

# They Lift Their Wings To Cry: A Haunting Exploration of Identity and Belonging



**They Lift Their Wings to Cry** by Brooks Haxton

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 2190 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 97 pages

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Meena Kandasamy's debut novel, *They Lift Their Wings To Cry*, is a powerful and moving exploration of themes of identity, belonging, and the power of storytelling. The novel tells the story of a young woman named Selvi, who is born into a poor Dalit (untouchable) family in India. Selvi dreams of a better life for herself, but she is constantly faced with discrimination and prejudice because of her caste. As she grows older, Selvi begins to question her own identity and place in the world.

*They Lift Their Wings To Cry* is a beautifully written novel that offers a unique perspective on the experiences of Dalits in India. Kandasamy's prose is lyrical and evocative, and she paints a vivid picture of Selvi's world. The novel is also unflinching in its depiction of the discrimination that Dalits face, but it also offers a message of hope and resilience. Selvi is a strong and determined young woman, and her story is a testament to the power of the human spirit.

In addition to its powerful themes, *They Lift Their Wings To Cry* is also a well-crafted novel. Kandasamy uses a variety of narrative techniques to keep the reader engaged, and the novel's pacing is perfect. The novel is also full of memorable characters, each of whom has their own unique story to tell. Selvi is a particularly well-developed character, and the reader is sure to root for her as she struggles to find her place in the world.

*They Lift Their Wings To Cry* is a must-read for anyone who is interested in Indian literature, caste discrimination, or feminism. It is a powerful and moving novel that will stay with you long after you finish reading it.

## **Themes**

- **Identity:** Selvi is constantly struggling with her identity. She is a Dalit, a woman, and an artist. She tries to find her place in the world, but she is often met with discrimination and prejudice.
- **Belonging:** Selvi longs to belong somewhere. She wants to find a place where she feels accepted and loved. However, she often feels like an outsider, both in her own community and in the wider world.
- **Storytelling:** Storytelling is a powerful force in Selvi's life. She uses storytelling to express her pain, her hopes, and her dreams. Storytelling also helps her to connect with others and to find a sense of belonging.

## Characters

- **Selvi:** Selvi is the protagonist of the novel. She is a young Dalit woman who is trying to find her place in the world. She is a talented artist, but she is often met with discrimination and prejudice. Selvi is a strong and determined young woman, and her story is a testament to the power of the human spirit.
- **Ilavarasan:** Ilavarasan is a young Dalit man who is Selvi's love interest. He is a kind and compassionate man, and he is always there for Selvi. Ilavarasan is a symbol of hope and possibility for Selvi.
- **Amma:** Amma is Selvi's mother. She is a strong and independent woman, and she has always been supportive of Selvi's dreams. Amma is a symbol of the strength and resilience of Dalit women.

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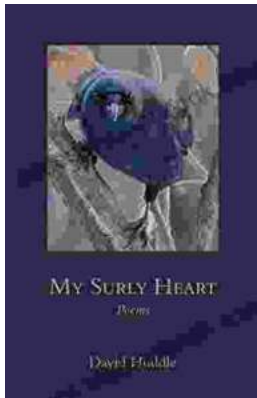
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