

Storytime Tapestry Newsletter

The newsletter devoted to spreading love and cultural awareness around the world.
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Tannia Ortiz-Lopes

One day, the images and voices inside my head decided to shape my thoughts and the rest of my life! It was during those troubled adolescent years when I started to develop my writing skills. I spent many weeks grounded in my bedroom due to misbehavior. Pencil and paper became my best confidants. They kept me busy and sane, too! First, I wrote verses for friends' Valentines cards at school. My verses grew into poems. My poems found rhythm and became songs! I had a dream: "I want to be a writer."

By the time I graduated from high school, I had five composition notebooks full of accumulated wisdom! Each one of them was identified with a Roman number. They had no identity of their own. They were just a mix bag of thoughts. I said goodbye to my high school friends and to my childhood, but never to my dreams.

When I entered the university, my notebooks received titles to reflect my growth and the beginning of a new era in my life. During these years, my voices became known as "the muse." I wrote on pieces of napkins during my lunch breaks. I wrote poems on my desk while taking a test in order to relax. I wrote poems, essays, songs! I was a waterfall of inspiration. "The muse" was stronger at night. Words flew out of my mind faster than my hands were able to write them. Words demanded to be a new creation - they wanted to be powerful "sentences"! The sentences became "paragraphs". The paragraphs reached their climax and exploded into an ecstasy of ideas bound together in an "essay". I became weak and weary and my school work suffered. I decided to take my life back and said: "STOP! I need to rest! I enjoyed your company but, please, let me sleep!"

Suddenly there was only silence and darkness during my sleep! "The muse" was gone. My writing became shallow. Only lonely words without rhythm!

Life's twists and turns moved me away from the comfort of my home and language to a new country, America. I had to relearn and sharpen my English skills. "The muse" returned and found me more mature and in control of my life and my thoughts. My writing took on a new shape – free-style English poetry! This new challenge presented itself with the pain and suffering of misspelled words and horrendous grammar mistakes! But I never gave up! I was always blessed with good mentors who, with a lot of patience and perseverance, satisfied my endless thirst for self-improvement.

All this hard work paid off. In 2004, I was blessed with the opportunity of seeing my first free-style devotional poetry book published. Jesus became my Savior, my friend, my "muse", and my business partner! All my fears, doubts, and challenges were not longer rocks on my road. They became a resting place provided by the Lord.

My childhood dream is now fulfilled – "I am a writer"

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Tannia E. Ortiz-Lopés was born in Guayama, Puerto Rico and currently lives in Germany with her husband and two sons. On 2004, the author published her first free-style inspirational poetry book, *The Window to my soul, My Walk with Jesus*, with Tate Publishing and under the pen name of Mary Magdalene. On March 2006, the book was voted “Best Poetry Book” by www.christianstoryteller.com The book could be purchase directly from the publisher at www.tatepublishing.com and at all major online stores.

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