

# THE UNFINISHED JOURNEY



SAYUNI UDAMSA NAWARATHNE

# THE UNFINISHED JOURNEY

SAYUNI UDAMSA NAWARATHNE

*Other publications of the Author-*

- ❖ සුරංගනාලෝකයට ගිය ගීන්යා
- ❖ THE FLOOD IN THE JUNGLE
- ❖ THE COTTAGE

Mahamaya Girls' College Kandy

11G

2025.02.08

ISBN-978-624-208-874-7

# *Dedication*

*This book is adoringly dedicated to my loving mother, father, sister, friends, and the principal and to my class teacher of Mahamaya Girls' College - Kandy*

## Foreword

Literary development is a yardstick to measure the development of a country. The Kotte and Dambadeniya eras stand out in the history of the world because they were literary enlightening periods. If so, this is the golden period in the history of the Mahamaya as well. This is the reason why our daughters have been enchanting through book writing for many years now. It is a special event that our writers have succeeded in building a culture of writing books in the school and spreading it to the entire school system and this time involving the global student community in it.

Beyond this, this time the school community itself has also decided to rebuild the past Yatiwara writing tradition in the country in order to pay tribute to the founder of our school, Karadana Atthadassi Thero.

The Pirivena student monks have also taken up book writing “The Herana Gatkarani “ project was introduced.

It is a matter of pride for me as the principal to lead the way in bringing about a qualitative change in the education of schools and Pirivena education through this academic and religious service, and it is also an achievement for the school.

This book, which is the result of recognizing one's innate talent at an early stage in life and turning to writing, will undoubtedly be a help for future education and future life.

Shashikala Senadheera,  
Principal, Mahamaya Girls' Collage, Kandy.

Soniya was an average girl who studied at Ravenwood High School in Tennessee. She's on her way to become a medical officer in a well reputed hospital and currently an intern at Vanderbilt University medical Center.

However, ever since she was a grade 1 student, she wanted to become a cardiologist and now she has achieved it.

So, in order to be successful, it is essential for us to choose the right path and to have good friends who had raised her to be her.

When she was in the first grade, she went to a different school and was always loved and respected by the teachers not only that she always did her work as best as she could.

One great afternoon, her teacher asked all the students something.

" Class. I want one of you to become the class monitor. Who would like to become her? I'm certain that it will be a great experience for that special girl or boy . So who would?"the class teacher, Mrs. Anne asked.

" I want to, I want to." Everyone answered except a small girl who was busy sleeping.

" Soniya, Soniya, Is that you my love? Why are u sleeping right now? Anyway dear get up. I think you should be the next monitor.." Mrs.Anne asked Soniya.

" Extremely sorry madam . I couldn't sleep yesterday well as I stayed up all night to finish a project.Yes, I would like to."Soniya answered while shivering.

"Class, Applaud her. She did so well." Mrs. Anne said while smiling.After the class Clarin came up to Soniya and congratulated her.

Since then, they became friends and did everything together, but the next year.

Soniya had to be separated from Clarin as their parents wanted to live in Tennessee and because of the schools are better than that in Nevada.

It was a horrific scenario for both Clarin and Soniya, but they promised each other that they will be reunited one day.



So, in second grade , Soniya went to her new school and the first day she didn't have any place to sit in the class. Her mother and Soniya felt so sad about the scenario that Soniya's mother and

Mrs. Green told Soniya to not to be worried and that she's a good girl and that she should always obey her class teacher no matter what.

As the time went by,

she made a new friend named Odella, she was a bit taller than her and much slim than Soniya, but they found solace in each other's company and Soniya and Odella did everything together.



They went to the same tuition classes and got the same marks in almost every subject. In third grade, their class teacher, Mrs. Daniela had to transfer to another school and they all felt sad for her. One day, Soniya asked Odella.

“ Hey, do you want to make a sandcastle i bought some toy sand from a store. Would you like to play with me?”

