

Author's POV:

By evening, everyone returned to their respective homes. Arjun and Sravya entered Maya's room as she messaged them to come to her room. They saw Maya lost in her thoughts. Arjun went near her and shook her, making her come out of her thoughts.

"Why did you call us here?" Arjun asked her.

"Annayya, will you drop me at our farmhouse?" She said, fidgeting with her fingers.

Arjun raised his eyebrows at her. Sravya understood and nudged him not to ask further questions.

"Okay, you get ready. I'll drop you", said Arjun.

Maya moved to get ready while Arjun asked SravyäWhat happened?"

"I think she decided to tell Anna everything about her past", said Sravya.

Arjun made an "Oh" face and said, I hope everything goes well." "Hope so", said Sravya.

Arjun sat on the bed waiting for Maya while Sravya le for her room.

"Annayya, come and help me," Maya shouted from the closet.

Arjun moved inside the closet and saw her struggling to drag the huge teddy bear that was gi ed by him and his grandpa on her sixteenth birthday.

"Place it on the bed. It is so heavy", she said, pouting, making him chuckle.

He nodded his head and picked up the teddy in his arms while she moved to the garden and plucked some roses. She tied them together with a small ribbon and attached a note to it. She placed them carefully in the lap of the teddy bear while Arjun looked at his sister, amazed.



"Shall we leave?" Maya asked him.

Arjun nodded his head, and soon both of them were on the way to their farmhouse. Arjun looked at his sister from the corner of his eyes and saw her playing with her fingers and looking into her lap. He knows that she always does that when she is nervous.

"Don't worry, everything will be fine. Of course, he will be hurt as you hid things from him, but in the end he can't stay angry at his bunny for long", Arjun said, trying to calm down the nervousness of his little sister.

"Hmm", mumbled Maya, making him sigh.

"He will understand your point of view, Pumpkin. Tell him everything that you have wanted to say for a long time. He loves you so much, Pumpkin. Just tell him what your heart feels for him. Pour down all those feelings that you have hidden somewhere all these years deep down in your heart. Of course, digging up all those memories that are

nothing more than a nightmare to us will be di icult, but trust me, at the end of the day, you'll feel better," Arjun said, holding her hand to reassure her.

"I need to buy some things. Stop at a mall", said Maya, to which Arjun nodded his head.

They bought the things they needed from the nearest mall, and soon, both of them reached the farmhouse. Arjun parked the car in the lobby. Both of them got out of the car.

Arjun told one of the workers to place them in the living room.

Arjun kissed her forehead and said, "I'll leave. I need to pick up Avi too."

Maya nodded her head positively and mumbled, "Okay."

Maya grabbed Arjun's hand and said'Annayya, whatever you told me in the car applies to you as well. We can't undo our past, but we can definitely cherish our present and future. I know that you have accepted Diya Vadina whole-heartedly, but that doesn't mean that you take her for granted. I know you are afraid to fall in love once again a er what has happened in the past. But do you think that Diya Vadina will leave you? Did she leave you a er the betrayal of Chytra? No, in fact, she was the one who brought you out of the trauma. She was the one who held your hand in your di icult times and showed you the right path. Even now, she didn't say anything when you were ignoring her. Don't act stupid and lose her."

Maya le for her room, leaving Arjun alone. Arjun was driving the car, silently thinking about what Maya said a while ago. He reached home and sat in the living room waiting for Avi.

Soon, he dropped Avi at the farmhouse and sat on the edge of the pool, dipping his legs in the water and sipping beer. Yash, who came to the kitchen to grab a water bottle, noticed the lights in the pool area. He went and saw Arjun, who was lost in his thoughts.

"Don't drink too much maridi garu (younger brother-in-law)", Yash said, sitting beside Arjun.

Arjun snapped his head and looked at Yash, who was sitting beside him.

"Didn't you sleep yet?" Arjun asked him.

"No, just now Varsha has slept. Vansh and Arpita had slept already", said Yash.

"What was she doing without sleeping till now?" Arjun asked him.

"My little princess wanted her daddy to narrate the Cinderella story", Yash said, chuckling.

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"Doesn't she get bored listening to the same story everyday?" Arjun asked Yash and chuckled, thinking about his little niece.

"You know about her, right?" Yash said, smiling".Okay, leave about her. Tell me, what are you doing at this time by sitting alone?"

"Just like that, enjoying the last days of bachelorhood", said Arjun.

"Is it?" Yash asked, raising his eyebrow.

