



# *The* **Epitome** */i'pitəmi/*

Academy of Language Studies, UiTM Kedah Branch

*Capturing Life Lessons and Moments*

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# Copyright Page

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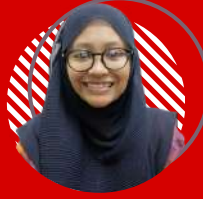


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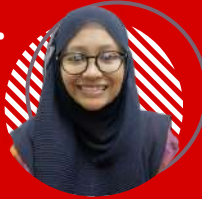
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# Synopsis



The Academy of Language Studies, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Kedah is thrilled to announce the release of the fourth edition of its e-magazine, The Epitome. This publication represents our steady dedication to cultivating creativity in language and literature.

The primary objective of THE EPITOME is to offer a platform for writers, educators, scholars, poets, and researchers can come together to exchange their ideas, discoveries, expertise, and narratives. Our special focus revolves around an array of creative writing genres, encompassing playwriting, short stories, songs, speeches, memoirs, literary journalism, humour writing, lyric essays, innovative essays, and personal essays, with a goal to embrace diverse linguistic expressions, with content available in four languages: English, Bahasa Melayu, Mandarin, and Arabic.





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# Preface

**Mr. Azlan Abdul Rahman**  
Head of Faculty  
Academy of Language Studies  
UiTM Kedah Branch

Welcome to the fourth issue of *Epitome*, where creativity and imagination shine brightly. Within these pages, you will discover a rich tapestry of voices and visions—each piece a celebration of the limitless potential of words.

This issue of *Epitome* is more than a mere publication; it is a tribute to the art of storytelling in all its forms. Whether you are captivated by evocative poetry, enthralled by engaging short stories, or intrigued by insightful essays, we aim to present something that resonates with every reader.

We are passionate about the transformative power of literature, and we hope that this collection will inspire, challenge, and delight you. As you explore these pages, may you uncover new perspectives and experiences that enrich your own creative journey.

Thank you for embarking on this literary adventure with us.

Happy reading!





# Editor InChief

Dear gentle readers,

Let me welcome you to our fourth edition of e-magazine, where we explore the beauty of life's journey. Our theme, "Capturing Life Lessons and Moments," encourages you to pause, reflect, and celebrate the wisdom that arises from everyday experiences.

Life is a mosaic of moments, each with the potential to teach us something profound, inspire change, or remind us of the surrounding beauty. Within these pages, we have unfolded stories, reflections, and insights that illuminate the lessons woven into the fabric of our lives. From the quiet wisdom found in fleeting moments to the power of life-changing events, this edition pays tribute to the learning that occurs beyond the classroom, in the heart of our daily lives.

Our contributors have poured their hearts into capturing these moments, sharing personal stories that resonate with authenticity and depth. You will find essays exploring the significance of small acts of kindness, articles reflecting on the lessons learned from adversity, and creative pieces celebrating the joy found in simple leisure. Each piece serves as a reminder that life's greatest lessons often emerge from the most unexpected places.

As you flip through this edition, we hope you find inspiration in the shared stories and perhaps discover a mirror to your own experiences. May these pages encourage you to appreciate the moments that shape you, learn from the challenges that test you, and embrace the wisdom that life offers at every step of your journey.

Thank you for joining us in exploring life's lessons and moments. We invite you to take your time, savour each piece, and maybe even gain a new perspective on the experiences that have shaped your own life.

Happy reading!

Warm regards,

**Razanawati Nordin**  
Editor-in-Chief  
THE EPITOME





# A woman like her

Nurul Izzati Md Rashid  
Fakulti Undang-Undang, UiTM Cawangan Perak



She walked past by a mirror next to her bed. One thing in particular is intriguing. She stood still, disbelieve, but find it fascinating to stare at it for a while. She touched those unfamiliar things on her hair where some might want to take it off to avoid looking haggard and disheveled, but she did not feel so. She smiled, brightly, reflecting things on each of the remarkable occurrences happened to her previously. She is proud of herself.

Alongside her crooked middle hair parting, she saw a few gray hair strands – where some associate it as a symbol of getting older and some see it as a symbol of wisdom and respect, depending on everyone’s point of view, subjectively.

She – who is considered a failure, for refusing to get married when every woman her age is mostly a mother of one or two.

She – who is considered a spinster for opting to further her studies instead of having a man to put on a ring on her finger.

