

**Our First Story**

In a hot high noon of summer, Shadi's cat, whose name was Mimi, went out of the door of the yard to the street. Shadi while she was eating watermelon and watching the yard through the window saw it and called him for several times but Mimi didn't hear her voice and didn't see her either. Shadi went downstairs and opened the door of the yard. As she went to the street, she saw a girl playing with Mimi. When Mimi saw Shadi ran towards her in a speedy way. Having hugged Mimi, Shadi went to greet that girl and thanked her. That girl, whose name was Shakiba, made friends with Shadi. Both of them with Mimi went to the yard of Shadi's house for playing. Shadi, Shakiba and Mimi became good friends and they decided to meet each other for playing.

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**Our Second Story**

Shakiba after getting acquainted with Shadi and playing with her and Mimi thanked Shadi and went to their own house. The house of Shakiba's family is located in a big apartment. Shakiba and her brother, that's to say Pedram, usually go to the yard for playing. In the yard, they play with their friends. Shakiba is 14 years old and she wants to become a skillful cook when she grows up because her mother is a cook too and she works in a restaurant. Shakiba's father got a divorce from her mother and he is married again. Shakiba and Pedram are living with their own mother and they have a very happy life, however, Shakiba would like to live with her parents but she is so smart and she can cope with life difficulties. Shakiba sometimes meets her father and her father during visiting her talks with Shakiba and he buys her some gifts. Shakiba loves her parents and her brother and she knows that she should love them as what they are.

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**Our Third Story**

Shakiba had gone to the street supermarket to buy an ice-cream, but she suddenly found out that she had left the money at home. Then she wanted to return home to take money, but she again figured out that she had left the keys too. Shakiba become very sad because Pedram and her mother weren't inside the house and she had left the house without her mother's permission. At that time, she saw Shadi and her mother as they were going to the store. Shadi saw Shakiba and went towards her happily. Shakiba explained the story for her and Shadi told it to her mother. Shadi's mother bought 2 delicious chocolate ice creams for Shakiba and her daughter and after shopping safely took both of them home. Shakiba and Shadi played with each other all the afternoon. When Shakiba's mother returned home, Shakiba saw her in the alley. She explained the story for her mother. Shakiba's mother thanked Shadi and her mother and she decided to invite them to her house for dinner the

following day. This way, their friendship was then taken to another level, that's to say a family-like one.

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### **Our Fourth Story**

Shakiba would like to do her own favourite sports this summer unlike the last one. Shakiba loves various sports but amongst them, she very likes tennis but she cannot afford its classes because of its high cost. In one hot day of summer, Shakiba was thinking about her own favourite sport, that's to say tennis, that she suddenly saw an AD of a tennis club. On the AD, this text was written that 'interested and talented children would be accepted on a free-of-charge basis'. Having seen that AD, Shakiba became very happy and took that piece of paper from the yard to show it to her brother, Pedram. Pedram got so happy too and they decided to go with their own mother to that tennis club for testing session. Shakiba all the night of that day dreamt about tennis and saw that she was not selected.

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### **Our Fifth Story**

Pedram was cycling when he found that a child was crying. Pedram went near the voice and saw a boy sitting next to a flower pot wiping his tears. Pedram went to him and sat next to him. Pedram asked why he was crying and that boy, whose name was Ashkan, said that others would call him sissy because unlike the most of boys who would like playing football and cycling he would like playing with dolls. Ashkan, since his childhood, has more liked to play with girls and has even been wearing girls' dresses at the age of 3. Ashkan's parents have taken him to a psychiatrist and the doctor has said that he was normal but just different. They had also said that Ashkan's case had even been observed in other animal species. Pedram provided him with a few words of consolation and said that he had already had another friend like him. Pedram said to Ashkan that a lot of other boys and girls were born this way and would share the same feelings and they had usually been very clever kids. By the way, Pedram said that one of his sister's pals, whose name was Kajal, was very much like boys. Ashkan, because of this fact that Pedram could understand him and also due to this fact that lots of other children had been born this way, became very happy and made friends with Pedram.

