



## Do you hear me, Ma?

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Just a few more hours  
My long wait will be over  
Though this place feels safe and good and  
I hear your heart beat right above my head  
along with the constant gush of blood  
As I play around here I also feel your loving touch ...  
But I can't wait to come out ...  
Do you hear me ma?

Are you as beautiful as I imagine you to be?  
Does your lap exude the same warmth as this lovely nest inside you?  
It is so dark here but I can feel the beautiful world out there through you  
I hear the birds sing in the morning when I wait for you to wake up  
And the soft chirp of crickets when you finish your chores and lay awake in the bed  
Waiting for sleep to embrace you  
Do you hear me ma?

I want to see my two older sisters  
I often hear them laugh and play  
Be it night or day  
Running around the neem tree in our house  
I want to see the stone under that tree where you often sit in the afternoons  
Many a times I hear you softly cry  
I won't let you cry once I come out  
Do you hear me ma?

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I hear the stories you recite when you feed my sisters  
I want to go to a school where they teach about the stars and moon  
I want to go to the moon too  
Should I become a doctor just like the one who you consult at the hospital?  
Or a teacher whom you converse with at my sisters' school?  
I also want to become a loving mother just like you.  
I have big dreams  
Do you hear me ma?

I am ready to come out  
I won't give you much pain ma  
I know my sisters are waiting to welcome their little sister  
I hear you cry again  
Oh no... I hear you ma.  
I hear you and grandma whispering in soft tones  
No...  
I want to live too...  
Just like all of you  
Don't...  
Don't you hear me, ma?

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