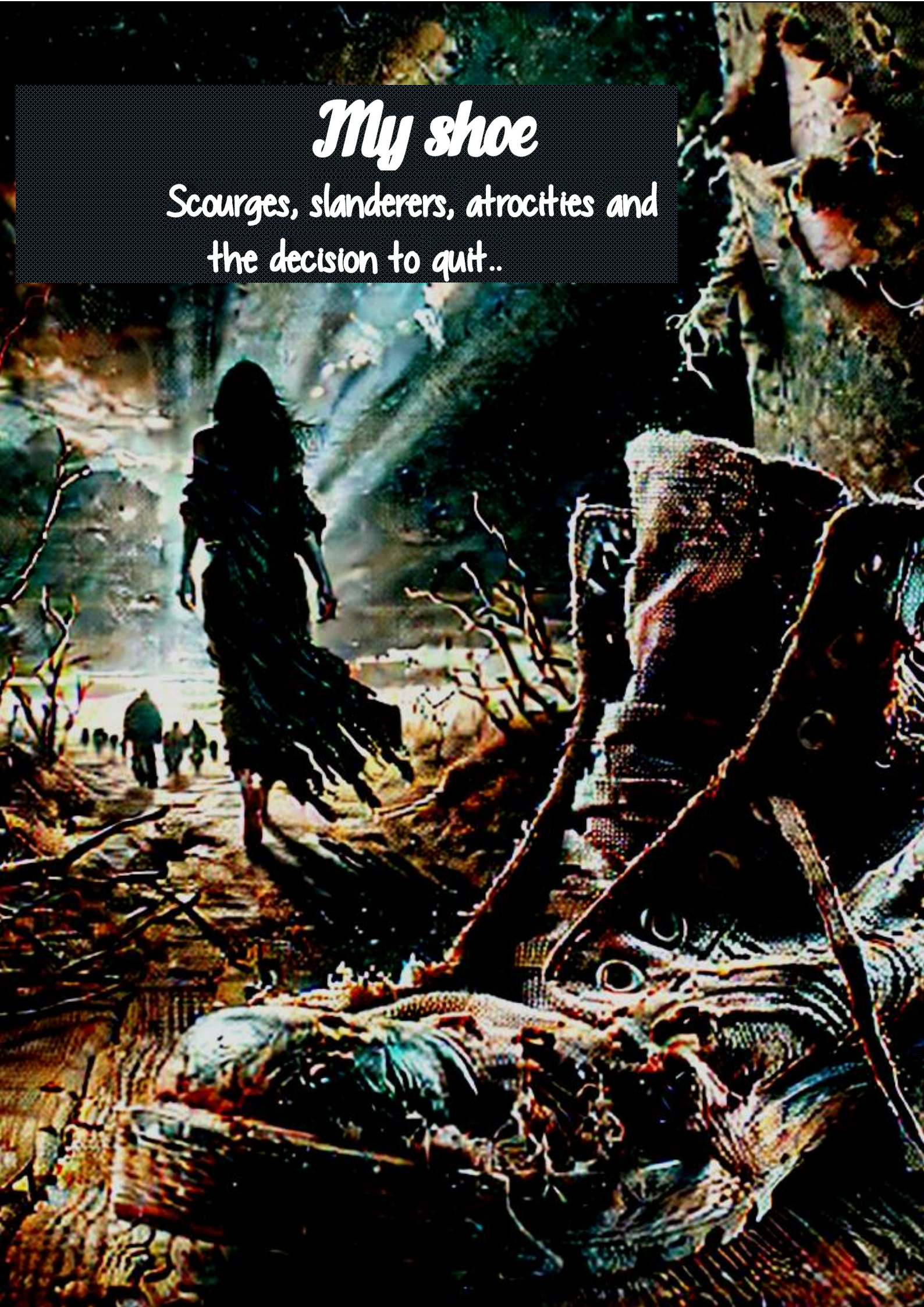


My shoe

Scourges, slanderers, atrocities and
the decision to quit..



Those that have not sinned, may cast stones

: Let the one who is without sin be the first to throw a stone.

To each and every person who
came into my life.

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Preface

Every person is born with lots of roles and a set of duties. When infants become toddlers, they interact with different people, each relationship shaping their identity. Every person is different; everyone has their own priorities and values that guide their actions. In this intricate tapestry of human experience, hell and heaven are made with people.

If the people around us are good, we experience a sense of heaven; otherwise, we can feel trapped in hell. Therefore, we should treat everyone nicely, choosing kindness over animosity, and striving to ignore the bad people who harm us. It can be incredibly challenging to continue living fully when we are surrounded by negativity or toxicity.

So, don't let anyone around you break apart because of your actions. Instead, focus on building a supportive community where everyone can thrive, nurturing connections that uplift rather than diminish. Remember, our interactions have the power to create our heaven or hell.

Prologue

Since January 27, 1993, I've lived half of my life. Life can be challenging, especially when surrounded by negative, toxic, dishonest, stagnant, or self-centred people. I've never desired money, status, power, or fame; I've only wanted a calm and peaceful life. Unfortunately, I haven't yet found that tranquility.

Rahul TR often criticized me for living in a fantasy world, claiming that people like that didn't exist. But I don't see it as fantasy or myth; I was once that person. I would go to great lengths for the people I loved, yet I never received that same love in return. In times of need, I often found myself alone. I always felt blue even when I gathered the courage to ask for help. Gradually, I began to feel like the black sheep of my family.

I was born a normal and healthy child—naughty, talkative, brilliant, and kind. However, my mischievous behaviour resulted in frequent physical discipline from my parents during my early childhood. Moreover, there were influences from the relatives in my life other than my parents.

As time passed, my relatives rapidly became a significant influence in my life. It was beyond the range to tolerate. My parents ignore this all the time.

Under the influence of my aunt, my mom decided to retain me to the same grade in the other school. An adult might take it as silly, but for a child interacting with peers wasn't that easy to handle. It was the first time I began to recognize the treatment that I was getting from my own home.

I began to detach from my family, began to show traits of an introvert, and began to react, other than suppressing things. And from a naughty kid, I've become a troublesome kid, but that doesn't stop me. I began to stop doing things I didn't like. I don't want to be loved or love someone; I stopped befriending with the peer group.

Years passed; life was going like that. I began to adjust and adapt to things that happened over time. And as usual, there were ups and downs. But again, a major wave hit right after completing the UG course. The same influential relative, my aunt, again hit into my life with a gigantic wave. She cooked up a dirty story with my father and my neighbour. And things went wrong, and it ended up with a police case, a divorce case, and the separation of my father and mother.

I was already growing as an introvert, with no attachment to the peer group. Right after this issue, my life again turned upside down. I confirmed that I will never have a relationship or marriage in my life. All of my hope and focus was on my career.

After completing my studies, I was eagerly applying for jobs. But luck was not with me, so I got no jobs in a software firm. I joined a project centre; after completing 8 months there, I was in despair due to a lower salary and no career growth. I left that job and decided to take the GATE exam and continue my studies to get a job at a software firm.

Unexpectedly, I got two jobs at the same time. One was in Hyderabad, and one with the help of my classmate. I had to join Visualyze.AI first. Due to my unawareness of the bond, I rejected the offer

in Hyderabad after a week. Moreover, I was attracted by the title AI in the company. Mr. Rahul TR was my senior at the college, and my classmate learned about the company he would open through group communication.

As an introvert, I spend more time on work than personal relations. I enjoyed working with Visualyze and I also started getting tasks related to machine learning. My position at Visualyze was as an ML engineer intern.

Time flew, and we moved three spaces in 1 year and 3 months. I was working on my second project with Visualyze. Out of the blue, Rahul proposed to me to be his girlfriend. Despite initially rejecting it, I gradually began loving him because he listened, understood, and supported me.

Also, I trusted his promise that he would never abandon me ever. But at last, he too broke that promise. Technically, he doesn't abandon me, nor does he want to. He wants to alter the relationship again by cutting off our love and continuing only with friendship. The reason is I'm not the wife he dreamt of.

But for me, it's not possible to overcome this. Because I was already a black sheep at my home, and when I realized that one more person wanted to break my trust, loyalty, honesty, genuity, and love. I know it will kick me out of control. Before going to that dangerous level, I decided to stop everything here so that any other person would not use me again.

Chapter 1 - The Grand Wedding till my birth :

Heard Story

My mother, Jayashree Rajendran, is the single child of her parents. Mother's mother, Prema Kumari, is a housewife and her father, Rajendran, was a stationmaster at the railway. Mother's father died due to kidney failure in her childhood.

My maternal grandmother is the second and only girl child among the 4 brothers. Her mother died during her childhood. She is a self-centred person who is the primary reason and is responsible for every issue at home. Also, she is not bold and inefficient in doing things of her own will. She always tries to keep a trusted network and only moves as her trusted party says. She doesn't even think if it will do good to her or not. And it has become common for people to dump her.

After her husband expired, she came to her maternal home and stayed with her father, at Attingal. My mother's aunt, Leela; her father's sister and family took charge of her. They enrolled my mother on a boarding school at Ooty. While pursuing her pre-degree, she came to live with her mother.

My grandmother started selling plots from her 1-acre property to get money for daily needs. She sold some plots and saved money in her bank account. After the great-grandfather's death, she rented a partition of the house. Also with all the accumulated money, she bought property near her elder brother's residence, Poudikonam.

My father, Satheesh Kumar, is the first child among three of his parents, who is irresponsible and does not know how to use wealth effectively. He only wants to do business at any cost. Father's mother, Easwari Amma, was a pharmacist and his father, Narayana Kurup, was a librarian.

My paternal family relocated from their native place, Pathanamthitta, as both grandparents had jobs in Trivandrum. My father is an MBA graduate and both of his brothers are pre-degree. Soon after completing the MBA course, he got a job in Delhi.

My paternal grandfather started looking for alliances for my father. Meanwhile, my mother completed her graduation, and a coalition from my father's home came to my maternal grandmother.

According to Hindu marriage rituals both the family went to astrologers for the birth charts match of the bride and groom. The astrologer, my maternal grandmother, predicted that the birth chart was not a match and that the marriage should not have to happen. So she decided to call off further proceedings for this relation. In the meantime my paternal family was interested in continuing this marriage and their astrologer had no negative opinion about conducting this marriage.

My maternal grandmother presented her decision to the trusting committee. The committee includes her elder brother, his wife, and other neighbors. The middleman of the marriage, her elder brother, Gopinathan, disapproved of this decision and gave the word to my paternal family for the

marriage. For the marriage, she sold some more plots for the expenses hence it was reduced to 60 cents.

Hence marriage happened on 19 January 1992. My mother didn't get the opportunity to continue her studies or get a job after the marriage. Soon after 4 days of marriage, my father announced that he had resigned from the company.

Father and his brothers considered doing business, but they needed more liquidity. So my father sold my mother's ornaments to start the business and they started a finance company at their home. Soon the company flourished well and started getting good earnings from the company.

A cataract filled with Maternal grandmother's eye and it was urgent for surgery. Like always she asked the help of her sister-in-law and the surgery took place in TamilNadu. And after surgery, she needed help, so my mother along with my father moved to stay with my maternal grandmother.

Everything was going well and my maternal grandmother wanted to sell the property at Attingal. She was not willing to stay in the big house. As advised by the trusted committee she approached my father to sell the property and construct a new home near Poudikonam. With the father's help, they undersold all the plots at Attingal and built a house with all the money in Poudikonam.

