# **FIVE LI(V)ES**

**of poetry and things in between**

**RUCHIKA V COWLAGI**

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**For my Mother**

**Where it all started**

**Where I started**

**Mamma, I am because You are.**

# **How to Read This Book**

Reading poetry can be a deeply personal experience
with the power to bring up emotions and profound thoughts within us. By exploring various ways of
engaging with a poetry book, we can enrich
our own personal interpretations.
I offer some here -

* Read one poem from each topic at a time, allowing yourself to fully take in the themes and emotions presented before moving on to the next set of poems.
* Choose a specific topic that resonates with you and read all poems consecutively, allowing yourself to immerse deeply into that theme.
* Randomly select a poem from the collection and let it guide your reading experience, allowing you to explore different topics without any predetermined order.

# **\*LOVE\***

A Beautiful Realization

Should I tell her or should I not?

It is a fact that I love her a lot

With her short, sweet smile

She makes my heartbeat stop for a while

So delicate to touch, even a flower will dare

Her deep, dark eyes tell so much they care

She can understand everyone and all so well

Then why oh why to her, this I cannot tell

Always ready to help, she stands by my side

She takes care of me as a small little child

She may not be beautiful but surely has a charm

How secure I feel by the slightest touch of her arm

She listens to me patiently, my tensions all relieve

And asks me not to fear, but only believe

A ray of hope she gives to my shattered heart

I think I should…No…I’ll give it a start

I wish she was near, right here before me

Oh, there is a knock at the door: Who could it be?

Is this the truth or is it that I’m dreaming

She is right in front of me and her beautiful eyes are gleaming

Unlike other days she didn’t greet me as a friend

She came and sat near me; I felt the warmth of her hand

Time came to a stop and she conveyed through her eyes

That she too loved me; but it was I who did not realize…

Love is in the Air

I don’t know why

When I took a deep sigh

You looked at me as never before

That smile on your face, I could not have asked for more

It was not just a gesture

I knew it for sure

The eyes did not glitter

It was the heart which was pure

Your eyes spoke much more

Than what words could have said

With your serene face in mind

When I lied on my bed

I heard your lips singing

Slowly drifting me off to sleep

And I knew I was not alone

‘Cause I had your heart to keep.

You & Me

I always ask what you saw in me
You say nothing…
But your eyes answer that they are in love with me

I want you to tell me what you hear
You hum anything…
But listen to me with all your ears

I talk aimlessly hoping you will stop me for a while
You don’t interrupt…
But your lips part and break into a smile

I check with you what you think of my hair
You don’t even look…
But run your fingers through them to show you care

I try hard to get your attention with my charms
You hardly compliment…
But can make my knees weak by just the embrace of your arms

I don’t have to ever hide my flaw
You never notice…
But you show me how everything is full of awe

I think sometimes that if you never mind
You are disinterested…
But your actions tell me that it is better to be kind

With your kiss you can still make my heart race
My heart, my soul is your forever special place
But been there, done that is not your sham
It’s real that you love me for all that I am.

I Do

Whoever said that marriage is fun
Never told us that on days you want to run
Run from yourself, from the world
To figure out what’s happening, why everything is blurred

Whoever said that all days are great
Never told us that on some we can’t even stand our mate
Stand up or sit down, but move forward you must
It’s only a matter of who does it first

Whoever said that only love is enough
Never told us that at times giving respect and being patient is tough
You may choose to close communication or give space
But let it not linger too long and keep your grace

Whoever said that it’s going to be a fairy tale ride
Never told us that sometimes you need to swallow your pride
Cry, scream, be angry or bargain
Till you don’t learn to shed your ego, it’s all in vain

Whoever said that all stories have a happy end
Never told us that it depends on our capacity to bend
Many days are bright but on others there is gloom
It is your garden, so weed out regularly and it will bloom

I say it will not always be simple or easy
And I tell you to let go so you can enjoy it when it’s breezy
I do it because I am blessed to have you
And no matter what, my answer will always be ‘I Do’.

Keep the Good Ones

I said what I said and you know it was not meant

Let us forget the past rather than repent

Don’t judge me by the words I say

But by the words unsaid in my eyes all day…

There have been times when I’ve wanted to share

And have stopped just so that you can show you care.

