

## About Lisa Poché Calhoun

Lisa was born into a large sugarcane farming family in St. James Parish, a "county" in southern Louisiana. The family's farm is situated on the East bank of the Mississippi River. The youngest of eight children, she was already an aunt when she was born. She said, "My life was filled with unconditional love from my parents, five sisters, two brothers, and their families. My childhood was fantastic. I'm blessed to have such a large, close-knit family."

Obsessed with horses from an early age, she begged for one for years. Her dad finally relented and gave her a Welsh Cob pony when she was nine. She said, "My pony was a pretty sorrel with a flaxen mane and tail - and he was naughty, through and through. I learned a lot about handling horses from that little gelding." Living in the wide open spaces of the rural south, she put many miles in the saddle as a youth. Her dad later joked that the money he paid for him turned out to be the most expensive one hundred and fifty dollars he had ever spent. She explained, "It led to more horse related expenses: Quarter Horses, horse trailers, horse trainers, horse shows, and even new seats for his car after hoof black was accidentally poured on it."

Lisa would borrow her dad's truck and she and her best horse riding friend, Dana Robert, would then borrow Dana's dad's bumper-pull, four-horse trailer, load up, and head out to Deep South Stock Horse Show Association shows forty-five miles away. This started when they were only sixteen years old. Years later, as mothers themselves, they're still amazed their parents gave them that much freedom. Lisa sees similarities between Dana and herself, both self-assured and venturesome, and Abigail St. James, a principle character in *Superflare: The Fortunate Ones*.

She was raised in the small rural community of Union, Louisiana, which is nestled in a curve of the Mississippi River. Sugarcane is still grown on the farm there to this day. After many years spent living in Grand Point, Louisiana, she and her first husband bought the family's farm in 2000 and moved back there to finish raising their children. Lisa said, "My sons, much like their father and I, enjoyed horses. I hauled their halter horses to 4-H and breed shows throughout the southern United States as they grew up. We have some wonderful memories of visiting friends, family, museums and parks all along the way."

In 2004, with one son in college, Lisa and her youngest son moved away from the farm. Admittedly, it was a sad end to a long, arduous marriage. She soon ran into John Calhoun and promptly fell in love with him. She said, "I've lived a fun, happy, adventuresome life with him ever since. The man is brilliant, entertaining, and he constantly has me thinking in ways that help me grow. Without him and his encouragement, there would be no *Superflare: The Fortunate Ones*."

One summer day in 1993, she had the opportunity to be a guest sportscaster one day on WWL-TV in New Orleans, Louisiana's live morning show. An enjoyable experience, the behind-the-scenes glimpse sparked her interest in film and TV production. Ten years later, with her children much older, she started working in the film industry. At first she acted in front of the camera, but she soon moved behind it to scout locations. After rising through the ranks, she scouted for *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, 1 and 2*, then moved up to fill the Location Manager's role.

One year later, sidelined by an injury and her career on hold, she decided to pen the novel she had always wanted to write. The result was *Superflare: The Fortunate Ones*. She said, "Writing *Superflare: The Fortunate Ones* was a labor of love. My body was damaged, but my mind was completely engaged while I researched for the book."

The novel was written at her home in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on the farm in Franklin Parish where her husband was raised, and at their camp on the Tensas River. She jokes, "It was written with the commander-in-chief, head copy editor, feline god (all his opinion), Thomas, sitting on me. I'm the cat's favorite sofa and proof that people can write novels with a large cat on their laps."

Her husband John, son of locally well-known pianist Ms. Bette Calhoun, is a native of Franklin Parish. Lisa enjoys spending time in northeast Louisiana at the farm and has said that she used the Calhoun farmhouse as the home of the fictional family in *Superflare: The Fortunate Ones*. Together John and Lisa share a total of six children, including John's triplet sons, and fourteen grandchildren. Empty nesters now, Lisa said, "We live a happy and content life."