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### **Our Sixth Story**

Goli and Tala are both children of the caretaker of the building in which Shadi lives. They are immigrants and they have come to Iran with their parents from Afghanistan since five years ago and this place is one of the several apartments for which they have been working as

caretakers. They have had a very hard life over the couple of last years. Shadi was once walking in the yard that she saw Goli and Tala helping their father. Goli would very like to play with Shadi but their father wouldn't permit because he was afraid of this fact that children's affairs might affect his job. Shadi felt Goli's interest and went near to her. Goli came forwards too and both children began speaking with one another. Goli said to Shadi that she was so much interested in painting and also she would like to become a poet as she would grow up and she would be reading her own poems for others then. Shadi said that she was interested in poetry too. At that time, Tala came to them and became friends with Shadi too. Shadi during speaking with them realized that they were speaking in a very strange way but immediately thought to herself that her way of speaking might also sound strange to them, therefore she forgot the matter.

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### **Our Seventh Story**

Shakiba and her mother were watching the family album. Shakiba's mother showed a picture of her grandfather who was laughing and said to Shakiba that when your grandfather was younger, he used to laugh a lot. As Shakiba heard this sentence, she said to her mother that 'who knows how many times his grandfather has laughed in his life?' and asked this question from her mother. Shakiba's mother said that she didn't know and they should ask this question from him. Shakiba decided to call her grandfather. That day's afternoon, Shakiba called her own grandpa and asked such a question. Her grandpa did not even know what laughing would include or whether smiling might be laughing or not. But he said that he might have been able to calculate the number of his laughter approximately and it would be carried out by multiplying the number of times he would laugh a day and the total days of his life by that time. Shakiba tried to calculate the answer of her own question but finally failed to ensure that the calculated number was true. She, at last, concluded that we might not be able to know many things definitively in this life.

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### **Our Eighth Story**

Ashkan is a really smart boy. A part from Farsi, he is also fluent in both English and German languages and he is very good at mathematics and chess. Ashkan at that day had devoted all his time to this question that 'Where are the numbers?' or 'How to meet number 1, for example?' or 'Where to find a circle in the real world?'. Ashkan asked this question from his mother, but the mother had no answer for that. Ashkan finally decided to go onto the internet in order to do some searches about the existence of numbers. He found some articles about the philosophy of mathematics, but their language was so difficult therefore he couldn't understand them and became very sad. Ashkan decided to think about it on his own and wanted to see if he could find his answers, so he began thinking about it. Ashkan

knew that as long as there were no intelligent creatures like human beings on the earth, thinking about the numbers would be impossible. So, the existence of numbers would hinge upon man's existence and also this fact that the mankind could think by means of his brain that would make thinking possible. Therefore, the numbers and the ultimately perfect geometrical shapes would be existing on Ashkan's own mind.

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### **Our Ninth Story**

When the electricity power cut off and the whole building got dark suddenly, Tala became sad because he was watching his own favourite TV programme. His father wanted Tala to check the fuse box because other buildings had electricity and theirs was the only building that was dark. Tala lit up a candle and went down the stairs. Tala hoped that the problem to be from the fuse box so that he would be able to continue to watch the program as soon as possible. Tala was to go downstairs as fast as possible to reach the fuse box. But as the stairs were dark, he couldn't know where he was exactly or whether he had reached the ground floor or not?! Tala felt that the way had become very long and at that time a very terrifying sound made him shocked and that sound was the sound of building's heating system. Tala realized that he had gone down two more floors and wanted to come back very quickly that he fell down and the candle went out. Tala was afraid of darkness and got himself reached the steps when suddenly the lights got on again. Tala's father had himself Okayed the fuse box and Tala went to his father and got home together. While Tala was removing dust out of his clothes, Goli was trying to fix the TV by beating it to turn it on again.

