

DIVERSE CITY

Magazine

Christmas 2018



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
& A HAPPY NEW YEAR
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
THE GOOD TIMES FLY
ANOTHER YEAR GONE BY
THERE'S MAGIC TONIGHT
A KISS GOODNIGHT**

Original lyrics, and songwriter is Faisal Ally (written in the 1990s)



**DIVERSE PLACES
MONTREAL AND QUEBEC
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
TOASTMASTERS
YOU'RE INVITED ON WEDS
NEISHA'S KITCHEN
BAKE A CHRISTMAS CAKE
Catch the taste and enjoy the holidays**



STANDING UP SERIES
Life of a visible minority in Edmonton, AB
SIGNATURE WITH LOVE *Cat Series*
Meet some of the adventurous cats - Daoud, Raouf, Suley and Sneeze from Nandy Park. Also meet Tom and Whitey from New York.
NEW AMSTERDAM, GUYANA
Home of the story, LAURA FLEW THE COOP
PUT UP A TREE, TURN ON THE LIGHTS, THERE'S MAGIC TONIGHT

DIVERSE CITY

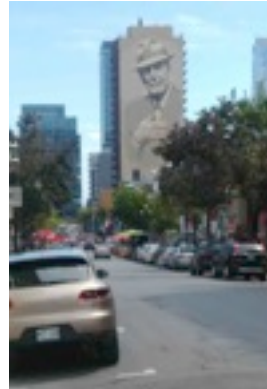
World Magazine



Montreal



Remembrance Day



L. Cohen on building



Indie Artist/Writer - F. Ally

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Christmas Second Edition

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(More pics added for Christmas and for the Montreal/Quebec article)

Christmas Edition (First Edition)

Published December 17, 2018

Smile, Smile

I WANT TO SEE YOU SMILE

Lyrics from Sometimes instrumental, 2016

CHRISTMAS MAGIC IN THE AIR

CHRISTMAS MAGIC



RENE'S HOME



HOUSE ON CANDY CANE LANE, EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA

CHRISTMAS IS HERE AGAIN



Having a jolly good time and a happy new year



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JUST LIKE MAGIC IN THE AIR*



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PUT UP A TREE, TURN ON THE LIGHTS, THERE'S MAGIC TONIGHT
SMILE FOR A WHILE, SMILE, SMILE

NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRATIONS

RING IN THE NEW YEAR

In a warm, Jamaican atmosphere

CALGARY

Mon, 31 Dec 2018, 7:00 PM –
Tue, 1 Jan 2019, 2:00 AM MST

Location

Executive Royal Hotel Calgary
2828 23 Street Northeast
Calgary, AB T2E 8T4

Cost: \$80/person

Menu includes Jamaican rice and peas, Jerk chicken, Roast beef, vegetable medley, wine choices with dinner.

Music by Eclipse Sounds with Mike and crew - great reggae, oldies and soca music to keep the legs moving and the vibes at a memorable level!!

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/new-years-eve-gala-2018-tickets-49311027611>

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DANCE COMPANY

Renaissance Edmonton Airport Hotel
4236 36 Street East
Edmonton, AB T9E 0V4

DATE AND TIME

Mon, Dec 31, 2018, 6:00 PM –
Tue, Jan 1, 2019, 2:30 AM MS
More info & for tickets
www.etownsalsa.com

The Doorway with Anna Beaumont Songs featuring the poetry of Rumi & Hafiz

by Anna Beaumont

DATE AND TIME

Fri, December 21, 2018
7:30 PM – 10:30 PM MST

LOCATION

The Storefront Studio
6324-106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta

DESCRIPTION

A Solstice evening to celebrate the light and love of the poets Rumi and Hafiz performed by Anna Beaumont. A Holy Lamp of songs shining with wisdom and grace sung by Anna.

The link for purchase of the Doorway CD is:

<https://itunes.apple.com/ca/album/the-doorway/351590144>

Or to listen: <http://www.annabeaumont.com/music/>

Disclaimer: Events info is publicly available. Be sure to verify all information on their websites before embarking on the events as dates and times may change and incorrect information may be provided.

CAN'T WIND DOWN OVER THE HOLIDAYS Is your mind too busy?



Meditate to quiet your mind and to focus. Too much to do during the holidays and you just cannot wind down? Meditation is one way to transcend a busy mind. Often our thoughts are automatic, and they trigger all kinds of biological processes, and we have no clue why we become so anxious and behave the way we do.

Focus on a mantra/phrase or on your breath. Use a mantra/phrase such as Om shanti shanti, Bismillah, Subhanallah, or one of your own; there are many on the internet. If your mind and thoughts are on such a phrase then your thoughts are not on the trivial matters that stress you out. Get things off your mind by writing them down and prioritize them to complete them.

Start repeating your mantra/phrase. Your thoughts will drift, so catch yourself and start focusing and repeating again. Then slow down the phrase and let the silence between the phrase widen, and as you repeat your phrase let the silence grow until the phrase fade and you are in a state of silence. Remain in silence as long as possible. Your thoughts will return. Start repeating your phrase. Continue for about 20 to 40 minutes a day.

Reference the Cariwave Magazine, Spring 2017 Edition p.16, Change your thoughts and rejuvenate, Change your thoughts, change your life, by F. Ally

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THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE

SMILE, SMILE - DON'T BE SHY - SMILE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

BAKING A CHRISTMAS CAKE

Neisha's (Naz) Kitchen



CELEBRATE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS



Picture taken in Castledowns, Edmonton - Dec, 2018

ALL THE BEST AND SUCCESS, ALL THE GOOD THINGS LIFE BRINGS

Original lyrics by F. Ally

NEISHA'S KITCHEN - BAKING A CHRISTMAS CAKE

Using 1 lb each of prunes, raisins, current, butter (or margarine), flour

Preparation time: 3 hours; baking time: 1 1/2 hours



Weight out 1 lb of prunes, raisins, current



Using a mill for grinding



Cut prunes into quarters



Add raisin to mill and grind, then add raisins and grind, and then current



Weigh 1 lb butter



Mix butter in 1 cup water



Weigh 1 lb flour



Mix



1 dozen eggs



Blend eggs using blender



Mix eggs and butter



1 lb flour



Get pans for cakes



1 lb flour



Add prunes, raisin and current to butter



Mixing



Continue mixing



Add 2 tbl brown sugar



Add flour and mix

NOTE: You can burn the brown sugar and add and mix and this will also turn the cake black. Molasses can also be added to make black. These steps were not carried out.



