

# **Author's POV:**

Janaki was working in her cabin when her mobile started to buzz. She looked at the caller id and smiled.

- "Hey, Diyu! How are you, kanna?" Janaki asked Diya.
- "Hi Attayya! I'm fine. How are you and everyone at home?" asked Diya.
- "I'm fine, Kanna. Everyone is good too", said Janaki.
- "Attayya, nanamma wants to talk with you, it seems", said Diya,
- handing the mobile to Ragini.
- "Hello, Janu! How are you?" Asked Ragini.
- "Everyone is good, maa. How are you and pedananna?" Janaki asked Ragini.
- "That old man is busy sneaking sweets", Ragini said, glaring at Raman, who had just come back from the kitchen a er stu ing his mouth with a gulab jamun
- Janaki chuckled, listening to her.
- "Acha, leave about him. We are going to Varma's Kuldevi's temple the day a er tomorrow. Janardhan Annayya told me to inform you about
- this. And don't forget to bring Arjun's horoscope with you", said Ragini.
- "Sure, maa. I'll inform Jai and Gayatri maa", said Janaki. Just then, Janaki's assistant came inside and told her that there was
- an emergency.
- "Okay, kanna. I'll talk to you later", said Ragini.

## Janaki, Jai, Arjun, and Gayatri were having their dinner when Janaki cleared her throat.

"Do you want to say something?" Jai asked her. Janaki nodded her head and said, Today evening, Ragini maa called and said that they were going to the temple the day a er tomorrow

and told us to join them." Hmm, okay. Then, we will start early in the morning around

- as tra ic will be lighter at that time. So that we can reach around 8 o'clock. And also, I've to attend a meeting at noon at ARYA", said Jai.
- "Okay, then", said Gayatri. "Shall I help you or will you pack your luggage?" Janaki asked, looking at Arjun.
- "I'll manage. You help ammamma", said Arjun.

Janaki nodded her head, and everyone had their dinner silently. A er dinner, everyone retired to their respective rooms as they needed to wake up early.

Maya was preparing co ee for all of them and milk for Vansh while Vani and Arpita were preparing breakfast. Varsha was sitting on the kitchen counter, happily eating the fruit mash. They were all engrossed in their work when they heard Varsha squealing. They turned and saw Varsha in Arjun's arms.

Maya and Arpita immediately ran into his arms and hugged him tightly, making him stumble a little. He glared at them as Varsha, who was in his arms, got startled. They made an innocent face at which he melted. They looked behind and saw Gayatri, Jai Ram, and Janaki entering the house, and workers were bringing their luggage.

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- Vani stopped her work and brought water for four of them and asked, "Annaya, you didn't even say that you guys were coming."
- "Meera called yesterday night and told us to come. Taara's family priest told them to also bring Arjun and Diya to the temple along with them. So, we are here", said Jai.
- Vani nodded her head in understanding and got busy with Janaki and Gayatri.
- "Pinni, you guys go and freshen up. You can rest for some time a er having breakfast", said Maya
- They nodded their heads and moved towards the guest room, while Gayatri moved to her room.

Arjun sat there on the couch playing with Varsha and askedWhere is Vansh?"

"Of course, he is busy sleeping," Arpita said, with a smile, thinking about her son. a

Arjun chuckled, listening to her, and got busy with his niece. He was making funny faces at her while Varsha was playing with his bracelet.

- Arjun was playing hide and seek with his niece and nephew in the
- garden.
- He needs to find Varsha and Vansh, who were hiding behind a tree. Varsha was peeking and looking at Arjun, who was doing the rounds in the garden.
- "Mama, can't find us", Varsha said, giggling, looking at her Chotu. Vansh giggled, listening to his sister's words.
- "I told thish(this) plash (place)", Vansh said, proudly, while Varsha rolled her eyes.
- "I caught you both", Arjun said, coming from back.
- "Ahh", Varsha and Vansh shouted, listening to Arjun's voice suddenly. Thish (this) ish (is) cheat (cheating)", Varsha said, glaring at Arjun.
- "I didn't do any cheating", he said, glaring back at her.
- "You cheat", Vansh said, supporting his sister.
- Arjun looked at his niece and nephew, narrowing his eyes, and

them.

