

## THE CHILDREN EMPOWERMENT IN SOCIETY ROOPA FAROOKI NOVELS

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### **Abstract:**

*She wrote her first novel, Bitter Sweets, while pregnant with her first child, and renovating a house in SW France. Bitter Sweets was first published in the UK in 2007, and shortlisted for the Orange Award for New Writers that year.*

*She published her second novel, Corner Shop, in 2008. Her third novel, The Way Things Look to Me, was published in 2009, and was voted one of The Times Top 50 Paperbacks of 2009, long-listed for the Orange Prize 2010, and has been long-listed for the Impact Dublin Literary Award 2011.*

*Her fourth novel, Half Life, was published in 2010 and was selected by Entertainment Weekly (US) as No. 2 on their list of "Eighteen Books We Can't Wait to Read This Summer" it was also nominated for the International Muslim Writers Awards 2011.*

*Her fifth novel, The Flying Man was published in January 2012 in the UK, and has been longlisted for the Orange Prize 2012. Her sixth novel, The Good Children, was published in 2015, and was featured on BBC Radio Four Open Book. She has said this might be her final novel. Farooki has also been nominated for the Women's Prize for Fiction three times.*

The Good Children' is a one of a good work of Roopa Farooki. Before going into the novel, we will go through a brief introduction about Roopa Farooki. Roopa Farooki was born in Lahore, Pakistan and brought up in London. She has written five previous novels to critical acclaim, and has twice been longlisted for the Orange Prize; she has also been shortlisted for

the Orange New Writers Award, and the Muslim Writers' Awards, and longlisted for the Impact Dublin Literature Award and DSC Prize for South Asian Literature. In 2013 she was awarded the John C Laurence prize from the Authors' Foundation, for writing which increases understanding between races. Her novels have been published internationally and translated into twelve languages. She teaches on the Masters in Creative Writing at Oxford University, and lives with her husband and four children.

Being multifield experienced person, she also started to write novels. She wrote her first novel, Bitter Sweets, this novel was first published in the UK in 2007, and shortlisted for the Orange Award for New Writers that year. She published her second novel, Corner Shop, in 2008. Her third novel, The Way Things Look to Me, was published in 2009 and long-listed for the Orange Prize 2010 and also has been long-listed for the Impact Dublin Literary Award 2011. Her fourth novel, Half Life, was published in 2010 and was selected by Entertainment weekly (US) as no. 2 on their list of "Eighteen Books We Can't Wait to Read This Summer" it was also nominated for the international Muslim Writers awards 2011. Her fifth novel, The Flying Man was published in January 2012 in the UK, and has been longlisted for the Orange Prize 2012. Her sixth novel, The Good Children, was published in 2015, and was featured on BBC Radio Four Open Book. Roopa Farooki has also been nominated for the Women's Prize for Fiction

three times. Farooki's novels have been critically well received, and she has been compared to other British female novelists, Andrea Levy, Zadie Smith and Monica Ali. Roopa Farooki's novels are originally written into English but presently they are translated in dozens of other languages worldwide.

'The Good Children' is a novel. The book is excellent in the way it studies the way in which Indian children from a strict family background struggle with, and adjust to, living either overseas with all the inevitable cultural influences and challenges – or, in the case of the girls, simply in the modern world. It goes on to look at the lives of their children, and their children's children, and how totally different these are to where their parents and grandparents came from. It is generational book of impact. The novel is thought provoking book that examines the impact on people of travel and living in an alternative culture – but still with inevitable ties to where they came from. The theme is one that is bound to become more and more significant as travel and relocation, for both work and play, becomes the norm of modern living. It. The novel is divided into the three parts. The first part briefs about Good Sons, Good Daughters and it covers the period of 1938-1961 and second parts introduces about the Good Sisters, Good Brothers and it covers the period of 1961-1997 in the novel. The third part deals with Good Fathers, Good Mothers it includes the period of 1961-2009. The novel has total in fifteen chapters.

'The Good Children' is a compelling story of discipline and disobedience, punishment and the pursuit of passion, following the children of a game changing generation and the ties that bind them across cultures, continents and decades. Painful and sweet, tough and surprising, it is a landmark epic of the South Asian immigrant experience. I think, Roopa Farooki in this novel describe the character of

the mother, one of the cruellest natural mothers in the history of literature, one of the inefficient fathers, and four lovely children, *strong in their own way. This story follows their growth and development as adults, and finally ends when they are old people themselves. The novel tells the story about four siblings of Dr. and Mrs Saddeq – two boys Sully and Jakie and two girls, in this novel, mostly short forms are used for the names so we will see their long forms. They are not exactly given short forms rather the changes in the lives. Sully for Sulaman Saddeq and Jakie for Jamal Kamal for two boys' characters in this novel and Mae for Maryam and Lana for Leena for the two girls' characters. Mae and Lana who grow up in 1940s in Lahore, Pakistan during the time of the Partition under and authoritarian and controlling mother whose behaviour to her children Is a mixture of emotional, mental and physical abuse as she tries to bring them up as "good" children.*

**Keywords:**

*children, village, women, social development, mother, environment*

**Introduction:**

Farooki was born in Lahore, Pakistan in 1974 to a Pakistani father and Bangladeshi mother, who moved to London when she was seven months old.

