

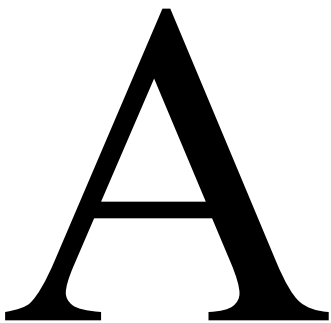
CLOSE YOUR EYES, MAKE A WISH...

Thoughts



She is one practical woman. Be it the quack tips for sailor men or for her fellow sailor

wives, she serves it with a pinch of salt... and yea, it does taste yummy! Married to C/E Anurag, Pushpika Vijjan represents the 'commoner' in the world of Shipping with a unique sense of thought which she presents in her page issue after issue...



t the outset, I would like to inform all and sundry that the entire piece below is hypothetical and a pun intended! Of course the character chosen is not at all fictitious. Those who abide by the inventory of wishes can read on, the ones who don't would get a free trip to the Gulf of Aden and a tattoo of Stolt Valor on their wrists. Choice is yours!

From the tormented relics (read 'in his absence') of a fractured history (read 'onboard with him') of a sailor's wife to the treasures of a proud survivor as his better half, a sailor's journey as a seafarer is best enjoyed if you take everything in your stride and try to live the most out of every moment! And yes, give the most- 'LOVELY' to your sailor!

That metamorphoses me into dear

Aladdin's genie. Of course I am not bulgy, baldy and big toothed like him but for a few moments I have the power to grant twenty ultimate wishes to my sailor. It's a festival, Sailor Today completes twenty glorious years!

Twenty is a huge number but when it's a time you doll up guys in guy liners and oops... mantyhoses... yup! You read it right; we can have a long list of must-haves for our sailor dude! 20 wishes as convivial company.

Joseph Conrad, British author states, "Being a woman is a terribly difficult task since it consists principally in dealing with men." UH! He is so correct, I feel like granting him a few wishes too gals. So when I thought of granting 'WHAT' to my sailor, my strategic horns popped out with a wanting-to-change-my-man syndrome enveloping me... after all I am a woman folks... hee!

Please pardon if you find my true self emerging here and there in those wishes. Catch on! A sailor's life is stretched between life on sea and at home. Everything is about the sea and the way of life it sustains for our better halves. To start on a humble note acknowledging every pain and pant and huffs and puffs our sailor puts in his work onboard, I guess he needs to be granted with...

WHEN ON BOARD

- Sound-long-cushiony-snoring hours of sleep (did I mention long) without alarms disturbing his deep slumber... sans wife to nudge him all

through the night to stop the music. He just wants to go on and on and on...

- Philosophers may prefer to look at life as a glass half full but our sailor needs it brimming... anywhere and anytime. Lots of his magic potion and the best variety. HIC HIC HURRAY!
- Shore leave on every port, for a number of days at a given port of his choice and yeah with the Brazilian carnival as the fatal attraction. APPROVED!
- Hey! Hey... banish the damn gulf of Aden first of all, no pirates on this very earth! Thank me for that!
- Frequent sights of mermaids for the deck guys. Yup! They do exist... they have to exist for our poor workaholic sailor who has dog-tired eyes after those look-out watch keeping sessions. Amen.
- Vroooming in his Audi R8 on a shore leave with goodies and good gals as company. May god give him strength to not fall asleep at the wheel owing to the intoxicating company!
- Owning a Ferretti yacht and flaunting it in the Atlantic waters with a perfect 'Omega' timing and the breeze hitting his six pack abs... psst... remember the bloke who trained Shahrukh Khan, get hold of him when on land and you gotta pump up dude. For that matter may the

swimming pool on the bridge deck be filled with water and used for the desired purpose PLZZZZ. GRANTED!