- started tickling them.
- "Mama, shtopp (stop)", said Vansh with lots of di iculties. "Tell me, I won. Then I'll stop tickling you", Arjun said, smirking at
- "You won", said Varsha, making Arjun grin.
- "Monshter (monster)", Vansh mumbled under his breath.
- Arjun glared at him and picked up both of them in his arms and said, "It's snack time."
- Arjun came inside with the twins in his arms. He saw his little sister who got ready in a saree. He dropped them on the ground properly
- while they ran to their grandparents.
- "Woah! Where are you going with this devil look?" Arjun said, teasing Maya.
- "Babay see, what is he saying?" Maya complained to Jai.
- "Oy! Idiot. Dare you tease my daughter", Jai warned Arjun
- Maya stuck her tongue out and teased him, while Arjun pulled her hair. She winced in pain and pinched his shoulder hard.
- "Stop it, both of you. Behave like grown-ups. Even they behave better
- than you both sometimes", Janaki said, pointing at the twins. Maya and Arjun pouted while listening to her words, glared at each
- other, and turned their faces to the other side.
- Everyone shook their heads at their antics, but Janaki and Shekar were relieved to see her behaving normally.
- Maya, Arjun, and Shekar reached the AVEL. The receptionist greeted them with a smile. Shekar informed the receptionist to inform everyone to meet in the common gallery of their o ice. Everyone was looking at Maya and thinking about who was the new girl with their boss. They knew Arjun as he came to the o ice many times and also many girls in the o ice had a crush on him.
- "So, ladies and gentlemen, meet my daughter, Mrs. Maya Avinav Krishna", Shekar said, standing in the middle while Maya gave them a small smile.

### All the employees started to talk to themselves.

Shekar said, with a smile"Yes, guys, your boss is married happily with the love of his life."

Some girls almost fainted listening to it as Avinav never spared them a glance.

"So guys, we are having a small party this Sunday as we have cracked the deal with Mehta's. So everyone is welcome to attend the party and I'm announcing a bonus of one month's salary for everyone", said Shekar.

Everyone hooted, listening to this.

"Now, all of you go back to your work", said Shekar.

With that, everyone went to their work. While they three moved towards Shekar's cabin, which is on the 10th floor along with Vani and Avinav's cabins, Shekar took Arjun and Maya to his cabin first and showed them around. And then they moved towards Vani's cabin.

Shekar went and shouted in Vani's ears, Boo," who was engrossed in her work. Vani got startled and was ready to give an earful to the person. She raised her head and saw her husband folding his hands, with a smirk

on his face. She slapped him on his chest while he pulled her closer, making her fall on his chest. He kissed her on her cheeks and then her forehead. They both stayed like that for some time.

"Hello oldies, please put an end to your romance here. If you forgot, you have an audience here", Arjun said, breaking their moments. Vani immediately freed herself from Shekar's hold, embarrassed

while Maya giggled, looking at her mother-in-law's face. "Hey! Whom did you call an oldie? You are an oldie, not me", Shekar

said, pointing at Arjun."Instead of spending time with your fiance, you tagged along with us. Wait! I have a doubt: are you even interested in girls? Because I never saw you spending time with Diya.

My poor kid, I don't know how she is going to bear this unromantic fellow. Say it to me now only. I'll talk with Diya. Poor girl. Otherwise, she will build her hopes on you. I'll even talk to Jai and Janu and

convince them not to throw you out of the house." Shekar said, without taking a break.

While Arjun looked at him in shock, and opened his mouth like a fish. Maya and Vani giggled, looking at Arjun's face.

"Oh my God! Anna, just look at your face", Maya said, controlling her laughter.