I was born in the meantime, and then we moved into the newly constructed house. It was easily approachable for the trusted committee to convene and make decisions. A new member joined the group and became the prime trusted committee member. She is the maternal grandmother's elder brother's daughter, Sangeetha. My maternal grandmother and mother trusted the advisory committee blindly and disputes started within the family.

Chapter 2 - Me at School

Things were going well. My parents put me into the nursery at the age of 2.5 years, due to my tremendous mischievous activities at home. I liked to go to nursery and join my peers.

One day, it was noon, and my father was at home. He was having a severe headache, so he called me and told me to give him some water and a Crocin tablet. I fetched some water from the kitchen, took the tablet from the table and gave it to him. Soon I gave the tablet and water, and he swallowed the tablet. Observing all of these, I felt that I learned something big. After some time I was starving, and I searched here and there for eatables. Unfortunately, I haven't found any. Soon I saw the crocin tablet and the remaining water in the glass. It strikes me why don't I try it out. Learned something new right can try. So I swallowed 1 crocin tablet. Swallowing tablets was like an innovation for me, so I swallowed more and more. When it reached the 8th tablet, it touched my tongue and I tasted the bitterness. So I spit it out took another one and swallowed. But I couldn't resist the bitterness and I threw up. My mother saw me vomiting, she came and asked me why and saw the tablet strip with me.

After knowing this my father remained silent. I was fine at first, but as time passed my body began to weaken and I was feeling tired and dizzy. Soon my parents took me to the hospital at night. When I reached the hospital, doctors cleaned my stomach by inserting a tube through my nose. After that, we arrived home late at night.

I joined the KG class at school. I found my peers more naughty than I was. Some boys in my class would sneak snacks and belongings without my knowledge. Everything except books would be taken from me, and my mother scolded me daily after reaching home from school. Moreover, my classmates used to bully me because of my tomboyish appearance. Every girl in my class had long hair, they used to wear dangles, jhumka etc. I also had a jhumka, but my maternal grandmother prevented me from wearing it to school. She never allowed me to wear any jewellery to school. My jewellery would be showcased at home and I was always told I could wear it when we went out.

Initially, I felt awkward with the tomboyish appearance. Times were different back then; people leaned more toward the culture of the countryside than that of urban areas. There wasn't much fashion sense and no internet or social media influences. Since the early KG classes, even the children had the perceptions of how a male should appear and how a female should.

As a naughty child, my mother could not handle my studies. I was a very attentive student in the classroom, grasping everything, but I wouldn't study it at home because I only liked studying with one person, teacher or mother. I liked it when my father taught me. But he never used to spend much study time with me.

The trusted committee also began to intrude into my life. As the advice, my mother sent me to the tuition to my aunt Sangeetha. Now she is a teacher and doesn't know how to teach pupils yet. Aunt wants children to by-heart everything and spit it out just like written in the book. I never liked her mode of study. And tuition stopped the day she hit me, as I was not willing to write the letters in the notebook.

Father's finance business was going well, and he became busy. He had no time to do any of the things at home. House Tax, property tax, electricity bill, newspaper bill, and phone bill including my school fees were also pending. Due to this every month, school management punishes me right after the due period. I felt so down because I could not attend the classes taken by the teachers, and had to stand outside for about a whole day; sometimes teachers would beat me for not paying fees. He used to pay fees one or two weeks after the due, only after repetitive pressure from my mother and me.

My mother likes to celebrate all traditional events with its true essence. She enjoys preparing traditional food and cleaning the home well during the festival. She celebrates Onam, Vishu, Deepavali, Trikarthika, Navaratri. She likes sweet items the most, and she loves payasam. Onam and Vishu are seasons of food. During Vishu, my maternal grandmother prepares kani and used to call me to see that in the early morning. After that, my mother bathed me, and I went here and there with my father to collect kaineettam. My mother prepares payasam on all 4 onam days. During Deepavali, she prepares snacks and lights the fireworks. Mother likes to light fireworks without sound, meanwhile, father likes to light sound fireworks. Trikarthika is a season of lights and tuber foods. And during Navarathri all the books are placed before the god.

Chapter 3 - Movie venture & birth of kin

Eventually, I bonded with my peers. Everything was going well and I was promoted to grade 1. My mother was carrying my sister and my father announced that he and his brothers planned to produce a movie. For the movie, the trio started accumulating money from every available source. Initially, they drained the business funds and then took out loans from property and gold. Also, they borrowed money from all possible kiths and kins.

My Mother was admitted to the hospital for delivery. My maternal grandmother also went with her. So I was alone with my father at home. He took care of me well during those days. But it was challenging to sleep with him, he snores very badly and he take $3/4^{\text{th}}$ of the bed. I missed my mother so much. When I heard the baby was born, I was desperately excited to see the baby at that moment. I wanted to go to the hospital and stay with her and the baby. But no one took me to the hospital.

Days passed, mother and baby, Smrithi, came home, and I prepared my cradle for my sister. She was a sweet little child, similar to a ripened tomato. I was very excited that mother and baby came home. I started giving my mother things to eat. During the evening my mother ate an apple I gave to her. It was about midnight, and my mother became sick and started crying. Soon my father took her to the hospital, I was frightened. My maternal grandmother and a neighbour aunt stayed with my baby and me. After my mother went to hospital the baby started crying because she was hungry. The neighbour aunt dipped a cotton cloth into the soaked raisins water and gave the drops to the baby. Baby sucks the drop and sleeps when she is full. Early morning my mother came from the hospital.

The first event that happened at home was my aunt Sangeetha's marriage. Even though she hit me for not studying, since I was unaware of the trusted committee, I liked her so much and was thrilled to attend her wedding. There is a practice in Hindu weddings to invite the groom and his family. For that, some female children from the family must go with diyas and welcome them. By the time of my aunt's marriage, my baby had grown, similar to a cockroach – a very lean, long-legged.

Unlike normal children, I was fine when my mother and father went outside without me. I never cried to go with them, all I needed was they had to tell me before going outside. I will get that extra time to do mischievous activities. My mother and father rarely took me outside for events, because I won't stay quiet. One day to watch the movie, Chinthavishtayaya Shyamala, my mother and father took me along with the baby. My aunt Sangeetha and uncle Sajilal also were there. They allotted an extra seat for me. Soon after the movie started the baby slept. But it was unacceptable for me to sit in the chair and watch the film. I had no idea what was happening on the big screen, or why everybody stayed attentive. I started talking and walking. Somehow they managed me till the movie finished.

The next event was the release of the movie, Rakthasakshikal Sindabad, in October 1998. It was the second time my mother and father had taken me to a movie. This time my father's brother, their wives and children were also there. This time my father used a trick to keep me quiet, which he said I could see him on the screen. So I waited attentively to see my father on screen. It was not a lie, I had to wait till the end of the movie to see my father staying in the crowd.

After two or three days the news came that the film was a flop at the box office. Soon the word spread throughout the area, and people started coming to our home demanding their money back. The finance company collapsed within days leaving us in the red. There was no other option than to run away.

Soon my maternal grandmother called her sister-in-law for help, and our family – maternal grandmother, father, mother, baby and I – flew from Trivandrum to Tamilnadu with their help. Meanwhile, my paternal family – grandmother, grandfather, uncles and their family – flew to Pathanamthitta.

Initially, all of our relatives were helping when we had a downtime. As we had to migrate from our home place, I couldn't write the annual exams for grade 1. With the help of my mother's aunt Leela's husband, RK Nair, my father went to Bombay for a job. My mother, grandmother, baby and I were staying at their house in Tamilnadu with my mother's paternal grandmother.

Since the beginning, my mother's paternal grandmother, whom everyone used to call Ammachi, was a wicked old lady, even more self-centred than my maternal grandmother. She creates issues daily at home and causes tensions for my mother and grandmother.

My mother's paternal grandmother used to live in a huge house, there were three floors. She used to live on the first floor, and we joined her. The ground floor was rented to one of my mother's aunt's servants and her family. Everyone used to call the servant, Patti. Patti was in charge of looking after my mother's paternal grandmother. Despite my mother's paternal grandmother being a wicked lady, she feared power cuts. Power-cuts were usual on those days as well as on rainy days. Once power is lost at night she will call everyone to stay with her and she becomes hurried to light the candle within seconds.

There was an Indian closet and a European closet on the first floor. The European closet was attached to my mother's paternal grandmother's room. And we used the common Indian closet. Just like the house the closet was too big. I was afraid at first to go, but I managed to use it. But my sister, was around 1 year old by that time and most of the time she went there, she fell into the closet and called out for help. After two or three times, I wait outside for her call. And as soon as she calls inform my mother or my grandmother.

Months passed, and my mother's uncle, RK Nair, arranged admission for me at a school near the house where we stayed. I started going to school. Tamil was a mandatory subject to learn in school. So they arranged tuition for me to one of my teachers in school. Initially, my mother sent me to school, brought me back home, and then took me to tuition.

By this time, my sister was about 1.5 years old, and my mother's aunt and family began to show their true nature. Initially, they stopped my mother from bringing me and sent me to school. For that, they had arranged for some people nearby. I didn't like any of those people, was uncomfortable with them, and felt that they would do something wrong to me. Whenever those people came I began to cry to go to school with them.

After this the second step was to send my sister to some other home during the daytime, to the home of the people arranged to accompany me to school, the reason was to look after her, my mother wouldn't get enough time to do household work. I didn't like her going there. I started

resisting this and began crying not to let her go there. My baby was a mommy's girl. She was much more frightened than me; whenever she was away from us, she felt that she had to leave us.

One day, my mother's uncle called her and told her that my father was creating issues in Bombay. They could not handle my father, so they asked my mother to go there to resolve the problems. So my mother asked about us. Then the uncle said, 'The kids can stay here; you just go to Bombay and handle your husband'. Soon my mother went to Bombay and we stayed with her mother and her paternal grandmother.

Months passed, and my mother didn't come to us. Communication was difficult back then, as phones and calls were expensive. One day, we got a parcel from my mother. The parcel contained a teddy bear and a letter for us. I was happy to see the parcel, and I searched for the parcel for my gift from my parents. I felt down when I realized they only sent my sister a gift.

It was the first time I began to realize that my family was treating me as an adult, even though I was a child at the age of 7. Children are innocent, and they can be distracted and forget things. With the help of tuition, I could perform well in my studies and scored good marks even in the Tamil language. I used to score good marks in Malayalam but I completely forgot Malayalam and how to write and read.

I grew my hair as long as possible to escape the tomboyish appearance. But as my mother was not with me to take care of, I was infected with lice and nits. School anniversary came, in old school, I used to participate in a group dance. Here I learned a new thing, which is the fancy dress competition. I wanted to participate, I talked to my maternal grandmother about this. She heard and ignored me, but I expected I could join it till the date of the function, but I couldn't.

Grade 2 Christmas exams started, and after two or three exams, one day, my father came while I was getting ready to leave for school. I thought my father and mother would stay with us. I was happy when I returned from school, realizing my father and mother came and went with my sister. I was shattered. Why didn't they wait to see me at least, why didn't they take me with them? I stayed with my maternal grandmother at Tamilnadu.

