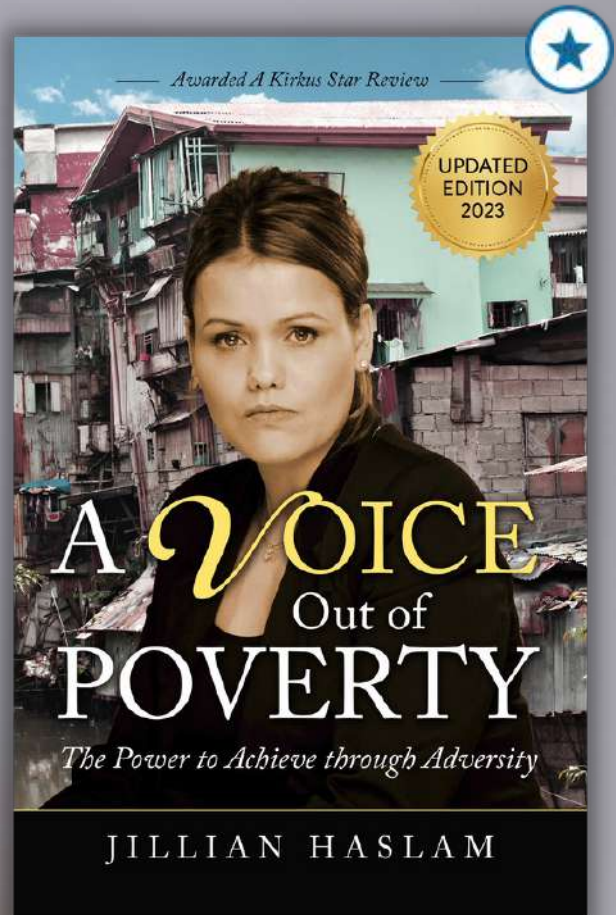


# Jillian Haslam



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Frontpage Publications Limited  
ISBN: 978 93 81043 52 3

# *The Power To Achieve Through Adversity*

**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.



*Jillian and her sister Vanessa*



*Jillian's parents*



*The family's living situation*



*Jillian's first home under the stairs*



# A Voice Out Of Poverty | Reviews

This is a deeply affecting, harrowing story that will remain locked in readers' memories. Haslam's delicate, descriptive writing style captures even her most distressing moments. Drawing on her talent as a motivational speaker, Haslam delivers succinct words that have the power to both inspire and offer hope: "Light can come from darkness. My family's pain is not the entire tale." The author has lived an extraordinary life—her odyssey, which is skillfully recalled here, will unnerve, move, and inspire readers in equal measure.

—Kirkus Review (starred review)

"A Voice out of Poverty is a vivid, harrowing, and inspiring account of survival, triumph, and a career in charitable outreach."

—Foreword Reviews

"A beautiful story of resiliency that never shies away from the horrors and hardships that made Haslam the woman she is today. Recommended for fans of Brené Brown and those who enjoy self-empowerment books."

—Library Journal

"A moving and uplifting memoir about one woman and her family's battle against soul-crushing poverty....testimony to the indomitable human spirit."

—BookLife Review

Jillian's story of a poor Anglo-Indian family struggling to exist in the slums of Calcutta shows the power of love and goodness. In the book, she recalls the generosity of the local people, such as the tea shop owner who gave milk to her sick baby sister. The trials of her life taught her resilience and mental strength, but kindness gave her hope for the future. I am a great believer in kindness, and Jillian is an inspiration and example to us all."

—Sarah, Duchess of York

"A Voice out of Poverty is riveting and essential reading. It authentically lifts the silence that hangs over the lives of the poor and the severe challenges and stigmas faced by British families who stayed in India after India's independence. Jillian Haslam's harrowing account is full of deep insight about the crushing ways in which gender discrimination, class, corruption, and injustice shape possibility. And yet, we are lifted by Haslam's triumph when she forges the opportunity to succeed—only to bring others with her."

—Joanna Lumley, actress, TV producer, activist

"Jillian Haslam's inspirational memoir, A Voice out of Poverty, is a coming of age story of courage, survival and inner strength which illuminates the human condition in all its squalor and glory."

