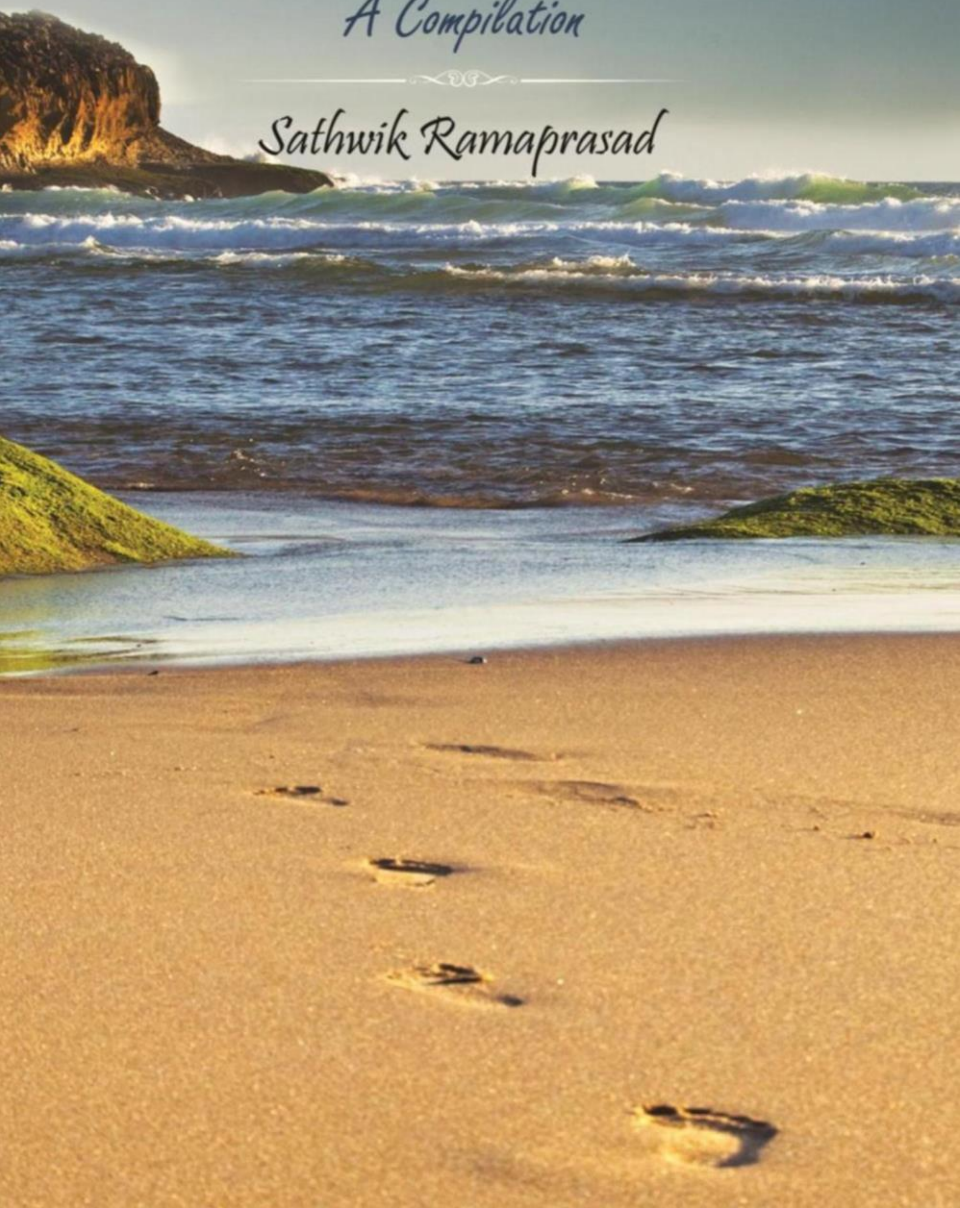


# *First Steps...*

*A Compilation*

*Sathwik Ramaprasad*



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# *Acknowledgements*



First of all, ma and pa, you both are the greatest parents. Thank you so much for what you have been to me all these years, and will be too. Words can't complete what I have in me about you. I know I get all cranky sometimes, but given the gems you are, only you will put up with me. You have been supportive so much. You've accepted my mistakes and always corrected me. I will not get parents like you in several rebirths too. Love you so much.

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For those of you who are thinking as to why this idiot hasn't taken their name yet, here it is. Many of you are holding this book only because I forced you to buy a copy. Don't complain now, as it's your duty to support your friend. This is the least you can do. But thanks guys, so much, for being there in my life. It is called 'life' only because of wonderful friends like you. I can't possibly name all of you here. You know that you'll

always be there in my heart, and I know that I'll always exist in one part of your large hearts. The smile on your face as you read this paragraph stands as evidence to it. The loudest shout out to you people whom I've known for years or months, and also the ones whom I'll know better and better by the days.

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Finally, God, thanks for looking after me all these years. Wherever you are, you'll always reside in me.






# *Dedication*




*For you, for me and for my entire world.*





*Before I go ahead with my book, I'd like to  
dedicate a poem to a man whom I had  
always admired. Arun mama, you'll  
always be remembered as a great human.  
It was so much fun with you around.  
Here's a humble attempt from my side to  
get back to the days we had together.....*





## *About The Author*



Sathwik is currently pursuing his first year B.E in R.V College of Engineering, Bangalore. Other than writing short stories and poems, he has keen interests in cricket, music and debating. This is his debut novel. He aspires to write many more in the future. His favourite authors include Dan Brown, Nikita Singh, Jeffrey Archer amongst others. He is also a huge fan of Chetan Bhagat and Vishwas Mudagal.



## *About The Book*



First Steps... A compilation - is a collection of over 9 stories and a couple of poems. The stories depict various connections a person has in this world. These are heartfelt writings that are inspired by memorable incidents in my own life. This book promises to touch your heart and get smiles on your face.



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## *Alone*

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*Walking up the empty stairway,  
On which we used to madly play,  
There's a lot to you, I need to say,  
To give you back, to Him, I pray.*

*Leaving us has made this a pathetic home,  
It's been long since, here, contempt has shone,  
Thinking of you, we, often in pain, moan,  
Why should you have left us all alone?*

*I write this with tears trickling down my eyes,  
You watch over us, without replying to our cries,  
Having created a huge void in our lives,  
You hurt us more than the stabbing of a thousand knives.*

*Days don't pass without you in my mind,  
Hard to get a person of your kind,  
Memories with you are nostalgic to rewind,  
But sadly, there's no way for us to, again, bind.*





# First Steps...

At 11:58 she received a call from Sam; as usual. He wished her first, yet again. As they were speaking, she heard Sam complain about the breakage in the voice. She came out of her room but Sam didn't stop complaining. She then moved towards the door, and this time, the voice of Sam was completely unheard. She decided to move out to the front balcony and call him again. As she opened her front door, her heart skipped a beat, terrified at seven dark silhouettes staring at her....



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