

WORK SAMPLES and STATEMENT HODDER FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION 2024 by Anuradha Munshi

STATEMENT

SAMPLE PROSE

For my Fellowship Project making film “Dare with Grace” based on script from combined prose 3000 words sample from 2 short stories Title 1 “When Fairy Tales End” and story Title 2 “Masking the Unknown” written by myself, Anuradha Munshi.

SAMPLE VISUAL IMAGES: with attached images plus video and Website link below. A document of 21 Visual images to be used for developing visual set backdrops story plot in San Francisco and New York cities with samples for Costume selection for the film performance.

Story 1 WHEN THE FAIRY TALES END (IMAGES 1-9) Story plot is San Francisco as in the beginning sample visuals illustrate the city and buildings and spaces with kind of costume samples selected to be used in the performance.

Story 2 MASKING THE UNKNOWN (IMAGES 10-19) The visual images in the later part of the still shots give a sense of the story Masking the unknown depicting high society and modern environment with more business trendy looks of the performer actor myself.

Finally in the End images 20-21 relate to theme of “Awakening Shakti “a book by Sally Kempton on Goddess power in the movie the performer concludes with addressing strength of a woman to try to survive against all odds.

SAMPLE VIDEO Link: Introduction and Excerpts from the short stories

Website Link <https://anuradhamunshi.com/fellowship>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/jcTBlqgkQ74>

Song sample written and performance “If I Wished” link <https://youtu.be/CDy-E5Uqflw>

SHORT STORY TITLE 1
WHEN FAIRY TALES END

by Anuradha Munshi

In San Francisco, an Elementary school substitute teacher from a conservative Asian American background is facing the reality, living in a selfish opportunistic society trying to understand her failing relations with people. Lack of love, respect and responsibilities for each other. In her mid-age when the fairy tale ends for her to find one person who would be there for her.

Windswept after walking for an hour through the crooked streets of San Francisco. It was pitch-dark, a silent market street, shops lined with locked shutters, no tourists, Naina was rushing in the direction of the glimpse of the next bus back to her studio debating to herself, “why women are always forced to be in some relation? Why we are still a subject of attention to be single women living in a city?” There is another passer by a tall woman with African origins walking in the same direction. Naina is relieved to see another woman’s presence, Naina wondered how women of other community’s feel being all by themselves? She wanted to know her opinion so Naina approached her. Naina asks her in a friendly tone, “Can Women choose to live single? Hey, what do you think? Can we women be living alone on our own terms?” The African woman was pissed to see Naina and screams, “I do not wish to talk to you.” Naina drifts away from the woman walking at a distance towards the Pier to the bus stop. All the way back home Naina is feeling bad about the repulsive behavior of the lonely woman walking on the street, possibly she did not trust people or just had a bad day?

It has been a year since Naina separated from her husband in trying to find what her marriage really meant to her and her husband Neel? Belonging to a South Asian American community it was already a journey to find her first husband after waiting 30 years looking for Mr. Right. Naina had to leave her job after marriage as she lived in a different city. Neel had moved to Bay Area; she had no other choice but to quit her job to live with him. She never got a job when she moved to Silicon Valley. After 7 years of being a home maker it was difficult to find a job as time was passing, she was growing older. In addition, she was diagnosed with vision impairment. Getting her first job as an assistant teacher in an Elementary School in San Francisco was an achievement for her.

The next day in the other part of Silicon Valley, it was a lazy afternoon, juggling with three kids back from school was too much for Mitra to handle. She had to quit her job to raise her kids now that she could afford being unemployed as her husband was finally doing well. He could take care of his family’s responsibilities running a small business. Naina calls Mitra after a yearlong isolation “Hey, busy friend. what’s up? We have not spent time since my move to San Francisco.” Mitra wanted to see her too. How things were with Naina after her separation with Neel? Mitra responds, “I missed you? Let’s catch up?” They decided to meet at their favorite hangout place a coffee shop at Palo Alto.

