

DUDU STORIES



Shanthí Radhakrishnan
Illustrated by Vidya Vasudevan



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First Edition

SHANTHI RADHAKRISHNAN

**Illustrated
By
VIDYA VASUDEVAN**



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Dedicated to

*Jaahnvi & All My
Grandchildren*



Content of the Book

This book is in three chapters. The first chapter is an introduction to the main characters, namely the grandchild who comes on a holiday to visit her grandparents and how she enjoys herself with her friends.

At the beginning of the second and longer chapter, the family sets out on a trip with a purpose, which very soon turns into an adventure story. In spite of many unexpected twists and turns, with the help of the grandfather, and a great deal of sheer luck the mystery is solved.

The concluding chapter includes some of the best lessons the children learn about the beautiful world of Nature.

Preface

This is an attempt to capture the magical relationship between grandparents and grandchildren. In today's fast paced time and age, with nuclear families and a global workplace, the home of a grandparent is for the child the last bastion of love and security where he/ she learns empathy and cultural values. It's a long holiday of fun and games and discovery. For here, there is no strict routine and the adults are extremely supportive and can be confided in.

When the child arrives, Autumn turns into Spring. The clouds are gone and the sun shines brighter than ever. The air seems to be filled with the song of birds as it resonates with shrieks, giggles, laughter and the voices of happy children. And as the grandparents are hugged and kissed and made much of, they too begin to feel appreciated and to relive their own carefree childhood.

I remember the first gift given to me by my grandchild when she was scarcely three years old. A golden ray of morning sunlight, sparkling with dust particles, had entered through a chink between the curtains. She kept jumping up to catch it. And then, ran up to me holding a tiny clenched fist. "For you *Ammuma* (grandmother)," she said, handing over to me the ray of sunlight that she had just caught!

All too soon, when the holidays are over and it is time for the grandchild to return to her parents, a pall of gloom descends and the skies turn grey again.

Thankfully a large number of unforgettable shared memories have been made. And the future promises the possibility of being able to stay in touch through video calls.

But if these shared experiences involve enjoying Nature together, then just the morning dew on the grass, a starlit night or the hoot of an owl on the prowl, will bring a smile back into life.

Acknowledgement

Colonel Radhakrishnan (my Dad) who was a disciplinarian as a parent, but the most indulgent and wonderful Grandparent in the world.

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LIKE ALL HERD ANIMALS, HUMAN BEINGS WANT
LOVE, SUPPORT AND COMPANIONSHIP. THIS
NEED IS BEST FULFILLED IN A RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN GRANDPARENTS AND THEIR
GRANDCHILDREN. AND EACH GOES THAT EXTRA MILE
TO KEEP THE OTHER PERSON HAPPY

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Shanthi Radhakrishnan has had a diverse career, from finance to teaching to writing. She is active in ecological conservation movements and is an ardent champion of Mother Nature. The center of her being is her grandchild, and she considers her role as a grandparent, the most fulfilling and important one in her life.



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