

## Three Thousand Stitches

A heart-warming tale of courage and conviction from India's biggest-selling woman author. Two decades ago, when Sudha Murty approached a group of devadasis for the first time, determined to make a difference to their lives, they threw a chappal at her. Undeterred, she went back, telling herself she must talk to the devadasis about the dangers of AIDS. This time, they threw tomatoes. But she refused to give up. The Infosys Foundation worked hard to make the devadasis self-reliant, to help educate their children, and to rid the label of the social stigma that had become attached to it. Today, there are no temple prostitutes left in the state of Karnataka. This is the powerful, inspirational story of that change initiative that has transformed thousands of lives.

Every one of us has a life-affirming story to tell... The inspiring true stories of the interesting people who inhabit the pages of Sudha Murty's books leave an indelible impression on us. But the books are able to chronicle the stories only of the men and women Mrs Murty has come across personally in the course of her social work. There must be so many more wonderful stories that scores of others have to share. *Something Happened on the Way to Heaven* is a collection of twenty such memorable true-life stories. Handpicked by Sudha Murty from entries submitted in an open competition run by Penguin, they capture the hope, faith, kindness and joy that life is full of even as we make our way through the daily grind. Moving and uplifting, this is an anthology that will engross and delight every reader who believes in the goodness of the human heart.

Did you know that Brahma once had five faces? Why do snakes have a forked tongue? Do gods cheat? Why does Shiva sport a crescent moon on his head? The Trinity, consisting of Brahma, Shiva and Vishnu, is the omnipresent trio responsible for the survival of the human race and the world as we know it. They are popular deities of worship all over India, but what remain largely unknown are some of their extraordinary stories. Award-winning author Sudha Murty walks by your side, weaving enchanting tales of the three most powerful gods from the ancient world. Each story will take you back to a magical time when people could teleport, animals could fly and reincarnation was simply a fact of life.

Love is not having to hold back . . . but will she ever truly let him in? Avantika is an investment banker, an ambitious go-getter and the exact opposite of Deb—a corporate professional turned failed writer, turned scripter of *saas-bahu* serials. They've been together for ten years, surviving everything from college to rave parties to annoying best friends, including Shrey, who has no respect for personal boundaries, and Vernita and Tanmay—the annoying yet enviable 'it' couple who seem to have it all. Now Avantika wants to take the next step. But will Deb be able to catch up? Or will it rip them apart? No matter how hard he tries, Deb can't convince Avantika that he's the one for her. Not as long as she is broken and her past looms in the background—pushing her, troubling her, goading her to question if their love is enough. Will Deb be able to find their perfect place? *The Perfect Us* is love's struggle to find a happily ever after. . .

Did you know that the Trinity often turned to goddesses to defeat the asuras? Did you know that the first clone in the world was created by a woman? The women in Indian mythology might be fewer in number, but their stories of strength and mystery in the pages of ancient texts and epics are many. They slayed demons and protected their devotees fiercely. From Parvati to Ashokasundari and from Bhamati to Mandodari, this collection features enchanting and fearless women who frequently led wars on behalf of the gods, were the backbone of their families and makers of their own destinies. India's much-loved and bestselling author Sudha Murty takes you on an empowering journey—through the yarns forgotten in time—abounding with remarkable women who will remind you of the strong female influences in your life.

Controversial and unconventional, this collection examines Canadian identity in terms of the fashion worn and designed over the last three centuries, and the internal and external influences of those socio-cultural decisions.

Proper Regency ladies are not supposed to become magicians—but Miss Abigail Wilder is far from proper. Abigail Wilder's father may be the Lord Sorcier of England, but that does not mean that society is willing to accept her as a magician. When a dark lord of faerie threatens London, however, Abigail is determined to uncover the truth and save Lord Longshadow's victims—and neither good manners nor her father's worries will stop her. Abigail is not the only one investigating the terrible events in London, though. A street rat named Mercy soon insists on joining her cause—and while Mercy's own magic is strange and foreboding, she may well pose an even greater danger to Abigail's heart. The latest instalment in the series that began with *Half a Soul* weaves a dark faerie tale full of defiant hope. Pick up *Longshadow*, and return once more to Olivia Atwater's charming, magical version of Regency England.

