

# LITTLE SHEILA'S AWE



*Rosina & Khan*

*Dedicated To*

*You, the Valued Reader*

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## Preface

This story is about a little three-year old girl named Sheila who spent all her time with her parents and couldn't even dream of living without them.

The family of three was very close to each other indeed until an event separated the parents for a while, which was very disappointing for Sheila.

But then there is a happy ending for the family as they get reunited again and falls back to the normal rhythm of life.

Stories like this teach us how parents fail to communicate fully with their children, telling them some of the things without giving other details, letting them fall into a medley of agony and resentment.

But the good news is parents learn just as much children also learn from their mistakes. Parenting has never been easy but willing to learn from their mistakes is what makes parenting worthwhile and going the extra mile for their children.

To Your Merry Reading,

Love,

Rosina S Khan

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## Introduction

Little Sheila was born to Living Stone's family three years back. Her Dad was a great Tech Guy working in a multinational company. Her mom looked after her and worked from home. Together with the earnings of both the parents, the family of three thrived.

Little Sheila loved to go on car rides seated at the back. Along with the lovely music that one of her parents put in the music player of their car, Sheila listened, looked around at the sceneries and got exhausted and fell asleep. Her parents were happy to take her on rides and help to cater her for recreation.

Sheila would be attending playgroup at a nearby school the next year. So now was all the time she spent with her parents. There were birthday parties too of the kids in the community, to which Sheila was invited. Her mommy would take her to those parties and feed her a little of the wide variety of cake and snacks that

were served in these parties. Sheila thoroughly enjoyed the games and pranks played out in these parties much more than the served food items.

She also loved to go with either of her parents to shopping centers and malls. She enjoyed looking at the groceries or bunch of clothes, which one of her parents chose to purchase.

Sheila had never been on an airplane journey so far nor was she acquainted with the relatives living in Los Angeles. Her parents were talking on this issue in front of Sheila. She only caught the word airplane and wondered what it was.

It was her aunt's son's marriage ceremony to take place in about a month's time. The invitation had come in the mail and the couple had a fun conversation on the phone as well with the relatives in question.

Sheila was too little to understand about marriage ceremonies. So her parents only hinted to her about a party she was going to

attend in another state and fly there by an airplane. Well, Sheila was happy to take in the information her parents provided. But what the couple missed on informing and explaining to her, was going to lead Sheila to complete awe. Yes, she was going to be surprised and also a little disturbed. But she would be okay soon.



## The Flight

The great day arrived when Sheila and her Mommy would fly. They were going two days earlier before the grand ceremony. Dad would join them on the ceremony day itself. Sheila knew none of this but she was excited at the thought of flying by airplane. What would it be like flying in the air and watching the clouds, she mused. She was, in fact, very, very thrilled.

Daddy drove the car for 20 minutes and soon they were in front of the airport. Sheila was having the first experience of herself being in an airport. She looked with wild eyes all around. It was completely different from what she had imagined. They were more people, more turn ways, counters and hallways, all very spacious, luminous and noisy too.

Daddy lifted the suitcase on the large flat weighing machine, and Sheila watched curiously. It looked as if it weighed much less than the allowed full load as they were given boarding passes fast

and their documents were checked in a similar pace. Hooray!! They were free to head inside.

Daddy stayed behind back at the counter waiting for them to go inside and get security checkups. Sheila said, "Bye, Bye" to Daddy happily many times. So no one traced any trouble coming up.

They were seated in the waiting area. The flight was announced a while later. Mommy and Sheila boarded the airplane. Daddy was on the way back home. He had a heavy heart and was gloomy to be detached from the girls of his life whom he loved dearly.

On the other hand, Mommy was happy at Sheila's excitement and wonder. She opened a cartoon film for Sheila on the little screen in front. The plane was flying. It was broad daylight.

She was enthusiastic both with the cartoon and the clouds outside hovering by. She chose to watch the clouds for some time. It was good and joyful to ride on an airplane, Sheila thought.

She was given baby food a while later and she enjoyed having them. She was also having fun enjoying the cartoon in front of her. So far so good.

After four hours' journey, the plane started to glide down and there were one or two sharp bumps and Sheila was frightened to death. But after a while, everything was fine.

The plane was moving on the port field with lightening speed but soon came to a gradual halt.

Yes, Sheila had thoroughly enjoyed the flight.

## **Welcome Reception from Aunt**

After going through another round of security checkups, they were free to leave the arena. Sheila watched excitedly everywhere looking and wandering for something. When she didn't trace it, she opened up to Mommy rather very disappointedly, "Where is Daddy?"

Mommy was completely surprised at her question. So Sheila didn't get the real picture after all!! She expected her Daddy to be here! Trouble was brewing.

"Well, he is way back home but he will be coming to join us in a short while." Mommy tried to explain. Tears ran down Sheila's cheeks. It was no more exciting for her. She expected Daddy to be in here. Mommy was having a rough time to cheer her up.

Well, Sheila's Aunt appeared and heard the whole story from Mommy. She gave Sheila a little rose and said, "Aunt loves you,

Sheila.” Sheila brightened up. She loved smelling the burgundy rose. So the brilliant Aunt knew how to distract her after all!

Soon they were heading for Aunt’s place. There were too many tall buildings in here, Sheila observed as she looked out of the car window. She was gradually getting back the mojo of life. Mommy started to cheer up as well.

They had dinner at aunt’s place. Sheila ate little and fell asleep. Mommy carried her to the guest bedroom she was shown. Then she went back to enjoy all the fun of the pre-ceremony.

## The Marriage Ceremony

Sheila's cousins kept her busy with toys, children's books and cartoon. They didn't let her previous resentment to set in again. They made sure she was happy all the time. And Mommy was relieved and having a great time as well.

The marriage day arrived. Sheila wore a beautiful white dress and carried flowers. As she seated beside her Mommy in the church pew, Mommy whispered, "Daddy will be coming soon!" Sheila had forgotten all about it. She felt happy and delighted at the thought. She couldn't wait to see Daddy again.

Trumpets and music sounded boldly and the song, "Here comes the bride..." started playing. Sheila got distracted for a moment. She watched and watched. She was fully engrossed in it when warm hands touched her neck. She looked back to see Daddy. "Daddy!" she exclaimed aloud joyfully and everyone around was startled. "Sorry about that", Dad said, "We should have explained

it a bit more. Daddy is here now.” “That’s okay”, Sheila said and wrapped her little hands around Daddy’s neck and Daddy kissed her on her head. It was a small family reunion.

## **Home, Sweet Home At last**

The three sat beside each other. Nothing seemed to interest the three any longer other than to go back home and get back to normal routine life.

Nevertheless the family of three sat on the pew and watched the bride walk in, and eventually the priest came in to marry off their relative's son to the bride. There was a lovely smooch and everyone clapped. Soon a 10-tier vanilla white creamy cake, decorated with cherries, was brought in a trolley whose pieces were served to every attending guest. Sheila made sure she didn't spoil her dress and ate carefully.

She watched the rest of the ceremony curiously but made sure from time to time that Daddy was around. Lunch was served and Sheila's parents helped her to have bites which she enjoyed thoroughly.



After lunch, everyone bade farewell to the newly married couple who left in a luxurious ride for a promising honeymoon. Sheila and family made way back home. This time, the flight was even more exciting. Sheila got the whole picture and she would never be misled about flights a second time.

The family of three was happy to reach home, sweet home. Mommy exclaimed in joy, "Home, sweet home – there's no place like home!!" Daddy chuckled while little Sheila clapped her hands in boundless happiness.

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