

Dear Parthivi,

We are thrilled to extend our heartfelt congratulations on your powerful and moving story, "Luka Chhipi (Hide and Seek)," which you shared at the 6th Global Empathy Conference in Prague. Winning first place at the Elaine Hobson Literary Festival is a testament to your exceptional storytelling abilities and your deep understanding of human emotions.

1. **Historical Context and Realism:** You have masterfully set your story against the backdrop of August 1947, capturing the tumultuous period of partition with vivid and poignant details. The sounds of sloganeering, the tension, and the environment you describe bring to life the fear and uncertainty of that era.
2. **Emotional Depth and Characterization:** The relationship between Geeta and Damini is beautifully portrayed. Geeta's innocence contrasted with Damini's fear and protective nature creates a powerful emotional connection with the reader. The transformation of Farhan's character, from a reluctant participant to a compassionate saviour, adds another layer of depth and complexity to your narrative.
3. **Imagery and Symbolism:** Your use of imagery, such as the sliver of light through the cabinet and the cocoon of love and make-believe, effectively conveys the fragile hope amidst chaos. The symbolic act of Farhan patting Geeta's doll's head serves as a poignant moment of empathy and humanity, illustrating the power of compassion even in the darkest times.

Overall, "Luka Chhipi (Hide and Seek)" is a remarkable story that powerfully conveys themes of empathy, courage, and the human spirit. Your ability to evoke deep emotions and create vivid, relatable characters is truly impressive. We are delighted to inform you that "Luka Chhipi (Hide and Seek)" will be published in the Empathy in Action Newsletter in the July edition.

Congratulations once again on your well-deserved success, and we eagerly look forward to reading / listening to more of your exceptional work at the 2025 Elaine Hobson Memorial Literary Festival, which will be held at the University of California (Silicon Valley) in May 2025.

Best wishes!

Team GEC

Link to later published newsletter:

https://irp.cdn-website.com/0155965d/files/uploaded/2024_Newsletter_July_edition.pdf