



# HUGS & KISSES



ARVIND  
PARASHAR



# Hugs & Kisses

ARVIND PARASHAR

# About the Book

Over last several years, I have written scores of poems, proses and stories. I have also published four novels so far as most of you all know.

How about poetry? How about proses? When will that get space?

This is a collection of my work, so it is so precious to me that I now would like to share it with you as my dedication. Ever since I was a child of about eight, I have been writing, thus decided to bring that out the best of those in the form of Hugs & Kisses.

The writing has been slightly modified, however to a large extent it retains that childhood innocence and certainly when you read, you can figure that.

If you are a child or a teenager or an adult in any age group, the book is meant for you.

Hope you find it relatable.

Thanks for being part of my journey. Hope you love reading this one.

Enjoy reading and happy seasons.

Hugs & Kisses

*Arvind Parashar*



# About the Author

Hailing from Dehradun and presently living in Chennai, Arvind Parashar has been a corporate leader in various top multinationals in India and countries outside.

Arvind has walked a narrow path to reach where he is today. He had to sacrifice a lot including his job to ensure he can chase his dreams without any roadblock. A self made man, Arvind is happy that his hard work and efforts are bearing fruit. His first novel, Kabira Not Until I Die, was a Crossword Bestseller and had won many hearts. His next three novels were part of romance thriller trilogy. First one, Messed Up! But All For Love was loved by discerning readers across the country. It was Amazon Best Reads as well. The second one in the series, Lost in Love captivated the hearts and minds of the readers and went on to become number one at WHSMith as well as feature in Amazon Best Reads. The last book in the series, All you need is love, enthralled the readers yet again. This book topped as number one in Indian writing at WHSMith. It was touted as an electrifying read.

Hugs and Kisses is a gift to Arvind's readers as his lifelong work is now able to see the light of the day.

Arvind is also a philanthropist and a motivation speaker. He has addressed students and corporates across the country during various sessions and literary festivals. He is also a crusader for education and health support for the needy. In addition to this, Arvind is an artist and paints oil on canvas in his spare time. He plans to do an exhibition of his work some time in the future.

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# Significant

Hugs & Kisses is dedicated to all the readers and writers all over the world. And please never destroy your work or lose it. You never know when you would be publishing it.

The lovely book cover has been designed by Dhanya Nair

Edited by my old time friend Lisa DiGiovani. The barter was Indian herbs and spices.

Writing Consultants in no particular order:

Dhanya  
Hamini  
Priyanka  
Nishant  
Komalbir

The book has not been substantially edited so as to retain the writing essence from my childhood and teenage days.

There are some recent writings as well added to this collection.

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Besides You, Hugs and Kisses is also dedicated to my mom (who is reading my poetry apparently) and dad (happy in heaven, wondering why are we all locked down inside our homes)



## *Hugs and Kisses*

There is a place in my heart  
know that it is huge  
bound to be exquisite  
solely shows my love  
for my family and friends  
for my dearest pets  
for the awesome universe at large  
for all who matter and I fondly give  
deeply blended with love  
warm and soft  
Hugs and Kisses.



*This one is not a poem  
but my life story  
so it is best left blank.*

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**LOVE**





# Letters in the Mailbox

Mailbox filled with letters,  
letters filled with love  
love filled with us  
we filled with life

Life illuminating in ink  
in the feelings so warm  
the words melt within  
caught by your charm

Charmed by your writing  
attracted by you and wooed  
fragrance on the paper  
only we understood

Heart brimmed with emotions  
poured out in the prose,  
reading out love songs  
handing out blood red rose

The letters are your memories  
of charm and wit and song,  
of beautiful words in melody  
etched in me all life long.



## Without You

I wonder if you'd let me  
delve into your heart,  
wish to wade through  
find all in its possession,  
you won't let be near  
anymore I know,  
hanging in here  
believe I need to know you more

I wonder if we could just talk over this tonight  
closing eyes winding away  
this freakish night,  
do not treat us strangers  
for the sake of God  
or for the love we ever had,  
open your eyes, I am here  
talk to me, alright?

I wonder how I shall live these seconds  
and minutes and all these lonely hours  
without you,  
you rule my heart and mind,  
talk to me my love  
why won't you, I seek to find

A day is gone, deep stabbing pain  
is all I have got,  
the night comes to me  
like a horrid thought,  
talk to me, I got a ticket  
to your heart inside,  
talk to me my love, why won't you

I seek to find.

# Falling in Love Many Times Over

How many times  
can love happen  
with the same person  
if you know what I mean,  
can it actually happen  
many times over,  
yes it can  
alluring indeed

You can fall in love  
when he is held in your arms  
and when he is playing  
with the kids in the farms,  
also when he  
makes you morning tea  
and when he plucks vegetables  
from the kitchen garden

You can fall in love with him  
for no reason too  
That is a beautiful thing  
to happen too  
and when he asks for the towel  
screaming out loud  
takes your name  
and then pulls you in

You can fall in love  
when he sings you a song,  
you know you laugh  
from deep within,  
he sits next to you

and texts you a heart  
“I love you so many times  
till death do us apart.”

# Mystique

I woke up thinking about you  
loved myself in love  
mirror smiled  
palms opened  
swayed, embraced

Bees and Butterflies stopped by  
curiously checked on me  
added sweetness  
like nectar from rosemary

Air moulded into to breeze  
carried message to me,  
ain't you thinking  
about me too  
loving yourself

Wind chimes clanged  
lyrical surrounding  
music dripped  
like honey in my ears

Flowers in my garden  
secretly grown inside,  
fragrance of love  
carry into the air,  
turn into breeze,  
mystic surreal  
bloom into love

Caress my senses  
filled with joy  
uncontrollable overflowing

loving you now  
warm and soft  
sweet and sharp  
giving you  
hugs and kisses.



# The Eyes

In her eyes I see  
pain and blue  
past and more  
melancholy and history

Dropping tears  
smudged kajal  
eyes red and big  
like a space ship

drowning in the dark  
receding senses  
mighty indeed

Tears over flow  
I kiss them slowly  
feeling the burn  
like a sad poem  
incomplete end

Stories to tell  
from every drop that falls  
every part of it  
in the eyes I see  
in the eyes I read  
pain I believe  
stories to tell.



