

# *Incandescence*

all those who wander are never truly lost

Foreword by Nirupama Menon Rao

*Anvi Tuteja*



INDIA • SINGAPORE • MALAYSIA



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## Dedication

Dedicated to my grandfather, who has been encouraging me to write ever since I was a little girl, and who was always the first one to read my blog posts. Thank you for always being my No. 1 Follower;

Dedicated to my mother, who is the reason, 'Anvi's Thoughts Caught', exists. Thank you for always believing in me, despite all my mistakes;

Dedicated to my father, who always interrupted his conference calls to read one of my new poems, never commenting on the fact that I was supposed to be attending class;

I love you all.



## Praise for *Incandescence*

"The impression I get from Anvi's poems is that she is a strong, independent and thinking poet! One who believes in herself, has a voice of her own and is prepared to take risks to set her own course in life! A rebel with a cause... at such a young age!!"

**Prakash Jha (Renowned film producer, actor, director and screenwriter)**

"Anvi is a very gifted young woman. Anvi's poems are extremely soulful, yet innocent and filled with promise."

**Roshni Nadar Malhotra (CEO - HCL Corporation and Trustee - Shiv Nadar Foundation)**

"Anvi displays a disproportionate amount of maturity and talent, and the free flow of thoughts that one reads in her poems assures us that she will continue and delight us with more sonnets yet to come."

**Zia Mody (Founder and Managing Partner - AZB & Partners)**

"Anvi's work is striking with tones of rebellion and iconoclasm...and distinctly marked by a resolve to resist convention."

**Arun M. Kumar (Chairman & CEO – KPMG in India)**

# Epigraph

“If you spend your entire life wondering what if,  
You’ll never have time to live in what is.”

Anvi Tuteja,  
<https://anvitureja.com>



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# Foreword

## by Nirupama Menon Rao

This is a collection of poems that speaks straight from the soul of a fiery and spirited young person, one whose call to the world is that ‘nothing about me or my work should be able to fit in the little boxes of convention.’ The title, ‘Incandescence’ is perfectly appropriate—because these poems illuminate—shining the light on the personality of their creator, the struggle against barriers and borders that divide and are agents of strife—and through that struggle, arriving at a new place, that is perfect in its cadence, where humanity is re-discovered. This new world has wonder, beauty and enigma in it—as Anvi says—and its discovery stems from the yearning for that incandescent space as she looks up at the vast heavens above. These poems have a flow and a fluidity—encompassing a range of emotions and sensibilities in a protean way—that is really unique in one who is so young in years. The style is tight and syncopated, with an economy of words that helps embody the author’s thoughts in a pointed manner—almost haiku-like—that is both vivid and

expressive. Here is poetry that connects to the very core of being human. Our young author deserves the highest praise and encouragement for her effort. Brava!

Nirupama Menon Rao

(retired Indian diplomat, Foreign Secretary and  
Ambassador)

## Author's Note

Hello and Welcome to Anvi Tuteja: Incandescence! My name is Anvi Tuteja and I am a poet, blogger and first-time author. I have a blog called 'Anvi's Thoughts Caught,' ([www.anvituteja.com](http://www.anvituteja.com)) where I post my writings, and this is a handpicked selection of my best work.

I must admit, when I set about arranging my poetry into sections, it was anything but easy. Compartmentalizing my poems just felt like a constant betrayal of my foremost policy – *nothing about me or my work should be able to fit into the little boxes of convention.*

Luckily for me, I found an easy way around this (leading to my second policy – *always look for loopholes!*), by making my sections unconventional and variably interpretable. Now, I present to you five Sections – Rebellion, Emotion, Reflection, Reality Reimagined and *Reputation*. All of the sections are further described and interpreted in the section headers and I hope you are inspired to think of your interpretations as well.

Another thing I would like to briefly mention is about the section *Reputation*. It is somewhat of a teaser section, *of* not with more poems to come. *Reputation* teases my

future poems, writing style and is an assurance that Poet Anvi Tuteja is not a One Hit Wonder.

Coming to arguably the most important part of a book – the title. While Incandescence is not a very orthodox title – it means a lot to me. Incandescence is more than Luminescence and the bright glow of light. It symbolises struggle and more importantly, overcoming that struggle to become a bright ray of hope; not, the light shed on issues of social importance or the transcending of barriers and borders between humans to become something truly incandescent.

Incandescence is the name of the titular poem of this collection and honestly belongs in every section of this collection, as it symbolises the herein described struggle.

Without much further ado, all I would like to say is:

Thank you for reading this collection, for you have just made a young girl incandescently happy. The only thing I can think of to propagate your interest further is:

**“She was just a little girl, who had the nerve to believe, That she could be much much more than how she was perceived.”- INCANDESCENCE, Anvi Tuteja**

# Incandescence

*This is the titular poem of this collection, titled Incandescence. This poem highlights the importance of change and talks of a young girl, oppressed for the majority of her life, who breaks out of the conventions of her society – like a phoenix reborn from the ashes and as the true saviour.*

I don't need a man to figure out who I'm supposed to be,  
For I am so much more than how society defines me,

I wish with all my heart that this wasn't the world  
that I lived in,  
I wake in the night and curse this world of  
war, crime and sin,

I don't need your stereotypes to define myself,  
I'm sorry, but please, keep your opinions to yourself,

I fear the day this world reaches a consensus,  
For the wars and battles from that moment  
on, I fear will be endless,

Humanity has become reckless, Frozen in a state of mind,  
Never stopping to wonder what is ethical, moral or right,

And they said, how could a scared little girl rise above  
the monsters and fight?

And she replied, you can never lose your demons but  
you can always stand for what you believe is right,

And they looked on in wonder, as she  
stopped all the destruction,  
The very one they caged, came back  
to be their salvation,

And she became their new hope, a light in the dark,  
And then that world did, on a new journey embark,

And the old traditions, mandates and standards of the past,  
Became a thing so obscure that they could no longer last,

That world is now a haven, of those  
lost, scared and different,  
Because she opened up their minds and thus their  
hearts, to those incandescent,

And they tell her story, even up till this day,  
For she was the true saviour who showed everyone  
the right way,

“She was just a little girl, who had the nerve to believe,  
That she could be much much more than  
how she was perceived.”

*welcome, ladies and gentlemen, to a world  
incandescent...*



## SECTION I: REBELLION

The dictionary defines ‘*Rebellion*’ as a **refusal to accept some authority or code or convention**. That is the very underlying essence of each of these poems (with the exception of ‘Swan Song’, being a short story).

*Rebellion* is not only refusal or destruction of a convention; it is more of personal freedom. People usually resort to a rebellion when they feel it is no longer possible to keep up with the existing situation. To me, *Rebellion* is a breaking of bonds, the fighting of oppression, even the smallest measure of resistance. Openness of thought, the celebration of uniqueness; that is what *Rebellion* truly is.

They say rules are made to be broken. I am not a follower of the many. And thus, I see no better beginning than by renewing everything that was before and creating a new beginning.

And to quote Immanuel Kant:

*“Creation is never finished. It once had a beginning, but it will never end.”*