Her father was the late Nasir Ahmad Farooki, a Pakistani novelist and a prominent figure in Pakistani literary circles in the 1960s.

Roopa's father abandoned her when she was 13 later marrying a Chinese American. Her mother, Niluffer, later had a long-term relationship with an English-Iraqi of Jewish descent. She had a sister, Kiron, who became a solicitor. Despite being of both Pakistani and Bangladeshi descent, she speaks only English, because her parents were keen on assimilating into London and spoke to her in only English.

She won a scholarship to a private girls' school, but on the condition she chose arts subjects at A-Level, which frustrated her ambition to become doctor.

Roopa studied PPE at New College, Oxford University, worked in corporate finance (at Arthur Andersen) and then as an advertising account director (at Saatchi & Saatchi and JWT), before she turned to writing fiction full-time.

Once her children were at school, she borrowed books on chemistry, biology and physics from a library, studied them for three to six months, and passed the graduate entry exam for medicine. In 2019, she completed a postgraduate degree in medicine from St George's, University of London, commencing work as a junior doctor in London.

Now we will see in details about each and every character of the novel. In this novel each as every character is describe beautifully by Roopa Farooki. Firstly we shall discuss about one of the most important character of the novel which is the mother of Sully, Jakie , Mae and Lana. Mother is one of the most loved person by the children and the mother is also one of the kindest person to the children. Mother is whole caretaker of the family. Mother devotes everything to her children. Mostly the children does not stay away for longer time from the mother. They always want their mother with them. But it is not true for Sully, Jakie, Mae and Lana. They do not like their mother that much and also they do not consider their mother as one of lovable person. They do not want to be with their mother. They are not happy with their mother. They do not spend their childhood like normal children rather very differently because of the mother.

In this novel, the children, Sully, Jakie, Mae and Lana do not remember any movement that their mother talks with them with love and care. The children spend their childhood with very congested manner under fear of the mother.

Looking into childhood of the children the mother does play the role of mother than a witch type character. Their mother is very strict, abusive and she does always want that her children should listen her each and every decision. Whole the time, she wanted keep them in under her control. She never ever talks with them with lovingly tone rather with abusive and loud thundering sound. The mother in the story wanted to become her children good but her ways were very different. She would beat the children for studying a lot, honour and obeying. In other had the father of Sully, Jakie, Mae Lina was very opposite character compare to their mother. The children call their father 'Abbu' and 'Amma' for the mother. The character of the father in this novel is not shown as much active as the mother.

Now we will know about one of the most important character of the story, Sully (Sulaman Saddeq). Sully is the eldest child in the family. Sully says that the year after he was born, his brother was born. A couple of years after that, his sisters were born, in quick succession, during the war. His father was a young medic; he worked for the Indian air Force, and claimed much later in his after dinner anecdotes that he had very little to do during this illustrious part of his career, as few people came back injured. They either came back whole, or did not come back at all' their bodies burning to crisps in the air, or falling through the skies to feed the wild animals and the earth. Sully talks about the mother he tells his mother was two people' comically girlish, or tragically severe. She watched all the movies that were imported, read magazines in private, and Qur'an in public, and played with her babies. He says his sister were born less than eighteen months apart, and the wet nurse that had been hired fed them both together, weaning her own objecting little brat, whom she left with her sister in her village. He says

his mother dressed the girls like dolls, put ribbons in their surprisingly thick fluff of hair, and praised their honey-cream complexions, although she still powdered them pale for public outings. For his brother and him, she changed her mask, frowned at them with silent disapproval, and then hit them with a ruler, a hairbrush, and even with a pair of scissors if they did anything other than study. Or if they were not studying hard enough.

Sully says 'Study. Study harder' it was the mantra of their childhood, repeated more frequently than their prayers. He tells his mother firmly believed that teaching and learning was best done by pain and punishment, and if she had been a volunteer in the New Haven test, she would have been surprised that she went to the trouble of using a shock machine and a separate room. She would have happily stood over the learner with a blunt instrument until he got the answers right. Sully says he was jealous of his sisters, and teamed up with his little brother, Jamal Kamal, whom they called Jay-Kay for short, and eventually Jakie from convenience, as that was how he mispronounced his own name as a toddler. Sully was sent to the United States of America for studying medicine. He ends with his education with a successful doctor. Sully as an acknowledged expert on the psychological traits of those who kill and torture 'for fun'. He falls with love an Indian girl named Radhika. She is unsuitable type girl for sully but sully loves her a lot. She has habit of smoking cigarette and much more bad habits but Radhika and Sully finally gets married. Radhika likes car a lot. While talking about Radhika, Sully says she is an efficient driver. She gets her driving licence when she was pregnant with Buzz, and failed four times on parking, ramming the car into the sidewalk each time. It is how she habitually parks now, if she is not in a space; she runs impatiently

over the kerb, and then lets the tyres drop into place, barely in the road.