I did what I did as I had no other choice

So let us forget what happened and simply rejoice

Don’t judge me by my bigger actions

But by the small things I do to see your reactions…

There have been times when I’ve wanted to choose

And have stopped just so that you don’t lose.

I chose what I chose and maybe it was not right

Let us forget those issues and not fight

Don’t judge me by the things I do

But by the things undone when I cling to you…

There have been times when I’ve wanted to reject

And have stopped just so that you can select.

We are together because of our differences

What makes us stick are these small hindrances

I think if we reach a point when we don’t fight

We will never be able to make our hearts light…

‘Cause our silly ways are the ones which make us realize

That love heals all hearts without any price.

Little Does (S)He Know

If I could give you one thing my dear
It would be the ability to see clear
To see yourself clearly through my eyes
And touch the beautiful soul underneath that lies

If I could tell you one thing my dear
It would be to let go of the fear
To keep your heart open even when you can’t find a reason
‘Cause deep down you know this too will pass like a season

If I could show you one thing my dear
It would be your strength to bring cheer
In whatever you do with your innocence so pure
That it could brighten the darkest of days for sure

If I could bring you one thing my dear
It would be the peace that surrounds me when you are near
No bygones beneath, no dreams above
Just you and I with our ever-growing love

You tell me how we don’t need to do something special each year
As we share something extraordinary only you and I know my dear
How blessed, how complete every moment is with you
Be me for a little and you will know it is true.

I Never Loved You

Is it because you don’t see
or that I don’t show
Without learning each other’s language
How will we ever grow?

Is it because you don’t feel
or that I don’t care
Without touching the depths of pain
How will we ever share?

Is it because you don’t speak
or that I don’t hear
Without exchanging meaningful glances
How will we ever pass any year?

Is it because you don’t include
or that I don’t belong
Without confronting difficult moments
How will we ever make our relationship strong?

Is it because you don’t know
or that I don’t understand
Without making the time or effort
How will we ever let our hearts expand?

Whether it is ‘because’ or it is ‘or that’
The one thing I am sure of
Is that I never loved you…
Never because you loved me
But because I love you
And that is enough.

# **\*GRIEF\***

(A)\_Part

You are the rhythm to my song
Soothing the tunes that I get wrong

You are the words I write with ease
As you caress my creases like a gentle breeze

You are the excitement in my voice
Sieving through the rest which is just noise

You are the twinkle in my eye
Making sure that I never have to cry

You are the reason that I smile
The kind that lasts not just for a while

You are the love I understand
In your ways that show how it is grand

Even though my heart misses a part
A part of you is always in my heart

How beautiful you look even from afar
I am and will always be because you are.

I’m Ok, You’re Ok?

Oh but she is already happy and strong
Surely that’s because in her world nothing is wrong

Notice the bags under her eyes
Pierce through her smile and you will see she cries

Take the time to hold her close
Just do it long enough and you will feel her woes

Her anger is a mask to hide her tears
Listen carefully and you will sense her fears

Tell her that it is ok to not be fine
Understand her pain and you will hear her silent whine

Let her know that the fault is not on her part
Attempt to comprehend and you will touch her heart

‘Cause her heart is enclosed in a tight shell
As she struggles to protect it, heal and get well

She breathes today as if only to survive
But dreams of being free and truly be alive

Her journey…her baggage, you say
Forgetting that in yours she decided to stay
With or without you is for you to choose
But know that when she walks with love she will never lose.

Let it Go

I want to say a lot
But cannot find the words
The distance has become so long
As if we have separate worlds

I want to let you know
That I still do care
Even though the wide gap
Does not appear to be fair

I want to be able to
Sit down with you and talk
So that we can both heal
And the memories no longer stalk

Whether or not this can happen
Of this I can never be sure
But I want to pray for us
To be able to find a cure

Time mends everything I hear
Which gives me hope that we will be near
Till then I wish for your heart
To never feel that we ever did part.

My Special Doll

I have a special doll and she is like none
I loved holding her gently as she turned one.

Her beautiful eyes and her smile oh so true
Spoke to me without language as she turned two.

Her ways of expressing were so refreshing and free
I watched her grow magically as she turned three.

She had her ways even as she was finding her core
I was awed with her blossoming as she turned four.

Some days she would shrink and on others she would thrive
I saw her behave differently as she turned five.

We would play and eat together whenever she was in a fix
I started feeling a little older as she turned six.

