

Dr. Geralyn Pinto

Local in spirit, International in style

Dr. Geralyn Pinto lives a dual life. By day she is a teacher and by night, a creative writer. Her creative work spans from poems to short stories to now even novels. Her work has been featured in national and international journals, anthologies and webzines. She has won several prizes and is recognized worldwide for her creativity. Recently I had an opportunity meeting and interacting with her following the news of her winning the coveted DWL award. Here is the outcome of our friendly interaction.

D.W.: HOW DO YOU FIND YOUR JOB AS A TEACHER?

J.P.: I love teaching, it keeps me young, and today's students are a challenge because they have technology, thus are a form of inspiration. This is the kind of inspiration needed to be a good teacher.

D.W.: WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO GET INTO THE WRITING FIELD?

J.P.: Writing is a gift for me and that is what makes life meaningful. It is what distinguishes me from the others.

D.W.: HAVE YOU BEEN ENCOURAGED BY YOUR COLLEAGUES, FAMILY AND SOCIETY AT LARGE?

J.P.: Recent success has given me a boost and I'm very thankful to all those who had supported me, especially The Times of India who have been supportive and had been writing about me. I believe any win is a huge boost to a writer. It is always the psychic salary that counts and not the money.

D.W.: WHAT ARE THE HURDLES YOU CAME ACROSS IN YOUR WRITING CAREER?

J.P.: I'm from a small town called Mangalore and as you know about Aravind Adiga, he too is from Mangalore, and it is he who got Mangalore famous with his work. In a small town like this, it is difficult to reach publishers and readers at large. Nevertheless, I succeeded in



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reaching a few publishers, entered contests, and I'm thankful to websites. I began writing in my late 30's. Fortunately, internet was there for my support, because it helped me to communicate with my editors, attend workshops and also, it is because of this that I became a member of the Alibi Writers. Alibi writers helped review my work which gave me good feedback and thus, encouraged me to take my work further that brought me here, to this platform of success.

D.W.: HOW DO YOU FEEL AT THIS POINT OF SUCCESS?

I'm happy about any form of success. I'm not too proud about it. I got the spirit from people who recognized me and my work.

D.W.: WHAT DO YOU WISH TO TELL

OUR UPCOMING WRITERS?

Never write like how Britishers do. Write what you know. I feel that my local stories are the best amongst my other ones. Very less is written about Mangalore Catholic culture, and people nowadays do not prefer writing in same old language as before. It would be better if today's writers wrote with the local flavour. If the writing is sincere, then it is the best.

D.W.: DO YOU THINK THERE ARE ENOUGH READERS TODAY?

J.P.: People will always read no matter what. If not in print then surely on the internet. If mankind stops reading, then mankind would stop living. The medium of reading might have changed from stone to leather

to paper to electronics, but reading will always remain. To those who prefer movies over books, you should know that these movies have also been written in paper once, and thus are inspired into movies.

D.W.: WHAT SCOPE DO YOU THINK ENGLISH POETS HAVE TODAY?

J.P.: English poets have plenty of scope today because of global language. Indian poets are becoming famous worldwide.

D.W.: WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ON FORMING AN ENGLISH WRITER'S FORUM TO PROMOTE NEW WRITERS?

J.P.: I would really love to, but right now I have a lot on my plate, but surely in future I will.

D.W.: TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR HOBBIES.

I love studying, especially Math. Apart from that, I love cooking chocolate cakes and housekeeping.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS?



J.P.: I would continue to write, and I want good things to happen to my fellow Indians.

By Nikita Ferrao