

ECCENTRIC AUNT ANNA



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Dedicated To:

You, the Valued Reader

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Introduction

This story is about the struggling lives of two lovely girls who were reared and brought up under the love and care of a woman named Anna who was an Aunt to the elder girl, Lucy and a real Mother to the younger girl, Liz. Anna was fine initially, rationally and competently looking after the girls, making her way through life as a single widow, who lost her husband early in life who passed away owing to massive heart attacks. On the other hand, Lucy lost her parents in a terrible car crash accident, the car colliding with a huge wheeler, which Lucy's father, while driving couldn't help avoiding the disaster. He, along with his wife, who was seated beside himself in the car succumbed to the dreadful accident, leaving little Lucy, aged five to survive. It was a great trauma for her. While police kept her in custody, it was Aunt Anna, after hearing the news, who confessed to the police her identity and her desire to look after Lucy until she was an adult. That was how the family of three got united and started living together happily for years until when things took an unpleasant toll for the family. But in spite of that, there were good times for the family as well.

Dear valued reader, read on to find the interesting story about the family of three. How they bear with life's struggles and how they continue to head on, putting one foot in front of the other, pacing gradually is worth reading. It brings you, the reader to come to light that life is not always easy but it is up to us how we handle life's situations and make the most out of it, thinking positive and having the faith and belief in ourselves as well as in God/Divine Source/Higher Power.

The School-Going Days

Lucy and Liz both began to attend school. Both did well in school because Aunt Anna guided them in their education as well. The childhood phase for Lucy and Liz passed as it normally would for other kids at school and in their neighborhood other than the loss of Dad for Liz and the loss of both parents for Lucy.

On the week days they were busy with classes at school, homework after school, playtimes with the neighborhood kids, watching cartoons on TV, study times and finally retiring to sleep after a good dinner. On the weekends, they had fun times in the neighborhood park and strolling/cycling by the nearby pond with Aunt Anna around, feeding the ducks and capturing the greeneries of trees and grasses around and the sky blue color way above. In the late afternoons they had snacks and watched TV. These childhood days were some of the best memories in both the girls' minds much later in their lives.

How Aunt Anna Catered for the Family

Aunt Anna provided all the clothing, school expenses, food and home maintenance for the little family of three by working part-time for the mall some distance away from her locality where she sold garments that she made at home on her sewing machine. She was skilled in making lovely designed dresses for children as required season-wise for both rough use and also for wearing at gorgeous parties. In winter, she made sweaters, ponchos, gloves and other knit-wears out of wool and her own hands and made good profit selling them at the mall. It was this passion that she held to for years that made it bearable for her to cater for the family.

Aunt Anna did not think of marrying again. She was happy with both the children and wanted to occupy her time looking after their welfare and her business.

Lucy Attends University

Soon it was time for Lucy to attend university. After all, she was a good student and had done well academically all along. Aunt Anna did not see why she should not apply for universities.

Lucy got busy with the university hunt and finally she got herself enrolled in a university. Aunt Anna had brought up the children in a strict, disciplined way so that by age eighteen Lucy knew how to take control of her life. Her cousin was following her. Liz also would attend some university in a year's time.

Lucy, however, found it hard to interact with guys only because Aunt Anna had been so strict distancing her two girls from mixing with boys lest they would get spoiled. Now that she was out of the cage, her wings didn't fly. She found friendship in girls easily but kept her distance from the boys, which is why they initially labeled her as a Lesbian but soon discovered they were wrong. Guys started to talk to her but Lucy got stuck in the middle of conversations or didn't talk at all and for the sake of not getting embarrassed, she escaped from them. As a year passed by, yes, she opened up a little and started to communicate gradually. Lucy also had a

problem communicating with the male professors. But however, she actually didn't feel the need for it because out of her brilliant mind, came out thoughts and ideas which helped her to solve the exercises in her courses.

But professors wanted to communicate with her, seeing that she was doing so well in their courses. If they had felt the need for that, they should have passed the message to her. If any guy in her class had a crush on her, they should have declared it to her. Well, from the class guys and from the professors' sides, there was bitterness for Lucy.