# **All Weather Ally**

In light, in the dark  
In the silence of the night  
any moment that we live  
anywhere near or apart

In the winds, in the storm  
In lonely shadows, in crowd  
being quiet, being loud  
near or far away

In sadness, in pain  
in sunshine, in rain,  
a loaded heart  
senses apart

Anywhere anytime,  
not left alone, not left behind,  
here with you in it together  
with you in light, in the dark.



# Agony

Love is an emotion  
or a beautiful pain,  
agony and devotion  
at times a burning hell

Turns around life  
for better or worse,  
unaccountable miseries  
turn hope into ashes

Mystic in abundance,  
an opaque substance  
can't see through  
at times does no good

Came crawling on me  
not leaving to be free  
stuck like a leech  
lingering ecstasy

Burning me within  
getting me breaking,  
while the preachers say  
much ado about nothing.



# My Wonderful Woman

Deep dark brown  
dreamy drunken eyes of you,  
giving me  
some sleepless nights,  
looking at me  
with that hidden love,  
lending me the  
unimaginable pleasure

That beautifully lifted  
sizzling smile of you,  
giving my heart beat  
a few skips,  
hinting at me  
of your hidden treasure  
that charming secret  
of my infinite pleasure

Beautiful face  
glowing dusky skin of you,  
giving me reasons  
to live forever,  
looking at you  
is my deep dark sin,  
the reason to be loving you  
now or never

That drowning sweet sugar  
spice voice of you,  
giving me reasons  
to fall in love,

thinking of you,  
twenty four by seven,  
O my love, my life  
my wonderful woman.



## **The Terrace**

Long calls happened  
on my terrace,  
the chat with moon  
and stars happened too,  
the bare foot walk,  
calmness of the ground  
the breeze skim over me,  
the dead of the night sound

my mom would always grill  
if I had food,  
my brother will scream  
his lungs out,  
dad would quiz  
about studies  
my cousins would just shout

deep thoughtful calls happened  
on my home terrace,  
the chat with him  
and moon happened too,  
the barefoot and the romanticism,  
the kiss of his and murmur  
built endless curiosity

Gosh! I have changed the places  
like moon does its face,  
but the people in my life  
always remain the same,  
he and I now walk on his terrace  
thinking about all the good things  
that have ever happened.



# The Sync

The butterflies in my belly  
have something to say  
but I can't keep up  
with listening to them

My heart not in sync  
my wits at bay,  
no inkling of heart and mind  
hard to tame

It is not ecstatic  
it is not sane  
I feel twitched all over  
it is some sort of pain

My body does not, no more  
belong to me alone,  
It is partly his, partly mine  
and is not in sync anyhow

Is that what happens  
when you fall in love,  
strange peculiar feeling  
meld with the above.



# The Deep Red Heart

Heart of red blood  
throbbing and warm,  
in it you dwell  
find where you conform,  
it can deceive it can flip  
it can make you dig

You invade it like your own  
like a place you belong,  
sounds like some rock and roll  
or your favorite song,  
hurts you deep, makes you bleed  
when it rips you apart,  
Think of it like a temporary stay,  
happy or sad, that's the bloody heart

You need one to let go  
and yet to survive,  
get it in your head not in heart  
that's one heck of a life,  
It loves and throws you around,  
kills you sans sound,  
a reason to live or die  
or simply be profound

It is in love, it is in hurt  
it is in sorrow it is in pain  
it in the morning dew  
or desert, or in the drops of rain,  
pulsating, pounding inside,  
feel it like a reason to live,

don't barter it for a reason,  
of the heart there is no guarantee.

# The Crystal Clear Love

I found love on the streets and the beach more heavenly  
than I found love on my couch,  
it was more tempting to drench in the rains  
and taking the chances I had,  
love felt more beautiful when it was narrated  
like a complete poem,  
It was more striking when he would come to me  
for meals and talks at home

I found love more loving  
between our lips and hearts  
than just the skin,  
It was the warm soft hug  
and his dancing fingers rolling,  
It was the kiss in the rain  
and the jump on the toes  
that would take away my sorrows

Love between the sheets  
is short and sweet but doesn't last long,  
It is like listening to the track  
and your choice of favorite song,  
When it ends it moves over  
for the next one to begin,  
love between the lips I find sensual  
more than between the skin

One two three and more passionate kisses  
is what I crave to feel,  
love me like this is like making love to me  
if you really pay heed,  
roll me over hold me hard,

kiss me till my lips are burnt,  
love me like this my love  
this is all I ever want.



# **The Unseen Love**

He had always cared for her,  
unblemished,  
invisible

She did likewise,  
little was he told

They sailed through  
the toughest times  
survived all odds

Because they understood,  
they would have failed miserably  
if they had only cared to believe  
what revealed outside  
more than what lies within.



## **Beauty of Love**

The beauty of love is that  
it is always felt  
in exuberance or misery  
in heartbreak or ecstasy  
when it is near  
or distantly far

The beauty of love is  
the ugliness of it.



# **The Sun**

There is a sun out there  
in a long long time,  
there is this feeling of love  
in the heart of mine,  
I have asked the Sun  
to shine in your garden,  
so you feel the same,  
this surreal magic of love  
in yours as it feels in mine.



## **Tell Me**

Tell me something today,  
cross your heart  
Is there a one percent chance  
that you will fall for me,  
tell me today  
so I will not spend  
my ninety nine percent time  
looking for someone else

Tell me today  
it is my humble plea  
you are all I need,  
I will live for one percent,  
Tell me today  
your one percent is all I need.





## Amidst the Treks

She asked me if I believed in fantasy  
in a moment it was a date to be,  
we climbed the treks  
halted for breath,  
she did not ask yet  
I held her hand

I asked her if she believed in love,  
in a flash we were on the hike  
full of conversations,  
we talked and laughed  
paused for breath,  
I did not ask yet  
she held my hands

Crossed a beautiful landscape,  
birds chirped  
gave us a gaze,  
little squirrels ran  
climbing the trees,  
we did not say a word  
smiled all along

She asked me if I believed in fantasy,  
the day spent today  
was one to be,  
the sound of jungle  
was the sound of music,  
the calmness within us  
was our love to be.



## The Neighbor's Girl

Her house flanked by the river,  
I tramped over to see her parents often,  
a coup d'oeil at her  
my saga of first love

I explored their mind  
to find if I can teach her subjects,  
english was her favorite,  
Shakespeare and Hemingway  
a common binding factor

Her dad rebuffed,  
mom caved in,  
at school she won't talk  
dreaded her brother,  
at home her parents  
were the stumbling block

Life was in doldrums,  
so near yet so far,  
my saga of first love  
that I could never have.