—Vikas Swarup, writer of Slumdog Millionaire (Q & A)

"Enormously compelling ... like something out of Dickens, yet true. It has the power to move with an epic sweep, yet it is intensely personal. It is tailor-made for the cinema and I cannot think of a more worthy project to make happen!"

—Jack Sholder, Hollywood Film Director, Nightmare on Elm Street II among other films

"Jillian Haslam's story is one of the most harrowing and triumphant I have ever read. Just when you think things couldn't get any more tragic, it does. One hardship after another, this woman had the fortitude to not just persevere but to create a new standard of what it means to give back. Her stirring spirit is a beacon of much-needed light in today's world."

—Sheetal Sheth, actress, producer, author, activist

"A Voice out of Poverty by Jillian Haslam is a powerful and transformative read. Taking inspiration from her hero, Mother Teresa, Jillian 'does ordinary things with extraordinary love' and has helped thousands of children to escape poverty through the work of RemediaTrust, the charity she founded. The greatest gift this book offers, however, is the living proof that poverty and discrimination does not have to define our lives and that forgiveness, gratitude and generosity can reshape our future."

—Dr. Elizabeth Jordan, Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM)

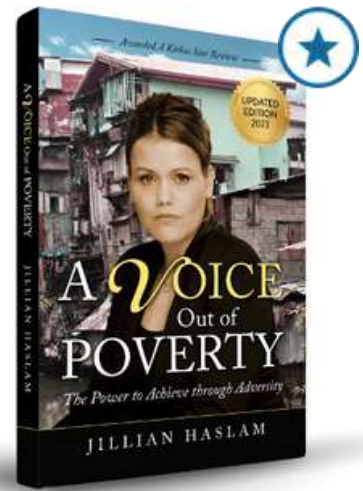
# KIRKUS

A VOICE OUT OF POVERTY

Jillian Haslam

September 13, 2022

## BOOK REVIEW



In this memoir, a humanitarian shares her journey from growing up in poverty in India to founding an esteemed charity that helps protect society's most vulnerable.

Haslam was raised in Kolkata, India, in the 1970s. Her parents were part of the Anglo-Indian community that remained in the country after the British government withdrew in 1947. The family was homeless for the first six years of the author's life. Despite her father's being employed full-time, they could not afford a permanent residence. Haslam became accustomed to squatting or staying in slums, during which time she witnessed the deaths of her twin siblings, who suffered from malnutrition. The author was determined to gain an education, and her first break arrived when she was offered a job with Bank of America, where she later became president of its Charity and Diversity Network in India. Devoting her life to charitable causes, including the founding of Remedia, a trust that helps educate hundreds of children in India, Haslam was honored with the Mother Teresa Memorial International Award in 2017.

This is a deeply affecting, harrowing story that will remain locked in readers' memories. Haslam's delicate, descriptive writing style captures even her most distressing moments, including when she recounts how her deceased baby sister was placed in a tea chest rather than a coffin: "My mother began to seal the top of the chest in place—methodically, like an artist, dripping candle wax along the narrow edges." Always capable of pinpointing emotions, the author elegantly describes how her childhood shaped her later purpose in life: "I had never forgotten how much the small gestures of kindness in my childhood meant to me and what a difference they had made for my family." Drawing on her talent as a motivational speaker, Haslam delivers succinct words that have the power to both inspire and offer hope: "Light can come from darkness. My family's pain is not the entire tale."

The author has lived an extraordinary life—her odyssey, which is skillfully recalled here, will unnerve, move, and inspire readers in equal measure.

A remarkable account that captures the horror of hardship and the power of charity.

Note: Book cover & ISBN number changed for UK Publication Purposes



# Who Is Jillian Haslam?

Jillian Haslam was born 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 an Executive 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.



Charitable giving 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 recognised as a finalist for the Role Model of the Year award for 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 has established an outstanding speaking career and is a Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM). She has delivered several TEDx talks, with her lived experience and character being the foundation of each speaking engagement. Her speaking topics include entrepreneurialism, the power of the mind and her most popular talking point, resilience. She has appeared on various media outlets, such as the BBC and Channel 5, and a wide range of print media, including The Independent, The Times, The Telegraph, The Metro and other major outlets.

