

**Author's POV:**  
Arjun, Diya, Siri, Vikram, and the twins reached Murty Mansion. They greeted everyone and moved to their respective rooms to freshen up. Arpita and Yash moved to the guestroom to their respective ones.

After having their dinner, everyone moved to their respective rooms. Diya and Arjun are lying on the bed, cuddling and watching a webseries.

Arjun gave Diya a nervous smile as a mature scene came in between the episodes. They could feel the tension between them. Diya fidgeted her fingers and looked here and there as the hero was kissing the heroine passionately and making love to her.  
Arjun tried to forward the scene, but the remote didn't work, making him groan. He cursed himself mentally and lied there without speaking anything.

"Umm, I'm feeling hungry," Diya said, out of nowhere.  
"There are fruits on the night stand," said Arjun.  
"I want to eat something spicy," said Diya.

Arjun sighed and said, "Let's go to the kitchen then."  
Diya gave him a full-blown smile and dragged him to the kitchen.

Oy! Slow down, young lady." Arjun said, holding his panche.  
"Sh! Don't shout. Someone might wake up," said Diya.

They looked confused as the kitchen lights were on. They moved towards the kitchen and saw Veeru and Avi sitting on the kitchen counter, and Maya and Taara preparing something.

Arjun and Diya cleared their throats, looking at them.  
"What's going on here?" Said Arjun.  
"What the hell, Anna? Why did you shout like that?" Maya said, coming out of shock.

"Then what are you doing here in the kitchen at this time?" asked Arjun.  
"We are hungry," said Avi and Taara.  
"That's why we are here. Then what about you?" Veeru asked Arjun.

"I'm hungry," Diya said, smiling sheepishly.  
"What are you guys preparing?" Arjun asked them.  
"That brother-in-law of yours wanted to eat masala dosa. So, I'm preparing masala," Maya said, hugging while glaring at Avi.

"Wow, masala dosa, yum," said Diya.  
Arjun hit his head and asked, "Do we have dosa batter?"  
"I have prepared rava dosa batter," said Taara, while chopping onions and green chillies.

"Didn't you guys have your dinner properly?" Arjun asked them.  
"How can we eat peacefully when that lady is literally glaring at us?" Avi said, pouting.  
"Exactly! I don't understand what her problem is," said Taara.

"Please talk about anything but her, at least now," Diya said, making an irritated face.  
"Okay, okay!" Said Taara.

"So, tell me when are you guys planning to leave for your honeymoon?" asked Maya.  
Arjun, who was drinking water, choked listening to his sister while the rest of them, except Diya, were controlling their laughter.

"There is no rule that a couple should go on a honeymoon a er marriage!" Diya said, grabbing a carrot from the refrigerator.  
"Exactly, did you guys go on a honeymoon a er your marriage? It's been two months since you guys got married," said Arjun.

"Our case is different," said Maya.  
"And what is it?" asked Arjun.  
"Leave it, it's a waste of time to argue with you," Maya said, sighing.

Maya and Taara were making dosas on two pans while the rest of them were relishing them.  
"It would have been more delicious if there was peanut or coconut chutney," said Avi.

"Eat what they have prepared, idiot," Veeru said, hitting his head.  
Maya served another dosa for Avi and said, "Just pray to God that my kids shouldn't be foodies like their father."

"For that, we have to work hard, bunny," Avi whispered in Diya's ears, while she glared at him and showed him the hot spatula in her hand.  
Veeru and Arjun chuckled, looking at his expressions.

Arjun took a piece of dosa from Avi's plate and asked him, "What did you say in my sister's ears that she was warning you by showing a spatula?"  
"Nothing," said Avi.

"This is so yummy. I want one more dosa with tomato pickle," said Arjun.  
"You looked at me weirdly when I said that I was hungry. Now, you are eating dosas continuously without a break," Diya said, while Arjun smiled at her sheepishly.

Everyone retired to their respective rooms a er having dosas.  
The next morning, Arjun woke up and looked at Diya, who was sleeping peacefully, clutching his shirt in his fist. He kissed her forehead and carefully got to the bed without disturbing her sleep.

After some time, Diya frowned in her sleep and searched for Arjun, closing her eyes. She pouted and opened her eyes to see the other side of the bed empty. She stretched her body and sat on the bed. She tied her hair into a bun and got to the bed. She folded the comforter and set the sheets on the bed. Just then, her mobile phone pinged with a message. It is an email from the hospital. It was the selected list of doctors who should go on a camp to free villages in Maharashtra a er ten days.

