

V-R-A-N-T-S-I-S

By Ana Vrantsis

'Vrantsis,' I said.

Frances, she wrote.

'No, V r a n t s i s,' I repeated more slowly,
Francis, she wrote, writing the 'i' over the 'e'.

'No it's "V" for Victoria,' I insisted.

Vrancis, she wrote, changing the 'F' to a 'V'.

'It has a "t" not a "c",' I continued

'Vrantis?' she ventured.

'No, it has an "s-i-s" after the "t",' I implored.

She reached for the white out
but the white out was dry.

With irritation plain
on her furrowed brow
she reached for a clean sheet
and began again.

V-R-A-N-T-I-S she wrote
with triumphant relief.

'Oh, and there's only one "n" in "Ana".'

ME

By Temuçin Mustafa

What's your name?

Temucin.

How do you spell that?

T-E-M

T-E-N?

No, T-E-M...

M for Mary.

T-E-M-U-C-I-N... N for Nelly.

What's it short for?

Temucin.

No English equivalent?

No, should there be?

It just takes a little getting used to.

So?

Get used to it.

It's MY name.

It's me.