Alongside her charity work, Jillian has been focused on her keynote speaking career in 'Resilience' and writing her new book, *A Voice Out of Poverty*, which will launch in the UK on Wednesday, 8th March - International Women's Day 2023. Her next book, *An Irrepressible Mind - A Handbook for Overcoming Adversity*, is scheduled to be launched by mid-2023.

Jillian currently lives in London with her husband.



# A Memoir Destined For Motion Pictures

"Jillian Haslam's Improbable journey growing up in Calcutta is enormously compelling, It's a story that has the power to move, with an epic sweep, yet it is intensely personal."

**Jack Sholder, Hollywood Film Director of Nightmare on Elm Street 2**

The elicit interest from The late American TV & Film Producer Cyrus Yavneh (primetime Emmy for Outstanding Drama Series for 24) and Jack Sholder (three-time Emmy Award winner and best known for his direction on A Nightmare on Elm Street 2) confirms that Jillian Haslam's powerful story encompasses the opportunity to connect with a global audience.

Jillian is available to discuss her vision with TV & Film Producers looking to bring her story to life through heartfelt, inspiring and visual excellence. Please get in touch with Kat Hintz at [kate@insightprmedia.com](mailto:kate@insightprmedia.com) to arrange a meeting with Jillian.



*Jillian's boarding school dormitory in India*



*The lane where the family's little room was in the slum*



*The coats of many colours that Jillian's mother made.*



*The tea shop that gave Jillian free milk to save Susan's life*



*The toilet that Mrs Green locked Jillian in*

# Jillian In The Media

A Voice Out of Poverty is a heartbreaking story of a childhood that forced Haslam to grow up quickly. She recalls many tragedies with a steadiness one cannot help but admire, retelling stories of her younger years with an innocence that gives added dimension to the depictions of that harsh childhood.

— **Newsweek**

"Jillian is remarkable not only for overcoming her own history but for using it as an upbuilding example with which to help others. She does not feel sorry for herself or ask for sympathy, rather she seems to wish us to connect with the millions who, like her, had very tough childhoods of extreme poverty."

— **BBC**

"A startling account of an English/Indian family which stayed in India after Indian independence and suffered through excruciating times ... while living in conditions on the margin of slums and homelessness. Amazing to learn from such real-life experiences. It shows how the past does not have to determine one's future."

— **Forbes Magazine**

"Dozens of letters flowed into the newspaper. Heartbreaking statements like Jillian's inspirational story should be included in textbooks as a lesson for children. I cried in pain and then cried in relief. I have never seen, heard or imagined such poverty and misery. I salute you, Jillian. Jillian is an institution. Her life is full of lessons. She is an icon, Jillian has made India proud, a worthy example."

— **The Telegraph**

"... Knowing starvation, she and her sister would dig in drains for schoolmates' leftovers. She knows the value of giving food to a poor kid and wants nothing more but to help people better their lives."

— **The Pioneer**

"UK-based motivational speaker, author, trainer, and Jillian Haslam may now have a lovely house, cars, and companies in her name. But carving out this life for herself required unfathomable courage and persistence in the face of crippling poverty."

— **The Week**

"A shocking read. Jillian suffered an excruciating childhood but her determination of a better life helped her rise above the horrific circumstances and made her a successful businesswoman. A truly inspirational story."

— **Channel 5 News UK**

"There are two kinds of people in the world—those who break under adversity and those who take it as a challenge and rise above it. Jillian Haslam belongs to the second category."

— **The Hindu**

"A more heartbreaking story is hard to come by and yet her success is truly amazing."

— **The Times**

"It is enormously refreshing, albeit also most sad, when one is aware of the story of Jillian Haslam. Not only is she 'self-made' in the real sense of the term, but commands true respect, as her life achievements have been realized against huge circumstantial adversity."

— **Tuck Magazine**

# A Keynote Speaker On Resilience & Overcoming Adversity

Jillian's combination of compelling stories, humanitarian effort, and inspirational wisdom spellbind her audiences. She has spoken at countless prestigious organisations, including Cambridge University, King's College London, The Bank of England, PwC, Nova Nordisk, and more. She inspires her audiences to recognise and achieve their potential.