# Nila

Her name was Nila  
she lived by the riverside,  
she was once in love  
with boy of a fisherman,  
the boy was rich  
and the girl wasn't,  
so he would steal  
for her some grain and some fish

It went on for days  
and weeks and months, life moved on,  
she loved him, oblivious to his feelings  
as she had never expressed,  
Nila studied hard  
moved to England  
on a scholarship  
one would always yearn

Two years later  
cyclone wrecked the town,  
the boy lost it all  
including his parents,  
Nila's family survived  
but remained in darkness,  
the boy took them along  
to a safe haven

Once she reached the place  
the boy proposed to her surprise,  
the guy she loved in her childhood  
almost showed her the paradise,  
he had cared and saved her parent's life

little did he know,  
Nila had someone else she confessed  
boy's world came falling down.

# Let Us Happen Again

When you I had happened  
it was all the time  
in the big world,  
waking up in the midnight  
pulling you towards me  
holding you and your head  
on my chest,  
going for the evening movies together  
sharing jokes  
Netflix and prime all top shows,  
when you and I had happened  
there were roses  
lilies and our favorite flowers,  
there were hand written love letters  
it was all shimmer and sunshine,  
all I need now is us,  
for you and I  
to happen again.





## **Cookies for Mom**

I made cookies with love  
for my mom today,  
she likes oats and chocolates,  
It was hidden  
as a surprise in a box,  
I went to open  
and found few missing,  
I was frightened as hell and sad,  
finally figured that  
my bro was also missing.



# **My Brother's Girlfriend**

I saw my bro with a girl  
in his room,  
he came from the other door  
and so did she (obviously)

I knew I had earned  
another bar of chocolate,  
but this time I also wanted  
my favorite perfume

My room is more decorated  
and filled with goodies  
thanks to his girlfriend  
more than him

She and I soon  
became awesome buddies,  
now he comes from the front door  
and she comes with me,  
life is good  
and the rest is history.



# Hidden

Hidden between the pages  
of my books is every word,  
you once said to me and  
made me fall for you

And in those pages  
lie the pain and the sorrow  
that we tide over together,  
for my book did not  
just bring the joy  
the joy of love and life

Hidden between the pages  
of my books is every feeling  
you once expressed to me and  
made me endlessly yours.



## **Remember Me**

Would you call my name  
just ever mistakenly,  
would you think about me  
just ever casually,  
would you talk about me to anyone  
am thinking hard,  
you are gone and I feel wrong  
to let you go midway,  
we had not finished  
what we had started  
and we let it end when it least deserved,  
half finished or ended so soon  
unlike my books it is so not done  
now tell me this, would you  
would you even remember my name.





## School Crush

If it is about jumping  
over the fence  
to get a glimpse of you  
I shall be okay  
to be punished  
for trespassing

If it is about  
bunking my school  
in recess  
to peep into yours  
I shall be okay  
to be suspended  
for vanishing

I shall be okay with everything  
so long as  
I can look at you,  
not as a stalker  
but someone  
who deserves to be  
with you forever.



## **Not Without You**

My whims and fancies  
of being a woman of steel,  
to you I owe  
a large part of my strength

Your love reassured,  
my hands clasped to permanence,  
Your love cheered me up  
and gave the power  
to brave it all,  
you were my all weather man  
without you now  
part of my heart is gone

What do I do now  
you had never prepared me  
for a life without you  
in my wildest of dreams

Your hands held me firmly  
it is unimaginable without you

Heaven is quite a distance  
you are not to be seen,  
I am lone and dejected  
you are the one I just need

Missing you terribly  
come back my man,  
not a life I can think of  
not without you.



**LIFE**



# The Lockdown

These are strange times  
grueling days for the world,  
we are locked  
inside the homes,  
we don't know  
what's going on out there ,  
these are bizarre times  
the phenomenon we had never heard

Struggle and starve  
pain and torment  
misery and hopelessness,  
fear climbs  
people run amok  
leave places,  
labour travel homes  
into interminable obscurity

Some lives saved, some not  
times difficult than ever before  
ensnares the young  
and the old and any and all,  
tomorrow remains unexplained  
save us from this havoc  
everyone is pained

I peer at the sky and the trees,  
animals jumping in joy,  
O human this had to happen  
it is a revenge to destroy,  
you started it all  
now our turn to get all squared

behave now or it is never  
before you are doomed forever.



# Adept

There are things we love  
or we don't  
there are things we want  
or we don't  
there are strangers we talk to  
or we don't  
there are lovers we dump  
or we don't

There are choices  
we make in life  
around the things  
we want to survive,  
we take it or leave it  
as we want,  
we don't think twice  
and act our price

There are times  
they want us,  
so what if they fail  
to tell us,  
there are things  
we don't like,  
yet we need them  
for them to survive

did you ever wonder why  
you keep them still,  
because God made you  
for them, able and adept  
to help them survive.



## **In the Lap of Universe**

Often I look  
outside my glass door  
that leads in to the patio,  
from there I see  
the chestnuts and buckeye,  
I stretch my eyes furthermore  
wondering what I wanted to see  
and if I really see

The leadening clouds envelope  
the lush green mountains,  
I see them as my love,  
swill down in rains,  
the swaying of oaks and  
chinar in the wind  
I see them as my love  
swinging in my heart and mind

As I see furthermore  
I wonder what I really want,  
my universe is my love  
the quest in my heart,  
the sun trickling through the leaves  
and then going behind,  
my love is here  
it was never hard to find

Often I look up  
deep in the crystal blue skies,  
there is a story to tell  
I can see through my eyes,

that my romance is high,  
tall like this galaxy,  
I get to see  
what I really want to see.

# Day in the Flower Garden

The day in the flower garden  
was a day to be,  
I was six  
and my sister was three,  
we sat with mom and dad  
and one other friend,  
happiness was boundless  
meant no end

The bloom of orchids  
it's pinks and purples,  
carpeted the ground  
with its large petals,  
the daisies and poppies,  
marsh marigold laid so bright,  
the feather veined leaves  
the birch showed its might

The flowers decorated  
the lovely rhododendron,  
the fruit bearing kafal  
mystic dandelion,  
the vibrance of fuschia,  
hydrangea and begonia  
blooming in red purple  
pink and blue

Awed and amazed  
in living world's mystique,  
the fragrance the colors  
and the astonishing greens,  
amid the lovely flowers

a day well spent,  
happiness was boundless  
destined to no end.