Add browning to give it a darker brown color



Cut out non-sticky wax paper and place in pan, covering the sides also



Check mix to make sure it's not too soft



Add mix to pan a



Turn oven to 205 degree Celsius and will bake for approx. 1 1/2 hours. After 40 mins check cake. By now it will have a nice brown color but still too soft. Lower to 175 degrees Celsius and bake for 20 mins. Lower to 115 degrees Celsius and bake for another 35 mins - check to make sure its not too soft

To make the cake black, you can add molasses or burn the brown sugar and then add it to the mix.

THE GOODTIMES FLY,

ANOTHER YEAR GONE BY,

THERE'S MAGIC TONIGHT *Original lyrics by F. Ally*

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Cultural diversity

A story of baking a Christmas cake

An excerpt from the novel *Signature with Love* (edited) by F. Ally

Based on a true story from the mid 1900s. Parts of this story was posted previously in the *Diverse City Magazine*

La Penitence, British Guiana, South America

The Christmas feelings

The Christmas feelings were everywhere, through many households across British Guiana, regardless of religion and ethnicity. From Nani's kitchen window on the second floor, tea was brewing and the scents of aloo *potatoes* and roti filled the air. They were having breakfast. Nani was a woman of light complexion and green eyes and she had owned a few properties and this house was one of them. Her name was Marium Rossamond and her husband was S. Boodho; nobody remembered what the S stood for—he was known as Nana. *In the Indian tradition, Nana is male and Nani is female.*

Nani lived upstairs and she was busy cleaning. She opened the front door and the cat scurried through the door.

"Get back here—inside! Inside!" she exclaimed, her head sticking out the door, waving a broom; the cat lunged down the stairs, and took a spot on the lower steps where her grand children sat.

It was almost time for baking the Christmas cake

La Penitence

The children and their parents lived downstairs on the main level of Nani's home. It was the Christmas holidays, and the girls were busy making crepe flowers from paper. They also made lollipop flowers, and waxed them, so they become hard like artificial flowers. Mustapha was busy polishing the furniture, while their mother, Hamidan, and the girls were changing the curtains. Hamidan was one of Nani's daughters. After that they put up the Christmas tree, or at least what they called a Christmas tree. Not everyone could have afforded a Christmas tree; some used a branch from a tree. The children had lots of fun decorating the tree and the house.

Although they were not Christians, the children believed in Santa Clause and the fairy godmother. They believed that Santa Clause would come through the chimney with presents. They hung their stockings on the tree. There were other celebrations during the year, but Christmas day was the big treat of the year—that was when Hamidan made chicken curry, dhal purri, ginger beer, mauby, Christmas cake, and all kinds of Guyanese sweets.

The children were in the living room hanging out.

"I could already taste the Christmas cake," Ashar said cheerfully with a bright smile.

Naz rubbed her palms together. "Me too. I can't wait—I can't wait to get a pinch of the Christmas cake," she said, joyfully. "And a taste."

"I want Christmas cake, now," Rose said. She was only four-years old.

Continue on the next page...

“And you will soon,” Mustapha said with a smile. He had just turned sixteen. Ashar was thirteen and Naz was eleven. The girls looked up to him, being the eldest sibling in the family. They knew that he was going to make sure they get their treats.

Their mother entered the living room and gave the children a serious look. “Eh, eh!” her voice filled the air. She looked at Ashar. “You can taste the Christmas cake already and you haven’t done those extra chores, yet!” She turned away and then turned back to them. “Maybe we don’t deserve a Christmas cake this year!”

Children getting their chores done before Christmas

The girls remained silent, with frowns on their faces. Hamidan turned to Mustapha. “Did you polish the floor?” Mustapha cleared his throat, but remained silent. She turned to Ashar and Naz. “Did you weed the garden and pick fresh vegetables?” The girls remained silent, pouting. Hamidan headed back to the kitchen as the children sat in the living room glancing at each other. During the holiday season, Hamidan always gave the children a few extra chores ahead of time, getting ready for Christmas day, Boxing Day and New Years; on those days, they could relax, eat and play all the wanted to.

Mustapha exchanged glances with the girls and noticed their sad little faces, pouting with furrowed eyebrows and watery eyes. He had a plan. He huddled the three girls together and had a little discussion. After the discussion, he became busy polishing the floor, and the girls were weeding the garden. The girls even completed a few extra chores—sweeping and mopping the floor. After that, they hurried out the door and ran upstairs to help out Nani with some of her chores. While Naz and Rose gave Kitty a bath, Ashar massaged Nani’s aching shoulders. The following day, the girls picked fresh vegetables, washed them and cut them up, while Mustapha trimmed the trees, forked up the earth, fed the chickens and goats, and took out the garbage. He also helped out Nana and Nani with some items. He then went to La Penitence market to do all the shopping for his mother, and in the afternoon, he delivered some of his father’s tailored made clothes to his customers.

Their mother arrived home and entered the door. She wore a serious face. The children exchanged nervous glances, thinking they were in trouble. But a sudden smile rose on Hamidan’s face, and her smile grew broad, and she started to laugh.

Getting the ingredients ready for baking

“If we’re going to have a Christmas cake, then we better hurry and get the ingredients ready,” Hamidan said. The girls exchanged glances with Mustapha and they began to laugh and clap. The children already knew, that regardless of the situation, there was always a Christmas cake at Christmas time; not even Hamidan could have gone through the Christmas season without baking, and missing out on the fresh scents of the Christmas cake filling the air.

Continue on the next page....

Ella's new oven

Having an oven for baking was rare. Hamidan always baked at home, but that year, one of the neighbors in La Penitence, named Ella, had purchased a new oven. Friends and neighbors in La Penitence were excited after hearing about Ella's new oven. Ella had invited them to use her oven to bake their Christmas cake. A schedule was made to use Ella's new oven.

The girls getting the raisins and cherries ready for baking

Christmas was only a few days away and Hamidan and the children got the fruits ready for the Christmas cake: raisins and cherries. Hamidan had already arranged to use Ella's oven. The following morning, Hamidan walked over to Ella's place, which was only a few houses down Middle Road, La Penitence carrying a basket with her ingredients for baking.