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### **Our Tenth Story**

Mimi was playing on the edge of balcony and the sounds of birds were being heard from faraway. The sun was in the middle of the sky and it was going to be a very hot day. Mimi had gone to the corner of balcony in order to not being under the sunlight for not getting sunstroke. A bird sat at the edge of the fence and began looking at Mimi. As Mimi was very bored, he did not pay any attention to that bird. But that bird with its continuous body's shakes excited Mimi for playing again. Mimi stood up and curiously approached that bird. Therefore, he stepped near the fences and began walking in a smooth way. The bird didn't pay any attention to Mimi anymore and it was cleaning upper and down parts of its dusty wings. Mimi tried to cross the fence line and had himself closer to the bird to grab it by bouncing on it, but he suddenly fell down that time. Shadi, after reviewing this better memory after several times, wiped her own tears by the palm of her hands and quietly asked her own mother who was reading a book that 'Where has Mimi gone after death?!

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**Our Eleventh Story**

Ashkan was painting when his parents came back from the hospital. His sister had returned home with them very sad too. Ever since she has restarted chemotherapy, her mood has changed again. She has nausea all the time and does not have much patience for others. Atoosa is Ashkan's 15-year-old sister. She was diagnosed with leukemia three years ago and she was said by doctors that she would not be alive for a long period. Since then, Atoosa has been hospitalised once in a while and occasionally has been there for weeks. Atoosa is a very beautiful girl, but as she has lost her own hair after chemotherapy, she has been very sad. She wishes that she was a boy so that she could still be nice without hair. Ashkan neared his sister and took her bag. Atoosa got happy because of meeting Ashkan and wanted to see his painting. Ashkan promised to show his painting to her as soon as it was finished. In the evening, Atoosa did wake up on her bed and as she looked at the front wall, she saw Ashkan's painting attached on the wall in which all the people of the world were happy and of course hairless.

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**Our Twelfth Story**

Alborz, over the last month, has been rubbing his eyes over and over again to make sure that he has not been asleep. He was afraid of being awakened and to realise that all the good happenings of this period have been his dreams. Alborz could not believe that he had become the owner of a very nice bicycle by only one time requesting his new father, because as far as he could remember, he used to fight for everything in his own past life and he did not use to be given anything at the end. Alborz had got addicted parents who had caused him and his brother very serious problems. When Alborz's parents were captured and sent to the prison due to the crime of theft, he found himself and his brother in an orphanage, a place that was called as 'Children's Paradise' by some people in order to give it a beautiful concept by means of a beautiful name. As Alborz escaped from the orphanage, he spent a period of working as cars' windows cleaner in the band of children around the crossroads on the streets until he was captured again and was sent back to the Children's House. After having his brother lost in a street struggle, Alborz did not want to join the band of children again and now has been invited to the paradise of Manoochehris' family. A paradise on the earth!

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**Our Thirteenth Story**

Children were playing in the yard of their apartment that Shadi suddenly screamed and fell down. All the kids gathered around her and while she was crying, she made them understood that her leg was injured. Tala immediately informed Shadi's mother about that

accident and her mother got into the yard quickly. Shadi was in a very bad pain but she was not crying any longer. Shadi's mother together with Tala's father had Shadi got on the car and took her to the hospital near their house. Shadi was very afraid of having her own leg broken and as she knew that some bone fractures would need surgical operations, she was hoping that she had not broken her leg. She was waiting on the seat in order to see the result of her x-ray image. When the lady nurse was checking her leg, the pain on her leg was less but she was not yet sure and everything was depending on the outcome of the radiographic images. The kids were talking about the happening of that day's evening when the car of Shadi's mother suddenly entered into the building's yard and Shadi was embraced by her mother and her leg was in a plaster cast and Tala's father was driving.

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### **Our Fourteenth Story**

Shakiba was coming back home from the tennis practice sessions that suddenly felt that Pedram was in the club too. She went to him but as Pedram saw her, he left his racket on the ground and ran out. Shakiba didn't understand why Pedram had shown such a tough reaction, but she forgot the case. Shakiba reached the corner of the alley and went to the shop for buying ice-cream. As soon as she entered into the shop, she found her own father helping the shop owner. She was ashamed of his father so she left there quickly. When she came out from the store, night had fallen and Shakiba wanted to get home at the soonest possible time as she knew that her mother was waiting for her at home. As Shakiba got home, she saw that lots of people were encouraging Shadi for running faster in the street and Shadi herself was amongst them, and then Shakiba became very sad and stayed near to Shadi. Suddenly, Pedram's Table clock rang and Shakiba did wake up. Pedram wanted to quickly switch it off for not having others to wake up as well. Pedram would have a tennis class today and would be participating in a tennis contest next week. Shakiba recalled that it was Saturday and she was to meet her own father and also she would also be visiting Shadi on that day.

