1. Why do you think the author, Beth, chose Big Bend/Terlingua/Alpine as the setting for her books?
2. What are some of Margarita Rico’s strong character traits that helped her in her role as deputy?
3. What were the personal challenges that Margarita had to overcome? What are your thoughts on how she tried to address those challenges?
4. Margarita lost her husband and kept his bloody shirt as a way to hold on to him. Do you have mementos to remind you of someone you’ve lost? Did this help you relate to Margarita?
5. In One Bloody Shirt at a Time, the mystery around Norma Bates death took some twists and turns. Margarita had to deal with her mother being a primary suspect. And again, during Darker than Black, Margarita’s new love, Diego, was on the opposite side of the law, she faced conflict with right and wrong. The love and integrity conflict surfaced several times during this series, this evoked strong deep emotions. What do you think about the way Margarita handled these conflicts?
6. In what personal way did you or did you not connect with Margarita, her parents, her colleagues, or her friend, Craig?
7. Margarita found out as an adult that her father that raised her was not her biological father. What did you think about the way the storyline developed around her new information and meeting her biological father?
8. In Beautiful Bones, it seemed that Margarita faced an impossible task to find who murdered Serena Bustamante. How do you describe her drive and motivation to find the culprit? Have you ever felt that kind of drive in your life? What motivates you to do the impossible?
9. After reading the Deputy Ricos books, was there anything that you felt that was not developed enough and left you wondering?
10. Once I started reading, it was hard to put the book down. Did you experience that? Why or why not?
11. Small town living played a significant role in the series – everyone knows everyone. Is your preference to live in a small town or large metroplex? Why?
12. The description of the setting was so vivid. Margarita connected with Mother Nature in a healing way. Have you experienced that kind of peace?
13. We hope that Beth continues with more Deputy Rico’s books. What adventure would you like to see Margarita Ricos take on next?