Two baskets filled with the Christmas cakes

Later that day, Hamidan returned home with two baskets filled with Christmas cakes. She had baked enough for Christmas and New Years. She opened the door and entered. And when the children saw their mother entered carrying the baskets, their face lit up as the smell of the fresh baked cakes radiated through the house. The children's taste buds went wild. They got off their chair and followed their mother into the kitchen. And as Hamidan took the cakes out and laid them on the cupboard the children became excited. Hamidan then cut the Christmas cakes into squares, and placed them into the baskets. The children's mouth watered as they watched their mother hung the baskets on the hooks hanging from the ceiling.

Christmas was still a few days away, and the children were getting restless, waiting to taste the Christmas cake. The waiting seemed long. The girls also threw paddy seeds in little pots, and waited for them to sprout.

Their mom took the children window-shopping in Georgetown

A couple days before Christmas, as the humid Atlantic Ocean breeze wafted through this South American country, Hamidan took the children window-shopping in Georgetown. They walked along the lively and busy streets that were designed and built during Dutch colonialism with Dutch architecture looking at the lights, decorations, toys and clothes displayed in the store windows. Their faces lit up. They were laughing, talking and enjoying the fun. Hamidan was also having a nice time, enjoying the fun with her children. They stopped at the ice cream store and the children had their treat: ice cream cone, soda and tennis roll with butter and cheese.

Continue on the next page...

**Finally, Christmas Eve arrived and
the children could hear the masquerading band**

Finally, Christmas Eve arrived, and the children could hear the masquerading band making their way down Middle Road, La Penitence.

“Open the window, open the window,” Ashar’s voice rose with excitement. “Open the window, open the window.”

Naz ran up to the window. “I want to see. I want to see.” She climbed up on the chair and the girls unhooked the latch and Mustapha came and pushed open the window and hooked it so it stayed open. He then opened another window.

The Christmas carols grew loud

The girls were peering through the windows, waiting for the masquerading band to arrive. The band was next door and the singing of Christmas carols grew loud with the beating of drums. Ten minutes went by and the band reached their yard. The children’s faces lit up with bright smiles. Their mother and father joined them. Mustapha hoisted Rose, while Hamidan held Hassan who was just a baby.

“Samuel is playing masquerade,” Ashar said, smiling. The children’s faces lit up as Samuel opened the gate to their yard, jumping around and dancing as he entered. He was a tall slim built man of African descent and always wore a bright gleaming smile. He was good a carpenter and did a lot of good work for the people in La Penitence, and he was well liked. He always came around on Christmas Eve with the masquerading band to cheer up the children. The beating of drums and the blowing of the trumpet grew loud as the other masqueraders jumped around in their Christmas costumes. The children and their parents stood at the window with broad smiles and bright gleaming eyes. The band stopped at their window and started to sing Christmas carols. The children joined in singing. It was fun for the whole family. The masqueraders entertained them for another ten minutes and then continued onto the neighbors, as the children stood by windows listening.

Finally, it was Christmas Day

Christmas morning had arrived. Finally, the waiting was over. As the golden Demerara sun blazed at the horizon, the children crawled out of bed, earlier than usual. They couldn’t wait to see their Christmas presents. They rolled out of their beds and ran into the living room and over to the Christmas tree. Their mother and father were already up—the children were eager, reaching into the stockings. And when they pulled out their presents their faces lit up. Each child received one present, and they cherished what they got. They didn’t get bored with it, nor tossed it aside. They appreciated everything they got and took good care of them. Dolls were few, and they were kept them for years.

Continue on the next page...

The big treat - Christmas cake and cream soda, plus a tasty meal

It was time for the big treat: cake and cream soda to start off with. The children sat together, cross-legged on the living room floor, and enjoyed their Christmas cake and cream soda. Then they had chicken curry and dhal purri. Dhal purri was similar to a big roti with grinded up dhal *peas* between the two layers.

Neighbors greeting each other, celebrating Christmas

Their Christmas festival continued, and during the day, the neighbors greeted each other, and they exchange cakes and dishes. The cat, Kitty, was with the children, also enjoying some snacks. She was a smart cat and got double her share, so did the children, when they went upstairs to visit their grand parents and got more Christmas cake, which Nani had baked.

During the day, the children played with their toys and they admired the sprouts from the paddy seeds they had thrown a few days before Christmas. After Christmas day, the girls had to put away their dolls for the other holidays, and as the holidays continued, the girls would peek at the dolls.

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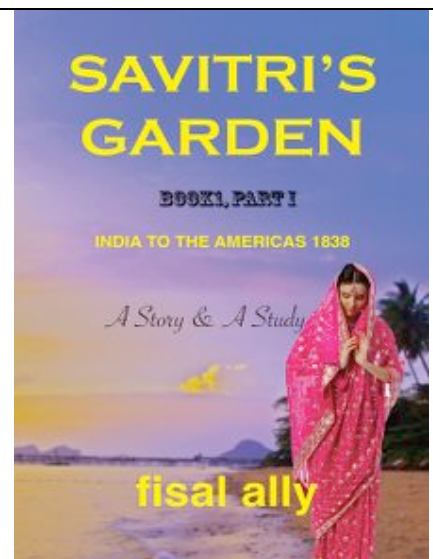
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A house in Castledowns, Edmonton



Outside West Edmonton Mall



A house in Castledowns, Edmonton

CHRISTMAS

Put up a tree
turn on the lights,
there's magic tonight
Have a merry little Christmas,
and a happy new year

All the best and success
All the good things life brings

Follow your passion, with a New Year resolution
Put up a tree, turn on the lights

I'll always remember, Christmas day
Those moments we share and treasure, the things we do together

Taking rides on Santa's sleight
To see the lights on Candy Cane Lane

Smile with me, Shout with glee
Put up a tree, turn on the lights

Christmas day we celebrate our love,
On Christmas day we celebrate

Light up my life, light up the world, lets celebrate
It's the love we share, the love that gets, so high and higher

All the best and success, All the good things life brings
Sing a song and clap along, here we go under the mistletoe
Smile with me, shout with glee, put up a tree turn on the lights
Christmas we celebrate our love, On Christmas day we celebrate
Christmas day we celebrate our love, Christmas day we celebrate

*Original Lyrics and Music by Fisal Ally
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PUT UP A TREE, TURN ON THE LIGHTS
ENJOY YOUR PRECIOUS HOLIDAYS!