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### **Our Fifteenth Story**

Mrs Manouchehri is very happy with the new building and she likes its atmosphere very much, but she loved the neighbours to have more contacts with each other and to meet one another more. Manouchehri family live in Building No. 11 where Shakiba, Ashkan and their families live in its other flats. Ashkan and Alborz are now good friends and they usually meet one another. In Ashkan's opinion, Alborz does seem very different, but he, in the course of his life, has learnt to respect the differences and accept others' differences with ease. Alborz is very happy that he can learn lots of new things from Ashkan and he usually helps Ashkan. That day afternoon, Mrs Manouchehri had gone to meet Atoosa in their house. They had a

conversation together for a few moments at Atoosa's bedside and then she had the rest of her talks privately with Ashkan's mother. Ashkan's mother said to Mrs Manouchehri that they had made a very good decision and Mrs Manouchehri did thank her very much as well for having Manouchehri family guided for adopting a child. Ashkan's mother said that in spite of this fact that Atoosa was not their real daughter but the life without her would be very much difficult for them.

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### **Our Sixteenth Story**

It was during the game when Tala suddenly closed the wooden door of the building's guard room and Goli's finger got pressed by it. Goli screamed and Tala opened the door immediately then. Goli did cry and began fighting with Tala. She hit over Tala's head and face for several times and since Tala was sad for his own action, he did not move and let Goli have herself relaxed. There have been several days that Tala and Goli have broken up with one another. Tala has tried to draw the attention of hers for a few times but not only Goli has not paid any attention to Tala but also she has said lots of bad words to him and has called him an apple polisher as well. Tala tried for several times to tell funny jokes during watching TV to attract her attention and also for the purpose of softening the situation, but she did not pay any attention and she was not willing to forgive Tala. In the Friday evening, Goli together with Shadi had gone to the yard of Shakiba's house for playing where she began backbiting about her brother and this fact that boys couldn't understand anything and girls should not care about them or play with them. Goli said that boys would not mind the things as much as girls do and they were the source of shame too. At that time then, Goli ran for catching Shakiba's racket and squashed Shadi's foot severely, and also Shakiba, for escaping from her, fell down badly and then they got angry with Goli and broke up with her.

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### **Our Seventeenth Story**

Nazanin is blind. Nazanin's mother is very sorrowful for her and has dedicated all her life to Nazanin's better education. Nazanin, herself, does not have any ideas about her own blindness and this is because she has been blind from the birth moment. The only thing that she knows is that she is different from others. She has heard that there is something which is called SEEING, an ability which causes the things that she can only touch or hear them to have also another kind of representation for other people. Nazanin's family and she are the first inhabitants of the building in which Shakiba lives. Nazanin's father is a taxi driver and her mother is a housewife. They wish they were much more educated and qualified so that they could help more their own daughter in achieving her own goals. Early morning, 15-year-old Nazanin got up quite sweaty. Her parents were still asleep. For Nazanin, there was

no difference between being awake or asleep as the world had always been dark for her. Nazanin, in the course of her life, had never dreamt during sleeping but she couldn't forget the voice that she had heard that night in her dream. With an effort and without having others awakened, she managed to approach her own Braille writing machine and wrote the sentence that her mother had told her in her dream with a great sorrow. The sentence which she could still hear clearly. The sentence which was saying that her mother had devoted her life to Nazanin in order to assuage her own guilty conscience...