"What the hell, mavayya?" Arjun shouted, coming out of shock and continued,"For your information, I'm straight. If you forgot, I even got a tag as a charecterless man and a molester."

Everyone went silent, listening to it. Avi turned Arjun with a force and gave him a hard slap on his cheek, making the others look at him in shock.

Avi came to Vani's cabin for some work but stood near the door listening to their banter and getting lost in his wife's beauty. But when he listened to Arjun saying that word, he couldn't stop himself from slapping him.

"Dare you utter that word again? I won't hesitate to cut you into pieces, understand?" Avi yelled at him.

Arjun nodded his head meekly. Avi le the cabin, banging the door harshly.

"How many times do I have to tell you, Anna? Come out of that phase. She is nothing but a nightmare in your life. I know Anna, it's not easy to forget your first love, but you are doing nothing but crushing Diya Vadina's hopes. Please, Anna, give yourself a chance. I can't see you like this," Maya said, hugging Arjun.

That's it. Arjun broke down in his sister's arms. It's been three years since that dreadful incident happened in his life, still he couldn't forget it.

Arjun composed himself and told Maya to go to Avi. Maya nodded her head in understanding and ran to Avi's cabin before he could do something stupid in his anger. Avi gets angry rarely, but once he gets angry, nobody can control him except Maya and Veeru.

"Arjun, come here." Vani said, looking at Arjun, who was standing in the same place.

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Arjun slowly moved towards her and placed his head on her lap. Shekar also sat beside her and caressed his head. He felt guilty for talking like that now.

"What is this, Ajju? How many more years will you su er like this? It's been three years, Ajju, three years since that incident happened and you are still stuck on that same incident. I know it's not easy to forget her or the accusation she put on you. See, she happily moved on with her life without any guiltiness, whereas you are still su ering and blaming yourself for no fault of yours. Tell me, till when? Till when you'll blame yourself for what happened in yours and Maya's lives."

Vani told him, while caressing his hair. "But everything happened because of me, right? My entire family had to bow down in front of someone for no fault of theirs. And my pumpkin is still bearing that pain. Why? because I loved her blindly. I thought she would be the light of my life, but she snatched that and

threw me into a pit of darkness," Arjun said, closing his eyes in pain. "Loving someone is not a sin, Ajju. You loved her with all your heart, but she just used you for her selfish motives. And, yes, we did feel bad. Not for bowing our heads in front of someone without our mistake because of you, but for the pain you went through. For our carelessness, for not doing a check on her before accepting your relationship, We thought she was from a good family and, to be precise, a part of our family. So, we didn't find any loops. But we should have enquired about her as an individual", said Shekar.

"Still, I believed her so blindly", said Arjun.

"Love is not blind, Ajju, and it's so pure. But when we fall in love with someone, sometimes we trust that person so blindly that we don't see anything beyond them. And some use that weakness. You can't lose your belief in love just because you got betrayed once by loving her. Life is not only about love, there is something beyond that. But you are still stuck there, and you are not grabbing the opportunities life has thrown at you. Answer me one thing, Arjun, and I want a genuine answer. Are you happy with your engagement to Diya? If you are not happy, just tell us. Don't drag her into something when you can't give her happiness and also don't do this marriage for us." She took a pause and continued, She is building her hopes on you, Arjun. She sees her future in you. I don't want her to have heartbreak in the future or for her life to be messed up. And do tell us if you don't want to have this marriage. And yeah, remember this: we can't bring a better girl for you than her. Think wisely, the decision is in your hands", Vani said, trying to make him understand.

With that, Vani and Shekar stood up and le the cabin, not before saying,"Don't lose her, Arjun."

Arjun was lost in his thoughts listening to them.

Arjun, Vani, Sravya, and Maya entered the house when they noticed Gayatri and Janaki talking to a young lady and an elderly lady. They noticed the uncomfortable faces of Gayatri and Janaki while talking to them.

