

Literary Escapades

30-YEAR-OLD MUMBAI BASED AUTHOR **RUHEE ADVANI** STARTED WRITING WHEN SHE WAS JUST EIGHT! SHE TELLS **BINDU GOPAL RAO** ALL ABOUT HER LITERARY ESCAPADES AND MORE IN THIS EXCLUSIVE CHAT

What does a normal eight-year-old do? Well, have a happy-go-lucky childhood, go for picnics and be the apple of everyone's eye. Ruhee Advani had all of this and also managed to write her first book at this age. As a child, she recollects, she was "sensitive, softhearted, shy,

without challenges. I chose to go down the self-publishing route as my work had been rejected by traditional publishers. I think that was my biggest obstacle. Once published though, my family organized a book launch where we invited family and friends and I think largely thanks to them, 'Girls and Boys' sold pretty well. All my books are now available



inquisitive and pretty much just a smaller version of the current me." After completing her schooling from Maneckji Cooper, and Dhirubhai Ambani International School, she did her BA in Sociology from St. Xavier's College and a Masters in English Literature from Mumbai University.

An avid reader, she says her mother used to read stories to her sister and her all the time. "Reading was a passion back then, I devoured books. And when I was eight, I wanted to try to create some of my own stories. I wrote my first book around then and discovered that creating was one of the most exciting and enriching things I had ever experienced."

The first book Ruhee published (she has now published three!) was one of the first books she wrote, a collection of short stories for kids called 'Girls and Boys'. "The process of getting the book published was not completely

online!"

Because Ruhee has been continually writing since she was a child, she has a huge collection of books in her kitty with 700 pages of poetry, 30 incomplete books of philosophy, 17 complete novels, 50 incomplete novels, 3 incomplete plays and reams and reams of autobiographical stuff. "Next, I want to publish the books I wrote from the age of 10-12. After that, I want to publish some of my other complete novels, while I finish writing some philosophy books that will follow suit. That's the plan."

Her advice to upcoming writers would be to believe in themselves. "Write for the joy of writing, for the joy of creating, and don't worry about the commercial aspect while doing so. I feel like commerce and creativity don't exactly go hand in hand, it's better not to mix the two."