City girl Noonni is surprised at the pace of life in her grandparents' village in Karnataka. But she quickly gets used to the gentle routine there and involves herself in a flurry of activities, including papad making, organizing picnics and learning to ride a cycle, with her new-found friends. Things get exciting when Noonni stumbles upon an ancient fabled stepwell right in the middle of a forest. Join the intrepid Noonni on an adventure of a lifetime in this much-awaited book by Sudha Murty that is heart-warming, charming and absolutely unputdownable.

Being a social worker, Sudha Murty believes it is her responsibility to keep check the conditions in which people work—especially those who work for her. After visiting a notebook factory and noticing the poor environment the workers were forced to endure, Murty decides to give all 200 workers a gift for Diwali. However, the manager of the factory is a curious man who might just make a good deed feel dreadful. How will Murty show the workers how grateful she is? Read on to find out.

What is more important: a successful career or a happy marriage? In the small town of Hubli, Shrikant discovers that he is attracted to his plain-looking but charming neighbour Shrimati, who always does better than him in the school exams. Shrimati too falls in love with the amiable and handsome Shrikant and the two get married. Shrikant joins an IT company and starts rapidly climbing the corporate ladder. He works relentlessly and reaches the pinnacle of his industry, while Shrimati abandons her academic aspirations and becomes his uncomplaining *shasow*, silently fulfilling her duties as a

corporate leader's wife. But one day, while talking to an old professor, she starts examining what she has done with her life and realizes it is dismally empty... Gently Falls the Bakula is the story of a marriage that loses its way as ambition and self-interest take their toll. Written nearly three decades ago, Sudha Murty's first novel remains startlingly relevant in its scrutiny of modern values and work ethics.

So often, it's the simplest acts of courage that touch the lives of others. Sudha Murty-through the exceptional work of the Infosys Foundation as well as through her own youth, family life and travels-encounters many such stories . . . and she tells them here in her characteristically clear-eyed, warm-hearted way. She talks candidly about the meaningful impact of her work in the devadasi community, her trials and tribulations as the only female student in her engineering college and the unexpected and inspiring consequences of her father's kindness. From the quiet joy of discovering the reach of Indian cinema and the origins of Indian vegetables to the shallowness of judging others based on appearances, these are everyday struggles and victories, large and small. Unmasking both the beauty and ugliness of human nature, each of the real-life stories in this collection is reflective of a life lived with grace.

Did you know there was a time when bears spoke, the moon laughed and babies were found inside fish? Have you heard of the two-horned sage who had never seen a woman in his life? Did you know Ravana's half-brother was the god of wealth? Have you ever seen a man with a thousand arms? The tales in this collection surround the two most popular avatars of Lord Vishnu-Rama and Krishna-and their lineage. Countless stories about the two abound, yet most are simply disappearing from the hearts and minds of the present generation. Bestselling author Sudha Murty takes you on an arresting tour, all the while telling you of the days when demons and gods walked alongside humans, animals could talk and gods granted the most glorious boons to common people.

Indians believe that you must serve your guests well, for they come to your house in the form of god. This is the exact mentality Sudha Murty's hosts have when she goes to volunteer in a small village in Odisha. Because of the heavy rain, Murty decides to take shelter in one of the villagers' hut—already low on supplies, what are the hosts ready to give up in order to serve their guest? Murty delves into the great extent hosts are willing to go to in order to please their guests.

Read more to see what Sudha learns about the Indian values.