“Of course, Anyway I think we can build a sandcastle like one in the Rapunzel.”

Saying that they made a nice sandcastle, and they won an award for the most beautiful sandcastle that was made that day in the class, and they couldn't be happier than anyday.



In fifth grade, Students had to write a scholarship test and Soniya failed by one mark.

She was heartbroken and Odella tried her best to console her and day by day she became strong again and worked hard, both helped each other in studies.

However, the next year they had to be separated from each other as they were shuffled. But just like earlier they promised each other to keep in touch and during the earlier months of that year,

A virus from China came which was totally unexpected and many people died from that Virus. It was a global pandemic, and everyone was asked to wear masks and take necessary actions to prevent from that disease.

However, during the pandemic, Soniya had to let go of his favourite person, who was her grandfather. During a RAT test,

they found out that their grandfather is positive, and they had to be under quarantine.

Through many struggles and challenges, their grandfather became cured again and went onto live a happy life even though he sadly passed away the next year due to Pneumonia .





During the eighth grade, students who are doing guiding had to go to a camp. Soniya had always loved adventure, so when she got the chance to attend a nature camp deep in the woods, she was beyond excited. The lush green trees, the scent of blooming flowers, and the sound of birds singing made her feel like she had stepped into a magical world.

One afternoon, as she wandered through the forest, she heard a soft, melodious humming. She followed the sound and, to her surprise, found a tiny hummingbird perched on a low branch. Her feathers shimmered in the sunlight, and her eyes held a sadness that tugged at Soniya's heart.

"Hello there, little one," Soniya said gently.

The bird tilted her head and, to Soniya's astonishment, spoke!

"Hello, my name is Ariana," she said.

Soniya's eyes widened in shock. "You can talk?"

Ariana nodded. "I am no ordinary hummingbird—I am the princess of the Bird Kingdom."



Soniya gasped in amazement. A real bird princess? It felt like something out of a fairy tale. But before she could ask more, Ariana sighed heavily.

"But my life is not as wonderful as it may seem," Ariana continued. "My mother, the Queen, has forced me to marry a cruel and powerful eagle named Lord Varkon. He rules the northern cliffs with

fear, and he only wants to marry me to gain control over our kingdom."

"That's horrible!" Soniya exclaimed. "Why doesn't your mother stop him?"

"She believes that I must marry him for the good of our people," Ariana explained, her tiny wings drooping. "She says it's my duty as a princess. But I don't want to live my life in fear. I want to be free."

Soniya felt a deep sense of sympathy for Ariana. She knew what it felt like when adults made choices without understanding how they truly felt.



“Maybe we can change your mother’s mind,”  
Soniya suggested.

Ariana hesitated, but eventually, she nodded.  
“Come with me to the palace. Maybe she will listen  
to you.”

The next day, Ariana guided Soniya through the dense forest to a grand tree hidden deep in the woods. It was unlike any tree Soniya had ever seen—massive, with golden leaves that sparkled in the sunlight. Tiny birds flew around it, guarding its entrance like royal soldiers.

Inside, the Bird Queen sat on a magnificent throne made of intertwined branches.

She was a stunning, regal hummingbird with wise but stern eyes. She looked like an angel.

"Ariana!" she scolded the moment they arrived.

"Where have you been? You are behaving like a rebellious child. Do you not realize that your wedding to Lord Varkon is only days away?"

"Mother, please listen!" Ariana pleaded. "Varkon is cruel! He only wants power, not love. I want to rule on my own—I don't need a husband to lead our people.!"



The Queen's expression hardened. "You are being foolish, Ariana. This is not about what you want. It is about what is best for the kingdom."

Soniya couldn't stay silent any longer. "With all due respect, Your Majesty," she said bravely, "how can forcing your daughter into an unhappy marriage be

what's best for your kingdom? Shouldn't a ruler be loved by her people, not feared by them?"

The Queen narrowed her eyes at Soniya. "You are an outsider. You do not understand our ways."