Editor: Another year is coming to an end and many across the globe are taking some time to reflect and celebrate.

SPONGE CAKE STORIES

IT'S A GOOD TIME TO REFLECT AND CELEBRATE

For the past few years I have been writing articles called the SPONGE CAKE articles, telling Christmas stories where many are back home stories, from the time when my mom was a girl.

What's so special about back home Christmas stories is the cultural diversity that existed in the 1800 and 1900s in places like Guyana in South America. With the development and growth of the New World of the Americas, back in the 1800s, many people from places like Holland, Germany, Britain, France, Africa, Portugal, India, China, Syria/Lebanon and others had already brought their cultures and traditions to the Americas to places like GUYANA in South America.

GUYANA BOASTS GREAT DIVERSITY IN THE 1800s

In Guyana, just about everybody celebrated CHRISTMAS; it was a not only a religious celebration, but a cultural celebration, where people from many faiths joined in the holiday celebration. And that's the beauty of this nation. People shared the joy of each other, accepting that people are diverse and knew that it's important to share the joy.

YESTERDAY, IT'S FAR AWAY

I wrote the song **MY HOME** as a teenager in Canada, while I was reminiscing on the back home stories and the back home way of life and traditions. I still remember one of the band member, James, and me practicing my song, **MY HOME**. James thought it was really cool that I wrote an original and unique song about **MY HOME** being so far away, in memories, location, and thoughts, but once in a while became very vivid that I wrote this song.

CHRISTMAS IN CANADA

Like many, my family and relatives also brought the **GUYANESE** culture and traditions to Canada, England, America and other places around the globe; many were beginning to leave for England in the 1950s. My dad first came to Canada in 1966. We even brought our Christmas celebrations, even though we are Muslims. As a boy arriving in Canada, I was very surprise that Canadians were not singing Christmas carols in school nor said the Christian prayers like we did in school back in Guyana.

In the Americas as in places like Guyana, Christianity was the main religion, and often people of other faiths practiced Christianity through the school system, which was required by the system, and thus we sang all of the Christmas carols and said the Christian prayers, and that was okay with my family as acceptance is important. In Canada, we had continued our Guyanese traditions where we put up our Christmas trees, lights and decorations, celebrating and sharing the joy of the Christmas holiday festivities.

Continue on the next page....

And as a young adult, during my songwriting days, I even wrote a song called “CHRISTMAS” and later new versions of the same Christmas songs called ‘PRECIOUS HOLIDAYS’ and ‘REFLECT and CELEBRATE.’

ALBERTA FRIENDS OF GUYANA ASSOCIATION IN CANADA CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

The Guyana association in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, formed in the 1970s brought Guyanese together to reminisce and celebrate our Guyanese traditions in Canada, where there was always a Christmas celebration for the Children. Volunteers from the association would go Christmas shopping and buy presents for the children. Very often there was a New Years Even dance/party with intoxicating Caribbean music, which included chutney songs.

SANTA CLAUS

One of the members would dress as Santa and the children would be given presents. I always remember Imti being Santa; he was good at it; members took turns through the years.

Baking Chinese cake, black cake, pine tarts

Many - adults and teenagers - gave up a lot of time to keep these traditions alive. It was always the same people and families that were willing to sacrifice their time by volunteering, not only for the Christmas celebrations and New Years dance, but also for Heritage Days and many other events such as camping and barbecues. Iggy made great chicken curry at heritage days, and the line-ups were long as people waited for the flavors and the snow cones. Neisha (Naz) made addictive pine tarts and Chinese cakes for many events; her sister Ashar and many others made amazing dishes for many events. Many volunteered to cook, and to keep the celebrations and traditions alive. Those were the days. Oh, how **“The good times fly! Another year gone by! There’s magic in the air.”**

NEW AMSTERDAM, GUYANA GREAT TO SEE A TV SERIES CALLED NEW AMSTERDAM

In the Diverse City Magazine, many times I wrote of a town called New Amsterdam in Guyana where I had lived as a boy. I am so proud to see the name NEW AMSTERDAM on posters across Edmonton promoting the new TV show called New Amsterdam. Even though the show probably has to do with New York, which was also once called New Amsterdam. We all know that New Amsterdam is Dutch and most of Guyana’s architecture is DUTCH. I always reflect on my childhood days in New Amsterdam as my dad would be driving and my mom, my siblings and I would be in the car enjoying the lights during Christmas and Diwali celebrations in New Amsterdam. Even about two years ago, the liquor store in the strip mall a block from where I live was promoting New Amsterdam - I believe a wine- on a big sign near the road. That caught my attention. How many people get a TV show named after a place they’ve loved so much and where the story of **LAURA FLEW THE COOP actually took place in New Amsterdam.**

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

‘STANDING UP’ Series



Indie songwriter / musician / writer

The series of books known as the ‘Standing Up’ series of books began in the year 2017 and written F. Ally.

Book 1: Standing up against racism’ was published on December 14, 2017. This book discusses some issues of racism.

Book 2: ‘Life of a visible minority in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada was published in 2018. This book brings to life four small children traveling from Georgetown, Guyana, South America on their own to join their parents in Edmonton. Ally discusses some of the racism, discrimination and bullying he had faced over the years, mainly in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, while on the streets and in the workplace.

Another Book to be used as a reference book was published:

Fisal Ally, Sometimes I close my eyes website archives 2014 - 2018 (websites: www.fisalally.com / www.allymedia.ca) was published on 2018-08-05

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PRECIOUS HOLIDAYS

The good times fly,
Another year gone by,
There's magic tonight,
So have a precious holiday
and a happy new year

All the best and success
All the good things life brings
Follow your passion,
with a New Year resolution
The good times fly, another year gone by

I'll always remember, the good times
Those moments we share and treasure,
the things we do together
Like taking rides on Santa's sleight
To see the lights on Candy Cane Lane
Smile with me, Shout with glee
The good times fly, another year gone by

Light up my life,
light up the world, lets celebrate
It's the love we share, the love that gets,
so high and higher

All the best and success
All the good things life brings
Sing a song and clap along,
here we go under the mistletoe
Smile with me, shout with glee,
The good time fly, another year gone by

*Original lyrics and Music by Faisal Ally
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**THE GOOD TIMES FLY, ANOTHER YEAR GONE BY
THERE'S MAGIC TONIGHT**

Happy Holidays!