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### **Our Eighteenth Story**

*{ My life has started in a moment and will be ended in a moment too. Everybody else's life is the same. We all come in a moment and will go in a moment, but the only thing which is not important is the number of our moments. For me, the most important things in my life may have been the moments of beginning. The moments which taught me to interpret the being through these beginnings and to understand my real being as the representation of these moments. I do exist in every moment that I start. For the purpose of getting better, I've started a lot; therefore I have adequately been existent. I once said to myself that now that I know that I will pass away soon what I must do?! What is my responsibility within this remaining deadline?! I did decide to do strange things and/or try my best to achieve the unfulfilled dreams of my childhood. I've now found my own answer. In these remaining period until the final moment I, probably, should not do anything special. The only thing that I must do is to focus on my own everyday life as before. Like all other people and without any differences! Sometimes, not doing anything is to do the greatest possible thing... I do appreciate my own parents in spite of this fact that they were not my real parents. They did not know that I knew it, but having been aware of this fact, did increase my love for them. If I could live a little bit longer, I would have been trying to compensate them for their kind efforts and also I would have a charity organisation called 'Everyday's Happy Children'... }*

This was Atoosa's unfinished letter just two days before going into coma. Ashkan could not hold his tears back and he was wholeheartedly filled with nostalgia for kind Atoosa...

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### **Our Nineteenth Story**

Mr Mehrdadian is a researcher of philosophy and he does teach at university too. He lives alone on the last floor of the building No. 13 and he has dedicated all his time to his researches and he often hosts different people who come to visit him at his home. In spite of this fact that Mr Mehrdadian is pretty young, but he is famous for being a knowledgeable person and other neighbours have given him the title of 'Mr Manager'. The reason why they have given him such a title is that he has accepted to be the building manager and has very much been successful in fulfillment of his tasks. Nazgol is Mr Manager's niece who usually

comes to pay a visit to him in the flat No. 13. Nazgol has made friends with all the children of the buildings No. 11 & 13 and whenever she comes for visiting her own uncle, she is very much keen to play with other children. Nazgol, however, is best remembered for her strange behaviours that she does in front of other people as well as the unbelievable stories that she tells. The other children do not know many things about her problem, but Mr Manager, during one of the sessions of the board of directors of the building, has properly informed their parents regarding Nazgol's case and the only thing that the children know is that they should not oppose Nazgol's sayings because her claims are quite real for her. In the evening, when Nazgol was telling the story of her consecutive meetings with some hooped creatures in the bathroom of their own house along with this matter that she can always hear their sound, Ms Manouchehri asked Mr Mehrdadian whether they would want to visit another bona fide therapist for a better treatment of Nazgol's schizophrenia or not?!

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### **Our Twentieth Story**

Shakiba was neatening her own room and she was very happy that Kajal was about to come to visit her that day. Kajal is the only child of the friend of Shakiba's mother who they both work as co-workers in a restaurant and they have been very close to one another for several years. Kajal and Shakiba also like each other as much as their mothers do and they are really good friends for one another. Kajal loves football and she wants to become a woman police officer when she grows up. She likes the police uniform very much and she would like to participate in the classes of martial arts as she believes that having an athletic character is essential for a professional police officer. Kajal's father is a mechanic and he gets assistance from Kajal in repairing the cars. Kajal has learnt how to drive at the age of nine from her own father. That day when Kajal came, Shakiba did request her other friends living in buildings No. 11 & 13 to get together in the yard in that evening so that they could do friendly sports competitions. Despite of this fact that Ashkan does never participate in such games, but he has named them as 'The Children's Olympics' and he precisely plays the role of a referee for such matches. That day evening, it was the first time that Alborz was meeting Kajal. Before that meeting, Alborz used to be the number one athlete in all competitions of the so-called Children's Olympics which used to be held even on a daily basis, but that day, when the games finished, he told Pedram that he could not even imagine that a girl had been able to defeat him in all disciplines with ease!