## Do You Care?

Do you care do you really do  
do you feed the hungry and poor,  
do you ever cook for those  
who need to eat,  
do you worry for those  
who have nothing to feed

Ever wondered who cleaned your car  
for you when it was covered in grime,  
who ironed your pants  
who ironed your shirt  
yield the harvest in the sun  
and the rain,  
who never gave up  
when you were in vain

Do you really know  
how it is done  
or you believe  
life is all fun,  
do you ever think deeply  
from your heart,  
do you ever care  
whose lives contort

Do you believe in life after death,  
and remember  
when you take your last breath,  
you be born a farmer  
or a laborer in your next  
to realize how hard it is,  
so clean up your soul

before karma gives you back.



## Falling Short

There will always be  
a day and time,  
when love will fall short  
by a dollar or dime,  
you would need more  
than just a cake or tea,  
to keep you happy  
so you live in sanity

There will always be  
a day and time,  
when dinner won't be served  
as clock struck nine,  
you would need more  
than just a place to sit,  
to have your food and drink  
at much peace

There will be a day  
when sleep won't strike,  
no matter who you  
have around or beside,  
you would need just more  
than her or him,  
to have a deep happy night  
without much grin

There will be days  
good ugly and bad,  
when sun won't shine  
and moon can't be had,  
you would need

your friends and family indeed,  
to have a beautiful life you deserve  
that is meant to be.

## **Eighteen**

Eighteen bottles of whiskey and beer  
I am devoted to the musical blare,  
buoyant and floating in air  
afar and often near

Eighteen is the age  
don't want to let go,  
I am liberated  
deafened to the noise,  
high in spirits  
diminishing to the bare

lifted and turned  
thrown and hurled,  
up and down  
tossed around

Jump on the feet  
I find a high,  
I swing down  
it cuts like a knife

Toss and turn and rock and roll  
this is my age I got it all,  
kiss me hard kiss me deep  
kiss in my fantasy, running in sleep

Throwing my pillow  
like I was being thrown,  
another day of eighteen  
last night is gone.



# Love Marriage

My aunt asked  
if she were a brahmin,  
I was not aware,  
deeply anxious,  
attempted to ask her last name  
figured she would find it insane

I walked to my sis  
and posed her the same  
she wondered  
why would aunt be so keen,  
so we walked to our mom  
tried to find about the quest  
she gave a stare  
curiously asked about my affair

At this point I was not the only one  
interested in the girl,  
It was my aunt my mom my sister  
and all my uncles

So I asked my girl everything from A to Z  
she was equally eager  
to know all about me,  
till we figure what all is needed  
all the ingredients to get married

Love is a thing between the two  
marriage is tad more than just that  
and we know it somehow,  
she asked if I love her family

we both know it is a marriage to them indeed  
anyhow we got happily married.

# The Mask

The world is my clan I say  
do I really mean it too,  
I love all and sundry  
sweat it out  
am I really nice and good

He was hungry I neglected  
he was sad and I never cared,  
which clan am I talking about  
which world here ever mattered

My long writings and pictures  
reveal a joy,  
an image created  
no one can destroy,  
I show feeding the hungry and poor  
for the camera it seems like a ploy

I bash and condemn the humanity at large  
I call it a family just for the sake,  
I care not, I mean not, I just harp  
I am a human, probably  
that God never wanted to make.





# **None**

She wanted little love  
She wanted little peace  
She wanted little freedom  
She got little of none



## **Left Too Soon**

Years went by  
my life goes on,  
pain unfathomable  
between known and unknown,  
looking at the mirror  
to confirm my existence,  
hard to unravel  
what can come by

The mirror says out loud,  
It is the truth and swears it  
she won't come back,  
solo reflections  
strained forehead  
wrinkles yet to emerge  
she had left too soon.



## **Tender Hands**

Going down  
in the memory lane  
my tender hands  
had hers entangled

My hands are now big  
hers wizened,  
still holding tough  
shielding enough  
like the mother  
of an Orangutan

No matter how  
strong she is,  
tear drops do  
fall in between  
from the very eyes  
that have carefully  
seen me grow

It is her wish  
a heartfelt desire  
to play with my children  
and cheerfully hold  
the tender hands again.



## Beautiful Days

The birds fluttered  
on the wings,  
I was chasing  
innumerable assorted butterflies,  
the sun kissed them  
on a pleasant morning,  
the winds waved  
a tempting morning hello,  
I have seen such dazzling days  
in my life.





## **My Fears**

I hide my fears  
in my secret bag,  
I hide the bag  
in my secret chamber,  
the chamber is hidden  
from the world afar,  
my fears stand isolated  
invisible to the browbeater.



# The Man

To the man who is, the men who are  
complete like a man to be.  
husky white black or dark  
no matter the color of the skin,  
strong like the crust  
soft like feather  
doting father  
sensitive brother  
adorable son  
wife's man  
hand in hand  
with the woman  
nation's pride  
protects inside, outside  
remains unsung  
is fine that way  
is finely complete  
he is the man indeed.



# The Woman

She is a woman  
an amazing human  
talks to the self  
wants to be heard  
needs to be felt,  
thinks a lot  
in dreams and reverie,  
cares like a woman

A beautiful woman indeed  
mysteriously magical  
talks from the heart  
employs the mind  
heals like a mystique,  
home maker, giver  
beautiful like a woman

A powerful woman I believe,  
fiercely independent  
protective like a lioness  
in the jungle,  
soft in the heart  
rock in the mind  
steel in the appearance  
strong like a woman

Loving and warm  
captivates with charm,  
lovely as a wife  
bold as a mother  
doting as a sister  
caring as a daughter,

she is everything she needs to be  
a woman like a woman.

# Lifeless Me

It is a bizarre evening  
I am longing for something,  
I don't know what  
but I feel incomplete

Stretched my legs  
got up uneasy  
opened the door  
to the one I know not

Someone sat beside  
conversed with me  
unfamiliar stranger  
I have yet to see

Warming my hands  
thumping my face  
moving my legs  
one heck of a time

It is a clumsy night  
I close my eyes,  
my shadow wrapped around  
led into paradise

Someone flying atop  
pacing like at a pitstop  
I see none as my eyes open  
or is that my shadow I don't reckon.





