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Foreword by Prof(Dr) Aditya Tomer, Addl. Director, Amity Law School, NOIDA



Dr. Sumitra Singh is a young and talented writer who deals in the areas of Post-Colonial Literature, Feminism, Contemporary Social Challenges and Cinematic writings and the list is exhaustive.

This time, she has written a book on short stories and Poems. I personally feel that these are much derived from the social concerns and has been written with a lucid understanding and a personal touch.

I hope wish and pray that Dr. Sumitra Singh achieves great success in life!

CITY BOY

He just wanted to have fun , enjoy and get his work done!

I better put it as drink, dine, dance and yes that's done!

Hami hails from a very small village turned town in Uttar Pradesh and grew up there studying. His father owned a small business, a shop, and he had a permanent house to stay.

" Ma, I want to go out to work and earn a living. Afterall, I have looks! I am smart, tall and fair ".

His mother replied, "You get a job by your education and hard work, rather than expertise and mere looks"

This left Hami screwed up. After all, he just wanted to leave this very small town; as it was not for him".

"You can work with Papa in the shop. It will be a great help to him. You know, he needs someone".

"Shop!, No Ma. I got it, don't worry. I am not going anywhere. After all, I am just doing graduation. I know, even if I try, I will not get a job outside. Be assured Ma, I am not going anywhere!"

Times passed by and ma had not been keeping well. Down with heart problem and high blood pressure somewhere manages to get her only daughter, elder to Hami, married to a businessman in a a nearby small city. Hamisa was well settled with her husband. Hami, often visited Hamisa at her in-laws home and found that the in-laws treated her almost well except for the baby issue and baby question..." Why is she still not expectating a baby?"

Hami, indeed was tall and looked very fair. Not so handsome, but because of his tall and fair looks, he 'looked different from the rest of the college boys who looked normal and average.

A small advertising company was on a look out for a local boy who could do some photo shoots for a cigarette ad; Hami somehow happened to grab this opportunity and got many stills shot for the advertising company. In lieu of the shoots, he was paid a meagre salary, and yes the company was kind enough to give him away some of the outfits which were tailor made only for him.

Soon, as luck would have it, Hami was seen on some of the hoardings in the small town. This paved way for some more recognition and take admission through distance learning mode in a nearby University. It

was a so called good time for Hami. He finished his Post graduation and learnt some dressing styles and further improved his looks and took some skin tightening treatment!

He could speak a not-so-good English; but a friend of his who owned an English speaking institute in the town asked him to be a counsellor for those seeking admission in the institute. Hami was more thn thrilled to do so.. After all, it was an opportunity for him to move ahead!

Admissions came pouring in ; as the institute was one of its kind in the town and yes it was the admission season.

In the meanwhile, Hami had learnt smart English sentences and had polished his looks further to make the ingress of the students more and more and of course, the formula really worked!

Together, the duo earned more and now Hami became more confident than before.

With money, also came more flirting with Hami as time and age would have it. He flirted with a dozen of girls with fake promises. But when it came to Shamika, he really got serious. She was more beautiful and charming than the rest of the girls and was the first to propose her love openly to Hami being impressed with looks and ways of talking. Hami spent good times with her and with his small contacts helped her become a small town model for some local brands. As times passed by, Shanuka could grasp better brands and gain more popularity and recognition. She eventually broke his heart and found solace in Jeevesh, the producer of a small TV show. Although, heart broken and shattered, Hami kept his flame alive in his heart and applied to at an institution to become a part time English Trainer in a nearby college. He was selected in the interview and after a year with his street smartness, he applied to an online job portal and received a call from a renowned institution. It was actually a training and corporate organization. In the interview, as luck would have it, there was a crisis of trainers. Hami had a fairly good chance. What supported him was the ladies staff who were on a lookout for a male trainer who would do all the off jobs at the organization. Some of them deliberately supported for the cause of Hamin in the interview . He was not the perfect and apt person to be selected for the job. But, as these ladies found the best person, a person who could be of all help tom them, they as selectors ath the interview board helped him grab this job!

Hami was dancing with Joy! He thanked all the ladies who helped him by by their art and craft during the interview when he joined.

Time moved on as it does for everyone. Hami manages to get small assignments from his lady boss by doing all errands for her. Office environment was misfit for him. But he took time to understand how easy it was for him to work. He sided with the women who had helped him during the interview and in lieu of various office tasks and paper works, he managed to act as half-boyfriend to the unmarried dames and as brother cum domestic help to the married staff. He, now, knew how to speak English and had learnt some Office etiquette too.

He made blunders at times and acted foolish. Indeed, not qualified for the job as he was, he tried all attempts to be in the good books of the ladies under the shadow of whom he managed to work.

Hami had learnt City routes and also befriended a boy who he often told his office mates, that was his old childhood friend. Many people often spotted the two at city restaurants, parks and on way to long drive. Friendship is all correct, emotions too, but there's was a lovely friendship, as he often quoted to others. He wanted to sat with this friend of his for a life time, but was unable to convince his mother, as he told others!

Hami well understood this other matters. Money was important and also that he wanted to live a free life without the burden of a wife!. This he laughingly used to comment, when he was with his office colleagues. But, Hami was serious about it.

"Ma, I don't want to get married. Stop looking for a bride for me. I know with these words, I hurt you, but you will ultimately ruin my life if I get married"

His mother was stunned! But what could she do about it!

Hami continued to work more on his looks buying flashy clothes and impressing ladies. One day, he received a call from his father that his mother is no more. Hami was speechless and in tears. That very day, he left the city to attend the funeral and perform all the rites. Everyone, close to him was thinking about him. How sad, Hami would have been!

Hami returned to the office after one day in his' Cool dude looks'!

He had not even shaven his head , as is the custom followed in Hindus. He said, "Boys don't shave heads, till the father is alive "!

Everyone was quiet! How could he come back just after a day?

What about the tehrahvi? And other last rites, duities?

Nothing mattered to Hami. The same eveing of his return , Hami was seen at a restro-bar in the vicinity with his so called best boy friend !

Now, Hami was relieved. There was no obligation on him!

Hami's father pays him a visit once a month in his city house. Hami has his own City life to enjoy- music, dandylicious madness and mania; of course, some Office work too!

ANTARA

Antara- the girl. Sweet and sober as she was, was also the apple of eye of her father. A small town girl, with big dreamt right from the beginning. Her elder sister was too stern and two younger brothers as naughty as the boys are!

So, time went on. Antara, was buried into books and her sister dreamt only of a good marriage. The two younger brothers were twins and grew up together.

While the boys grew up as 'boys will be boys' stereotypically enjoying every benefits of being born a boy, Antara and Sia grew up as grave girls. Sia did not want to study hard and found solace in Shourya, who she eventually got married too lately.

Antara said, 'Why just get married and settled with someone who even do not know", as her mother started pestering her for an arranged marriage set up. Antara's father was no more by that time. He died of a massive heart attack one day while on a field trip to the Sothern parts of India.

The family was grief stricken but life had to continue for others. People adjust even if the loved one has departed forever. Antara's mother kept on forcing Antara to get her married and settled but Antara wanted her younger brothers to study well and settle in job before she got married. That was that!

The brothers got professionally educated and also both of them got settled in good jobs. Times passed by looking for a suitable match for Antara. As age would have it she was now 'Older for getting a good match '.

So, began the talks with her maternal Uncles and Aunts as was natural to the village background of hers that the paternal side grew hostile because of paternal property that was to be divided after Antara's father left for the final abode.

So, here came a 'rishta', a good one. The boy was a month or two younger to Antara and was educated and had a job in a Multi national company in Gurgaon.. The boy met Antara over a formal dinner at a city hotel and the roka ceremony was done instantly after the families also met and decided finally upon the marriage.

Antara got married and it was the time for all rituals that follow in hindu marriage. She had to stay at her in laws place for quite a while. A conservative and orthodox family, as it was, for Antara, not a new

one, just a different place and different people. She did all to please everyone. As was expected from her – a new bride, a daughter-in-law, Of course!

"I want the baby in the first year of our marriage", said Harsh, Antara's husband.

"You will have to manage both home and your so called job."

Antara was kind of okay with the fact. She had already made up her mind for all that. After all, a late marriage as it was, she was already matured enough to take decisions and have that understanding!

So, this was the second month of Antara's pregnancy and after staying at her in laws place for around four months, the couple decided to move back to Gurgaon, where Harsh worked. Harsh got busier in the hustle bustle of the city life, traffic jams, office menace and bossy boots, travels etc. Slowly there developed a communication gap between the two as, if they did not know each other.

"See a gynae yourself, ask your mother to accompany you, I have no time for all this women's job", said Harsh

With no choice, but only to depend upon her mother in the nearby place, Antara would often visit the gyane and got all medications and precautions taken and doen as a would be mother. Antara would try calling Harsh, phone calls which he never picked. He would return late at night, did not speak to her and would sleep off.

"My elder brother's family, I mean, his wife, two children and my parents would stay with us now. They are coming next week, take care of them and I will not listen to nay complaints of yours. Good food, comfort and yes be a good Bahu", said Harsh

Antara had mixed feelings. She was happy that those people were coming but at the same time she sank into unrest as the manner in which Harsh now acted was very alien to her. He never communicated with her as a life partner, a companion but like a stern boss who has given you the job!

