



# Chuchu Manthu's Jar of Toffees

**Author:** Adithi Rao

**Illustrator:** Krishna Bala Shenoi

“Chuchu Manthu, look!”





Chuchu Manthu turns to where Preet is pointing. She quickly eats up the chips on his plate. He always falls for this trick!

Chuchu is the pet name Preet has given him. Manthu means “Big Uncle” in Konkani.





Chuchu Manthu is the kindest person in Preet's world. He is also her best friend.



One day, Preet sees Chuchu Manthu scoop handfuls of toffees from a jar and drop them from his bedroom window. She watches in amazement as he ducks under the windowsill, chuckling to himself.

Cries of delight float up from the street!





At the end of the lane is a school. When the lunch bell rings, Chuchu Manthu secretly drops toffees down to the school children as they pass under his window.





After lunch, Chuchu Manthu walks back to his office with his briefcase. When he passes the children playing, he doesn't look at them. So, the children never guess that the hand that sends them toffees every day belongs to this thin, solemn man dressed in white!



But one day, Chuchu Manthu has a dreadful pain in his stomach. As he's taken to the hospital, he presses Preet's hand one last time...





Now, Preet sits in Chuchu Manthu's empty room. His yoga mat is on the floor. She remembers that long-ago day when she had walked in and found a pair of long, pyjama-clad legs poking into the air!

"Help!" Preet had yelled.  
"Chuchu Manthu is ulta-pulta!"





Amma and Mhavey had rushed into the room and burst out laughing!

"He's not ulta-pulta," Amma said.

"He's doing yoga!" Mhavey said.

"Goga," repeated Preet. She had watched with wondering eyes as Chuchu Manthu lifted his body on the palms of his hands, like a bird about to fly away!



Preet blinks. Nobody can fill the Chuchu Manthu-shaped hole in her heart.

“Where is Chuchu Manthu? Where is his kindness?” wonders Preet.

She looks under the yoga mat. She searches through his bedside drawer. She goes across to his cupboard and opens it.





Oops!

A white shirt tumbles out onto Preet's head.

Chuchu Manthu had two white shirts and two white pants. He had worn them by turns every day.

Now, there is only one white shirt and one white pant left in the cupboard. Neatly ironed.



Preet carefully folds the shirt  
and puts it back on the shelf.  
And that's when she finds it.  
Chuchu Manthu's jar of  
toffees!

Preet's tears drop silently  
into it.





A bell rings in the distance. It is lunch time at the school. Soon, the children will pass under Chuchu Manthu's window.

But there's no one to give them toffees now.





Yes, there is! Preet jumps up.

She scoops handfuls of toffees from the jar and drops them from the window. Preet ducks under the windowsill, chuckling happily to herself.

Cries of delight float up from the street!





### Story Attribution:

This story: Chuchu Manthu's Jar of Toffees is written by [Adithi Rao](#) . © Pratham Books , 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

### Other Credits:

'Chuchu Manthu's Jar of Toffees' has been published on StoryWeaver by Pratham Books. [www.prathambooks.org](http://www.prathambooks.org) Guest Art Director: Somesh Kumar; Dedication: "For Mr. U. Suresh Rao, my Chuchu Manthu, the kindest person in my world."

### Images Attributions:

Cover page: [Girl looking at a jar of sweets](#), by [Krishna Bala Shenoj](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 2: [A girl pointing at something](#), by [Krishna Bala Shenoj](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 3: [A girl steals chips from uncle's plate](#), by [Krishna Bala Shenoj](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 4: [a collection of photographs](#), by [Krishna Bala Shenoj](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 5: [A man throwing toffees from the window](#), by [Krishna Bala Shenoj](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 6: [a dog and children on the street](#), by [Krishna Bala Shenoj](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 7: [Children sitting on the sidewalk and talking](#), by [Krishna Bala Shenoj](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 8: [A child holding out her hand](#), by [Krishna Bala Shenoj](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 9: [Girl rolling out a mat](#), by [Krishna Bala Shenoj](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 10: [Man doing yoga](#), by [Krishna Bala Shenoj](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 11: [Girl opening a drawer](#), by [Krishna Bala Shenoj](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Disclaimer: [https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms\\_and\\_conditions](https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms_and_conditions)



Some rights reserved. This book is CC-BY-4.0 licensed. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. For full terms of use and attribution, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

### Images Attributions:

Page 12: [Girl looking at a shirt in front of the mirror](#) by [Krishna Bala Shenoj](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 13: [A girl crying](#), by [Krishna Bala Shenoj](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 14: [Girl beside the window](#), by [Krishna Bala Shenoj](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 15: [A girl throwing toffees from the window](#), by [Krishna Bala Shenoj](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license. Page 16: [A jar of toffees](#), by [Krishna Bala Shenoj](#) © Pratham Books, 2019. Some rights reserved. Released under CC BY 4.0 license.

Disclaimer: [https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms\\_and\\_conditions](https://www.storyweaver.org.in/terms_and_conditions)



Some rights reserved. This book is CC-BY-4.0 licensed. You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, all without asking permission. For full terms of use and attribution, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>



# Chuchu Manthu's Jar of Toffees

(English)

Chuchu Manthu is the kindest person Preet knows. After his death, Preet wonders if his kindness disappeared with him. A story about loss and grief, and kindness in everyday actions.

This is a Level 3 book for children who are ready to read on their own.



Pratham Books goes digital to weave a whole new chapter in the realm of multilingual children's stories. Knitting together children, authors, illustrators and publishers. Folding in teachers, and translators. To create a rich fabric of openly licensed multilingual stories for the children of India and the world. Our unique online platform, StoryWeaver, is a playground where children, parents, teachers and librarians can get creative. Come, start weaving today, and help us get a book in every child's hand!