I felt more lonely, my sister was not with me, my mother was not with me, and my father was not with me. One day the class teacher informed us about the class group photo. It was a weekend, and my mother's aunt came, just a day before taking the group photo. She saw the lice and nits in my hair, and my maternal grandmother complained about the issue to her too. Soon she called a barber and shaved all the hair from my head, I resisted, but couldn't win. The next day I went to school again I felt awkward about the tomboyish style and the photographer came and took a group photo, I was bald.

Chapter 4 - Homecoming after absconding

Father had planted mangium and teak wood all over the plot in Poudikonam. When people came and asked for money, my maternal grandmother, with Uncle Saji's help, sold the mangium tree and gave the money back to them. Also, all the available bonds at the finance office were returned. After some days, we returned home to Poudikonam. My mother and sister joined us.

When I reached home, I saw all the luxury of life gone – apart from the trees, telephone, TV, VCR, radio, gramophone and its discs, books, lights, fan, properties at home, and my cradle. The landline was given to one of the neighbors. Uncle Saji and Aunt Sangeetha took the rest. By the time we reached home, Aunt Sangeetha had delivered a baby boy, for him they had taken my cradle. Those days the installation of tube lights was complicated, the lights were placed over a big stand, and they took some lights including its stand.

We all stayed together at home. I learned that my father returned to Bombay and he got a small job somewhere there. Father started sending money home. His wage was around 5000, and he sent 2500 home monthly. There were only landline phones then, and calling outside the city was expensive. As we disconnected the phone, there was no other way to contact my father. So we used to go to Aunt Sangeetha's house to call my father. My mother used to take BSNL top-up cards to call my father. So that Aunt Sangeetha and her family would not have to pay the std bill.

When the school was about to open, I wanted to rejoin and continue my studies in the old school. It would be good if my mother paid the tuition fee to the old school instead of the bus fee to the new school. I used to go by walk in grade 2 also. However, my mother said there was not enough money with us for you to continue in that school so you would be admitted to a new school without fees. My mother enrolled me in a government school far away from home.

I was excited to go to school. The first day, the van came, and I went to school. The school was huge when compared with the previous ones. I was astonished when I entered the classroom; there were so many students, 72 in my class. After some time the bell rang for the interval, and I wanted to go to the washroom to pee. It was too far away from my classroom, in that large school, there was just one big common bathroom unit with about 10 to 20 toilets, which were always occupied. I waited until the bell rang for the interval end but I got no toilet. So I went to my class, I tried again during lunch break. But after some time I couldn't control the situation. Finally, I started peeing over my dress, while I was waiting outside the toilet to go. I slowly walked toward my classroom and pee was all over my skirt. So I stayed outside my class till the bell rang to end the lunch break and to dry my skirt.

One day, I saw my mother was crying over the call. Talking to my father about the money and monthly expenses. He said it's impossible to send money this month to adjust somehow. There were no issues in his workplace or salary, he wanted to send that month's wages to his brothers as they contacted them. This issue became news within the family. On a weekend day, my maternal grandmother talked to my mother to handle the situation. Grandmother said my mother had to do some work to overcome the unstable situation. But my mother was unsure what to do. Then my

maternal grandmother suggested that she call her aunt Leela for help. Hearing that my mother contacted her aunt and with the help of her aunt's husband, she got a job in a bank.

My mother is weak in maths and finance, so she was unsure about joining the bank. But with everyone's motivation, she joined. Her first earnings were 1500 rs. The workplace was too far away from our home. When she started working, she would leave by 7:00 am from home and reach home by 7:30 or 8:00 pm. She had no time for us. She woke up early, cooked food for us, and left for the bank. When she came home, she was tired and only wanted to sleep out of fatigue.

As it was a big class, I couldn't concentrate on class and grasp things due to the noise. The teachers were not helping, teachers wouldn't come to class regularly. If they come, they will take a class and only dictate notes. None of us were capable of writing when the teacher dictated notes. They won't care and go fast; if they don't have much time to dictate, they will write notes on the board and leave. There were two boards in my classroom. I forgot Malayalam partially and it was challenging for me to write. My Malayalam sir was too fast in writing once he finished two boards he started wiping the first one and writing again. Also, it was too much to write for an 8-year-old child. Without following things, my notes become incomplete, and I've no idea what's going on, or what to write in exams. When my mother gets time, usually during weekends, she prepares notes and teaches me. But as days passed, things got difficult for me. The questions in exams were not direct ones like I was used to.

Life began changing right after my mother started working. My maternal grandmother took care of us and household chores. I began to observe a change in her approach to me. During my free time my sister and I used to play, but most of the time things would end badly. It was because I was a naughty child and I used to join her when she was playing. She doesn't like it and it will end with a fight. And grandmother will come and beat me. Sometimes when I got bored I used to go to my neighbour's house to play, but my grandmother didn't like that she complained about it to my mother, and my mother used to beat me for that. Gradually I began to stop that and my focus was on the damaged electronics at home. During weekends I used to accumulate the electronics parts and my job was to get magnets from the machine parts.

When I completed grade 3, my mother decided to stop the bank job Aunt Sangeetha advised. They both decided to learn a course to join in school. Neither my mother nor my aunt didn't score good marks in UG to get admission for B.Ed. So they decided to go to PPTC. They got admission to that course and started going. I got promoted to 4th grade. My sister started going to nursery.

After some months, my mother didn't have time even to cook. My maternal grandmother said to my mother that she would take care of everything, my mother had to concentrate on her studies and get a job in school. Even though my maternal grandmother said like that, she didn't want to do all of those. So she gave me tasks in the kitchen, and I used to help her. But she would never let me go after completing a task, she would give one after the other. So I began to boycott the kitchen tasks.

The families became closer after my mother and aunt started doing the course together. Grandmother began complaining about me and that I was not helping her with household chores. Every day, my sister leaves for nursery after my mother and me. My mother used to buy snacks at home to give to her when she went to nursery; I never knew that snacks were at home. One day I

didn't go to school, I saw my grandmother filling snacks in her snack box. On seeing the snack I asked her to give it to me, and soon she took it away and kept it hidden. I felt sad, about why my grandmother was doing this to me.

After the Onam exams of grade 4, the teacher told me to bring a pen to school and write notes with a pen. After I reached home I said this to my mother, she did not agree to believe me. She told me I wanted to use a pen, so I insisted on having that. The next day when I reached school, the teacher beat me for not having a pen. So the next day before going to school, I searched the house for a pen and found one in my mother's drawer. I took that and went to the school when I got home from school, my mother said that her pen was missing and she found it out from me, hit me for taking it and took it away from me.

I lost hope and didn't know what I should do, if I had no pen the teacher would beat me, and if I had a pen my mother would beat me. I decided to borrow a pen from my classmates, and one of my friends gave a pen to me. Days passed, and one day I went to Aunt Sangeetha's house. I found there were so many pens. Her husband was a bus conductor, so he had lots of pens. I secretly took a pen from her home and kept it with me. Gradually I started collecting pens.

Things began growing between my grandmother, and she started complaining about whatever I did. The 4th grade annual exams are over, and school holidays have started. As it was more difficult to stay home, I spent time at my sister's nursery and Aunt Sangeetha's house.

My mother decided to enrol my sister in school, and so did Aunt Sangeetha, her son. Meanwhile, my mother and aunt completed the course and were looking for jobs. Both of them got jobs in a school nearby, where they took admission for the kids. My mother learned there was a school next to the school they joined that had higher classes, so my mother also decided to change my school.

But I didn't want to join that school because I was afraid of government schools by then. I also learned that the government introduced the DPEP syllabus, which would be tougher to understand. I did want to rejoin my first school, but again, my mother made the same excuse of money and enrolled me there. My sister enrolled in grade 1, my cousin in UKG and I in grade 5.

Gradually, I started liking my peers and school. The teachers were better than in the previous school. I could concentrate on class and grasp things. But the challenge was the exam. As it were not direct questions, I struggled a lot without knowing what to write for the exam. My mother taught me at home, and since the syllabus followed DPEP, she began buying Labour India to help with my lessons. Although my notes were complete and I was attentive in class, knowing the textual contents, I struggled to present them to exams and started failing as usual. I couldn't follow my mother's mode of study to pass the exam.

I continued in the same school, while, my mother, Aunt Sangeetha, sister, and cousin changed to a new school in the next academic year. My sister and cousin were good at scoring marks, and everyone blamed me for not scoring well in exams. Later, I never cared about my marks or didn't want to pass exams. Only two or three students in my class will pass the exams out of 40.

Chapter 5 - Grade retention

Years passed, and still no progress in my scores. I got promoted like every other student every year and completed the 8th grade. Discussions about my studies as usual within the advising committee started. Aunt Sangeetha proposed to retain me in the same grade again in a different school. My mother didn't think twice and approved it right away. Maybe because I desperately wanted to rejoin the first school, they chose my first school to enrol me into the same grade again. I felt like someone was tearing me apart into two pieces. So many questions popped up in my mind. How will I face my peers? Will they avoid me? Will they laugh out of me to the worst than the tomboyish appearance? And so on... I begged my mother not to make this decision and to consider my dignity.

She didn't listen to me and enrolled me in 8th grade instead of 9th at my first school. Teachers and schoolmates were able to recognize me. I was embarrassed about going to school and talking to my peers. I wouldn't mingle with my peers much and was shy and silent I also didn't leave class during interval time. What if someone recognized me? I already used to control nature's calls. At first, there were questions and seniors, who used to be my classmates, came and inquired about things. I became quiet and ignored everyone with questions. After some months questions started disappearing and my peers began to forget those and include me.

They were the best peers I got. Now I also remember everyone. Unlike my previous classmates, male students were also good ones. From there I started building friends again in my life. They're all were true friends, who stood in need. They helped me to study, calculated marks for me, analyzed my exam paper corrected my mistakes in it found out why my mark was reduced, and fought with teachers to give me marks. Again in my life, I had a desire to study and score well because of those people.

Aunt Sangeetha had a vast influence on my life. She even controlled how long my hair should be. Even if I resisted and overcame my grandmother, it was impossible to overcome Aunt Sangeetha. After some months I began to cope with my peers, and she understood that I had overcome the situation. Then she used to torture me that she knew one of my old classmates, they were residing near her school. If I go with her I can meet a friend. One day she even told me that a friend was coming to her home. Moreover, it became difficult for me to go to any functions because my mother would only go with Aunt Sangeetha and we also accompanied them. And she will search for and find my old classmates who used to laugh at me.

Aunt Sangeetha and her husband used to take tuition at home. She insisted I go to tuition for mathematics to her husband. Uncle Gopu knows the subject and also knows how to teach. I joined maths tuition in grade 9, but my maths teacher was so good at school that I didn't need extra tuition. As usual, there was no value so I decided to go to tuition. Suddenly Aunt Sangeetha got tuition from sisters the younger was in 9th grade with me and the elder in 10th grade. Again my aunt influenced my mother and decided I should join the tuition. I denied it because those sisters already knew me and I was not ready to face them. I resisted and this had become a big issue at home between my mother and me.

And finally, I had to agree to go to tuition. The same approach, not talking and ignoring every question was applied there also. My mode of study was even if I followed Labour India I used to go through the text and Labour India was only to do homework and for exams. Aunt Sangeetha wanted us to learn from Labour India. Also, I would not do rote learning, I'll understand the concepts and write in my own words. In 9th grade, my language was poor, but my mother used to correct the grammar, spelling etc. And I learn from that also. Aunt Sangeetha did not know how to handle English, she didn't even know the meaning of words in my textbook and guide. Also, she didn't put any effort on it. She wanted us to do rote learn the guide as it is and also should say or write exactly like in the book, she used to beat.