As a survivor of poverty and oppression, Jillian Haslam brings a unique perspective from decades of proven resilience. She uses her own story to show others how to derive meaning from their hardships, find grace in adversity, and develop true purpose to achieve their destiny. Jillian honours the invaluable story within us all and shows us how to integrate our darkest moments to light the way to fulfilment.

Born in the slums of Calcutta to parents of British ancestry, Jillian faced a bruising childhood of extreme poverty, malnutrition, and disease. But from a young age, she had a gift of seeing beauty among the grit. Despite the bleakest circumstances, Jillian demonstrates the messages of hope, generosity, and community, which she uses to achieve her dreams today. Audiences leave inspired to face their own adversity and fulfil their destiny.

Her speeches draw from the enthralling stories captured in her memoir, *Indian. English* was an international bestseller published in the US in 2022 under the title *A Voice out of Poverty*. On Wednesday 8th March 2023 (International Women's Day), the book will be released in the UK. Determined to reduce the number of people facing the same hardships as her, Jillian has launched charities to empower everyone from young children and women to the elderly and disadvantaged. Her tireless work has brought her a growing list of awards, including the Mother Teresa Memorial International Award and The True Legend Award from The Telegraph. The Independent honoured her at the Asian Woman of the Year Awards. If you want your audiences to be amazed, inspired, and energised, then Jillian is the speaker to achieve that.



## TALKS



**TEDx Talk:**

Speech Title:  
Never Give Up and Other Complete Rubbish



**BANK OF ENGLAND**

**Bank of England:**

Speech Title:  
An Irrepressible Mind



**PwC Dubai:**

Speech Title:  
How to be the Best Version of Yourself



**Novo Nordisk:**

Speech Title:  
How to Aircraft Test Your Life



**Cambridge:**

Speech Title:  
A Voice Out of Poverty



# A Captivated Audience: Organisations Reflect On Jillian's Talks



"Jillian's talk was engaging and captivating, and the feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. She spoke in a very relatable manner for the audience, and everyone was able to take something away from the talk."

**—Tara Clarke, Talent and Development, Bank of England**

"Often we see speakers described in publicity material as 'inspirational' speakers and this often turns out to be a mere cliché. But there is a speaker whom I recently heard who is truly inspirational, and she is Jillian Haslam.

Without exaggeration, she is one of the most amazing people that I have ever met."

**—Clive Amos, Past District Governor (Rotary International District 1130)**

"Her experiences fascinated the student members of CUID, not merely because of the instinctive appeal of her rags-to-riches tale. It is no Cinderella story, but rather emphasizes hard work and sheer courage. Poverty, gender, and race are at the forefront of our problems—and indeed, problems worldwide."

**—Shachi Amdekar President, Cambridge University International Development Society, UK**

"How do you get from the slums of Calcutta to jobs in companies such as Bank of America? The goal of her speech was to depict her reality, not to make people cry but to show that despite everything, she came out such a truly inspiring and unique woman."

**—Alice R. Blanc, Kings College London**

"It was an absolute pleasure to have Jillian as a speaker at the TEDx event held at The Heriot-Watt University. Motivational talks such as going from Campus to Corporate to Success are much needed these days and I will positively be in contact very soon in order to invite her back."

**—Aman Gosrani, Heriot-Watt University**

# Global Admiration:

Over 100,000 References To Jillian Haslam



**The Telegraph**



**THE TIMES**

**THE INDEPENDENT**



## INTERVIEWS

Newsweek

The Week

The Telegraph

The Independent

The Pioneer

BBC Radio (Asian Network)

BBC (Three Counties Radio)

Live with Gabby (Channel 5)

Times of India

The Hindu

Business Today

## SOCIAL MEDIA

YouTube @Jillianhaslam1

LinkedIn jillianhaslam

Twitter @JillianHaslam

facebook.com/jillian.haslam

Instagram.com/jillian.haslam

TikTok @JillianHaslam

## AWARDS

Finalist – Asian Woman of the Year (2012)

The Telegraph – True Legend Award (2015)

Mother Teresa Memorial International  
Award (2017)