"But I understand that leaders should lead with kindness, not force," Soniya replied.

The Queen's feathers ruffled in anger. "Ariana, if you continue this foolishness, I will have no choice but to banish you from the kingdom forever!"

Ariana gasped. "You would cast me out?"

"If you refuse to fulfill your royal duty, you leave me no choice," the Queen declared.

Ariana's heart ached, but she refused to back down. She turned to Soniya. "We need to find a way to prove that I can rule without Lord Varkon."



Soniya's heart ached for Ariana. How could a mother force her daughter into a loveless marriage, especially with a cruel eagle? Ariana, usually full of joy, looked down sadly, her bright feathers dimming with sorrow.

Soniya nodded. "Then let's show your mother what true leadership looks like."

Over the next few days, Ariana and Soniya set out to help the Bird Kingdom. They mended broken nests, helped young birds learn to fly, and stopped arguments between different bird clans.

One day, they heard desperate cries coming from the riverbank. A flock of sparrows had gotten trapped in a human's net! Without hesitation, Ariana dove down and, using her tiny beak, carefully cut the knots of the net while Soniya pulled it apart.

The sparrows fluttered to freedom, chirping in gratitude. "Thank you, Princess Ariana!" one of them cried.

Word spread quickly through the kingdom. Soon, birds from all over began to see Ariana not just as a princess, but as a true leader—brave, kind, and wise.

When they returned to the palace, a large crowd of birds had gathered.



"Ariana has proven herself!" an old owl declared. "She does not need Lord Varkon to rule—she has already shown the heart of a queen!"

The Queen watched in stunned silence as bird after bird spoke of Ariana's courage and kindness.

Finally, she sighed. "I see now that I was wrong," she admitted. "Ariana, my child, you have proven that you are ready to lead—without Lord Varkon."

Ariana's eyes filled with tears. "Does this mean...?"

"You are free to rule as you wish, my daughter," the Queen said, smiling at last.



Soniya's camp was coming to an end, and it was time for her to return home. As she packed her bags,

Ariana flew to her, her tiny wings fluttering with excitement.

"You saved me, Soniya," she said. "I don't know how to thank you."

"You already have," Soniya said, smiling. "By showing me that courage and kindness can change the world."

Ariana gifted Soniya a small golden feather. "Keep this," she said. "As a reminder that you will always have a friend in the Bird Kingdom."

With a final hug, Soniya waved goodbye as Ariana soared high into the sky—**not as a caged princess, but as a free queen of the skies.**



And as Soniya walked back to her world, she knew that this adventure, and the friendship she had found, would stay with her forever.

Soniya woke up with a start, her heart still racing from the vivid dream. The images of Ariana, the hummingbird princess, and her struggle against

the cruel eagle faded as reality settled in. She sat up in bed, touching her pillow as if expecting to find the golden feather Ariana had given her, but there was nothing.

Her mother's voice called from the kitchen.

"Soniya! Breakfast is ready!"

Shaking off the emotions of the dream, she got up and went to eat. But deep inside, something about it felt real, almost like a message. Maybe it was about friendship, about change, about learning to spread her own wings.

And maybe, she would come to understand it soon enough.



When Soniya was in eighth grade , she didn't expect to find the kind of friends that would change her life. But that's exactly what happened when she met **Rubi and Irene.**

Rubi was confident, energetic, and full of life. She had an infectious laugh, and a bold personality that made people naturally gravitate toward her.

Irene, on the other hand, was calm and wise beyond her years. She always knew the right words to say, had a soft but powerful voice, and carried an air of quiet strength.

Soniya was somewhere in between. She was kind, creative, and loyal, but she often felt like the peacemaker between her two best friends.

From the very first day, the three of them were inseparable. They sat together during lunch, sharing food and endless conversations.

Every Friday, they bought chocolate milk and sat under the old mango tree near the school courtyard, talking about everything. Dreams, fears, and silly secrets.

