

I dedicate this book to my parents and my teacher Mrs. Sheela Joseph who always believed in my strengths.



Foreword

No one is born good or evil. It is what the society makes you.

I take immense pleasure in thanking some of the people for making me what I am today.

First I would like to thank my mother not only for bringing me into this world but also for turning me into such a fine woman. She stood by my side even when I felt the whole world going against me. She was and will be forever my best friend, my true guide, my mentor, my confidante and above all the best mother any one can ever get. Thank you very much mommy!

Next I would like to thank my father. Every time we went shopping for any books, he would turn to me and ask me, "when am I going to see one of your books on the shelves?". Papa all the more reason I dedicate this book to you. Thank you very very much for your encouragement!

I thank my darling husband for being so patient with me while I read poem after poem and story after story out to him. He is my best critic. And everytime I read out a work to him, he's raise his eyebrows and say, "Wow Nits, that's amazing. I've never known any one to write so beautifully". He is a great inspiration. Thanks a lot Rags.

My teacher, Mrs. Sheela Joseph. She taught me in high school. Before my husband it was she who used to read and edit my works. She is the best teacher any one could hope for. Outside the classrooms she was our best friend. I still remember I used to call her at various hours of the day to read out something or to ask her something, and she was always ready to help me with what ever I wanted. Thank you very very much Miss for all your prayers, support and blessings.

I'd like to thank all my dearest friend Viki for encouraging me throughout.

Last but not the least I'd like to thank God Almighty for bringing all of the above said people into my life and for helping me write this book.



HI. I am — Well my name is not very important. All you need to know is that I am a mother, who loved her daughter very much. Perhaps, a lot more than mothers usually love their daughters.

When I was a kid, I was brought up by my step mother. My mother died while she was giving birth to me and my father re married immediately — like he was waiting for half a chance or something. My step mother was a very cruel woman. So cruel that she made Cinderella's step mom look like an angel. She was a total bitch. She had two kids of her own and a huge fortune she had inherited after her husband died. So the kids flaunted all the wealth they had, they had the best of everything. The best education, the best school bags, the best bikes, the best toys, the best clothes and what more. And I-I had all of those too — though not the best. I went to a school in the neighborhood, had an old satchel for a school bag — and toys — the brooms and the mops were my toys. I had to do all the cleaning and mopping and laundry after school hours and before school hours. "Why waste a penny on a worthless maid while we have a sturdy girl in the house?", my step mom would say. My father was a business man and was seldom in town. And when he was, he only had time to hide in that wretch's bosom and drink away to glory.

Life changed after high school. I was 18 when Aaron fell in love with me, Seriously I do not know what did he see in me. I still don't know. I was a very plain looking girl and invisible to everyone's eyes. I was above average in my studies. I could've done better if only I had the stamina after all the chores at home. Aaron was the neighbor's son. I had never seen him before he proposed to me.

And I don't know why but I blindly said yes to him. I just wanted to get out of here at any cost and I believed Aaron was my only straw.

We were married the following year. Aaron was a software engineer in some big firm and they paid him real big bucks. I wanted to work too, but "You've worked enough. Its time you sit back and enjoy life. However what ever I earn is all yours" he'd always tell me. He loved me like no one had ever loved me. He treated me like his little kid. He changed me into a totally new leaf. And after we were married I never stepped into that hole of my step mother's ever again. I was happy. Very very happy.



Two years later my joy knew no bounds when I discovered I was pregnant. I vowed to myself to give my child all the happiness I never had. Aaron started working extra hours while I dreamt about my baby all day. I always dreamt of the first time I'd look at my baby, the first bath I would give it, its first words, its first steps, its first day at school etc. The days seemed to be filled with dreams dreams and more dreams. Aaron employed a full time maid to cater to my needs.

One bright August morning my little daughter came into the world. She was such an angel. She was the split image of Aaron. She had his intelligent eyes, his sharp nose, his chin, his lips...

But my happiness was short lived. The beast of a doctor came in and told me that there were lots of complications during the delivery and that I wont be living long. He said I just had a few days with me. He also added with a sad face that he hated breaking this news to me. Yeah right!!

I was so lost; I didn't know what to do. What had I done to deserve such a life? I couldn't even spend a few decent years with my daughter. Aaron had gone to fetch some medicines. I took a scribble pad from near my bed and wrote a letter to Aaron telling him how much I loved him and that I was very sad to be leaving him. I asked him to take care of little Mia — that is what I wanted to name her, with all the love in this world. I asked him to please let Mia know about me. Next I also wrote a little letter to Mia telling her how much I wanted to be with her and about all the dreams I had for her. I told her that no matter what I will always be by her side. All that she had to do was close her eyes and look into her heart. I couldn't finish the letter. The next thing I knew was I was choking and then I felt

like someone was putting a vacuum cleaner through my heart and sucking me out. I came out of my body feeling clean like never before. I felt so light and nice.

Wasn't I supposed to go into some light or some tunnel or something like I had read in some books? I didn't . I stayed on wondering what next. I looked around thinking I might have missed the tunnel or the light or some white stairs. Nothing! So I just hung on beside my body and waited to see what would happen.



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