No words of sweetness!

So, the people shortly arrived. It was all family time. Togetherness of Antara with the children and her sister in law, sharing their woes, seeking advice from Mother in law and all that stuff. Antara's savings got over, all that she had saved from the Job she was doing near Gurgaon Delhi border.

"Go tomorrow and get Bhabhi's children admitted to the best of schools in Gurgaon. She must not feel dejected. As Bhaiya has a touring job. He may be able to take care of his family. They are staying with us, so we should help them, anyhow", said Harsh

"Anyhow! But how? I am not in a condition to go out and get all these errands done. You will have to do all this!"

"Then, why did I get married to you? I got married so that you can take care of my family!"

"That's what I have been doing! But don't you think what you are saying is meaningless. Tomorrow, I am going to see the doctor, you need to take care of me "

" As if you are the first woman in the world who has got pregnant "

This almost shattered Antara. She understood everything now. Harsh had already distanced himself from her and now her role was just to fulfill his family's wishes of being grinded for everything.

"Don't ask for money from Bhabhi or my mother. Use your money. If you don't have, then ask me"

"I don't have money even to see the doctor"

"Don't worry, I will come with you today."

They hired a cab from Gurgaon to Delhi to see the gynae. The cab was so fast! many jerks!

Harsh insisted the driver, 'Drive faster, I don't have time "

Antara almost had tears in her eyes. She was 7 months pregnant and look at her husband, so ruthless. Did not even care to think about his wife. All the time, he pretended to be busy on phone

" Lets meet the client at 4:00 PM," he often was heard on phone

That day Antara got hurt while getting down from the car. Not just hurt, but she had to be admitted to hospital, as she got unconscious. She woke up and found herself in the hospital. The doctor assured her that all was well, just that she had alow Blood pressure.

There was no one by her side. She tried calling Harsh who was unreachable. She then tried calling her mother.

"How can I come so far, all alone? Ask Harsh to see you", said her mother.

After a day, Harsh came up to the hospital and got her discharged.

"Why don't you take care of youself? You have wasted two days of mine. Geeta was also annoyed. She is here since you got admitted. She cooked food for us, she looked after bhabhi's children, mother's medicine and what not?"

"Geeta!"

"My bua's daughter".

"Now that I am home and all is well. Geeta can go. Should I get some gifts for her?"

"Come on! You daid you are not in a condition to do anything, so now Geeta is here. She will manage everything! You just sit and watch TV"

So, now Geeta has taken over the charge of Antara. Antara, one day checked some objectionable gestures and behavior of both Geeta and Harsh. One fine day, she could also check some ovey dovey messages on Harsh's mobile phone.

"What is all this? You and Geeta are involved!"

"Yes, we are ! good that you understood yourself. You will have to accept this so long as you accept me as your husband. Whether you stay here or go back to your mother's place, I and Geeta don't care actually. That's that!"

This was the time when Antara actually could no longer hold things in a frenzy. Her husband had cheated on her. What would she do now. She told everything to her mother.

"That is your destiny now. Have the courage to face it as I have done and other women do. Don't take things seriously. You have to bear the child also. It is not good for your health"

For once, Antara also thought, "May be he was irritated with and was kidding"

Next morning when Antara got up to prepare tea for her husband and others, she saw Harsh coming out of Geeta's room at 5 am in the morning. Geeta was also awake, all dresses in a short night gown.

Geeta saw Antara and said" Bhabhi you got up early! We just slept an hour back. Had so much to talk about!

Now that had almost fired Antara from inside. She stormed out from the room saying that it a was all over for her now. She called upon everyone in the house- her father in law, mother in law, Harsh, sister in law. Everyone said that she needed rest and that Geeta was there only to assist her in the domestic chores.

"How can your thinking be so cheap? She is almost her sister!"

" Amost, but not exactly!"

'I will no longer stay at this place. You all know everything. Still you are trying to cover up everything . For what?"

Father in law gently smiled and said ," Antara, for sometime why don't you go and stay with your mother? Things would be all right by that time!"

So, Antara shifted to her mother's place. Things were fine at Harsh's end too. But he had to travel everytime and was not able to devote time to his parents. In the meanwhile, after many days, Antara tried to contact Harsh

"I have got nothing to do with you now. I don't like you. I shall file for a divorce . That would be good for both of us"

"But tell me my mistake. What wrong have I done? Rather you have cheated upon me. Still, I am trying to build bridges because of our child "

"Women want children so that they remain occupied . You have your job. Now you will have your child. Be occupied with that. I have seen you. And its over. Never ever try to contact me"

Times passed by and four years got over. Antara remained in touch with her in laws and other kith and kin. The child was born and now grew up to be three. Harsh never came back. Whenever Antara called him, there was only one reply "I need divorce".

After three years, Antara discussed the matter openly with her in laws and her kith and kin, her sister and her brothers. Everyone had onlyone reply "Its your life, you decide"

Antara did not know what to do, with no one on her side, the growing kid, cheat husband, non cooperative mother, sister and brother.

She now felt that despite her husband's cheating on her, she should make it up with him. The growing child needed both the parents. Antara, had been a single mother all this while and had borne the humiliation of being at her mother's place even after her marriage by her newly wed brother and sister in law. She makes another attempt to reconcile with her husband, accepting all that he would demand. She wrote numerous mails and made phone calls, he never called back. One fine day, he called her up and said" If you call me again, I don't know what would I be upto-either kill you or myself or the child itself. I hate you and am seeking divorce. Why don't you understand? This is my last call."

Years passed by Antara was still a single parent, working woman, married and separated, not legally. Ask her why did not seek divorce from such a person, she would reply" What if he wishes to come back and gets annoyed with this very fact that I initiated in getting divorce".

#Goals

Yes, she was dark and skinny but had some real good attraction in her. At least that was what she actually felt for herself. She was pusuing her Post graduation from a small town college and her father belonged to an upper middle class society. So, she was quite okay as compared to other so called village girls who came to study at the college. Her slim structure and deep eyes were the talk of the college, not exactly, just her three or four friends. But Latika was very clear about her goals. She wanted everything she dreamt of-luxurious cars, good job, city life, foreign tours.. But how to go about it?

Her's was a middle class family, conservative to the core with all middle class moralities that included an arranged marriage also. And she was now marriageable. At 23, her parents started looking for a groom for her.

"Papa, I want to study further, also let me give my exams, I am still in second year of Post graduation"

"No problem at all, you keep studying, doing your wor, we are doing our worl"

That was the day, Latika had something in her mind. She went to the college, observing each thing minutely. She sometimes back had a crush on her English teacher. She went to him to seek guidance and was in tears after five minutes of conversation. She also in words and deed, action and gesticulations revealed her hidden love for him

Mr. Smith consoled her and asked her to apply for a fellowship abroad. This she eventually did. Based on his recommendations, she got selected. Mr. Smith also applied for a similar fellowship and got selected; intelligent, resourceful and capable as he was. He was not married and that was something that made him popular among the girls of the college. Mr. Smith had as such never noticed Latika. But now, even he developed feelings for her. Both of them went abroad for a month. Learnt much and spent good times.

"Lets get married and settle here only," remarked Latika

Mr. Smith said, "Yeah lets get married, but I would certainly not get settled in a foreign land. We are here only for a short study programme. That s all"

So, the love affair of Mr. Smith and Latika became the talk of the town. This they eventually accepted in public also.

But as has always been the case. Parents of Latika were not aware about tall that has happening. Eventually Mr. Smith helped Latika get as good job in a nearby B class city with accommodation and other perks.

"Papa, now I have got a good job. I am getting an accommodation also "

"Oh that's really good. Now we can get even a better match for you. Ok, so you relocate and join there. See that your younger brother also gets admission in a nearby college. You know he is not ambitious. He will complete graduation anyhow"

Latika relocated and initially her brother came along with her. As luck wuld have it, he did not get admission anywhere. So, it was good times for Mr. Smith and Latika. Latika was enjoying every moment, she had a good job, city life, loving and caring relationship.

"We should know about each other, now that we are committed. I have been separated from my wife and have a daughter."

"How does that matter our relationship?"

Now that was the blossoming of love between the two. There love knew no bounds and marriage was evident. They get married at a city temple and also went on a honey moon to a place that abounds in sea beaches.

Latika said, "I want to keep my marriage a secret as this was in the absence of my parents"

"But why, I have already sent divorce papers to my wife"

"You did not ask me before applying, I never told you to seek divorce"

Nevertheless, divorce papers were sent and received by his wife. His wife called upon Smith's father telling him about his marraiage with Latika. His father lived in the same city as Latika's father.

When both these people conversed. Latika denied any marriage. She said that was all fake. She was very busy with her city job and workload profile.

"Why did you do this? My love for you is not fake neither is yours?"

"Yes true, got that, but look at my parents sentiments; they want me to get married at a big fat wedding"

"That's OK. Should I now initiate the talks of our marriage?"

"No, not now.I will tell you the right time!"