They started a "friendship notebook," where they wrote letters to each other, drew memes, and kept a record of their best memories.



They made a promise: No matter what happens, we'll always be friends.

One of the best moments of their friendship was when they decided to participate in the inter-school music competition.

Rubi had a bold and powerful voice. Irene's deep, soulful tone could make anyone feel emotions through a song. Soniya had a soft, melodic voice that blended perfectly with theirs. Together, they created the kind of harmonies that sent shivers down people's spines.

The decision wasn't easy.

They spent countless afternoons at Soniya's house, practicing in her room, arguing over song choices, laughing at their mistakes, and encouraging each other to be better.

Finally, they settled on the perfect song, a song about friendship and standing together no matter what. You raise me up by Brendan Grahams.

The day of the competition was nerve-wracking. As they stood backstage, hands intertwined, Soniya whispered, "No matter what happens, we're singing this for us."

And they did.

As soon as they started singing, their voices melted together like magic. The audience was silent, captivated by their performance. And when they hit the final note, the entire hall erupted into applause.

They had done it.



They won second place, but to them, it felt like first. That night, they went out for dinner, celebrating as if they had won the world. That memory became their favourite one. A moment frozen in time, where nothing else mattered but the love they had for each other.

But like all beautiful things, it didn't last forever.

During the summer break before ninth grade, their school arranged a class trip to a beautiful hill station. The trio was beyond excited.

The trip was full of laughter, afternoon talks, and unforgettable adventures. They stayed up late in their shared room, telling scary stories. They explored the forests, played games, and even got lost on a hiking trail—only to be found laughing at their own cluelessness. They danced their hearts out at the DJ.

Soniya still remembered the last night of the trip.

Sitting under a sky full of stars, they made a promise. *"Even if life takes us in different directions, we'll always find our way back to each other. It's a promise in which they all believed in."*

But fate, as always, had other plans.



When ninth grade started, everything felt different.

Soniya was placed in a different class from Rubi and Irene. At first, they tried to keep things the same—meeting during breaks, texting constantly—but new schedules and new classmates started pulling them in different directions.



Soniya made new friends, Sima and Hazel. They were fun, kind, and always there for her. For the first time, Soniya realized she could be happy even outside of her trio.

But Rubi? She didn't take it well.

At first, it was small things. She would make sarcastic remarks about Sima and Hazel. She would cancel plans last minute, saying she was too busy.

Then, it got worse.

She started getting angry over little things. If Soniya couldn't reply to a message right away, Rubi would send a cold "Okay." If Soniya laughed with someone else, Rubi would go silent.

The worst part? Irene was caught in the middle.

She tried to keep the peace, but even she could feel the tension growing.



One afternoon, Irene pulled Soniya and Rubi aside, her usually bright eyes filled with sadness.

"I have something to tell you," she said hesitantly.

"My dad got a job abroad, and... we're moving next month."

For a moment, there was silence. The words hit Soniya like a cold wave. Moving? Irene was leaving?

"You're joking, right?" Rubi asked, forcing a smile. "This is some kind of prank?"

Irene shook her head. "I wish it was."

Soniya felt a lump form in her throat. "But... we do everything together," she said softly. "How can you just go?"

"I don't want to," Irene whispered. "But I have to. They all cried while holding hands together.

"Irene, Promise us that you will always be with us."

"Of course, my friends." Irene said while giving a sad look.

The days leading up to Irene's departure were filled with mixed emotions. The three of them tried to spend as much time together as possible, creating

memories they could hold onto. They wrote letters to each other, promised to stay in touch, and even made a friendship bracelet with their initials woven into it.

Then, the day came.

At the airport, they hugged each other tightly, tears slipping down their faces.

"I'll always be with you guys," Irene promised. "No matter where I go."

And then, she was gone.



Tenth grade began, but it didn't feel the same.

Without Irene's laughter, the school felt quieter. Lunchtime wasn't as fun, and Soniya and Rubi found themselves sitting together in silence often.