She enjoyed dancing and could make any gathering enliven
I imagined how I could be like her as she turned seven.

I loved the colourful and creative things she could create
While I taught and learnt from her as she turned eight.

My beautiful little princess was finding her own shine
In everything she explored without me as she turned nine.

She made new friends some of them just with pen
I was happy to see her individuate as she turned ten.

In her effervescence she had an innocent haven
Which I had not experienced before she turned eleven.

Her adventures grew and I saw her coming out of her shell
I wished I had her contagious energy as she turned twelve.

Then one day she hid herself in a place I have not seen
I wanted to hold her again but this time tightly
as she turned thirteen.

I know you are well wherever you are
You maybe distant but never too far
So today when I think of your special day, instead of being blue
I celebrate your full life my little doll
as you would have turned forty two…

A Sense of You

It’s been long…
A long time
In which I have remembered you
More than the time I knew you

It’s been long…
A long silence
In which I have tried to hear you
More than the voice that I knew only as you

It’s been long…
A long gap
In which I have wanted to hug you
More than the touch that I knew only as you

It’s been long…
A long hunger
In which I have attempted to cook like you
More than the times I ate the food made by you

It’s been long…
A long vacuum
In which I have had the desire to smell like you
More than the times I recall the fragrance only as you

It’s been long…
A long wait
In which I have longed to see you
More than the times I remember the face only as you

It’s been long…
A long time…without you
In which I have held on to
More than what I know only as a sense of you…

Only a Pause

You live in the corner of my smile
Where it begins, ends or stays a while

You live in the melody of my voice
Reminding me to use my words as a choice

You live in the rhythm of my breath
Each one a gift of bridging life and death

You live in the twinkle of my eyes
Which always search for you in the starry skies

You live in the softness of my skin
Touching it makes me wonder how you have been

You live in the flow of my blood
Making my heart pound and feel the flood

You live in the centre of my every cell
And yet it is not so easy for me to tell

That there are days that I still fear
And nothing consoles me as I want you near
That there are moments that I still feel lost
And nothing makes sense in the freeze and frost
That sometimes nothing still feels complete and fair
And it is not enough just knowing you are always there

With each beat, my heart withers and flowers
Knowing we will be together again beyond space and hours
Till then I want you and I to know that I am well
The distance and time is only a pause; not a farewell.

Sail Away…

It’s been many years
Some with smiles, some tears

Holding on too long
Not knowing what could go wrong

If I loosened my grip
What if it will cause me to trip

Will I know how to stand
Without your support as I land

My feet on the ground
That shook me when I found

You too are tired and need rest
So letting go may be best

Sail away Mamma
I will see you when I come
Till then, I love and carry you in my heart
As I find myself and become

A little like you but also me
Knowing that you will be happy to see

That it’s been many years
With more smiles, only some tears…

#  **\*WONDER\***

What Do You See?

There is an excitement in the air

I am happy as if I have no care

The sun comes each day to caress my cheeks

Its golden rays bring the brightness I seek

The wind whistles as if singing to me

Its humming creates an endless sea

The chirping of birds is music to my ears

It reminds me of my childhood years

The flowers they dance in their full bloom

Their colours, their fragrance fill up my room

 I can feel, I can smell

I can see and I can tell

That we are so self-engulfed, we forget to stare

And stop to see the beauty around us everywhere.

Equinox

Looking through the window, one fine dawn
There was fog all around and lovely looked the lawn

The beautiful night, dressed in black, came to meet the day
And all around her gown, the shining stars did play

With slightly pinkish lips, the moon was her face
She slowly moved through the clouds, but surely with a grace

Hardly did she reach her beloved, when she stopped for a moment
The wind blew, the flowers moved and scattered all their scent

Nobody knows what she thought and why she ran away
The day crept in slowly and waiting for her just lay

The same thing repeated, though she loved him so much
She came so close to him…yet was never close enough to touch

The day, who too loved her, waited for her…but in vain
They never met, but he never lost hope and just cried as the rain.