Times passed by , Latika and Mr. Smith spent more times together. They visited other cities as husband and wife, which they eventually were ! Watching movies, shopping, going to theatres, attending weddings, events and what not . Two years passed .

" My parents are looking for a suitable match for me "

" What ?"

"They want me to settle down with a boy who is working in an MNC in Delhi." She broke into tears and Smith took her into his arms and said," Don't worry, I will speak to him tomorrow. We will formally, officially solemnize our marriage with the blessings of your and my parents".

After this conversation. Latika never called Mr. Smith and never met him. Five months passed by. Mr. Smith had really gone impatient. He made phone calls, Wrote E mails, Sent messages on phone, through friends, but no reply at all.

One fine day, she called him. Tears rolled down Mr. Smith's cheeks as he he picked up the call.

"Hello, how are you? Yes It has been long"

"How can you do this to me Latika. I am all torn and withered. Where are you? You never cared what would I be going through. I am so emotionally turmoiled. You have left no credibility "

"Yes, I understand that. See, I don't have much to say I am getting married. Please do not call me or try to interfere in my life. You helped me in getting the fellowship and the job. I kept you happy and satisfied for four long years. That is it. I just called to inform you. Bye!"

Latika never called after that . Never met Mr. Smith.

Mr. Sith was torn to pieces. He could not control his emotional stresses and eventually had to take a treatment from a doctor. The treatment continued for two long years when he came to normal and could do things normally.

In the meanwhile, Latika gets married off to Shashi, who earns well and is the only son of his parents. He frequents to Dubai and Singapore and brings costly gifts for Latika. This is exactly what Latika wanted.

It so happened that by chance, Latika and Smith had joined the same organization in almost the same profile at a city office. Both of them met accidently at the office of the boss. No one said anything. Latika acted as if she did not know him. Latika left her job the same day.

Through one of the acquaintances, Smith learnt that Latika was pregnant with her first child. Smith now decided to move away from the city. As he was about to leave the city to another city for a job, he met Anshika, a common friend of his and Latika's. Anshika told him that once she had asked her about him. Latika then replied, "We keep meeting people in our lives, they cant be embossed in our lives. Yes, we met but that was totally official, we worked together, just like we are working together now. I don't even remember him It's better you don't talk about him to me".

Anshika said that Latika did not meet her after that. Mr. Smith left the place for a better job. He says that he has grown with the lesson that Latika taught her.

"I completed my fellowship under her", he smiles back!

VIRGIN WIFE

Smitaa, a free bird, Daddy's daughter, a sportswomen, intellectually smart and what not!

Sporty and flirty , smart and intelligent, she was the best. Working with a good organization , earning good, spending as much she wanted , she was a happy go luck girl. And yes , now that she was marriageable. So began a good and wider searcher search through online mode and other office based marriage portals and platforms, newspapers and all that stuff. The wait was a bit longer as more than a year passed. One fine day, Smitaa's lady boss proposed a marriage of her younger brother with her. Well, Smitaa knew Abhi , but marriage ! Oh no !

Smitaa told this to her parents and the parents were really excited about the proposal. For Smitaa, it had to be totally her parent's decision for her marriage. Her parents even told her to find a suitable match for herself. All she was looking for was a loving heart, which as it is, was difficult to find.

She had met many people, liked many,, dated some, disliked many, but marriage was a totally difficult thing. For her, marriage was a sacrament and she had kept all love alive for her would be husband. She had dream Prince, she would get married to.

So, one fine day, through a newspaper advertisement, Smitaa's parents happenened to contact a good family in their own city.

"Dad, see that the guy loves me more than you do", laughed Smitaa.

So, the date was fixed where the boys family would come and meet Smitaa and her family. Smitaa was dressed in a normal salwar suit and looked sweet and innocent, chirpy and intelligent!

The boy was smart and intelligent and looked professional! Smitaa could sense that 'he is the man'

Akshay, the intelligent and smart boy belonged to a good, educated family and the family was also good and supportive. Akshay was the only son. The liking was mutual. They say "Matches are made in heaven". Smitaa could feel the heavenly love for Akshay and the next day, the roka thing was decided. After 15 days, roka was done and this was followed by an engagement ceremony. All was well, Smitaa and Akshay spent a little time together and felt that the 'feeling of love and respect' that they had was very mutual.

Then came the day of marriage. Everything was well planned and marriage got solemnized. Smitaa cried a lot , as she left her daddy darling's home.

"Daughters have two homes, dear", told her father. She picked up this phrase and after all those aftermarriage rituals and customs, got a little mentally settled. It was hard for her to settle in the new house. But all who had come to her wedding were very welcoming. She felt secure!

All the guest now departed. Akshay could not meet his bride either. He was busy in seeing off guests either at the railway station or the airport. He met Smitaa after two days. Smitaa was overwhelmed!

"I was waiting for you, you did not come".

"Really sorry sweet heart, now that you are all mine. I am always there with you!". This again reassured Smitaa.

The very next day, both of them left for kerla for their honey moon. Those seven days were the best ays of their lives. The best of both worlds surrounded Akshay and Smitaa....no work hassels, no work at all, fun times, eating, drinking, watching movies, listening to songs, going to clubs.....all that.

Except for one thing which Smitaa was thinking!

The cery purpose of all marital affair..the consummation part of the marriage. That did not happen!

No matter. It is ok.

"Why should I initiate such things, what he may think about me?" she was soliloquying.

They moved back to their home after seven days and Akshay had to leave for Banglore the very next day. He was transferred their for 6 months. So, Smitaa was staying with her in laws. They were all good and supportive. It was a new marriage and all was well. Akshay used to come on Saturdays and Sundays and spend time with his parents. Sometimes, he did not even come to Smitaa's room, their bedroom! and go away from his father's bedroom only! This annoyed Smitaa but she did not question. It happens in a new marriage, as she consoled herself.

Days passed by and around 5 months were over. One find day, when Akshay had come to vist his family, Smitaa said", "We are married now, don't you think, we should spend time with each other and have a private life too?"

"What is a private life?"

"Concentrate on your job and studies and whatever vocation you like"

Two years passed by and now people started asking Smitaa about the baby issue.

"So, when are you planning a family?" such questions were difficult to answer. Smitaa had no answers to such questions. She did not even have conjugal relationship with her husband. Not that she did not try, it was just that Akshay was uninterested perhaps.

It was time now to talk about it freely and frankly. Her parents also asked her about the same. She ssaid", everything is ok". Which was certainly not.

Akshay came back to Delhi and now he was permanently stationed at this place. So, again, started living together with smitaa with anew flame. But the very question of being together mentally and physically haunted Smitaa. He went out for parties, dinners, recreation...all was a bit formal, no intimacy between the two was actually and obviously seen by the people.

Things continued in the same fashion till one more year. It was aftaer a year that things changed. One of Akshay's friends, Puru had come to see Akshay in delhi. Akshay insisited that he should stay at his place. Akshay started living at his place. Now Smitaa was totally cornered and neglected. One day Puru said, "Smitaa, Akshay is a different type of a person. He loves you but never expresses that to you. Don't worry. In fact, you can share your problems with me, if any".

Times passed by and two years of unconsummated marriage was a big concern for Smitaa. She appeared to be sad . Her mother in law insisted that she should take admission in acollegeto pursue higher studies. Which she eventually does. In college, she meets Aftab, a very good friend of hers and also who becomes her confident. He eventually propose marriage to her. But Smitaa was trapped in a very unusual situation...married but there was no marriage at all. She told everything to Aftab. Aftab asked her to file for a divorce. Smitaa loved Aftab now this love was heavenly and divine. She did not want to lose him. But what was the way ou. Divorce was not a word in her family!

One fine day, while shopping out for some fashionable clothes, Smitaa spotted Akshay in a lovey dovey gesture with someone. It was a boy!

Tears rolled down her cheeks and she relayed everything to her parents. He parents sais, "Smitaa, talk to him. We will also talk to him. He must be with a good friend. Don't worry"

That day, Smitaa made up her mind to talk to him.

- "Where were you today? I was calling you. Your phone was unreachable. We have to go to a couple only party today. What should I wear?"
- "Wear anything, Why are you asking me?"
- "Because you should see me, dressed in a beautiful dress, praise me"
- " Come on, leave all that ".
- "You never kissed me, You never get intimate with me. What is the reason?"
- "What has gone wrong with you today? You never asked me such questions before?"
- "Because, I am dying to ask you this. Are you gay?"
- "Oh yes, Lady, I am gay...now what?"
- "Oh really, then why this marriage and all...why spoilt my life? And your parents were party to it?"

Hurriedly came there Alshay's mother, "Smitaa it si ok...see you have no problems here. You are free to do whatever you want, wherever you go..nobody will question you. But diont create a fuss now. Neighbours will listen"

"Let them listen...you have spoilt my life and now set me really free "

There was an utter chaos, shouting, blaming and other things. But Smitaa realized that the marriage was a chaeing on the part of Akshay's family.

Smitaa files for a divorce and has spoken to her parents about Aftab and her future plans with Aftab. Aftab's family have agreed for the marriage also. The decree of divorce is granted in the favour of Smitaa and now begins a fresh chapter of love and hope in her life again.

