

Author's POV:

Diya prepared coffee for the three of them and poured the hot brewed coffee into three mugs and placed them on a tray. She poured the pineapple juice into a glass that she prepared for Taara, as she drinks only once a day. She moved out of the kitchen with the tray in her hands. She served them and sat beside Arjun, taking her coffee cup.

"Don't you drink coffee and tea only once a day. I had my coffee in the morning," said Taara.

"That's a good habit. Learn something from her," Arjun said, hitting Diya on her head.

Diya glared at him and snatched his coffee cup and said, "And the same applies to you too. You drink four cups of coffee a day and you are lecturing me."

Arjun gave her a sheepish smile and said, "I'm just kidding Cookie. You have your coffee, while I'll have mine."

"That's good," Diya said, giving his coffee cup to him.

Ragini and Taara smiled silently, looking at them.

"Vadina, we are going shopping. Will you join us?" Diya asked Taara.

"Yeah!" said Taara.

"Awesome then. We will leave after lunch," said Diya.

"What should I prepare for lunch?" Asked Ragini.

"Anything that is eatable," Diya said, smiling sheepishly.

"Shall I prepare bitter guard and ridge guard recipes then?" Ragini said with a tight-lipped smile.

"No," Arjun and Diya shouted together.

"Ayyo! Stop shouting like mad people," Ragini said, closing her ears.

"Sorry!" Arjun and Diya said, holding their ears.

"Crazy people. You guys are not kids anymore. You will have your own kids in a few years, but you still behave crazily," Ragini said, shaking her head in disbelief while Taara giggled, looking at them.

Diya and Arjun looked at each other, listening to her.

"Nanamma, you go and take some rest. I'll ask Zubeda Aunty to prepare lunch today," said Diya.

"Your wish. Tell her what you guys want to eat," said Ragini.

"Okay," said Diya.

"By the way, when will Bava return from Hyderabad?" asked Arjun.

"Tomorrow evening," said Taara.

After having their lunch, Arjun, Diya, and Taara left for shopping.

"So, what are you going to give them?" Diya asked Arjun.

"I don't have any ideas. If you have thought of something, then let us buy it," said Arjun.

"She loves paintings, right? So let us give her one. What do you think?" asked Diya.

"Your wish," said Arjun. "Don't you want to buy anything?"

"I need to buy Kurtis," said Diya. She turned towards Taara and asked, "What about you?"

"I need to buy some jeans and tracks," said Taara.

After shopping, they went to an art gallery and bought a traditional and modern art painting. They returned home around 4 o'clock and went to their respective rooms to rest for some time, as they had to attend Abhay's brother's engagement around 7 o'clock.

Taara knocked on Arjun and Diya's room door.

"The door is open," Diya shouted from inside.

"Where is Arjun Anna?" Taara said, coming inside.

"He is on a call," said Diya.

"Vadina, help me with the saree," Taara said, showing her saree.

"You are asking me as if I'm a pro. I also don't know how to wear a saree properly," Diya said, sulking.

"What to do now?" Taara asked, pouting.

"Didn't you guys get ready yet?" Ragini said, coming inside.

"Darling, you came at the right time," Diya said, smiling brightly.

"What?" Ragini asked them, confused.

"You have to help us with wearing the sarees," Diya and Taara said, picking up their sarees.

Ragini hit her head and went to lock the door.

After some time, Diya and Taara looked at themselves in the mirror and grinned. They stood on either side of Ragini and kissed her cheeks, making her smile.

"You are our angel in disguise, Darling," said Diya.

"I'll become your darling if I help you; otherwise, I'm your old lady," Ragini said, pouting.