Fifty Vignettes Showcase The Myriad Shades Of Human Nature A Man Dumps His Aged Father In An Old-Age Home After Declaring Him To Be A Homeless Stranger, A Tribal Chief In The Sahyadri Hills Teaches The Author That There Is Humility In Receiving Too, And A Sick Woman Remembers To Thank Her Benefactor Even From Her Deathbed. These Are Just Some Of The Poignant And Eye-Opening Stories About People From All Over The Country That Sudha Murty Recounts In This Book. From Incredible Examples Of Generosity To The Meanest Acts One Can Expect From Men And Women, She Records Everything With Wry Humour And A Directness That Touches The Heart. First Published In 2002, Wise And Otherwise Has Sold Over 30,000 Copies In English And Has Been Translated Into All The Major Indian Languages. This Revised New Edition Is Sure To Charm Many More Readers And Encourage Them To Explore Their Inner Selves And The World Around Us With New Eyes. &Nbsp;

These are just some of the questions you will find answered in this delightful collection of stories recounting real-life incidents from the life of Sudha Murty-teacher, social worker and bestselling writer. There is the engaging story about one of her students who frequently played truant from school. The account of how her mother's advice to save money came in handy when she wanted to help her husband start a software company, and the heart-warming tale of the promise she made-and fulfilled to her grandfather, to ensure that her little village library would always be well supplied with books. Funny, spirited and inspiring, each of these stories teaches a valuable lesson about the importance of doing what you believe is right and having the courage to realize your dreams.

The Gopi Diaries is a series of three books for children about a dog called Gopi. Told in Gopi's voice, the first book, Coming Home, begins with Gopi going to his new home, and tells the story of how he settles down with his loving, human family. How Gopi sees the world around him and what he thinks of the people in his life give the story a truly unique flavour. Written in Sudha Murty's inimitable style, these are books children and adults will treasure as the simple stories talk of basic values even when told from a dog's perspective.

What secrets lurk in a family's past—and how important are they in the here and now? Sudha Murty's new book comprises two novellas that explore two quests by two different men—both for mothers they never knew they had. Venkatesh, a bank manager, stumbles upon his lookalike one fine day. When he probes further, he discovers his father's hidden past, which includes an abandoned wife and child.

Ventakesh is determined to make amends to his impoverished stepmother—but how can he repay his father's debt? Mukesh, a young man, is shocked to realize after his father's death that he was actually adopted. He sets out to find his biological mother, but the deeper he delves, the more confused he is about where his loyalties should lie: with the mother who gave birth to him, or with the mother who brought him up.

The Mother I Never Knew is a poignant, dramatic book that reaches deep into the human heart to reveal what we really feel about those closest to us.

House of Cards is the story of Mridula, a bright young woman with enormous enthusiasm for life who hails from a Karnataka village. A chance meeting with Sanjay, a talented but impoverished doctor, leads to love—and the couple marry and settle in Bangalore. The more Mridula sees of the world, the more she realizes how selfish and materialistic people can be. But she does not take the ups and downs of life to heart, and lives each day with positive energy. Trouble brews when Sanjay quits his government job and starts an immensely successful private practice. With affluence comes the never-ending ambition for more, and the inevitable slide into corrupt practices. For a long time, Mridula has no idea that Sanjay has sold his soul; when the truth hits her, she has no recourse but to walk out on him. But can she really find a space of her own? This intricately woven novel explores human relationships in telling detail, and holds up a mirror to our society with candour and with conviction.

The Organised Mum Method is THE housekeeping bible that will completely revolutionise your home. Say goodbye to mess, clutter and weekends spent tidying and cleaning! Gemma Bray (a.k.a The Organised Mum) is a firm believer that there is more to life than housework, and over the last decade she has perfected The Organised Mum Method (TOMM).\* The Organised Mum Method is a structured, manageable and ultra-efficient cleaning routine that ensures all areas of the home are taken care of. It's easy to follow, effective and ensures that everything gets done in just 30 minutes a day, Monday to Friday ... and you get weekends off! Perfect for existing fans of TOMM or anyone

looking for ways to fit cleaning around a busy lifestyle, *The Organised Mum Method* includes life-changing tips, tricks, cleaning schedules, shopping lists, meal plans and quick recipes that will help you get your housework done fast. \*Don't worry dads -- it works for you too. 'Gopi, I can't believe a year has passed since I met you. You have brought me so much happiness!' In this second book in the bestselling *Gopi Diaries* series, Gopi is stronger, bigger, more confident than the little pup he was in the first book, but he is also cheekier and more mischievous! He faces new situations, new challenges, even new dog companions with endless energy and spirit. And then comes the day when he faces the biggest surprise of them all... Written in Sudha Murty's inimitable style, this simple story told from a dog's perspective shows us just why pets are so precious - for their love, devotion and boundless affection. This is a book for Sudha Murty's fans of all ages as Gopi paws himself yet again into the hearts of children and adults alike.