"Yeah! A er ten days, I'm not going to be single anymore. A person is going to come into my life, hold my hand and be with me till my last breath. She is going to leave her family, her friends, and everything behind and come into my world. What if I hurt her? What if I'm not able to take care of her properly? In the past, when I was going to get engaged to her, I didn't get any of these thoughts. I thought that we loved each other and knew each other well, so we could manage our married life. But now, I'm afraid of each and every step of mine. I want to give her all the happiness she deserves and fulfil all her wishes. I want to hold her hand until my last breath and be there for her through her highs and lows", Arjun said, thinking about his Cookie.

"Then why are you ignoring her now? Ajju, in every relationship, trust, communication, and respect are the most important things. I know that you trust her and respect her. But what about communication? Have you ever spoken to her about your future or about your feelings, fears, and insecurities? Did both of you have a proper conversation about your relationship? Every girl will have some dreams about her wedding. Did you ask her about her dreams? I know that both of you are best friends, but that doesn't give you any right to take her for granted," Yash said, the last line sternly.

"What do you mean by that, Bava? I mean, why is everyone thinking that I'm taking her for granted?" Arjun asked him, getting frustrated.

"What? Did I say something wrong then? Aren't you taking her for granted? Sometimes you shower her with all your love and the next moment you act as if she doesn't mean anything to you. For god's sake, she is also a human, Arjun. She too has some feelings. It's okay if you don't acknowledge them, but don't disrespect them. I know, a er what happened in the past, it was di icult for you to believe in love once again, but you were not using the second chance that life gave you properly. Life gives second chances to everyone, Arjun, but it depends on how the person utilises them. A er losing my parents and my little sister, I was afraid. What if I lose the others too? I even thought many times that why didn't I die with my family? But then, Suhaas and Aru made me understand. They gave me the letter that Yahvi wrote for us on her death bed. That day, she wantedly fought with me and stopped me from going with them. She wanted me to take care of my grandparents. In my grief, I totally forgot about my grandparents who also lost their only daughter's family. Everyone makes mistakes, Arjun, but we need to have the guts to accept our mistakes. I knew, in the past you had hurt Diya unknowingly or knowingly in your blind love for Chytra. You are afraid that you might hurt her again, isn't it?" Yash asked Arjun, to which he nodded his head slightly.

Yash sighed, looking at him. He knows that Arjun was badly hurt, and it's not easy for him to forget what happened. Getting blamed by the person whom we loved wholeheartedly was not easy to forget. On top of that, she accused Arjun of being a rapist. She said that he loved her body but not her. And the worst thing was getting stabbed by the person who we thought as ours was really painful. Arun blamed Arjun, saying that Arjun was a drug addict and he had seen Arjun misbehaving with Chytra many times. Chytra gave him a protein powder and told him to drink it everyday post his workout. She told him it's good to use that formula. Arjun believed her words and started to use to it. But what he doesn't is that she mixed a little amount if drugs in it. When that fiasco was happened, police did his blood test, they found traces of drugs in his blood. Chytra said that Arjun forced himself on her many times. She also said that if she didn't agree with him, he used to manhandle her. She said that Arjun had warned her that he would destroy his family if she didn't marry him. Thus, the case became strong and it became di icult for them to prove Arjun innocent. But then, Aasha filed a case against Arun for trying to molest her and blackmailing her by using her private pictures. They tapped their calls and also found many dark secrets about Arun and his father, Harishchandra. But those were not enough to prove that Arjun was innocent, and the case took a U-turn because of Kishore. He provided evidence against his daughter, but nobody knew that it was him.

"Okay, it's getting late. Go and sleep", Yash said, patting his back.

"You go, bava. I'm not getting sleep", Arjun said, making Yash sigh.

"Don't think too much. Everything will fall in its place. But we have to work hard for it," saying that, Yash moved to his room.

Arjun sat there, thinking about his and Diya's conversation in the temple.

Flashback:

Arjun, who saw Diya going somewhere, followed her. He searched for her and found her sitting on a bench in the garden outside the temple, staring at birds in front of her.

He went and sat beside her and greeted her, "Hey! Cookie!"

She looked at him and gave him a small smile, and then got busy staring at birds.

"Is everything okay?" He asked her.

"I would be happy, if it was okay", she said, with a lot of emotions.

"Cookie?" Arjun said, confused.

"Nothing. It's related to work, don't worry", said Diya.

"So, you started telling lies too", Arjun said, sarcastically.