Yomika's Love

When intellectuals fall in love, it is an entirely different story!

Here's was this intelligent, bombshell, beautiful and sweet girl Yomika. She was pursuing B. Tech from a Govt. College in this prosperous state. She belonged to an upper middle class family where both the parents were working and the younger sister was also brilliant in her studies; she also aspired to become an Engineer, just like her sister!

Yomika got a scholarship to study BTech . She was filled with zeal and energy to study hard at the new college . Her interpersonal skills were really too good and that was the thing that caught the attention of all !

She outperformed in her studies in first year and was the class topper also. Not just that, she won several awards in different co curricular and extra curricular activities. Her parents were so proud of her! and gifted her a new mobile phone, which she longed for.

She became the apple of eye of her teachers and also seniors at the college. Now came the time, when she would become a senior as, the new admission season was on!

Aru, the bright and intelligent boy was there to take admission in his college. He was already selected in other colleges but there was something unique about this college!

Hmmm...the Sports ground where he could play crickedt and also that this collge had the Centre for Cricket association clubs in India. So, the admission was final and the classes began.

Yomika was there to announce something in his classroom, just like in other classrooms, about the various clubs and committees where students could get enrolled and showcase their talents and expertise and add on to the pool of the college.

" Cricket and nothing else!"

Yomika replied," No problem, For you its cricket, I have jotted down your name, what about others?"

Other students also gave their names for different committees, but there was some spark in Aru.

Yomika and Aru again met at the Canteen while the duo were differently having samosas and tea with their groups.

"So, When would you start practicing?"

" Mmmm, from today !"

"Oh really?"

"Yes, because you asked me today!"

Both laughed and smiled and chuckledand began a dear friendship between the two. Aru, the tall and handsome guy that he was and Yomika, the beauty with brains, both were seen together in various events, doing very well and were highly appreciate.

As destiny would have it, fall was on the cards for them!

Come, Valentine Day and Aru was the one who proposed love with confidence, with the eyes that spoke the truth of his passion and love. Yomika could not refuse either. She was also in love equally. Rather, she was more passionate than before!

Life was good, music in the air and love affair between the two was so visible that everyone knew about the relationship. Rather, it was the most popular of all relationships.

Two years passed by , love affair continued but with a difference ! Aru took more interest in Cricket than Yomika and Yomika took more interest in Aru than studies. She lost her concentration in studies and her percentage of marks dropped ! She knew that she was losing concentration in studies because of Aru as Aru was not the same now. He had also befriended Swati, her classmate. Yomika was a year senior to Aru. This he made it clear to Yomika . So, Whatsapp, messenger, chatrooms, Emails all were there to make the relationship work between Yomika and Aru except the nearness . Swati was a good friend of Aru and had a romantic inclination towards Aru too. Aru, also felt for Swati.

Bur for Yomika, love was deep and passionate. She loved him to the core.

"Lets rekindle our love, why not go to an adventure trip?"

"Yes, lets go", said Aru

"Mmmmmm, no.....lets spend time together, we would go to Goa"

"For that I need to take permission from my parents"

"Take the permission, no problem at all. You remember we are participating in competitive team events from our College in Goa!"

"Okkk, yes...got it!"

So, Yomika gets the permission from her parents and the group including Swati, Aru and Yomika set off to Goa.

They enjoy a lot. Participate in events, spend time together. Yomika was deeply and madly in love with Aru. During the evening social party, they danced and also got so intimate with each other.

Swati realized this and after that , tended to move away from Aru. Slowly , all the close friends of aru distanced from him , as Yomika would not like anyone to be close to him. This she would show in her sarcasm and gesticulations and also open words.

Slowly, Yomika became very possessive about Aru. She wanted Aru to be by her side all the time. After College, before College, during weekends!

She spoke about her passionate love to her parents also.

"See if he also feels the same and has plans for marriage also," remarked her mother.

This almost made her frozen with distrust. She stormed in the colleg Canteen and asked , " Do you love me?"

"Yes, I do. What happened? Why are so you panicked?"

"Just like that! You have plans for getting married?"

"Marriage....is something, I have never thought about!"

" Marriage with me or with anyone?"

"Come on...with anyone!"

"So, what is all this, is this a passing affair?"

"Come on....dont take things so seriously!"

That was the day, Yomika first slashed her hand. She suddenly became unconscious and the hostel inmates informed the warden. The warden then informed the resident doctor and her parents.

"Yomika, why all this?", asked Aru

"Because you said, you don't have plans for marriage!"

Aru was stunned. For him, perhaps the love affair aws a real passing affair. He liked her, he was close to her and also Swati for that purpose. But marriage! Absolutely no! Afterall, he was just 22.

It was the last year college and Yomika told her parents that she wished to pursue higher studies. The parents agreed but were conscious of her passionate relationship with Aru. Aru had informed her parents that he considered Yomika only as a friend and that she only was after him like a mad lover!

Yomika's parents tried to convince her first when she returned after completing her college. But she was not ready to listen. Just Aru and nothing else!

Yomika gets admission in M. Tech in another prestigious College and informs Aru about it. Aru was now not much interested in her. Her possessiveness, was too estranged!

Many people made mockery of Aru! He would not take it!

"So, concentrate on your studies, leave me....it 's all over "

"Don't say that Aru, I love you to the core...you know that "

"You don't love me.....You are mad...let me live my life"

This did not bothered Yomika. She took a roadways bus and reached her previous college after five hours of long journey. She meets Aru.

"What has happened to you Atu...why are you behaving in this way?"

" All is over between us....why don't you understand? Our so called relationship was over two years back!"

This was the second time, Yomika slashed her wrist. Now with a motto to prove hr love for Aru. Aru informed her parents and left her at the College clinic and went away.

He parents reached there after sometime and were full of fury and anger!

"Now, we don't want to listen about Aru! If you do this again, we will not listen to it at all. Just focus on your studies. We will find a suitable match for you and see you off"

'No, Mamma, he loves me, more than that, I love him"

"If you are so stern and stubborn, we will also get stubborn. Now we will not pay for your studies. Come back home"

"Hmmm...ok," says Yomika with a sigh!

"Ok, I shall bring back my luggage and other belongings from the hostel"

The parents agreed to this. Yomika gets back to her College hostel to bring back the luggage, as she had committed to her parents. But the very thought of Aru, made her sick...she loved him and that was all.

She decided not to go back. Her parents called her many times. She did not respond.

Days moved on and changed into months. Yomika was at the college hostel. Her parents came to pick her up but she did not go.

"I am studyng Mamma and want to study . I am not going back"

"She is here for Aru, not for studies, "her father remarked.

"Ok, we are not paying the fee anymore or giving you any financial help"

Yes, exactly ! Only Aru was in the mind of Yomika . She knew that if she got back to her parents palce, they would get her married to anyone and that she would lose Aru forever.

"You are slim and beautiful...you have the curves and cuts, why don't you do some modelling assignments for us?", asked one of hostel inmates Ria.

"Yes, I associated with FEMTALE, the big modelling agency. They also pay well. I think you can earn good and you will also have a good mood "

Yomika agreed. So, now Yomika was a model. She was modelling for soaps and detergents, shampoos and Oil companies and also she got some small role in advertisements. She never asked for money from her parents. Her admission got cancelled because of non payment of fees. She still did not go back.

"When my parents did not understand me, who else will? I am independent now... don't need them", says Yomika

Yomika still tried to contact Aru. He blocked her on Facebook and other communication portals. So, Yomika contacted his father and narrated how love blossomed between them and other things..

This caught the attention of Aru when his father enquired into the matter. Immediately, Aru contacted Yomika's parents and apprised them about her conduct. He told them that he had stopped all connections with her a year back and now she was rying to communicate to his father.

Yomika's parents apologized with Aru's father and asid that such a thing would never happen again. What would Yomka's parents do now? They were not in touch with her. They had stopped talking to her, there was also a question of social morality!

They came down one for the last time to meet Yomika . They somehow managed to know her address from her friends. They see Yomika and could not believe their eyes!

An intellectual turned model , skinny looks, I –don't- care attitude, snobbish person that she had become.

"Yes mamma, you had some work with me?"

"No......We have come take you back. Come back home dear"

" Home......ha ha ha....certainly, I would have , but have changed my mind. If you talk to Aru's parents about our marriage. I would certainly come"

"That chapter is closed. What do you think? We are not your enemies. We tried but what to do if Aru himself is not interested. He is getting married to some Swati on this 20th "

This left Yomika almost dead! She became senseless and mum. Her parents took her with them. She would keep quite and not speak to anyone. Her parents would try to consle her and take her out for dinner, parties and other recreations. She would be present there only physically. Mentally, she aws lost with Aru's thoughts!

It was May 20th and Aru was getting married to Swati. That day Yomika got up early, spoke to her parents and played with her pets, made some phone calls and assured her parents that she was well off now and that she would soon join a job in Delhi . That very evening, she told that she had to go the park

for a stroll. That was the day she appeared a bit better than before. She asked her mother to prepare tea for her while she was getting ready with her shoes on. Her mother called her out after the tea was prepared. There was no response!

