



## a girl called katherine

She's a bella rae writer and this issue's stunning cover girl – Kath Willis – a 21-year-old who loves Marvel, writing short stories and all things tea.

---

I live at home with my parents and twin brother. My mum is half Indian, half Sri Lankan and my dad is Australian. Mum makes the best Indian food, she is an amazing cook and naturally creative. Dad is very intelligent and hardworking.

I am a twin but we look nothing alike so most people think we're simply brother and sister. He's tall, I'm tiny. He raps, whereas I sing. He loves makeup and is talented with it whereas I don't know one brush from the next! Sometimes we clash because we're so different but mostly we get on well.

Together we grew up with a relaxed father and a protective mother. The biggest difference I've noticed between my parents' cultures is how laid back my dad's family are. We're happy to only see each other a few times a year. Whereas my mum's side is very connected, despite living countries apart. Every day my mum is on the phone with them.

*Last year Kath graduated from uni with a journalism degree but she is still figuring out where to put her focus next.*

I've loved writing since I was in primary school, and it all started with poetry. From there my love for writing and telling people's stories developed.

I honestly believe every person has a story and my goal is to tell stories to move and inspire people. Our stories connect us and we can learn from each other.



---

Hearing what people want out of life energises me and gives me the motivation to go out and live with purpose.

When I was in high school, I struggled with who I was and where I fit in in the world. I didn't know where I could have my say and what I could do to make a difference. I put a lot of pressure on myself because I was the type of person who thought, "I need to do this or that and I've got to see change right away," but I've learnt to have patience and be OK with where I am now.

Going to church and being surrounded by positive people helped me see I can just be myself and I can encourage people through my conversations and interactions with them.

*Being the passionate, upbeat gal she is, Kath does inspire the people around her, from her many friends to the girls she mentors at her local church, to the team at bella rae! And Kath is determined that the mark she leaves on each person she meets, is an uplifting one.*

I've noticed most of us struggle with this desire to be somebody else and live up to what society says, at one time or another. But my advice would be – definitely be yourself and embrace who you are. I believe everyone is unique, with their own qualities and talents. If you're still figuring it out, you can start with something as simple as writing down things you do and don't like. From there you can get a clearer picture of who you are and you can choose what to build onto that.