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### **Our Twenty-First Story**

The kids, after getting more acquainted with Mr Mehrdadian, now try more to get information about his free times in order to visit him for getting the answer of their questions from him. Mr Mehrdadian has been able to make the kids who are all students

interested in knowledge and all the children are very much happy about it. Nazanin does think that she will get better marks at school because of the good things that she has learnt from Mr Mehrdadian. Ashkan, who was very much interested in knowledge even before meeting Mr Mehrdadian, has said that he wants to become a well-known philosopher and/or scientist in the future. During these couple of weeks that Shadi's leg has been broken, she usually goes to meet Mr Mehrdadian to talk with him. Shadi will be attending the third year of guidance school this year and that's why she is so happy. These days, she is of course a bit sad since she likes the summer holidays and recreational activities very much, but due to this fact that her leg got broken, she couldn't do so. Having completely drunk her orange juice, she began playing with the ice cubes at the bottom of the glass then. Mr Mehrdadian was reading some parts of a book in the field of psychology and he was just waiting for Shadi so that she, as always, starts asking her own questions. But Shadi that evening was sounding very bored than always, so Mr Manager did investigate the reason of her sadness. As she was spinning the ice cubes around the glass by the straw said that she would fear that she wouldn't be able to walk anymore! She said that such a fear had increased recently and had made her very much depressed.

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### **Our Twenty-Second Story**

Having the mirror cleaned, Sohrab suddenly had a glance at his own broken tooth. His tooth has broken for several years but no action has been taken for treating it. Sohrab's family is poor and they've got no money for such matters. Sohrab is shy about his broken tooth and he is forced to cover his mouth when he laughs so that others do not see a bad view of it. His tooth was broken several years ago in the bus when the bus driver did suddenly braked and Sohrab's mouth hit the front seat and his front tooth broke then. Sohrab did not even complain as he knew that nobody were going to pay attention to him. During the summers, Sohrab together with his mother goes for cleaning the house of rich people. That morning, they were involved cleaning the flat of Barazesh family. Sohrab was working hard and as always was unintentionally comparing his own lifestyle with the life of those people whose houses were being cleaned by them. Sohrab always imagines himself as the owner and/or the child of one of those well-to-do families and he always tries to consider himself in their place in order to enjoy for a few moments. Near the lunchtime, Sohrab along with his mother was cleaning Ashkan's room. When Sohrab looked at Ashkan's desk and the computer on it, recalled the memories of a couple years ago when he used to dream deeply for having a calculator and finally he could not have it. He was overwhelmed with such thoughts that he couldn't hold his tears back anymore and a tear rolled down his face. For not letting his old mother understand the situation, he immediately went to the toilet to wash his face. Suddenly, his mother called his name for leaving, but Sohrab was not willing to leave the toilet because he loved that toilet even more than the whole of their own cheap rented house...

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**Our Twenty-Third Story**

It is about two weeks that the schools have opened again and during this period of time Shadi has been able to get used to her new classmates. Shadi feels that she has started this year readier than the previous years and that's because she had her leg broken during the summer and she had studied more within that period and now she is much readier. She has been practicing well-reading for a considerable period of time, therefore that day she took the magazine that she had borrowed from Mr Mehrdadian and began reading it in front of others: (*The reason of different aesthetical judgments of humans shall be traced back somewhere at the level of their genes. The aesthetical judgments are usually the same representation of our genetic needs. Whatever in line with fulfillment of humans' genetic needs will be called beautiful things and vice versa. The beauty is indeed the external reflexion of our internal intrinsic wants. In everyone's opinion, the beauty is what which can fulfill their internals. The beauty is the image of everyone's nature in the external world. A beautiful thing is something which is convergent with the resultant of our internal desires. Whereas the humans share a percentage of same genes, it seems very likely that they may have an almost same definition of beauty on their side. If the lions had language and we could comprehend their language, they would have been talking about the beauty in such a different way which could have been quite in line with their different genome structure as opposed to the humans!*)). Shadi did finish the page and as she was to turn to the next page, her mother uttered that now she could understand why her taste had always been different from Shadi's father!

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**Our Twenty-Fourth Story**

Pedram had had a fight with one of his own new classmates and that day evening had come back home dusty and wounded. Mr Mehrdadian saw Pedram and did ask the reason. Pedram, instead of reply to his question, did request Mr Mehrdadian to let him in his house so that he could clean himself before getting home, because he knew that if his mother and sister would see him in such a shape, they would have become very much concerned about him. Having washed his face and hands and having dusted and neatened his clothes, Pedram sat on the chair of the kitchen in front of Mr Mehrdadian and after thanking him for his help, explained everything to him. Pedram said that one of his classmates had been bullying him at school and wanted him to give his own food to him and/or to carry his bag for him. Pedram has done this several times but he would not be willing to be blackmailed by him anymore. Pedram said that he wouldn't like to talk about this matter with his parents or the school's dean as he knew that the situation would very likely to go from bad to worse then. Mr Manager brought a basket of fruit out from the fridge and did put it on

