

**Аудиотекст А8-14**

**Interviewer:** Today we are talking to novelist Alice Furnstreet.

Alice, you are now a very successful published novelist. Have you always wanted to be a writer?

**Alice:** I can't remember a time when I didn't write. Once I started school I spent all my spare time writing. And I always knew I wanted to be a professional writer one day. I don't know where it came from because there were no other writers in my family. My aunt is a painter. She is the only one without an ordinary routine kind of job.

**Interviewer:** Do you feel you always knew how to write all or did you have to learn how to do it?

**Alice:** Oh, I definitely had to learn. And it was just as tough as everyone said it would be because you have to be your own teacher. I've done courses and they are helpful up to a point especially when you can talk to other writers. But in the end it's really up to you. You just have to get on with the writing. You learn as you go along.

**Interviewer:** Would you say that you enjoy all the aspects of your job?

**Alice:** I don't particularly enjoy talking about my work in public. You know getting it known. I do love the actual writing though except of course when the computer crashes or when you lose your work. I have been using a computer for longer than most people. I know that I still have problems.

**Interviewer:** Everyone does.

**Alice:** Even my editor and she is fantastic with everything technical.

**Interviewer:** So you don't enjoy being a celebrity?

**Alice:** Oh, I do. It's very flattering and it can be great fun but it's not what I wanted when I started out. What I've always loved is that writing isn't a job. I mean you can do it whenever you want to because you do it because you want to. Sometimes I stay up all night writing because I am so involved and interested in what I am doing. There's no one telling me what to do and when to do it.

**Interviewer:** But surely there are pressures from the publishers and so on?

**Alice:** Oh, yes, they want to see their book sell and so do I. I've been very lucky and my books sold on very well so I don't have to worry about money. I've got more than enough to live on. Well, I do try not to spend it all though. You just never know whether the next books will sell as well so it makes sense to be a bit careful.

**Interviewer:** You all were in London this week and you are flying to New York on Saturday. How do you feel about travel?

**Alice:** I love it but unfortunately even though I always take my laptop it's really hard for me to get more writing done when I am on the road. There's too much to see and do. I'd love to be able to do more travel but my writing schedules mean I often have to say "no" to invitations to talk about my work abroad.

**Interviewer:** What advice would you give to young writers starting out?

**Alice:** I'd tell them how much fun it is but I'd remind them that not everyone earns enough on their writing to survive. If they really want to make a lot of money they should think about another career. In my case I really think I didn't have any choice. I don't think I would've been good at anything else. Other jobs seem so much more difficult to me.