However, Lucy didn't understand it all. She was always busy with her studies. When her first year exams came, she did spread her wings and performed brilliantly. But there was never any result. To this day, Lucy knows there was no result. What happened? It became even comical if Lucy asked, "Are the results published?" She even asked the chairman about it and he said simply, "Is it something different from what you have expected?" But there was no result anywhere in the department and tension started building up on her. She was pressurized from all sides – the girls envying her, the guys who badly wanted to express their crushes and the professors who failed to communicate with her.

On the other hand, Liz, Lucy's cousin had just enrolled in another university. Liz was prettier than Lucy and began to face more and more problems as guys from different areas in the campus started to notice and eye her. They all wanted to express their love for her but Liz like Lucy avoided them all.

Aunt Anna's Deal

Let's come back to Lucy's story. The chairman of Lucy's department decided to contact Lucy's Aunt seeing that the problem of publishing first year's result was not getting solved. Aunt Anna met the chairman in a secluded place to talk about the problem. Aunt Anna broke down, conversing with the chairman that she had brought up Lucy and Liz too strictly so that they were both facing problems at their universities.

Now Aunt Anna was a smart and beautiful lady. A lady like her crying took the chairman's breath away. He touched her, soothed her and finally went to bed with her. By morning, they had another conversation for a solution to the girls' problems. Aunt Anna demanded that Lucy be given first position in her class for the exams result and her biological daughter not being able to get entrance to the department she desired was kind of in low spirits. Liz wanted to get into Architecture department but fate pulled her into Chemical Engineering department where she had no interest.

If the departmental chairman of Lucy's university could help Liz get into Architecture department of her university and Lucy to get first position in

her class, everything should fall into place. The chairman agreed smugly and they both departed happily.

Lucy Shifts to a New University

In reality, no results were ever declared for Lucy's class. But all of a sudden, she started hearing voices looming up, asking her to pick up the result from the exam office. How could she pick up the result from the exam office when no results were at all declared. The voices even appeared in the dead of the night. After this process had continued for long two months, Lucy was fed up with the university and declared to Aunt Anna that she would leave the lunatic current university and attend another university.

Aunt Anna was shocked to death that Liz would never get into Architecture department of her current university. So what actually followed was that Lucy got into a better department in another university in IT sector. On the other hand, Liz left for abroad in Architecture program in a reputable university. They both graduated in the same year and both got prestigious jobs soon after.

But did Lucy and Liz know that Aunt Anna had the shock of her life when her deal with Lucy's former departmental chairman did not work out? She was upset about Liz and at Lucy's decision and eventually started to think

that Lucy was dirty although she herself did the dirty thing. Actually Aunt Anna lost her mental balance in this respect, which was hard to trace for Lucy and Liz.

Troubled Later Life for Lucy

Later in Lucy's life, after she got her second promotion at work, she again faced the same problem as she had years earlier. There were voices again to pick up something she didn't understand. And there was no one who could answer, not even the manager of her current department at the office. Pressure and tension started filling up once again.

It was not long before Lucy realized Aunt Anna was behind it all, even the first time round and she began to hate her terribly. She distanced herself from her aunt. But there was no other place for her to stay permanently that she could think of. She wanted to try for higher education abroad but her current office conspired not to let her have admission anywhere abroad unless she picked up that something.

Lucy had no idea what it was and where to pick it up and how to claim it. She had emailed her department asking about it but they were unable to help. It was costing her life and the surrounding environment threatened her peace of mind and self-esteem. So she resigned, saying she was ill, in need of bed rest, which was not untrue at all.

Conclusion

By now Liz was married with two children abroad. She was doing fine with her work but she was not on good terms with her husband. She just concentrated on the welfare of her children and her office work while she let her husband lead his life in a way he liked. So Liz was not happy either.

Lucy, on the other hand, was still single, never married, and the perfect virgin. However, she was thinking of marriage and going abroad. She didn't desire to stay with her eccentric and psychologically ill Aunt any longer. She had outdistanced from her and wanted to stay away, far away from her and start a family of her own. Will God permit her that?

Well, she believed in herself and in God and prayed regularly and recited the Holy Book too. May God spare her. She had been through hard times time and again and this time, the hit was even harder. She had too many struggles in her life. While her cousin Liz would continue to manage, I, as an author, would also like to make a pledge to God on the behalf of Lucy:

"Dear God, Lucy is a beautiful and intelligent girl. Please spare her. She is very innocent. Let her find her soul mate and settle abroad. She need not stay with her crazy Aunt any more. Please God, let it be. Let her grow and

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