She sighed and sat on the bed. She volunteered to go to the camp before her marriage was fixed, and she totally forgot about it in all the chaos. She still has the option to cancel it. She sat there playing with her fingers, thinking about what she should do.

Just then, Arjun came out of the washroom, drying his hair. He looked at her, who was looking tense and nervous.  
"Is everything okay, cookie?" He asked, placing his hand on her shoulder.

She jerked out of her thoughts and looked at him, saying, "I'll just freshen up and come."  
Before he could ask anything, she moved to the closet to grab her clothes quickly, making him sigh.

A er awhile, Arjun got ready in his casuals and sat on the bed, checking his mail.  
"Arjun, can you come to the closet once?" shouted Diya.  
Arjun said, "Coming."

Arjun went inside their walk-in closet and saw her struggling with the saree.  
"Can you tie the threads of the blouse?" Diya asked him, turning around.

He nodded his head and pushed her hair to one side and tied the threads of her blouse.  
"Cookie, we have to go to lunch at my grandma's sister's house," said Arjun.

"Okay. But why didn't they come to our wedding?" Diya asked him.  
"Our families haven't been talking for years. I don't know what happened exactly, but all I remember is that they refused to come and visit Madhav Thathayya in his last days. They said that the relationship between the two families broke a er the death of Savitri Nanamma and Jaya Nanamma," Arjun said, remembering the past.

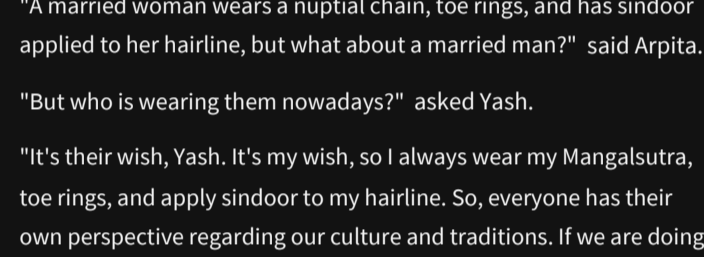
"So, we are going to visit the younger sister of Savitri Anamma and Jaya Anamma. Am I right?" Diya asked Arjun.  
"Well, yes," said Arjun.

"Umm, how many members will live there?" Diya asked him.  
"She has two sons. Now, she and her husband are living with their younger son. Her elder son's family lives in Delhi," said Arjun.

"Their names?" She asked, while combing her hair.  
"Her name is Shyamala and her husband's name is Jaya Krishna," said Arjun.

"That's enough. I can't remember more," said Diya.  
"By the way, you are looking like a rose," he said, pecking her cheeks.

She gave him an adorable smile and pecked his lips and said, "I don't you are looking like a monster."  
Arjun smiled dutily at first, but then realised that she called him a monster. Before he could catch her, she ran out of the room, making him whine.



Diya came down laughing and immediately moved to the puja room. She saw her grandmother reciting mantras while performing the puja. Arjun, Diya, Taara, and Varsha sat there. She saw beside Varsha and gave them a smile. Arpita smiled at her applied vermillion on her forehead.

A er the puja, everyone moved to the living room.  
"Amma, are we all going to meet your grandma?" Diya asked Maya.  
"No. Me and Avi, Akka and Bava and Arjun, Anna, and Nandu are going," said Maya.

"Why aren't others joining us?" Diya asked her.  
"Srawya is going to her college to collect her documents. So, she and Surya are going to college. Siri and Vicky will be going to their respective college and school. The elderly are not going to join us, and don't even ask them about it," said Arpita.

"But why?" asked Diya.  
"Diya, will a relationship between two people break if the other person dies? For example, see Theerth's uncle's family and yours are good friends. But after the relationship between the two families fade away a er the deaths of Ananth Manmoyee and Arul Chelvi? No, right? But Shyamala Nanamma's family broke ties with our family a er the deaths of my nanamma and Savitri Nanamma. They refused to come and see my grandfathers in their last days. It hurt my parents, uncles, and aunts badly. From then on, the relationship between the two families faded away somewhere. Even if they meet at some family functions, we just look at each other's faces.

Yesterday, Rishi Pedananna got a call from Shyamala Nanamma. She said that she wanted to see us. So, keeping the grudges away, the elders asked us to go. So, only we are going to see them. But I might take some time for the elderly to mingle as they have seen the pain of their parents," said Arpita.  
"Oh!" Said Diya.

"By the way, where is my brother?" Arpita asked her.  
"Umm, I think, he is getting ready," Diya said, a er thinking for a while.  
"Okay!" Said Arpita.

Arjun, Diya, Arpita, Yash, Avinav, and Maya, Nandan are standing at the door of a beautiful three-storey house.  
"Shall we go inside?" asked Diya.  
"Yeah!" said Arpita.

