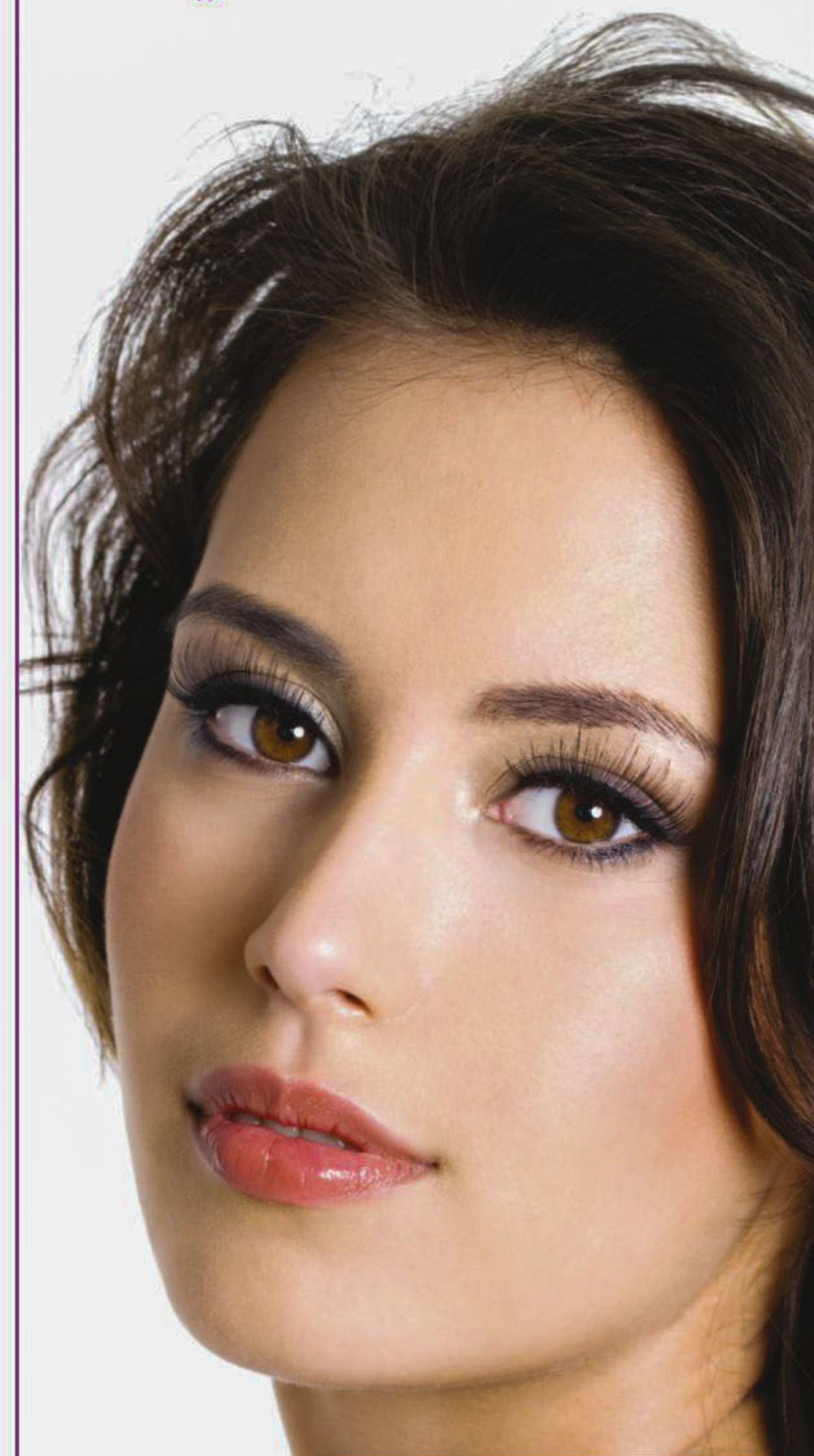


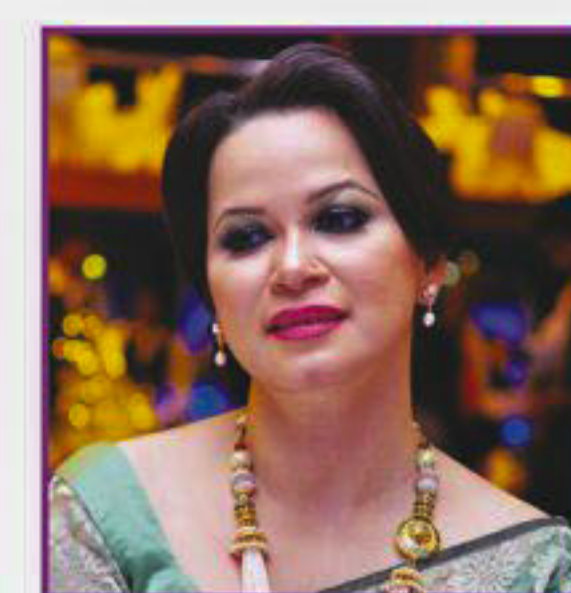
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Research shows that strong father-daughter bonds lead to women growing up with personal strengths like a healthier outlook on romance and relationships, positive body image and self-esteem, confidence, and better decision-making skills! Now that's quite a bounty in terms of strengths, if you ask me.

A father is the first man in a daughter's life, and essentially shapes the basic perception of the gender in her psyche. And thus, a good father becomes so instrumental to a woman's outlook on life, and together with the mother and their dynamic, her benchmark to judge all other men and relationships thereafter!

Or, perhaps it is the tenderness in daughters that makes fathers dote over them more? As children grow, daughters often become more demonstratively affectionate and forgiving of their fathers. Thus, making it easier for dads to open up and share more of their selves, further strengthening the bond.

"I feel a daughter will inspire me

more than a son. Also, when I get old, and desperately look for just a person to talk to, chances are they will always be there," says Nabeel Ahsan, a young and single professional, when asked about his often professed desire to have a daughter someday.

"Boys do take care of their parents when they get old, but girls also manage to sit and talk with their parents for hours, which is probably something that matters a lot more than we realise," he said.

The gender dynamics of a father daughter bond are definitely complex and layered, and of course, variable on the characters of individual men and their daughters. But it remains uncontested that nurturing and loving fathers raise strong and confident daughters, and the world, I believe, is better for it.

A father is a safe haven for their child, a selfless shelter, says Sazzad Ibne Sayed, father to Tavishee, an energetic 5-year-old. "Right now, I am just an exploring gardener. A student. We'll both mature together, in time.

She is so like me – but with a couple drops more emotion. So she is like a mirror of my younger self, a walk down memory lane in a way. As I believe she is gifted, it brings about an extra sense of responsibility — what if I fail to guide her properly or give her the wings when she needs to fly," he added.

That emotion is mirrored by Anashua Ananga, a now grown up daughter, faculty at the Bangladesh University of Professionals, "Baba is someone for whom I've unconditional love, someone whom I can run to and be sure that he's going to uproot any adversity that might come cross my way, however difficult it might be."

Why is this daddy-daughter bond so special? I am no expert on the matter, but I do adore my very humanly flawed father to the moon and back. Is he infallible? Far from it. But he is the foundation I stand on, much taller than my own five feet (and may be an inch).

**Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed
Model: Sazzad and Tavishee**