## City and Mountains

One man on the chair  
one view at the mountains  
sipping coffee feeling drizzles  
and the rainstorm,  
tall grasses mowed over  
barks, lichens and cacti  
hugging the ground so bright  
creepers, crawlers, ants and bugs  
a life merrily beautified

Another man on the chair  
one view at the skyscrapers  
sipping whiskey, cloudy blur  
prohibits the show,  
didn't know what's walking  
what's moving in the chaos  
curtains drawn, music on  
life in the fast lane  
a life not so beautified.



# **The Beautiful Humming Bird**

I want to break free from these shackles  
I don't want to live anymore  
mom why am I born a humming bird  
looked down upon by these eagles

I am so fed up now, of not even being visible  
nobody cares who I am in this big world,  
these big birds fly above our heads  
while I am left ignored and unseen

What are you saying my beautiful little bird  
look at how bright you look in blue, red and pink,  
humans write about you in lovely literature  
you are powerful, hence drink nectar from the flowers

You hunt on the fly,  
pluck spiders out of their webs,  
with the wink of an eye  
you feed on sweet nectar

Humans love you and feed you with water,  
once an eagle told me he is little jealous,  
oh mom you just made my day  
to be a humming bird is such an honor.



# Numb

I don't know If I need to feel this way  
something seems wrong with this world today,  
when I woke up I heard a thunderous sound  
I was still asleep is what I found

I looked at myself in the mirror  
to confirm if the world and I are in the order

I try to sleep, slowly and numb,  
I don't know if the world exists or it is gone,  
I feel ants crawling up my legs and hands  
I am not too good and I cannot pretend

I don't know if I will remain this way  
The flies abuzz in my ears and ants are gone,  
I cannot see a thing, there are blurry lines  
I might need someone sane to help me out

I called my friends and my sister and my mom,  
I was not to be left alone, ever again at home,  
those who left me to face this moment  
I don't need them, I cannot pretend.



# The Grades

If I don't score marks should I be ashamed  
If I don't get a rank would I be framed,  
Gates or Zack or the big ones  
did not have the ranks, now run the world

I know they don't teach you to deal with life  
that is for us to learn to survive,  
I learned a few things in my growing years  
If you don't score well, don't shed your tears

Take a piece of paper and write what you want  
if goal in biology or physics is eighty then chase it from the front,  
if maths and english are the strongest for you  
then study them most like you are going to make one hell of a score

If studies don't work for you, then figure what you like  
It is not a matter of marks, but an art to survive,  
give your best and leave the rest and never fret and fume  
when you get your score, don't feel low or don't feel high

You gave your best and what matters now  
is how strong you are to survive,  
if music is your thing or books is what you want to write  
give your best in what you want and what you like

You know Bruce Lee and you know him for martial arts,  
his finest moves, he chased like a dream and mastered the craft,  
find your dream in the books you study or outside  
once you do, then make it come true and feel alright

Schools leave beautiful memories of teachers and friends,  
but know that we must be a better human being till the end

that is what is to gain and for us to learn  
to be someone who can leave a mark and change the world.



# The Coin

I flipped a coin  
goes straight in heaven,  
God held it in his hand  
fills it with a message to send

Lending my ears patiently to listen  
my son you will get all you want  
heads you win and tail you wont lose  
life is beautiful I can tell you from here in heaven

I felt I had got the strength,  
he is watching us over  
I could feel him in the coin  
his loving voice, his undying compassion

I got back to my room  
to hug his picture  
O dad my dad in heaven  
I love you too.



# My Star Walls

My room has Vanilla Ice poster  
on the wall,  
also Gun n roses  
on other one  
there is one more of Gabriela Sabatini  
happily hanging on the back of my door,  
many more here and there  
had the best of them all

The wall will now be painted  
so I had to take them off,  
I had to roll them  
and those had to be on the fold,  
my heart wept  
posters creased up,  
the paint man asked  
how I felt,  
I said it was like losing  
all of my favorite stars.



## **M ountains**

The driver burnt the rubber, up the hill  
on a daycation,  
dark and overcast  
stopped near the destination,  
I was taking goose steps  
on the paper thin byroad,  
dad's car was in tarry  
on the slippery hill side

I was frightened  
dad screamed out hello  
his voice echoed,  
many more reverberated  
from the people in hill town  
fading away in the dark clouds

We reached the temple  
find few men waiting  
handed us umbrellas  
the weather was awful  
brisk, windy and menacing,  
dad asked us to feel safe  
as there were rays of hope

We began to return  
on a downhill weary drive  
till we saw the tiger  
boxed in down the road,  
I was eleven  
and such was the encounter

Been outlandish in the mountains

the silent roads, the blackness  
yet the feeling so eternal  
mystical, formidable,  
mountains is where I found God.

# The Jungle

Today I set myself out  
for a trip the jungle,  
glued my eyes to the trees  
and the scrubby greens,  
and the beguiling animals  
known and free,  
the falling leaves  
kissing and brushing me

Today I set myself  
to be completely free,  
in the arms and lap  
of the free spirited trees,  
deer and rhinos walked  
sat beside me ,  
the new friendships I had always craved for  
seemed to be in the making

Today is a beautiful day  
seeing life like never seen before,  
the sun is longing to peep  
through the trees  
squirrels and mongoose  
bounce and skip,  
I want to take them all home  
and play along

I think of my days  
spent in the woods and greens,  
the life on the land  
is not the same it seems,  
the sun still shines

not glowing enough  
life in Jungle is more beautiful  
is all I believe.



# Dating the Universe

We dated on the twisted crooked roads  
in the rocky terrains  
and the lonely deserts  
In the steep mountains  
closer to skies  
and the deep seas  
like a nirvana in paradise

Dating my love  
in the hot air balloon  
and the skydiving  
from the highs

Love every time I date,  
it is happiness in abundance  
I love my vacation  
vie to meet them,  
the charming landscapes and nature,  
more than I love  
dating a human.



## God's Hand

I was crushed once and twice  
and then many times over,  
I was always up  
and ready for another fight

At a point in my life  
I find myself exhausted

He had asked me  
to surrender  
to the light ,  
I shall never be frail  
if he held my hand

The light is my power from Him  
I am not alone anymore,  
at peace and feel blessed  
ready for another fight.