Ever-Changing Seasons

It is very difficult to understand human nature
‘Cause it keeps on changing like the beautiful nature

Night after day and day after night
Today if you have might, you are right

Happiness and sorrow, both in the same heart lie
Like the changing colours of the same sky

The smiles and the frowns on the same little face
Are like the leaves of spring, which in autumn are hard to trace

Sometimes we are on top of the world and want to do everything
Just as all those beautiful birds which on the treetops sing

Like an unknown storm, anger comes in any day
Destroys everything and we have nothing left to say

Tears roll down the eyes, both, in joy and in pain
Like the curse and the boon of the waters of the rain

Like the birds and the bees, we too care and share
And love and affection opens to us a world which is rare

In the same person are present, both evil and good
As on the same earth, there is a barren land and a lush green wood

This ‘nature’ is such that it changes every ‘season’
But why does all this happen not many of us can reason

Moments just come and they pass away
Leaving good and bad memories for today

No one knows what will happen tomorrow to this lovely gift to us
So accept life as it comes, wait for your reward and make no fuss.

Free as a Bird

The grey sky is blue
This feeling I have is new

The sweetness of the air
This wind in my hair

The glow of the sun
This day of mine will be fun

The stillness of the lake
This fresh breath that I take

The trees that rustle
This need for me to not hustle

The swaying flowers bloom
This spaciousness in my room

I can fly, I can flow
In my freedom to search and grow.

If I Were…

If I were the Ocean
You may see the vastness I show
But what is that I carry inside me
With a calm that makes you grow

If I were the Wind
You may see the blowing through the space
But what is that movement inside
With a freedom that makes you race

If I were the Sun
You may see the brightness in my blink
But what is that I hide behind
With a memory that makes you think

If I were the Moon
You may see the phases in which I roll
But what is that feeling in me
With a beauty that stirs your soul

If I were the Fire
You may see the urgency in my way
But what is that burns through me
With a purity that you can pray

If I were the Tree
You may see the shade I give
But what is that thing in me deep down
With a support that makes you live

If I were the Earth
You may see where all you want to roam
But what is that makes me go around
With a place that you call home

Whether you may see me this way or not
Is not why I am here
It is only in your true experience of me
That you can find me near

Near or far is also not it
As I can see you everywhere
But in that hide and seek we play
You may find a moment to spare
To know what doesn’t let you see
The truth that you and I are in everything we bear.

Flow, Grow and Let Go

As a new gardener
Without a green thumb
I couldn’t help but wonder
From where does a plant growth come

What is it that makes them survive
How at times they naturally thrive
And yet sometimes it needs an effort
For them to simply revive

The same environment
The same care
Then why does one flower
And the other becomes bare

Is it something in them
That brings this about
or the interaction with their surroundings
That creates them to self doubt

What if these plants were teaching us
What we know but tend to forget
That growth is a tango with ourself
Giving us a chance to play the game we’ve set

Maybe the plant knows better than us
or probably remembers from where it came
Whether it blooms or not it doesn’t fuss
And comes and goes just the same

Can we too let it come, let it go
And be like the plant to let life flow.

True Nature

Don’t see the speed
See the burning desire
To clear everything in the way
When I am a wild fire

Don’t see the dust
See the air thinned
In the storm that is kicked up
When I am a wild wind

Don’t see the rush
See the loud scream
To carry everything in the flow
When I am a wild stream

Don’t see the quake
See the big birth
In the quivering shake
When I am a wild earth

Don’t see me as you perceive
See me as you
The clouds come and go
But I remain the sky blue

Unaffected by the weather
The seasons and time
For you and I are one
No other truth is prime.

# **\*BELONGING\***

Unspoken Words

A time to meet
Said the heartbeat
But some promises broken
Some unspoken words

A glance to exchange
Be it awkward and strange
But some promises broken
Some unspoken words

A sigh let out
With no sense of doubt
But some promises broken
Some unspoken words

A deep longing
Isn’t this belonging
But some promises broken
Some unspoken words

A tear just fell
From the eyes that tell
of some promises broken
Some unspoken words

A feeling so empty
Brims up in plenty
of what could have been
But remains to be seen
Till no promises are broken
And the words are spoken.

Take Heart

There is a part of me that I don’t know anymore
or could it be a part of me, I wasn’t sure
Not just distant but it felt a lot more
A part of me…that always seemed sore

This part of me that I couldn’t find before
Was hidden behind a keyless door
The crevices on the wall loudly swore
of the pain endured and the grief it bore

I wondered what about it was that I adore
Till I touched it gently and there was an outpour
Revealing pieces of a puzzle brought to the fore
Like coming together and yet missing a core

For every tear you cried and every smile you wore
You were growing and doing your best to get me ashore
To this part of me who is finding the strength to explore –
Take heart…I love you and together we will find the wings to soar.

