

*Title: Growth makes Peace*

### 1999

Dec 15<sup>th</sup>: My name's Anjali Kaur, I am an accomplished filmmaker and have had many of my dreams brought into fruition. At 25 years old too, very hard for myself to believe sometimes. I'm an Indian woman, currently residing in Los Angeles. I enjoy hobbies such as screenwriting, listening to music and going to A-list parties around Hollywood. I'm actually going to work on some screenwriting now.

### 2000

Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>: Yes! I think, no, I KNOW I've done it again. My latest motion picture for the Worley Sisters studio, it's definitely going to be a hit. However, we still have a lot of production to complete before I can dignify the question – will it be an Oscar winner – with an answer just yet.

March 28<sup>th</sup>: The movie I have been working on is going great! I'm here in my house in LA, wondering whether to have something to eat or go shopping. Hmm, I'm hungry so I should probably eat first. My housekeeper makes the best meals! I don't know what I did before I was rich!

### 2001

Nov 14<sup>th</sup>: Production on my latest film is nearing an end! What a rollercoaster it has been! After having to make tough choices in the beginning regarding the location and our budget, somehow, it's all rendered meaningless now. I couldn't be happier with how it turned out either, I guess it's time to go grab some celebratory food and drink with my cast and crew tonight!

### 2002

Jul 12<sup>th</sup>: The studio is starting promotion for my movie in a couple of months, just setting and finalising the dates! I love these little breaks between movies, I get to have some me time for a change. Because having work nonstop can really take its toll, I lost a lot of friends, from my childhood back in England believe it or not. I mean, I'm still successful, so who really wants a bunch of strangers around anyway?

Sep 10<sup>th</sup>: I'm actually too excited to sleep! Promotions starts bright and early tomorrow morning; I get to travel to New York for the first time in a while!

Sep 12<sup>th</sup>: There was something awful that happened yesterday, a terrorist attack occurred in New York – at the Twin Towers. I couldn't believe it, all those poor families that have lost their loved ones... because of it I've requested for the studio to delay promotion on the film, as a sign of respect for those lost.

### 2003

Feb 17<sup>th</sup>: It's been, pretty tough recently. Since, 9/11 that is. I was, fired by the studio. Apparently, I was being incompetent for wanting to delay the promotion and thereby release of the film. I can't believe these recent months at all; it seems so unfair. If I try to do something I believe in for the right reasons, this is what happens? Luckily, I've still got the rights o my film, as they fired me, they also lost out on a film too. But what should I do now? What can I do?

Apr 14<sup>th</sup>: My housekeeper suggested that I start seeing a therapist, that was in December of last year. As a result, I have been seeing a therapist. They can come to me, so I don't have to leave my house and feel any worse than I already do. This therapist really did open my eyes! I thought beyond my career in film as a woman, and more to my childhood and how my parents divorced early on in

my life when I was a teenager. When I lost contact with my friends and filled the hole with filmmaking and Hollywood's glamour. Most importantly, when I started visiting my family once every couple of years. I have to improve my strained relations, with the people who believed in me before I did.

Oct 13<sup>th</sup>: I visited England in May this year to reunite with my loved ones. I surprised my loving family, and I met up with my old friends for the first time in years. They really helped me in this tumultuous journey, to realise that I don't have to conform or meet people's expectations all the time. I have planned to start visiting my friends and family every birthday and every Christmas, it's good for the soul.

## 2004

May 21<sup>st</sup>: After an extended break on my career pursuits, I have returned to Hollywood as a better version of myself. What I have begun planning on, is starting my very own production company called 'Mayhem'. I finally feel like a true businesswoman, and I haven't felt this way in forever.

Nov 30<sup>th</sup>: Today was the grand opening of my production company – Mayhem. I still have the rights to many of my old movies, but I don't feel that they reflect the filmmaker I am today. It's time to start creating new films. New films that inspire people and take the necessary risk in order to be legendary.

## 2005

Mar 5<sup>th</sup>: I've started production on my first few films, I don't know how I feel about them entirely just yet, but I know it's exactly the kind of content I wanted to put out there. Themes that tackle issues such as, grief, loss, recovery, and growth. It perfectly fits the narrative of my current life situation too.

## 2006

Sep 12<sup>th</sup>: The film is finished; I don't think the world is ready.

## 2007

Apr 4<sup>th</sup>: Reviews and feedback for my film have been overwhelming, it's such a pinch me moment. The fact that I actually have one of the greatest jobs in the world, to bring audiences of strangers together as one, is the most amazing experience. I think for the remainder of the year, I should spend this special time with my family and friends in England.

## 2008

Jan 25<sup>th</sup>: So, my film was nominated for not one, but four Oscars! That happened! I can't believe how well it was received by Hollywood, it's truly one of my most cherished films too.

Feb 27<sup>th</sup>: It hasn't happened to me in my entire film career, my film won four Oscars! I know exactly how to celebrate...

## 2009

Jul 3<sup>rd</sup>: Currently, I'm having a holiday in Italy. It's this really small village, I simply adore it. Nowhere else but England has ever felt like more of a home for me. I think, no-no, I KNOW I will live here one day. It's amazing how life has changed so much, in 10-short years. I'm 35, and I have finally transformed into my truest self. Here's to growth.

Written by Gagandeep Bura

### Breakdown of the story

This story was set around 9/11 occurring and being the thing that made my main character able to start growing while still returning to her roots. She also displays in the story how you think there's something real, but it turns out to be untrue and built on profit. Yet, your real friends and family remain there for you, even if you temporarily lose your way in life to the glitz and glamour of modern-day Hollywood. It also is telling of how riches can blind a person, as my main character suffers from being a little too reliant on her money before 9/11 rocks the world. Plus, I show how 9/11 make people change their perspectives on how they wish to live their lives – like Anjali did. There is also a little racism that takes place, which Anjali doesn't overthink, as she was in a hard place and couldn't see the blatant racism, she was subject to. I had a theme of racism occur here because after 9/11, many brown people were victims of Islamophobia for quite some time. Highlighting this problem makes me feel my story gives justice to any brown person, who may be or may not be Islamic, who has suffered at the hands of our former society. I wrote this story and tried my best to put myself in the shoes of someone that was struggling due to being overworked like a machine by Hollywood. I hope I have inspired any Sikh-Indian girls that feel we lack in representation in the mainstream media.