



**Interview with Bear Vallere, part-owner of Polyester Press, inspiration for the Costume Shop mysteries, and Diane's sometimes author assistant. It is worth noting that teddy bears have not been taught writing rules like not overusing exclamation points.**

--

What is your favorite color? [Honey](#)

What do you think about pumpkin flavored everything as a trend or a moral issue? [Pumpkin Flavored everything is a good idea as long as I am not wearing a pumpkin costume, because then pumpkin flavored would taste like Teddy Bear!](#)

Do you ever feel tall? [I am tall! I'm nine whole inches! And when I wear pants I'm even taller because I can't sit down.](#)

What purse of Diane's is your favorite to ride in? [I only fit in the pink one, but I would rather stay home and play when everybody is gone. Tiger and I run all over the house and nobody knows!](#)

If you could become a regular character in any of Diane's series books, which one would it be? [Bobbie Kay, because she makes Teddy Bears!](#)

What is your favorite costume you've ever been dressed in? [I love my yeti costume the most but I think this year will be good too!](#)

What will be the title of your autobiography? [Grin and Bear It or Bear Necessities. Or maybe just Teddy Bears Are Really, Really Smart.](#)

What is your funniest or worse book sour story? [I don't have any sour book stories. Did you mean book tour stories? One time a woman came to an event and yelled, "page 185!" at Diane because she made a mistake on that page. That was sour.](#)

How have you evolved as a celebrity over time? [I sometimes get away with things I didn't used to get away with because now I am a public figure. I think the Tall Man tolerates me more now but I am not sure.](#)

How would you describe the dynamics between you and your agent? [Tiger is my agent and he's my best friend.](#)

Which character in "Masking for Trouble" would you like to go out for dinner with? [Margo's dad Jerry. He likes costumes as much as I do!](#)

What character in "Masking for Trouble" would you hate to run into at the grocery store? [Gina Cassavogli. She would tell the manager that there's a bear in the grocery store.](#)

I see lots of pictures of you in exotic places, so you have obviously traveled the world, so how/why did you pick the geographic setting for "Masking for Trouble?" [Diane picked that. If it were up to me, I would have picked Big Bear, California.](#)

You obviously do a lot of work on the computer as evidenced by your Facebook cover photo; do you use voice to text, an adapted keyboard, or brain-to-computer mind typing since your fingers look like they are a little big for the keys? [Stuffing-to-computer software](#). When I don't use it, my words look like this: [ps,yi8zs 89 d\[p so dpl c;piu ;pe p0d0 p\[d0pws0c , pds-p0dsp0](#) (I did not realize I use the "p" key so much!)

What is your favorite costume that starts with the letter "B" or "V" or "M?" (I'll think more and post questions later, bye) [Is this a psychological test? I like all costumes!](#)