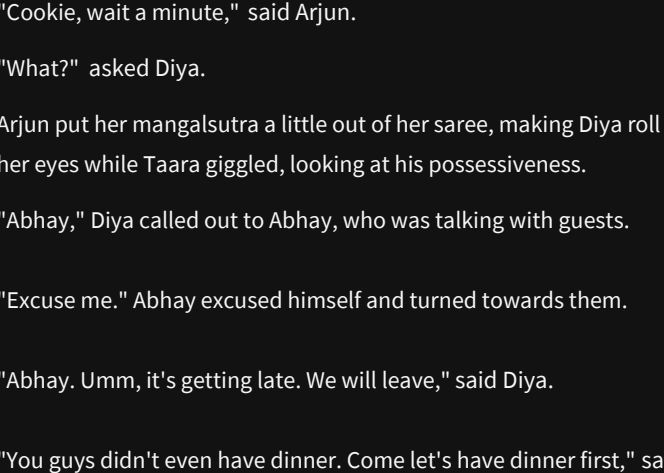
"Aww, you are so cute, Ammamma. I'm sure, Thathayya fell in love with you by looking at your cuteness," Taara said, pinching her cheeks.

Ragini blushed, making them laugh.

"Aww, my old lady is blushing. Wait, I'll capture this photo and send it to my handsome," Diya said, capturing Ragini's photo on her mobile.

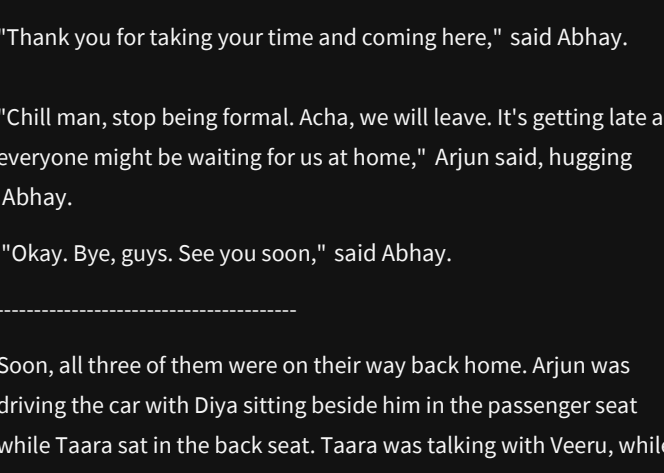
"Badmash!" Ragini said, hitting Diya's head, making her pout.

"By the way, how are my new anklets?" Diya asked, lifting her saree a little.



"They are beautiful," Ragini said, patting her cheeks.

"This bracelet," she said, showing the mangalsutra bracelet with the letter A that she bought in the emeroon.



"This is also beautiful. When did you buy all these? You didn't show them to me before," Ragini asked Diya.

"Arjun gifted these anklets and I bought this bracelet today," said Diya.

"Didn't you buy anything, Taara?" Ragini asked Taara.

"She bought jeans and tracks and also unisex tees for her and her husband," Diya teased Taara, and she glared back.

Ragini laughed, looking at Taara's face, and shook her head in disbelief.

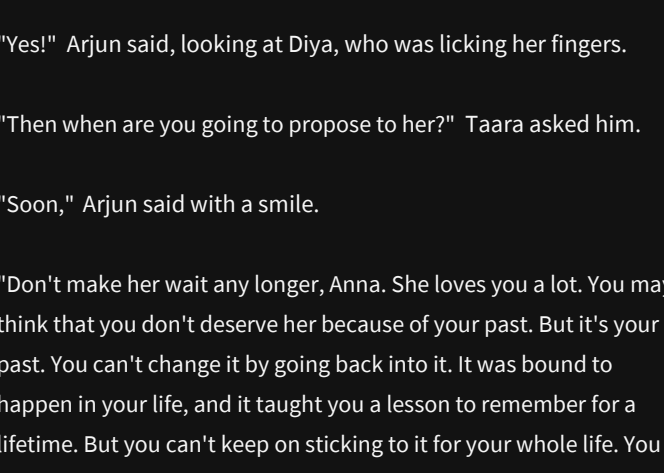
"Okay, Ammamma. We are getting late. Don't wait for us, as we may come late. Tell Athayya the same," said Taara.

