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# Looking Through The Glass: THE CCA FAIR

By: Vishaka Rajani & Saamia Nanjiani

After a tiresome year of online schooling, the A2's finally came back to the campus and welcomed the batch of 2023 to the Lyceum's annual CCA Fair 2021. It was a marvelous opportunity for the new students to discover the different societies at the Lyceum. As the Batch of 2023 entered through the doors of 78 Clifton for the very first time, they were warmly welcomed by their seniors who were compassionately helping the students navigate the fair. They soon scattered around the campus eager to sign up for everything. The juniors were left in awe of the Lyceum's infamous turtle pond which was accompanied by the LyPaws and LySlam stall.



They instantly crowded around it, excited to play their "Guess the Animal" game. Everyone impatiently searched for Room 17 because of the awe-striking holographic illusion that the Lytech team had set up there while the library was turned into a miniature computer lab where Lytech carried out technical challenges.

The LyCourt stall was crowded with curious visitors who wanted to know what the fuss was all about and discovered that there was an elaborate murder mystery set up which was quite popular with the AS students.

As the juniors made their way downstairs to the back shed, the soothing sound of music captivated them as the talented members of LyTunes along with the Society Chairs of debate had a musical debate set up. Following through with the blissful music, the juniors went to see the interesting improv activity, jointly set up by Mathematika and LyTheatre.

There were many stalls that were still left to explore such as LyCorp, LyFilm, Lyterati, Lysias and the list goes on. Nevertheless, it was wonderful to see the campus full of life and laughter after a long time.



# Interview with a Lyceum alumna: Aleena Khan

By Susheeta Rani

## Q1. Why did you choose to attend The Lyceum?

### How was your experience?

For A Levels, I wanted to select an institute which was perfectly balanced between both academics and extracurricular activities, hence, Lyceum was my choice. My brother (a senior by a year) also opted for Lyceum and had a fulfilling experience, which further reassured me.

My experience certainly exceeded my expectations; excellent teachers for all subjects, the opportunity to study the unique subject of Thinking Skills that wasn't offered elsewhere along with a plethora of extra-curricular activities that taught me innumerable soft skills. Moreover, I made friends here whom I can count on for the rest of my life!



## Q2. Which factors pushed you to pursue medicine and how challenging was it getting into DOW University of Health Sciences?

The fact that both my parents are doctors was the biggest factor in opting for this career pathway. That exposure and motivation to serve people, had unconsciously made that decision for me very early on in my life.

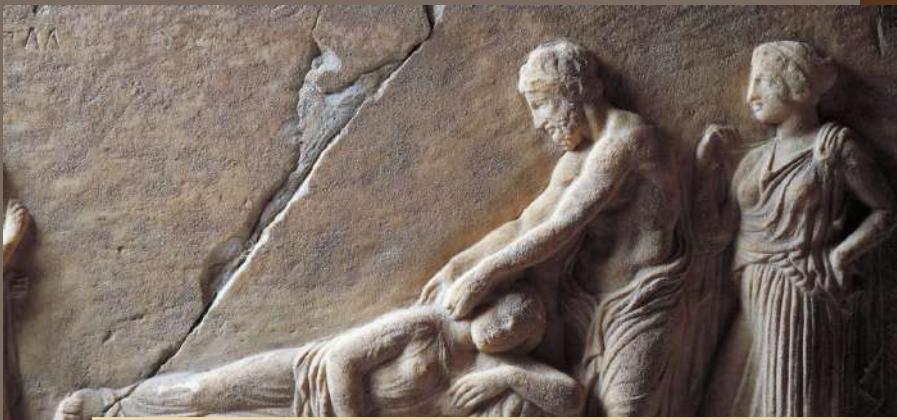
The entrance test was mainly based on the Sindh Board curriculum, which meant having to study an entirely different syllabus over a span of 2-3 months. Also, I failed to clear the entrance exam for Agha Khan University, stressing me out even further as I already had a lot of expectations for myself.

## Q3. What was the past year like? What difficulties did you face and how did they shape you as a person?

The past year for me has been all about change and transition. I got married, moved to a different city, started my Masters degree and had my first child, a baby girl.

In March 2020, I directly got sent to the 'COVID Field Isolation Centre' at Expo Centre in Karachi. My involvement there was mainly in the training and administrative side. Unfortunately, some doctors and non-medical HR I came across had very little motivation for their job and poor work ethic which was quite disheartening for me. Furthermore, Covid-19 was a newly emerging virus with very little information on it which further contributed to my diminishing willingness to work.

However, this surely enhanced my people skills and opened my eyes up to the realities of life, bursting the bubble that even I hadn't realised I was living in. It also taught me what kind of a doctor or medical professional one must never become like.



#### **Q4. How hard has it been managing work and a child?**

Luckily, my child was born during my summer break from university, so as of now I don't really have much experience in multi-tasking my responsibilities as a student and a mother. I have yet to see how I will manage them both in due time I guess.

#### **Q5. Based on your personal experiences, what is one piece of advice that you would like to relay to every student?**

Before I started Lyceum, everyone had told me that I should opt for Fsc knowing full well that I wanted to pursue medicine in Pakistan . My answer to that was, "I would rather choose the better system hands down because quality mattered more than the convenience of attaining admission easily."

In Lyceum, apart from the three compulsory Science and English general subjects, I chose to study Mathematics and Thinking Skills as well. Although I was heavily criticized after having a B in the subject in my first year, I continued to study it. For the first time in life, the learning I was getting out of the subject was more significant than the grade I was getting.

So to all the students, I would advise you to not think that education is only meant for attaining a professional degree or perhaps shaping a career or to generate an income. Study what you enjoy without caring about grades or any other gain aside from knowledge, personal growth and empowerment. In doing so with utter sincerity and honesty to oneself, everything else will follow along naturally.



***“They are not toys for you to play with”***

# *An Interview with the LyPaws Chair, Sasha Gehani*

By Ayesha Ameera Memon

**1) LyPaws recently collaborated with LyCourt for the animal moot court. What was your role in the event and what were you hoping to achieve through the collaboration?**

LyPaws handled the promotion and management of the event. Members volunteered to design posters for the event as well as to act as court bailiffs. As one myself, I had to ensure that the participants and judges were present at all times, and that everything was running smoothly. Our goal was animal advocacy. The case, which focused on dog culling, showed that there are animal rights laws in Pakistan but the flaw is in their implementation, due to which thousands of animals have to sacrifice their lives. We wanted to highlight that the only thing preventing horrific actions against these animals is awareness and education.

