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POETRY

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**LAYLA MASCARENHAS**

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**Pushy People**

Pushy People are a pain...  
Always seeking personal gain.  
They wreck your hopes and smash your dreams,  
In reckless pursuit of their schemes.

With foghorns blaring  
They ride on and on,  
Trampling the simple and quiet good souls,  
Clambering over, snatching and grabbing it all.

There goes her boyfriend, as her best friend takes him home;  
There goes the promotion, as the junior grabs it for his own.  
The gifts and the favours are all part of the grease  
That makes mister/miss Pushy glide across the floor.

So eager to be heard, so keen to be the first,  
No one else can score even a half point more.  
Jostling and scrambling Pushy must have it all,  
The pie is his/hers, each crumb and every slice.

I wonder what hunger growls in their bellies?  
So insatiable is the drive to grab the goods and the prize.  
What parental mistakes so conditioned their minds  
That the world spins only to help their wins?  
*God helps those who help themselves*, they vow.  
Oh, no, my friend, that's not the entire picture.  
God is the defender of the orphan, the protector of the weak,  
God turns evil into good for the hapless poor.

So, by outsmarting men, Pushy can't outsmart God.  
God's plans are revealed in the course of history.  
Only in hindsight can you see,  
That Pushy was only a dot in the tapestry.

Guardian of the widow, and champion of those who trust Him,  
God's gifts surpass the amassed treasures of Pushys and their folks,  
God's wisdom can turn the simple man's defeats  
Into the biggest successes of this world.

No clever oratory, no schemes no plans,  
No shouting, shoving or grabbing lands,  
The simple man trusts the Lord who never fails  
To provide, shelter and open doors only He can.

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**BIO-NOTE**

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Layla Mascarenhas has worn many hats: daughter, student, wife, mother, college lecturer, daughter-in-law, musician, and researcher. Her doctoral research was on Children's Literature, and she continues researching and writing. She writes short fiction and poetry. She lives in Goa.

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