"As if you didn't lie", Diya said, mockingly, while Arjun had nothing to say.

Of course, he lied many times, mostly when he was in a relationship with her.

Both of them sat there silently, but Arjun did not like that silence. It's making him su ocate.

"Cookie, did I do something wrong?" Arjun said, breaking the silence.

"Finally!!" Diya said, raising her hands in the air, making him confused.

"What?" Arjun asked her, confused by her behavior.

"It took you these many days to ask that question. And the answer to that question is yes, you made a mistake", said Diya.

"I'm sorry", he apologized to her.

"Don't you want to know what the mistake was made by you?" Diya asked, raising her eyebrow.

Arjun looked down, making her sigh.

"You come to conclusions on your own, Arjun. You thought that I would be angry at you for kissing me without my permission, right?" Said Diya, making Arjun snap his head at her.

"How do you know?" Arjun asked her slowly.

"So, my guess was correct. I'm not sure whether it is the reason or not. But now it is confirmed. You disappointed me a lot, Arjun. You know why?" Diya asked, looking at him.

"Why?" Arjun mumbled slowly.

"Because you failed to understand me even a er 20 years of our friendship. You have failed to understand me and didn't stand by my side when Chytra mocked me unnecessarily and called me names. Now, again, a er three years, you failed to understand my feelings and emotions. If I was angry at you for that, I would have slapped you in front of everyone, but I didn't do that, did I?" Diya asked him, to which Arjun shook his head negatively.

"Good. So, tell me, what should I do now? because I'm not in a position to think properly. Everyday, I used to wonder what had happened that made you distance yourself from me. But a er sitting alone and analysing all the things that happened in between, I thought it might be the reason. And now, my guess has turned out to be true. Tell me, Arjun, why would I be angry if you kissed me? Of course, you stole my first kiss. That was another thing", said Diya.

"I'm sorry", Arjun said, holding her hand.

"Arjun, will you leave me if our horoscopes don't match?" Diya asked him, making him look at her wide-eyed.

"This girl is a unique piece", he thought in his mind.

"And this unique and crazy piece is ours", his heart said, dreamily.

"Are you crazy?" Arjun asked Diya, shutting his mind and heart.

"Don't make fun of me and tell me", Diya said, pouting like a kid.

"I will not leave you even if God has come and asked me to leave you", Arjun said, holding her hand.

"From which movie did you copy this dialog?" Diya asked him, making him roll his eyes at her.

"Mad girl", Arjun said, hitting her head.

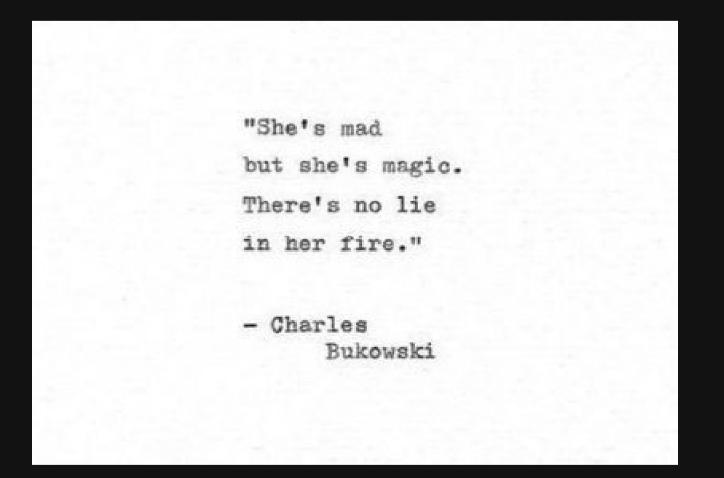
"You are mad", Diya said, pinching his hand.

He winced in pain, and she stuck her tongue out and teased him. He smiled at her innocence and childishness and pulled her into a hug.

"Never ignore me, Arjun. If you have any issues, then come and discuss them with me. We will solve them, but I can't bear your ignorance. It hurts me a lot", Diya said, trying her best not to break down in front of him.

He kissed her forehead and said, "Sorry. I'll never do that."

Arjun smiled, thinking about his crazy Cookie. He got up and moved to his room. Soon, he dri ed into sleep, dreaming about him and his cookie.



Hey guys!!

First of all, I'm really sorry for making you all wait. I know, this update is a short one compared to the last updates.

The next one will be a long one, and I'll try to update it on Sunday.

And as for this update, I hope you enjoy it.

Do share your views; I'd love to read your comments.

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Keep smiling and take care 🖤



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