Neel and Naina were such inseparably adorable couple. Mitra always felt that kind of love was missing in her marriage, the puppy love they had. All the friends spent Valentine’s Day together. We all were shocked when the news of their divorce came. It was unbelievable. Mitra almost choked as if she had nothing else to say to her. Was She supposed to make her feel better? Mitra

did not want to say anything to her by mistake to hurt her further. Naina and Neel did not have any kids from their 7 years of marriage and yet rest of their friend circle had seen Naina so happy in all their baby showers, one by one all our friends’ families grew with every new addition of a baby we became busier, and the reunions became less to the point we hardly saw each other. There was some speculation that Naina was blinding possibly Neel was getting frustrated by helping her in day-to-day life. He did not seem irresponsible types, yet he was gone from Naina’s life, leaving her alone. Naina was without a job and had very few savings to survive on her own. It was very recently she had finally got a job as a substitute teacher which was hardly paying her bills. Naina first felt that it would hurt her a lot to see little kids in the school but somewhat She did not feel anything. She had some hope things may become better. She may get a chance to regain happiness in her life.

The café is crowded filled with smell of brewed coffee, Mitra a well-built tanned eclectic woman was waiting for Naina near the coffee bar showcasing the pastries while Naina shows up not a bit changed her skinny self. Naina entered the coffee shop, there was a big smile on her pale face seeing Mitra waiting for her. They embrace each other. It’s a happy moment. Naina suggests, “Let’s get our favorite Coffee. I would like some chocolate pastry. Would you order your usual palmier too?” They get seated at a table, it’s quite busy with other people’s laughter and chatters. Naina had vanished from the friend circle after her move to the city. Mitra wondered what Naina was going through seeing her.

Naina asks Mitra about her kids? She grins, “they are becoming unmanageable. It’s so great to have some time finally with friends. Its good you don’t have to deal with kids, believe me you are much better off enjoying your time doing what you want, without any interruptions or disturbance in your life.” Naina wonders whether that was true. Was she happy all alone in her company? Why people are not happy with what they have in their life? Naina asks Mitra “I am not knowing how everyone will think about my divorce with Neel?” Mitra responds comforting her, “Don’t bother what anyone will think. Specially in our age it may even become hard to find a match. You bet I live the worst life dealing with three kids. Its better if you don’t have kids.” Their rendezvous is cut short when Mitra receives a call from her babysitter that her little one was crying unstopably and the babysitter had failed to make him quiet.

Naina felt robbed from the kids that may never be born. In her opinion everyone wants a normal life for them, but unusual things happen. Don’t We want to live like everyone else, get married, have kids, build family dreamhouse, a good paying job, socialize with friends and relatives to live happy family life. Naina remembers, once She was at a movie premier waiting for Neel when an elderly woman approaches her to ask, “Do you think aborting is good or bad?” She was holding a survey form handout. Naina was so unclear, why it’s not individuals who have their right to decide? Why it’s the whole community deciding for what others want in their life? Naina had given her a response in hesitation “it depends upon people what they want?” The response Survey lady did not like from her, the next moment gave her a smirk and questioned again, “Why you would give such a response to decide against a life of a new enfant to live in this world?” I felt bad but had nothing to say to her perhaps what about the women who could not care for their kids? Those kids when born may live a miserable unhappy life adopted or with forester parents, unloved, uncared? Is that a better life to give to a child?

That same year Naina’s cousin Heena’s husband had died due to COVID which made her to think that death or getting divorced was dealing with similar grief. For Heena and her it was not much different managing their lives without their partners. Was She too bold or too carefree? Naina felt some community people may think low of divorced women as not worthy women whose men leave them than women who get widowed? All her conversation with Mitra echoed in her mind the whole next day her inner voice debating of being married, having kids was it the only option for a woman or would she be able to survive in the society if she never finds the one person made for her? Had the fairytale ended for her?

SHORT STORY TITLE 2

MASKING THE UNKNOWN

by Anuradha Munshi

It's sometime in future, in the hi-tech dark age when all is connected, people are tracked by agencies making them captive in their own environment. You are followed, there is nowhere to hide from these so-called security agencies, victimizing individuals, making them slaves and prey to high level organized crime groups ruling the world.

Ruh a high-profile businessman lives in New York. He opens the window to inhale the smoky polluted air from his private library in the east end of his Highrise mansion. Suddenly his past comes alive. He remembers gazing out his study window– “I was adopted by my wealthy parents when I turned 13 after my real parents who worked for them died in a suspicious car accident. My new parents had no children of their own nor I had any siblings through my deceased parents. In my early childhood my real mother had taught me humanistic values and beliefs of a good society which did not exist in the real world. I kept on struggling my whole life fighting my own conscience. My mother had made it difficult for me to decide what was my true path. What I could have done to save myself from the political games compelling me to act like someone else I never wanted to be? Forced to mislead millions to keep me in business. “Time has made me uncompassionate and a selfish person just like others around me” Ruh murmurs to himself.

