



KRISHAN TROTMAN

**AUTHOR, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER AT
HACHETTE BOOK GROUP**

"THE KEY TO BOOK PUBLISHING IS TO FIGURE OUT WHAT STORY YOU WANT TO TELL AND TO WHOM YOU WANT TO TELL IT TO."

Krishan's ability for storytelling has lead her to being an editor and publisher at Hachette Book Group. She followed her passion for writing as well and wrote *The Queens of the Resistance*, a series that inspires women to get into politics and to become change makers.

WHAT IS YOUR UNIQUE GENIUS?

"My unique genius is my ability to be exacting and my love for narrative and language and using those skills to help my authors tell their stories."

HOW DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN THIS CAREER?

"I realized I wanted to be a writer when I was in the fifth grade. My teacher told me that she loved my story about aliens and asked me to read it out loud to the class. When I did, everyone loved it — they were so into my story. That really sparked my writing career."

I became interested in [editing] because I was in a publishing certificate program and I was looking to see what I could do in the publishing arena that incorporated my writing skills, my love for books, and my love for collaboration and storytelling. I found that it was editing."

IN WHAT WAYS IS YOUR CAREER A PERFECT FIT FOR YOU?

"Publishing is a perfect fit for me because I enjoy storytelling. I enjoy working with others from collaborating on a marketing campaign to thinking about how to push the books out into the world. I also enjoy working line by line with authors on their stories or [figuring out] how to formulate a sentence to really bring [it] to life. I just love educating audiences in a creative way."

"If you're interested in being a writer, spend time on your craft – create a project that you really want to see all the way through to the end."

WHAT DOES A DAY IN THE LIFE LOOK LIKE?

"I get into the office and usually start out with meeting with my assistant, going through all the different tasks that we have to do for the day. A lot of my day is actually spent in meetings about the titles that we are publishing right now and the titles that we want to publish in the future. I do spend a lot of time also looking for a new work. I have lunch meetings with agents and we're talking about new projects. The day is usually very interesting in terms of putting on a lot of different hats, talking to a lot of different people about books and helping it all sort of come together for the author."

WHAT SKILLS DOES IT TAKE TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR JOB?

"You have to like working with people. You have to be a good communicator and you have to be someone who enjoys sharing your ideas in a way that people who may not do your job can really understand it."

You also have to love books. Obviously, you have to read a lot — not only the books that you're working on, but in general. You have to keep your passion for books alive. You want to learn about what are the other books in the marketplace."

WHAT DO YOU WISH YOU KNEW WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER?

"I wish I knew when I was younger that I could have stuck with being a writer. I felt a lot of pressure to get a corporate job coming from a working class family. I didn't think that publishing as a writer was going to bring me the sort of lifestyle and income that I aspire to have. But I've learned that writers [can] make tons of money."

If you stick with it and you really listen to your editor and your agent and figure out how to grow your career, [writing can] be a very lofty career."

"Create the life you want rather than bending and conforming to a career because you think you have to make certain choices."

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF ON YOUR JOURNEY?

"I get to contribute to social change. I find that is most gratifying when I publish a book [that gives a] voice to communities that have not had a voice. I'm happy that I get to contribute a list of books into the world every year that will have impact on how we live and how we think."

WHAT IS THE COOLEST PART OF YOUR JOB? WHAT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF YOUR JOB?

"The coolest part of my job is working with so many different personalities. Every single day is different because I'm talking to people with multiple perspectives and constantly learning and sharing information."

The most challenging part is keeping up with the workload because there's just so many different areas of what I do. I scout the books, I edit the books, I have meetings with the team on the production end. There's just so many different areas of what I'm doing that involves editing, selling, and marketing these books."

WHAT IS THE ONE THING THAT PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR FIELD/JOB?

"One thing people don't know about the job of an editor is the amount of selling that's involved. An editor is not just sitting behind their desk on a computer working on a manuscript. A lot of people go into editing because they're introverts and that's what they want to do. But a huge part of the job is actually selling the book to the world."

WHAT WAS A DEFINING MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE?

"When I decided that I was going to leave the smaller publisher because I was not happy there, I did not think that I [could] get a job at a big publisher [again] because there's only a few in New York. I had left a big publisher a while back to pursue travel and other things I wanted to do after I graduated. But, I got a call from a major publisher to come work there as a senior editor."

I learned that there is opportunity and usually it's about speaking to people, letting them know what you're interested in and just finding a connection with the right person that could hire you."