

## Zohra's Battle for Freedom

Zohra, a little girl born in the Darkan regime, suddenly gets to face the brutal world after she sees her father domestically abusing her mother.

"We don't have a life of our own. We're women," said her mother while crying.

"Mama, what is wrong? Why did Abba (Dad) hit you?" little Zohra asked.

Her mother remained silent. She did not want her daughter to know that her little innocent girl was going to get married to a man thrice her age.

Later that night, her mother decides to escape along with Zohra and her other three children. But luck wasn't on their side. They got caught, and her mother was beaten black and blue.

Zohra was forcefully married to a man, and on the wedding night, she had to face her worst nightmare. The stepwife, an old lady, was a sweet woman and tried her best to protect her from the clutches of the old man.

Zohra ran away from that place as well. And this time, she was successful. It was time that she took the reins of her life into her own hands.

Religion was a way to find hope and peace, but in her country, men used it as a weapon to overpower their women.

"You have to take care of your man. If you don't satisfy their needs, they will bring another wife," Zohra was tired of listening to this from her aunts and other ladies in the house.

She was just a child. Did women have no integrity? Were they baby-making machines?

Religion was the strongest weapon here, and God had abandoned them. Maybe he hadn't. He was waiting for her to make the first step.

The world had progressed so fast, but her own country, where she barely knew her own street, had become a hellish place. Not all people are bad, but not all people are good. But life had made her struggle so much.

She was going to change the world, and she wanted to. What really mattered was taking the first step. The first step was the most difficult one.

Life is a battlefield, and all the battles must be fought yourself.

Let's see what Zohra does in her life to fight her way to freedom.

Only time will tell.

Ayisha B.