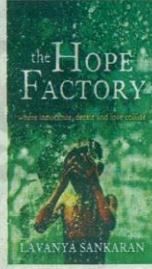


When hope floats high!



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Excited by the response, the Indian author, says, "I'm a Bengaluru baby. After my schooling here, I went to Philadelphia for my undergrad and then to New York for a short stint in investment banking. But since my childhood days, I had the writing bug in me. I was asked to write about the software industry in the 90s for the Wall Street Journal after I came back and since then I have been writing for *The New York Times*, *Guardian* besides others."

Standing at 5'3 inches tall, the girl with dreamy eyes, confesses, "Writing a book is an art, a craft that really drives me to live life every single day. I'm a day dreamer and have always been one, even to the point of annoying my school teachers. I go into my imaginary world and then suddenly pop into the real world. I also love meeting people, but I'm an odd mixture of going into my own shell for months together and my friends understand that. My husband is a business-

I have started the Lavanya Sankaran Writing Fellowship where we give out fellowships to writers

man and is very supportive and understanding and so is my daughter."

And where does the writer find her quaint corner to pen down her writings, we wonder? She shares, "I find quiet corners. In Bengaluru, my creative spot is at the Nrityagram, which is near my house. I go for a long walk in the morning with the three Nrityagram dogs and spend the entire day writing. I take my breaks admiring the dancers at the Writing Retreat. I have started the Lavanya Sankaran Writing Fellowship at Sangam House, housed at Nrityagram, where we give out fellowships to writers with a four week stay at Nrityagram. I also take off to coffee shops and write on my Mac Airbook."

Adding on how she maintains discipline in her life, she confides, "I practice Vipassana every day of my life. I also listen to all kinds of music and love traveling, alone and with my family. When you're a writer, you have to be your own evil boss and give yourself strict deadlines."