



*Victoria
Tsingos*

VICTORIA TSINGOS:

“Never let the fear of striking out, keep you from playing the game”

At the age of fourteen (14) she is a thinker and a skeptic who considers life to be too short and therefore to make the most of it. She loves to read, to write and to sing. She converts words into feelings, emotions into songs and adventures into stories. When seeking motivation, she writes poems and when in doubt, she writes articles. Meet Victoria Tsingos, Alfa's youngest writer.

Interview: Anna Arsenis

Victoria, thank you for your time in having this interview.

Tell us a little about yourself...

I am a 14 year old High School Student who just loves to write about anything and everything. Most things I write are disguised in the form of a song, story or poem. The majority of what I write is associated with my daily life and what I have experienced. I love my music, I love to sing, I love to play the piano, and now hope to learn the guitar.

If I am writing something that depicts certain emotions, I would tell it through a song.

If I am writing something deep and adventurous, I often tell it through a story.

If I feel like I require motivation in order to complete an activity, I often will write a poem.

If I am questioning an idea, I'll write an article.

That's me.

What was the first article/story you wrote and the first story you read that impressed you as a child?

I had always loved the classics but what turned me into a bookworm, I think, is one of the very first series I read: 'Clarice Bean' By Lauren Child. It gripped me like a vice - I couldn't put it down.

When did you become a writer and

how?

Ever since I was little, I wrote stories. Sometimes I'd write songs, but everyday I would write either a song, story or poem. I used to keep a notebook with me everywhere I'd go, and that's where I would write. When I was 10 years old, I published my first story in 'The Australian Doctor-Waiting Room' magazine. I was excited to receive some Dymocks vouchers and that led me to enter many writing competitions.

Since then I have published several short stories and poems in various competitions. Also, after I published that story, I was asked to write book reviews for Dymocks, which I continued to do so for a year or so.

I also write for the school magazine, 'Kamblabla'.

What do you enjoy most about writing?

That's a hard one...

I love making things seem real, helping people to feel the emotions I feel when writing.

I love questioning factors of daily life, and finding answers.

I love to put feelings into words, so that everybody else understands it.

Nobody would know this, but most of my original stories are in code.

Not 'morse-code', but told

through an analogy. That way, I figured, no-one would be able to understand it as my analogies are so far-fetched with regards to what I am actually talking about that no-one picks it!

I have often been told that I am too much of a deep thinker, even when I was young, I would question everything.

I would try to find reasons for everything.

When I was just four...

My mum and dad put me into little athletics. We were just about to start the race, when I saw no reason to run.

Instead, I walked up to the coach and said:

"Why is everyone running?"

She looked slightly confused and answered: "It's a race. You have to run to the finish line.

I say: "Why? Why is everyone running to that line? What's the point of going all the way over there? There's nothing at the other end. Why are we running for nothing?"

I would rather stay here. There's nothing special about that line over there. So why are we running to it?"

How do you usually find your ideas?

Many of my ideas are derived from what I have questioned, but never found the answer to, or never understood why it happened. I usually just start writing, and find myself looking for answers. Sometimes I may only get a lead, but other times, I discover the most surprising conclusions.

What room is your favourite to write in?

Definitely, my bedroom!

What's Your Process For Writing?

- 1) Think of ideas
- 2) Start writing
- 3) Edit

I don't really have a detailed process for writing, and I don't have a standard process which I stick to either.

It can be anytime, anywhere.

What is your favourite article you've written?

Probably 'Oil And Water'.

Most people could relate to it.

What's your best writing tip?

Don't start with a title, and don't ask yourself 'what are other people interested in?'

Simply ask yourself 'what do I find interesting?'

If you're not interested in what you're writing about, no - one will be.

Do you think kids should read more?

Definitely! Promise it's better than the cartoon shows everybody!

Kids should read more, not necessarily books that seem overly informative, or have a high rating for 'maturity' and uses large and over-compli-

cated words, but simple novellas, or novelettes.

When I wrote book reviews for a suburban Dymocks store, I read to children on Saturdays from 3:30pm - 4:30pm. From then, I wanted to encourage younger children to read more.

I am currently trying to write a short novella and hope to publish it soon. I haven't sent it to a publisher yet, but if I do get it published, I'd hope it would encourage kids to read more books.