**2) Speaking of, if animals could speak, what do you think they'd say to humans?**

They would be cursing us. They would scream and shout against the torture and neglect that they go through. They would say that they are not toys, experimental equipment, or sources of mere entertainment; *“We have emotions too, we feel pain, sorrow, abandonment, and have empathy.”* They might ban us from earth, which they honestly should. Just look at the way we treat them. No one can ever feel the pain a donkey goes through when stacks are piled up on its malnourished and weak body...



**3) Keeping this in mind, what direction are you hoping to take LyPaws in this year? Do you have anything special planned?**

Our main goal is awareness and education; to foster empathy and compassion amongst people for animals. We want people to understand that, as these animals are not fortunate enough to speak in a language similar to ours and therefore are subject to harsh treatment, us humans have to protect them. Through awareness campaigns, trips to the WWF turtle conservation program and ACF animal rescue, as well as activities like turtle cleaning, bird feeding and donation drives, we aim to help LyPaws members experience helping animals in their immediate environment.

#### **4) Speaking of awareness, what are some things people could incorporate into their lives that would help animals?**

Firstly, educating themselves on how to take care of stray animals, whether injured or healthy. Supporting strays and giving them food is the kindest form of care one can show them. Secondly, if anyone sees any animal being harmed, they should be taken to a qualified vet, and then social media should be utilised to report this abuse. Thirdly, zoos and circuses should be avoided. Lastly, and I cannot stress this enough, buying of animals should be strictly avoided. We should instead support animal rescue shelters and give them donations to help them better care for the animals under their care.

#### **5) So lastly, on a lighter note, what's your spirit animal?**

I don't know why I have never given it that much of a thought but I guess a lioness. The way she walks with confidence but is also so compassionate. Basically I would say the entire cat family is my personality. The way they manage stuff, take charge and look bold (I'm working on that) really resonates with me. They love being loved but are not great at showing love and care, and that's totally me! They don't care about what others think. I mean I do, but sometimes it's better to let go. Their personality just speaks to me.



# *Lyceum goes legal: the girl behind it all*

## *The LyCourt Chair: Zara Zafriol Khan*

By Armane Haq

### **1) What inspired you to start Lycourt?**

I came up with the idea of a law society around March. I acted on my instinct and just wanted to start something different. My biggest inspiration was seeing that people, especially of my age, knew very little about the law and their rights. This was shocking to me as I expected them to be more aware keeping our privilege in mind. I realised that I needed to bridge the gap between the law and the people. The law applies to everyone and we have the right to know our rights. People are often intimidated by the law, which is why LyCourt gives them a platform where they can not only freely express themselves but also learn and apply their skills in an enjoyable holistic environment.



### **2) What is the most difficult part of being a society chair?**

When I first started off, being a society chair was overwhelming because I was learning alongside my new members as well. It gets difficult at times trying to balance society work with my academics. Especially in these unprecedented times, where you don't get to regularly connect and interact with your members which leaves you unaware of their strengths and weaknesses, affecting your ability to effectively lead. Communication is difficult as we plan to take part in competitions which are different from the norm and in order to effectively learn, we need to be comfortable with each other. So, I try my best to engage as much as possible with all the members. I would like to credit my friends, patron as well as my members as they have all been extremely supportive of me. They have helped to make this responsibility and position much easier and rewarding.

### **3) What advice would you give to students who want to start a society of their own?**

I would say take the initiative, just do it. I consulted my law teacher and now LyCourt patron, Ms Sabeen Mustafa as well as Ms Raheen Mani and the idea sprang to life within just a few days. I also discussed LyCourt with my closest friends to get a few other perspectives. If you have an idea, all you truly need is your determination and passion. However, be sure that you're planning something you actually have aspirations for and not only has a future but can also engage with people. Don't overthink it, have faith in your idea, believe in yourself and go for it.

**4) Are there any future activities that you have planned to conduct in the future?**

As of right now, we run our very own IGTV series, "The Stories Of The Voiceless", on our Instagram page for spreading awareness on commonly overlooked and dismissed societal topics. In the coming episodes, we plan to tackle certain crucial topics such as women's rights and sexual harassment at workplaces. We'll have one of our most exciting events to look forward to with the upcoming mock trial in the second term. I also hope I get the opportunity to organise a trip to the Sindh High Court for the members to spectate an actual trial while also getting to meet and learn from the barristers and attorneys present at the site. The trip would provide all of our members to gain a better understanding of how our legal and justice systems operate. In addition, LyCourt has plenty more collaborations and combined projects in the works with other Lyceum societies, much like the recent LyCourt X LyPaws Moot Court event, which turned out to be a great success.

**5) Why did you pick an animal rights case over a more traditionally exciting case like murder or theft for your first Moot Court?**

Animal rights are often not regarded or held to the same importance as other aspects of law. However, I believe that they are one of the most important areas of law. It is crucial to raise awareness regarding the rights of animals because if we stay silent, we take away the only voice they really have. I have always wanted to shed light on neglected topics, so I took the opportunity to make it the centre of discussion. I understand that criminal law can be very interesting (honestly, it's my favourite) but I realized that a discussion on animal rights puts you in a place to challenge your thoughts. It provides you with a wider range of learning which is exactly what we aimed to achieve with our first Moot Court.



# The Tokyo Olympic Games 2021

by Huda Rizwan

The Summer Olympic Games have taken the world by storm. Postponed from 2020 due to the pandemic, they are taking place behind closed doors in Tokyo.

Simone Biles is one of the world's most accomplished gymnasts, and yet she made a decision - previously unheard of - to step back from the Olympics to protect her mental health. However, she retook the stage and won a bronze medal. 13-year-old Japanese Momiji Nishiya became a gold medalist for women's skateboarding. The talented Neeraj Chopra became a gold medalist for javelin throw and even got praise from his Pakistani competitor, Arshad Nadeem, who tweeted in his support.

Bisma Khan, a Pakistani swimmer, managed to land the #7 spot. Arshad Nadeem, a Pakistani athlete specializing in javelin throw, landed the #5 spot, making all Pakistanis proud. However, many have criticized the government for not investing in the athlete's talent and claimed that if he had more support, he would have won a medal.

The criticism is not just national. The Olympics have globally garnered accusations of misogyny. Alice Dearing won't be allowed to wear a cap for her natural black hair. The Norwegian women's beach handball team was fined because their briefs were too long, while Olivia Breen was told her briefs were too short. This has sparked outrage all over social media.