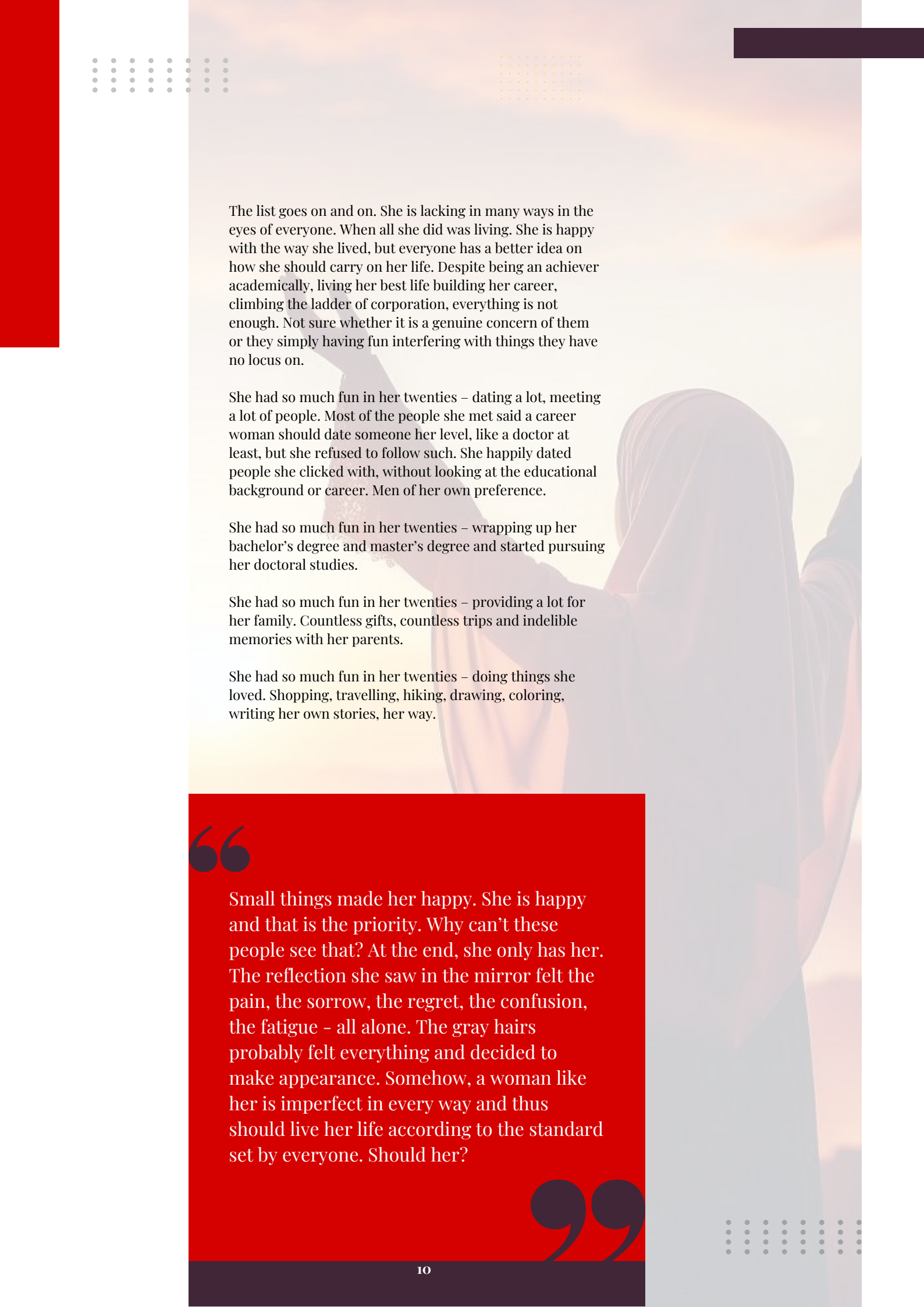


She – who is considered a self-centered person, who is unable to provide her parents with any grandchildren when most of her parents’ friends are enjoying their best life with their respective grandchildren.

She – who is considered a feminist for standing up against any cultural customs and norms that discriminate woman and being vocal about wanting women to be heard.

She – who is considered too loud for being opinionated.







The list goes on and on. She is lacking in many ways in the eyes of everyone. When all she did was living. She is happy with the way she lived, but everyone has a better idea on how she should carry on her life. Despite being an achiever academically, living her best life building her career, climbing the ladder of corporation, everything is not enough. Not sure whether it is a genuine concern of them or they simply having fun interfering with things they have no locus on.

She had so much fun in her twenties – dating a lot, meeting a lot of people. Most of the people she met said a career woman should date someone her level, like a doctor at least, but she refused to follow such. She happily dated people she clicked with, without looking at the educational background or career. Men of her own preference.

She had so much fun in her twenties – wrapping up her bachelor's degree and master's degree and started pursuing her doctoral studies.

She had so much fun in her twenties – providing a lot for her family. Countless gifts, countless trips and indelible memories with her parents.

She had so much fun in her twenties – doing things she loved. Shopping, travelling, hiking, drawing, coloring, writing her own stories, her way.



Small things made her happy. She is happy and that is the priority. Why can't these people see that? At the end, she only has her. The reflection she saw in the mirror felt the pain, the sorrow, the regret, the confusion, the fatigue – all alone. The gray hairs probably felt everything and decided to make appearance. Somehow, a woman like her is imperfect in every way and thus should live her life according to the standard set by everyone. Should her?





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