To Snare a

# Killer

LOVE. LUST. BETRAYAL.

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**b**y

Christine D'Sylva

## $oldsymbol{A}$ cknowledgement

I would like to thank my family, friends and well wishers for their encouragement.



This book is dedicated to my eldest daughter Alanna.



## **P**reface

#### **Mathew 18:6**

- a. But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believes in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea."
- b. "See that you do not look down upon these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."

Beauty pageants started in 1921 when the owner of an Atlantic City hotel struck upon the idea to boost tourism. Child beauty contests have both their pros and cons. But experts are of the opinion that the cons far outweigh the pros. Beauty contests put a great deal of stress on its contestants to try to be as perfect as possible.

Many mothers seem to live out their dreams of achieving something in their own lives and dreams through their child.

What are the thoughts of the general population as well as psychologists?

Some people think these pageants for kids are not so innocent for the little girl has to parade like a Barbie doll and young children primped like mini adults are pitted against each other. Judges decide who is the prettiest, the one who shines the most on stage is chosen, but this can dent children's self- confidence.

The unfortunate part is that there is only one winner while to make it more fair there ought to be more prizes for the other kids who take part.

Clinical psychologists often stress that being made to be a Barbie doll is unhealthy. It can lead to eating disorders and all kinds of body distortions .To focus too much on how a child looks, performs on stage is detrimental to many kids.

Self- worth which is gained only by value of one's physical appearance can be detrimental to the psyche of a child.

Childhood should be carefree and fun, not too competitive. Childhood is one stage of life when children should be encouraged to play, interact with others and minimum attention focused on areas like looks and performing on stage like a Barbie doll.

While the winners can get a boost of self-esteem and kids can learn competition and get over their shyness, yet the downside is that they can sexualize little girls. Wearing makeup and prancing on stage, sometimes even in a swimsuit is over sexualizing a child. A child becomes a sexual object and many pedophiles are excited leading to dire consequences.

Dimple, a self-confident girl was an obvious contender for such a contest, for she possessed both beauty and brains besides being talented. Her mother Ayesha, like many mothers of child beauty contest winners was eager to let her child shine in public gaze, something she was never able to do and wanted badly. To put it in psychological terms, it was using the defense mechanism of projection. To put it in lay terms it simply meant she projected her dreams on to her kid.

Communication by ghosts is more common than people imagine. A ghost is simply defined as an apparition of a dead person who appears or is made manifest to the living. The reference to a ghost in this story is based on the fact that 15 percent of those who have had paranormal experiences have been touched by

a ghost. There was always a drop of temperature while in the presence of a ghost.

Touching by a ghost is usually for attention because they want one to know they are there and sometimes want to convey a message. While the paranormal is still a debatable subject, people who have seen ghosts or been touched by them are convinced that ghosts do exist. Our world comprises of spirits, both good and bad, therefore it ought to follow then that ghosts exist, at least logically speaking. But of course many people will beg to differ but that's another story.

This novel revolves around the following main characters.

Ajay Saxena-a good-looking successful man.

Ayesha Saxena- a housewife who has an only child, Dimple.

Dimple- the precocious child beauty queen

Shruti- Ajay's second wife.

Simran- Ajay's niece who is both clever, beautiful and is a cousin of Dimple.

Hritik- A commitment shy bachelor who gets involved with Simran.

Viraj and Rahul- friends of Hritik.

Prem-A neighborhood guy

Dilip and Anita Arora- The friends of the Saxena's

Pravin and Hema Gupta- Friends of the Saxena's.

The human mind is like a tangled web of thoughts and emotions. Our minds are intricate and each person reacts to a given situation in his own way according to his mental outlook. It is so complex that a field named psychology was introduced to understand the human mind and behavior.

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Read on, dear readers, the story begins in Mumbai and explores the complexity of the human mind, with its hidden recesses of darkness.

# PART 1



### Present Day



The evening shadows played across the room. The silence chilled her, and she was aware of the thud of her heart like a deafening drum that echoed too loud. There was a faint musty smell, like it was rarely used, yet the floor seemed clean enough. Her eyes darted to and fro like a scared rabbit in unknown territory.

She moved now more quickly, her eyes settling on a big cupboard and a small wooden desk with a hard backed chair.

Wrenching open the draws of the desk, she found them empty except for an old cookery book, wellthumbed and faded.

Then moving to the teak small cupboard she tried its wooden handle. It was unlocked. She gave a small sigh of relief.

The cupboard had five shelves and there were two cardboard boxes inside. Otherwise it was quite bare except for a few mothballs. There was a musty odor that reflected that it was rarely used.

Moving quickly, she pulled out the first box. It was filled with albums. She scanned a few and saw they contained family photographs. She placed it back.

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Dimple, a child beauty queen is found raped and murdered in her home. Suspicion falls on her parents who maintain their innocence. A cold case, shelved. However, fifteen years later Ajay Saxena, the father of Dimple is determined to get



closure. He begs Simran his niece to assist him to find his child's killer.

Can Simran succeed in bringing a killer to justice? Will she find love again in this whodunit that will keep you guessing?





