



**Winner of Young Indonesian Writers Award 2009
(Senior High School Category)**

Gabriella Tatia



My name is Gabriella Tatia Permadi, but I go by Tatia. I was born in Cirebon on 27 August, 1994. I am the eldest of two children. My mother is Mariana Ekawati and my father is Erick Permadi. I am now in 10th grade in Santa Maria 1 High School in Cirebon. My hobby is writing fiction, reading, singing and playing the cello. When I grow up I want to be a diplomat or a public relation executive. My previous achievement was winning third place in the short story writing competition for junior high school in Cirebon in 2008.

I started to enjoy writing after a teacher asked me to write a short prayer for parents to be published in our church magazine. I was 5 ½ years old at the time. Since then I felt encouraged to write to express my feelings, especially during the period when my parents were getting a divorce.

I am a child of a broken home, our father has left us since I was 5-years old. My mother struggled by herself to raise us. Frankly, my mother had a major role in nurturing my talent to write. She said she used to write a diary when she was pregnant with me. Maybe that was how I first learned to write.

I spent a long time before I actually realized I had a talent for writing. When I was in elementary school I did not have the confidence to take part in writing competitions. It was not until I was in junior high school, that I started getting guidance in writing by my Bahasa Indonesia teacher. Praise God, I won a place the first time I participated in a short story writing competition with a story on culture.



In the beginning, I wasn't sure what to write about when I saw that the theme of this short story competition is *Children and National Leaders*. I had several ideas in my mind before finally I wrote this story titled *Silhouette*.

The idea for *Siluet* came from a dream, one morning about three days before the competition's deadline. I had almost given up on submitting a story because the theme was too difficult, and I had not come up with any good idea for the last two weeks.

That morning I woke up and said a prayer, and then continued to sleep again. It was then that I dreamt about the story line for *Siluet*. The first thing that came in the dream was the story's main character, Panji. When I woke up, I immediately wrote down the story, and in over a day the story was completed.

Siluet itself is a reflection. The title was suggested by my teacher because Panji's character reflects on his future. The story touches on several important issues in Indonesia such as culture and politics. It also touches on the values of honesty, sincerity and humility. Basically it is a simple story that I hope will inspire others.

My next goal is to publish a novel that I am currently working on. I hope that all my works will inspire the readers and make my parents proud.