Arjun knocked on the door. A lady in her early twenties opened her door and stood there admiring Arjun. The rest of them chuckled, looking at her expressions. But they got irritated as she stood like a statue at the door. Diya snapped her fingers in front of her, making that girl come out of her dreamland.  
"Can we meet Mr. and Mrs. Jaya Krishna?" asked Arpita.

"Yes! But who are you?" asked that girl.  
"We are Mrs. Jaya Krishna's sisters grand-children," said Avinav.  
"Wait a minute. I'll just come now." Saying that, she ran away from there.

"Man, she is eyeing Anna as if he is the only man on this planet," said Maya.  
"Exactly! Our ancestors did injustice to women," said Arpita.  
"And what is that?" asked Yash.

"A married woman wears a nuptial chain, toe rings, and has sindoor applied to her hairline, but what about a married man?" said Arpita.  
"But who is wearing them nowadays?" asked Yash.

"It's their wish, Yash. It's my wish, so I always wear my Mangalsutra, toe rings, and apply sindoor to my hairline. So, everyone has their own perspective regarding our culture and traditions. If we are doing something, then we have to do it wholeheartedly. What's the use when we do or follow it just for the name sake or show?" Said Arpita.  
"True, Vadina. I totally agree with you," said Diya.

"God! Where is this girl? Did she go to space or what? And she didn't even tell us to come inside." Nandan said, irritated.  
Just then, a lady in her late forties came with that girl.  
"Namaste, Pinni. How are you?" Greeted Arpita.

"We are good. Come inside," said that lady.  
"Swathi, bring water for everyone," said that lady.  
"Okay, Atta," said Swathi, giving a blushing smile looking at Arjun.

Diya was glaring at Arjun, while Arjun gave her a nervous smile. The rest of them were controlling their laughter while looking at the newly wedded couple.  
"Please, sit. Feel home guys," said that lady.

Yash, Avi and Nandan sat on the three-seater sofa, while the rest of them sat on the four-seater sofa.  
"How are Babai and Sweety and Mahi, Pinni?" Arjun asked that lady.  
"Mahi is working upstairs. Sweety is with Attayya and Mammya. Your Babai went out to pick up Shrikar bava's family. He must be coming back," said that lady.

Soon, that girl came with a tray of water glasses and served them.  
"She is my brother's daughter, Swathi. And also Mahidar's fiancée," said that lady.  
"Then why is she eyeing my husband?" Diya whispered in Maya's ears.

"You see, my brother is so handsome. So, no one can resist his charm," Maya whispered into Diya's ears.  
"Swathi, go and call Sweety," said that lady.

"Okay, attamma," Saying that, Swathi glanced at Arjun and went upstairs.  
Diya groaned, while Maya and Arpita giggled. Avi and Nandan mentally hit their heads, looking at that scene.

"Pinni is saying that she is engaged. But this girl is eye-raping Anna, whispered Nandan.  
"I guess, because of her, another dispute is going to arise between the two families," whispered Yash.

Avinav and Nandan chuckled, listening to his words.  
"Don't say it aloud. My Pavitra atta is not that sweet as she shows to everyone. Hema Atta ran away with her husband abroad, unable to bear her torture," Avi whispered in Yash's ears.

"Is it? Then I've to be careful," whispered Yash.  
"Why are they behaving like gossip aunties?" Maya whispered in Arpita's ears, looking at Avi, Yash, and Nandu.  
"Exactly!" Arpita said, looking at Arjun.

"You guys, stop gossiping. Nanamma and Thathayya have come," Arjun whispered in Arpita's ears, who sat beside him.  
"How are you, Nanamma and Thathayya?" Maya asked, going towards them.

Avi and Maya took their blessings, followed by the other two couples and Nandan.  
"Good kanna," said Jay Krishna.  
"You are Maya, right?" Shyamala asked, caressing Maya's cheeks.

"Yes, Nanamma," Maya said, kneeling in front of her.  
"You look like my Savitri Akka," said Shyamala.  
"Are you married?" asked Jaya Krishna

"Yes, thatha. He is Avinav, my husband. Vani atta and Shekar Mammya's son," said Maya.  
"God bless you," Jaya Krishna and Shyamala said, blessing them.  
"This is Nandan. My younger brother," said Maya.

"I've seen you when you were a toddler," said Shyamala.  
Nandan stood there awkwardly as he didn't know much about them.  
"Who are Arjun and Arpita?" Jaya Krishna asked, pointing at the other four.