She used to tease me that I don't know anything, everything I do is wrong. Even she tried to portray me as a differently abled child. One day there was a word in the guide, and I wanted to know the meaning to understand it. The word was mural works, I asked her meaning. Then she told me that some work was done by the masons using red bricks. Even if I got the sense I was not satisfied with this meaning for that particular context. So I came home and asked my mother about the word's meaning. Then she said mural means artwork done on walls and caves. With that, my mother understood the teachings of Aunt Sangeetha and allowed me to stop the tuition.

After these tortures, I began to understand how toxic she was and gradually began to stop going to her home. I tried to talk to my mother and grandmother about this, but they didn't give me time to listen to me or help me. I started to avoid going to functions and even outside the home. I used to engage with my electronics collection whenever I had free time because my grandmother didn't like me and she always said bad things about me and created issues with whatever thing I did at home, everyone looked at me with a sneer. After some months, a new problem popped up I didn't communicate well with people not outside nor at home. My only company was my classmates at school.

Chapter 6 - The first public exam

Years passed, and even after changing schools, I could not get good scores in exams and at every place I was portrayed as a slacker, I also began to say that as I looked like my father I'd also become a failure. Meanwhile, at times, everyone only had hope in my sister, as she got good scores on exams. I didn't want to be praised by everyone, but I just wanted to live in a place where there is calm, be surrounded by altruistic people, and get some dignity.

Results came and I got promoted to 10th grade. Until 9th grade, the school conducts the last exam and starting 10th grade students must write public exams. The preparations for public exams would begin from the academic beginning. It was a practice, that everyone should go to a private tutorial centre during grade 10. I was continuing the maths tuition at Uncle Gopu which was sufficient for me. But my mother insisted I go to the tutorial centre again. I agreed to go to tuition and it was going well for me in the beginning, I only had to concentrate on tuition, there were no schools. But it became difficult for me months after the school started. The main thing that affected me was that I was not a morning person. Tutors at tuition and teachers at school started giving homework together and it was difficult for me to complete it in time. I started losing concentration in class, felt sleepy and couldn't grasp things from both classes. So I decided to stop at the tutorial centre after Onam, and my decision became another tide at home.

After the Christmas exams, one day, I called my father and asked him to take leave and come home during my exam. He immediately said it was impossible, but I asked again because I liked my father's teaching. One day, my mother's aunt Leela called her and told her fourth cousin Ani's marriage was fixed, it would take place during March or April. Everyone was happy to hear this.

Months after my parents decided to renovate the kitchen. They arranged an engineering team to do that, and construction started soon. One day my mother's aunt Leela called again and told my mother to go during February. I asked my mother not to go and stay with me as it was my exam time, and the house was under construction. I told my mother to say to them we would come after my exam. But my mother agreed with them and they booked a ticket and my mother left with my sister months before marriage. My father also didn't take leave during my exam time. Maybe just like others my parents also determined that I would not clear the 10th grade. I wanted to study and get good scores on the exams. I studied with the help of my teachers and peers. From that day my focus was to get a job as soon as possible and stand-alone.

After my exam, my mother's aunt took my maternal grandmother and me right after the exam and we attended her son's marriage. One day my mother's uncle, RK Nair, called her and asked about my result. He asked me how many A+ grades I get, I said around 5. Then he said to me teasingly that he would give me 1000 rs per A+ grade, that's the value of my knowledge.

Days after the 10th public exam everybody started to ask about vacation studies. I'm fond of instruments and martial arts. Back at that time, martial arts training was not available near me. So I decided to start learning piano. I joined piano class, days after my father knew about a course for soft-skills at model finishing school. So he insisted on me attending the class, he also said I was not

fluent in communicating in English, and my grammar and vocabulary were poor. But I was not interested in attending it at first because I didn't like the grammar and vocabulary taught by my mother. I could see that everyone by-heart the rules of grammar and tries to apply them in their writing, That doesn't work for me, I'm too weak in rote learning. I only grasp things which have logic. But I accepted the criticism and decided to improve it, as a first step I decided to join the course. The course was different from my thought, it was so interesting and the faculty used to give writing tasks, but it was far better than my mother's class. Apart from soft skills, there was an introduction course to computer programming language. I liked that too.

That was my turning point. Right after the 10th exam, I felt uncertain about my future. After attending the soft-skills course, I decided to select computer science for my future studies. After months the results were out and I got 3 A+ grades. Again I got a call to collect money for my A+ grades. He also offered me a job for me at his home office. I wanted to join the computer science branch and study in a school, where my friends joined. I insisted my parents enrol me there. They said the same dialogue no money for me. And through a single-window allotment, I got admission to a government school. Unlike the other school I studied at, the school was in the worst condition.

Chapter 7 - Sister's Love affair

I didn't like the school I joined for higher studies. All students needed to wear shoes to school. But when it rained, it was difficult to go inside the school as mud puddles surrounded the ground, and the land school was in a marshy area. I was enrolled on the biology science branch there. Except biology every other teacher was good. However, my peers were not good, Just like in 10th grade my mother wanted me to go to the tuition centre and made me join one. It was more difficult for me because the tuition centre and the school were in two directions from home. Gradually I dropped tuition, the main reason is that have to go to class every day and had no time to go through lessons and study. So the only option left was to study my own. The textbooks was so good, unlike SCERT texts the NCERT text is content-rich, but needs a good guide to make us understand. Online resources were also minimal during those days.

Meantime my mother completed her B.Ed and she joined a school. She moved my sister to a government school, near her school. Also, my sister went to Hindi class alternatively with the school studies and reached dusari in Hindi class. Things were going like that, and after months, a usual day my sister and I went to bed and she started asking me if I had any love affairs. I told her no, I wanted to get a job first and be on my own feet, before doing anything I wish. Then she told me she had feelings for a boy in her Hindi class. Hearing that I was astonished, I thought I had to convince her to focus on her studies. So I first talked to her about the importance of studies and career. Then I spoke to her about love, the issues inside our home, and the boy's family. After days she again came and told me she said something to that boy about this. I understood that whatever I told her went in one ear and out the other and her emotions were strong, but I did not know what to do. And I became fierce, unsure what to do, if she went like this she wouldn't be able to make her career.

So I decided to tell my mother, that I must ensure it is handled well internally without affecting her much. On saying to my mother I told her, that this should be a secret we could observe her first and then take appropriate action. I got some relief after telling my mother. I found my father was furious and roaming around the house. On seeing my sister he started shouting and I realized that my mother had told it to everyone. The situation became unhandled, my parents were irritated with my sister, my sister was annoyed with me, and I didn't know what to do. But my mother wanted to keep it within the home, so she convinced her mother not to tell any relatives. After some time everybody convinced my sister and she decided to stop the relationship. Days after somehow she convinced my father and said it was all my mistake and my father got angry at me and warned me. I didn't know what to do, I was astonished at getting blamed for something I didn't do and didn't know the trick yet.

While I was pursuing 12th grade my father again had job issues. He lost his job in Dubai after I completed the 12th grade. Right after the course from Model Finishing School, I was fond of the computer world and wanted to learn all its aspects. So I decided to join some courses after my higher secondary, moreover, I didn't get a computer science main. I didn't want to write an entrance exam for engineering or physician courses, because I knew it was impossible to handle both the entrance and the studies. Moreover, I was eager to secure a job quickly.

I found a course right after completing the higher secondary exam, this time I chose an animation course to get experience with computer software. The faculty was so good at teaching and I was very interested in the course. In the meantime, I was determined to get computer science mains and was searching for it. I tried to get resources as much as possible, I Searched online, in newspapers, and even phone directories. I got a list of two or three colleges and contacted them. But every university was too far away from home and they demanded a good course fee. I knew my parents would disagree, so I immediately dropped that.

I felt desperate, that I couldn't find a college with computer science mains, because I knew any branch I chose, other than computer science, I couldn't clear it. After two months the faculty left the academy, and a new tutor came. I didn't like the way he taught, too fast, he didn't give ideas to use the tool or was not given many tasks to do. So I was about to drop the course. That time I got information from the front office that, there will be a joined class for a software tool, where all the students in the same course would attend. I decided to drop the course right after attending that class. I found so many scholars there and got two or three bus mates. I befriended them and inquired about the computer science mains degree. Luckily one person among them was a graduate in computer science and she studied at UIT, Kuravankonam. I asked every detail to her and applied to computer science courses at universities.

Chapter 8 - UG Life & Rift in Family

Meantime my mother was pursuing her MA with a job in school and my father returned home from his workplace. It was helpful for my mother that she did not have to take much leave from school for my admission. Enrolling in college was difficult since I only had a 70% mark in higher secondary. I got a call from the University Institute of Technology, Kuravankonam and Pirappancode. Unfortunately, both admissions would take place on a single day. When I contacted Pirappancode, they said it was easier for me to enrol than at Kuravankonam. So we went to Pirappancode first, then let the authorities know we had reached and went to Kuravankonam. It was a hectic to and fro journey. And after we reached Kuravankonam I got admission to that college. Luckily my parents didn't say anything about money this time, the semester fee was 10k.

After I joined college, I took a student concession to travel by bus, and I used to travel in a concession bus and there were no other allowances from home. The college is located in a place where there is no bus service. So I had to walk around 2 km from the city to the college and from home to the bus stop around 1km. Every day a 6km walk, was fine for me, but walking on menstruation period days was challenging because I had severe health issues during this menstruation period. Meanwhile, when my sister started to go by bus, she didn't make any effort to take concession and neither my mother noticed this. My mother used to give her money daily for her regular bus fare, but my sister only used to choose a bus if seats were available.

Father almost decided not to go for a job. He was waiting for confirmation from my mother to join the business again with his brother. But my mother had no interest in him joining his brothers again; she feared another apocalypse might happen. A vehicle was needed at home, and my father told my mother to learn to drive so she could save money and time for the bus. Father bought a used two-wheeler to learn. I also wanted to learn and get a license, so I joined them. But the two-wheeler was very heavy, both my parents were only interested in my mother's learning. Riding a two-wheeler was not a thing for my mother. she even failed the test multiple times. Father was at home, so he started to drop my mother to school and pick up my mother from school. After some days my sister also joined. I usually leave home after them, Most days, I see my father on the way back home while I am walking to the bus stop, sometimes he comes early or I start from home late. One day it was a time that menstruation started, like usually my father came home after dropping my mother and sister to school. I asked him to drop me at the bus stop, as it was heavy stomach pain. He immediately said no, it is impossible to go twice. And I had to walk and go to college. After that, I never asked him to drop me off or pick me up, and I also did not show any interest in getting on his bike.

Meantime my grandmother became increasingly irritated with my father and started depicting it through her actions which caused issues at home. Grandmother wanted my father to leave home and she started acting as the house's landlord. My father used to cultivate the premises and clean them well. The landlord doesn't want any of these, moreover, she was interested in finding every fault of my father. She started creating problems within the family.