the table in front of him and told Pedram that people could always face with the things which would not be according to their wants or expectations and that would be their social skills which could assist them during such predicaments. Pedram asked whether it had been his fault that had caused such happening?! Mr Manager said that he did not think so but the only thing that he wanted Pedram to know was this fact that the more he could make his social skills better, the less his social problems would be...

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### **Our Twenty-Fifth Story**

Goli has made friends with a new Afghan girl at school and they're now very close to one another. Sahar is a refugee too and a part from studying, she has to work as well. Sahar has got a lot of sisters and brothers whom all are forced to assist their own mother for making money. After school, Sahar must go to one of Tehran's streets and to sell tissues. Goli is very concerned about Sahar and Sahar's hard situation reminds her own family's first hard days when they had just come to Iran. The days when they were forced to live in a very small downstairs house and her father had lots of difficulties for finding a job. Sahar is a beautiful and clever girl, but she usually comes to the school without having breakfast or washing her face. She is too thin, and very unfortunately, she does not have any motivations for studying. Sahar does think that if she works from very early ages, she will then be able to assist her own family more; the mentality that Goli has very much tried to change, but she has not yet been successful. That day morning, the students of the class were supposed to sit a comprehensive examination in mathematics. Goli has prepared herself from a couple of days ago, but Sahar had not studied at all and she was not ready to sit the exam. Goli felt that she had got to help Sahar as a fellow country-mate amongst all those foreign people. Goli has just made her own decision and before entering the examination hall went towards Sahar and told her that after having answered the quiz questions she would give her own exam paper to Sahar so that she could write the answers of the questions too...

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### **Our Twenty-Sixth Story**

Nazanin along with her parents, her aunts, uncle and grandmother had gone to a specialized hospital for a surgical operation on her eye. She was a bit sad and embarrassed. She was asking herself different questions and she was not able to understand why such a bad problem had happened to her. She did not know why SHE was blind?! And why she had to undergo such severe surgical operations at that age?! Such thoughts caused her to blame her own parents because of such difficulties. If they had not given birth to her, she would not have been forced to cope with all those hardships, therefore she was trying to be very difficult to them. At that time, suddenly her aunts began to whisper together about the strange face of a young girl amongst the crowd and their sayings attracted Nazanin's attention. Nazanin heard that her aunts were wishing that the girl wouldn't sit next to them. But that young girl came alone and by help of other people gently took the only free seat of

the waiting saloon just next to Nazanin and her aunts. Nazanin became curious and did ask some questions from that girl. The young girl who was twenty one years old and had worn a very pleasant perfume said that her name was Negar. Negar has a very rare skin cancer and this disease has caused her skin to shrink. Due to this matter, one of Negar's eye has become totally blind and her other eye has only 20 per cent of vision. Negar has no one and she comes alone to this medical centre. Negar usually has got no companion so that they take her belongings during the operation, but she is still very much hopeful to get able to see again. Nazanin was feeling strong by being next to Negar and had forgotten all her own sorrows.

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### **Our Twenty-Seventh Story**

Nowadays, Ashkan is learning to play the piano. Atoosa used to play the piano very well. Ever since Atoosa has passed away, Barazesh family now does believe that the responsibility of playing the piano should be given to another member. Ashkan has accepted this responsibility voluntarily and because of that he is very happy. Ashkan did begin his own classes with the old piano. At the fifth session, his private music instructor did request his mother to buy a new piano for him, if possible, because the old piano was not very good any longer. The old piano was for Ashkan's grandma and it was very much antique. The new piano was supposed to be purchased by the next week. Ashkan was very much happy and was also very much keen to have it as soon as possible. Ashkan thought that by means of the new piano he would be able to learn how to play much faster and he would become a professional player very soon. In the evening, when Sohrab and his mother were changing the place of Ashkan's belongings in his room in order to provide enough place for the new piano, Sohrab did request his mother to get rest because his mother has been undergoing dialysis because of her own kidneys' problems. The doctors have suggested her to have a kidney transplant operation as soon as possible but Sohrab's family does not have enough money for such a purpose. Ashkan came out from the bathroom and wanted to go to his own room very fast to see how the new design of his own room was. At that time, he saw Sohrab in a very embarrassed way taking his own mother's hand and was trying to help her to sit.

