



5-STAR REVIEW: A VOICE OUT OF POVERTY by Jillian Haslam

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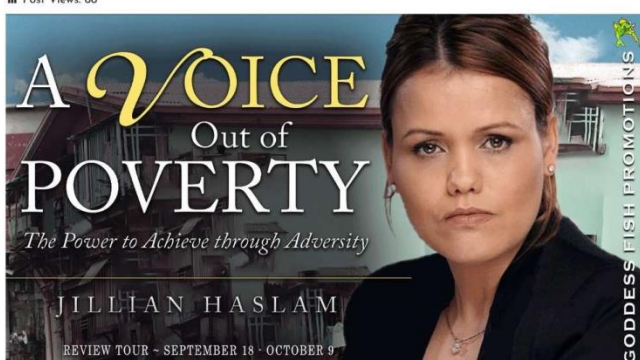


By Amy Wilson

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Biography/Memoir Book Reviews

Post Views: 68



About the Book

Publication Date: March 8, 2023

A woman's ascent from devastating poverty and childhood trauma to international standing as a prominent advocate for the poor and helpless.

As a young girl, [Jillian Haslam](#) saved a life. Herself tiny and aching from malnutrition, she stood for hours at a tea shop, begging for a ladle of milk to try and prevent her newborn sister from dying of starvation.

From the slums of Calcutta to the executive floors of a global bank, *A Voice out of Poverty* offers an unflinching look at one woman's journey from destitution to success.

Throughout, Haslam demonstrates an inexhaustible drive to rise above adversity and find beacons of positivity in impossible circumstances. But her rise doesn't stop at the top; she returns to her roots again and again to extend a hand to those left in the impoverished communities that she so narrowly escaped.

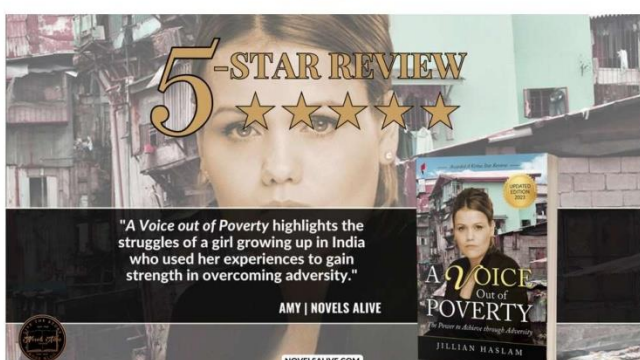
British by ancestry and born in India after its independence, Haslam and her family suffered degradation and prejudice. They were forced to live on the streets, flee danger in the middle of the night, and face persistent abuse and starvation.

This treacherous environment is the backdrop of an unlikely story of resilience and an unshakable family bond. From squalor and powerlessness, Haslam finds countless moments of grace, community, gratitude, and love. *A Voice out of Poverty* is a raw and inspiring memoir that shows how beauty can be found in improbable places, and how "success" is not just the act of making it through. Rather, it is the act of reaching back to bring others with you.

Excerpt



The Review



For many Americans, the concept of poverty is often couched in privilege, such as not being able to afford the latest gaming device or concert ticket. However, it takes on a much deeper meaning when it impacts survival.

Author [Jillian Haslam](#) knows what real poverty looks like sleeping in dreadful places infested with mold and vermin. Her story comes to life in her memoir titled *A Voice out of Poverty*.

As a light-skinned Anglo-Indian with British ancestry growing up in India, Jillian and her family were considered outcasts. When her father had a heart attack, he had to leave home to receive medical care. Without his income, Jillian's mother had to seek work. It was a never-ending cycle of never having enough.

Jillian articulates multiple examples of resilience, especially in her efforts to keep a positive attitude. She and her sister, Vanessa, spent time in boarding school on scholarships, but the feeling of being "less than" followed them.

It was heartbreaking to read about these young, vulnerable girls having to watch over their younger siblings as male predators used food to exploit them. Living in abject poverty could have left them bitter, but their spirits remained strong in spite of the challenges.