"I'm Arjun, and this is my wife, Diya," said Arjun.  
"Your wife is beautiful, Arjun," Shyamala said, looking at Diya.  
Diya gave her a small smile and muttered "Thank you."

"I'm Arpita, and this is my husband, Yashwarth," said Arpita.  
The old couple blessed the two couples.  
"Didn't Jhansi's daughter come with you?" asked Shyamala.

"She went to the college to collect her documents," said Diya.  
"Okay!" said Shyamala.  
Just then, she came with tones of make-up caked on her face and winked with Swathi. She gave and sat beside Shyamala and Avinav at that scene, making him uncomfortable, while Maya looked at her, narrowing her eyes.

"She is my daughter, Shamitha. Everyone in the family lovingly calls her Sweety," Pavitra said, introducing Sweety to the youngsters.  
"She is anything but sweet," Nandan said, making a bad face.  
"How do you know that?" Asked Yash.

"Unfortunately, she is my senior. She is so arrogant and behaves as if she she owned the college. She had a gang that they treat their girl who she was a queen Victoria. I didn't know that she was our cousin until this moment," Nandan said, glaring at Sweety.  
"Control Nandu. We will talk later. See, that girl is looking at us only," whispered Yash.

The elderly were asking the youngsters questions while Swathi and Shamitha were ogling Arjun and Avinav. Arjun and Avinav sat there awkwardly, as on one hand, their respective wives were glaring at them, and on the other hand, they were getting uncomfortable as Swathi and Shamitha were staring at them without blinking their eyes.  
"Even my first interview was better than this," said Diya.

"I agree with you, Vadina. And look how that cake face and monkey face are eyeing my husband and my husband!" Maya said, pouting.  
Just then, Shrikar and his family came inside with Naresh. They greeted them and sat with them.  
"This is Maansi, my daughter. Bhargav and his wife, Nidhi, will come a er two days," said Shrikar.

"I know, Yash bava and Arpita akka, dad. We met at a medical conference three years ago," Maansi said, hugging Arpita. She then side hugged Yash.  
"Okay, you guys catch up. We will freshen up and come," said Hema.  
"If everything was good, then this introduction wouldn't have been there," said Shyamala.

Jaya Krishna sighed and said, "Past is past. We cannot change it, Shyamala."  
"True," said Shyamala.  
A er some time, everyone settled in the living room, including Mahidar.

Shamitha went and stood in front of Avinav and said, "I love you. Will you marry me?"  
Pavitra and Naresh facepalmed, listening to their daughter.  
"Sorry, I'm married. Even if I'm not married, then also I would have rejected you as I've been in love with Maya, my wife from my childhood," Avinav said, straightly.

Shamitha got embarrassed listening to him, but she, being the arrogant sport kid, said, "Give her divorce, then. I'm perfect for you in every aspect, and I'm sure one day you will fall head over heels in love with me."  
"Look Miss, young lady. Don't test my patience. I'm not interested in you. So, kindly maintain your distance from me," Avi said, gritting his teeth.

"But I love you," Shamitha said, stubbornly.  
Maya, who had been controlling herself until now, became enraged by her stubborn and immature behavior.  
She stood up and apologised to the old couple, making them confused. She then turned Shamitha around and gave her a hard slap, making everyone gasp.

"I guess your parents have thought you have some manners. Don't you have any common sense? Why are you investigating him when he is saying that he is married? Are you even understanding what rubbish you are speaking?" Maya said, glaring at her.  
"Hey, who the hell are you? How dare you slap me? Do you know who I am?" Mrs. Maya Avinav Krishna. The wife of the person to whom you have proposed," Maya said, glaring at her.

"When you said that your wife is beautiful, I thought that she would be some model. I didn't expect that your taste was this bad," Shamitha said, giving a pity look to Avinav.  
"This time, Arpita gave her a hard slap and said, "Watch your words, Shamitha. Is this the way you speak to someone older than you? You are saying that my sister is not beautiful, right? She is the most beautiful and sweetest person. If you were a boy, by now you would have been on six feet of ground for saying such nonsense. My boys controlled themselves as you are a girl. And don't judge a book by its cover. How would you feel if someone proposed to your boyfriend or husband in front of you and told him to break his relationship with you? You will get angry, right? That's what my sister felt to."

Shamitha fumed and went away from there while Mahidar and Swathi followed her.  
"Sorry, Maya and Avinav. She is a small kid. Please don't mind her words. Sometimes she behaves immaturely like a kid. Please, forgive her," said Naresh.  
"She didn't talk like a small kid. She talked like an arrogant, spoilt brat. Moreover, she is 20 years old and is mature enough to know what she is speaking," Arjun said, sternly.