5th semester was running, and as I was fond of exploring the computer world, I found another course to join. This time I uncovered a course at Keltron, related to computer hardware and repair. I came home and asked permission from my parents to enrol. Neither my mother nor father approved of my decision, So I had to ask my maternal grandmother, she was focused on my father, so apart from the pressures inside the family there were no direct issues for me. Luckily she gave me money and I could join the course.

By this time I become an introvert and began adjusting to the estrangement. I realized the urgency of the money and stand-alone. I decided to take tuition at home to earn money. It was easy for me to get students with my mother's reputation. I got two to three students who were studying under 5th grade. When new issues arose within the family the pressure became overwhelming. I just wanted to get out of the home as soon as possible. My only focus was to study well and get placed. And the only place I could get some relief was the college.

But things went wrong there also, one day a boy in my class gave me a letter through friends while the teacher was taking the class. I got irritated and the teacher saw this and caught me. As soon as class finished I tore the letter into pieces out of anger. I thought things would end with that. Soon after the letter incident, everyone in my class began to sledge me. The same behaviour I applied ignoring and avoiding everything. But by the end of college, I began to hate my classmates especially those who support them. As things were not right at college and home, I used to go to libraries during my free time and study.

It was a weekend while I was doing the 6th semester. Everyone at home ate lunch and then had tea. My mother was washing the clothes, I was appealing to my father to come with me to learn the two-wheeler. Suddenly he collapsed and had a seizure, everyone was shocked and as soon as he was admitted to hospital and discharged after weeks. Two-wheeler learning stopped there.

There was no campus placement in the college I was studying. Fortunately, I learned about the TCS offline campus placement from my seniors and teachers. It was an easy placement and most of my seniors got that. I had good hopes when I started applying for the job. The first steps were done at the college computer lab, and I got an email from TCS to attend the test, I couldn't do it from the college as it was the time mentioned was 6 pm. So I reached home and asked my father to leave the computer for me. He got angry, but he left me after some time. The Internet was too slow back at that time. In our home we had dongles and the connection was wireless. 100kbps was the maximum speed; my father used most of the internet that month. I couldn't properly load the TCS website, attend the test, or do further interviews. Everyone who completed the test easily got the job there.

I've completed my graduation and the diploma course at Keltron. But failures were thrown back to back I failed to get the job in TCS, my father fell ill, and additional family issues arose due to my grandmother. I desperately wanted to get a job as soon as possible. So I applied for every job I saw with all my qualifications. I attended career fairs, applied for several jobs, tried out all walk-in interviews, and even travelled distances with the help of my parents to participate in the interview. I was failing repeatedly and almost lost all hope for a job. That time I learned about a repair center with which my neighbour worked. I went to her and inquired about everything in detail and I understood that she already left that job. Fortunately, she gave me the contact of one of her colleagues. I contacted her and she helped me to arrange an interview. The manager never wanted to

offer me a job in his company. He didn't ask much technical questions. The first thing he was not interested in was hiring a fresher then he was concerned that I'm a lady and all the workers were there gentlemen, so he questioned so many things related to that, also stated lots of rules. Finally, I said, I required a job because my father became ill. He offered me a payment of 5k, but he would only give me 2k for the first few months as I'm a fresher. I agreed to the offer, then he said he would let me know when the position is open.

I left there since days passed no calls were coming, and I lost hope in that also. Tuition was the only source of income for me. I attended all possible walk-in interviews. My mother has a rule that every child should have a minimum qualification of PG. She learned from her colleagues that, there is an entrance exam for the PG course, and she demanded I join the course for the entrance exam. I had no interest due to the issues in my family, also my father wanted me to get a job as soon as possible so that he doesn't have any tension about me. My mother took me to the coaching centre and paid the fees so I wouldn't escape from the entrance exam. By that time I lost every hope in finding a job. So I decided to try the entrance and study further.

As days passed, pressure inside the home increased dramatically. Every day, new issues pop up from nowhere. When resolving an issue arguments get heated and start another issue. It was a working day, my mother woke up in the morning and was busy with kitchen chores. I saw my grandmother in the kitchen and my father around the kitchen garden area. I avoided him to escape an argument and was doing my basic routine. After finishing my basic routine, I was setting up to go to the entrance class. My sister was in the washroom. Suddenly I began to hear noise from the kitchen, quickly I went to the kitchen. I saw my mother crying near the grinding stone, and my grandmother beside her. I asked about the matter and she said that her father put sand over the stone while she was grinding for some dish. I consoled her and told her to leave it, not making a fight, because father was in fierce form. My grandmother started murmuring about the incident, this provoked my father more. After hearing another sound again I flew to the kitchen. Then I saw my grandmother arguing with my father. My father tried to push her, and I avoided that. My father became more angry and my sister and me grabbed our mother and came to the living room. She stopped the household chores and started to get ready to leave school. Once she got ready and about to leave the house my father again created an issue by locking the door and not allowing her to leave the school.

Issues were popping up daily and staying in that situation was very difficult. Also, I couldn't accept that my mother should have to endure suffering because of my grandmother and father. So I decided not to go to entrance coaching that day. I talked to my sister about my decision, that it is not possible to control the violence at home, so I'm going to report it to the Vanita commission. She immediately told me she'd also join. Soon we got ready and set out to the Vanita commission. After reaching there, we lost all of our courage and started crying. The employees said they would file a case, but needed my mother's consent. We were unsure that if about her decision. Hoping positively we reached home and discussed the matter with our mother. She rejected it initially, but then she saw we had a stern decision to stop the violence at home. So she joined us and came to the Vanita Commission.

After hearing this, my grandmother became calm, and the Vanita Commission summoned my father. Once he was summoned, things started returning to normal except for my grandmother. My

sister and I also stopped talking to my father due to his behaviour. But we didn't understand properly then that the grandmother was also the cause of the issue. We used to attend so many sittings at Vanita Commission for months. Even if the problems were burning up high, my mother and my father used to talk to each other, they also shared a bed and even he dropped her off at the Vanita Commission. I felt awkward about how she could do that. My sister and I used to ask our mother why she was even talking to him. She just ignores it.

Now I understand, why she does that. She just wanted to give him chances despite all the failed efforts. It's just love, but why didn't he understand that and try to change at least once to save the relationship and preserve a person's efforts and emotions? Do all men are like this? Why do men are like this? It was better back in the days of living without knowing such emotions. Else we should be lucky enough to have someone who will never do this.

Maybe Rahul was in my destiny to realize the emotion. But what did I do so that he wanted to leave me? He promised he wouldn't leave me and claimed he wouldn't do anything like my father. Also, he says I'm a good person, but I'm still unsure why he wants to leave me. Why is he doing that to me? Why does he want to go away? If he wants to go why he come to me? Maybe because of my decision my mother had to stay away from her husband. I don't know.

I had intuitions that my life wouldn't be better than my parents. I didn't want to love anyone and knew the same would happen to me.

I had avoided marriage to avoid such a situation in my life because I knew that I wouldn't be able to handle it. And I understand now that it's impossible to change fate. If I were married it would be my husband. Here it is my lover, as I'm not married.

Rahul came into my life like rain. At last, the rain flooded,

and

I lost every will to survive.

Chapter 9 - Revival of the Slanderer

We kept our issues a secret, without letting any relatives know. Months passed, and going to the Vanita Commission became regular. After many sittings, things started to settle down between everyone. I wrote the entrance exam well and was waiting for the results. One day my mother got a call from the hypocrite Aunt Sangeetha and asked the details about the case and everything. All of us were astounded to hear that. My mother agreed to everything she said, so she didn't get much information. Soon she accompanied by her mother visited our home to discuss this in detail. My sister and I were the only people at home during that time. They acted like consoling us and were trying to acquire all the information. As they were claiming they knew everything. We only vaguely talked about the issue. After some time they left home. By that time we swallowed their acting.

As days passed all of them tried their best to befriend us, the best relatives ever. We too believed their actions. Even after the Vanita Commission settlement, the issues were not over. But one day my father learned about an android course at Kochi and he was interested that I should join that. By then I had lost interest in everything course, family, love, and marriage except finding a job. He began to create issues about not joining the course. It became difficult for me to take the tuition at home. So, my mother demanded that it be impossible for me to go to a place without proper inquiry. Father went there and he inquired about the course inside the company. Finally, I agreed to go to Kochi and attend that course. I used to get calls from my mother every day. I was afraid to stay there, constantly wondering if something was happening at home. Whenever I get days off I fly home. It was a three-month course. Right after 2 months, everything began to normal. And one day my mother called me and told me that my father was asking for her blank cheque leaves to purchase a bike for him. I consoled her at the time I reached home that weekend. After reaching home, we let my father know our decision that it is impossible to give cheque leaves. And I joined the course next weekday. After a week days again my mother is telling that my father wanted to sell our property and he made dealings with the neighbouring lady. I reached home as fast as I could.

After a day I got a call from the same hypocrite Aunt Sangeetha who asked me to go to her home. They were using my desktop computer at that time and also used to call me if some issue happened. That day was also called like that. I reached there and checked the computer, it wasn't much of an issue, just a wiring problem. I fixed it and was about to leave her home, she called me and said she wanted to say something. She told me my father was on a misguided path. I asked the reason, then she told me that everyone in the residence believed that my father had some dealings with my lady neighbour. I was stunned to hear this and asked every detail about it. She mentioned several residents' names, saying that one saw my father go to the neighbour's house, another saw him leave, and another claimed to have seen him call her, over the phone. So I told her not to let anyone know this, let's see how long it lasts and can take proper action afterwards.

Soon after hearing this I left her home and came to my home. And she was even faster than me to reach my home. She didn't mind what I told her and spit it out to my mother, my mother became shocked and angry. But I caught my mother at the proper time and consoled her. So she understood that I would convince my mother not to take any action. So she reached even faster to my

grandmother and spit everything out to her with hooks, lines, and sinkers. Soon after hearing everything my grandmother became like a bull in the china shop, and started fighting with the neighbouring lady. All others except grandmother and hypocrite aunt were silent. Soon after the flame ignited, she fled our home without our attention. And the rhubarbs broke out uncontrollably and the neighbouring lady was insanely slandering our family. I became angry after some time and reacted to her.

Meanwhile, my father was outside planting a plantain, unaffected by the situation. I've controlled that lady and the fight had stopped after some time. I became angry with that hypocritical aunt and was telling what had happened to my sister and mother. As usual, my grandmother began restless and started to grumble. My mother and grandmother were in the kitchen when my father came in to talk to my mother. They started having a tiff, and soon my grandmother got involved, shouting at my father, which made my father enraged and he started attacking back. Hearing this I arrived at the kitchen, I saw my mother holding my father so as not to attack my grandmother. I too thought my mother could handle it, so I stood there. But everything happened quickly and my father moved mother aside and pushed grandmother to the ground. The situation paralyzed me, but it was not the right time to keep idle, my inner voice said to do something. When I turned I saw a stick over the table, I took that stick, stepped in between them, shielded my grandmother and hit my father's head. After that, blood began to spill from his head, and he stopped brawling.

Seeing the blood my mother got first aid and applied it to his head, after that my mother began to denounce me for my father and rushed to my hypocritical aunt's house. Meantime, I decided to take my father to the mental asylum so that he could behave well. I knew a person working there, a nurse who was the mother of my sister's friend. I called them and arranged everything. My impostor aunt and her husband arrived with my mother, her husband helped to bandage the wound. I noticed that many onlookers had gathered around my home. Father realized my plan and suddenly he escaped from our home. As advised by Aunt Sangeetha my grandmother went to the police station and filed a complaint against my father to prevent him from coming to our house. I left for Kochi, and after weeks the issue had settled down. First of all, I missed lots of portions moreover, I could not be attentive during the class, and I was trying to stick there on to get a job. One person from the previous batch got the job right after the course, so I was expecting that.

