

**Tears and Fears -**  
**A collection of poems**

**by**

**Puva Arumugam**



# CONTENTS

1	From the Poet's Desk	Pg 1
2	Preface by Dr Anitha Devi Pillai	Pg 3
3	They	Pg 5
4	My Life	Pg 6
5	Caught	Pg 7
6	Strangers	Pg 9
7	Tears	Pg 13
8	Murmurs of a tormented soul	Pg 15
9	By chance	Pg 18
10	Imagined love	Pg 21
11	Everyday	Pg 23
12	Once had a friend	Pg 27
13	Stranger on the tram	Pg 30



## Preface by Dr. Anitha Devi Pillai

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Dr. Puva Arumugam presents a collection of poems as a window to her soul. She lays herself bare, stripped away of all worldly possessions and accolades. She stands before us not as an academic, but rather as a woman betrayed, a woman scorned and a woman loved by the elusive phantom.

It does not matter who this phantom is as we don't need to know the term pain in Tamil to recognize it in a Tamil woman's eyes. The cause of the pain is carefully captured in scenes and conversations within the poems.

The pain is never revisited. It is epitomized as a string of words carefully crafted by the maker and enclosed in this collection. In that way, the writer moves beyond each hurtful word, phrase and act. With each poem the writer learns and grows. As the collection ends, we too are hopeful that the 'Stranger on the tram' would smile, pause and be the impetus for the next collection of poem filled with love and joy.

It is admirable of Puva to write a bold collection of poems. As a multilingual academic, playwright and now a poet, Puva has shown how versatile and prolific she is. I wish her the very best in her future endeavours and look forward to reading her future work.

*Lecturer*

*English Language and Literature*

*National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.*

*Here are a few excerpts of the poems that are in the book – To read the complete collection of the poems, buy your copy via Amazon.com and Kindle and support an upcoming poet/author.*

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## They

---

They say it's wrong

They say it's a sin!

You can't love him, they say..

But I want you to say

Can't I give you happiness?

Can't I give you love?

They don't know

They can't know how we feel

How could I? They say

We're of the same stock

But can't love exist between us?

# Strangers

---

We are strangers in a dark

As we take a walk in this park

Do I know you?

Your presence seems so true

Your force beckons

My mind reckons

My heart leaps

My thoughts reel...

We have met once before

A very long long time ago

I think we were in love

We lived this life like a pair of doves

In this life which often takes you for a walk

When I met you, I actually started to run

The time we spent were so fun

Both you and I saw the sun

But reality is very cruel

It often hits you hard in a duel

I lost you then

I have lost myself since

# Murmurs of a tormented soul

---

Is it true that everything happens for a reason?

Is it true that god sees you through things?

Is it true that every sad event is a test?

Is it true that you have to go through pain in order to gain?

Will there ever be answers to these questions?

Will there ever be light at the end of my never ending tunnel?

Will it be better with time?

Will happiness ever be mine?

I sit here so sad, I sit here with tears

I sat here alone, I am still alone

I never remembered asking to be loved

I never remembered asking to be judged

I never remembered asking to give or take

I never remembered asking for this existence

# Imagined Love

---

Can't erase the image in my mind

No matter how hard I try

No matter how long it's been

The image still creates such a bond

Was it love?

Was it true?

It must have been

I am still thinking of you

Years have gone by

Not a word between us

Damn this thought about us

Don't I know it was in the past?

Must be the loneliness

Must be the tiredness

Must be the pointless present

That makes the past so pleasant



# Stranger on the tram

---

Are you thinking of me?

Just as I am thinking of you

Our eyes met very briefly

I held your gaze for just that split second

I really wanted to see that captive gaze for a little longer

But as fate would have it, I soon lost sight of you

I wished I could see you again

And I was surprised to see you at the lights where I alighted

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