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### **Our Twenty-Eighth Story**

Pedram was wishing not to see his own bully classmate that morning, because whenever he sees him outside of the school yard, they fight with one another, but the situation is a bit different inside of the yard, since the school deans are present there and the atmosphere seem much safer. Pedram was not able to conceal his envy of other students or the adults who had not got his problem and he was asking himself what if, like them, he could leave

home with a sense of security, what if he could, without any challenges, dedicate himself to education and could get back home again safely in the afternoon. Pedram was wishing his cruel classmate to die or his family and him to move from that neighbourhood or even wishing him to be sacked from the school so that he could not have been able to get him into trouble so that he would get free again. Pedram was still carefully walking in the long street in which his school was located when he suddenly saw the bully classmate of his got into the street through the opposite alley. The boy was having a sandwich and he was about to stay right there until his meal gets finished, since he was not afraid of reaching school late. Pedram tried to hide himself behind of a car which was parked in front of a building and began watching around through the car windows. He was wishing that his father were there so that he could pass that place by together with him and reach the school. The school bell went but Pedram was not able to leave his own shelter.

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### **Our Twenty-Ninth Story**

Mona is Shadi's seatmate in this year's class. Shadi does not like Mona and that is why Mona usually wears untidy clothes, she seems a bit impolite and the worst reason is that she is a not a clever student in the class. Shadi was wishing the first day of the year could come again so that she could change her own seat in the class. Shadi was always thinking of being seated next to Sepideh. Sepideh is both beautiful and smart and she also comes from a rich family. Shadi does like Sepideh very much and she is with her during the break times. Shadi was ready to give everything she had in exchange for getting rid of Mona and being seated next to Sepideh in the class. On the contrary, Mona was very happy of being near to Shadi as she could ask for help from her for the lessons and also she could look at Shadi's notebook during writing down the notes. These days, Shadi has been trying hard to find a way in order to get rid of Mona. She first thought to request her to change her seat with Sepideh's, therefore she talked about this matter with Mona but of course, she did not accept it. She later thought of asking Sepideh's seatmate to change her own seat with her, but she did not accept either. She then made a decision that seemed to be the only possible solution in her opinion. Shadi has broken up with Mona and has been trying to cause a predicament for her in the class. Now, Shadi does not help Mona and has been very much difficult with her as for every single matter. Shadi has decided to make Mona run away.

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### **Our Thirtieth Story**

Buildings No. 11 & 13 might have become a single complex. Now, all the people living there know each other and they treat each other friendly and they usually try to spend their time with one another. Mr Mehrdadian has accepted the responsibility of managing the two buildings and now has become a real manager. They all respect him and he knows this fact

very well. It is autumn and the sky turns dark sooner than before. The children find less time to get together and since it is a bit cold they ought to make their appointments in the roofed areas of their residential complexes or even to have them held inside their own houses. Ever since Atoosa passed away, the house of Barazesh family has become a place for the children to hang around with each other and that's why Ashkan has forgotten the death of her beloved sister. Nazanin is supposed to have another surgical operation on her own eyes during the next week, so she has little time for spending with other children and nowadays she usually goes to the hospital for medical tests. All the children are spending a yellow (sad) season of their life. They do think that they all have got some problems without which they could have been living happier. They're all sad in a way and they would need time in order to set themselves free from their sorrows. In the Friday's evening when the children had gathered together again to assist each other for solving their mathematical problems, they did decide to talk about the way they had just met their new friends at school, at that time, Shakiba and Shadi, while they were having watermelon, suddenly remembered Mimi and that hot day of summer when they met for the first time.

**The End of the 1<sup>st</sup> Volume (The Yellow Season)**