They still had each other, but there was always a part of them that felt empty.

Then, one day, everything changed again.

It was mid-June when Rubi started spending time with a new girl named Sanaya. She was new to the school, confident, outgoing, and instantly popular. Unlike Rubi, who was quiet and thoughtful, Sanaya was bold and adventurous.

At first, Soniya didn't think much of it. She understood that Rubi could make new friends—it wasn't like they were children anymore.

But as days passed, she noticed that Rubi started skipping their usual library hangouts, texting Sanaya more than her, and laughing at inside jokes Soniya wasn't a part of.

One afternoon, Soniya found Rubi and Sanaya sitting together when they are discussing a mathematics paper, whispering and giggling. When Soniya walked up, Rubi smiled at her but didn't make space for her to sit.

"Hey," Soniya greeted, forcing a smile.

"Hey, Soniya!" Rubi said cheerfully. "Sanaya and I were just talking about this amazing movie we watched last night. You should totally watch it!"

Soniya hesitated. "Maybe we could all watch it together this weekend?"

Sanaya gave a polite smile. "Oh... actually, Rubi and I already made plans for the weekend. Maybe another time?"

Something inside Soniya sank.

She felt like an outsider. It felt like a slap.

She walked away, realizing that maybe, there wouldn't be a next time.

Rubi wasn't being unkind, but she was different. She no longer looked for Soniya in the hallways. She no longer texted first. And soon, Soniya found herself sitting alone at lunch often.



Over the next few weeks, the distance between her and Rubi grew wider. Rubi wasn't being mean—she was still friendly, still kind, but she was different. She didn't invite Soniya to things like before, and their conversations became shorter.

Soniya tried to ignore the hurt, telling herself she was overreacting. But deep down, she knew the

truth: Rubi had found someone new, and Soniya was no longer a priority in her life.

One evening, as she lay in bed, she thought about her dream of Ariana.



The way Ariana had fought to prove her worth, the way she had to accept change and grow... was this her lesson now?

Maybe, just like Ariana had to let go of the idea of being a helpless princess, Soniya had to let go of the idea that friendships never change.

Maybe it was time to accept that people grow in different directions.

Maybe, this was her lesson too.

Friendships change. People grow apart. And sometimes, no matter how much you love someone, you have to let them go.

The next day, instead of waiting for Rubi, Soniya walked over to a different table in the cafeteria where a few classmates she had always liked but never really talked to were sitting.

"Hey," she said, forcing herself to be brave. "Mind if I sit with you guys?"

They welcomed her warmly, and soon, Soniya found herself laughing at new jokes, talking about new topics, and realizing that while some friendships fade, new ones always find their way into your life.

She would always cherish the memories with Irene, Rubi, Sima, and Hazel. But now, she was ready to create new ones.

And to her surprise? She laughed. She felt happy. She felt free. Because life moves forward and so should she.



Weeks passed.

Soniya thought she had moved on. She told herself she was happy with her new friends. But sometimes, late at night, she would still scroll through old photos

of her and Rubi, laughing at the silly selfies, remembering the way they used to be.

It still hurt.

One afternoon, as she was sitting alone in the classroom, flipping through an old sherlock holmes book, she heard an uncertain voice.

“Soniya... can we talk?”

She looked up.

It was **Rubi**.

Her once-bold, confident friend looked different. She was fidgeting with the sleeve of her uniform, avoiding eye contact. There were dark circles under her eyes, like she hadn't been sleeping well.



Soniya just stared at her for a moment. A part of her wanted to ignore her, to pretend she didn't care. But deep inside, she knew she could never do that.

Finally, she gave a small nod.

“Okay.”

They walked outside, neither of them speaking.

And then, without thinking, they both ended up at the school fruit stall.

The place where they had spent so many afternoons together.

The place where they had promised to always be friends.

Rubi took a deep breath, trying to gather her words. But when she opened her mouth, her voice trembled.

