

## Autobiography

I remember when I was first born, 8 pounds, heavier than all my brothers and sisters. I was one hell of a fat child. I always used to wear dresses 2 years older than I was. I remember when I was 2 years old I was really upset about something, and my mom told me a big secret, she told me she loved me the most. I felt on top of the world. But my world ended on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January 1998. My baby brother was born. I was no longer the youngest child, no longer the spoilt one. My little brother was now the centre of attention. A few months later, it was my birthday and I was turning 5. I had asked my mom for one of those dolls that cried when it needed its nappy changing or feeding. It was a sunny morning, I felt so much older that day, I don't actually know why as it was only a day later than when I was 4. I got dressed in my best summer dress and tried to flatten my big curls but didn't succeed; and came downstairs. My mom said good morning in Arabic like any other day and carried on as normal. I had never felt so disappointed in my life. They had forgotten my 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. No presents, no cake, no party balloons, not even the usual 5 kisses for every year off my mom. Nothing. After breakfast and a few hours sitting in my room reading Cinderella and feeling all the pop-up pictures over and over and over again, my mom called me downstairs. I walked down our Victorian staircase and opened the door to our living room. I saw all my friends and family scream 'SURPRISE!' it was the happiest moment of my childhood. They hadn't forgotten my birthday and I even got that doll I always wanted.

When I was 6 years old, every summer we used to pick strawberries from the next door neighbours strawberry farm in Derby. I remember the distinct smell of the sweet, fresh and pleasant smell of summer fruits. I never got sick of them. My mom used to put about 5 strawberries in a plate with a large scoop of cream and a bit of sugar. Or even when she dipped them in melted chocolate with sprinkles on top. No wonder I was fat.