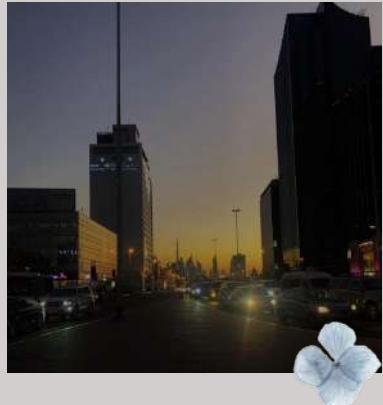
While the achievements of the athletes are commendable and bring pride to several nations, issues like the lack of inclusivity and government support threaten to overshadow what the games were truly meant to represent; a supremely equal platform to honor sports.



# Spotlight



@anasclicks



The camera is an instrument that teaches people how to see the world without a camera . Photography has always been my passion .I've always loved capturing scenic beauty .This is something I kept to myself till 2019. After being encouraged by my friends and family, I started this to share my shots to make people appreciate the beauty around them.My aim behind this page is to share scenic captures of different places I travel to so that the people who haven't been to those places can experience it too.

**@ssarahsnaps**

I just think that taking pictures helps you remember a specific day, or time in your life and looking at them brings back good memories and brings out a feeling of nostalgia. I take pictures and videos of my friends, family and places I've been and then I post them on my public account. I like to go through the account, when I miss my friends, and I know that my friends, or so I've been told, do the same. :)



**@cameradump\_22**

I started this page randomly because I enjoyed capturing photos.Not only this, but my friends also pushed me to start this page and I went ahead with it. Moreover, it gave me a platform to load photos that remind me of a specific moment and most importantly, it gave me joy.



## @sofyia.captures

I started taking pictures of moments I found beauty in from a very young age, but only recently have I realised the importance of photography. Pictures are a form of expression, which don't need any words, and they capture memories that remain frozen in time. Photography also reminds people of the magnificence of the world when photos are shared with them. This is the reason I decided to start my own photography account, which captures moments and places that were meaningful to me. I hope to inspire people to travel, find peace in our exquisite natural world, and admire historic architecture through the art of photography.



## @mya2journey\_\_



During the pandemic, while stuck indoors a realization came that despite not being able to go outside we can still see the sky outside and appreciate its beauty and nature. So I thought, "why not start an Instagram page where I can take random snaps of all the things in nature that are visible while being indoors?"

For this reason, my Instagram page mostly has pictures of the moon, clouds and sky since these are the beautiful parts of nature which connect us with the world during uncertain times. I hope that in time, these pictures taken from the windows and roof of my house will help us appreciate the miracles in nature and the power it has to refresh the mind in days good and bad alike.

# Humans Of Lyceum

## Zara Ellahi



I remember checking my email every day to see my letter of acceptance to my top A level school choice. When I got in, I was ecstatic! I had already mentally mapped out the next two years at my new home. Then, the pandemic hit and I had to spend an entire term at home, away from the beautiful campus. However, even in those months, the Lyceum community did everything to make the Class of 2022's experience as enjoyable and interactive as possible. Despite classes being online, I have had intellectual conversations with my peers in almost all of my subjects. The teachers are extremely helpful and kind. Although riddled with unfortunate circumstances, my experience thus far has been great. I can not wait for on-campus classes to resume!

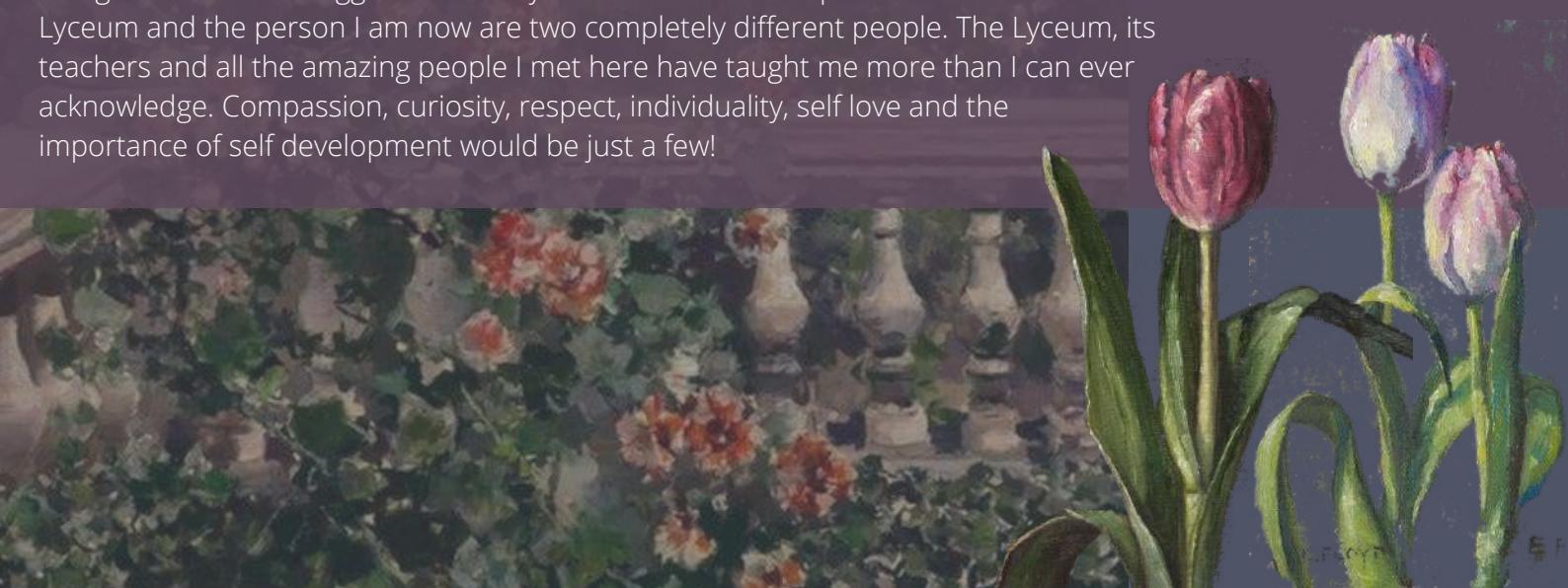
My advice to A1 students would be to get as involved as they can in the Lyceum, because due to remote learning this is the only way to branch out and interact with new people. It is very easy to feel overwhelmed in a new school especially under such circumstances, but do remember that everyone feels the same, and you are not alone. A levels may seem like an intimidating experience, especially since you have to start thinking about university and your future as well. My advice for you, which I wish that I had gotten one year ago, is to manage your time better and prioritize your studies for the next two years, and in my opinion The Lyceum is the best place to do so.

## Momina Sadullah

As someone who's always had trouble paying attention in classes, even physical ones, online learning could be called my worst nightmare. However, I realized it was a lot better than I expected. The teachers were extremely understanding and accommodating and never made you feel like a burden when asking for extra help.