He enters the code to open his safe drawer to take out his secret ejournal. Dragging the page of the digital diary to year 2025, selecting the month December, Date 23rd, He speaks, “yet another Christmas.” He realized another year had passed. Ruh starts to record his daily accomplishments then pauses “Finally, I am seeing Tara tomorrow” he whispers.

It was a decade back first he had seen Tara through the security cam leaving CONSPACE headquarters, one of his media companies. She had a face not forgotten easily. Everyone was laughing on her boldness to begin a cleantech startup. She was one of the very few women entrepreneurs in cleantech industry in the city. Tara had come for the launch of yet another climate change government project. I was watching my friends stalk her through the city, following and playing with her. Never could I have imagined things would turn so drastically; Friends I knew would get to such an extent to harm her so she gives up and they would not even stop at that. Poor Tara, little she knew who they were in really? I had to be silent surrounded by my enemies so called friends who were waiting for any moment for me to fail.

Tara was avoiding facing the unknown bad groups, struggling to keep her business in midst of the global economy collapse while various communities were fighting each other. In the World of corruption, bullies, games, identity theft and extortion, a woman was running away from the terrorizing clutches of her dangerous unknown captivators tracking her every move. She was caught in-between imposters, impersonators and frauds, fighting for her existence was left penniless. In utter desperation finally Tara had decided to leave Los Angeles to move to New York near to her family so she could be better taken care of in the given circumstances while the corporate wars continued. She hears voices intimidating her in trying to stop her every time she tries to gain her freedom. She could best describe them like vampires reading your minds, draining you and sucking your life out.

Ruh heard Tara calling her name one day, “Ruh, why don’t you help me? Show your real self so they stop sending imposters to me. It’s scary to see so many similar looking faces chasing me around the city.” I could not help her from this nightmare but thought to show who I was in real, may be that would help her to not be fooled by the pranksters playing mind games with her. Tara was intimidated by the frauds stalking her wherever she went sometimes trying to communicate making weird comments to hurt her feelings. Once someone broke in her apartment as well to steal her valuable possessions.

Though Tara was now in her late 30’s a frail woman yet when she made an entry all the eyes went to her. When Ruh saw her standing in one of the business meetings which had just got over, he had stood there gazing her foolishly. He really did not know what she would be thinking about him. A married man then, staring at her, but he did not care to know what anyone thinks about any of his actions. For a second their eyes got locked and then Tara looked away, reserved not letting anyone come close to her. I did not understand why she was like that so different from others, overprotective to get hurt from anyone who tried coming near to her. Ruh was running late for his next meeting, a speaking event so he had left the room thinking about her, would this be our last meeting? or we will meet again?

Tara was sitting in her small studio with hardly any furniture on a brown old love seat she had bought from a recycled furniture showroom smelling moldy probably had been in the store for a long time. She thinks, none will understand me. Will they? Revisiting every moment, time and again, when it all started. The phone rings for a second, Tara shouts “Is that real the phone is ringing or its again that I am hearing things? Who will believe me? It’s been a long time she had been agonized by the extortionists, holding her captive in her own home, reading her thoughts, who knew her more than she knew herself. Shouting - “I want freedom from the double life I live, caught between the real world and the connected minds” Tara finally answers the phone, “Hello, is that you mama? I will be in New York for Christmas. See you soon. Love”

A decade had passed and yet today we are meeting again. I started getting ready. What should I wear to impress her? Ruh enters his marble floored closet with clothes organized in every possible color and styles. Would she recognize me? or time has aged me? maybe she will not like me, my wrinkled face. Off course I was not my young self but still women were falling for me, for the looks I had, for the millions I had, being on Forbes cover page for my achievements at a very young age I could get any woman who I wanted that’s what everyone thought. Yet Tara intrigued me. Sometimes she seemed wacky, sometimes simple but too reserved for my taste.

Tara senses waves going through her trembling and shaking she gathers herself to get out of her apartment to mail some packages before leaving town. Walking towards the Fedex store she is yet again followed by the dark shadows of stalkers sent to frighten her in every possible way. Tara reaches the spot where Ruh had planned to see her last time before her departure. As my usual he shows up not saying a word and leaves from the spot. Tara shows a puzzled face seeing him. believe she had really thought I would help her. Time had made me a ruthless person, no doubt she may think I play games with women.







