

Falling For My Ex-Husband *chapter 19*

Her Spirit

- Hope is a good thing, May be the best of things, and no good thing ever dies
- Andy Dufrene

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"Benu, where is my benu? I can't see him.....Oh god, now who will protect mumma?"

She made a sorrowful face and sat on the bench.

"Have i done anything wrong that my Benu left me like this? Now, mumma is going to cry.....poor mumma...."- she again continued.

This time she felt a soft touch on her cheeks. She opened her eyes and found her 5 yr old baby boy standing infront of her and continuously wiping her cheeks.

She caught his arms and immediately picked him up on her lap. But he immediately jumped down from her lap and looked into her eyes in search of tears.

"I'm not crying, see....."- She tried to make him understand but his gloomy face create aching inside her chest.

He is autistic child. He can't express his feelings very well but Mira knows he can't stand her tears. He gets panicked whenever he found his mumma crying.

Mira kissed his cheeks and forehead to soothe him. She regretted for saying the crying thing.

"I'm fine Benu...look how I'm smiling...happily....look my all teeth are showing....look, look..."

She spread her smile more this time and it finally worked.

Benu started to tap his foot slowly on the ground. This means he is now want to go home. Mira smiled after seeing his eagerness to reach home.

Mira caught his wrist and started to walk.

"So, what you did today at school?"

She asked him.

Benu is not talking. This means he didn't like. Benu doesn't like to go to school. Mira has got his admission to a local kidzee. She has to work through the whole day, and no one is there to look after Benu. That's why she got him admitted to a play school.

But Benu doesn't like to go to school at all. Everyday Mira found his grumpy face in the morning. She has to do lots of things to make him agree.

Mira reached the slum area. She stays here with Benu. She is staying here for the last 5 years. Afterall she doesn't has to pay for living here.

Though the living condition of this place is not good but she has no other way.

The rooms are extremely congested, unhygienic toilets and drainage system is making this place always smelling so bad.

When she first came here, she literally vomited after smelling this place. She can't even imagine that such kinds of places even exists.

Then she started to live here. She noticed that these people are struggling day and night for food. They are earning by shedding their sweat not for a luxurious life but to have food properly.

Every women has 5 to 6 children. Every year they are getting pregnant and in that condition also going for work. Their husbands beat them regularly for small things but she was shocked to see that whenever someone cursed their husbands for anything, these abused wives started to defend their husbands.

Many NGOs come in these areas to conduct research work and they never able to make them reveal the bad side of their husbands. Infact they praised them by saying that our husbands love us so much.

Firstly, Mira gets annoyed after seeing all these but later she understood the human nature.

Every human behave according to their place and environment. We can't judge like this. Moreover, everyone's past has made them who are they now.

Mira has also became like this only due to her past.

Every human die and live thousand times in this same life.

No human remains the same. Experiences and their struggles help them to grow up.

She started to love these poor people. She has learnt two important lessons from these people.

First, to never give up.

And secondly, no matter how hard the day was, start afresh for a new morning.

She always follow these mantra. That's why she is surviving till now.

Life has taught her multiple things. She has learnt the value of this life. She has learnt to fight and live. She has learnt to sympathize. She has learnt to feel the pain of others.

She walked with a happy smile by holding the hand of her little Benu. The evening time is the best time of her whole day. She waited for this evening because this is the only time she got to spent her time with Benu.

She unlocked the door and entered the small room. They stay in a single room. She has to cook in this same room.

Though the room is small but she has decorated the room very well. She has bought many second hand decoration pieces from a local slum shop.

She remembers how her parents used to decorate her room according to her likings.

She sighed deeply after remembering those days of her life.

She changed Benu's clothes and washed his hands and feet outside the room. She gathered water in a small bucket for her and Benu's bath.

She make him seat on the bed and started to cook.

"So, what Benu will have for dinner?"

She asked with a smile.

"Khichri? Let me guess....Benu will love to have Parathas..."

But Benu was silent. Now, she shifted her attention at her son and find him crying silently. Her heart crumbled in pain and she immediately sat on the bed by picking Benu on her lap.

He can't express his emotions well. He is not like other children.

"What happened baccha?"- she asked with so much love and concern.

"I...don't...want....to...go.....there.....they.....beat...me"

He replied like a robot.

That's the way Benu speak with a blank and emotionless voice.

"Who beats you?"- Mira asked in tension.

"Every....one....they....said...I'm.....crazy....."

Tears gathered into Mira's eyes. She can't stand his pain even a bit. She held Benu closer to her chest and kissed his head.

"Everything will be fine, mumma will always protect you..."

She kept on mumbling on his head but at the same time she failed to control her tears anymore.

She knew this very well that children like Benu should went to special autistic schools. But she has no money to bear the expenses of such schools. That's why she get him admitted to a general preschool. But children like him needs special care and attention from teachers. It broke her heart by thinking how Benu has been getting ignored by the teachers.

She decided to get Benu's admission in a school of autistic child. She will work more to gather money. Till then she will keep Benu with her. She doesn't want that Benu get depressed over anything.