"Wait a minutes," Ragini said, taking kajal.

She put a dot of kajal behind both of their right ears.

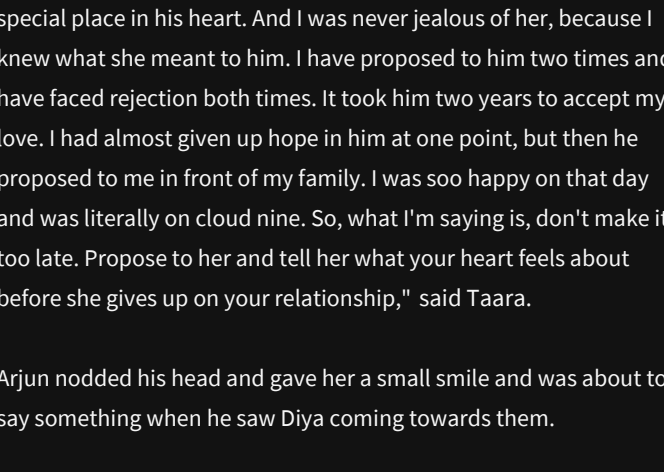
"I don't want anyone to cast their evil eyes on my granddaughters," Ragini said, making them smile.

Three of them came down and saw Arjun talking with Raman. Arjun lifted his head and looked at his Cookie, as he heard the sound of her anklets. He was totally mesmerised by looking at her, while Diya too stood still looking at him. The three cleared their throats, bringing them back to the world.



(Arjun and Diya's attires)

"If your staring session is over, shall we leave?" Taara asked, smiling mischievously.



(Taara's attire)

Arjun looked away embarrassed and nodded his head, making others laugh internally.

"Be careful and drive safe," Raman said, patting Arjun's shoulder.

"Okay. Shall we leave?" Arjun asked, looking at Diya and Taara.

Both of them nodded their heads positively and bid bye to Raman and Ragini.

Soon, they reached their destination. Arjun gave the keys to the valet and all three of them got out of the car. Just then, Arjun got a call from his PA. He told them to go and said that he would join them in a few minutes.

Diya and Taara moved inside the venue and saw Abhay and his father receiving the guests.

"Dad! This is Diya. She is my classmate and a good friend of mine. And this is Taara, her sister-in-law," Abhay said, introducing Diya and Taara to his father.

His father gave them a small smile and greeted them.

"I'll just come, Dad," Abhay told his father.

"Where is Arjun?" Abhay asked Diya.

"He is in the lobby attending a call," said Diya.

Abhay took them to his brother, Sanjeev, and his fiancée, Niharika.

"Wow, Abhay, your girlfriend is very beautiful that you had invited your girlfriend. By the way, your girlfriend is very beautiful," Niharika's aunt said, looking at Diya.

Taara and Diya looked at her wide-eyed, while Abhay gave her a nervous smile.

"I'm not his girlfriend. We are just friends," Diya said, coming out of shock.

"Yeah! Everyone says the same. Don't I know? I've seen many people like you. These generation kids are too fast, and they don't give us an honest answer," she said, looking at her husband.

"Excuse me, Aunty. We are just friends. In fact, I'm happily married to the person I love," Diya said, showing her mangalsutra.

"Cookie," Arjun said, coming towards her.

"Look, there he is," Diya said, looking at Arjun.

"Any problem?" Arjun asked, encircling his hand around her waist.

"Nothing, Anna. This aunty misunderstood that Vadina is Abhay's girlfriend," Taara said, glaring at that lady from the corner of her eyes.

"He is my husband, Arjun," Diya introduced Arjun to her.

"Umm, I'm sorry," that lady apologized, Arjun and Diya.

Arjun looked at her sternly and nodded his head. Three of them congratulated the newly engaged couple, gave gifts to them, and posed for a photo.