They went in and saw Vyshali and Gouri talking to them. Maya stood rooted in her place, seeing Vyshali there. Sravya and Arjun stood on either side of her, while Vani moved towards them and greeted them with a neutral expression.

Vyshali stood up and walked towards Maya. Arjun and Sravya's hold on Maya became tight.

"I'm sorry, Maya. I'm sorry for all the wrongs I've done to you. I became selfish for my brother's happiness and helped my brother and sister with their plans even though I knew they were wrong. I saw Chytra destroying her own life with her own hands and her foolishness. I saw Rajesh losing his charm when you rejected him. So, I and Chytra thought to unite you both. I thought at least Rajesh would be happy if he got his love. That day, I was the one who told Chytra to go to your engagement. Maya looked at her with a straight face. I heard what you told Rajesh on that day in the temple. I didn't know that you had gone through so much pain because of him. I felt bad for supporting him. But then I became too self-centered for him. I assumed you would forget everything once you married him and that you would gradually fall in love with him a er your marriage, but I forgot that we can't force someone to fall in love."

She stopped for a second and then continued, knew we crossed our limits that day in your house, and my apologies cannot undo all the pain you have gone through. I didn't understand your pain until I went through the same thing. I understood how painful it was when our loved ones got distanced from us when my husband and my baby le me."

Unknowingly, she moved her hands to her stomach, where her baby was once growing. Everyone got confused looking at her. "I won't even ask you to forgive me because I know I don't deserve

that. I'm sorry, Maya." Vyshali said, folding her hands and bowing her head down.

But Maya stood like a statue listening to her. Seeing her not

responding, Gowri came forward and folded her hands and said sorry to Maya.

"You don't need to say sorry, Aunty. It's not your fault, and please, aunty, tell your children not to come in front of me. They have done enough damage in my life. Please, aunt, this is my small request to you." Saying that, Maya le for her room, and Arjun went behind her. Vyshali fell down on her knees with tears in her eyes.

"Aunty, please take her from here. Your family gave us enough pain to endure all our lives. Your daughter blamed Arjun, then your son blamed Maya. And as if that was not enough, now they are again trying to break her marriage life? Why, aunty? What wrong have we ever done to your family? Tell me, Akka. Didn't you feel bad at least once seeing her broken? Maya is having panic attacks again just because of you, guys. And I swear to you, aunty, if your children do anything wrong this time, I'll make sure they rot in hell." Sravya said, sternly, and moved from there.

"Gowri akka, I'm sorry. They shouldn't have talked to you like that. But please, understand their pain and tell your children not to interfere in our lives. I know you don't know anything about what they did. But my children have faced enough because of them. I've seen them lying lifelessly on hospital beds because of your children. What happened has happened. We cannot change it, but please don't drag things unnecessarily. Leave her alone for a few days. I hope you understand what I'm saying", Vani said, looking at the motherdaughter duo.

Gowri nodded her head in understanding and le from there with a crying Vyshali.

"Don't raise this topic in front of Kittu. As he didn't know anything", Vani said, looking at Janaki and Gayatri. They nodded their heads in understanding and le for their

respective rooms.

Arjun was lying down on his bed. A lot of thoughts were running through his mind. He wanted to move on and live a peaceful and happy life with his Cookie.

But what is stopping him? Is it only his past? He is insecure. What if his Cookie too leaves him one day? Or what if he hurts her? His anger always destroys things. He hurt her in the past because of his foolishness, and his anger just spoiled everything. What if the same happens in the future too? He couldn't live without her. Unknowingly, she became his life. He sighed, and closed his eyes, trying to get some sleep.

He sighed and sat on the bed as he was not getting sleep. He opened his mobile to see any messages from her. But there was not a single message from her from yesterday. There was no reply to his messages.

"Is she angry at him? But why?" He thought in his mind.

"Don't you know the answer?" Mocked his heart. "What do you mean?" His mind said, glaring at the poor heart.