After weeks I got a congrats call from the entrance coaching centre, I was astonished at why I was getting the call. They said that I cleared the entrance and got rank 72. Upon hearing that I was happy, the first time in my life I'd won something. Soon the joining date and allotment things were published. I had to leave the course at Kochi and in the allotment I got enrolled at TKM Kollam, so I took the morning bus from Kochi to home to take my certificates and belongings to attend the interview. After I reached home I realized that my mother hadn't informed her casual leave yet, and she had arranged for that deceiver aunt to come with me. I became irritated and started questioning my mother. Meantime, my aunt came to our home and convinced me that since she wasn't working and was free at home, she could help. She told me she considered me like a daughter and suggested I think of her as a second mother. She also encouraged my mother to leave for school. We went to the college, paid the fees, and I got enrolled. And classes started and I began to go to college. A few days later, I learned about a trial allotment that could allow me to transfer to a college closer to home.

Knowing that my old mother wouldn't risk taking leave, I approached my new mother, and she accompanied me to the trial. Luckily I got enrolled after a long run to Kollam and Trivandrum.

While the hypocritical slanderer was making efforts and helping, everyone in the family including me believed them. We never realized that she was harboring revenge against us and that her every plan aimed to ruin us.

Chapter 10 - PG Life and the college-mates

I enrolled on the College of Engineering, Trivandrum. It is a huge college with many pupils, I liked my batch. I found two of my previous classmates there; a girl and a boy. Days passed, and I befriended everyone in the class. All of them were so good friends, after the 10th grade, I didn't get such good peers to study with. Classmates used to ask about my family, I used to tell about my mother and sister. When they asked about my father, I used to say business and stop. Sometimes they might ask when my father came home or was last at home. So I started saying he is doing business with his brother and does all the line work, so he will only come home occasionally.

All of us had a special bond and anything we do, we do it together. We used to go outside to eat food, and for the first time in my life, I stayed for a night event with them, roamed here and there, went on trips to someone's house, studied together, and practised for tests together. Also, it was the first time I went to a class tour. I wanted to go when I was in 10th grade, but my parents denied me the opportunity. It was an awesome peer with less ego and fewer judgments. I got my best friends from there, my Mrs ladies. It was the best period in my life, like a golden era. Because of those people, I began socializing and coming forward into life.

Meanwhile, my sister passed her higher secondary, took a course to repeat the entrance exam and moved to a hostel. One day my mother got a registered letter from the post office. She opened the letter and read it, she understood that it was the divorce petition from the court, filed by my father. I told her that, not to panic and we could hire a good lawyer and go forward with the court. But she was terrified and wanted to call her demilawyer Uncle RK Nair. Ignoring my suggestion, she called him and accepted the advice from the whole trusted committee. Her uncle hired a lawyer to represent this case. Initially, we were getting good support from the advocate and her uncle, even demanding alimony and the return of the dowry. Slowly the support started diminishing and Uncle RK Nair wanted my mother to work for his home office during her weekends, so he told my mother to do the LLB course.

I told my mother there was no need to join the course, as it was new for her. But the pressure from the uncle was severe and he denied my suggestion and decided to join the course. He enrolled her at a college in Bangalore, gave her study materials to prepare for the exam and used to call her every weekend to study. Time comes her semester exam is about to happen. Both Uncle RK Nair and Aunt Leela told her to take leave and attend the exam, she did as they said for the first time. They took her to Bangalore and she reached home a week later. When the time came to take the second-semester exam, I had a severe fever. I asked my mother to stay with me and not attend the exam. Like always she denied my request and went for the exam, moreover, she arranged for the dirty impostor aunt to keep an eye on me. As instructed by my mother, she came home and acted so nicely. But I was angry with my mother, and I didn't want anyone to take care of me, so I let her go. The uncle and aunt also tricked my mother that time to stay in Bangalore longer. Finally, she stopped doing LLB.

Finally, my mother agreed to every condition of my father and was ready for the divorce. When my mother was about to sign the document, my mother signed it and my father became frightened, and left the case forever.

Chapter 11 - Reconciliation of sister & her lover

The three years went very fast, and the PG course was about to finish and my sister joined her UG course. Marriage proposals were coming for me from all sides. But after all the series of issues that happened at home, I was afraid of getting married. Everyone started asking the reason, I didn't have a valid reason to tell. I replied to everyone that I wanted to be on my own feet and then only think about marriage. I rejected many proposals, so the crooked aunt doubted that I was rejecting every proposal due to love affairs. So she assigned people to monitor me and failed to find any. Her next idea was that I had a love affair and must have discussed it with my sister, so she assigned her son and his friends to befriend my sister and snoop about me. She also failed there; she could only catch a fish if it lived in the pond. She only failed me, but she had instincts about my sister's love affair. She began to work with that. My sister's boyfriend's house is adjacent to Aunt Sangeetha's, just two houses after ours.

Right after the rift between my father and us, the two families became very close and my sister used to visit their house repeatedly. I always used to warn my sister and keep telling her to stay distant from Aunt Sangeetha. She didn't hear me. As they were using my computer and I was the technician Aunt Sangeetha used to call me for repairings. One day, she hinted at my sister's boyfriend, Anadakrishnan, referring to him as her neighbour and talked a lot about him. She also mentioned asking for a lift from a neighbour, among other things. Then she asked if my sister or I would get into someone's two-wheeler. I replied that we hadn't asked for a lift from any neighbors, especially men on two-wheelers and that we wouldn't agree to go with them either. After the conversation something struck my mind, soon I came and talked to my sister, but she ignored me.

Days passed, and we were invited to Uncle Saji's wife's brother's wedding. My mother decided not to go as there is a lot of distance to travel. But Aunt Sangeetha wanted my mother to attend the wedding, so she called her and offered to accommodate her in Aunt Sangeetha's car. When my mother came home, she was not the same person who had left for the wedding; her behaviour had completely changed. I began asking the issue to my mother, she was shouting and exploding. My mother said that Aunt Sangeetha said her husband saw my sister with her boyfriend somewhere outside during class hours at college. Initially told at one place then began to say seen at different locations and by various peoples. Aunt Sangeetha hosted a celebration with this issue and she did everything possible she could.

She even told my mother to transfer my sister from her college and enrol her in a different course at a new college. Until then, everyone, including me, believed whatever she said and did. When she said to retain the course, which was the same as she had done to me before, I realized the foul play and started observing her. And I understood she planned to ruin us, so she made the issue much bigger.

Chapter 12 - Job and way to success

All my dreams were to have a good salaried job and be on my own feet irrespective of the place. The College had campus placements, during MCA, but I have yet to get any. I would lose the first round, as I'm not good at resolving aptitude tests. After MCA I did not get placed anywhere, my father already left home, so all the focus of my grandmother was on me. I applied everywhere and slowly I excelled in aptitudes and started to clear the first round, then also luck was different for me. I lost so many interviews that I reached the final level. When I failed in the first round, I would wait for my friends who succeeded, and sometimes they would wait for me if I passed while they didn't. We together attended so many interviews and no result could be made. I started believing that I couldn't work in a software company. So I started applying for every job related to computers.

I attended an interview at a project centre, and they hired me and offered a salary of 5k per month. I didn't think twice; I wanted no gap in my career, so I joined the project centre. Parallely, I was applying for software jobs. I attended many walk-ins during weekends and some online interviews, which were the rarest then. While my friends were also searching for jobs, I referred them to the project centre, but they seemed interested little. I've tried for 5 months continuously. I began to think about further studies and preparing for the GATE exam because if I continued at the project centre my career growth would be stunted. So I decided to resign from my job after a year, and only then did I get the experience letter. I applied for more jobs and am preparing for the GATE whenever I'm free. One day I got an email from a company in Hyderabad, I responded to them, and then they scheduled me for an aptitude test. I asked them about the possibility of taking an online exam and interview. They said I had to present at their office. As a last try, I decided to try it. When I discussed it at home, my mother said she would also come along. So I attended the first aptitude test and reached home. I got the call again for a round 1 technical interview. I attended and they contacted me again after some days for a round 2 technical interview. I've asked money to my mother for GATE coaching and she refused to give

After some days I got a message from my friend regarding the opening of a company by our senior. She asked me about my interest in joining, I asked her for more details and she connected me to my senior. Soon I contacted my senior, Rahul, there was no interview, no tests. Soon he gave me a course to learn. I've learned it and keep updating him. I was very excited that I got my dream job. I completed the course as fast as I could. One day he called me to see me and discuss the company. So after the job we met in the evening in front of a shop, that was my interview for his company. After a week my notice period in the project centre was over and I was relieved from there, and two days after I joined my senior's company for my dream job. One of my juniors, and another developer including my senior, Rahul and I were in the team initially.

One day I had a dream, that I was working in a big office, so other people were there working and Rahul came rushing after some time like he used to come. After he reached the office he went and sat next to an employee and discussed tasks. And he didn't ask anything about my task status. I felt sad and another employee came next to me and told me that his marriage was fixed to some and

shown a beautiful girl's picture. I wondered why he hadn't come to me and discussed the task, is it because marriage is fixed? Hearing everything I felt sad and continued work. Suddenly I woke up.

The first work was with Innoval Digital Solutions, as we didn't have any space to work on it, moreover, Rahul was working on Think Palm, in the meantime. So Innoval provided space for us to do their work. After some days, I got the call again from Hyderabad and they said they were ready to hire me and I had to go, sign the bond and join. I was thrilled to work with Visualyze as I started working with Machine Learning and AI-related things. But I wanted to stay in that job in Hyderabad because I could go away from home and the grandmother issues wouldn't affect me, also I assumed that it was impossible to resign on bond period, which made us stuck to that company. So I left for Hyderabad after getting permission from Rahul, I wanted to know if they were ready to discard the bonding period. One of my uncles Ani, my mother's aunt Leela's son also accompanied my mother and me. I decided not to join there, so I came back to Visualyze. The two of them in our team left in between, and I remain the only person in the team. After three months we completed the prototype for them and presented it. However, they showed less interest in continuing with the project. For the next two months, we worked from home. Rahul left the job after 5 months, rented out a common space and we moved there.

A new employee joined after days, her name was Veena. I felt she was close with Rahul. Sometimes they used to go together and she was very fond of him. As days passed I started not liking her behaviour, even during work time she was also on the phone with people, especially boys. The only thing that concerned me was that sometimes she would feigningly tilt her phone toward me. One of my juniors, Gayathri, joined Visualyze. She joined to do her project work. Days passed one day, she created an issue at the office, she wanted to go to some function and she asked for advanced payment, but Rahul rejected it. Then she left Visualyze. So Gayathri and I were on the team, and Rahul was searching for people to hire. It was impossible to announce job openings then as the company was not registered. So we used to let all people know and inform if someone replies. As my classmate told me and I got a job, I referred my classmate Ambari, and after some days she joined.