The Lyceum serves as an excellent platform for us to showcase our talents through the wide range of CCAs they offer. Being a part of these societies has increased my creative potential and has played a role in creating indelible memories. During our time at the campus, we particularly enjoyed making tiktoks on the terrace between classes, gossiping with friends near the turtle pond and taking language classes in the AV room while eating snacks!!

It might feel like an exaggeration to say this but I believe the person I was before the Lyceum and the person I am now are two completely different people. The Lyceum, its teachers and all the amazing people I met here have taught me more than I can ever acknowledge. Compassion, curiosity, respect, individuality, self love and the importance of self development would be just a few!



# Ayesha Ameera Memon

I love how serene the campus is; it's my home away from home, despite the little time I got to spend there. Coming from a school with an expansive (and ancient) campus, I thought I would feel suffocated but my first step into the campus felt like a breath of fresh air. Everytime we have classes on campus, I try to reach before everyone else and go upto the terrace and just take in the view; it's a beautiful feeling. Lyceum was the fresh start I needed and ever since I made my first friend here (Hi Maryam) I knew that this is the place where I needed to be. It has such a tightly knit community that gives me a sense of comfort and belonging that I've never felt before. The love and care that I received from everyone here, while going through what was the hardest time of my life, reassured me of my decision to come here.

Some of my most cherished memories at Lyceum have been singing live for the first time ever at the CCA fair, taking down university teams at my first ever mock trial and Ms. Nida's infectious energy that somehow keeps me awake and engaged during 8 a.m psychology classes.

I studied in a convent school and we didn't have many extracurricular activities. I loved singing and I did theatre for five years at my old school and I love that I get to continue it at the Lyceum. My favourite society has to be Lysias, totally not sucking up, as I love every part of the process of putting out the newsletter, especially when I get to conduct interviews. I hate talking about myself though, so having the tables turned is daunting [stares awkwardly into the camera]. I work part-time as a freelance writer and I love reading and writing in my spare time. This year, I hope to perform some of my pieces as part of Lyslam.

I take five subjects so balancing it all can be a challenge, to say the least. My dream is to study law at Oxford, work at a non-profit legal clinic and then start my own firm when I'm older. I want my work to be impactful; I would hate to be another pencil-pushing corporate slave.



# Musab Kasbati: HIS EXPERIENCE WITH IMO

By Fahad Siddiqui

Musab Kasbati (Class of 2022) was chosen from The Lyceum to represent Pakistan in the International Math Olympiad (IMO), a competition in which more than 100 countries send teams of six students. Participants are ranked according to individual scores with medals given to the top-ranking competitors.



Initially, Musab had to pass a screening test for the National Science Talent Contest (NSTC), which filtered out the top 52 participants among 1200 in the country. The chosen participants were required to attend a one-week training camp in Lahore, followed by a test at the end of the week. After the test, 19 students were selected from a pool of 52 for the Asian Pacific Math Olympiad (APMO). Based on the results, 6 of the 19 students went on to compete in the finals in Lahore, where Musab took first place in Pakistan.

Musab, a math enthusiast, wanted to push his limits creatively and experiment with math problems, on a global scale. Considering the benefits of IMO, he believed it would be a really useful co-curricular that would also greatly impact his university admissions. When asked about this event, he said "It's an experience I will cherish for many years to come. I met so many amazing people and together we shared in exploring the artistic beauty of maths, without any well proven formulas to guide us on our voyage".



# Bashir Bhai:

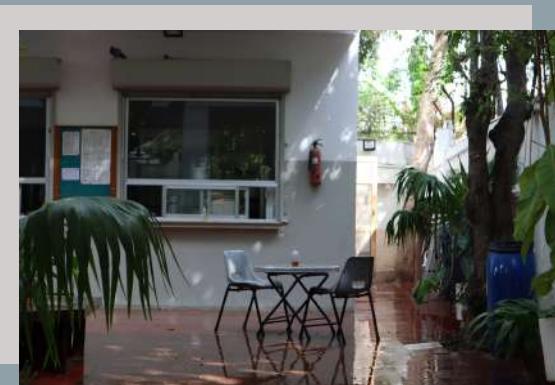
## THE MAN BEHIND THE MAGICAL FRIES AND CANTEEN KA KHANA

By Waniya Chughtai & Suhaima Jawad



"Lyceum is what you make of it," is how Aamna Noor Aslam, from the Class of 2018, puts it. Walking into the Lyceum building, these words did not hold a lot of weight, because we were still new it; to the school. As we approached the canteen, setting eyes upon it for the first -but certainly not for the last- time, for what was supposed to be a simple interview, we were pleasantly surprised with what we saw.

A homely atmosphere, exuding tranquility and warmth, and there, Bashir Bhai, a man who can be described as nothing short of the comfort person for every Lyceum student. He welcomed us with plates of his famous chow mein and tempura chicken, as well as a smile that made us feel immediately at home.



Sitting down with him under the big Lyceum tree, a spot loved by many students to enjoy their food and meet up with friends, we began our interview, asking him his first question,

***"What did you do before working at The Lyceum?"***

*"I worked as the chef at Hotel Taj Mahal, and finally started working on my own in 1992, in the food business, and I worked in a lot of schools such as Indus Valley, Southshore, Cedar, and even had my Dhaba at Tariq Road. But working at The Lyceum has been the job I have been most committed to since I started in 2000."*

Having spent more than 20 years in The Lyceum it has become clear that in that time- Bashir Bhai has won the hearts of the administration and the students!

The support and appreciation he received from the lyceum community once he launched Canteen Ka Khana, and throughout his years working here, has time and time again proven to

him that he is part of the Lyceum family and that they will always have his back. Sir Shahriar and Mrs. Ahmed have a great deal of respect and admiration for the entire Lyceum staff and this was something that Bashir Bhai elaborated time and time again, when asked about how he felt in the Lyceum atmosphere.

When we asked Bashir Bhai his favourite part about working at the Lyceum, without hesitancy he responded- "Bachay". It is difficult to keep a family of five happy, yet Bashir Bhai manages to do it for the entire Lyceum Community of over 800 people. We knew by then that The Lyceum's ideals of respect, compassion, accountability, and honesty resonated not only among graduates we interviewed so far, but also among Bashir bhai and the entire staff.

2020 presented to Bashir Bhai with problems and worries that he had never anticipated. The spread of COVID-19, and the resulting lockdown, meant that like all other schools, Lyceum was also shut down, putting Bashir Bhai out of work. While he was convinced that this would be the end of his work for the foreseeable future, a chance meeting with a few alumnae, Maha Rehman, Bismah Qureshi, Sunaina Atif, and Aamna Noor Aslam, turned this around.