# Embrace

My mom is here  
with me, by me  
I always want her  
to be like this forever,  
she is still the same  
like she was when we played on a holiday,  
she can be heard by the neighbors  
chipper and joyful  
I comfortably find myself protected  
captivated in her bear hug.



## **My Mom**

She has got wrinkles  
and freckles on the skin,  
I so much do not like  
her to be the one,  
never wish to see her grow old,  
she wants to run  
so she can play  
with my children,  
I want my mom to stay  
forever young.





# My Dad

When I saw my dad  
leaving us,  
I was watching him  
breathe his last

I held my rudraksha so hard  
The beads were broken  
the faith was shaken

Till I know now that he is one of them  
watching us over from skies,  
our parents are Gods  
on heaven and on earth.



## **My Home**

I have seen Mussoorie  
from my home terrace,  
I have seen beautiful landscapes  
in dehradun,  
I have seen rainbows  
in my school,  
I have seen happiness  
in the nature,  
I am now locked down  
inside my home,  
I miss my lovely home  
that serenely lies in the lap of nature.



# The Maze

It is just weird how I grew up thinking  
that people waited until they were twenty one to drink,  
couples waited until they were married to make love,  
people did not do drugs or ran away from home

I had always thought when you marry someone,  
that is your soulmate as during my growing years,  
marriages are made in heaven, ruled

I had thought your friends were your friends,  
they would never leave your side,  
and the person you love and say I love you to ,  
would always say it back.

Isn't it crazy to think  
how you grew up carrying love  
and hope in your heart  
and then you get thrown into this  
twisted messed up real world  
that breaks your lovely perception of life,  
you got to live it anyway  
this is real.



# Angels

Write your secrets in the sky  
and trust them with the angels,  
the ones on the earth  
have long been mauled,  
there are no secrets here  
no angels to trust

There is always one truth  
that I shall always know now  
that there used to be angels on earth  
now they are gone  
far into the skies

There is one more truth  
I know now,  
when I think of my dad  
I hold my head high  
for he is one amongst them  
to keep with my secrets.





***FRIENDSHIP***



# **The Backbenchers**

As I look outside my class  
I see beautiful rainbow  
whittle away in the vault of heaven

I elbowed Sree  
and he passed it on  
To the last six in a row

The last bench swiftly  
crawled on the knees,  
disappeared outside  
to enjoy the view

The class continued  
to be taught by Mr. Brown,  
while the backbenchers  
had cherished something new.



# **The Personal Transport**

There is something  
I need to express  
it is about my sister and I ,  
we grew up joyfully together  
she was distinctly happier  
as she had a bike to ride

I kept using the pillion seat  
with my best friends,  
after the schools had finished  
dad taught her driving the car

I figured new friends  
who possessed a car,  
I love my sister and my parents  
and my friends most of all,  
growing up is so memorable  
vividly inscribed in my heart.



## **Intro to my cat Scooty and dog Whiskey**

Whiskey was everything to me,  
so was Scooty,  
they would bounce  
to my bed to sleep

I hugged them everyday,  
today I looked around  
they were not at home  
nor in town

Sooner my mom revealed  
with a God promise  
to get me Whisky and Scooty back from Granny's  
after I finish  
my class five exams.





## Snatch Away

I saw her coming to me  
steadily running into me  
did not leave my sight for a moment  
seemed to be only focused on me

She did not want to open her hands  
nor did want to utter a word,  
she wanted me to understand  
so she kept looking at me  
I simply heard

She slowly whispered  
looked at my chocolate shake  
followed by some fierce looks  
and had faces to make,  
I looked at my bottle  
then moved my eyes at her  
she snatched it from me  
zipped away like a hare

I was slow in my head  
to think and act,  
ran towards her  
made a pact,  
bought her donuts  
shakes for her life  
want to make sure she lives happily  
O Scooty dear, you got your paradise.



# My Bestie

Hold my hand my dear  
my friend  
my midnight talker  
gift that God has send

My soul healer  
my vodka maker  
my gossip partner  
my teacher preacher

My love story listener  
my one and all  
my break up cribber  
my soothing soul

My favorite cookie maker  
my pain reliever  
my partner in crime  
my all time secret keeper

Hold my hands my dear  
and stand besides me  
before you do something amazing  
yet again my friend,  
hey just pour me that  
let us sip along our tea.



## **Best Friend**

It is all about the one  
who calms the storm,  
it is your dancing partner  
your meal sharing buddy,  
your friend on the trek  
stare at the stars and talk about life  
your best friend, all in one.



# **The Rain Affair**

I am drenched  
dancing with my bumbershoot  
my friends come along  
we are hyper animated

Fast cars and rickshaws  
driving by us  
bursting water  
leaving us soiled

We dive in the pool of water  
to clean up a bit  
that is when he held my hand  
and picked me up

The water tumbling down his face  
and his wet hair looks  
made me go crazy  
that very moment

So when someone asks me  
how we had met,  
I always say we started off  
with a rainy day affair.





# **The School Mischief**

Why do we get caught  
when we want to have fun,  
why do we get caught around  
just when we want to bunk,  
why can't we roam around freely  
anywhere anyplace we want

Why did Mr. Raja show up when we sat  
at the game shop in Mussoorie,  
why do I have to go to school  
and be in the boarding,  
why can't I be liberated  
and live in the normal world

Why do we get caught  
playing pranks in the night ,  
why don't they assume  
we are the real ghosts on hover,  
why do we deserve this punishment  
in school I thought,  
why can't we be normal  
as others in the outside world.



## My Name

I sat in the middle bench  
in my classroom  
unnoticed even by the friends,  
the teachers would care for some  
I don't know why

A few days later  
I was the backbencher,  
made more friends  
I was happier now

It was like a vacation spot  
far from the eyes of the teachers,  
now I don't care  
what teachers would think  
though they don't even  
remember my name.



# One Sided Love

I loved a girl  
in the high school,  
three years younger  
appeared pretty cool,  
had a boyfriend  
later broken up,  
the odds were strong  
but never disclosed to her  
about my love

One sided love  
when not told  
was always called a crush,  
two years I just studied her  
as if books were not enough,  
I continued to be crushed,  
She is married now and so am I  
I still believe  
she was my perfect match

I so wish I could read  
what's on her mind  
that's made me hit  
her Facebook timeline  
not used, not filled  
since the summer of sixty nine.



