three murders and recover two items in four different mysteries in three states: Florida, New York, and Nebraska. Each mystery is resolved in five to seven scenes. The reader is challenged to decide what deadly sin or sins the antagonists are guilty of committing.

Why did you write this as a mini-series?

My primary objective was to get to know my character better. I originally wrote a full-length novel for Dezeray Jackson in 2005, but something was off about it, so I shelved the draft. In 2013, I wanted to work with this character again. This time, I challenged myself to write in a flash fiction style to see what would happen. Each scene had to be less than 1000 words. I went a bit over my word count in two scenes, but overall, I hit my mark. The result is *Deadly Sins*.

Where did you get the ideas for the four mysteries?

Most of my ideas come from watching or reading the news and talking with family members. One of the stories came about because I read *Fifty Shades of Grey* and thought, "I wonder what would happen if Dez met someone like that?"

What traits or tidbits do you share with Dez?

We're both martial artists, but I'm a pacifist. Dez is ambidextrous, I'm not. We're both pool players. She likes her guns. I'm not into guns. She eats just about anything. I'm a pescetarian. We're mostly opposites, I think.

Why did you decide to self-publish *Deadly Sins*?

I enjoy the challenge. As a business owner, I'm used to handling several aspects of my businesses. Writing isn't any different. I also like the control of knowing when and how the book will be released to my readers. I'm not opposed to traditionally publishing and I'm querying some projects. I like being able to do both.

Do you handle everything yourself when you self-publish?

No. I ask people to read drafts and provide feedback. Many of them are writers. Their feedback and suggestions are invaluable. I also have an editor. And, I'm not a graphic artist, so that has to get hired out. I've worked with two talented artists so far: Jenn Carter out of Omaha, NE and Christopher Brown from the DC area.

Are there any specific authors whose writing styles inspired your book?

I like reading Janet Evanovich's bounty hunter series and last year, I met John Rector, an author in Omaha, NE. He writes thrillers with short narrative and great dialogue. Both of these writers create intriguing and entertaining mysteries that move at a good pace. That's my goal.

Do you have another project in the works?

Several, actually. I'm writing more stories for Dez – still exploring the deadly sins, but also looking at some other ideas. I'm revising two middle grade novels: *The Coyote Wars* and *Archer Jaxson and The Compass Wars*, and querying two children's books: *Splash!* and *Dante*.