Is reading better than watching TV? Why?

By a mile. Books allow one to make up their own interpretation of the words, of the characters, of the setting and story overall. This is why people say 'read the book before you watch the movie', but you will find that after reading the book, having your own interpretation of the story in mind, the movie often disappoints you. Reading is better than watching TV because the feeling is felt, not seen, the characters are made up, not painted out for you.

In my opinion, although TV is great, you don't really need to think hard about it.

It seems, you waste time lying there, staring at a changing screen all day.

What are your dreams for the future?

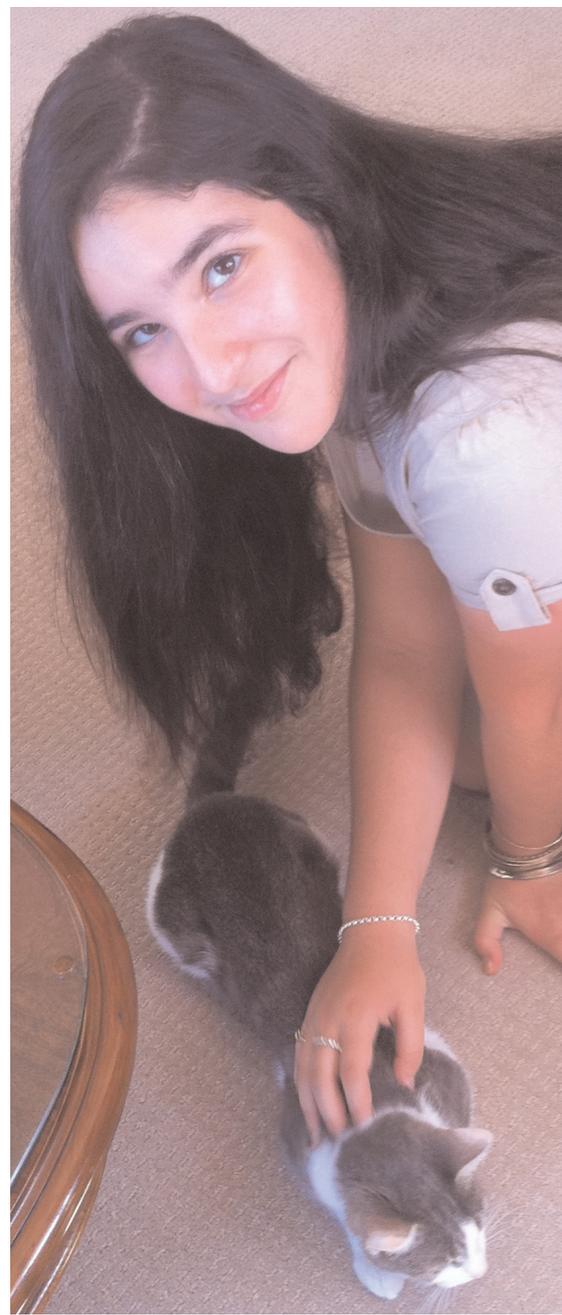
I would really love to become an author, and publish a book. I would also like to publish an album in near future, hopefully within the next couple years. There are many other things I would like to try, but there are simply too many to list. I take it one day at a time, that's the best way, I reckon.

What makes you want to get up in the morning, and what makes you want to go back under the covers?

The first thing you should know about me:

I am not a morning person...

What makes me get up in the morning: Truthfully, when we have it in the house, 'Up And Go'...



I have always been of an optimistic nature - but I do have my mood swings! What makes me get up in the morning is life itself. And singing. And writing. And learning. And making people happy. Life's too short to be upset, too short to not embrace the morning.

Did you know that the average human spends 3 years of their life on the toilet - we're already wasting too much time!

Victoria thank you for your time in having this interview.

Victoria is a remarkable, talented young girl, full of life and aspirations; a role model for us all. We at Alfa magazine, feel privileged to have Victoria as a contributor in our magazine.

Favourite:

- colour:** Blue
- hobby:** Writing and Singing
- sport:** Definitely Netball
- food:** Classic Greek- style lamb
- movie:** "The Sound Of Music"
- song:** "The Climb"
- poem:** "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost
- tv series:** NCIS
- pet:** My Cat, "Tiger"
- favourite saying:** 'Never let the fear of striking out, keep you from playing the game'