# Happy Birthday Scooty

My kitty is a good girl  
whoops I call her Scooty,  
gets along Whiskey very well,  
today is her birthday  
Whiskey has worn the jacket  
I gifted last winters

The cake is in her shape  
mom asked us to pray,  
Scooty will now live  
one thousand years,  
just like Whiskey  
this is what I have to say

I love them both  
sometimes more than mama,  
and then three of us  
posed for lot of pictures,  
and later Scooty told me  
it was a purrfect birthday





## **The Tiffin**

It was her tiffin  
that pulled me towards her first,  
then it was my favorite food  
in the tiffin that made me go gaga,  
then she began to leave her food for me  
and ate only little

The brief history  
of she and I is lovely,  
My dad dropped her home  
before he dropped me  
in his rickshaw everyday.



## **It is about Jubin**

I love Jubin and his hair  
and his songs,  
he is my dream man  
I so much want

I want to meet him  
and hug him long,  
my life is beautiful  
just like his songs,  
I wish for a man just like him  
who can sing me songs

Be my music  
whose hair I can ruffle  
and play with all night long,  
I want my man be to love Jubin  
as much as I love him



## Waiting for Whiskey

We are lonely  
we are lonely  
my Whiskey has gone  
to Granny's,  
my mom called me,  
made me speak with him,  
he just sniffed,  
when will I join him ma I asked,  
holidays begin in three days,  
I need one more day  
for shopping,  
Whiskey would love to see his new jacket  
and I would lift him high  
by his paws.



## Shoe Laces

We walked together to our school  
she made efforts to tie up my laces  
I evenly helped her  
holding her stone heavy bag

As kids we never cared  
how the help came by,  
as we grew into different people,  
she became fiercely independent  
I still needed help to do my tie  
I sought assistance  
more than her  
and that's the difference





# Remembrance

She stood outside my room  
kept the knock going on,  
I entered deep inside my blanket  
leaving it all unheard

She did not go,  
I did not come out  
finally I returned her tiara  
and the doll

She took my pen  
in angst,  
I believe she had kept it  
for remembrance sake.



## Food and Friends

Sugarcane juice, day at the corner samosa shop  
american pan cake at iHop,  
donuts from Dunkin or Krispy Kreme,  
miss my bagels, favorite panini

Half american half indian,  
don't remember any tradition,  
food is where I belong  
mama's pocket money doesn't last long

Chocolates, chips, fries, pizza, popcorns  
when it comes to food I take the bull by the horns,  
tea, coffee, soda, coke, shake  
pineapple upside down, blueberry cheesecake

Not without them no I can't eat  
want my friends for fun and treat,  
miss them a lot  
like my refrigerator misses the feast.



# The Farm

It is a pleasant green farmstead, place for our Sundays  
flourishing paddy, bright mustard, yum mangoes,  
I tread along in the middle of the crops  
rabbits sprint around blue feather peacocks

Lie down under amaltas tree, vibrantly fond of me  
give me shadow, cool off the air,  
the tractors raise the shovels, do the ground  
propel sludge across my face

I jump in the barrage of water, splash like in a pool  
cousins join along, with branches and twigs  
the day in the farm now turns cool

A beautiful sunday with my cousins  
in the farm thirty miles from home  
played a few games, ate fresh fruits  
the day got over, gone too soon.



## Adieu to my Dog Whisky

I am sitting here  
on a long lonely road,  
much more lonely  
than I had thought,  
Whiskey is gone  
and it is hard to sleep,  
my love for him  
is so damn deep

Who will I fight with  
when I need,  
he was my bestie  
most loving indeed,  
who will love me like he did  
who will I wake up to next to me

I am sitting here  
on the weary stretch  
the pain in my heart and stomach  
is way too much,  
Whiskey is gone  
I am just so sad  
numbed and pained life  
the future I dread

His pictures and posters  
don my room,  
I hold his jacket  
as hard as I could,  
Scooty rolls on me  
trying to comfort,  
she sleeps by my side

I give her  
Hugs and Kisses.



# **BRIEF STORY**



## Promise

It is a tender place  
close to you  
don't want it to ruin

Ever you decide to leave  
let us make a promise

You and I take each other's heart  
if you leave then I do too  
if you don't value mine  
I will regretfully ruin yours too.

## Wish

Let us start all over again  
I wish she had just said that.



## Illusion

She stood across the railway track  
on the other side from where I was  
I laid my eyes on her  
she quickly returned the glance  
I took the air bridge  
and walked to her side  
she had disappeared into nowhere  
the train was yet to arrive.

## Stranger

I can spend the rest of my life  
With you if you promise  
that you shall never be a stranger  
to me at any point in life  
Mostly it hurts when love fizzles  
and promises break.



## Time

I wish I could turn back the time  
and take back all the promises  
I failed to keep,  
I wish I could turn back the time  
and seek your forgiveness  
for all the mistakes made  
I wish I could turn back the time  
and never let you go  
and never let you go.

## Someday Somewhere

For you I shall be born yet again  
to love you more than ever before  
until then I shall be watching you  
from far off skies  
now I have to go with a promise  
from you that you shall  
happily wait for us to meet again  
someday somewhere.





## Wise Decision

She turned around to look at him  
one last time before moving on,  
he wondered why would she  
even wanted to make that effort,  
years later he thanked her,  
now they narrate their love story  
to their teenage grand children  
as they nod in disbelief.

## Care

“We can talk about love later.  
For now, just give me a nice head rub and a shoulder massage.  
Hey! also your shoulder to lean on.”



## **Pictures**

“We all have those pictures that we look at and feel we are the best in the world. Those pictures are used endlessly and there comes a point when you say, no damn, I need to have a holiday and get some new pictures.”

## **Success**

“Imagine as a child, you were scolded and compared with someone and then maybe scolded too as that individual was well behaved or the brightest in the class.

However today you are far more successful.

This is the kind of feeling like you found Alibaba and Jinn in your school bag.”



## Temporary Stay

“His replies used to be very expressive like it carried the whole world in it.  
Later on, those got shortened. She complained but could not compel.  
Further down in times, there were one word answers.  
Then emojis and then there was nothing. It was all broken.  
She was shattered.  
He is figuring what went wrong.  
Love left their lives like we leave our hotel rooms after a temporary stay.”

## Song

Let us make some love  
make some bond,  
let us do the crazy little things  
all night long,  
let us go wild  
then go mild,  
then up and then go down  
and kiss so bad  
that our lips just burn,  
then make so love  
make some bond  
listen to our heart beat  
all night long.