She makes him sleep after feeding him. Then she walked outside the room and sat on the stairs. She looked at the sky.

Truth is stranger than fiction!

This is how her story could be told. She has thought to become a researcher but now she is working in a tailor shop. She also made kites in a local shop and earn some money. She also made different handicrafts and sell into the local market.

She is well educated but she has no certificates. She brought the certificates with her when she left with Atharv. But she never found that bag again. Probably Atharv has destroyed that bag.

That's why she has nothing with her. Not even her voter id.

On her initial days she tried to search for some academic jobs but no one is ready to recruit her because she has no certificates.

That's why she chose these works for which she has to work day and night just to fulfil the daily necessities of life.

She is Mira Dhanraj but life has played this shocking game with her and she ended up in here.

She chuckled by looking at the sky.

"Papa, mom....look i have learnt so many things...you always told that I'm way too pampered and spoilt due to your love...but see, i have learnt everything.....you will be proud right?"

A lone tear escaped from her eyes.

She missed them everyday. After making Benu sleep, she sat here for hours and talk to her parents by looking at the sky.

She is actually scared to sleep. After the tortures, abuses and multiple rape attempts on that red light area, she got multiple panic attacks every night. It felt that some unwanted hands were trying to touch her body and forcing her. She saw Bakuli tai's cruel face almost every night. The face holds a sinister smile and beat the shit out of her.

She cried by holding Benu closer to her chest. She has developed some permanent trauma of touch. She never took the crowded bus only because of her trauma. She is now scared of men around her. Everytime she felt that anyone can attack her and attempt rape on her.

No matter how much courage she has gathered to live this life with her son but still some traumas will haunt her forever. She knew this very well that nobody could help her to get rid of this panic.

She remembers how much bold and confident she used to be. She never tolerates any shits around her. But now she has nothing of that confidence left in her. She has developed inferiority complex regarding her looks also.

She just knew one thing that she has to protect herself and her son from this cunning world.

Mira went to the bed and slept by tugging Benu closer to her. Only he can give her comfort. His warmth is the only thing that keeping her alive all these years.

In the morning, she decided to take Benu with her. She will not send him to that school anymore. She doesn't want her son to get bullied.

Benu was looking happy today because her mom didn't send him to that school.

Mira and Benu walked on the streets. Benu was looking everywhere with curiosity while Mira was enjoying his innocent smile. Benu talked less but Mira knew that he is very much sensitive. He understood everything.

Mira reached the tailoring shop. Her coworkers looked at her in shock. They are shocked to see her son. Infact many started to stare at Benu with curious eyes because of his features. He kept his tongue out always and his saliva drips from his mouth all the time.

Mira cleared his face and make him seat on a chair.

"Seat here like a good boy...Mumma will work now...okay Benu?"

Benu nodded his head.

Mira kissed his cheek softly.

"Is he abnormal?"

Asked her boss Mr. Dipesh.

Mira felt anger after hearing this word.

"No sir...he is special.."- she said.

But she noticed the mockery on Dipesh's face.

"Whatever....but are you sure that he won't spread any disease?"

Mira was really shocked. In which century they are living?

"His condition is not contagious....it's a genetic disorder..."- she tried to keep her calm.

"Are you going to bring him everyday?"- Dipesh asked her.

Now Mira gulped few times.

"I have noone who could look after him,,,sir, please allow me to bring him here...he is very well mannered....he won't disturb anyone..."- she said desperately.

Dipesh thought for a while.

"I have no issues but the co workers won't like this"- Dipesh said.

"Please sir....he is just a small kid...."- tears brimmed into her eyes.

"Aah....stop crying...you want me to talk to the coworkers?"- Dipesh's voice turned gentle.

Mira stared at Dipesh with hope.

"Go and work...we will talk on this later"

Dipesh walked out.

Mira went to her desk and start the machine. She started to work while always keeping an eye over Benu.

Mira's pov

I have finished my work. I wrapped the clothes properly and went inside to place them into the allotted boxes. This is a cozy basement where the clothes have been kept after sewing.

I was done placing them. Suddenly a pair of arms wrapped around my waist making me almost flinch in fear. I turned around only to find my boss Dipesh is standing in front of me with a lustful gaze.

I know this gaze very well. I have seen such types of eyes before. These eyes only depicts pure lust and hunger.

"What are you doing?"- i yelled in fear.

"What you think I'm doing? This is not new for you, i know everything about you, you are not an innocent..."

I moved back in fear.

"Do you know Mala? I'm her regular customer..and that day i saw your photo on her mobile....you were one of them...and now after getting pregnant you are behaving like a saint woman, which you aren't....don't be shy, come closer and give me what i exactly want, afterall you are trained enough"

His every word pierced my ears. Those horrible days flashed in front of my eyes when i faced a living hell.

Again another man is looking at me with lust. I'm scared of this lust.

You kicked out true love from your life Mira, that's why you are cursed with this lust!

My inner self mocked at me.

"Let me go...."- i uttered in pain and fear.

"Sure, i have no plans to keep a whore in my life, whores are for only entertainment, nobody likes to keep them....i will just release and then let you go...."