The alumnae's persuasive skills convinced an anxious Bashir Bhai to partake in something he had never done before- online food delivery. With the united efforts and using their strengths, the alumnae overcame all problems they faced during the process, with Sir Shariar providing constant guidance. He also proposed Lyceum's kitchen and all initial financial support for the business. Other alumni did not step back either when they found out about this business. Such as Alizeh Kazmi, an alumnus who helped with the designing of the logo. Noticing Bashir Bhai's hesitancy with technology, they hired and trained Ahsan, who took the burden off his shoulders by taking over the technical department.

As we were wrapping up our interview, we finally figured out what Amna meant, it was the connections, the people and definitely Bashir Bhai's food which made Lyceum, The Lyceum.

*"You do not belong to Lyceum, Lyceum belongs to you"*  
-an anonymous Lyceum student.



# Volunteering at The Orange Tree Foundation

By Arham Siddiqui

The onset of the coronavirus brought many small Not-For Profits to a staggering halt. However, much like all other things, the memories people made from these experiences leave an everlasting impact. Today, we sit down with The Batch of 2022's Lyslam co-chair, Safiah Farhan Khatri, to learn more about her great times working at The Orange Tree Foundation, which is an organisation working in Karachi that showcases small businesses from all around the city.

**1) How long have you been a volunteer for The Orange tree Foundation, and how would you describe your time there?**

I have volunteered there since 2017, so it has been almost five years! If I were to describe my time there in one word, I would say empowering because you are surrounded with a company of such intellectual and strong willed individuals who inspire you to join in their drive, to work hard and bring a positive and impactful change to this country.

**2) How did you find out about the Foundation, and what made you keep working for them as long as you did?**

I found about it through my friend, and my first time volunteering for them was during a fundraiser - and because it was my first, it holds many special memories. After that, I learned more about what Orange Tree stood for, what their purpose is (to provide educational opportunities, especially for those who are financially constrained), what they have achieved and what they hope to achieve and it rooted deep within me because I believe, access to quality and mainstream education is a basic human right. This stood out for me and made me want to continue working with them.

**3) What was the most exciting and significant memory you have of that environment?**

As a part of an Orange Tree festival, that aimed to raise awareness and money for the cause, my friends and I kept a baking stall, in it specifically was a "design your own cupcake" bar where you could choose various icings, designs, toppings and unsurprisingly, it happened to be a favorite amongst the children. By the end of the day, our clothes were covered in vanilla frosting and it was so messy but so much fun! And the smiles, the "promise just one more" and knowing that this was for a great cause made it all worth it.



**4) What is a life lesson or skill that you learned from volunteering for this not-for-profit?**

I believe it allowed me to open my mind to the many facets of inequalities that exist within our society and this in turn, has forced me to come out of my own box, acknowledge and challenge the various forms of injustice that prevent the children of Pakistan in getting the education that they deserve. In turn, it has made me more grateful because I value the ability to go to school, to learn a lot more now and it has made want to keep learning and growing.

**5) Finally, how do you think organizations like The Orange Tree Foundation can continue to reach their goal of education equality amid a pandemic?**

The pandemic had brought many challenges and it hasn't been easy adjusting to such a change. However, Orange Tree has continued to reach their goals by partnering with various companies such as Eva Cooling Oil, Ehsan Trust, KFC and educational institutes such as NUST who have sponsored students for scholarships programs. Moreover, through interactive live sessions over Facebook and Zoom, Orange Tree continue to further their aspirations. Consequently, I believe that such organisations should partner with likeminded organisations to create positive synergies during pandemic and thus creating a greater impact. Also, by using online medium we reduce risk of spreading Covid and are able to reach a much larger audience.

# TV Series Reviews!

## Comedy-Drama: NEVER HAVE I EVER

By Hanna Farhan

The following show is a teen comedy about a 15-year-old Indian girl, Devi, navigating high school, grief, and her mom's traditional Indian values. It's a classic teen comedy. The real question is: How does it compare to all the other high school shows available? At its heart, "Never Have I Ever" is as much a story of loss as it is growing up. Season 1 was primarily focused on Devi's grief over her father's death and how she subsumed that in her attempt to get on Paxton's radar. Devi's love triangle, too, feels much more steadily drawn, with the grasping teen first two-timing the boys, then inevitably having the whole thing blow up in her face. But Devi soon discovers that in trying to ignore her trauma, she puts herself out there enough to gain a smidge of popularity — not enough for people to actually look up when she enters a room, but enough that both Paxton and Ben see her as a viable dating option. Devi's problems are not solved by a long shot. Season 2 continues to bring that perfect blend of heart and humor with a little sting underlying everything. The arrival of a new Indian girl named Aneesa causes Devi to make some incredibly bad decisions such as disclosing a secret from Aneesa's past. Much of this is spurned by jealousy over Aneesa's closeness to Ben. The series is fairly successful at showing us familial love, and at evoking grief.



## Drama-Romance: SANDITON

By Aleena Allawala



Everybody has heard of "Bridgerton", the show that took the world by storm and gave us a taste of the olden days in England. From the balls, to the dresses and the drama, this show had it all and kept everyone entrapped. But have any of you heard of "Sanditon"? It takes place in the same era, away from the

London ballroom, but not away from the drama. Based on Jane Austen's unfinished novel, Sanditon centers around the story of Ms. Charlotte Heywood. A young, intelligent and intriguing character. We follow her as she visits Sanditon a beach town, as the guest of the Parkers. We see the trials she faces in town being a girl from a modest family and a small village and the adventures and situations she encounters and the relationships she cultivates, particularly with Mr. Sidney Parker. A tall, dark, sarcastic and moody character. Moody being the key word. We follow Charlotte and Sidney's angst filled encounters as they evolve from hate and

disagreements to compassion and affection. From gossiping women, to espionage, love triangles, buildings being burned down and wild teenage wards, Sanditon is everything Bridgerton wishes it could be. With a second season coming soon Sanditon is something I highly recommend anyone with a love for the regency era and drama to watch. It is a story which will have you wishing that you could live near the beach and be a heroine surrounded by the glamour, glitz and adventure of the show.