Peace of Me

There came another one
Flowing down my cheek
Resting a bit on my lip
And urging me to speak

Though I have felt this before
Similar, not the same
This one came out faster
Perhaps it was the added blame

Without taking a breath
I just stood still
Conflicted like never before
Till another one gave me a chill

I moved a little
As I opened my mouth slight
To release the breath
That I was holding tight

Not knowing when I did it
How it opened a barrage
of words that pierced
With a mismatched collage

I relaxed my knees
Even as my heart raced
And took a deep sigh
Staring at what was to be faced

And yet another one came
Between the crevices already wet
The last of the few
Before you and I met

No words could describe
My struggle within
With a part of myself
The one I had not yet seen

A deep look into your eyes
Made me soften my brace
And understanding you are one of my own
My arms opened to your embrace

And in that neutral space
You and I came together
A little old but also new
As I pieced what I could gather

It is not easy you know
So I will keep this one to remind
That each time I value you
The more of myself I find.

I Will Hold You There

Even when you wake up not knowing where
I will hold you there
Like the wind that blows through your hair

Even when you think it is not fair
I will hold you there
Like the faith that breathes through your prayer

Even when you don’t understand the despair
I will hold you there
Like the hope in the smile that you wear

Even when you feel the pain and scare
I will hold you there
Like the comfort that each breath brings to share

Even when you struggle to find anyone to care
I will hold you there
Like the silent partner that surfaces when you are aware

Even when you let go of what you want to repair
I will hold you there
Like the pearl in the ocean that is so rare

Even when you hurt with the heavy burden you bear
Dear heart…I will hold you there
Like the love that flows through the corners you spare
I will hold you there…I will hold you there.

Heart-to-Heart

I have a small container
That I fill with the little I make
It’s a little tender
So I care that it doesn’t break

I have a small hole
That I patch with what I find
It’s a little tattered
So I care that it doesn’t wind

I have a small picture
That I scrub with what I brave
It’s a little faded
So I care that it doesn’t cave

When I take this faded picture
And patch the hole with it
There’s more that I can make
To fill the container bit by bit

As the picture clears
And the hole no longer shows
The love fills the brim so near
That the container overflows

Ah the secret of how to make it
As I now am getting to know
The more I make and share it
Allows my container to grow.

Of Love and Life

Sometimes I see you
Sometimes I feel

No matter how much time does pass
No matter how much you heal

What matters beyond and above
Is that you remind me of how I love

It’s true that you taught me to forgive
But the truth is that you remind me of how I live

There is more to it than just loss and strife
In this great little story of love and life

That you remind me of by far
When sometimes I see you, sometimes I feel you my scar.

Stranger Together

There she stood in a corner
As if alone…as if a goner

No words to speak, no reason to smile
For me to even notice she is there…took a while

Whether she belonged here or was only there
Oblivious to the world…which did not care

I couldn’t take my eyes off this stranger in the crowd
It felt like I knew her…my thoughts became loud

A deep breath I took in and moved towards her
With focused attention…everything around was blur

She hesitated as I tried to move near
Was it mistrust…or simply fear

I felt the urge to hold her close and ask
As this is not really her…she can now drop the mask

She did not even look up but made it very clear
What took me so long…to finally appear

We met each other for the first time, together
Gathering our pieces…as gently as a feather

As we came closer, she leaned on me and found her feet
While I cried and sighed…to see us complete

The lost child in me, she was no other
Trying to find in me…her missing mother.

# **\*TRUST\***

Crossroads

On the crossroads of my life, I met an old man
I had walked many a miles, he knew it from my tan

I don’t know what made me stop and look into his eyes
He smiled at me and spoke gently…his words were surely wise:

“There will always be two roads for you to decide
One will be short and narrow, the other long and wide
The short road that seems soft and green
Has only thorns to spare
While the long road, though exhausting
Has all the flowers to bear
Though you may reach early by the short path
You will remain regretful and full of wrath
If you take the long road, you will surely be left behind
But in the end, you will be happy and will have peace of mind.”