"Umm, I'm sorry guys," Abhay apologized to Arjun and Diya, embarrassed.

"It's okay," Arjun said with a poker face.

"Abhay, come here once," Abhay's mother called him.

"Make yourself comfortable. I'll just come now," Abhay said, excusing himself.

"Hello, Mr. Hulk. Cool down," Diya whispered in Arjun's ears.

"Hmm," Arjun hummed, making her roll her eyes at him.

Soon, Taara and Diya got busy with their gossip, while Arjun was scrolling through his mobile.

"I'm getting bored," Taara said, pouting.

"Even me," Diya said, sighing.

"Shall we leave then?" asked Taara.

"Yeah! I'll inform Abhay and come," said Diya.

"Take Anna with you; who knows, another Aunty might come with a proposal this time," Taara teased Diya while Diya glared at her.

"Arjun, shall we leave?" Diya asked, poking Arjun's shoulders.

"Yeah!" said Arjun.

Diya looked around and saw Abhay talking with someone.

"Come, we will go and inform Abhay," Diya said, dragging Arjun with her.

"Cookie, wait a minute," said Arjun.

"What?" asked Diya.

Arjun put her mangalsutra a little out of her sarees, making Diya roll her eyes while Taara giggled, looking at his possessiveness.

"Abhay," Diya called out to Abhay, who was talking with guests.

"Excuse me," Abhay excused himself and turned towards them.

"Abhay, Umm, it's getting late. We will leave," said Diya.

"You guys didn't even have dinner. Come let's have dinner first," said Abhay.

Diya looked at Arjun and Taara and they nodded their heads positively. Four of them were walking in the lobby after having their dinner.

"Umm, once again I'm sorry, guys. That Aunty wanted me to hitch to her daughter. So, I lied that I had a girlfriend. She assumed that Diya was that girl. So, I'm sorry," Abhay apologized to Arjun and Diya.

"It's okay, Abhay. It happens sometimes," said Arjun.

"Thank you for taking your time and coming here," said Abhay.

"Chill man, stop being formal. Acha, we will leave. It's getting late and everyone might be waiting for us at home," Arjun said, hugging Abhay.

"Okay. Bye, guys. See you soon," said Abhay.

Soon, all three of them were on their way back home. Arjun was driving the car with Diya sitting beside him in the passenger seat while Taara sat in the back seat. Taara was talking with Veeru, while Diya was humming a song that was playing on the FM by leaning her head on Arjun's shoulder. She looked outside, and her eyes twinkled with joy as she looked at an ice cream stall. She shrieked in joy while Arjun stopped the car with a jerk.

"What happened?" Arjun asked, looking at her.

"Ice-cream," Diya said, pointing outside.

"You have scared us, Vadina," said Taara.

"Sorry," Diya apologized, cutely holding her ears.

"Wait, don't get down. I'll stop the car to one side. And wear the jackets before you get down, it's very cool outside," said Arjun.

"Don't be stupid, Jun. Who wears a jacket on a saree?" Diya asked, irritated.

"That is a new trend now. So, wear your jacket and get down, otherwise forget about your ice cream," Arjun said coolly, playing music with his fingers on the steering.

"Fine. But from where will we get jackets now?" Diya asked, making a poker face.

"There are in the back seat," said Arjun.

Diya and Taara wore their jackets and hats sulking.

"Can we go now, Anna?" asked Taara.

"Yeah! Wait. I'll park the car to the side," said Arjun.

Diya and Taara got down quickly as Arjun parked his car. Both of them shivered as the cool breeze from the seashore hit them.

"Didn't I tell you that it's very cool outside?" Arjun said, coming behind them.

Both of them ignored his words and asked the ice-cream vendor to give them two choco-chip and one butterscotch ice-cream.

