

PROFILE
OF THE WEEK
BY RAJESH CHINTAMAN

BEATRIX DETROY: A SILKY, CARAMEL CHOCOLATE

Life's indeed like a box of chocolates for chocolatier Beatrix Detroy. Her world is coated in chocolate and people in her life inspire the decadent morsels she invents, such as Burning Desire, a heart-shaped, bite-size chocolate spiced with cayenne pepper. Like her namesake Peter Rabbit creator Beatrix Potter, who transports readers and viewers into a lavish, whimsical watercolour world, the chocolatier conjures a chocolate induced nirvana that melts on the tongue and satisfies the most intense cravings.

Beatrix dabbled in chocolate from childhood when she putted around her grandparents' bakery in Germany. However, owning and pouring delicious handmade chocolates that are served in *The Belgium Chocolate Shop's* chic white boxes with gold embossed, deep mauve ribbon were not in her dreams. The chocolatier studied in-

formation technology and human resources before following the allure of chocolate making to Belgium. There she learnt the art of the perfect balance of flavours and enchantment. "I turned my hobby into a profession. I have always been creative, so I followed my spirit."

The art of chocolate making is not as easy as it may appear, she added. "You need to have creativity and it takes at least three years to learn the basics of the process."

Taking a break from Europe, Beatrix became enchanted with St. Maarten when she sailed into Great Bay on a Caribbean voyage in 1992. "It was like no other place. I liked the friendliness and the splash of Europe."

Settling in a new, strange place like Vianne Rocher, heroine of Joan Harris' novel, *Chocolat*, Beatrix began whipping up batches of exotic chocolates from the freshest ingredients. All the chocolate creations in the Belgium Chocolate Shop on



garden."

Character of fiction you associate with...

Vianne Rocher of *Chocolat*. I have some of her in me. I like to tease and provoke, but I have limits.

You are...

A playful, but strict woman. I treat everyone the way I want to be treated.

What inspires your chocolate creations?

People. All the men who have played a role in my life are now chocolates. One of them inspired Sweet Dream: my dark chocolate filled with pineapple, chilli and crystalized rum.

Favourite chocolate coated voyage

Biting into a chocolate covered orange slice...

Do you think of people as chocolates?

Yes. People's personalities are like flavours, tastes, shapes and experiences.

What need should your chocolate fulfil?

I want to touch people, inspire them. I want to see happy faces and the shop is always filled with these.

Highest hurdle in the chocolate making process

In the tropics, the chocolates. Because there are no preservatives, it melts quickly. Making this even more difficult are power outages. Recently, I had to discard 50 kilograms of melted chocolate. That set me back a few days, but I am catching up.

Most difficult request received...

A local couple getting married requested a champagne bottle made of white chocolate and filled with chocolate truffles. It was a challenge, but I accomplished it. I have special orders often and as long as I have the ingredients you will get what you like.

What chocolate would you be?

Silky caramel...it's made with smooth caramel. It's seduc-

ing, half liquid and a bit sticky so it stays around!

Do you eat store bought chocolates?

I taste my own creations. My friends sometimes tease me by offering me a Snicker or some other candy.

Describe St. Maarten in chocolate...

The island would have a hard, crunchy shell, filled with a spicy sweet surprise. Every day here has an unexpected surprise. I just love it.

Your first ever batch of chocolates...

Didn't come out of the mould...but I continued. Everything I do is done with passion. I don't do things half way. I am a perfectionist.

What would your nickname be?

Chocolate. When I pass people they always say, 'Hi, Chocolate.'

Other than the wafting scent of chocolate, what else do you leave behind?

The scent of Bvlgari's Green Tea. I don't really like perfume, but this I like; it is subtle.

Theme song of your chocolate coated dreams

I'll survive by Gloria Gaynor.

Trait you despise in people

Jealousy, dishonesty and portraying a different face in public other than your true self. Be yourself, be honest to your principles. Don't talk about them, act them.

How do you find your balance?