# *Superhero fiction-Sitcom: WANDAVISION*

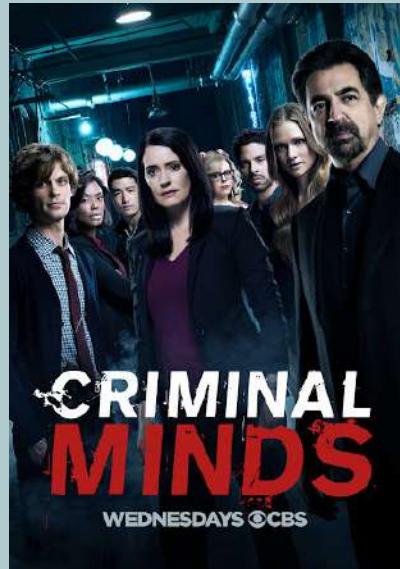
By Alisha Ghayas

Released after a year of no MCU content due to Covid-19, the show took the fandom, and it's safe to say the world, by storm. The series was the first of its kind in every aspect: a show about a superhero dealing with sorrow by creating her own false life based on sitcoms of different decades. One of the many praiseworthy aspects of the show is its production. The flawless depiction of the different decades, ranging from the 50s to the 00s, is captivating to say the least. The costuming, hair and makeup, locations and cinematography captured the true essence of the show's inspirations (sitcoms like The Dick Van Dyke Show, I Love Lucy, Bewitched and Modern Family), while seamlessly threading it along with what the actual genre of the show was: superhero fiction. No show can be a masterpiece without the actors and the writers, who truly deliver the emotions that drive the plot to the audience. Elizabeth Olsen and Paul Bettany's chemistry as a suburban couple with a secret to hide, and as two heroes separated by fate (a cheesier way to say they were in love, and he died) is remarkable. However despite all its winning qualities, the show wasn't well received by some. The expectations of grand crossovers, introductions and revelations, made it difficult to just sit back and enjoy the wonderfully crafted story that focused on just its protagonist as she navigated through the loss of a loved one, her identity and depression. It was a joy to see something so refreshing from Marvel, which amassed several more fans, launched Phase 4 with a bang, and hyped up its viewers for what Doctor Strange: Multiverse of Madness has in store for us.



# *Crime-Mystery: Criminal Minds*

By Rania Masood



Criminal minds is a television series that revolves around a department of the FBI known as the behavioral analysis unit (BAU). What makes this show unique is the psychological approach towards solving crime. It shows the lives and tribulations of the most successful team in the BAU. These six individuals share an indescribable bond and work together in a fascinating, almost mesmerizing manner. In every single episode, the team tackles a new case, each more riveting than the next. Though fiction, the crimes go a long way in spreading awareness and making one more cautious about their surroundings. It almost makes you feel like a detective yourself, solving who ate the last piece of cake and what behavioural traits may indicate it. The diversity of the show is also quite inspirational as it is inclusive of crimes committed by people facing mental health disorders such as bipolar personality disorder. It also does an excellent job at raising awareness of discrimination and racism in both, the workplace and life in general. The series ended recently, in February of 2020. The ending of this legendary series had quite a backlash, with thousands of disheartened fans demanding a revival of the show.

# Pakistan's First Taste of Dodgem' Cars, Coned Ice-creams, and an Original Air-plane Cinema

Jabees Funland, the first of a chain of amusement parks in Pakistan, had its grand opening ceremony in 1976; after a decade of intricate planning and relentless hard work being put into its development. Situated near the Clifton beach, it offered an experience closest to that of a boardwalk. Moreover, the park was home to many imported rides, providing world class entertainment at a feasible price for Pakistan's multi-class families. Being a novel idea of its day and age, it won the hearts of thrill-seeking Karachiites and in no time became a bustling tourist attraction.

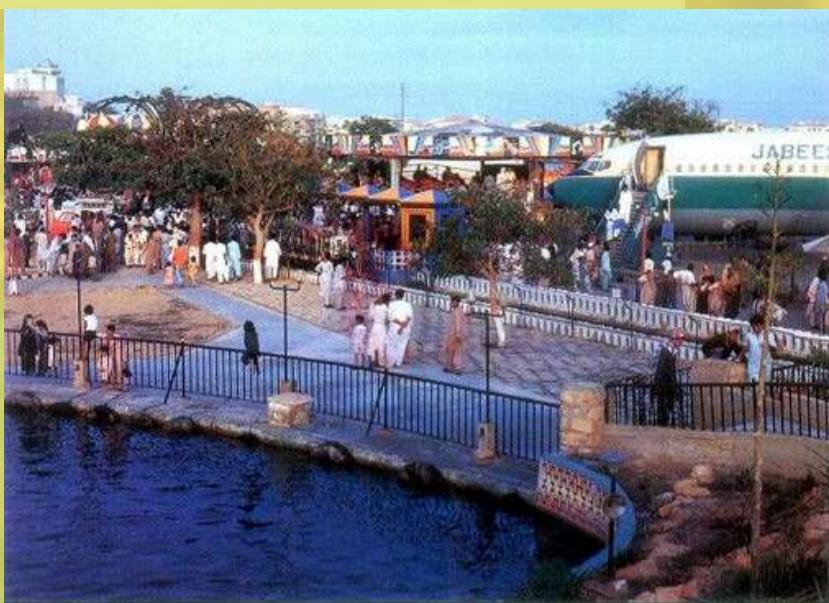
One of the loyal visitors of the old Funland recalled 'singing Funland's catchy advertisement song on the way to the park as a child'. The renowned park catered to the demands of adults



By Laiba Rehman

and children alike, providing them an escape from their monotonous daily routines. A section of the park was designated to mini-rides and arcade games for children; while for the thrill-seekers there were rides ranging from the all-time-favourite dodgem' cars, to the 'Hully Gully' [a fast paced merry go round ], with the classic rollercoaster in between.

Typical of any amusement park, it offered coned ice creams, popcorn and 'makai'. The blend of the salty breeze with the aroma of melted sugar meandering through the heavy crowd created a truly iconic experience.



Unlike the other amusement parks of Pakistan, Funland showcased a historically significant artifact- the PIA 720 Boeing AKA the 'Zakhmi Parinda'. As the name suggests, it had experienced a dark and daunting past and was no longer fit to be used. Hence, the plane was modified to best suit the criteria of wholesome family entertainment with its setting being renewed and a cinematic TV being installed, to feign a plane-ride experience. Just before leaving the park, families would make sure to take a 'ride' on this grounded plane.

Regrettably, in 2005 the park had to be shifted to a corner; however, it resiliently made its way back into the people's hearts.