We all have that one person in our lives in whose absence our existence seems meaningless! Virat and Kavya are like chalk and cheese. While Virat is cautious and reserved, Kavya is outgoing and likes to lead a life full of reckless fun. In spite of their differences, they are best friends, and not even Mahek—the love of Virat's life—can come in the way of that. But, as happens in every relationship, their friendship is put to the test by an unforeseen incident. Can Aditya, along with his cousin, come to their rescue yet again? *You're the Password to My Life* is a true story that shows how friendship is the only 'ship' that does not sink.

The bold, bright colors of India leap off the page in this picture book retelling of how Ganesha helped write the epic Hindu poem, the *Mahabharata*. Ganesha is just like any other kid, except that he has the head of an elephant and rides around on a magical mouse. And he loves sweets, but when Ganesha insists on biting into a super jumbo jawbreaker laddoo, his tusk breaks off! With the help of the wise poet Vyasa, and his friend Mr. Mouse, Ganesha learns that what seems broken can be quite useful after all. With vibrant, graphic illustrations, expressive characters, and offbeat humor, this is a wonderfully inventive rendition of a classic tale. Praise for Ganesha's Sweet Tooth "Pink elephants haven't looked this good since Dumbo." —*The New York Times* "Beautifully presented. . . . So sweet we almost want to pop it in our mouths." —*Entertainment Weekly* "Stylish. . . . A fresh and comedic introduction to a Hindu legend, with a winning combination of both eye candy and actual candy." —*Publishers Weekly* "Bright, elaborately detailed illustrations. . . . Grade-schoolers. . . . will enjoy the story's turnarounds and focus on luscious sweets, and many will be ready for the classic Hindu myth." —*Booklist*

Who can resist a good story, especially when it's being told by Grandma? From her bag emerges tales of kings and cheats, monkeys and mice, bears and gods. Here comes the bear who ate some really bad dessert and got very angry; a lazy man who would not put out a fire till it reached his beard; a princess who got turned into an onion; a queen who discovered silk, and many more weird and wonderful people and animals. Grandma tells the stories over long summer days and nights, as seven children enjoy life in her little town. The stories entertain, educate and provide hours of enjoyment to them. So come, why don't you too join in the fun.

Autobiographical fictional stories.

It's difficult to find a husband in Regency England when you're a young lady with only half a soul. Ever since a faerie cursed her, Theodora Ettings has had no sense of fear, embarrassment, or even happiness—a condition which makes her sadly prone to accidental scandal. Dora's only goal for the London Season this year is to stay quiet and avoid upsetting her cousin's chances at a husband... but when the Lord Sorcier of England learns of her condition, she finds herself drawn ever more deeply into the tumultuous concerns of magicians and faeries. Lord Elias Wilder is handsome, strange, and utterly uncouth—but gossip says that he regularly performs three impossible things before breakfast, and he is willing to help Dora restore her missing half. If Dora's reputation can survive both her ongoing curse and her sudden connection with the least-liked man in all of high society, then she may yet reclaim her normal place in the world... but the longer Dora spends with Elias Wilder, the more she begins to suspect that one may indeed fall in love, even with only half a soul. *Pride and Prejudice* meets *Howl's Moving Castle* in this enthralling historical fantasy romance, where the only thing more meddlesome than faeries is a marriage-minded mama. Pick up *Half a Soul*, and be stolen away into debut author Olivia Atwater's charming, magical version of Regency England!