Next day I move the satellite camera to locate her neighborhood to spy on her to know her reaction to our meeting which just lasted a few seconds. I say to myself, “I had not treated any woman like this before. Tara was in trouble because of me.”

Tara sighs in anguish saying, “What else could I have expected from such a person who comes to see me in bright light for just a look to show his smug face. That’s it. Did not even want to hear my concerns? Is it a joke playing with people’s life?”. Tara is helplessly talking to herself no one to listen to her or believe her. Tara who was angry at me, crying in agony with all the annoyance caused in her life from the pranksters, my friends. Yet Tara is calling my name, “Ruh, What these people needed from me? Why don’t they stop bothering me? Why they keep stalking me? Why they hacked my online accounts? They have waisted my time and money. I have gone through personal and professional losses, losing colleagues, friends and family close to me.”

When I saw pain in Tara’s voice, I felt bad for some time, which was unlike me but somewhere she mattered to me. I knew she would never like to see me now anymore. I have no answers to give to her perhaps I had failed someone in my life. I think to myself how a woman like her could survive in this world? She would not say much to anyone. What was going around her? Her voice would remain unheard. Was she trying to ignore who these people were? Unable to understand what they want from her? She was masking the unknown, running away to stay out from more trouble.

VISUAL SAMPLES HODDER FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION 2024

VISUAL SAMPLES HODDER FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION by Anuradha Munshi
Date: September 10th 2024

STORY 1 When Fairytales End	
 <p>1. Naina Walking on San Francisco Street</p>	 <p>2. Film plot city of San Francisco</p>
 <p>3. Naina's Home</p>	 <p>4. Inside Naina's apartment</p>
 <p>5. Naina heading to meet Mitra</p>	 <p>6. Naina moving on after her divorce</p>

VISUAL SAMPLES HODDER FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION 2024



7. Naina teaches Elementary school kids



8. Café where Naina and Mitra meet

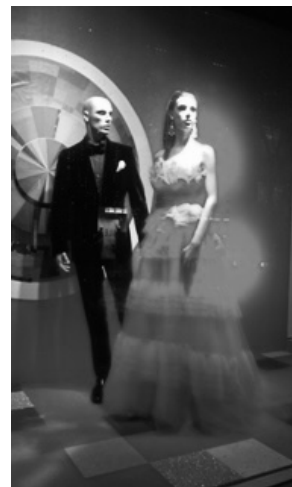


9. Mitra and Naina are stylish women

STORY 2 MASKING THE UNKNOWN



10. Ruh's Mansion

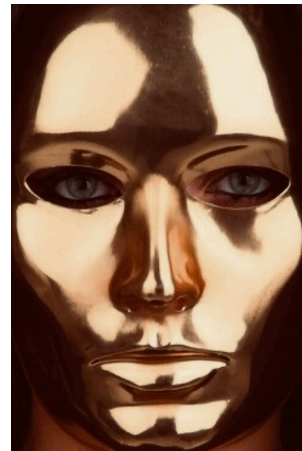


11. Ruh's introduction a wealthy businessman

VISUAL SAMPLES HODDER FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION 2024



12. Unknown Hitech Security Agencies



13. Unknown Hitech Security Agencies



14. Story 2 Plot New York city



15. City in Future



16. Tara meets Ruh First time at Event



17. Performance of Tara by Anuradha Munshi

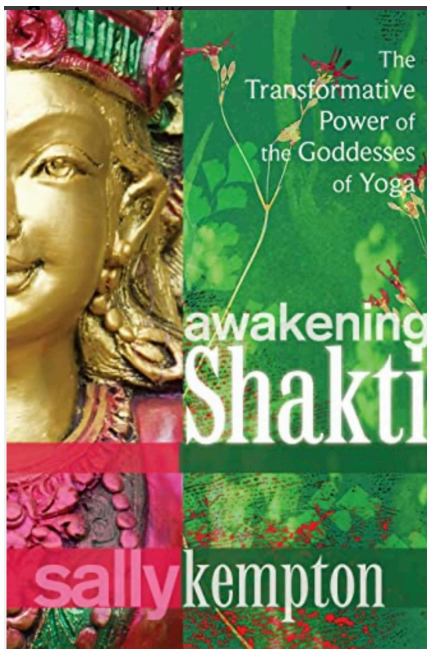
VISUAL SAMPLES HODDER FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION 2024



18. Tara's apartment



19. Tara a cleantech professional on her way when she meets Ruh again



20. Awakening Shakti discovering goddess power



21. Realizing your own potential