

AUTHORS ALREADY AT 8 AND 9 YEARS



Anaahita Chauhan



Krystal Sakhrani

Grade three child's *Mystery of the Lost Plant* out on Amazon

By Anjana Sankar
SENIOR REPORTER

ABU DHABI Eight-year-old Indian girl Anaahita Chauhan wanted to be an author and she did not want to wait till she grew up. So she got on the job right away. The result – a 25-page illustrative book titled *The Mystery of The Lost Plant*.

"Almost all books I have read are written by adults. So I decided to author one myself," said Anaahita who studies in grade three at Abu Dhabi's Raha International School.

The plot

Sprinkled with colourful illustrations, the book revolves around the adventures of two sisters — Anaa and Haana — who accidentally land in a fantasy world where nature is facing a grave threat.

"Anaa and Haana face a lot of challenges as they end up in the Kingdom of Dazzle and come face to face with the Queen of Radiance and the dreaded witch Trapper Gloom who traps men inside flowers.

"I love writing because it allows you to create your own characters and make them do whatever you want. My book brings the elements of nature, mystery and adventure together and I enjoyed writing it," said Anaahita.

Her mother Neeti who edited the book said her daughter has always been fond of reading and writing. "Her favourite corner in every toy store has always been the book corner," she said.

However, finding a publisher for her daughter's effort wasn't easy. "We contacted publishing houses in the US, Europe, India and even in the UAE. But no one seems to take a child author seriously. So we decided to self-publish the book on Amazon. The response has been fairly encouraging and I am hopeful that the book will catch the eye of a publisher soon," said Neeti, who works as a business compliance specialist in the capital. "We are also in touch with local publishers to make the book available in UAE bookstores," she said.

UAE-based Anaahita and Krystal talk about their impressive foray into writing



AHMED KUTTY/ A.K KALLOUCHE /XPRESS
Wordsmiths. Anaahita's *The Mystery of The Lost Planet* and Krystal's *I Am A Star and You Are One Too*

Fifth-grader pens book on motivation and self-belief

By Abhishek Sengupta
STAFF REPORTER

DUBAI At an age when most kids form opinions based on what their favourite comic characters do, nine-year-old Indian girl Krystal Sakhrani has written a book offering some meaningful life choices to her school-going friends.

Titled *I Am A Star and You Are One Too*, the book was launched just last month and for Dh33 it is now available across Kinokuniya and Magrudy's stores in the country.

Message for all

"The book has got a message for all of us. It's about self-belief and self-motivation," says mum Tirpata who grew up in Indonesia before making Dubai her home around 15 years ago.

While Krystal's story may not be quite on the lines of Jonathan Livingstone Seagull – the famous fable about a seagull learning life and flight – it does talk about

how the protagonist, who at first thinks he is incapable of doing anything, is later pushed to realise that he can achieve anything he puts his mind to.

Cherished dream

A year five student of the Jumeirah Public School and the elder of two siblings, Krystal says she loves going to school, writing, reading and sports, but nothing beats the feeling of becoming an author. As a result a bulk of her weekends now is spent meeting new friends and signing books at bookstores, something she says she is cherishing.

Having written the 20-page book with the help of her mum after school hours, Krystal says she started the book as a hobby during her Easter break in April. "Now I am motivated to pen a few more titles. One of those stories would surely be about how everyone is special in his or her own way. I also write a book on how to stand up to bullying," the One Direction fan said.