After the POC with Innoval, Rahul got two partners working at Innoval, one was Arun Kumar and the other was Rajesh Thampy. In the meantime, I was doing a project with PWC in Java. What I liked at Visualyze the most was there was lots of work to do and I could engage in work and be at peace. And none of the issues at home affected me. Moreover, I got to work with Python, React, and now Java. I found getting versatile in multiple languages to be an asset. After some days, Gayathri began to accuse Rahul and she said she wanted to stop Visualyze. I didn't understand what happened in between. Rahul told me that she's not interested in continuing, she desired to join MNCs, but we need employees. Hearing that I thought I should talk to her, so I called Gayathri and spoke to her. She accused Rahul is indecent, an abuser, and of misconduct. I consoled her and tried to convince her, I also said but I didn't see that, moreover, he wanted you to continue as we have lots of work to do, Rahul only said things about me professionally. Gayathri left right after that incident. Then Vignesh joined.

About a month later, with the support of two partners, Rahul took another space near Sreekariyam, and we moved there. In the meantime, Ambari referred Joe, our classmate, to Visualyze and he joined after we moved to the new space. Months after that a new HR, Dini, joined. The

company registered and started announcing jobs. I conducted the first round of technical interviews because Dini was not proficient in the technical aspects.

I had another dream after the shift to a new office, everyone at the office was working. I was looking inside Rahul's cabin. Rahul was about to cry and was preparing to sign a document. I felt that both Arun Kumar and Rajesh Thampy tied together and tried to get signed by Rahul to give the company and its profit to a new person. I woke up before Rahul signed the document.

Chapter 13 - The love proposal

Like everyone asking about my family, people at my office began to ask. Everywhere in the office details, I began to write my mother's name. That was catchy for HR and Rahul. HR asked me about my father, and I skipped her. After some days in the evening, Rahul called me to his cabin and asked for details about my family. I didn't know what to do, so I tried to skip it, but he became suspicious. It was time for everyone to leave the office, he told me he wouldn't let me go if I didn't say the real reason. Nothing was coming out of me except tears. He understood I was not going to tell him, so he told his family story to me and without having any choice I had to say to him because he showed such a listening and calm mentality towards me. After I told him about the issue that had happened the rift in the family, he comforted and consoled me. I left the office by 7:00 pm. I felt relaxed after saying everything to him.

Days after my friends called me for a get-together at college, I went very late to college as I had tasks to finish urgently at my office. After I reached the college everybody began to tease me for being late and by saying they had doubts that I had some relationship with the senior, Rahul they forcefully grabbed my phone and checked the chats. After checking chats and not finding anything suspicious, they began to cook up stories that Rahul has some soft corner for me, we might have a secret relationship if not I would get a job somewhere else blah blah... Ignoring everything I reached home, and days after unknowingly what the friends said my mother told me that my sister was suspicious about the same. So I told her it was because she had a relationship and she wanted me to get into it so that it would be easy for her.

Days passed as usual Rahul called me again to his cabin on an evening, and I went with a notepad and a pen to write things down. After I went there, he asked me if I would become his girlfriend. I was stunned, unsure of what to say, and wondered why this was happening to me, why everyone had doubts before he told me, why I had that dream before, and whether it would come true. I left without saying anything.

I thought Rahul was rude at first, but the way he guides us is so good. Yes, he has some anger issues, but the way he listened to me comforted and consoled me was also convincing. I observed him and understood both he and I are alike with slight variations. Also, everybody was saying for me to get married and I was running away from it. So if a person comes to me, he might be good. Also, he too suffered something like me. So he will also think the way I do. Days later I said yes, and I agreed to be his girlfriend. By then I found him to be a gentleman, because even after I said yes there was no additional move from him. It was just like normal days, before and after.

After rejecting every marriage proposal for years, my impostor aunt Sangeetha again convinced my mother that I had some kind of mental issue. So all of my relatives excluding my sister plotted a plan to consult me with a psychologist. For that, my mother's uncle, the fake lawyer called one day and told me to visit another lawyer. My sister and I had no idea about the reason. I left with my mother and we saw the lawyer. After reaching there I understood that he is not a lawyer but a psychologist. I became devastated that my mother did this even after she knew every relative and me.

So I left home and called Rahul, he consoled and comforted me. I became sure that no matter what happened to me my Rahul will always be with me.

Chapter 14 - Rejection of love & resignation

Slowly we became to each other and spent time together through chats, and talking. We used to chat at the office after everyone left. Rahul was getting closer and closer to me each day than I expected. I wanted to tell my mother and sister before letting them know others. When I talked with Rahul, he said not to say it to anyone just try it out first between us. I thought it was good, so I didn't tell anyone. Also, he said it is not easy to talk to his father as the son and father will speak a little, so he needs his cousin Neethu's help.

Rahul became so madly in love with me that he began to show closeness at the office when everyone was around us. I felt awkward because I didn't want anyone other than our family to know first. One day he forcefully kissed me on my lips and grabbed me close to him. I liked him and agreed to be his girlfriend, up to a friendly touch that was my limit and it was not fine for me to kiss or be closer to him or hug him. I didn't like his actions and left home. I went to talk to him the next day and said I didn't like what he did to me. Then he became angry and blocked my account. So I left the office by noon and sent the resignation letter soon after returning home.

I was devastated that he behaved like that to me. Soon I sent the resignation letter, he blocked my office account. I told the home that the office was closed due to the COVID situation, and after a day I began to feel empty 24 hours a day became 24 months for me, and everyone was doing their things except me. I started feeling like I was becoming like my father, and I knew I wouldn't get any job, and wouldn't get the experience letter. My career is finished, which means I'm finished. So I decided to stop living for the first time and I ate some toxic seeds to end everything. After some time I ate the seeds, and I began to vomit I was admitted to hospital and I lived with typhoid.

While I was at the hospital, I saw a dream again. This time I saw that I already left office and Rahul had become a big businessman, I read the news about him in the newspaper. But the news in the paper was not good he was trapped by some people and arrested by the police for some corruption issue. I was flying through the sky to escape him and suddenly woke up, right after the dream I wanted to rejoin Visualyze, because only bad would happen to me if I left him. After two weeks at the hospital with typhoid, I came home. My mother asked me why no one was calling me from the office, about my work and leave. I have no words to say to her. After I reached home I told them I lost my job due to a long leave.

Chapter 15 - Recognition of love & rejoining

One month passed, and Rahul sent me a message to ensure my willingness to return to Visualyze. I suddenly said yes and decided that I would not leave him no matter what because of the dream I did not want anything bad to happen to him. After I joined, he told me one day that he missed me so much and didn't want a Visualyze without me. He also told me he wouldn't call back someone other than me who behaved similarly. The office reopened after COVID-19's first wave, and I was not willing to come to the office as I donated all my hair to the cancer center before eating toxic seeds to stop living. My concern was I was bald and everyone would ask me why. But Rahul kept saying I wanted to join the office he missed me, I should come to the office and I was finally agreeing to him.

One day when we were together at the office in the evening, I asked him about his love for me. Then he said he had so many relations in the past, but feelings for me were different from everyone. Veena was one of his relationships when he was at Kochi. So I asked him if he would do that to me, meaning he would leave me after some time and say I was just loafing. Then he said no, and he explained that towards everyone it was a likeness and lustiness of moments and he started having feelings for me after months we worked together, feelings for you are real and want for the others, he also said I'm his best friend, he trusts me the most, his right hand.

Even after rejoining, his behavior remained the same, he was touching me badly, grabbing me close to him, and kissing me forcefully. I decided to agree with some so that he wouldn't get angry and everything would go smoothly between us. I told him that I love him and could allow him to touch, kiss, and hug me and everything went well till the new HR, Neethu joined Visualyze. It was a usual day Rahul wanted me to stay the evening at the office after everyone left. That day he forced one more step, and he touched and caressed his hands inside my clothes. As usual, I opposed his action and went home. We began to chat about this over the phone. He blamed me for being asexual, only having platonic love, I'm not romantic towards him even in chats, and having no emotions for him that's why I'm not accepting him as a lover. I began to think he was telling the truth, I should accept him as a lover. So I told him I wanted to tell home we were in love. Then he asked me what's the need for that, so I told him that I was now whatever because of my parent's support so I wanted to tell them before we entered into a physical relationship. He restricted me to say it to anyone.

Day after day he was pushing me to have a physical relationship with him. I used to leave the office early before everyone started to leave. Rahul began to blame me personally for not loving him and professionally even if it was not my fault. I felt overwhelmed by his words and actions. I decided to talk to him, so I told him to wait evening one day, and when everyone left the office. I asked him if he was in real love with me and if he wanted to continue. He asked me that he loves me and I love him so why I'm not agreeing? Then I said I would agree with everything you said but wanted to go slow. Rahul used to buy lunch from outside, So I said, as his lover, I should bring lunch to him from home. He agreed with me. I hugged him, and he said is this your hug, you should hug for more than 5 minutes. I said yes gradually, 5 seconds to 5mins in years. He then grabbed me closer to him and we left the office after some time.

Again the 5 second hug and kiss became an issue and it was beyond my level to tolerate after he caressed his hands under my clothes. I again became irritated and told him to go slow. Hearing this he became annoyed and I was down the next day because of everything. He gave me a task with the DHL db. While I was doing the task urgently, accidentally the server db got deleted instead of the local one. I reported to Rahul and he made an issue with it, at last, I asked him permission to go home and leave home, and I decided to work from home. But as soon as I left he blocked me again, I kept talking to him over other social media and trying to resolve the issue. It was the time the office tour had been planned, and Rahul was forcing me to join the tour. I denied it and stayed home. At last, we concluded and I decided to work from home for some days. As usual, he kept asking me to come to the office every day, and after days I started going to the office.

My best friends one after another got married and started having a family. It was the rarest to get them to talk or see and the distance between the relationship grew bigger I started feeling shy to share problems with them, as they were in a different world. Every girl's friendship is limited to marriage and after starting a family it's a different world. I was rest assured that I also got a person. I can share everything with my Rahul.

Chapter 16 - Fighting for love

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the forget and reset method

It was lunchtime, and as usual, everyone left to have lunch. HR Neethu took a lunch packet from her bag and gave it to Rahul's cabin. He said to keep it on the lunch table outside. So she came with the lunch packet and told everyone not to take anything from that packet, that belonged to Sir. Everyone agreed, and I was shocked because Rahul had said he wanted me at Visualyze, that he missed me, wanted me as his girlfriend, loved me, and I had even offered to bring him lunch from home, so why was she the one bringing lunch to him? I was reminded of the rift at home and decided not to react, observe first then decide what to do. I noticed a change in Rahul's behavior. He started to keep some distance from me and also started behaving to me like a stranger. One day over chat he told me that he bought a gift for me, I was surprised. He never gave me any gifts nor even wished me even my birthday. But I gave him gifts every birthday or at some special events. And I asked what the gift was. So he told me it was a light rabbit, and I was thrilled and excited to receive his gift. The next day I went to the office expecting he would give me the gift. The next day everyone came, that was another hectic day at the office. I was working urgently to finish the tasks. It was around noon, and as usual, Neethu went into Rahul's cabin for some professional matters. He suddenly gave the light rabbit to her. I felt flabbergasted and started thinking about why he did that to me, and said one does a different thing. I haven't said anything regarding these, because I might cry in front of everyone again.