Her mother went hurriedly to Yomika's room where she found that Yomika had consumed some rat poison and was lying still .There was a note which read

" Mamma, I had only one dream..a dream to live with Aru. Now that he would never be mine...I don't want to live. You take care"

This left Yomika's parents in an awe and a shock!

The long silence broke into tears and lackadaisical efforts to wake her up!

Yomika's mother now started a Counselling centre where she counsels the children and youngsters about how to be happy, handle stress and other things ...

Life goes o	n!
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Forbidden Love

It is told by some that some relationships are forbidden! But what about love? It knows no bounds, no age, no caste.....

Shama took admission in this school in class XI after completing school till class X in different schools. A big public school, that has a swimming pool, a horse riding academy, dance and music classes, sports stadium and what not!

Shama was studying in a girls school before and therefore being in a co educational school was different. But boys in the school were better than the girls, as she would generally tell her parents. Shama was good in studies and other extra curricular activities . She was friendly to all especially to Ria and Rupa.

Shama joined theschool a bit late as her father got transferred somewhere later than the schedule of the classes that already got started in that school. Shama looked younger than other girls in her class. Her pigtails defined her looks, so innocent and sweet, sweet spoken as she was.

Shama was more into studies unlike other girls who were more into gossips. She was just observing the new surroundings, new environment, new friends. She spoke moderately. The subjects were now becoming difficult to study. She took up Physics, chemistry, Biology apart from other mandatory courses. All the classes were running smoothly except for the physics classes.

Whenever Shama would enquire about the Physics teacher, the girls would laugh away!

One day Shama insisted and enquired about the same to Ria and Rupa. They told her that the teacher was a young guy and that a girl student had blamed him of some harassment. He was absenting from that day. But after some days, the teacher came to the school and was seen teachingto the senior students. Mr. Alankrit was an intelligent person, well versed in his subject and could solve all the querries of the students. It was the very first lecture of Mr. Alankrit in Shama's class. She was spell bound by his way of teaching and dealing with students She wondered how he harass a girl student when he does not even bear that character!

"He appears grave and conscious, he cant do that ", remarked Shama

Shama respected Mr Alankrit just in the manner she respected others at the school. She slowly developed interest in learning Physics ans felt that she had strong feeling for Mr. Alankrit. This feeling

was divine and not worldly. As was natural to her age, perhaps she was in love....but this love was quiet drastic. She used to be the class topper but her unexpressed one way so called love took the toll of her studies. She lost all concentration in studies and became a below average student. The grade cards reached her aprents and naturally she was enquired about it.

"I don't understand why I have scored so low? I will concentrate more on studies".

The parents motivated her as they knew that their daughter was a studioud one and that an emotional turmoil wa svery natural for her age.

"Tell us if we can help you.. Are you in love with someone?"

Shama just laughed it back and said nothing. Afterll, it was adeep passionate love that really had no expression and outlet, how can one love his or her teacher? That's wrong and forbidden.

Life moved on and the results were announced. She passed with flying colours and completed even School with good grades. It was time that she joined the college.

It was the farewll party and she though that she would tell Mr. Alankrit for the last time about her feelingfor him

"Sir, today is our last day at School, we will miss you"

"I will also miss all my students"

Shama had nothing to reply, just tears rolled down her eyes. She gain laughed it back!

Avneet, a very good friend of Shama's assured of hos continued friendship but Shama was lost somewhere else. She just nodded. Perhaps everyone except Mr. Alankrit could see and feel the love that Shama had for Mr Alankrit.

Grey days

Surbhi and Avnish were now married for ten long years. A good companionship amongst the civilities of a city life, its mediocrities, busy bee lives and also a routine affair.

"Good morning", said Avnish

"Good morning with Coffee and this newspaper, sweetheart! Get ready soon as I lay the breakfast table and get the kids ready for school and me for office, today I have a meeting!", replied Surbhi

So, the two small and sweet kids, Amit and Amita were set off to school and the couple to the Office. This continued as, life generally continues. One fine day, when the kids' grndma was to visit them, Avnish had an office party!

So, Grandma, Surbhi and kids stayed at home watching a movie on TV while Avnish had a blast

"So, I am Tina"

"Hi Tina, I am Avnish, I think we have met beforeMmmmmm, Bangkok Conference?"

"Yes...Oh you remember that! We met only for a minute"

"Certain things are to be remembered forever.I remember your fantastic presentation!"

So, began the conversation between the two. It was obvious that he would get late for home. Still, he manages to talk to his sweet wife.

"The party is getting late. I would reach home by 1:00 AM"

"No problems, carry on.. Mom is asleep, kids too....I am waiting for you!"

Again, began ... a fresh chapter in Avnish's life.A professional friendship with Tina turned into a good personal relationship!

Very often, they met at the office, Conferences, parties. Many common friends started, now, gossiping about the small affair that got started between the two. And yes, it was manifested as a passing affair by Tina. Tina was highly ambitious, while Avnish was much grounded, professional and also emotional.

He used to lost in deep thoughts about Tina, he fell, perhaps in love with her and also eventually proposed her. So, the proposal was accepted and the love was in the air. It was natural that Surbhi would have alos known but as a doting wife that she was, waiting was only for him to speak up first.

Then, after some days, Avnish started ignoring her and the family. He did not speak to his mother and Surbhi. He would come late and and go off to sleep. If he did not, he would be busy on the laptop, chatting and doing his work. In total, there was only work..work..and Tina for him.

Slowly, Surbhi could feel the pain and negligence on the part of Avnish

"What has gone wrong with you?"

"No...I am what I was", said Avnish rather sternly

"No...things have changed...I know about Tina"

"What do you know about her?"

" Everything!"

"Well, that's that...I did not marry a foolish woman, who would not trust her husband. You are a professional. Don't talk like other house wives.

Surbhi could undersand everything and she also understood that she had now lost Avnish to Tina. However, she decided to question her own apprehensions. But that late evening when she saw Avnish and Tina in a such a compromising position at Disha's apartment, where she happened to go by chance, she was shocked and decided to quit her marriage. However after much tongue lashing and arguments, ultimately the two separated after so many years of a 'good marriage' just for the sake of their children.

"Just for our children, not for anything else, I cant get legally separated. The children want hi. But, I don't. It is Okay that he would meet the children on weekends and also support them .My children are growing up and life in ametro has its own monetory wants", sighs Surbhi to her friend Natasha

Life went on and Avnish spent good romantic days with Tina. Tina was a smart woman, indeed, ad wanted to grow in her profession. This did not bothered Avnish, who was totally in love with the lady.

Tina was trying hard to get some international projects and somehow managed to get one. Initially she went to Dubai for two months, came back and again went for 6 months. Many a time, Avnish felt lonelywithout her. But that was of no use, as Tina had to go but voluntarily and officially.

In not more than three years, as if the Dubai had become her second home. She used to fly there often for official work. One fine day, she revealed that she was getting married to Tariq, a rich man from Dubai. Tariq owned a business in gems and Jewellery in Dubai and both had a clandestine relationship for more than three years.

"How can you do this to me, Tina? For you I left my wife and Children!"

"No, you did not....neither have you divorced her, nor have you promised me marriage, I need my security of life!"

This almost left Avnish shattered and he broke totally. With the office work growing heavy on him, blocked from his wife and children, he was feeling lonely. He could not get back to his wife but one fine day when he called it quits with Tina, he mustered up courage to see Surbhi.

"I knew, you will come back and the day, you come back, I will welcome you with open arms!"

That teary moment was a different one-filled with all mixed emotions, anger, frustration, love, hatred, anguish, anxiety-all in one. So, happy were the children who had no regrets in their hearts for their father; all because Surbhi never instilled hatred in their hearts for their father.

Life went on and Surbhi and vanish grew old. Avnish retired from his job and was sick. He encountered a disease and left for the heavenly abode. The children settled in their jobs and got married. Now both Amit and Amita were happily married and settled abroad. This left Surbhi content, but lonely.

Surbhi often remembered how Avnish cheated on her, but time flies, relationships die, feelings remain.

Vaibhav, a good office colleague of Surabhi's often used to see her at her place. He was a good friend of hers; had always been with her in good and bad times. One fine day, Vaibhav proposed his love to her. Surabhi was filled with mixed emotions. Her throat chocked!

"Vaibhav, now both of us are old"

"Yes, we are and that's why, I want to be with you in this stage of life. Now, both of us have no responsibilities and both of us can be friends forever"

"But for that we need to get married. And my marriage at this stage of life...I need to speak to my children "

"Please do. I am not asking anyone for how I should spend my life. My children got married in different castes and have their own decisions for everything. But I strongly believe that our friendship has now unolds the hidden love also"

Surabhi took two days to think about it. She tried to contact her children on phone. Both of them were too busy to pick up the calls even!

Surabhi had a smile on her face and that brightened her face for ever after as she accepted Vaibhav's proposal and got married to him and spent her remaining life happily in his arms extended for love!

My friend -Samrita

Samrita, the only lovely daughter of her parents, their apple of eyes, much pampered and of course, as happens, overfed!

So, she grew plumpy and open mouthed. She remained so ever since her childhood as she told me. I met her while she was studying in my college from where both of us began a small friendship!