"You are the reason. She is angry at you because of your foolishness. Now, don't regret for kissing her. I'm sure she was not angry at you for kissing her. If she was angry, then she wouldn't have responded to the kiss. She would have slapped you at the moment itself. You are not thinking wisely and are making things more diicult. So, at least from now, stop sitting lazily and give him some ideas to manofy her", His heart mocked his mind.

"Did you just say that, I'm lazy?" His mind said, narrowing his eyes at the heart.

"Of course, I did. Now shut your mouth and think something that would be useful for him. Until then I'll take a sweet nap", his heart said, disappearing.

"How dare he say that I'm lazy? I'll make sure that stupid praise me the next time", said the mind, with determination.

The next morning, all of them had reached the temple. Arjun got mesmerised seeing Diya in a half-saree of his favourite color. And, he

won't deny she is looking damn beautiful. "Hayee! My Cookie is looking so beautiful", His mind screamed, making the heart get up with a jerk from his sleep.

"Why did you shout like that? You disturbed my dream with my Cookie", His heart scolded his mind.

shamelessly.

"Stop day dreaming and look how beautiful how our cookie is looking in our favourite colour dress", his mind said, checking out Diya





(Diya's attire)

Diya was talking with Taara when she felt someone's gaze on her. She looked around and saw Arjun looking at her intensely. She got drowned in his black orbs. She could see the pain in his eyes. Those were not the eyes that she fell in love with when she saw him for the

first time. She broke the eye lock and le from there, excusing herself. Arjun, who saw her going somewhere, followed her. Avi and Maya sat for the puja with Yash and Arpita. Varsha and Vansh peacefully slept in their grandparents' laps. Both Yash and Avi applied vermilion to their respective wives' foreheads and tied the sacred

threads to their hands. Next, Arpita and Maya repeated the same with their husbands as instructed by the priest. They started the rituals and followed the instructions given by the priest. Soon the puja was done. Both couples got up and took the blessings of the priest and the elders.

They gave donations for the temple and the orphanage, which is run by the temple. Taara's grandfather is the trustee of the temple, as it was built by his ancestors. Everyone took the blessings of the goddess, and the youngsters moved to the farmhouse nearby, which is owned by Taara's family while the elders stayed back to talk with

the priest regarding the marriage of Veeru and Taara. Arjun, Sravya and Maya are talking by sitting in the garden of the farmhouse. "Did you tell to him, pumpkin?" Arjun asked, Maya.

Maya shook her head negatively which Arjun and Sravya sighed. "When will you tell him, Mayu? Or are you planning to not tell him

anything?" Sravya asked her. "I'll tell him soon", said Maya

"And when is that soon going to arrive, pumpkin? It's been more than a month since you guys got married. I know it's not easy for you, but at least you could have tried", Arjun said, disappointed

"Please, anna. Can you leave this topic here?" Maya requested him. "We are saying for your good only, Mayu. And, you saw with your own eyes what he did. May be Vyshali vadina might have changed but not that duo. And, I don't trust that Chytra ever", said Sravya

Listening to Chytra's name, Arjun's face paled. Maya nudged Sravya and gestured her to look at Arjun.

"Sorry!" Sravya apologized to Arjun. "That's ok. I don't care about her anymore, and also is not she a part

of my life anymore", said Arjun They got immersed in their talks when they saw Arpita running

behind Varsha with a bowl in her hand. They chuckled looking at her. Suddenly Arpita fell down and yelped in pain. Arjun, Maya, and Sravya went towards her.

Varsha stopped running and went to her mother and asked her, "Alu(Aru), are you okay?"

Listening to the name Aru, Arpita's eyes brimmed with tears. Arpita nodded her head and took Varsha in her arms and kissed her whole face and hugged her tightly.

"I lobe you Alu (I love you Aru)", saying that Varsha gave a sloppy kiss on her mother's cheek. a

"Aww, I love you too, my Varshu baby." Arpita said, pecking Varsha's lips to which she giggled.

