

meet the author.

CATALINA GONZÁLEZ VILAR



1 • WHAT IS YOUR KRYPTONITE FOR WRITING?

Losing my sense of humour, taking myself too seriously. Or taking writing too seriously.

2 • IF YOU COULD SAY SOMETHING TO YOUR YOUNGER WRITING SELF, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I would say: "Accept that you have to deal with uncertainty". But that wouldn't do much good, because you have to live it to feel it. So I would give her a more practical piece of advice that has helped me many times: "If you're not moving forward, then focus on the small things, take care of a detail, and from there get your pulse back on track".

3 • WHAT DID YOU DO WITH YOUR FIRST ADVANCE?

I used it to buy my first computer. A beautiful white laptop that I still have, even though it is now just a paperweight. I've had other computers since then, but nothing like the feeling of opening that first box.

4 • AS A WRITER, WHAT WOULD YOU CHOOSE AS A MASCOT/AVATAR/SPIRIT ANIMAL?

A bear. A bit lonely, strong, hibernating for months, but also full of life, hunting salmon in a river in Canada, walking among the trees.

5 • HOW DO YOU CHOOSE THE NAMES OF YOUR CHARACTERS?

It depends on the story. Some appear almost at the same time as the character, as if they were consubstantial with him/her. Some times I have to try different ways. It's a kind of intuition that makes you choose one name and not another. That point of comfort you feel when a garment is the right size.

6 • WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE CHILDHOOD BOOK?

"Jim Button and Lucas the Machinist", by Michael Ende. And its sequel, "Jim Button and the Thirteen Savages". For me they are a perfect blend of adventure, humour, tenderness and wonder that renews my love of writing.

7 • HOW MANY BOOKS HAVE YOU WRITTEN AND WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE ONE?

Counting novels, albums, informative books and comics, I have published around 25 books. "Molly Wind", the comic I have just published with Toni Galmés, is my weakness right now. But there is a juvenile adventure novel, "Las Lágrimas de Naraguayá", to which I sometimes return mentally, as if it was a real place I wanted to go back to.

8 • IF YOU COULD SPEND A DAY WITH ANOTHER POPULAR AUTHOR, WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

I would choose the Chilean author María José Ferrada. I really like her writing and we've met briefly, so I think we'd have a good time chatting and making plans together.

9 • HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE WHEN YOU FINISH YOUR BOOK?

When I finish a book, for a short period of time a combination of fantastic sensations occur. The relief and joy of having reached port, the feeling of mental relaxation of finally being able to let go of the story, the impression of total freedom to get involved in a new story... Sharing that joy with those who have been listening to my complaints during the previous months could be a perfect plan.