Get the skills you need to read and speak English with confidence! Learn how to read and speak English with this easy-to-use workbook. Dozens of manageable, bite-sized lessons take you through the basics of the English language. Three-page units cover each subject, which can be completed in just 20 minutes. Each lesson covers a single grammar concept and is supported by many clear examples. The book includes tons of exercises help you practice your new language skills. Plus, you'll also have access to streaming audio recordings of the most difficult English sounds to pronounce. *Practice Makes Perfect: Basic English, Premium Third Edition* features: •Lessons and exercises to expand your vocabulary •Review exercises to measure your progress •Fun word search puzzles and scramble sentence exercises •An answer key for all the exercises in the book •Streaming audio of numerous exercise answers, available online and via our exclusive McGraw-Hill Education Language Lab app •Additional audio recordings of the most difficult sounds to pronounce in English •All aspects of grammar and basic vocabulary that a first-year student needs to know

"The inspiring story of the American flag that flew over Ground Zero, traveled across all fifty states as it was repaired, and returned to New York, a restored symbol of unity"--

As she goes about her work with the villagers, slum dwellers and the common men and women of India, Sudha Murty—writer, social worker and teacher—listens to them and records what they have to say. Their accounts of the struggles and hardships which they have at times overcome, and at other times been overwhelmed by, are put together in this book. There are stories about people's generosity—and selfishness—in times of natural disasters like the tsunami; women struggling to speak out in a world that refuses to listen to them; and tales of young professionals trying to find their feet as they climb up the corporate ladder. Told simply and directly from the heart, *The Old Man and His God* is a collection of snapshots of the varied facets of human nature and a mirror to the souls of the people of India.

We have all heard of how 'Silence is golden, but speech is silver'. But does it hold true when taken literally? Somesh, a talkative ten-year-old boy, loved listening to the stories his father would tell him every night. One fine morning, however, the chatterbox woke up not uttering a single word. Despite the many efforts of his parents, Somesh just wouldn't say anything. In this genius tale that could only come from Sudha Murty, find out how and why Somesh stopped speaking and whether he'll ever speak again.

A poor little girl is rewarded with lovely gifts when she feeds a hungry bird all the rice she has. What happens when the girl's greedy, nosy neighbour hears the story and tries to get better gifts for herself? Why did the once sweet sea water turn salty? How did the learned teacher forget his lessons only to be aided by the school cook? And how did the king hide his horrible donkey ears from the people of his kingdom? For answers to all this and more, delve right into another fabulous collection of stories by Sudha Murty.

How many names does Arjuna have? Why was Yama cursed? What lesson did a little mongoose teach Yudhisthira? The Kurukshetra war, fought between the Kauravas and the Pandavas and which forced even the gods to take sides, may be well known, but there are innumerable stories set before, after and during the war that lend the *Mahabharata* its many varied shades and are largely unheard of. Award-winning author Sudha Murty reintroduces the fascinating world of India's greatest epic through the extraordinary tales in this collection, each of which is sure to fill you with a sense of wonder and bewilderment.

Fifty vignettes showcase the myriad shades of human nature A man dumps his aged father in an old-age home after declaring him to be a homeless stranger, a tribal chief in the Sahyadri hills teaches the author that there is humility in receiving too, and a sick woman remembers to thank her benefactor even from her deathbed. These are just some of the poignant and eye-opening stories about people from all over the country that Sudha Murty recounts in this book. From incredible examples of generosity to the meanest acts one can expect from men and women, she records everything with wry humour and a directness that touches the heart. First published in 2002, *Wise and Otherwise* has

sold over 30,000 copies in English and has been translated into all the major Indian languages. This revised new edition is sure to charm many more readers and encourage them to explore their inner selves and the world around us with new eyes.

Autobiographical anecdotes on the life of the Kannada writer.

