

Dear friends, chers amis, cheres amies, querid@s amig@s, dragi prieteni I am thrilled to share the Interview with Flavia Cosma by [John Wisniewski](#) published in Cervena Barva Press January Newsletter, 2022. Thank you [John Wisniewski](#). Thank you Gloria Mindock.

Interview with Flavia Cosma by John Wisniewski

Flavia Cosma

Part 1

1. When did you begin writing, Flavia?
2. Any favorite poets?
3. What was it like growing up in Romania?
4. Could you tell about your book In the Arms Of the Father? What inspired you?

Thank you, John Wisniewski, for giving me the opportunity to recount here a part of me.

Generally speaking, all of us have a few points of reference in life, some events of real significance that impact in a definitive way our future, and maybe shape our life as a whole.

For me, there have been just two such occurrences, but they are still present no matter what and are constantly reflected, one way or another, in my literary creation.

For starters, it was the unexpected, sudden death of my mother when I wasn't yet 14 years old and, due to our circumstances, left me totally alone at that age.

The second dramatic event equally traumatic was my running away from communist Romania and having to spend close to two years in a UN Refugees' camp in Greece before being accepted as a landed immigrant by Canada.

-Yes, I grew up in post war Romania, under the "Dictature of the Proletariat," an epoch marked by "The big Class struggle" when I, as a child saw a lot of injustice and suffered in my turn privations and frustrations, including hunger and discrimination.

-I write since I learned how to write, and soon I discovered with enchantment some great Romanian poets followed later on by the discovery of universal poetry and the wealth of illustrious poets such as Rabindranath Tagore, Ana Akhmatova, George Bacovia, Sergei Esenin, Arthur Rimbaud, Verlaine, Edgar Allan Poe (translated into French by Charles Baudelaire), Pablo Neruda and others. At one point in my youth, I was fascinated by Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides, Homer (Iliad and Odyssey), Sapho, the ancient Greeks, etc.

-About "In the Arms of the Father"-

The manuscript of this poetry book received the Third Prize 2007 John Dryden Translation Competition, a competition organized by British Comparative Literature Association and British Centre for Literary Translation.

As they say, writing poetry is an exercise in sincerity, the poet is trying to put order in disorder, the monologue becomes a dialogue under the bright ray descending upon us from the watchful, pure eye of The Muse-Poetry, justice struggles to conquer injustice, hope wishes to replace despair, harmony wins against chaos, sometimes. We are searching for ways to reach beauty and perfection, we strive for solace and warmth in the Arms of the Father, we rest exhausted in the infinite beauty of the natural world, we cry and we wait for miracles, spinning tales, always. The present book is reflecting our world, our souls and our beings engaged in this adventure called life. Let the reader be the mirror and the judge.

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Part 2

5. Could you tell us about writing your travel memoir, Flavia?
6. You have also written a novel. Could you tell us about writing it?
7. What interests you about fairy tales?
8. What keeps you so prolific?
9. Any future plans and projects?

5.-Postcards from Rhodes, published by Stories that Bind (Variety Crossing Village), 2010, Toronto, Canada, is a traveling memoir dedicated "to the enchanting island of Rhodes, Greece, and to all people who dare to set foot into a fairy tale." It's a travel journal as well as a hymn to a beautiful Greek island where the author was invited for a creative stay at The International Writers' and Translators' Centre of Rhodes, where she landed for the first time in March 2005. It was a question of love at first sight. I discovered a place where the past was still intertwined with the present, where the beautiful Aegean Sea was whispering its wonderful ballads right in front of my windows, where we could feel history breathing under our soles at every step, where the poetic imagination found inspiration at each street corner, be it the Malta's Cavaliers' Castle dating from the XV century or the Temples and Sanctuaries lost in time, contemplated once by Homer and Pindar and who knows who else.

6.-The Fire that Burns Us, soon to be published in its Second Edition, is a bitter-sweet meditation on the role a totalitarian society plays in crushing on purpose and with determination, the lives of its citizens. The laws, absolute inhuman, make impossible the reunification of a family separated by the defection of one of its members, in this case the husband, who decides to ask for political asylum in a Western country once he manages to trespass the "Iron Curtain." The theme of injustice and persecution perpetrated by the State against many defenseless people haunts them long after such a State was relegated to the garbage bin of History.

7.-Ah, the theme of Fairy Tales! Fairy tales are an intrinsic part of poetry, more exactly, every poem can be a Fairy Tale in miniature. They unbridle the imagination, breathe the fresh air of freedom and jump with unsurpassed ease from a world to another. Even from my early childhood, when nested in my grandmother's lap I was listening to her endless treasure trove of fairy tales, I promised myself that once I grow up, I'll write a book of fairy tales. My book Moonlight Fairy Tales published in 2009 by In Our Words Inc Press, Toronto, Canada, is the fulfillment of that early promise.

8.-What keeps me prolific? I really don't know. Am I prolific? I write as I live; many thoughts and ideas are crowding at the gates of my mind all the time and some of them are fortunate enough or persistent enough to see themselves neatly written (more or less) on a piece of paper.

9.-Plans and projects: To stay safe in order to see the end of this awful Covid-19 pandemic. To continue writing poetry, to continue promoting poetry through The Biannual International Writers' Festival at Val-David, QC, Canada. In the short run I am working to complete a book of short stories named tentatively "Who are our angels?" I hope to be able to finish some early projects and to keep publishing more books, hopefully.