"I apologise on behalf of her, Kanna. As she is the youngest of all, we have pampered her a lot. I know, she shouldn't have spoken like that. But at least, Nanamma and we of us," said Shyamala.  
"It's okay, Nanamma. And we will take your leave. I hope you understand," said Arjun.

Shyamala and Jaya Krishna nodded their heads. Because of mending the relationship between the two families despite their wish to see them together in their last days. But their granddaughter spoiled everything.  
In the car:  
Yash was driving the car while Arpita sat beside him in the passenger seat. Avi, Maya, and Nandan were sitting in the middle, while Arjun and Diya were sitting in the back.

"I never expected that things would turn out like this," Arjun said, massaging his forehead with his fingers.  
"This is just a trailer. Your anger will reach a peak if you guys look at her behaviour in college," said Nandan.  
"Nandu, do you know her beforehand?" Arjun asked him.

"Yeah! Unfortunately she was my senior," Nandu said, sighing.  
"Leave it. Don't talk about this matter at home. This will increase the gap between the two families," said Avinav.  
"Yeah! Be silent, at least for the sake of that old couple," said Maya.

"Let's have our lunch somewhere. We can't go and eat at home as they would get suspicious," said Diya.  
"Hmm," said Arjun.  
"Acha, Diya, did you look at Swathi's expression when you pecked Arjun's cheeks in front of her?" asked Arpita.

"Her face was worth watching," Yash said, chuckling.  
"When was did this happen?" asked Nandan.  
"Hey, when were busy with your phone," said Avi.

"Yeah! Your aunt went to bring ice cream for us while the elderly couple were talking with me and Maya. Your Vadina kissed Arjun on his cheeks and warned Swathi with her eyes," Arpita said, giggling.  
"I would have given him a French kiss if the old couple were not there in the living room," said Diya.

"Why don't you give now?" Arjun said, smirking at her.  
"I'm not in a mood now," Diya said, flipping her hair.  
"Tell me, when will you be in the mood?" Arjun said, nuzzling his face into her neck.

"Ahem!" The rest of them cleared their throats.  
"Anna, don't forget that you are in a car," said Narendran.  
Arjun rolled his eyes and said, "I know that. Now, go to a restaurant as soon as possible. I'm damn hungry."

On the other hand, Chytra was waiting for Rajesh in the waiting hall of the central Jail.  
"How are you, Anna?" Chytra asked Rajesh.  
"I'm dancing," Rajesh said, sarcastically.  
Chytra chuckled, listening to his answer.  
"You haven't changed even a bit," said Chytra.

"Leave all that. Tell me, when will I get bail? Did you talk with a lawyer?" asked Rajesh.  
"No," said Chytra.  
"Ahh! This is all because of that b\*\* and her family. I've heard that your boy got married. So, what have you planned to separate them?" asked Rajesh.

"I haven't planned anything nor am I going to plan anything in the future either. He is happy with her, so let him be. A er all, he got his happiness a er a long time," said Chytra.  
Rajesh laughed out loud, listening to her while the other prisoners looked at him weirdly.  
"Those words don't suit you, my dear sister," said Rajesh.

"Look, Anna. I'm not here to learn what suits me or not? And I'm not a saint to preach you motivational quotes. I've learnt from my mistakes. And it's up to you whether you want to change or not. Akka is preoccupied with her job, and I'm trying to assist her so that her burden is reduced." Rajesh cut her here and said, "How do you cook food and send lunch boxes for five employees in Akka's office?"  
"At least I'm doing that. But what about you? Who take care of you once you come back from jail? Daddy has retired. Akka and I are trying to cope by indulging in work or doing something or the other. But what about you? You still want revenge. But for what? Look, Anna, you are mature enough to think about what's right and wrong. Till now, we never followed what our heart told us to. We became greedy and tried to get something that was never meant for us. Life gave you another chance. But it's in your hands whether you utilize it properly or not. If you want, I can appoint a psychologist for you. I have said what I had to say. The rest is your decision," Saying that, Chytra walked out of the waiting room without looking back.  
In anger, Rajesh hit his hand on the grill hardy.



4000+ words.  
Phew, the longest chapter that I've written recently.  
Hey guys!!  
How are you all?  
How is the update?  
I hope you guys have liked the update.  
Don't forget to comment about the update. Your views help me to make the story better.  
I know, many of you asking for some romance scenes between Arjun and Diya. For that, you have to wait for two or three chapters. I'll definitely add some cute scenes in between. I hope you understand it.  
To know further, stay tuned.  
Keep smiling and take care!  
  
Continue reading next part