## **Assume**

I often find myself  
wondering what would have happened  
if I had not moved away,  
it might have been messier or better  
for I know not as I look back  
wondering what would have happened  
If you and I had not even happened.

## **Kiss to remember**

Kiss me honey  
like you are going to space  
and be back in a long long time,  
and kiss me honey  
so hard and deep  
that the sweetness lasts  
till you are back to me.





## **Scattered**

Out of all the way you could hurt me  
you chose to break my heart,  
there are little pieces scattered  
untouched unclaimed and now gone.

## **Instagram**

“My story is unique.  
He had landed in my inbox and his profile pic was a golden retriever dog.  
I don't know what happened to me but I fell in love with him instantly  
without even seeing his picture.  
Whiskey, Siva and I are one happy family now.  
Thanks to Instagram.”



## **Blind Love**

She had once asked him why he loved her so much.  
He stated with humor, the day he opens his eyes things might change.  
She laughed and kissed his eyes. He asked if his answer did not bother her.  
She smiled and said, even if he open his, she won't open hers.  
Let the love remain for she was happy to be blindly in love.

## **Forever**

I always thought  
she won't ever leave,  
that thought  
would never come near me,  
we were in love  
like for forever,  
but she left me l  
like we were  
in a temporary stay in a hotel.



## Tear Drop

Last night I saw her  
she was crossing my street,  
she stopped in front of my house  
she looked up at my window,  
a tear rolled down her cheek  
she left and never saw me  
in the window, crying.

## My Last

If I were to write our love story  
I'd meet you on the very first page  
sometimes I wish, I had met you earlier in my life  
would have loved you for little longer  
you were not my first girl  
but I will make sure you are my last  
now and forever.



## **Writer**

Some stories give pain  
and some take it away,  
and then we are the lovely people  
who write these stories.

## **Trust**

Close your eyes for a moment  
imagine us jumping together from a cliff  
with a chute that is huge  
and you ask me if it is safe,  
I say yes  
at that moment you place all your trust  
in me completely  
that is love.





## **Coffee and Us**

A lot can happen over coffee  
a lot more can happen  
between the sheets  
and the most of all can happen  
in our imagination,  
tell me where all did I  
take you just now?

## **Love at First Sight**

It is highly unlikely  
that if you look back at me like this  
yet expect me to not hasten to fall for you,  
it sounds like a novel  
which lost it's plot  
just around the climax.



## **Not Love**

Was love ever a thing for me  
the love from my partner is what I mean  
pain and sorrow and hurt is what I got  
if that was love then I want not.

## **The Bullies**

There were shivers  
there was a fright  
I was riveted to the spot,  
they duffed me up  
punched me hard  
forced a fight

They were taller,  
heavier to me,  
all I ever prayed to God  
was to make me  
stronger than thee.



## **Fallen in Love**

When night appears young  
and you miss a heartbeat  
when the sea wave gives  
the sounds of music  
and you dance on your feet

When life appears beautiful  
more than ever before  
and you want to spend  
million moments on the shore

For that love, one kiss  
one moment of bliss  
O human heart, remember  
you are gone, because  
you have finally fallen in love.



# **Long Story**

## **Under the Stars**

### **Chapter 1**

#### **His Story**

On a dating app, I saw her picture, looking down at her hands, smiling shyly. I left a heart on her profile

#### **Her Story**

My friend downloaded a dating application on my phone. I got 100 hearts on day 1

#### **His phone**

Shruti matched with you

I have never had a dog in real life. But I love dogs in books. Is that okay?

#### **Her Phone**

Sahil replied to your text

I have never had a dog in real life. But I love dogs in books. Is that okay?

I don't love books that much. But I can read your favorite book with you. Is that okay?





## **Chapter 2**

### **His Story**

She keeps getting lost in the crowd, walking and thinking. But makes it easy for me to find her, always.

### **Her Story**

I keep getting lost somehow, I told him. Make sure, you find me, okay?

## **Chapter 3**

### **His Story**

She told me about everything she wished to do with a spark in her eyes. For a moment, I felt even Gods must be taking notes enchanted by her voice.

### **Her Story**

Sitting in a cafe, looking at him paying attention to me, I felt I was in my favorite novel. Is he the hero of my book?

## **Chapter 4**

### **His Story**

Every detail of me that did not make sense to me made sense with her. She makes me feel as if I was only made for her.

### **Her Story**

He said, Let us not fall in love. Let us rise in it. His love gives me wings to rise above every fear and insecurity.

## **Chapter 5**

### **His Story**

It's been a year and I still can't believe she is mine. She makes me feel so lucky just by being with me.

### **Her Story**

One year and he still does not fail to make me feel special. Every time I meet him, it is like the first time.

## **Chapter 6**

### **Her Story**

Kissing him was not passionate or demanding or overwhelming. Kissing him was nothing like they write in novels.

### **His Story**

Kissing her did not feel soft or sweet. It did not make time stop. Kissing her was nothing they write in novels.

## **Chapter 7**

### **His Story**

Loving her is walking her home when she is late from work, without her knowing that I am just behind her.

### **Her Story**

Loving him is the feeling, the reassurance, the knowing that no matter what happens, deep in his heart he won't stop loving me.

## **Chapter 8**

### **His Story**

Watching her leave felt like drowning. I knew how to swim and breathe but suddenly I could not remember

### **Her Story**

Watching him leave felt like falling without a parachute. I knew how to fly but suddenly the sky started choking me



## **Chapter 9**

### **His Story**

Missing her was like waves on the shore. A high tide and I was drowning again. A gentle rush and I was dissolved like sand in the past.

### **Her Story**

Missing him was like looking at my reflection in the mirror staring at me with bruises and a gaping hole at a place where his heart should have been

## **Chapter 10**

### **His Story**

I didn't think I'd ever be able to forgive her for the choices she made until I saw her again. One look at her and I was on my knees.

### **Her Story**

I did not think it'd be the same after all these years apart. But one look at him and I was on my knees.

## **Chapter 11**

### **His Story**

If love is letting her go, I'd always let her go for I know no matter how far it travels the wave always comes back to the shore.

### **Her Story**

If love is walking on unknown paths, I'd walk forever for I know they will always take me to him.

## **Chapter 12**

### **Her Story**

At the end, I knew I will always end up with you, resting in your arms forever

### **His Story**

I'd never doubted our love, the universe did not have the strength to tear us apart. I knew I'd end up with you