



The Letterpress Project

# An Interview With Raluca Farcas

**Q1. What are your earliest memories of books and reading? For example, did you have a favourite or inspirational book?**

As a kid, my mom would always read me bedtime stories. She would sometimes act them out with puppets and toys, so I was always very excited before going to bed! I had many, many books as a kid, but probably the one that I treasured most, and that I still own was called the Thesaurus of Stories (translation from Romanian) and features most common fairy tales we all know and love. I always liked Puss in Boots, and I even had a beautiful pop-up book of it! Other stories I read a lot are: The Three Little Pigs, The Wolf and the 7 Little Goats, The Ugly Duckling. I liked stories with animals, I always found them more interesting! Later in life I discovered Harry Potter and that is, to this day, my favourite book series ever!

**Q2. What inspired you to become an author / illustrator?**

I started drawing a very long time ago and began taking drawing classes when I was in kindergarten. I cannot remember a time when drawing was not part of my life! I was constantly fascinated by cartoons and watched them nonstop. They made me want to create my own characters and stories one day and motivated me to keep drawing. My parents were always very supportive and sent me to numerous after school art classes. I love drawing characters, making stories, giving life to my own visions, emotions, and dreams, and that keeps me going! It only made sense for me to take this path, because I knew that regardless of the hardships I had to overcome, art would always make me happy.

**Q3. For you, what makes a successful book or illustration?**

Something that is fun, colourful, and full of personality. I like books that show characters with various personalities, that are sad, happy, moody, that grow and change. I like books that take you to an interesting setting and present unique characters. As for illustrations, I personally think that the reader should be able to feel movement, and imagine the action happening in their head, just by looking at the pages. Kind of like stills from an actual animation! I love little details as well, pages making you say 'Wow'!

**Q4. Do you have a specific audience in mind when you write your books / plan your illustrations?**

It depends on what I am drawing. My usual audience is around 18-24 years old people, because my style and interests fit this category. But I also have lots of younger people following me, because the content of my drawings and stories do not usually contain mature topics (such as explicit adult humour). However, I do have various stories planned that aim for different audiences, such as a children's book for younger people, and a comic, for teens and young adults. I like to have an art style that appeals to various audiences and age groups, because that gives me a lot of flexibility.

**Q5. What future do you think the physical book has? For example, do you think the electronic book will replace the physical book?**

That is a tough question. I am not a big reader, but when I do read, I like having the physical copy in my hand. There is a certain feeling of accomplishment when I finally finish a book and close it that always brings me joy and tears.

**Q6. Are you a book collector? Is there a special book you'd love to own?**

Not in particular. But I would probably love to own concept art books from anime, cartoons, and animated movies that I love, or the illustrated version of Harry Potter. A book illustrated by Benji Davies, or Joe Todd Stanton would make my day too!