

Anahita was from a middle class family. She was born April 12 1965, a little sweet girl who had come to a cruel world. On the surface, the family appeared to be middle-class, average folks. The father, a big man, one-hundred-seventy centimeter long, weighing ninety-two kilogram, is a retired military member who in his young days did not do better than to skip high school and join the army, where he could not reach a higher rank than sergeant after thirty-five years of service. Chingiz was his name. A name which came to be associated with shame for the family as he got older. He has big brown eyes, dark brown hair, large and thick eyebrows, big and fleshy nose with large nostrils through which he could spurt fire like a dragon, thick lips, and yellow teeth caused by chain-smoking. His short and thick neck was rather problematic for him. His size is extra large but because of the neck he must wear extra, extra large, or he cannot button up the collar on the shirt. The comical features of Chingiz are his big feet. Size forty-seven for a man who is a hundred-and-seventy centimeters long makes him something of a caricature. Chingiz was a controlling and an aggressive man. The reasons for this were that he was a teenager when he lost his father, and when life gave him the heavy burden of caring for and supporting his family. His few, pitiful relatives did not make things easier either. Chingiz's uncle, Hassan, was an alcoholic and a womanizer. Everyone in the family knew about Hassan's relationship with prostitutes. The death of the father brought Chingiz closer to Hassan. Chingiz's mother, Effat, was too old and sick to be able to prevent this diabolical friendship and end it immediately. This led to Chingiz coming in contact with people from all walks of life. Contact with women of all ages was something

that led Chingiz down different paths in life. Since Chingiz had a younger brother and a younger sister, he was badly compelled to control himself for the sake of supporting them, and, in following his uncle's footsteps, he had become an alcohol abuser. Fortunately for Chingiz though, drinking was not permitted in the military. For Chingiz, this was a difficult pill to swallow but he could live with it so long as he could still meet his friends, the whores. Life was not easy for Chingiz. At the age of twenty, he got a taste of fatherhood while at same time and on top of everything else, his mother and his father were both gone to God's kingdom. Effat died of shock over the fact that his eldest son made a child with a middle-aged prostitute. This was what fate had in store for Effat, to have her first grandchild born a bastard by a whore. Not much mattered to Chingiz anymore. For him, the only things in life that mattered the most were: food, women, leisure and relaxation. However, with the mother's passing, Chingiz's uncle, Hassan, become his siblings' guardian; something that only made Chingiz delighted and not his siblings. His brother, Parviz, and his sister, Leila, had no say in the matter. They were victims of circumstances. Chingiz, who now had a boy, had no plans to take responsibility for that little innocent creature who had the misfortune of ending up in such family. Chingiz only showed up at the brothel when the baby was being delivered, and he raced out of there as soon as the baby was born. The little boy was named Sam after his grandfather. Chingiz did not enjoy getting attached to anything or anyone

and had no desire to be tied down by any sense of responsibility. He loved his freedom. His egocentricity was very much one of his many negative characteristics. His lust landed him in a world of shame and indiscretion. The fact that Chingiz had not seen much of a father figure in his life and had not experienced any parental love had made him oblivious to the significance of such factors in one's life and had rendered him incapable of loving others. Chingiz's fate was to be raised by his uncle; a man whose life comprised of nothing more than alcohol and sex with prostitutes. In addition to being a lousy father, Chingiz was a lousy lover. Sex for him meant self-gratification and nothing else. As a result of his frequent interactions with whores, he could not understand the difference between sex and love, pretence and romance. This came to haunt him later on in life. A man whose life did not contain anything positive. Working like a horse and living like a pig was all that Chingiz's life was about. He was not a popular person among his colleagues. He was vulgar and boorish. Maybe deep down inside, he was a kind and decent person, but that softer side of him never got to manifest itself, because of his miserable upbringing.

At the age of twenty-five, Chingiz was forced into marriage with a girl his own age. He had to marry her since he slept with her and took her virginity. Kobra was the girl's name. A young girl, thin as a toothpick, ugly as a hyena, with short black curly hair. Her big black eyes scared the life out of any living being who happened to stare into them. Kobra, a wicked and evil girl, who dabbled in sorcery and witchcraft. A girl with satanic thoughts and deeds. This was a death sentence for Chingiz to be forced into