- "There's something luxurious about a girl lighting your cigarette..." says an American author, I am sure he must be a sailor in his past life! Need I say more!! Psst... ladies you too needn't say anything to him for his continuous fags. SANCTIONED!
- A business class airfare ticket while joining and signing off and a hotel stay just before joining the vessel. Ah! It's heaven!
- A face without great hair is like a beer without head. I wish him loads of salon visits to a good hairstylist who can mend his soot fed hair, which has chemical filled air and water garnished on it and to add to his misery, is tormented by the cold of the Atlantic. They resemble the cacti of Thar Desert when he is back home.
- Why not Brad Pitt's jaw line, Tom Cruise's nose, George Clooney's cleft and Daniel Craig's lips... that'll be all for our sailor... and a few million dollars for his cosmetologist. GRANTED AND STAMPED!!
- And who would admire these newly acquired looks of his; let him carry his girlfriend on board. I hear roars of joy, don't I? Pat me for that!! PERMITTED!



- Also blessing him with an engine and a deck that requires no repair and maintenance, otherwise how will he enjoy the perks folks? Understand!
- May I bless him with... uhuh! (Apologies women folk...) a wife who talks less and hears more, interferes less and works more! To top it all allows all bachelor parties for her sailor-BEAMING! ENDORSED!

By the time our sailor is enjoying these granted perks it is time for him to return to homeland, where the wives are waiting, not to torture him with a boring routine of organic food and exercise but to pop out her strategic horns once again and let the adage go true – “a man’s face is his autobiography and a woman’s face is her work of fiction.” So girls time to hold reigns. On horseback, I would

love to grant my sailor with...

- Expertise to tackle the sleep syndrome he is still soaked in when she wants to watch a movie with popcorns and coffee. That’ll be all!
- The insight to shave just before you see your girl. She would definitely notice it. You don’t have to wait for a Sunday to do those routines guys.
- The prudence to tell her you love her, in the middle of a conversation. You got to speak guys and not just listen always, the way you listen to every hum and haw and jerk and move of your engine!
- The wisdom to notice when she is wearing something new. The orange color of the boiler suits he sees for months, kind of make him color blind once he is home.

Careful guys!!

- The perception to mention your upcoming anniversary before she does. PLZ make use of your Blackberry’s reminder. The inventories and noon reports haunting you still, make you an alien when home.
- And yes the courage to kiss her hand in front of your most die-hard bachelor buddies. Poor Sindbad needs more of those lessons in romance after kissing his own hands in oil with the hydraulics, pumps and ropes and boilers and the likes.

Alright folks, my magic wand is tired now. The number is complete; my sailor’s goblet is full. Twenty wishes for our Sindbad. All authorized and authenticated by the official genie- ‘we-wives!’ Wishing you sailors lots of happy times with these

‘granted’ wishes, so that sailing becomes a cakewalk for you.

‘Thy wish is my command’ ... I hear God say! On a fagging note, apologies to the officers for the six wishes granted to you when you are in your homeland. Don’t forget your wives are granting you these perks. We ditto our specie definition – ‘A woman is an animal usually living in the vicinity of a Man, and having a rudimentary susceptibility to domestication and is credited by many of the elder zoologists. The species is the most widely distributed of all beasts of prey, infesting all habitable parts of the globe, from Greenland’s spicy mountains to India’s moral strand. The popular name (wolfman) is incorrect, for the creature is of the cat kind.’

Intoxicatingly yours,
(Your) cats. (Wink)

Happy cherishing!

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Contact Person: Capt. Pratap Kulhari / 9836011001 | Mr. Amit Basak / 9836310011
Email: fpd@indiasteamship.com Website: www.indiasteamship.com

MUMBAI LIAISON OFFICE
65, Bajaj Bhawan, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021
Tel.: +91 22 40502050 / 40502056 - 57 / Fax: +91 22 40502055
Contact Person: Mr. Parvez H. Qazi Mob: +91 9833247313
Email: mumbai@indiasteamship.com, fpd@indiasteamship.com

DELHI LIAISON OFFICE
Tel.: 011 26895372 / 0120 2772135
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