

**SOLD**

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# Introduction

Lakshmi is a thirteen year old girl who lives in the Himalayan mountains. She lives a simple life, but she also lives in poverty with her Ama, infant sibling, and stepfather.

Her family's home was recently devastated by a monsoon that ruined crops, their home, and something that really stuck out to Lakshmi, a tin roof.

Her life turns into a disaster when she is sold to support her family. Since she is the oldest child, it means she has to find a job to support her family. Her step-father sold her with a stranger to work as a “maid” for 800 rupees.



# Protagonist

## Lakshmi

- Lakshmi is a young Nepalese girl who lives a regular life, enrolled in schooling, caring for her goat and avoiding eye contact with the man she is supposed to marry.
- She loves her family, especially her mother. She even compared her mother to the Lakshmi goddess claiming she is much more beautiful.
- She has strong faith, and oftentimes refers back to “Simply to endure to triumph”



# Antagonist

-Mumtaz

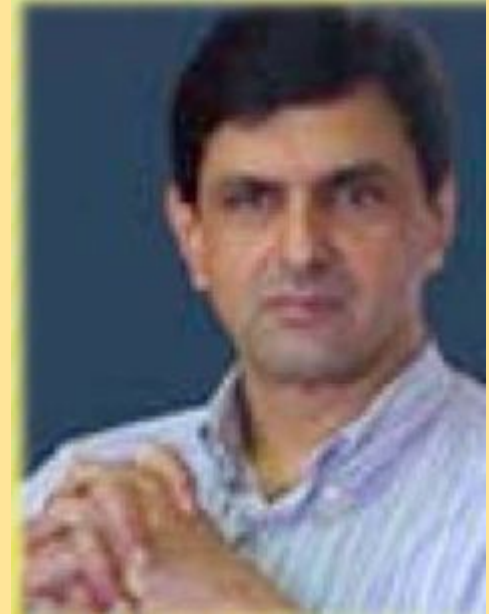
- She is a “aunie.”
- She is a older middle aged woman with cruel rules and runs the “Whore House”
- Makes sure no one leaves or comes
- No one is allowed to leave unless debt is paid off
- Seems emotionless towards the cruel conditions of the girls.



## Other “Antagonist” character

Lakshmi’s stepfather

- Gambles a lot
- Ama’s second husband, who she doesn’t really feel in love with him, but often times says having a husband is better than none at all.
- Sees no value in Lakshmi, and even refers to her like a goat, good for what they produce but useless when gone.
- Spends families small amount of money on coats and items for himself.



## *How the book reflected sex trafficking in India*

- Captures the dark side of India
- Sex trafficking is still happening in India, and a important form of sexual slavery.
- The need of money
- Poverty
- The amount of young girls that have to go through this
- How hurt and how much damage it can cause to a family

# Interview with : Lakshmi's Biological mother - Kylei

Interviewer : Hello, so are you the mother of the young victim Lakshmi?

Mother : Yes, Lakshmi is my biological daughter.

Interviewer : Okay, so let's get started, how old was she when she was brought to the house?

Mother : Lakshmi was 13 years old.

Interviewer : Can you tell me about her life before being brought to the other house?

Mother : Lakshmi lived with her baby brother, step father, and myself. She was enrolled in schooling, and tended for our goats. Around this time, she also just began menstruation.

Interviewer: Okay, and where is it that you live?

Mother : Nepal.

Interviewer : Okay, can you tell me about Laws in Nepal about sex work and trafficking.

Mother : In Nepal, there are almost no laws that target sex work, however there are laws about trafficking.

Interviewer: How does a Sex trafficking victim like Lakshmi differ in the laws from a sex worker?

Mother : Often times, sex workers and sex trafficked victims are looked at the same in Nepal, however, most woman in sex trafficking are either sold off to other trafficking in bad cases, or come back to the community. Many do not face punishment.

Interviewer : Can you give me some reasoning as to why woman enter the sex industry?

Mother : Voluntary sex work is very common in Nepal. Often times it is the only option for some woman to bring money to low income families.

Interviewer : Was Lakshmi one of the voluntary situations?

Mother : No, Lakshmi was told she was going to do work. She had hopes of giving us a tin roof. However, I wanted her to stay here and hated the idea, I was against it.

Interviewer : So, Lakshmi being age 13, was sold for a better value due to being pure or other men and diseases. Are you aware that 50% of woman who suffer with aids, were involved in sex trafficking.

Mother : I was not aware.

Interviewer : So, since Lakshmi is at the Hope House, an organization that rescues young girls. I can tell you, she is safe.



Mother : What is life like in the houses?

Interviewer : Good question, the girls are brought in and given a “makeover” to look more mature if they are young. Other woman in the house help the younger girls look more mature. They are then given a bed, and brought to a club, where men can choose to take them to a nearby bed where the girls are forced to have relations with the man. This is how they are payed. Often times, there are almost 30 men a night.

Mother : Can the girls have preference on using protection?

Interviewer : Yes, but they may not enforce it.

Mother : Who leads the house?

Interviewer: A woman, Mumtaz, who goes by “ Auntie” to the girls, however, the victims have said she is nothing near a friend.

Mother : Okay.

Interviewer: So, are you aware that when a young girl is trafficked, they are forced to pay back what they were bought for, as well as their families debt?

Mother : I am aware now.

Interviewer : How do you personally feel about the situation?

Mother : Lakshmi and I had a good relationship before this, things were hard around here and most of our community lived off 1-2\$ a day. As I said before, she was enrolled in schooling, but we couldn't even afford to pay back for a pencil. She tended for our goats, and had a strong relationship with them. I love and still care for her, but her relationship with my husband however was not. He believed women were unable for doing good, and followed through with her going. He often times said, " Woman are like goats, good to have but nothing to be sad about losing." Right now, as a mother that loves Lakshmi, I feel bad because I did not want to lose her in the first place but we were in a desperate time for money.

Interviewer : As you mentioned, her Step-father, how is his perspective on money?

Mother : He would often times buy things for himself such as coats from the city and nice things for him only as we were struggling, but a husband is better than no husband at all.

Interviewer: Well, I am glad we got to speak today, any further questions for me?

Mother : No, thank you for your time.

Interviewer : You as well.

## Interview with : House mother ( Madam) - Alyssa

Interviewer: Hello, I have some questions.

Madam: That's fine.

Interviewer: At what point did you realize you were a so called mom to these girls.

Madam: I realised that these young girls looked up to me and thought of me as a mom when they would ask me for advice. They would go to me when they had questions or needed help. At some points I found myself being rude to them but I think I was just upset with myself.

Interviewer: Why were you upset with yourself?

Madam: I think I was upset because I let myself go into this work. I use to say I was helping my family and myself. But in the end I was hurting and after time my family didn't care.

Interviewer: When you saw a new young girl come into your home how did you respond? Was it hard to see another girls life being changed right in front of you?

Madam: I acted like I was okay with it all but it really sucked to see new girls being brought in. Sometimes I pushed them and yelled but I knew what they were going through. I wish I got the chance to really be there for them and help them out. But everything I said came out wrong.

Interviewer: Why did you pressure them to go along with it all?

Madam: Although it was hard to watch I knew why the girls were doing it. They had to get there money and “work” for it. They all needed the money but what the girls didn't know was how they got it. I pressured them so they could get what they needed and get out of the work. But it was never that easy. Some men didn't pay what they needed. Some girls did not cooperate. And It never went fast.

Interviewer: I'm sorry you and your girls had to go through this, thank you for your time.