I listened carefully to whatever he said
And before I realized, he vanished and I had begun to tread

Along the road which was long
And I was already humming a song.

Order, Order

When you don’t know how it is
or you don’t understand
Just stop a while and judge me not

If you think you get it
But you actually don’t
Just hold your thought and judge me not

Different stories or many sides
But if you don’t want to really find out
Just watch your words and judge me not

When you haven’t walked my journey
or even know the path
Just step back a little and judge me not

If you have never felt my pain
But react like it isn’t even there
Just slow down your breath and judge me not

Things that may or may not have been
But you have decided how they were
Just open your eyes and judge me not

Understand that there is no gain in this game
Perception of something doesn’t mean its the same
So judge if you must but don’t forget to be kind
‘Cause only one of them is possible…you will soon find.

What’s the Point?

We live, we die
We love, we cry
We try, we lose
But to learn…we refuse
‘Cause what is the point of it all?

We talk, we fail
We smile, we wail
We promise, we shake
But instead of understanding…we break
‘Cause what is the point of it all?

We remember, we hurt
We see, we blurt
We give, we take
But the reasons to not forgive…we make
‘Cause what is the point of it all?

If one of us falters, together we fall
Is the point of it all…the point of it all.

Me, We and Us Three

They told me I was not understanding it
Because my heart was closed
But they did not understand
The questions my heart never disclosed

They told me I was being stuck
Because I was choosing it somehow
But they did not stick with
The choices I honoured in my now

They told me I was not ready
Because I was not willing to change
But they did not show readiness
When I took my pieces back to rearrange

They told me I was being complicated
Because I was not trying hard enough
But they did not simplify things
When I reached out on days that were rough

What they told me or not, is not the matter
Because it is between us
But my heart aches in places and pieces
That I can’t change or reverse

So I move ahead with this little secret I learnt –
That in order to allow love to pass
To me…and through me…
I have to make space in its emptiness
As my heart has room for us all to be free.

Things in Between

Between waiting for a moment
And letting the moment pass
Sometimes we forget to breathe…

Between remembering the past
And planning for the future
Sometimes we forget to live…

Between weaving big dreams
And not being able to sleep
Sometimes we forget to blink…

Between protecting our shell
And craving to break free
Sometimes we forget to grow…

Between words not spoken
And tears not shed
Sometimes we forget to be happy…

Between trying to hold on
And wishing to let go
Sometimes we forget to love…

Between all of this and more, I wonder how…
Sometimes we forget that Happily Ever After is a series of Now.

Now You See Me, Now You Don’t

I looked and looked…but did not find
And was almost convinced that I had lost my mind

Here, there, wherever I seeked
I could not locate you; my heart just shrieked

The darkness engulfed me like an ambush
As I tried again with a nudge and a push

I could see no longer, so silently wept
You held my hand and besides me slowly crept

It took me a while before I could tell
You were always within me, making sure I am well

You come to me whenever I need you
I may feel you elude me, but you never do

My heart warmed up knowing you are there
And nothing seemed bigger as I had Hope to care.

Believe

Would you believe me if I said
That the sun won’t come up tomorrow…
But believe me when I say
That there will be an end to your sorrow

Would you believe me if I said
That the wind will stop to blow…
But believe me when I say
That it’s just a bump, continue to flow

Would you believe me if I said
That the flowers will no longer bloom…
But believe me when I say
That life is beautiful not just gloom

Would you believe me if I said
That the waves will not reach the shore…
But believe me when I say
That our blessings are not less, but more

Would you believe me if I said
That I promise you the stars…
But believe me when I say
That it will heal, leaving just the scars

Wounds may be many
But every scar shows just
How there is something
More powerful than we trust

I know it is difficult to believe
When tears are rolling down…
But believe me when I say
That there is an upside down to the frown.

# **About the Author**

One life lesson that I’ve learnt is to hold the identity lightly.

And yet, for the purpose of this book -

I’m a writer personally and a psychotherapist professionally.

Sharing some of my random scribblings with you through this first book. Hope that you enjoy reading them.

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# **Acknowledgments**

**Thanks for reading!**

While this book is a collection of selected poems
from different experiences of my life,
some may be relatable with yours.
In that sense, we share a part of our heart
with the words that flowed through me.

If you resonated with the book or any specific poem,
please add a short review on Amazon and
let me know what you thought.