A Voice out of Poverty highlights the struggles of a girl growing up in India who used her experiences to gain strength in overcoming adversity.

Buy Links



About the Author

[Jillian Haslam](#) was born in 1970 and raised primarily in the slums of Calcutta. Despite the severe devastation of her family's living circumstances, she completed her education and landed her first major employment as a personal assistant to the CEO of Bank of America in India.



Jillian rose through the ranks, and Bank of America appointed her president of its Charity and Diversity Network in India, where she spearheaded charitable work in four different cities. This led her to receive three philanthropic awards from Bank of America: the Star Recognition award, the Service Excellence award, and The Individual Achievement award.

In 2011, she published the first version of her memoir, *Indian, English*, which chronicles her life growing up amid dreadful poverty, abuse, and tragedy. The book sold over 150,000 copies, mostly while she was on the speaking circuit. Her story also incited interest from Hollywood and British film directors and producers, leading to the development of a feature film.

Charitable work became Jillian's life work. In 2012, she received the first runner up award for The Asian Woman of the Year in the "Social and Humanitarian" category. In early 2015, The Telegraph of Calcutta presented Jillian with the True Legend award for her exceptional contribution to social and humanitarian causes. In mid-2015, she was recognized as a finalist for the Role Model of the Year award for her work delivering speeches in educational institutes across the UK. In late 2016, she received an award for Excellence in Humanitarianism. And, in 2017, she received her greatest accolade, the Mother Teresa Memorial International Award.

Jillian became a speaker in demand and is a Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM). She has delivered several TEDx talks, among other prestigious speaking engagements, on various topics that flow from her life story. Jillian speaks on topics that include entrepreneurship, the power of the mind, and human resilience.

She has also been featured on various TV networks, including Channel 5 and the BBC, and a wide range of print media, including *The Independent*, *The Pioneer*, *The Times*, *The Telegraph*, *The Metro*, *Gulf News*, and other major media outlets. Jillian's charitable work continues under the auspices of the [Remedia Trust](#) where she oversees several separate charities: Ageing Smiles (for the elderly poor), Happy Hearts (for children), Empowering Girls (for teaching various workable skills), India's Disabled (for building a mobile medical unit), E3 Growth (focusing on education, employment, and employability), and the Mother Teresa Project (for women and single mothers).

Jillian currently lives in London with her husband.

Blog Tour Schedule

- September 18: [Gina Rae Mitchell](#)
- September 18: [Novels Alive](#)
- September 25: [The Reading Addict](#)
- September 25:
- October 2: [Fabulous and Brunette](#)
- October 2: [The Faerie Review](#)
- October 9: [Travel the ages](#)
- October 9: [The Avid Reader](#)

REVIEW AUTHOR



Amy Wilson

My name is Amy W., and I am a book addict. I will never forget the day I came home from junior high school to find my mom waiting for me with one of the Harlequin novels from my stash. As she was gearing up for the "you shouldn't be reading this" lecture, I told her the characters get married in the end. I'm just glad she didn't find the Bertrice Small book hidden in my closet. I have diverse reading tastes, evident by the wide array of genres on my Kindle. As I made the transition to an e-reader, I found myself worrying that something could happen to it. As a result, I am now the proud owner of four Kindles -- all different kinds, but plenty of back-up! "Fifty Shades of Grey" gets high marks on my favorites list -- not for character development or dialogue (definitely not!), but because it blazed new ground for those of us who believe provocative fiction is more than just an explicit cover. Sylvia Day, Lexie Blake, and Kristin Hannah are some of my favorite authors. Speaking of diverse tastes, I also enjoy Dean Koontz, Iris Johansen, and J.A. Konrath. I'm always ready to discover new-to-me authors, especially when I toss in a palate cleanser that is much different than what I would normally read. Give me something with a well-defined storyline, add some suspense (or spice), and I am a happy reader. Give me a happily ever after, and I am downright giddy.

Credit by : [Novels Alive](#)