Tae Kwan Do. I discovered it with my sons and I now attend classes three times a week. I like the inner balance it brings and the principles of the sports. I am a blue belt now.

Perfect Halloween costume...

The teasing witch. I have dressed up like that before.

Skinny factor

A spiderette has many reasons to stay fit, look good and dress to impress. The first reason for me to keep my luscious spidery frame is for myself, of course, although some prattlers have their own version of the tale.

Speaking of looking good, a certain high ranking spiderette in the web council has been noticeably sporting some...ahm...delightful curves, a seemingly tauter stomach and a bouncier step. Her transformation from a slightly matronly posture to almost cougar-like sleekness has been turning heads.

Daddy Long Legs within her own circles are wondering who...they really mean, what has inspired the shedding of love handles to show off pleasurable curves. They are also wondering who the Daddy Long Legs "emperor of the twilight" is and how this may affect their claims to fame.

I am not a spiderette who gossips, but I can never pass up a juicy titbit when it is handed to me. My spider tapping has been working double time to reveal the source of the metamorphosis...stay tuned for more on that.

Waiting for the reports to come in, I couldn't help but wonder why people are so obsessed with skinny and why, when a spiderette decides to melt away some inches, it always has to be about a Daddy Long Legs. This way of thinking is just wrong and should change.

Anyhow, it is not going to change anything soon and I'd better get on with the story. Who is this mysterious stranger leading the spiderette through her paces? My web tapping revealed that a Daddy Long Legs has been the catalyst for the changes and the bounce in her step. Guess I was wrong to assume that all spiderettes take care of themselves for the pure, unblemished desire of, as Shakespeare puts it, "To thine own self be true."

Putting my shock aside I moved to untangle the riddle of "who" that had my spidery brain tick, tick, ticking... Is he an emperor of the night, like Catherine the Great had to help relieve the stress of governing over Russia? There are similarities, of course. Catherine ruled an unruly empire and our spiderette encounters hassles with keeping her Cossacks in line, taming the fringes of her empire and battling off gossip. Snooping...err...checking for facts, I was entrusted with a description of the Daddy Long Legs who has the power to make inches melt. According to my spidery contacts, the night emperor Daddy Long Legs is not a young stud, but a bit older. Whether he is wiser remains to be seen. He's been around the block and has inspired shapely figures and condemned others to drown their sorrows in pint and pint of flavoured, churned milk.

But back to our spiderette: "She's looking good," is the common statement when she sashes into a room, beaming with her ever present, everlasting smile. "Hmmm... what's got into her?" other whispered.

Staying with the murmurs, riddles, suppositions and spying, I am confident enough to say the spidery clan and I have discovered the spiderette's secret weapon and mysterious Daddy Long Legs. Secret weapon: the two-week Special K cereal challenge and the Daddy Long Legs: an experienced, expensive personal trainer. Tsk! Tsk!

black widow chronicles



Old Street and Simpson Bay are sans preservatives to ensure the richest flavours and creamy textures.

Making chocolates in the tropics is challenging, Beatrix says. The chocolate mixture needs the right temperature to form and keep its appealing shapes, whether it's her classic map of the island, nugget filled cameos, the eye brow raising Kama Sutra poses or white chocolate-tipped, cream-filled phalluses.

Her chocolates are more than just a treat. Beatrix pours her personality, dreams and experiences into each mould. Like the *Chocolat* heroine, Beatrix uses her averaging skills, passion and heart to merge ingredients for each batch of chocolate. "I don't work from a recipe. It's all from the heart and senses." This makes each batch a unique, but always sweet trip of the mouth.

The mother of two boys, Joel (age 10) and Leon (age 5), begins her days very early in the morning to ensure the shop is filled with chocolate to curb any craving and to fill orders from cruise ships that berth here. In the high season, Beatrix puts about sixteen hours into chocolate making. "It's never boring." Keeping her life as sweet as her chocolates, Beatrix de-stresses in her large garden with her six dogs, two of which were gifts, three she rescued and one she bought. "I bought land in 1996 to build my house and plant a garden. Now, I have an unfinished house and a huge

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