- "I need smart clothes and eyes shades, he is coming to see me".
- "Come on....dont change for anyone else. By the way, who is this very special one?"
- "My love, my life, my all! Hmmmm hope you understand what he is to me. I still wonder how I can love him so much?"
- "Hmmmmm.....so, that actually sounds great! Where is he taking you for lunch?"
- "We have still not decided mean he told me to decide, so I think, 'TheExotic' would be good!"
- "That's costly "
- "But its okay, if it is for him.....I mean for Akshay!"

It was 'Akshay' for Samrita everywhere, as it happens, when a person is in love. She used to tell about him very often to her friends-Sakshi and Sumi. Samrita used to chat with him online and also on video calls too. One fine day, she also introduced Sumi and Sakshi to Akshay.

Sumi said to sakshi, "I mean..is that Akshay? Tall, dark and handsome that he is...Of course, not meant for Samrita!"

- "Don't say that, come on ", replied Sumi
- "Hey guys, Wahts up? So, did yu guys find Akshay? My soulmate?"
- "In fact, too gud, to be true. You said, your parents know about him!"
- "Yes, they know about him . We are family friends also. In fact, I have told my parents that I would get married to him only and you know what my parents agreed!"
- "So, you are wearing rose coloured glasses these days!"

And they all laughed it away. Gossips were still on about how Akshay, a smart, good looking guy, who earns quite a handsome amount would fall in love with Samrita, a plump girl, smart mouth and having a rustic accent. So, amidst all gossips, there came an opportunity for all the students of Samrita's college to go abroad for 15 days. Samrita was on! and the other girls were not. Money issues and Of course permission from parents.

Samrita started preparing for her visit to US. Buying trendy clothes, shoes, shades and what not. Bud sad that just after two or three days, Akshay asked her not to go and she heartily accepted.

" He said , you will not go and you are not going! Come on, he is still not your husband"

"That's ok, dear, but I consider him to be my husband only"

This silenced all the other friends of hers. Well, one day, Akshay was in the city and had asked Samrita to see him at an expensive restaurant. Samrita informed her friends and asked them also to meet Akshay.

So, everyone was there on time at the table that was booked for them. The girls were literally surprised to see the smart guy with their plump friend. But also utterly surprised to see that Samrita paid the bill.

When Sumi could hold it no longer, she asked, "Samrita, we care for you and that's why I want to tell you that he is only using youas a time pass, just a passing affair!"

"No, dear..its really not like that..he kissed me the other day!"

" So what ?"

"So, I just know that I love him and he loves me!"

Samrita did all that she could to impress Akshay, as could be seen by everyone. Samrita would gift him expensive items, go for a movie and chill out in an amusement park, but the expenses were borne by her only! This was the only factor that irritated her friends. She easily asked for money from her parents , which they never denied . However, Samrita's friends later learnt that Samrita's parents didn't even know about Akshay; marriage was far beyond!

The friends really cared for Samrita and therefore, one fine day, they mustered up courage to ask her about Akshay .

"Samrita, your parents would not agree for your marriage with Akshay!"

'Hey, Whats wrong with you people? They would certainly agree to that "

Samrita deliberately tried to be emotionally dependent on Akshay, as was seen by her friends. They could not understand whether really , there was a love affair or just a passing affair , more of a friendship!

One day Akshay asked Samrita to meet her at a Coffee shop and also that he had a surprise for her!

This filled Samrita with more energy and vigor and she could not stop of dreaming about her marriage and other related things.

"He is going to propose me today...Oh my god ...What else could I ask for more ", she murmured.

Sumi and Sakshi decided to secretly see everything when they learnt about the so called 'date'.

So, Akshay looked smart and attractive and he was accompanied by a fellow colleague, who was equally smart and attractive.

" Hey Samrita! Meet Sumaya, my colleague in office. I have told her about you!"

"Hi SumayaAkshay is just awesome ...I am sure he must have told you verything!"

"Of course, Yes. All about your hang outs in amusement parks" And she just laughed it away.

"See Samrita, I hurriedly called you here because I am going to Dubai for a year and Sumaya is accompanying me. Our project is a big one and both of us have really worked hard for it. So, now we will see you after a year. I am still not prepared but Sumaya's parents want both of us to get settled very soon. I don't know what to do . You are the only one who I trust and believe me , I am pretty sure , you would support me in whatever I do".

This literally shocked Samrita and also her friends who were skeptically watching the entire show!

"Sure Akshay.... I am always with you ", replied Samrita.

Both Sumaya and Akshay smiled at each other and Akshay danced with joy and said," I told you, Samrita would never say no".

Samrita had no answers for Sumi and Sakshi and she left the place . She was heart broken and cried her heart out to her parents and friends. They could do nothing more than just consoling and counseling her!

" Am I not beautiful and smart? Why did he do like that with me?"

"Darling, you are our princess, we know that you are priceless!"

Samrita took much time to come out of the trauma that she had undergone. But as life went on, she also moved on somehow.

After two years, She moved on a job tour to London where she incidentally finds Akshay and Sumaya.

"Hey Samrita....you in London?"

"Yes! I am here for another one month. The project is based in UK and US. So, I am a bit busy. You guys enjoy. Do connect with me soon. Bye".

And Samrita left the place with a confident smile. Akshay and Sumaya had no replies!

My lost love

Shanaya, the only love of Vedaansh!

It was Shanay everywhere for Vedaansh; after all, he loved her so much. She, his lady love and of course romance and love in the air filled their hearts with joy and abundant happiness. It was a relationship of more than two years which blossomed in the office, where both the love birds first met.

So, life was beautiful! Promotions at work place made things better for them. When cupid struck, they were, just above all, floating in the blossom of love!

Things went on and life move more hurriedly for Shanaya. Her parents were in Mumbai and she in Delhi, all the while for her job. It had been long, studying and working in Delhi.

Her mother said," Today, Shekhar would speak to you on skype"

"Shekhar....Who? I mean Why?...Are you again thinking of my marriage?"

"Yes! And Why not? And also, if not now, then When? We are also getting older, we care for you!"

" If that is so Mamma, can you get me married to the one who I love?"

" Of course Shanya! You never told us about that!"

"Really Mamma! I am so thrilled! I am just going to inform Vedaansh!"

So, Shanaya's parents were happy enough, but also skeptical about the choice that Shanay had made.

"Vedaansh.....Imagine! My parents are ready to get us hooked! I am sooooooo happy!"

"Wow.....even I am excited, buy why so early? We are still settling in our jobs?" remarked Vedaansh.

"Come on! Even I was not prepared for marriage, but my parents want me to get settled. But they agreed for our marriage. So, its ok, sweety...I am thrilled!"

"So, am I, dear!", replied Vedaansh.

So, romance was in the air. Late night parties and so much of togetherness. What else did the love birds want! They spent so much time together. However, Vedaansh told Shanaya not to reveal of their marriage plans in the office, to which Shanaya agreed.

So, so the normal 'Shagun' was arranged by Shanaya's parents one day. They asked Shanaya to ask Vedaansh to inform his parents and make them meet them. This was to settle upon marriage plans. Shanya's parents were of the view that Vedaansh would have already spoken about his marriage with Shanaya to them.

" Dear, when do we meet them?"

" Aunty! they are out of country and have asked me to continue with the Shagun ceremony"

"But we can't do the ceremony without their involvement. Are you sure , they know about the marriage?"

"Yes, Aunty ... Please do not worry . We love each other and they have consented for the marriage much before ".

So, the Shagun ceremony was held with limited guests of Shanya's family and Vedaansh was there with his two friends.

Again, the fun time was on for the love birds. With lovein the air, all was so beautiful ..job, home, life!

It had been more than a year, dating and romancing. Shnaya's parents were worried about the marriage. But Shanaya was too much in love. She did not want to hear a word against Vedaansh.

"Now if Vedaansh doesn't marry you, we would get you married to Shekhar! that's final"

Shanay's parents somewhat understood that Vedaansh was trying to fool Shanaya. He never introduced his parents to them and never took Shanaya home!

But now, it was too much to bear for Shanay's parents. They had mase their mind that they would get Shanay married to Shekhar, a nice boy, well settled and of course, a genuine one. He was a relative of Shanaya's Mother's friend. So, all was set and Shanaya was told about this.

"Dear darling, if Vedaansh is ready to commit and get married, we are ok with it, but he is fooling you around. Why don't you understand?"

"Mamma, please give me some time. Atleast 15 days. I will convince him"

"Ok dear, take your time. We will wait".

It was that day since when Vedaansh started avoiding Shanaya. He took the overseas project for 10days and in that time, he ever called her. Just texted her that he had been very busy. On his return, he did not meet her and manged his office chores, being busy with his 'boss' as he told her over the phone.

Shanaya took out time from the hassled time of Vedaansh and informed him about the marriage prospects that her parents desired . He just smiled and said that he would talk about it later.

Shanaya was in much pain and the pangs of being hurt in so many ways shattered her. Her parents tried counselled herbut it was of no use.