SIGNATURE WITH LOVE Cat Series

The novel, *SIGNATURE WITH LOVE*, was published on Christmas Day in 2012. Another edition of this novel will be released soon.

Below are short excerpts from this novel to introduce the cats.



Salima with two of the four cats from Nandy Park. The names of the four cats in Nady Park were Daoud, Raouf, Sulley (Suleiman) and Sneeze. The two cats in Queens, New York were Tom and Whitey

A True Story

The wonderful owners of the cats, Mohammed Mustapha, had departed from this journey on Christmas Day 2011, and his wife, Salima, departed in 2007 after a car struck her while she was crossing the street at the crosswalk on Atlantic Avenue early in the morning on her way to volunteer.

MUSTAPHA WAS A DEVOUT AND SPIRITUAL PERSON WHO GREW UP WITH THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS CELEBRATION IN GUYANA

SALIMA SPENT HER LIFE VOLUNTEERING AND GIVING, NOT ONLY IN NANDY PARK IN GUYANA, BUT ALSO IN QUEENS, NEW YORK

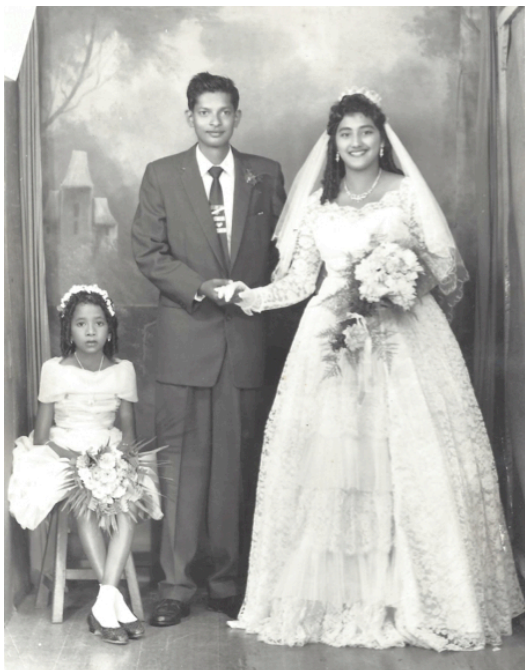
IN NANDY PARK, GUYANA, THEY HAD EVERYTHING, A NICE TROPICAL HOME, A CAR AND THEIR CATS. LIFE IN QUEENS NEW YORK TOOK THEM ON AN UNEXPECT JOURNEY WHICH WAS VERY CHALLENGING FOR THEM

THE CATS FOUND LOTS OF LOVE

MEET THE CATS IN THEIR LIVES

This novel brings to life a wonderful and true story of the cats and their caring and loving owners.

Daoud was an adventurous cat...



Mustapha and Salima's wedding day, 1961, Guyana, South America

**MEOW
SMILE, SMILE, JUST SMILE!**

Continued on the next page....

CATS IN NEW YORK

The day Tom came into Salima and Mustapha's life (Hollis, New York-June 20, 2000) Excerpts from the novel, Signature with love

Salima hurried up the stairs and quickly opened the backdoor. Her head dropped as if she already knew what to expect. Much to her surprise, a small black kitten was at their backdoor crying with his head down and sitting on his hind paws. The site of the kitten took her breath away. She stooped down and his bright shining green eyes came into view as the kitten lifted his head.

Their eyes met for the very first time

Their eyes met for the very first time. Salima gasped. A sudden panic filled her eyes, witnessing the condition the two-month-old kitten was in. Her body stiffened as the kitten bristled with fear. Salima gasped in horror. Her body froze upon witnessing the blood dripping from the kitten's mouth. His whimpering grew and a surge of emotions filled her, seeing the fright radiating from the kitten as his body trembled.

She stroke the kitten's head

She crouched over and stroke the kitten's head. A few seconds went by and his whimpering subsided.

"Oh my God!" Salima cried. She reached under, and the kitten willingly allowed her to scoop him up into her arms. A tiny purr escaped from his mouth. She carefully straightened up her body, hoisting the kitten.

The kitten was warm and fuzzy, and looked like black satin, except for a white streak that trickled down his forehead to his nose, and another one from his chin down to his chest. The bottom of his paws were white and looked as though he was sporting little white boots, ready to play in the snow.

One day Tom did not come home

Hollis, New York - 2003

It was very late and tom had not returned home. Salima was consumed with guilt.

"It's my fault. I spoilt him. Maybe Tom had enough of this domestication, and like Daoud, he wanted his freedom. But for me, he's like a boy and he will always be like a little boy to me."

Continued on the next page....

Salima cringed. "I just can't imagine Tom being a stray cat. I just cannot imagine him being out in the wild, undomesticated, with no love, and fighting for his next meal." She twisted her mouth. "I don't want my Tom starving and fighting for his next meal," she said. "Not if I can help it."

Mustapha cleared his throat. "I know it's hard, but let's stay positive. We can't let these defeating thoughts get the best of us."

Salima frowned. "It's the waiting. The waiting wears on a person."

Mustapha shrugged. "I know. I know. We just have to hang tight."

"You remember when Daoud was gone, how he was always in our hearts, especially when we look into the eyes of Suley, Raouf and Sneeze. It's the waiting that burns and wears on a person," Salima said.

"It's all a test. Tom will return. "

"But why does the test have to be so hard!" she cried.

BACK TO THE YEAR 1988

CATS IN NANDY PARK, GUYANA

DAOUD ENTERED THEIR LIVES

Nandy Park, Guyana - 1988

Mustapha was on his way to work when he saw a kitten sitting a few feet away from the stairs. He walked up to the kitten and their eyes met.

"And who are you?" he asked, peering into the kitten's gleaming eyes. The kitten remained in one spot, peering back at Mustapha. The kitten was tan color, and had some white streaks.

"You said something?" Salima called from the verandah.

"We have a guest."

"We have a guest?"

"Yes, come meet our guest."

