

My Life...My City  
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My name is Maria Romanova, I am 25 years old and in this book I would like to share my dreams, sorrows and expectations about life....

My wonderful family  
has always been a  
great support for  
me....

When I am with them  
I feel very safe and  
happy and leave all  
my sorrows behind.



All I have accomplished in  
my life so far is due to my  
hard work and persistence in  
everything.

If I realize that I really want  
something, I go for it, work  
very hard and finally get it  
even if it takes a long time to  
achieve.

The examples you'll see on  
the next pages...



My dearest French friends that I really care for came to visit me two years ago. We became friends in Canada and I'm going to France next year to see them. This friendship proves the importance of human values no matter what nationality one has....

In Canada I envisioned my career perspectives and decided to work in the International Relations field.

This idea brought me to the faculty of International Affairs of the State St. Petersburg University where I started as an English Assistant. It became a great change in my personal life....



These little creatures were everywhere, even at the bus stop near my dormitory.

## THE WAY TO ADOLESCENCE.....

A great chance in my life brought me to the USA. To Weiser, Idaho, in 1994. I had just graduated from Russian secondary school and was very challenged to see something completely new.

In America I became much more mature and independent and it changed me a lot opening new perspectives in my life...You can see here my dearest American host family that were so very nice and delicate with me. I still keep in touch with them.

The academic year in America did pass with lots of books and homeworks. I was dating a Georgian guy then but never saw him afterwards...I think he stayed in America.





These are students who I studied with at the University in Russia.

There were some very tough years of study at the Language Faculty in Russia. We tried to learn Greek, Latin, Ancient Russian and 3 modern languages. I must confess that I remember only the latter....That was the place where I grew up and became an adult and learned about life. I travelled a bit during this time. My first love was a French guy. I was deeply hurt for the first time and decided to devote myself to a career to overcome the pain. The University opened doors wide to Europe and the whole world and I realized that people everywhere are all the same and equal.

I travelled a lot from 1995-2000. My friend and I went to l'Arc de Triomphe in Paris.



My first impression about that work -- very hard work where I felt embarrassed, nervous, but very satisfied. That was the first try in my professional steps.

My first serious and true love happened there and ended in 7 months with unbearable pain and it took me 1 year to recover after I left that place.

I think I still love him. He was a very muscular mature guy and I was inspired by him and I always felt like a feminine woman.



After I recovered from that “Heart-Break”, life brought me another surprise....I met a foreign student and my life became very social and outgoing. I met a whole bunch of foreign guys who I really felt comfortable with.

A new stream of life.....National parties, meeting with people, making friends, learning about different cultures. What fun!

A really tough competition, where I succeeded only for the third time, gave me a scholarship to study in Canada (Ontario, London) for a whole semester. I finished my diploma there and completed the courses of French. This trip really made me feel ambitious and very self-confident.



A nature of Canada made me a clear understanding that both countries have many similarities.

This is the view from my dorm's room. You can see a little raccoon digging something from the soil.

The University of Western Ontario gave me another sense of life, brought me into an international friendship, career horizons and feeling of equal unity between people and countries.



Well, it's time to reconsider my life goals now and my plans for the future. I'm networking in order to organize an international exchange in education in the future toward global integration. I really want to work for the International Unity. Now I am working hard and still looking for a good and reliable friend.

But no matter where I am, either in Russia or abroad, I would never stop my dancing and performances. "Belly dancing" will always be my meditation. It is a pass to my soul and heart that fulfills me with joy and love.