Shekhar visited Shanya's place and brough her some comfort, being so friendly and understanding about her stae of mind and heart. They became friends eventually, but Shanay could not understand why all of a sudden Vedaansh changed and started ignoring her. She called him several times, sent sms, but of no use. There was no reply!

So, a formal engagement was planned for Shanaya and Shekhar. On that fine morning, Shanaya was very restless. The engagement was not too much to bear! Her heart belonged to Vedaansh. She speaks to Shekhar that she wanted to see edaansh for the last time and Shekhar happily agreed!

She hurried up to residence of Vedaansh . There she entered the gates all running and dashing the plants. Vedaansh happened to come out of the house, the very moment . He saw her and was much disturbed.

" Why are you here?"

"Vedaansh, will you marry me?"

There was a silence.....that was much broken when other family members of his house came out.

"What happened Vedaansh? Who is this girl?" asked his father.

"I don't know Dad!", replied Vedaansh.

"Hurry up, you have to take Isha to her Mother's house. After all, she is going there for more than 6 months. We would miss our darling daughter –in-law"

This almost shattered Shanaya and she looked at Vedaansh with anguish, anxiety, distrust...heart broken !

Vedaansh did not speak aword. Neither did Shanaya. Things of the past flashed in her mind. She ran hurriedlytook a bus an did not reach home.

Her parents were worried and tried their best to find her everywhere. They informed the Police when they could not find her for another five days.

Shanaya's parents were heart broken and felt helpless, they did not know what to do. The Police was also trying hard to find her. One fine morning, after three years, when Shanaya's friends were out on a weekened party they saw a lady, dressed in rags begging for some money at the ATM place. Something prompted them to help her. At their utter surprise, they found that it was Shanaya. But Shanaya could not recognize them. The friends brought her back to her parents' place.

Shanaya now happily works for the homeless children for the NGO that Shekhar started with her. Shekhar, her friend for life!

I am me

I am me
The sweet mewithin
The confident being as ever
I like to sing to the lark
And smile by the day
I would run with the waters of the rain
Smell the earth perfume and
Dance with joy
I would think of all faults within me
And swipe them off over a coffee
I would befriend anyone who holds my hand
I would enjoy every moment I live
Why be distressed and sad?
Life is more than what we perceive of it!
It is more giving and affirming
Than taking and negating
Enjoy, each day , each moment, as times would pass
And then, we enjoy only in memories!

MYRTLE

The beauty of the green mashed up essence of the leafy branches
Well seen on the hands of beauties
All golden brown
With a halo
Tinted with the love and embrace of one's yearning for a dreamy one
Myrtle really expresses the joy
Of love and laughter and the bloom that it brings on
For all who see the
The blue above and green serene
Girls go laughing, brides shy
Of the love that the myrtle shines with
Who knows the fate of those leafy branches
That were borne only to be dried and grinded
Just that fate brings what is not thought
Just like myrtle which brings
All love and laughs, when it is still not the lively one
Myrtle –you are prime and serene
While you crush and cry
Others love you for being no more!

WHY I CRIED THE OTHER DAY

I was thinking of the day
The day filled with goodness of the glory of god
O all the creatures that was made by him divine
My divinity, the core trinity!
Love and compassion,
Strength of mind and of character
Of beautiful people and their deportments
Of all the human emotions
That makes a man worth being one
Life is beautiful
Listen to the music in the air
And the perfume of flowers that it carries
The mellow and the meadows
That sound of ripened fruits and the crofts
The sky that is endless
And the rains together with the sunshine
The green scent of the earth!
That sweet life giving breath
Filled with the nature's zest for life
The other I cried just to make myself
Understand

That I am a part of this beautiful creation

The tears that rolled down were the tears of joy

And also of some anxious minds

That the sensitivity I behold should never be lost

Like other souls

Who have forgotten

That we are all connected with our souls

I cried and cried more to thank the divinity inside me

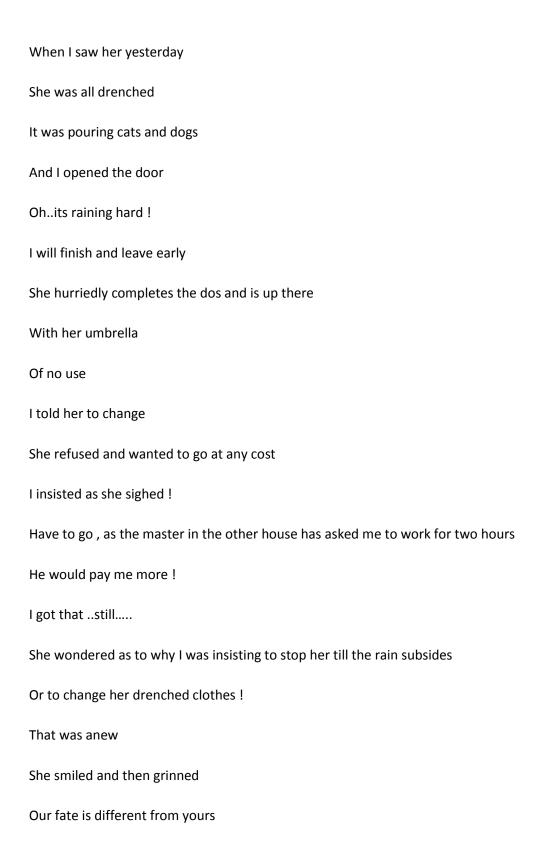
For making me what I am!

Green Chillies

I am green and I contain the seeds
Of drab realities of life
With green, I become, a fulfilling sapling
The soothing colour for the eye
The fresh greenery of the earth
Makes me its part
The seed in me show that I am the master of my fate
As I would be sowed, so I would grow up
As a green chilly
The seeds are bitter to taste and to savour
But show the crude reality of life
The drabblackdark reality dressed in green!
There is more bitterness in the world
You would never find a green chilly without a bitter taste
That reflects dark alsways surmounts
No matter , where and whatever the goodness be !
People, put me in spirits , or other oils and sense the aroma
Many say," Ohhow to have it without a chilly?"
May say" Ohtoo much of Chillies!"

But I remain myself Never change in any circumstance I wonder how god created me They need me or they do not need me? I wonder at my life! I grow, only to be plucked up and killed Just to savour the taste buds of all Who have various reactions Well, that's my destiny Still, I rule As a green chilly As I add that spart to the dull and boring delicacies I am wanted as I have retained my original flavor That shws, be who you are And you would be regarded as supreme as a green chilly No taste without me....

I don't disagree



Work is not worship for us

As work is only work for us

We worship that we get more work

Unlike those who" Why do I need to work so much?"

"Why am I given so much work?"

The small talk that we had

Had made me learn many a new thing

And that the hard reality is never seen

She was the only working hand and I tried giving a helping one

Did she need that?

I could not disagree!

Our Day of Belongingness

The fragrance of this day goes beyond the scent of blossoming flowers The bloom that follows the mellow marvels this eventful day The Day of Belongingness!

Aspiring high to touch the azure above limitless spans of time spurs the vision that opens the ambitious eyes All to behold this eventful day The Day of Belongingness!

Not to doubt oneself, no matter what happens A mission to experience this, is this noble day Creating victory and happiness, letting our spirits up This Day of Belongingness!

It is a vow, it is a dream that follows this day
That makes this day an eternity
Shining bright like the sun, with a heart of prayer divine.
Love that kindles and shines through every being
Our pride, our joy, our ideal of glory and triumph
A tribute to you, versed in pride, as we assure
Live every word of encouragement you say!

A day to remember!

A day so beautiful &radiant embedded with a hue of colorful rainbow! Showers undauntedly all the blessings & force that build this day of dynamic development into the treasure lands of Belongingness!

Arise to this day that marks our mission!
A mission to lead!
With a sense of great joy & fulfilment,
let's scale the mountains of achievement
with a shared motto & pledge!
climbing the ladder of golden success on our ascent,
as we behold the day of Belongingness!

Invigorating ascent of a new summit of honor & vision, Embodying the real sense of victory, by advancing in the realm of good fortune, torch of courage &with youthful pioneer as vanguard to brilliantly shine as trailblazers to make a fresh start everyday as we adorn the day of Belongingness!

May this day shine & glow ever in momentum &brilliance! Brimming with energy & excellence and Internalizing the spirit of being invincible with tremendous power, wisdom &potential that resides in all of us; as we together believe & lay our faith in this day To Remember Forever!

I want to live

I want to be
Who I am
I want to live, the way I want to
Saddened by the thought of yesterday
Now I move and march ahead
Loving each day
Saying goodbye to yesterday
Oh , Yes, YesterdayI don't remember but!
The furure appears bright
And is filled with pride
For me, as I move, my life
God , give , me life!
As I stand up after getting hurt
I cried much but in vain
For there's a chance , always again!

Happiness Tree

I shine like the sun
From within and not outside
Perhaps one can notice the radiance in me outside
As I shine splendidly inside
The happiness in me
Is now resolute
Filled with stance of courage and wisdom, I pray
I believe, I will move
I believe I change , myself and the ohers
Filled withis nectar of happiness in me
I sow the seeds of friendship in others
Lets shake hands and take a vow ourselves
Be with each other
In times of distress and in happiness
For, happiness does not come in packages
But in smaller things we do everyday!