Salima was in a good mood. She could use a surprise. She hurried down the stairs. She stopped when she saw the kitten cradled in Mustapha's arms.

"A kitten?" her face brightened. The sight of the kitten took her breath away.

Their hearts went out to the poor little creature

Their hearts went out to the poor little creature that ended up in their yard. There was no way they were going to turn him a way.

Mustapha cleared his throat. "Looks like our visitor will be staying for the night." Salima smiled. "Then we better feed him so he feels at home."

Continued on the next page....

**The days went by and their guest stayed
The named him Daoud**

It was bedtime and Salima spread a mat for him to sleep on. The days went by and their guest stayed. They named him Daoud.

As Daoud grew to full size, he began to jump over the fence to hang out with his friends. Sometimes he stayed out a little late, but he always returned home. He was growing fast and he was too smart for his own good. He started hanging out longer. Then he began to stay out later, but would return at dark, just before bedtime to say, *I'm here, I'm here*. He would let out his innocent meows and rub his back on their legs, always trying to keep their love and affection.

**Then one day he pushed it to the limit
He did not returned home**

As Daoud became more and more independent, his outings lasted a little bit later, but he always came home before they went to bed. Then one day he decided to push it to the limit. It was near bedtime and he had not returned home.

**Two more guests, the splitting image of Daoud
They named them Sulley and Raouf**

Months went by, and not a day passed by when Mustapha and Salima didn't think about Daoud. One morning, Mustapha was getting ready for work, while Salima was already dressed to go to the clinic. Salima opened the door and stepped out on the verandah. She took a deep breath, taking in the fresh air as the sun rose above the orangey horizon. She walked down the stairs and she was surprised to see two kittens in the yard. The kittens took her breath away. She could not believe her eyes. Her face lit up with a broad smile. The kittens were the splitting image of Daoud.

In all excitement, Salima called out, "Hon! Hon! We have two guests."

Mustapha came down expecting to see some relatives. He glanced around and back to Salima, puzzled. "I don't see any guests."

"Let me introduce you to our guests." She pointed at the kittens.

"Kittens?" Mustapha said with surprise. "They look like Daoud. Where did they come from?"

"Hon, look at their eyes and the little white streaks on them. They are everything like Daoud."

Mustapha gazed at the kittens. "You think—"

"Think what?"

"That!"

"That they are Daoud's kittens. Little Daouds?"

Continued on the next page....

Daoud must be closer than we think

“They sure look like they’re from the same family.”

“That was the first thing that crossed my mind. Hon, if they are Daoud’s kittens then where is Daoud?” Salima questioned.

A smile broke on Mustapha’s face. “He must be closer than we think.”

“But, how did these two kittens get in the yard?”

Another kitten showed up that also looked like Daoud

A few months later, another kitten appeared in the yard and had the same tan color and white streaks like Daoud, Suley and Raouf. Mustapha and Salima didn’t know how the kittens were getting into the yard, but they were certain that the three kittens were from the same family. They took in the other kitten. *They named him Sneeze because he would sneeze.* They now had to care for three kittens and a dog.

**The cats were obedient to Mustapha and Salima
Certain things were expected of them**

The cats were obedient to Mustapha and Salima. They listened to them and would read their gestures. Certain things were expected of them. They were potty trained and they knew that if they made a mess that they would be warned. They ate and then went to the potty if needed to.

Salima would motion with her hands for them to eat. They ate anything from sweets, curry, roti, rice - just about everything. Salima would call them by their names. And with her arms outstretched, they would run to her. Sometimes they showed their jealousy as if to say, *Why aren’t you hugging me?* But she gave them equal attention. They always went to her for their hugs and brushes.



A house in Castledowns, Edmonton

Continued on the next page....

I WANT TO SEE YOU SMILE

MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA



Chinese Garden in Montreal

A GLANCE AT MONTREAL

Reference: The information for this article came The international Every Man's Encyclopedia; Vol 16; 1958, 1967, 1970, p.6065, 5030

Montreal is located in the largest province of Canada called Quebec, and is one of the most diverse cities in Canada. It's 180 miles southwest of Quebec City and is only an hour away from Ottawa, the capital of Canada. Going back before 1970, Montreal was already one of the most diverse cities in Canada, continued to change over the decades, boasting great diversity.

According to the encyclopedia, Quebec is the largest province in Canada and was called New France or Canada from 1535 to 1763, and was after known as the province of Quebec until 1848, where from 1846 to 1867 it was known as Lower Canada, and then once again known as the province of Quebec in 1867(See p. 6065 for more information)

Montreal's history

Montreal has its beginning in Canada in 1535 when Jacques Cartier sailing up the St. Lawrence came upon the Indian village called Hochelaga. A trading post in the area was founded by Champlain in 1611. In 1642 Paul de Chomedey, Sieur de Maisonneuve founded Ville Marie, which was later renamed to Montreal. The French continued to rule the area until 1763, and then came under British rule through the treaty of Paris.

Continue on the next page...

Population

In 1961, Montreal's population was 1,191,061. The surroundings area had a population of 918,447, making the population combined total of 2, 109,509.

Montreal boasted one of the most cosmopolitan cities in N. America even during this period where:

68% of the population were of French origin.

10% were of British origin.

The rest combined of 'important groupings of other nationalities'

Language

It is a binlingual city: Grench and English. M. is the largest city in Canada.

Montreal is the largest French speaking city after Paris.

Today Montreal still has its 'old-world' look and atmosphere.

A GLANCE AT MONTREAL TODAY

Montreal's population continues to grow and it's predicted to be an estimated 1.8432 Million
Largest ethnic backgrounds today are French (23%), Italian (10%), English (4%), and Scottish (3%)

<https://canadapopulation2018.com/population-of-montreal-2018.html>

Population Of Montreal 2018

According to Wipedia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Montreal

last updated: 16 December 2018

Approximately 26% of Montreal's population and 16.5% of Greater Montreal are of visible minority (non-white) population, where Blacks is the largest minority group, where Montreal also having the second largest of Blacks in Canada after Toronto. There are sizable groups of Arabs, Latin Americans, South Asians and Chinese.

