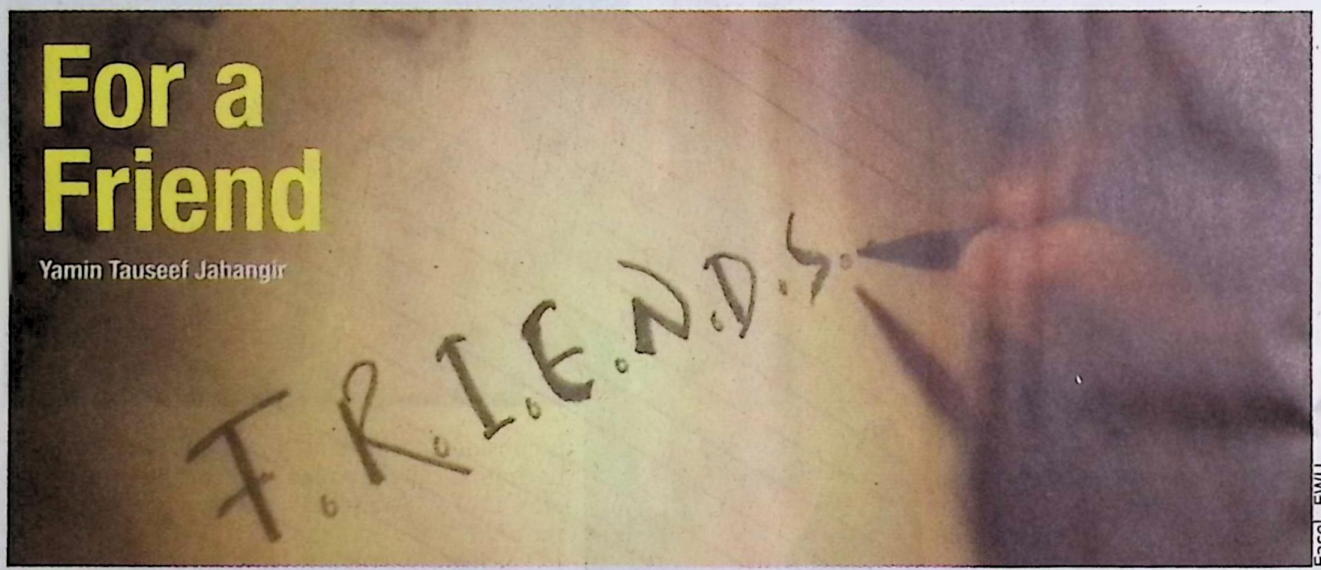
For a Friend

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LOST in the ashes of time, I looked at the sky in the moonlit night. It was me and my solitude to walk in a winding path of emptiness. I sighed, I endured it for so many years, and I almost became invincible. Everyday it was just the same; I saw the people around me. Although I was amongst the crowd, yet I felt all left out. I understood the reality of facing certain truth, that I would lose my friends from me. They were always with me, but when we stood at the brink of adulthood our thoughts, values and goals changed. It was inevitable, I knew, still it made me feel shattered from within. I wished we never would have grown up, I wished time would have come to a pause and the wonderful moments that I shared with all my friends would last forever. But alas, everyone moved on.

My thoughts were interrupted when suddenly something caught my eye. I saw the letters appearing frequently on the computer screen. She responded...my fingers were lacking patience. She was unique and I saw her to understand me even before I could tell her things. My mind searched for answers but I was clueless. I lost my friends, could she be the one to be there just where I want her to belong? I found strength every time I spoke to her when I didn't see her, she trusted me more than anything else; was I that worthy of a person? She cheered me up when I was down in pits, snapped me when I was wrong, corrected me, laughed at me, cared for me, sang with me, cuddled me when I got sad, made me have "*banarasi paan*", made me get wet in rain, made me love rain, made me love *fuchka* more than anything else, made me believe in myself. She was in my sorrows, read my eyes so well, felt my happiness; she made me survive myself. I don't know if she would see the gratitude that I always had for her. She's one person whom I'll cherish for the rest of my life...a friend who ungrudgingly helped me in all there one could ever ask for, a friend who supported all the way...a friend whom I keep close to my heart. She's one whom ill never let go off...I know life will move on, people choose their own path, I may loose her...but I don't want to...I may fail...but I don't want to. When she got angry on me, I waited, to let her calm down and see it from my point of view. On occasions when she became irritated the look on her face made me laugh to death, because she got chubbier! She would always come up and say "*Ami na mota hoye jacchi, thurrr!*", or if she missed that on certain cases, then her other line would be "*Ghor chino?*" In my great cavern of sorrow, I found a caring friend, who made me realize that friends are forever. No matter what the distance is, or even if you cannot speak to your friend for years, the essence of friendship will never die, with every breath it gets stronger, with every joy it grows its root deeper inside your heart. In every tear it is being shared, in every word it is remembered.

So, here I conclude with conveying this message to all my dearest friends that, I would never forget you, from the times in past till now I feel proud that I have friends like you. I know most of you are abroad and I miss you all and sometimes feel all alone, but I am glad that I have found another friend who is just like you all. I just want to tell her...thank you...may be I cannot describe it in mere words anymore...and I don't need to tell you what a wonderful person you are...that you have helped me through all the elements of this world, you have been there for me when I needed a true friend to help me out from my solitude and I feel so lucky that I cannot even thank God enough to have your friendship in my life. You have always been precious to me and always will be. I know deep in my soul you have a special place, I don't know if you would ever read this, but it was a simple effort I managed to show my appreciation for you...(Student of East West University)