marriage. He was not free anymore. Particularly now that he was also stuck with raising Sam whose mother married a wealthy client of hers and left the brothel. Poor Sam had to grow up with her wicked stepmother and his dim-witted father. Kobra forced Sam to slavery at home. Sam had to wash, scrub, dust, shop and all in all he had to toil at home like a faithful servant to Kobra. Chingiz, who did not care about either Sam or Kobra, did not wait too long to go back to the brothel and to his whores again. Chingiz was like an animal in his mannerism and in relation to other people. He had no respect for anyone or anything. All he cared about was his own pleasure. In spite of all this, Kobra tried to hold on to Chingiz anyway she could. Kobra was a cruel woman, but she had to be like that. She had no chance of surviving Chingiz if she had not been as mean as she was. Years go by and there are no hopes of life getting better with Chingiz. Not even having children made Chingiz settle down. Chingiz often suffered from some sort of venereal disease that he contracted from prostitutes, and which he kept passing on to Kobra. Ultimately, Kobra's worst nightmare came true when she found out that she had cervical cancer. She had to undergo full hysterectomy, which meant that she could not have any more children. At that time, Kobra had three children. A boy called Saaid, a girl named Sara, and a stepson, Sam. She loved her son and her daughter but she absolutely hated her stepson. For her, Sam was a constant reminder of Chingiz's hideous side and the kind of monster that he was. Sam was a disgrace to her, and yet she was stuck with raising him.

Saaïd and Sara were the apples of her eyes. They had it good. Whatever Chingiz earned, Kobra got to spend on Saaïd and Sara. But Sam had to fend for himself. As early as age thirteen, Sam had to work, selling fruits in the bazaar, and he had to hand over his earnings to Kobra. Kobra had two sources of income: Chingiz and Sam. Kobra's family belonged to the working class. But they were a close-knit family and they watched each other's back. Therefore Kobra could rely on her family and count on their support. It was, after all, thanks to her relatives' intervention that Chingiz was forced into marrying her after sleeping with her and taking her virginity. Chingiz's insatiable appetite for women got him entangled in the web of marriage. But since Chingiz had a big mouth and a very nasty attitude, he managed to avoid seeing Kobra's family and to stay away from them. Ever since Kobra's hysterectomy, Chingiz had started to constantly nag her about it and complain that she had lost her ability to satisfy him, though this was a pure lie. Kobra had severe infection after surgery so for her having intercourse was absolutely out of the question. So Kobra tried to keep Chingiz in her shattered life by means of hiring domestic help and allowing Chingiz to flirt with them and have fun. She also continued to pour in Chingiz all possible mixtures and potions in the hopes of keeping him under her spell and stopping him from thinking of a new marriage. All her efforts were in vain. The only effect they had was just to delay the inevitable. Delay the process until it became someone else's bad luck to fall into the hands of Chingiz. The years came and went. Sam, Saaïd, and Sara were adults now. Sam, who had not had the chance to do much schooling, took control of his life now and began working in the day and studying in the evenings.

By then, he was thirty years old. The age difference was not much between Saaïd (twenty-two), Sara (twenty), and Sam (thirty). Although Kobra had been cruel to Sam and fate had not been any better to him either, Sam got to manage himself well in his adult life. But Kobra's cruelty extended well beyond enslaving Sam in his childhood. Her greatest cruelty was the life-long pain she inflicted on him when she had him sterilized. Kobra had taken Sam to a doctor many years back and had put the poor kid through a vasectomy. But Sam had no way of knowing about this until after his marriage when he began to wonder why his wife could not become pregnant. Sam married at the age of thirty-one. He was now a civil servant working at the municipality. He also succeeded in completing his studies and getting a degree at the age of forty. His wife was a hairdresser. He had it much better than what Chingiz could give him. Sam tried to break contact with his father on several occasions. But he had no one else but him. Sam was a sensitive man who missed his mother and his father very much. He could not have children of his own to whom he could give his full fatherly love . . . He had no real parents. The only one he had now was his beloved wife. He cherished his wife and highly valued his marriage. To find peace in life, Sam adopted a girl from a foster home. He loved her as she was his own. He did everything to give his wife and their child a good and decent life, unlike the one he had experienced for so long. Chingiz's life went as normal, without meaning and significance. Kobra had managed to raise her children and support them until they finished their schooling and got their lives together. Kobra had aged prematurely because of Chingiz. She and

Chingiz were almost the same age. Now Chingiz was sixty years old, but he was still just as bad as he was before.

