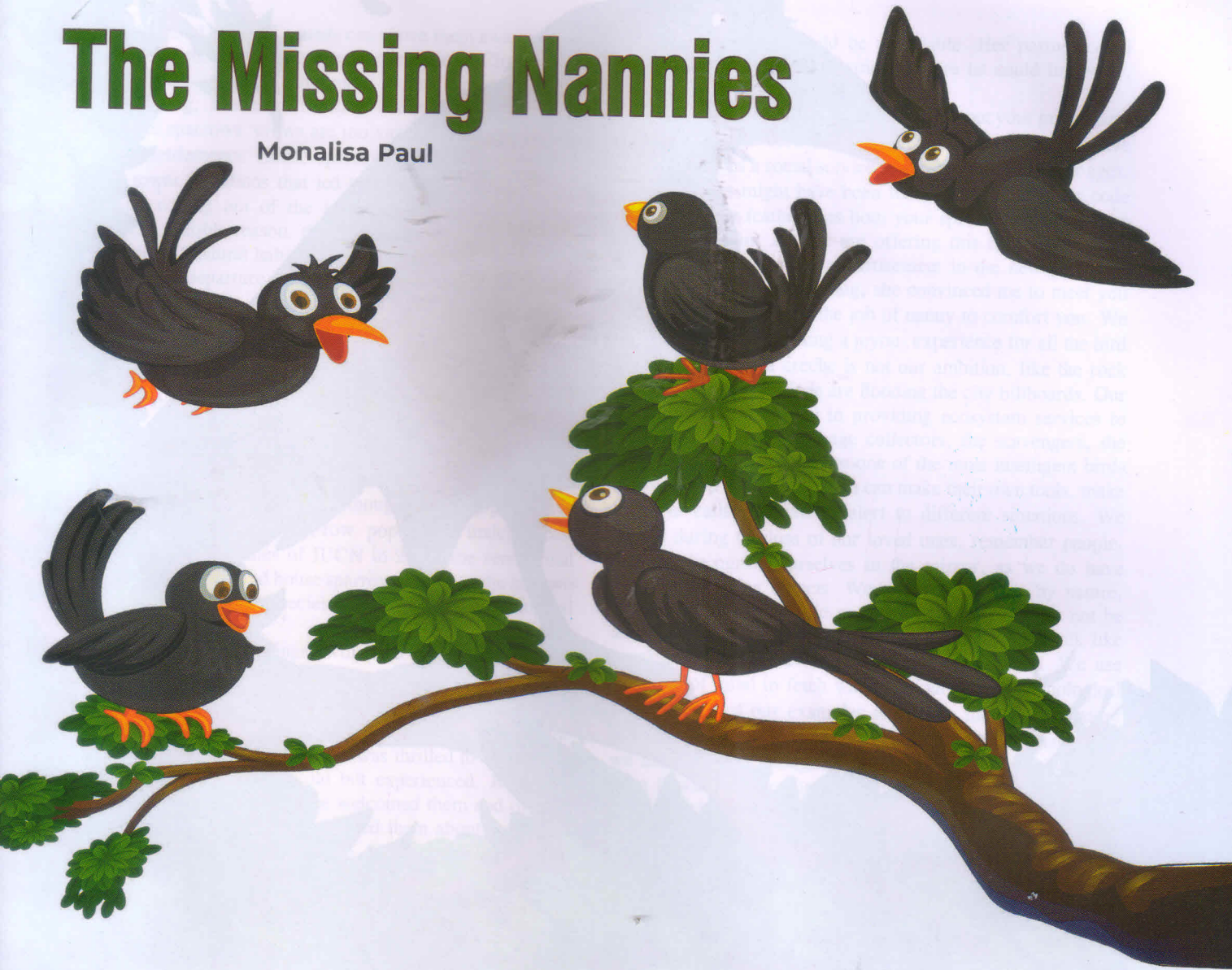


# The Missing Nannies

Monalisa Paul



**K**OEL is expecting. Pregnancy has brought a new glow to her face, so a new responsibility. She is a playback singer. A rising one. Recently, she has signed many contracts for the upcoming movies, tele serials, advertisements, jingles and whatnot. She has to do multiple shifts. Overtime and live concerts pay her hefty. She needs wealth, fame and luxury. After all, which mother does not want a secure future for her kids. Her partner is very supportive, but he, too, has his singing assignments. So, both parents remain busy with their respective careers. Currently, they are focusing on their first child. Both of them have a legacy of great singers. Their forefathers and all other relatives are simply the best singers around the world.

Koel has been looking for good nannies since she conceived. She does not have much time left before the new one comes to the world. Neither can she keep her baby with her kin, as none of them has the experience of raising a child. All of them were fully dependent on nannies of their respective times. Moreover, spring is coming, which will be

followed by summer. She and her partner will be very busy. They get invitations to special mango orchards to perform with grandeur.

As the time for ovulation nears, Koel gets anxious. She has advertised for a good nanny on social media as well as in the newspapers. She has to find a capable nanny to take care of her eggs. Yes, Koel is a cuckoo bird. So is her partner. She is a nest parasite. Her species is. So, her ancestors are. They do not know nesting. They lay eggs in the nests of other birds, preferably the crows, as they look similar to each other. The marked difference lies in their voice call. They lay eggs in the crows' nests and fly away. Once the eggs hatch, baby birds look similar to each other, and the crow couples feed them, thinking as if they are their babies. Once cuckoo babies learn to fly, they leave the nests and fly away, utilising their resources. During this whole time, parent cuckoos hover around the nests of the crows to keep a check on their upbringing.

Koel is a modern-day cuckoo who is independent and hence has purchased a house. Although time has changed, the