“I—I don’t even know where to start,” she admitted, looking down at her hands. “I guess I just... I just need to say I’m sorry.”

Soniya folded her arms. “Sorry for what, exactly?”

Rubi bit her lip, and suddenly, her eyes filled with tears.

“For everything,” she whispered. “For pushing you away. For treating you like you didn’t matter. For choosing Sanaya over you.”

Her voice broke.

Soniya’s heart clenched.

Rubi wiped her eyes furiously, like she was trying to hold herself together, but it wasn't working. The tears kept falling.

“I thought Sanaya was my best friend. I thought she was better than you, that she understood me more. But she—” Rubi's breath hitched. “She betrayed me.”

Soniya's eyes softened.

“She used me, made fun of me behind my back. She pretended to be my friend, but she was just playing a game,” Rubi continued, her voice cracking. “And when I needed her the most, she laughed at me. She told everyone my secrets, turned people against me.”



Soniya felt a hole in her chest.

Rubi took a shaky breath. “I was so angry when you made new friends. I thought you didn’t need me anymore. So I tried to replace you first before you could replace me.”

She let out a small, broken laugh, shaking her head.

“But it wasn’t the same. It was never the same.”

Then, Rubi finally looked up at Soniya, tears streaming freely down her face.

“And the worst part?” she whispered. “I lost you.”

Silence.

For a long time, Soniya just stared at her.

Then, tears pricked her own eyes.

All the memories; their friendship notebook, the music competition, the late-night calls, the trip, the mango tree; it all came flooding back.

She had missed Rubi.

More than she ever admitted to herself.

A single tear rolled down her cheek as she whispered, “Why didn’t you just talk to me?”

Rubi let out a choked sob. “Because I was a coward.”

Soniya closed her eyes, taking a deep breath. She felt the pain, the hurt, the betrayal;but also the love.

And love was stronger.

She didn't say anything.

Instead, she stepped forward and wrapped her arms around Rubi.

Rubi broke down completely, burying her face in Soniya's shoulder, shaking as she sobbed.



“I’m so sorry,” she whispered over and over. “I’m so, so sorry.”

Soniya squeezed her tighter, tears streaming down her own face.

“I missed you,” she whispered.

Rubi let out a soft, breathless laugh through her tears. “I missed you too.”

And at that moment, Soniya knew;

Some friendships fade.

Some friendships break.

But the real ones?

They always find their way back.

And this time, they were going to hold on to each other.

No matter what.



This ending fully explores **Rubi's regret, her breakdown, Soniya's emotions, and their reconciliation.** It keeps the emotional weight while showing that forgiveness and true friendship can heal even deep wounds.

**THE END**

## AFTERWORD

According to my concept, under the project that has been running since 2014 to direct school children to writing, we have been fortunate to have planted more than sixty thousand writer seedlings in the local literary field. The objectives of this project are to improve the quality of education, to promote literature that will contribute to the future development of the country, to hone the abilities of the future generation, and to build a platform to showcase the creations of children.

It is our social responsibility to create the fertile soil for those seeds to sprout and grow. This is the only project in recent history that has been implemented continuously for several years at the school level, provincial, national and international levels for the sake of the productivity of education. This time, it is special that the Pirivena student monks have also been involved in this. The nation should be grateful for the dedication shown by the Principal, daughters, teachers, parents and alumni of Mahamaya Balika Vidyalaya.

The printed book is still the main tool of our education. The enjoyment that a child gets from a book cannot be provided by anything else.

It is experimentally proven that the use of various electronic devices to store human knowledge and the distancing of children from books has been detrimental to the quality of education and has created various problems in society. This project, which is being implemented as a solution to this, has been adapting the smart younger generation of the digital age to modern technology by writing electronic works for the past two years, together with school children in the country.

To take their creations to international readers, Mahamaya girls have built a digital fiction for their own, literary creative abilities.

My congratulations to the young writers who have entered it through their creative abilities.

Project Founder and Coordinator, Senevirathne Maha Lekam