After reaching home, I thought if they liked each other, why should I be in the middle? Rahul once told me about Neethu, a divorced single parent. The child also has kidney issues. So I thought she needed a strong person, so I should leave away from them. Rahul is good and strong, he only has anger issues. So I quietly began to pull me away from him. I can't leave Rahul, because what if something bad happens to him like in the dream? Also, I couldn't approach him because, I felt, he didn't like me. So one option left is to work from home. And I took work from home without giving him any reason. He keeps asking me about the reason and gets irritated with me.

At last, I said I didn't want to work from the office because he didn't like me. So he said no, he likes me, trusts me, cares for me, and has more affection towards me than anyone else. So I told the issue of Neethu. Then he said that Neethu was just a friend of his, no other relationship exists. I believed then that I didn't want to go to the office. The second outing was planned, but Rahul insisted I join. As the issue was resolved I joined the trip. I told Rahul that I wanted to talk to him about our relationship. He asked when to speak, so I told him we could find a free space during the tour and talk. He agreed with me.

Hoping to resolve the issues, I signed up for the tour. In the morning the bus came, and everyone entered the bus. Neethu took Rahul's bag and went to the last seat of the bus. After some time Rahul came, and he ignored me and went along with Neethu. On the way, Rahul's cousin Neethu and her son Aadhi joined. I hoped after reaching the destination Rahul might come to me to talk. At first, we went to the restroom and celebrated Neethu and Jayasankar's birthday. Neethu used me to give a gift

to Rahul, which she bought for his birthday and he overreacted that day. After the party was over, we began to use the washroom, most of the lady employees used the washroom, and I was the one who went in at last. No one noticed me including Rahul and they all left after locking me in the room. Everyone noticed after some moments and came back and unlocked me. That time Rahul teasingly said to me aren't you coming outside, I felt crushed after the question being asked. I expected after the celebration he would come. But he didn't come to me, moreover, he spent all the time with Neethu, and both were missing for a long time. I pretended to be calm and stayed silent. I realized that everything he said was a lie, he didn't like me. So I decided to resign and wrote a letter while they all played in the pool.

It was about 8 in the evening when we left the place, We got onto the bus on the return trip and Rahul went to Neethu to the back seat. When the bus was about to reach the office, Rahul reminded me and asked how I would go home, and then Neethu said she would arrange an auto for me. I don't know why Rahul told me like that because he used to drop me home in the evening after we spent lonetime together. I became obliterated on hearing this, I said I'll manage and as soon as the bus stopped, I got out of the bus and started walking home. But Rahul didn't leave me alone, he sent Kiran, another friendployee, to follow me. He followed me, later I got angry and sent a message to Rahul to stop sending Kiran behind me because he couldn't drop me home, then why was he sending someone to follow me? I think Kiran followed me to my home.

After reaching home, I sent my resignation to him and started looking for other jobs. I got three jobs in one month all abroad. All the HR told me to send account details and certificates. I realized that in my mind there was only one thing, which was Rahul, I was in tension and kept thinking that if I accepted the offer and went away from him the dream would happen or not. Finally, I decided to talk to Rahul again, and he told me things were not like I thought, he wanted me and he would never want to leave me, I trusted that and we reached a conclusion to start again, and forget everything in the past. After a month, I started going to the office and he wasn't ignoring me. So I hope for the best.

Chapter 17 - Love Acceptance & commitments

I was going to the office but it wasn't regular. At that time there were 9 employees including Rahul and the lovebirds at the office were Jayasankar and Mariya. It was just before Christmas, and I was working from home when Rahul told me over chat that everyone wanted to select their Christmas friend, so they chose one from the raffle, after choosing a friend Mariya and Jayasankar exchanged with others to get each other. Hearing that I became suspicious, a day after I went to the office, someone gave me my card, and I got a different person other than Rahul. I waited for the day everyone exchanged gifts. One by one people came out to exchange gifts, I knew about Mariya and Jayasankar's exchange. But when Neethu's name was called she gave a gift to Rahul, it was two shirts and Rahul gave a coffee mug to Neethu. I began to shatter, who are the love birds, If they are then why I'm in the middle, like so many thoughts. After everyone left the office, Rahul pretended to work at his cabin. I packed everything to leave and went to his cabin and I said he shouldn't do this to me and left home.

That evening Rahul told me over chat that Neethu would get married. Hearing that I was baffled, and I thought how stupid I was to think of a friendship for something else. Rahul loves me and I was the one who created unwanted tantrums. But why do his actions have some other meaning? Neethu took a long leave and said she went to Chennai to her brother's house. After a week she said that her husband had come from abroad. I understood that her second marriage had happened. Day passed and things between Rahul and Neethu were not going well. One day Neethu was fearful and I saw her crying over the lunch area. Soon I reported to Rahul and told him to go there and console her because if I went it wouldn't be good, and he is more of a friend of hers. He went and consoled her. After some time Neethu packed her bags and 4 people came for her. As soon as she saw them, she unlocked the door and they pushed her aside and rushed towards Rahul. I'm not sure what Rahul or Neethu did, the people who came were behaving very rudely and one of them even hit my Rahul –seeing all this everyone was shocked and stunted not knowing what to do. Rahul lodged a police complaint against her and the police demanded Neethu and her husband to say sorry to everyone. When they came to say sorry, I understood that the person who hit my Rahul was Neethu's husband.

I felt so down after this, I decided to join martial arts for self-defense and protect everyone I love. I joined the nearby center to learn it, but the issue was the timings of the class the class would start at 6:30 pm and finish by 7:30 pm. I would only leave the office by 7:00 pm, if Rahul wants to spend time together, I will arrive late. And after Neethu left Visualyze things between Rahul and me became normal. So gradually, I stopped the class.

I realized my love for Rahul and I never wanted to go away from him and wanted to protect him always. I decided to omit all rules between us and make him understand to go slow and I told him everything. He accepted everything I said and tried to go slow. And we grew closer and closer; I became emotionally and physically attached to him, just as he wanted. Then he began to demand my private photos and videos.

Chapter 18 - Job loss and company closure

Months passed, and a year was about to end, by this time Rahul and I got very close physically. Rahul likes physical connection with me more and I like his emotional attachment. I portrayed him as my partner even if he would marry me or not. A new parent company approached Visualyze and promised investment. Foreseeing the sponsor and the future of the company Rahul and Rajesh Thampy decided to shift to a new office. They gave the advance and started the work for the new space. After some weeks, Visualyze started facing struggles, the parent company left without investing. Rahul said that Rajesh Thampy has made a firm decision about shifting and using all possible money to get money from here and there to construct the new office. Rahul became desperate and silent and it began to affect our relationship. Unaware of the situation, I behaved like usual and noted he was quiet. After weeks he shared it with me. He wasn't receiving a proper salary or profit from the company. But both directors used to give wages to the employees the earliest.. Whenever I got the salary I used to give him. He is short-tempered so I can't ask him or send to him. But he doesn't have an ego, so I used to give whenever he asked.

Soon we moved to the new office space, and the issue was unresolved. I felt down, because of Visualyze and I didn't demand anything from Rahul and agreed with everything he wanted to do. I just want him to be in comfort the way he wants. After being involved physically with Rahul, I caught a urinary infection and blood began to flow with urine and severe pain. I said to him, but he was like someone who was not concerned about anything. I think it's because of his pressure, so I ignored that. I went to the hospital and after reaching home I sent every medication and result details to him, and after days he asked the same about me, so I felt sad about his behavior towards me.

Meanwhile, my sister got a job in Kolkata and worked for about a year. She got another offer in the USA and they had called her to join. She demanded her marriage with her boyfriend at home. Everyone accepted, and the marriage was fixed. I invited Rahul to my sister's marriage. I went to a marriage with medicine for the urinary infection. Rahul came to the reception of my sister's wedding.

Rahul began to think I should go away from him, it might be because of the job issues. After days of silence, he told me to search for a new job and leave. I was not willing to go away from him. And one day he told me he was going to Pennukanals and would get married soon. He said he seeks tall, pretty, intelligent partners with good family support. I broke into pieces and wondered why he did not value my commitments. I tried to talk to him and convince him about my efforts. He was unwilling to hear it, so I decided not to live. Because he wanted me to be emotionally available for him, physically available for him and now saying don't want me. So I called him one day and gave him everything that belonged to him and existed with me, laptop, bag, ID card, insurance card, and headphones then I left for Kedarkanta Trekking.

We resolved our issues during my journey, but I didn't want to return. Meantime one of my relative's death occurred and I had to come back. We concluded and forgot and reset everything. I started working for Visualyze again.

Chapter 19 - Requirement to revert love

Rahul got a job, and he also maintained Visualyze works. After months, Visualyze officially shut down, but it is still operating. I got confidence that Rahul wouldn't go away from me, and we became closer and closer. He began to take me while going to the hospital, and we used to go to movies together, he invited me to his housewarming, and after that, he called me to his home to spend time with him. Things were going between us.

My grandmother didn't want to keep anything I purchased at that house, nor keep the house as I arranged. Right after the work-from-home started she improved her focus to me. Moreover, she is getting good coaching from the trusted committee. The trusted committee remains idle after my sister's marriage and is trying to do something with their prey, my grandmother. And things began to get worse than before. So I asked help to my mother to help me construct the second floor of my home. She rejected it immediately and said if I had any issues I should resolve them and giving money or gold to a person without a job was impossible. I felt devastated by her thoughts and decided to leave my house and get a rented house.

So I asked my Rahul for help, and he said to adjust, initially. Later he helped me to shift from my home. I started a job search and attended many interviews but haven't had any luck yet. But soon after that, I noticed changes in his behavior. I invited him to the rented house, but he was unwilling to come, also I felt like he was trying to get away from me. He again told me he wanted tall, pretty, and intelligent partners, so he was unwilling to keep me. He also said he has no issues with whether I will be with him as a sexual partner or not. He will surely find the right one. I stopped my job search, and my medications and am going to stop living for the final time.

It's intolerable for me because I am emotionally invested

Because without Rahul I'm nothing and I don't want anything.

So what is the relevance of my emotions and commitments?

Epilogue

If milk spoils, it turns into curd, which is more valuable than milk. If it deteriorates, it becomes cheese, which is even more beneficial than curd and milk. However, if cheese is not handled properly and spoils, it will lose value over time. Eventually, it becomes inedible, and should be thrown away.

Hardships and toxic people can transform into curd even without proper handling. The transformation is bold and able to handle situations better than milk. But if not maintained properly, again the curd transforms into cheese over time. Cheese can sustain the best in situations, only with proper handling. Otherwise, cheese deteriorates and becomes inedible and useless.

Even though I started losing the milk property in my childhood. The first time Aunt Sangeetha hit us with the first wave with the rift of my family, twisted and transformed me into curd. Somehow I handled the situation, found it valuable and tried to sustain it in curd. Again Aunt Sangeetha came with another wave, which was the love affair of my sister. It had deteriorated me into cheese.

I found cheese valuable and sustained my life as a cheese. And I saw the love in my life, My Rahul, I never expected that he would treat me this cruelly and leave me away one day. In addition to issues in my love life, the Sangeetha wave is hitting parallelly through my maternal grandmother. Disputes grew bigger and bigger at home, and I had to leave home. But I expected my Rahul would stand with me, as he helped with my shifting. Eventually, I understood that he wanted to discard me from his life. And I realized that the cheese had been damaged forever. So, there is no use in living a damaged life only in painful situations.