**THE GOOD TIMES FLY ANOTHER YEAR GONE BY
THERE'S MAGIC TONIGHT**

Original lyrics by F. Ally

Photo by Brooklyn
September 2018



Buildings

Montreal has a history of many attractive buildings. Some are: 'Notre Dame Church (Rom. Catholic), Christ Church Cathedral (Church of England), St. James Cathedral (Rom. Catholic), Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul (Presbyterian), Sun Life building, Royal Bank, Bell Telephone, Civic Library and Montreal Art Association. McGill University of Montreal founded in 1878.

Bridges

Montreal has several bridges: Victoria bridge which was completed in 1859 with striking engineering design. Jacque Cartier bridge was completed in 1930 which is 8670 ft in length.

**FOLLOW YOUR PASSION
WITH A NEW YEARS
RESOLUTION
PUT UP A TREE
TURN ON THE LIGHTS**

Original lyrics by F. Ally



Photo by Brooklyn
September 2018

STREET IN MONTREAL



Photo by Rafena
September 2018



Photo by Brooklyn
September 2018



Photo by Brooklyn
September 2018

**TAKING RIDES ON SANTA SLEIGH
TO SEE THE LIGHTS
ON CANDY CANE LANE
SMILE WITH ME, SHOUT WITH GLEE
THE GOODTIMES FLY ANOTHER YEAR GONE BY**

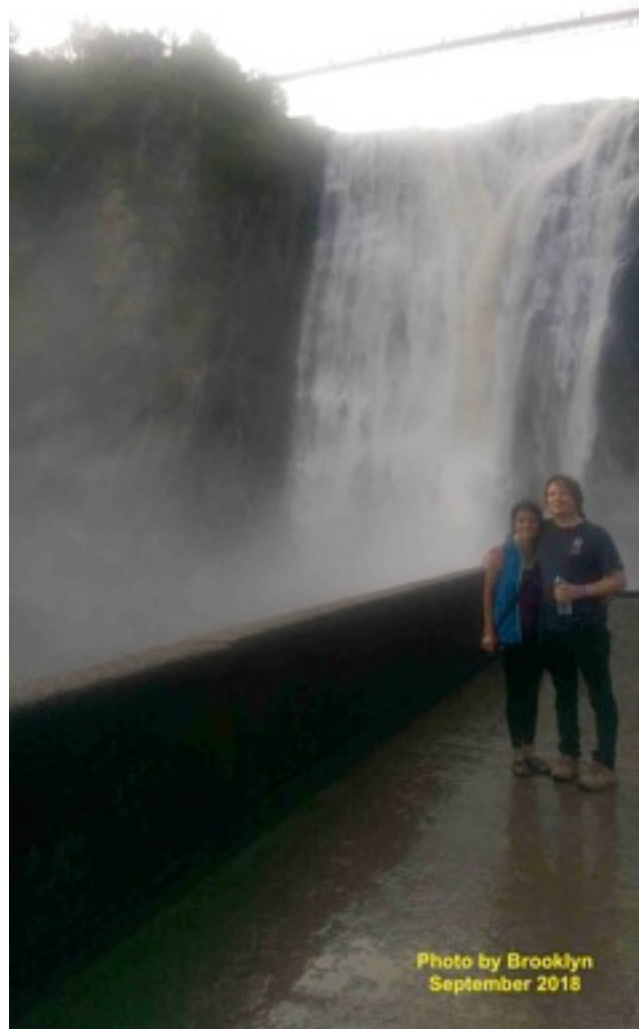
Original lyrics by Faisal Ally

A GLANCE AT QUEBEC CITY

Quebec city is 180 miles North East of Montreal



Montmorency falls in Québec City



Montmorency falls in Québec City

**IT'S THE LOVE WE SHARE, THE LOVE THAT GETS
SO HIGH AND HIGHER**

Original lyrics by Faisal Ally

Smile, Smile

A GLANCE AT OLD QUEBEC



Photo by Brooklyn
September 2018

Old Québec-Notre Dame Basilica

Today, people are moving back to Old Quebec



Street in old Québec



Street in old Québec

LIGHT UP MY LIFE
LIGHT UP THE WORLD
LET'S CELEBRATE

Original lyrics by Faisal Ally



Photo by Rafena
September 2018

View of Montreal from Mount Royal lookout



Photo by Rafena
September 2018

Old Quebec overlooking St. Lawrence seaway

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, CARIBBEAN



Picture taken at the Cariwest 2018 parade in Edmonton, AB, Canada. Picture by F. Ally

In the 1800s, this Caribbean island, Trinidad and Tobago boast great diversity with many cultures and faiths and today has an estimated population of 1,364,962 according to the 2016 census. This island has people of many cultures. Some of the main ones are listed below.

East Indian origin

Approximately 37.6% of the population is Indo-Trinidadians and Tobagonians (East Indians) are the largest ethnic group in this small Caribbean island, located north of Venezuela. Indian immigration from India began in 1845 where the Indians were mainly indentured laborers.

African origin

The next largest are the Afro-Trinidadians and Tobagonians that's approximately 36.3 %. It is said that the Africans first arrived in 1517, but by 1783 they were 11 percent of the population. Most of the Africans had actually arrived during the "last few years of Trinidad's Spanish Colonial era and the beginning of the British colonial period." (This quote came from the website - see reference below)

Portuguese

The, Portuguese, who is a smaller group came from Madeira, and also arrived from "Guyana, St. Vincent, Antigua and St. Kitts"

Continued on the next page....

Syrian / Lebanese

The Syrian / Lebanese (origin from Syria and Lebanon) is a small group of 1,062, but are well known. Most that came in the 19th century were Christians, although there were Muslims and others amongst the Christians.

Chinese

The Chinese population is 4,003 and arrived as indentured laborers.

Amerindians

The American Indians (Amerindians) are mainly the indigenous Caribs.

Mixed race

Trinidad has a large mixed race population that 22.8% of the population. In fact, this number is much higher because for example a person may identify themselves as a certain race “based on physical appearances” as he/she may look for example more African, East Indian, Portuguese etc...although that person is actually mixed with other ethnicity.

Religion

The main religions are Christianity/Catholicism, Hinduism, Islam. There are also others of smaller population.