# International Publicity Highlights

- Endorsement received from Vikas Swarup, Author of Slumdog Millionaire: "Jillian Haslam's inspirational memoir, *A Voice Out of Poverty*, is a coming-of-age story of courage, survival and inner strength which illuminates the human condition in all its squalor and glory".
- *A Voice Out of Poverty* in receipt of a Kirkus Starred Review in September 2022.
- *A Voice Out of Poverty* is celebrated and reviewed by prominent TV & Film Producers, such as Jack Sholder, Hollywood Film Director, *Nightmare on Elm Street II* and is the recipient of a glowing review from Dame Joanna Lumley, Actress, TV Producer & Activist and other prominent Public Figures.
- Full-scale international publicity campaign executed by Insight Creative Agency, including international print, broadcast, and online outlets, advertising, social media outreach, and events.
- International book tour covering the US, Canada, the UK, India, and Australia, targeting a broad scope of venues, including colleges and schools, corporate and business/career institutions, conferences, bookstores, book festivals, literary/cultural institutions, women-focused organisations, as well as groups and organisations, advocating for the poor in India and globally.
- Outreach to book scouts at major studios, production companies and entertainment media of major newspapers, magazines, and websites, leveraging the possibility of a documentary to pitch the book for a film adaptation.
- Targeting reviews and features in top international newspapers (London Times, The Telegraph, The Independent, Sydney Morning Herald, The Daily Mail, Daily Express, Times of India, Gulf News, etc.), magazines (Cosmopolitan, Forbes, Women in Business, Oprah, Woman's Day, Marie Claire, Forbes, Newsweek, etc.) and online media (Literary Hub, BuzzFeed, Bookriot, HuffPost, Daily Mail online, The Sun, Daily Telegraph, etc.).
- Targeting top international TV and broadcast outlets, including BBC, ITV, Channel 5, CNN, ABC, CTV, CBC, ARG, and regional and local radio and TV affiliates in cities on the book tour schedule.
- Platform building and targeted promotion to top influencers in motivational speaking, career coaching, and philanthropy.
- Social media promotions, social media advertising, and giveaways on Facebook, Instagram, Goodreads, and the author's website.
- Cross-promotion with many organisations affiliated with the author, including Toastmasters; the Rotary Club; World Affairs Councils of America; and Remedia, the author's own charity, a network of six non-profit organisations across India created to lift up the poor from every generation.
- Outreach to UN Women, positioning Jillian for an Ambassadorship.



# Suggested Talking Points

- A Voice out of Poverty is based on your own life experiences. What inspired you to write the book, and did writing the book change your perspective on your past?
- What core message do you want readers to take away from your book?
- You suffered through a bruising childhood of extreme poverty, malnutrition, and disease, punctuated by tragic losses and trauma. How did you find the strength to keep going and believe life could improve?
- In your opinion, what is the one measure the global community could take to help eradicate poverty in India?
- Born to British parents in India, you faced discrimination from both the Indian population and the British for not being Indian but also not being British. How would you describe your identity?
- Given the seemingly insurmountable hardships you have faced, what is your stance on nature versus nurture and the idea of destiny when it comes to resilience and success?
- With today's vast income inequality, we frequently see two extremes: those highly wealthy and those in chronic and abject poverty. Can you share your experiences of having had a foot in two different worlds of economic ability? Was there a culture shock when you did find financial success?
- What misunderstandings do you think the wealthy have about those living in poverty and vice versa?
- What advice do you have for bridging those worlds?
- What are the points of commonality that you found across the many communities you've been a part of?
- Tell us about some of the people that inspired you on your journey.
- You founded Remedia Trust, a network of numerous charities focused on addressing education, employment and employability, poverty, hunger, and women's rights. Tell us more about the various programs.
- You write books, travel the world speaking to businesses, universities, and people of all backgrounds, and run a growing network of charities. What do you do in your personal time?
- You're now residing in the UK. Is there anything you miss about living in India?
- In the future, what future goals do you have, or are you happy to see what life brings your way?
- What would you say to today's youth and those in the world who feel like they don't have a voice or future?
- If you had been given other opportunities leading to a different career, was there a 'path not taken'? Should we assume this was the right one for you?



# Jillian Haslam



**AUTHOR • SPEAKER • PHILANTHROPIST**

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ISBN: 978 93 81043 52 3