Starved of Love

I see her eyes
Blue and wide as they are
Filled with tears –of separation and the bleeding heart
I can sense her presence
With an aura
So heavy—heaviness of heart
All lost for the one
Who left her all!
A love that had many implications and no limitations
Of spontaneity and closeness
An attempt to be with the one
Who would, in this dark world, support and hold her
In his arms
A safe place to be!
The pangs , could be seen by me and others
She tried hard to conceal, but was in vain
Tears rolled down her cheeks , as she starts to speak!
Dreams no more , and the world appears big!
Where to go and find solace?
For , he is gone for ever !

Life is not that hard

That it makes you someone's heart

You have a heart that beats , dear friend

It also sobs and enjoys

Find out what else you have in life?

For life is full of bounty

His love was temporary and

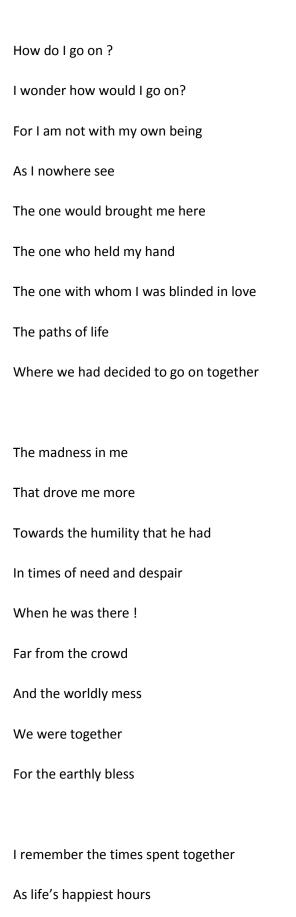
Your love is still permanent

But feelings die hard and life goes on

Carry on and do not break

For life goes on and starved of love , as you look

Move on..to find one!



The love and care That showed in his eyes Were a guide to me That helped me ever How I behold such feelings now? I get hurt whenever I remember him But emotions are hard to control I remember the situations Where we were forced to leave each other No..it was not my destiny For he is still in my heart, I swear! They tell me to be me! But can anyone tell me how? When I ever remained yours? How is me different from him? My eyes are no longer seen teary Rather, they are dried up Like the parched ground As the air gently blows

Why I moved away I saw you in the park With a red hat , being so smart Girls grew anxious And me going insane A person that you were So humble and serene Came to know that You are the new joinee of the Park Don't know what made me cry And made me low My heart sank Just at your sight Perhaps , I fell in love As they say At the first sight The day I interrupted you To go on a stroll in the park I remember the way you

Were with me That very day, you made a place in my heart With mu bubbly talks anf your peaceful demanour Strolls appeared frsh and fine As they earlier were dull and tiring I forgot the pain All that ever dwelled in me With you assurance and comfort I was floating in the air! Life had given me chance To be with my love For all that could bring Happiness and the smile I never saw the other side of you That one, which was dark The one where you have found others like me Held their hand just like me

The pain was unbearable

But my heart
Heartheart , it ached
The ache still remains
Unbearble not just for me
But all who cared for me
Keeping the spirits high, though
I continued being low
Pained from within
Torn out and sad
That was what everyone could see
With the sorrow that I was clad
I was going down and down
Sinking in depression
While you had no time to spare
Or forbear the pain –accept or share
While my eyes looked for you
My heart never wanted to see you again
While my heart wanted to be with you

My eyes did not want to see you My emotional dependence had deepened That was what had been all the wrong I could see no light to come out of despair Trauma and darkness, had taken me over One fine day I felt the me within me Which I was nowhere there Dancing and singing, marrying and befriending others I now really wanted to grow up From that dungeon of ill luck From those hard times Perhaps to live the only life I needed to move away from you Your thoughts and all that was yours The only reason was survival That was why I moved away!

Life and She

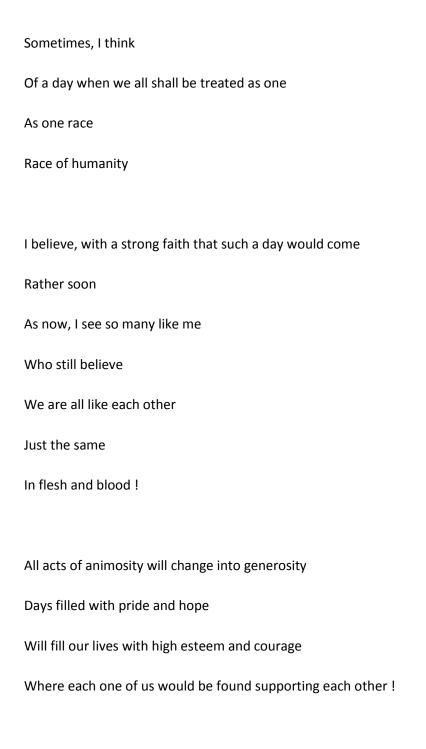
She was a pal, the best one
Filled with more energy
And the one who lived
Every breath and
Loved to live her life!
While we played together in the sun
We danced together in the rain
In the park and the streets,
We sang the songs of despair and of love
She was anticipating good news
She was anticipating good news Of someone good and near
Of someone good and near
Of someone good and near While she did not tell who it was
Of someone good and near While she did not tell who it was
Of someone good and near While she did not tell who it was She told me , someone just like me
Of someone good and near While she did not tell who it was She told me , someone just like me Someone who I had never seen

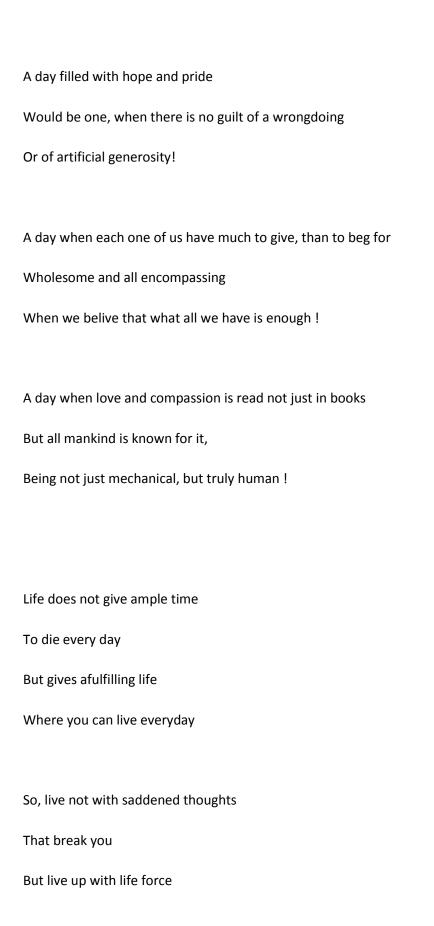
So, we met at one fine day When three of us, were at the park For fun galore The fun that could be never again As life would have it! The crutches that she moves with Reminds me of that day Filled with pain for entire life Not just the physical but also emotional one As I never saw this man ever turning back With crutches and pangs of love In the beautiful eyes that she has Keeps waiting for the one Who is never to return CRUTCHES- that hold her legs show her the bond that she has with them and also with the one for whom they were held

"I had just gone to get the white lilies, did not realise that I was on the middle of the street"

With tears in her eyes, she often says

Sometimes I think





That makes you!

A day would then come

Where we prosper, without any guilt

Without any hatred and animosity

Come, lets shake hands and be friends

Friends of the earth and of each other

As I now, there is only one life

So, start looking ahead

And be free from the chains of regret and guilt....

Life is calling!

Why think, what is to happen?
Why blame others for nothing and create chaos?
Everything is temporary and like bubbled soap
Breaks with a pinpoint
Good times fly past and very soon
And evrything becomes a memory
We remember each one who passed by our lives
And give them adjectives
Good or bad as they were !
But no one to meet again
Future harbours in itself mysteries that no one could
Ever undertand
But that each day is different from today
Forgive the one who gave you pain
For forgiveness makes you bigger
Help the needy as they bless you and
Make you more human

Life is full of love
Love the ringing bells
Listen to the sound
That the wings pass by you
In the forest and sea
Just do your deeds
And leave the rest upto the great almighty, Above, who sees us all!

The only Hero of my life

I remember the day I met him
The hero of my life
Who was in my dreams
But today , in front of my eyes
Filled with so much love
Not just for me but for the world
I could see the generous ways and compassion
One who helped the needy and the old
But I spoke to him, he revealed his life
That he had a friend just like me
Who lost her life
Just for a want of some compassion
That she could never enjoy the sunshine
And the dance in the rain
As had those beautiful eyes that could not see
The light of the world

She could not be with the one

She love more than anything else in the world

Beauty with brains as they generally say

Was meant for her too, but without the sight

But life brings in the shower of opportunity and love for everyone

And also for her

She got too occupied but that he was alwys there for her

Still in the heart of her hearts, she was in pain

Pain of a person that had no heart

Still , he could be by her side

To comfort her and help her in all times of need

Much more than this

I loved the way he spoke, his words of cheer

That brought a breath of reality, love and fresh air

That's why he will always remain the hero of my life!