Everyone looked at them in awe. Arjun went and picked up his naughty niece in his arms and threw her up in the air and caught her making her giggle. Maya and Sravya

tickled her little waist to which she giggled. A er sometime they sat in their previous place with Varsha in her

pinni's lap. While Arpita was feeding her mashed fruits.

"Vadina?" Sravya called her.

"Haa", said Arpita

"She resembles Yahvi akka a lot, right?" Sravya asked Arpita. "Yeah! Her smile, those dark brown orbs, those cute antics of hers.

Especially the way she makes me run behind her, everything of her reminds me of my Yahvi." Arpita said, looking lovingly at her

daughter.

"She promised me that she would return to me as my daughter and make me run behind her. And, see, I have to run behind this little devil every day." Arpita said, getting emitional, and a small smile was playing on her lips, remembering her best friend.

Everyone got emotional remembering Yahvi. Varsha pouted, seeing nobody paying attention to her. She raised her head and looked at Maya and saw a shining thing in her neck. Her eyes twinkled looking at that, and soon she got busy playing with Maya's nupital chain. They moved inside as the elders arrived from the temple. Everyone

sat in the living room waiting for them to tell the news. "Veeru and Taara's wedding is in 10 days, and the next day it's Arjun

and Diya's wedding." Janardhan said, breaking the silence. Well, that's a shock for everyone. They didn't expect the news of Arjun and Diya's wedding. Arjun was blank for a moment. Diya looked

at him eagerly. He composed himself and nodded his head with a smile. Diya smiled at him.

"But, we have very little time, and we also have to prepare for two weddings", said Yash.

"Don't worry Anna, we're all there right? And also we have Anju atta's team if you forgot", said Sravya.

"Veeru and Taara will do the Kanyadhan of Diya. The next day, we will all go to Tirupati. Jai?" Said Janardhan.

"Haa, Babay", said Jai.

"Inform this to Rishi, Sakshi, Raghav, Jhansi, Anjali, and Raghu and Radha (Yash's grandparents)", said Janardhan.

Jai nodded his head, listening to him. The elderly retired to their rooms while the youngsters sat there discussing things. Veeru and Tara's faces were glowing, and they looked so happy. Diya looked at Arjun, who seemed to be lost. She wanted to talk to him, but she didn't understand how to initiate the

She didn't want him to accept her for the sake of the family. She le from there and moved to the garden for some fresh air. Maya and Avi looked at Arjun. He was lost in his thoughts. They saw Diya looking at him longingly and leaving from there. They really

conversation. She hoped he would be happy with this relationship.

need to have a talk with him. They looked at each other and messaged Arjun to meet them later. The girls went to the kitchen to start preparing the lunch.

Arjun was sitting in front of Maya and Avi.

"Will you guys speak something? Or will you stare at me like that only?" Arjun said, breaking the silence.

"Are you happy?" Avi asked him.

"Of course, I'm", Arjun said understanding his question. "Are you ready for this relationship whole-heartedly?" Maya asked him.

"Yes", said Arjun.

"Will you keep her happy?" Avi asked Arjun.

"Yes", said Arjun.

"Will you give this relationship a chance?" Maya asked him.

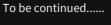
"Yes", said Arjun Maya threw a pillow at him as he was giving mono-syllable answers.

"Ouch! What was that idiot?" Arjun said, glaring at Maya. "Then answer us properly", Maya said, twisting her mouth with annoyance.

"Fine", said Arjun

"Jokes apart Ajju, tell me. Are you really happy?" Avi asked him. "I'm", said Arjun

Maya and Avi sighed listening to him. They thought to leave him alone for sometime. They knew, he himself will come to them. So, they diverted the topic making Arjun sigh in his mind.





# Holla peeps!! How are you all?

Well 3 more chapters.....

For Diya to become Mrs. Diya Arjun Reddy o icially. I hope you guys have liked this chapter. Don't forget to share your views. I love your comments because it inspires to move forward

when I'm stuck.



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