# Solar Power

## Or Is It All Wind?

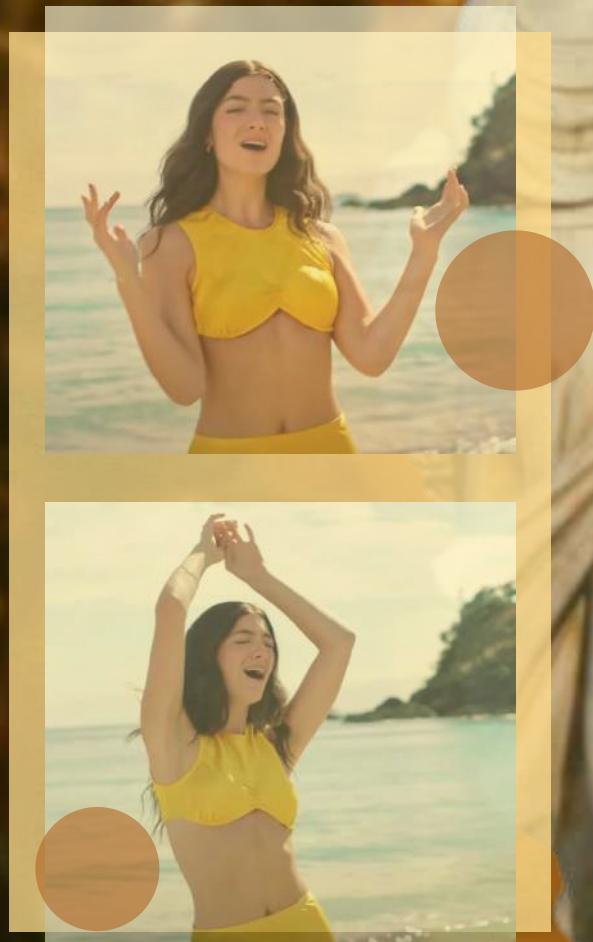
By Huda Rizwan



As always, Lorde's inspiration has been her own experiences and the singer has had some happy ones recently, gravitating towards nature. She sings about her admiration for Mother Nature without sugarcoating the brutal and irreversible realities in "Fallen Fruit" and "Leader of a New Regime". Grief is not absent with tracks like "Big Star", which is about the passing of her dog. A recurring theme is her growth over the years in tracks like "California", "Stoned at the Nail Salon", "Secrets from a Girl (Who's Seen it All)" and "Oceanic Feeling" (a whimsical closing song, I must say).

Solar Power is a cohesive album, utilizing organic production and allowing the listeners to experience intimacy through music. There are new nuggets of wisdom to be found with every listen. Yet another album by Lorde that has struck gold.

When everything seemed moody and dull, Lorde, a singer-songwriter from New Zealand, released her single "Solar Power" and turned the tables. A contrast from her preceding melancholic album, "Melodrama", Lorde chose to appreciate the simple pleasures of life: beaches, boys, pictures, (canceling) plans. Then came "Stoned at the Nail Salon"; the autumn to Solar Power's summer. Lorde lets her worries breathe and sings about growing out of your past self, beauty fading and the circularity of time. The last single before the album's release was "Mood Ring" which is a satirical take on the parallels between our time and the 60s - burning sage, keeping crystals, reading tarot cards and horoscopes.



# *Songs for a Night Under The Stars*

By Alina Tharani and Laiba Irfan

- Stargazing - The Neighbourhood
- IN A DREAM - Troye Sivan
- City Of Stars - Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone
- Moonlight - Chase Atlantic
- Astronomy - Conan Gray
- Let's Fall in Love for the Night - FINNEAS
- Waqt ki Baatein - Dream note
- Do hi raste hain - Mehdi Aloof
- Dil Pareshan Hai - Sajjad Ali, Suman
- Aatish - Shuja Haider, Aima Baig
- Ram Pam - Zoe Viccaji, Shahab Hussain
- Qaafirana - Arijit Singh, Nikhita Gandhi
- Mishri - Anuv Jain



# Kings Cross

By: Kiran Adnan

The frigid winter wind whipped across my face, and I snuggled deeper into my woolen coat. Sitting on a bench at the train station, a cup of coffee warming my hands, I waited for my train to arrive. The area was dim and cold. Empty food wrappers littered the floor and the rail track, now rusty with age. A few beggars sat around the area, glad for a spare penny and the shelter that the station provided.

Every time a loud whistle would announce the arrival of an oncoming train, there would be a surge of people from both sides of the tracks. The tired faces of passengers, glad to return home, or finally leave for their destination, and the anxious faces of their relatives, wondering what was keeping them. As soon as they saw their loved ones, they would rush to one another, and the loud chatter and hearty laughter would begin.

As the train began to leave, the crowd would thin out. The only evidence of the hustle and bustle would be a few echoing footsteps in the distance, as they returned home, reunited. Then, yet again, the silence would once again be shattered by the rattling and roaring of an oncoming train. As the doors of the train opened, I saw an old man waiting patiently on the steps of the train, searching the gathering crowd. His eyes suddenly lit up, and he hurried off the train despite the pain it was very evidently causing him. He rushed to two laughing children and showered the tops of their heads with kisses. He smiled at the young woman who stood beside them, presumably his daughter. As his attention returned to his grandchildren, his expression turned from the original glee,

to a look of pure contentment and peace. Another man got off the train. Unlike the other commuters, his whole demeanor shouted weariness. He shared none of the joy or eagerness the other passengers showed. He wore a crumpled suit, and his hands held the remains of a fast food dinner. His hair was disheveled as he made his way through the crowd. Instead of being greeted by an enthusiastic family, he stopped before a driver bearing a plastic card. Compared to the joy surrounding them, their greeting looked cold and detached.

The warning bell sounded once more, signaling the departure of another train. My train. And yet, I lingered. The train started to move, slowly at first, a giant beast, awoken from its slumber. It began to gain speed, screeching and roaring, and leaving behind a trail of sparks. Allowing my train ticket to be lost in the wind, I made my way home.