Who was Chingiz? Why was he really the way he was? He came originally from a wealthy family. But a family that had no structure in life. Chingiz's father, Karim, married Effat when he was sixty years old. A businessman who earned his living by lending money. He was a lender who took people's property such as their land or homes as collateral. Chingiz's mother was much younger than his father. The age difference between them was more than forty five years. So Effat was fifteen when she married Chingiz's father Karim. Karim died when Chingiz was fourteen years old and he died due to an illness. Chingiz's sister, Laila, got married at fifteen, just like her mother, and she died in an accident a few years later. Parviz, Chingiz's brother, joined the military in his teens in the hopes of finding happiness there, something that Chingiz had failed to do. Parviz broke all contacts with Chingiz since then. Chingiz could already be considered an orphan in his teens. Effat was too young to be able to raise her children. Her brother, who was eight years older, was the only one she had who could take care of them. Nobody saw a nickel of all that money that Chingiz's father lent out to people. His children were so young that they could not claim and recover their father's fortune. All they got as inheritance was the house they lived in with all its furniture and a small amount of cash. It seemed as if stupidity was a hereditary problem within the family. Who would be stupid enough to lend money without writing a real and formal contract? Well, contracts did exist but no one knew where they were. These documents were found twenty years later, thanks to Parviz's persistence, but they were obsolete and outdated.

The contracts were no longer valid and could not be used to re-claim what once belonged to a few small children and a young mother. There are such things that affect one to become good or evil. Chingiz and Kobra were alone now. Their children had their own lives to live. Even Sam had managed to make a good life for himself. But Chingiz is Chingiz, just as horny and immature as if he is still sixteen years old. He has retired from the military. But he is just sixty-five years old. He is accustomed to working, working and working. He cannot be idle the same way that he cannot be without women and sex. So he gets a job in the bazaar working as a shoe salesman in a friend's store. During these years Kobra had assumed that the dream of a new marriage was over for Chingiz. She thought he was now so old that he could not even imagine getting married any more. Kobra was aware of Chingiz's animalistic sexual appetite. She could turn a blind eye on the affairs he had with other women, but what she could not accept was him marrying a new wife. But history repeats itself. Chingiz works in the bazaar. A place where many come and go. A place where people come to buy things including shoes. That is where he meets his new victim for his satanic ritual, marriage.

On a beautiful summer day, a young fifteen-year-old girl goes out shopping. She is a hundred and sixty five centimeters long with long, light-brown hair, light-brown eyes, and great body. She is wearing a red dress with floral pattern, small yellow and white flowers, and a pair of white shoes. She is looking to buy a new pair of shoes. She lives near the bazaar where fate had set up its trap. Her name is Ziba. Ziba's father, Akbar, is a carpenter. Her mother, Homa, is a simple housewife. Ziba lives with her parents, grandmother, Esmat, and her little brother, Kyvan. Ziba comes from a decent family. She has simple values in life. She has recently finished grade eight with good grades. It is in the middle of summer. She enjoys the same things as other girls her age would: getting together with friends, developing closer relationship with her mother, having crushes on boys, and all other things that a teenage girl would normally find interesting at that age. As soon as Chingiz lays eye on Ziba, he falls deeply in love with her. He does not care about the age difference. The fact that she is so young. That she could be his grandchild. No, he falls for her. Ziba has no idea what fate has in store for her. She buys her shoes and leaves the store. But Chingiz leaves the store to his colleague and follows her. He tries to chat with her, be funny and wise. She is not at all interested in him. Chingiz follows her home. He is madly in love. Ziba says nothing about that to her parents. She does not want to make trouble. Ziba was in love with one of her second-cousins, Saman. Ziba had her dreams about her wedding day and her life with Saman. She had been in love with him for few years. Fate had no intentions of allowing Ziba and Saman to get married. It was not meant for them to be together. Chingiz was a weird type. He had the audacity to come visit Ziba's family and try to persuade them that he is the best choice for Ziba. Ziba's father could not believe that such an old man would have the guts to come and propose marriage to such a young girl. But no one can fight against his or her destiny. One day when Ziba, her parents, and a number of their relatives were guests at Saman's family, Ziba discovered something horrible, something that changed her life. She saw, by accident, Saman kissing a girl in the family when she went to get something from the storage room. It broke her heart. It was as if her life had ended. She felt a sudden heat through her body as blood rushed through her veins. She was in disbelief; she closed her eyes for a moment hoping that she was mistaken, but unfortunately, that was not the case. Now it is over. Ziba is stubborn and resentful. She would gladly destroy her life by not forgiving and forgetting. Now, Saman no longer exists for her. Now all her dreams are expounded from both her short and long-term memory. There is no mentioning of Saman's name ever again. To get revenge from Saman, Ziba decides to marry her pathetic admirer. Yes, she is willing to destroy her life over revenge, if that can be called revenge. To get revenge from whom, herself? How dumb and stupid can one be? Saman tried to speak with her but had no success. She did not want anything to do with him anymore. Chingiz has still not given up and tries to keep in touch with Ziba's family. Yet Kobra knows nothing of what Chingiz

is up to. She could never imagine that Chingiz would fall in love with a teenager. And Chingiz never mentions what he does when he is out. As far as Kobra was concerned, Chingiz was as usual busy with the whores and nothing else.