



They travelled great distances to be together, broke through barriers to love one another but will destiny force them apart?

Chapter 1

Anna's mother ran out as she heard their footsteps outside.

"Anna!!! My darling" Her mother hugged her tightly and kissed her. Her mother also seemed smaller than before and wrinkles had formed a long her beautiful eyes. Anna was taken inside where she was hugged and kissed by many others and soon had no idea who was holding her. But neither Jai nor Raj was there.

She was facing the contents of her room deep in thought. Her bed was laid with pillows and blankets all ready for her to snuggle into and her desk was still as messy as she had left it back then. Her parents hadn't touched her mess, she smiled to herself knowing she was finally at home.

All the men that had arrived to celebrate the homecoming helped Anna carry her luggage into the house. She was constantly wondering where her two best friends were. Why had they not come out to greet her?

"Anna go get refreshed" her mother told her. "Dinner will be ready soon"

"Mama where's Jai? Raj?"

"I'm not sure" her mother replied clearly preoccupied with serving dinner. Jai's mother was kneading flour and Raj's mother was

laughing merrily. Everyone looked happy - this made Anna smile with contentment. Anything to bring a smile on these special women's faces was worth a million dollars. She knew their sons were home, it was now just a matter of finding them. Where were they hiding? She felt all of a sudden like a child playing hide and seek.



With a sigh she walked upstairs. She was frustrated that they were not there but also eager to find them quickly. Where were they? She dragged one of her travel bags up the last step and headed toward her room. Upon opening the door she realised there was a man standing facing his back to her. Initially she felt shocked but then he turned around with a huge smile on his face.

"Jai!!!" Anna ran into his open arms and



hugged him tightly. She then pulled away and hit him hard.

"Where the hell were you when I came?" She asked angrily.

"Hey hey!! I was waiting for you in here, to surprise you" he said laughing while trying to dodge her punches. She gave up and hugged him again, happy to see a familiar face. He seemed taller and broad and slightly more mature. But she could see the immaturity in his eyes and she felt happy that not much had changed.

"Aren't you happy to see me?" A voice from behind Anna spoke up. He sounded gentle and calm and she immediately turned around to see Raj. She felt her heart skip a beat as she looked into his face. She brushed the sudden feeling of butterflies away. He looked tired but was smiling his old warm smile. She walked closer to him and smiled, then hit him too!

"Is this how you treat me? Sneaking into my room and not saying hi!!" She said feigning anger. Truthfully she was more than happy to see Raj, but she kept hitting him playfully to evoke a response out of him.

"Anna!! Stop stop! Okay okay sorry!! I was just watching you and Jai and felt happy that's all"

into his eyes. He smiled, revealing his dimples and she felt weaker. She took a step back, feeling her heart beating rapidly and wondered what had brought on this sudden feeling.

"Comon! I don't want to stand here watching both of you hugging, I'm hungry" Jai joked.

"Okay I think everyone is cooking so the food should be ready soon, let's go downstairs then" Anna said snapping out of the moment. She looked at Raj and gestured for him to leave the room. Jai followed.

"Just give me a second, I'll be down in five minutes" Anna screamed out at them as they bounded down the stairs. She closed the door to her room and leaned against the door, feeling her heart beat. What the hell just happened? She thought to herself. She had felt so exposed as she hugged Raj, a

A novel

By
**Shanali
Edirisinghe**



different feeling she couldn't explain. She thought back to the hug between Jai and herself, she hadn't felt anything different.

She was facing the contents of her room deep in thought. Her bed was laid with pillows and blankets all ready for her to snuggle into and her desk was still as messy as she had left it back then. Her parents hadn't touched her mess, she smiled to herself knowing she was finally at home.

She saw the picture of Raj, Jai and herself when they were about sixteen on her desk. She hadn't gone to school with either of them, but had gone to the all girls' school her mother had insisted she attend. But after school every day they would meet up at someone's house, no one had stopped them because they were like siblings. She walked over to the photo and picked it up. Without realising she found herself looking at Raj and smiling. He had changed so much, both had but he had changed the most. She stroked his face gently and smiled.

"Are you just going to stand there and keep talking or are you going to give me a hug too?" She asked pretending to be angry. She had her hands on her hips and a pout on her face - the epitome of adorable in Raj's eyes. They both laughed and embraced. He was so warm and she felt her body getting weak at his touch. She immediately pulled away and found herself looking

"Anna!! Are you coming?" She almost dropped the photo in shock. Placing it carefully back on her desk she went downstairs to join her family.

To be continued

ජර්ගණක අලුත්වැඩියාව

Professional Services

- # Computer Repairs & Upgrades
- # ADSL Professional installations
- # Brand New Computers for sales
- # Trouble shooting Browsing, E-mail & internet connection issues
- # All Computer parts for low price
- # Virus Removals
- # Networking
- # Laptop screen repairs

Jithendra Weerakoon
(IT Consultant)

02 Mosstrooper Court
Mill Park
Victoria, 3082
Australia

M: 0422 662 218
T: 03 9005 0893
E: jaytec@tpg.com.au
E: jith710@hotmail.com