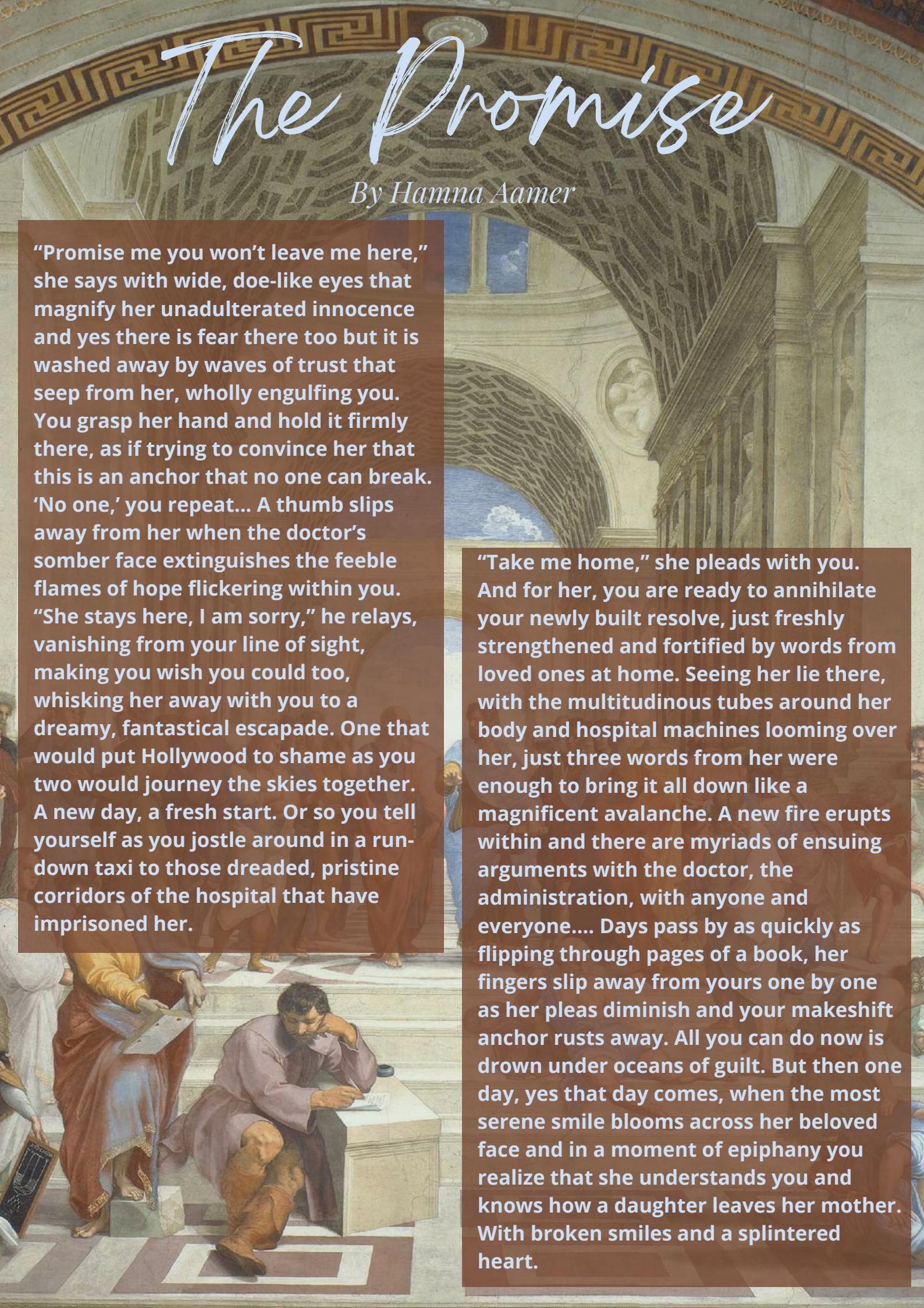


# The Promise

By Hamna Aamer

"Promise me you won't leave me here," she says with wide, doe-like eyes that magnify her unadulterated innocence and yes there is fear there too but it is washed away by waves of trust that seep from her, wholly engulfing you. You grasp her hand and hold it firmly there, as if trying to convince her that this is an anchor that no one can break. 'No one,' you repeat... A thumb slips away from her when the doctor's somber face extinguishes the feeble flames of hope flickering within you. "She stays here, I am sorry," he relays, vanishing from your line of sight, making you wish you could too, whisking her away with you to a dreamy, fantastical escapade. One that would put Hollywood to shame as you two would journey the skies together. A new day, a fresh start. Or so you tell yourself as you jostle around in a rundown taxi to those dreaded, pristine corridors of the hospital that have imprisoned her.

"Take me home," she pleads with you. And for her, you are ready to annihilate your newly built resolve, just freshly strengthened and fortified by words from loved ones at home. Seeing her lie there, with the multitudinous tubes around her body and hospital machines looming over her, just three words from her were enough to bring it all down like a magnificent avalanche. A new fire erupts within and there are myriads of ensuing arguments with the doctor, the administration, with anyone and everyone.... Days pass by as quickly as flipping through pages of a book, her fingers slip away from yours one by one as her pleas diminish and your makeshift anchor rusts away. All you can do now is drown under oceans of guilt. But then one day, yes that day comes, when the most serene smile blooms across her beloved face and in a moment of epiphany you realize that she understands you and knows how a daughter leaves her mother. With broken smiles and a splintered heart.



# i am my mother's daughter.

By Maryam Malik

i am five and the world is mine.

your eyes sparkle when i tell you i did well at school. you tell me to dream high. dreams even the moon daren't dream. your voice comes alive when you say.

*mehnat karo, meri jaan, kaam aayegi.*

your smile is one of pride when i tell you i want to be just like my *mama*. and i laugh as you tickle my sides and you kiss my forehead and you envelope me in your warmth,  
and i sigh contentedly.

there is no better place on earth.

i am my mother's daughter.

i am eleven and the world is not my friend anymore.

i tell you i am ready to spread my wings. to soar above the pale blue sky.  
i want to go play cricket in the gali with usman and ahmed. i want to go the *masjid* with *baba*.

you tell me to colour by the window. i am angry. why can my brothers roam the streets and while i am trapped in this castle. why won't you let me go outside.

you shout at me as i put on my shoes and slip away. your screams follow me down the street. i hear words like *dheet* and *behiss* and the boys say they won't let me play anymore.

the earth mocks and i cry and i run back inside and you wipe my tears and you tell me it is not my fault.

your voice trembles with anger because it is so unfair but it is just how the world works.

the girls must be inside.

i soak in your familiar scent and i comfort myself because at least *mama* is on my side.

i can win every war.

i am my mother's daughter.

i am eighteen and the world is my poison.

i am so tired of every battle i fight alone. my shoulders ache and my heart is weary.

there is an ocean between us and shore seems so far away.

i can't remember the last time i told you i loved you.

that day you almost said "*kaash, tum meri beti na hoti.*"  
everyday the walls of this castle suffocate me a little more.  
there are too many wars and you stopped fighting a long time ago.  
i want to yell and cry and kick at the world that has broken us. a world that  
punishes you and me for breathing. for daring to exist as women.  
my dreams are nothing more than figments of my imagination now. little  
pieces of twinkling stars in the dark midnight sky. i look at them for hours  
everyday and i reach out my hands but they are never near enough.  
but today i could breathe a little easier.  
i cooked you an apple pie and you smiled at me again and the world didn't  
seem so bleak anymore.  
and i said *mai darti hun* and you held my hands in yours and you said *mai*  
*tumhare sath hun, meri beti. meri pyari beti.*  
and i haven't reached shore yet but i know i am not swimming alone.  
i am still my mother's daughter.