Diya gave butterscotch ice-cream to Arjun and started relishing her favourite choco-chip ice-cream. Arjun laughed as she ate quickly, as if someone was going to steal her ice cream.

"Eat slowly, no one is going to snatch your ice-cream," said Arjun.

Diya stuck her tongue out and asked the vendor to give her another ice-cream.

"You have to drink warm milk with pepper and turmeric powder after going home," said Arjun.

Diya listened, listening to him, and asked the vendor to package two tubs of chocolate ice-cream.

"You love her, don't you?" Taara asked Arjun, who was lost in admiring Diya.

"Yes!" Arjun said, looking at Diya, who was licking her fingers.

"Then when are you going to propose to her?" Taara asked him.

"Soon," Arjun said with a smile.

"Don't make her wait any longer. Anna. She loves you a lot. You may think that you don't deserve her because of your past. But it's your past. You can't change it by going back into it. It was bound to happen in your life, and it taught you a lesson to remember for a lifetime. But you can't keep on sticking to it for your whole life. You have a bright present and a bright future. Don't spoil it because of your past when life gave you a second chance to be a beautiful life ahead. I'm not saying that life ahead is going to be a bed of roses. There will be thorns too. But together, you can face everything with a smile. Trust me, you deserve her and both of you are made for each other. You know, I fell in love with Veer, the moment I saw him. After three or four meetings, I decided that I was going to spend the rest of my life with him. But it was not as easy as I thought. He was in love with Azira Didu. I knew she was his first love and will always hold a special place in his heart. And I was never jealous of her, because I knew what she meant to him. I have proposed to him two times and I have faced rejection both times. It took him two years to accept my love. I had almost given up hope in him at one point, but then he proposed to me in front of my family. I was so happy on that day and was literally on cloud nine. So, what I'm saying is, don't make it too late. Propose to her and tell her what your heart feels about before she gives up on your relationship," said Taara.

Arjun nodded his head and gave her a small smile and was about to say something when he saw Diya coming towards them.

"Shall we go?" asked Diya.

He nodded his head and took his hanky from his pocket and wiped her mouth while she gave him a sheepish smile. Soon, three of them reached home. They went inside and saw Meera, Raman, and Ragini playing board games in the living room.

"Ammamma, didn't I tell you not to wait for us? Look at the time. It's almost 11 o'clock and you guys haven't slept yet. Did your medicine or not?" Taara asked, sitting beside Meera.

"We had our dinner at 8 o'clock and had our medicine. We also drank milk an hour before," said Ragini.

"Did you guys enjoy the ceremony?" Meera asked them.

"Yeah! It was a little boring, but we had learnt about a new culture," said Taara.

"That's good," said Meera.

"Attayya, do we have milk at home?" Arjun asked Meera, while Diya was gesturing to her mother to say no.

Arjun glared at her, and Diya turned her face away, muttering curses.

"Yeah! Do you want something, Arjun?" Meera asked him.

"Yes! We had ice-cream while returning home. So, we will have some warm milk with pepper powder and turmeric powder," said Arjun.

"Who will have ice-cream at this hour? On top of that, it's winter and it's very cool outside," asked Raman.

"Let it be, Mavayya. You guys sit here, I'll just go and get it for three of you," said Meera.

Diya facepalmed, listening to her mother, while the others giggled silently, looking at her face. After a while, Meera brought three glasses of milk and gave them. Diya scratched her nose and made faces, looking at it. But she didn't have any other option other than to drink it as Arjun was glaring at her. She had it silently and cursed herself for getting tempted by ice-cream. After having milk, everyone retired to their respective rooms after crating for some time.

Hey, guys!

How are you all?

I hope you guys liked the update.

Finally, our Arjun baba has accepted that he loves his Cookie. Yay!!!

How many of you are eagerly waiting for his proposal? I'm eagerly waiting for his proposal.

Let's see what holds for Cookie and her Jun.

See you soon in the next update.

Until then, keep smiling and take care!