I decided to leave, so i tried to cross him but he grabbed the back of my head and pulled me near him.

"Don't do this drama...i will tell everyone in this place who you are and where you stayed...then i will see how you stay in this small town...I'm sure after knowing your truth, the slum people will kick you out, so you will have no place to go....stop this drama and satisfy me....i promise i will keep my mouth shut as long as you make me happy"

I spat on his face with hate.

"I'm not a whore you bastard...I'm a mother who lives only for her son...do you get that??"

I shouted.

He brutally smacked my face and fell on the floor.

"Everyone come here....i need to show you something...."

I was shocked to hear his shouting and immediately the other workers gathered inside the room.

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I hugged Benu tightly to my chest and ran towards the slum.

My face is battered. The women co worker beats me and kicked me out after listening the lies from Dipesh.

Benu is still shaking in fear. He is clutching me tightly. That Dipesh is an influential person in this small town. I'm sure he will do anything to kick me out from this place.

I reached inside our small room. I make Benu sit on the bed and ran out of the room in search of Kanta mausi. She is a kind hearted lady. Once I worked as a nanny in her house. She stays outside the slum.

I told few of the teenage girls to look after Benu until I returned. They agreed and walked towards our room.

My abdomen is painning again. I'm having this pain for the last 5 years. I have ignored this but again today it's painning a lot.

I knocked at Kanta mausi's door urgently. She immediately opened the door. She was shocked to see me like this. Those women slapped me so much. I know my face is swollen badly.

"What happened Mira?"

She took me inside.

This is the breaking point of me. I fell into her legs and cried my heart out. I told her everything. I told her about Dipesh's intentions. Kanta mausi is the only person whom I have told about my past.

"Please help me....I can't stay here anymore...I have no place to go ..please..."

She felt pity after seeing my miserable state. She picked me up from the ground.

"You are a strong and brave girl Mira....You told me how you fought every one so bravely and escaped that hell.... don't cry like this bacha...Benu is your power, you have to fight for that kid"

"How long I have to suffer?"- I sobbed so much.

I really sometimes feel like this. Broken and devastated.

"Listen to me.....leave this place, I know someone who can help you to get a reputed job, she has so many connections"- she told me.

"But I have no certificates"

"I know, i helped her in my past, I'm sure she won't deny me....."

"Where I have to go?"- I asked her.

"Mumbai....go to Mumbai... I'm giving you her address, I will call her and inform her about you..."

"Thank you so much mausi"- I cried by hugging her.

She caressed my head gently.

"Mira, your struggles will not go into vain...You will find all your happiness one day"- she said.

I cried more.

She doesn't know that I can never find my happiness. I'm a cursed soul.

"Here take this...her name is Shreya Bajpeyi....she will help you out"

I took a small business card from her hand and then headed towards our slum.

Again I'm moving to another place. How long I have to run like this?

Where is my home?

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Author's pov

"Anurag, how am I looking?"

Inaya asked Anurag by changing into another gown.

"Beautiful"

He replied by looking at her once.

"But I'm confused,, which one should I get?" She asked him being confused.

"Get everything you want Inaya...you will look gorgeous in every attire"

Inaya blushed at his comment. She heard very often these complements from her fans but when Anurag praised her, she felt most beautiful from inside.

She looked at her glowing face in the mirror and smiled.

She wants to look best on her engagement. She wants that Anurag will get mesmerized by her beauty that day.

"Anurag, let's go for a dinner tonight"- she asked him.

Anurag was busy on his phone.

"Tonight won't be possible, may be next time"- he said.

"Anurag, are you sure that you are not going to announce our engagement?"- she asked him.

The moment Anurag proposed her for marriage, she is dying to announce this publicly but Anurag made this very clear that he doesn't want any media interference. He will announce this on right time.

Inaya wants to scream to this whole world that Anurag Chatterjee now belongs to her. This handsome and charming man for whom every girl is going mad out there, is only her.

But she has to wait for that moment when Anurag will make this news public.

Their engagement will be held in two days. Only their relatives are invited. Anurag decided that later, he will throw a big party and announce this in front of the media.

Now only the rituals will be performed in front of the family.

Suddenly Inaya's phone buzzed and she picked up the call happily.

Anurag went towards the parking area. His phone also buzzed at the same time. He picked up the call.

It was Ritwik.

"Yes"

"Sir, I have started my investigation, please give me some time, you know it's difficult a little because they don't have any social media accounts..."

"Do it quick"

"I will sir....."

Anurag disconnected the call. Inaya appears with a happy face.

"Hey, guess who has just called"- she said excitedly.

"Who?"

"It's sherya masi....she is coming for our engagement... I'm so happy Anurag....she is my favourite"

They both get into the car.

"She wants us to visi

t her house tomorrow....she wants to meet you personally"- she said.

"But I have so many works Inaya"

"Please na....please .."- she makes a puppy face and Anurag couldn't control but smile after seeing her efforts.

"Okay"

"Thank you Anurag"- out of excitement she kissed Anurag's cheek but immediately moved back being shy.

Anurag smiled a little and start his engine.