References:

<https://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Americas/Trinidad-and-Tobago-ETHNIC-GROUPS.html>

OCT 3, 2018

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Trinidad_and_Tobago

**REACHING OUT
REACH OUT AND TOUCH SOMEONE
THIS CHRISTMAS
SHARE THE LOVE, LET LOVE GROW**

**EVERYONE WANT'S SOMEONE TO SAY GOONIGHT
WITH A KISS GOONIGHT
A KISS GOODNIGHT
(A) KISS GOODNIGHT**

Original lyrics by F. Ally from the 1990s

Smile, Smile, Give a smile

REMEMBERANCE DAY 2018



A time to reflect. Millions have given their lives during the wars...



REACH OUT AND TOUCH SOME

Original lyrics by F. Ally from the song Reaching out



Reaching out, Reaching out

HACKING



*WICKED, TWO-FACE & DECEITFUL
AND GOOD AT GANG STALKING AND
THEFT*

A hacker at work, hacking you - he is wicked, deceitful and two-face. He resonates with wickedness. He is a deceiver, thinking that he will never be held accountable for his wickedness, but he's the one that has been been deceived...

***YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE CONNECTED
TO ANYTHING
AND YOUR WHEREABOUTS OUT IN THE
WORLD
CAN EASILY BE TRACKED
THIS TECHNOLOGY EXISTS ALTHOUGH
MANY ARE NOT AWARE***

***THEY DO NOT CARRY OUT THEIR
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES TO GET CAUGHT***

They secretly scheme and plot against you. They carry out their wickedness and they will shift the blame on you and have you framed. But they've been deceived all of their lives, even though they are afraid to admit it. Illegal activities like conning the elderly out of their life savings, stealing people's invention, literature, songs, music and having our work and ideas published before the owners (we) do and then they scheme to frame the owners for plagiarism out of their evil and wickedness.

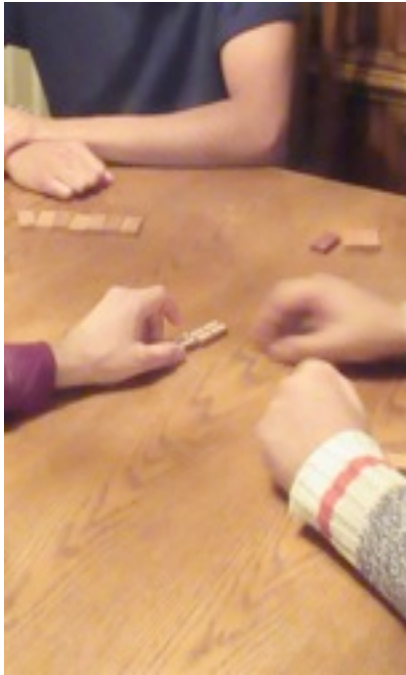
WELCOME TO THE REAL WORLD! DECEIVERS AT WORK

You do not have to be online or be connected to any service to be tracked. And you don't have to do anything wrong to be tracked, hacked and robbed by deceitful, conniving, two-faced criminals.

Hackers can switch on the camera on your TV and cell phones and watch you. Connecting your TV to your home network allows hackers into your home.

BELOW: Hackers stealing personal information Photos are licensed from www.depositphotos.com For demonstration purposes only



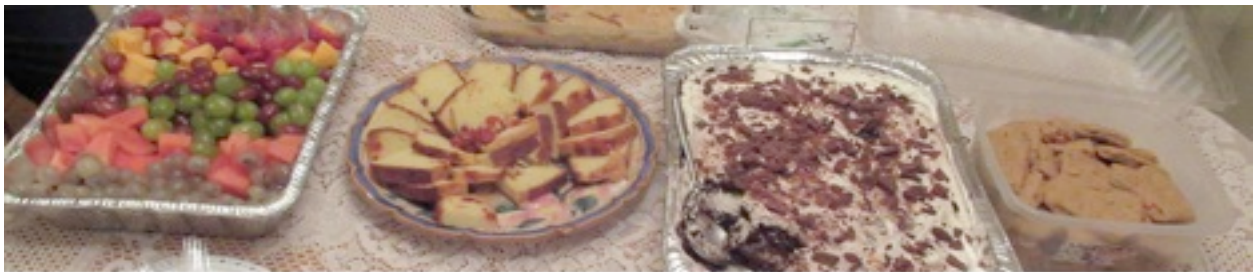


PEPPERPOT CLUB

(LOCATION: EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA)

*COLLECTED CLOTHES OVER
THE PAST FEW MONTHS FOR
DONATION DURING
THE HOLIDAYS*

email to info@signaturewithlove.com



*The Guyana Canadian Pepperpot Club
The Pepperpot Book Club
The Pepperpot Domino Club
The Pepperpot Arts Club*

A KISS GOODNIGHT

Music and Lyrics by Faisal Ally, Copyright 1990s to present

Everyone wants someone to hold them tight and make things right
Everyone wants some one to kiss goodnight

Everyone needs a friend, they can count on to be around
Everyone wants someone to kiss goodnight

A kiss goodbye in the morning, to hold you tight in the evening
Everyone wants someone to kiss goodnight

With some tender love and tenderness, a hug and a kiss goodnight

When the night gets too cold, it's good to know that someone cares
Everyone wants some one to say goodnight

With some tender love and tenderness, a hug and a kiss goodnight

Everyone needs someone to lean on, when life gets them down
Everyone wants someone to show they care

Everyone needs a friend they can count on to be a round
Everyone wants someone to be their valentines

A kiss goodbye in the morning, to hold you tight in the evening
Everyone wants someone to say goodnight

With a kiss goodnight
A kiss goodnight
(A) kiss goodnight

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DIVERSE CITY MAGAZINE

ALLY MEDIA

Contact email: info@signaturewithlove.com / allyproduction@yahoo.com

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Minor corrections made on Dec 18 and Dec 19

ALLY MEDIA

Smile, Smile

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Diverse City Magazine

DIVERSE CITY MAGAZINE

ALLY'S WORLD MUSIC



Musicians played on this EP in 1999 : Faisal Ally, Roxana Avalos-Calderon, John Cooke, Phil Anderson, Carmine Caligiuri, Mark Puffer, Matt Robertson, A Church Choir. Cover design by Melinda Cushing (Duplicopy)

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ALL THE GOOD THINGS LIFE BRINGS

FOLLOW YOUR PASSION WITH A NEW YEARS RESOLUTION

CHRISTMAS MAGIC IN THE AIR

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