

Dancing with Destiny

Chapter 4

Anna woke up the next morning and felt happy and refreshed. Last night's events replayed back in her mind and she felt sure she could have a future with Raj. What was she thinking? She shook her head and tried to get rid of these weird feelings.

"Anna Come and eat breakfast, it's getting cold!" her mother called out to her impatiently. Anna quickly jumped out of bed and ran downstairs. Her mother was waiting seated at the table. She was holding a little box.

"Anna, what's this?" She asked opening the box. Inside was the Diamond ring Jai had presented her with. "I found it when I was cleaning your room"

"A gift from Jai maa" Anna replied wondering what was up.
"Hmmm" Her mother was examining the gift thoughtfully.

"What's wrong?"
"Did he say anything to you when he gave this to you?"
"No...what would he say" Anna laughed

"Anna, this is the type of ring you give the person you're going to marry"

"Mama, no! He didn't mean it like that!" Anna denied whole heartedly. Jai and her were just friends. Did he mean something by it? It hadn't even crossed her mind until now. She made a mental note to ask him.

"Anna, Jai is a nice boy...." Her mother began
"Oh no, don't give me that - I'm not marrying anyone" Anna quickly stuffed her breakfast down and went back to her room. Her mobile was ringing on the bed. She didn't make it in time to pick up the call. 5 missed calls appeared on the screen - All from Jai. Wondering what was wrong Anna called him back.

"Jai! What's wrong? You left so many missed calls"
"Nothings wrong - I just wanted to ask you when we could meet up!"
"Ohhh, Anytime Jai" Anna felt so happy hearing from him, she was starting to wonder when she would see them again.

"How about this afternoon? We'll go for a stroll - I'll meet you on that little bridge at 4?"
"Okay I'll tell Raj"

"Uhhh Anna actually, I wanted to see you alone. I wanted to talk about something. Is that okay?" He said pleadingly.

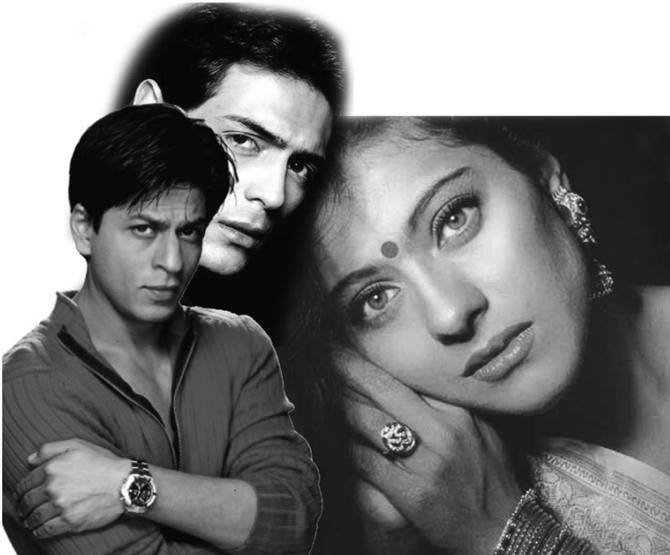
Anna was wondering what was wrong. What was the big secret that Raj couldn't

know about? She felt a bit wrong saying yes; they had never met without the other.

"Okay Jai, if it's something you need - then I'll meet you a lone"

She cut the phone and kept wondering. Making a mental note to ask him about the ring that afternoon, she lazily crawled back into bed.

Sometime later Anna woke up with a start.



"SHIT It's past 4.30" She ran out of the house and kept running all the way to the bridge. As children they had always met here. This was their meeting spot. It was close to Anna's house because the boys had never wanted her to go anywhere far a lone.

Jai was sitting on the grass below the bridge. Anna walked around and sat next to him.

"Jai sorry sorry sorry"
"It's okay - Stop saying sorry so much! You don't need to be sorry with me" He replied giggling.

"So what was it we needed to talk about?"
"You know the ring I gave you..."
"Jai mama says it's for marriage" She laughed

He didn't laugh at this.

"Isn't it funny Jai" She kept laughing, forcing herself to find it funny.

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

"I don't find it funny" he replied barely audible
"What do you mean?" Anna was now feeling a bit nervous

"Your maa understood me better than you did" He replied unable to look at her.

Anna stood up, not believing what she was hearing. Was her best friend proposing to her?

"Anna, what's wrong" He looked disheartened.

"Jai, I have to go" She replied unable to look at him

"NO please don't go - If you don't like that ring, I'll buy you another? How about I do the one knee proposal? Anything you want" He pleaded. He didn't want her to leave. He had to find a way to make her see how he loved her.

"Jai - Please, I want to go home" She started walking away but he held onto her hand. He walked to her and brought her hand up to his lips. Gently he kissed it and looked into her eyes.

"Anna, I love you" He whispered, tears forming in his eyes. "Please don't say anything that will break me apart right now."

She stood dumbstruck unable to grasp what was happening. Was he for real? It felt so surreal and dream like. She knew she didn't feel that way toward him. He was looking at her expecting an answer of some sort. She didn't want to hurt him; Her love for him was different.

getting impatient.
"Please Jai, it's better for you if you find someone else"

"Anna! I've loved you for a long time..." He looked broken. Her heart dropped. She didn't want to hurt him, to break his heart.

"I won't promise anything. I can't promise anything. But we'll just be friends and we'll see where it goes" This was the best she could do for him. She didn't want to destroy her friend's heart but she could also not give hers away without feeling something. It was unfair on him and her. But she was confused - Accommodate Jai's feelings? Or look after her own?

Without warning Jai came closer and hugged her. She didn't know how to react anymore. Was this hug a friendship hug like it used to be or did it have hidden sentiments? He felt her stiffness and withdrew heart broken. It hadn't gone the way he had planned, but he

A novel

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made a note to keep trying until he had won her heart.

"I'm sorry Jai" She said feeling sad. She couldn't bear seeing him like this. It broke her inside to see him such pain and she promised herself she would make him happy somehow. She wouldn't be the reason he suffered.

"Shh" He said placing his finger on her lips. "Don't ever be sorry" he whispered. He got closer to her and looked into her eyes. She looked back feeling horrible for him. He slowly placed his arms around her waist and pulled her in closer. Her lips were tempting him and he couldn't resist. Slowly he bent his head and touched his lips to hers. Anna felt so bad for Jai, she didn't stop any of it, instead she cried - for him, for her and for the tiny bud of love forming in her heart for Raj. He pulled her into him and kissed her passionately. Tears were rolling down her cheeks and she forced herself to respond to his kiss. Maybe it would make him happy.

Jai felt her tears and immediately pulled her away.

"Anna I'm sorry!! I shouldn't have, I know - OH GOD! Argh I'm so stupid" He cursed himself over and over.

Anna didn't respond. She was so confused; all she could do was look at him, this situation and cry. She didn't want to be there anymore and slowly she backed away.

"Anna I'm sorry" He approached her

Through her tears she gestured for him to keep his distance. She couldn't handle anymore, so she turned and ran. She kept running through the trees as fast as she could, feeling she had betrayed her heart.

It was just a kiss...

She told herself, in an attempt to make herself feel better. The guilt was overwhelming. It was just a kiss but to her it was important regardless. After awhile she had no idea where she was, it was getting dark now. She kept running and finally ran onto a main road. Not knowing where the road was she walked a long a little way. After awhile of walking she hailed a taxi passing by.

Without thinking she told the driver Raj's address.

To be continued