This colorfully illustrated multicultural children's book presents Indian fairy tales and other folk stories that the whole family will enjoy! Indian Children's Favorite Stories is a charming selection of eight Indian tales that provide an insight into traditional Indian culture. They make perfect new additions for story time or bedtime reading. Retold for an international audience, the beautifully illustrated stories will give children of all ages a glimpse into the fables and folklore of India, including tales of how Lord Krishna escapes the evil Kamsa's repeated attempts to kill him, and how the elephant keeper's daughter, Rani, humbles an unwise and unjust king by emptying his storehouses of rice. Featured Indian stories include: The Story of Rama, the ancient Indian tale of a prince's exile and return to his homeland Sukhu and Dukhu, two sisters—one kind, one selfish—and their different fates Munna and the Grain of Rice, how a good and clever girl saves her people from hunger And five more wonderful tales to delight story lovers everywhere. A glossary is also included, so that everyone can understand and appreciate the Indian words scattered throughout the stories. The Children's Favorite Stories series was created to share the folktales and legends most beloved by children in the East with young readers of all backgrounds in the West. Other multicultural children's books in this series include: Asian Children's Favorite Stories, Indonesian Children's Favorite Stories, Japanese Children's Favorite Stories, Singapore Children's Favorite Stories, Filipino Children's Favorite Stories, Favorite Children's Stories from China & Tibet, Chinese Children's Favorite Stories, Korean Children's Favorite Stories, Balinese Children's Favorite Stories, and Vietnamese Children's Favorite Stories.

A story of how money corrupts the way people look at one another and how it can almost tear a family apart Vinuta marries Girish, a bank clerk, and starts living with his family in Bangalore. She adjusts to her new family well, looking after her husband, father-in-law and mother-in-law Gouramma, not taking to heart her mother-in-law's constant picking. But when Girish's elder brother Chandru, who is in the US, decides to get married, Vinuta has to listen to the constant comparisons made between her and Chandru's wife, the 'Dollar Bahu', whose husband earns the valuable dollars that has brought the family its recent affluence. Vinuta slowly loses her peace of mind and health. Then Gouramma decides to visit her US-based son and daughter-in-law. Once there, she sees how liberating life can be, away from the strict norms that govern Indian middle-class life. But she also begins to understand that mere dollars cannot buy the love and respect that she gets as her due back in India. Does Gouramma forge a new relationship with Vinuta and can Vinuta forgive and forget the past?

Old Mr Sloggett decides to have some fun with his amazing new slippers. Then something awful happens...Fun and magic. 7 yrs+

Anupama looked into the mirror and shivered with shock. A small white patch had now appeared on her arm.' Anupama's fairytale marriage to Anand falls apart when she discovers a white patch on her foot and learns that she has leukoderma. Abandoned by her uncaring in-laws and insensitive husband, she is forced to return to her father's home in the village. The social stigma of a married woman living with her parents, her steother's continual barbs and the ostracism that accompanies her skin condition force her to contemplate suicide. Determined to rebuild her life against all odds, Anupama goes to Bombay where she finds success, respect and the promise of an enduring friendship. Mahashweta is an inspiring story of courage and resilience in a world marred by illusions and betrayals. This poignant tale offers hope and solace to the victims of the prejudices that govern society even today.

Regency housemaid Euphemia Reeves has acquired a faerie godfather... unfortunately, he has no idea what he's doing. Euphemia Reeves has most inconveniently fallen in love with Mr Benedict Ashbrooke. Housemaids do not marry gentlemen, of course... but a faerie named Lord Blackthorn is only too eager to help Effie win Mr Benedict's heart regardless. Effie knows what a terrible idea it is to accept help from one of the Fair Folk—but life as a maid at Hartfield is so awful that she is willing to risk even her immortal soul for a chance at something better. Now, Effie has one hundred days and ten thousand stitches to make Mr Benedict fall in love with her and propose... if Lord Blackthorn doesn't wreck things by accident, that is. For Effie's greatest obstacle might well be Lord Blackthorn's overwhelmingly good intentions. The long-awaited sequel to Half a Soul delights and amuses in equal measure. Pick up Ten Thousand Stitches, and dive into another enchanting faerie tale set in Olivia Atwater's charming, magical version of Regency England!

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