Sully tells when he complains about the wear to the tyre rubber, she used to say she would rather wreck the wheels than replace a wing mirror again. He always pulled in like you are meant to and parked a few inches further out than her, and the wing mirror once got sheared off in the city by someone who did not leave their details. Radhika had to order the replacement from out of state, and she got stopped by traffic cops twice for driving without one while they waited for it to arrive, once on the school run with Buzz, the other time car-pooling to campus from Long Island. From the marriage of Radhika and Sully, Radhika does not allow sully to drive the car when they are together. She drives the car whole the time when they are together. The novel tells the story of three generations. They have a child named Buzz. There is too much different between the childhood of sully's children and his own. Sully turns old man. His got married. He got grandchildren too. His grandchildren goes to college.

Now we will come to know about another one of the most important character of the novel, Jakie. In this novel, the most important given to Sully and Jakie. Most of chapter are written on them and in other hand the least important is given to Mae and Lana and only one chapter is written on them each. Jakie is the short form of Jamal. Jamal is the second number child in the family elder than his two sister, Mae and Lina and younger than his brother, Sully. His childhood gone through restrictions and punishments under the influences of his bossy mother. But get free and relax from the strict mother when he was sent to United Kingdom for the further studies. He studies medicine. After completion of the study. He becomes a successful doctor. Jakie says when you do not have very much of something as a child, he thinks you either value it even more as an adult

or do not value it at all. Like money. Or chocolate. Or education. Or in their case, the movies. Jakie was not really interested in the movies, he does not even like television. He would rather talk to someone than watch fake people make fake conversation. In other hand, Sulaman is not a big talker, and so he loves the movies, where no one expects him to do anything but sit in rapt silence. Jakie falls love with a homosexual person named Frank Mcadam. He is Irish.

Now we will look into remaining two important character of the novel. Mae and Lana. Mae and Lena are raised under her very strict mother and they are always restricted with doing many things. They do not allow to do the things which they like. If they want to do somethings but they are stopped by their mother. They are raised with muslim culture. They were not allowed to study further higher education like their brothers. Their brothers are sent to overseas for the higher education but Mae and Lena were not sent anywhere for higher studies. They were got married in young ages. Their mother wanted to stay their girls with the husbands with whom they got married but the girls refuses and the revolt. They refuse to remain trophy wives, and disgrace the family while they strike out to build their own lives. They get divorced and choses the career of their own choices and lives happily. Here is the end of all the main character in the novel.

We can also mug up the novel within few following words The Good Cildren in question – Sully, Jakie, Mae, and Lena – are the offspring of Dr and Mrs Saddeq, residents of Lahore in West Bengal when the story opens in the 1940s – and of Lahore in Pakistan (though they have passed on) when it ends in 2010. Roopa Farooki (herself a Pakistani, born in Lahore, brought up in London – and now living in the South of England and the South of France) chronicles the life of each child through from the 1940s to what is, in effect, the present.

Each child is very different. As late teenagers, the two boys, sully and Jakie, are despatched to the United States and England respectively to study to be doctors. It is the first time they have been separated. Each ends up successful – Sully as an acknowledged expert on the psychological traits of those who kill and torture ‘for fun’ and Jakie as a prominent GP in Notting Hill, London. But getting there is not easy... Jakie was a ‘brown’ doctor in the NHS of the 1950s... with all the unwitting racial prejudice that was involved. It did not help, of course, that he fell in love with a somewhat challenging Irish man – a man he lives with throughout the book (and with whom he adopts a child) Sully falls in love with, and marries, a quite ‘unsuitable’ Indian girl in the United States. Their mother, Amma, feels let down by both of them... The girls, Mae and Lena, coming from a good family are expected to be trophy wives in Lahore... but they both revolts. They leave Lahore and have careers. They also have disastrous marriages. The reader is left in little doubt that the reason for the scattering of the children is their controlling and thoroughly unpleasant mother who both browbeat and beat them physically into being good children’. Their father, Abbu, is a perfectly pleasing but ineffective player in the novel.

**Conclusion:**

The four children come together and back to Lahore twice in the course of the book – the first time for the funeral of their father, and the second time for the funeral of their mother. Lives have moved on and ‘what might have been’ are discussed.

The novel is praised by various sources which are given here. The Independent talk about the novel A fairy tale... etched with compassion so that we care about their destinies’. Daily mail writes about the Good Children She has the gift of all great novelists – and make no mistake, this is a great novel – of making connections, a trick of revisiting an image so the juxtaposition

of then and now has devastating force. Above all, she has a love of her characters that makes s love them too’.

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