



DANCING WITH DESTINY

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Raj got back home from his interview with the local hospital. He needed to find a job for himself before the holidays ended. The interview had gone well and they were impressed by his record. He wished that they would select him.

He got to the front door and his phone started ringing. Anna.

"Helloo Raj" She sounded cheerful which immediately lifted his spirits.

"How are you?"

"I'm great! I wanted to ask when we'll have the lessons!"

"I looked into some studios where we could practise and I found one in town who was willing to give it to me on Saturday and Monday afternoon – how does that sound?"

She screamed and he had to pull the phone away from his ear to lessen the impact. He was thinking of calling her that night to tell her the good news, he was happy she called him so soon.

"So from tomorrow?" She asked after she had gotten it out of her system.

"No, from Monday – tomorrow the studio is booked. I booked it for four weeks" This was making him excited all of a sudden and he forced his emotions down.

"Ah, I'm so excited – you have a real challenge on your hands Mr."

"I'm forced to accept the challenge" he replied back laughing.

"So Raj how was your interview?" She suddenly became serious.

"I think I got in" She screamed again. That girl is going to make me deaf!
"Congratulations!!!" she said through laughter. "I'm SOOOO happy for you"

"I THINK Anna, THINK – they said they will let me know next week sometime" He said unable to wipe of the smile on his face.

"Regardless, I know you got in Raj – you're the smartest guy I know" She said like a little child.

"We'll wait and see, won't we? So what are you planning on doing?"

"Papa wants me to join up with his business. He said I can take control of his accounts"

"Wow, boring" He laughed hard.

"I'll get you back for that one!" She said feigning anger.

"I'm Joking Anna banana" He laughed cheekily.

"OMG no ones called me that for years!" She said unable to believe he remembered it.

"So, when are you starting work?"

"I was thinking in two weeks when the Christmas holidays end – there's still time"

"How awesome, I'll visit you at work on breaks – the hospital is a few blocks away from your office complex"

"That's great!! I hope you do" She really did.

He realised he was still standing at the front door. He smiled at his forgetfulness and moved to open the door. Raj only had

his mother and he was glad to be back with her. She was busy cooking in the kitchen and he walked over and kissed her on the cheek. He then proceeded up to his room.

"Are you there?" Anna asked after Raj hadn't answered.

"What? Oh sorry Anna I just came into the house"

"If you're busy we can hang up now" she sounded down.

"I'm never busy for you – you know that!"

"I know" She replied warmly. Suddenly her mum came into her room and asked her to come to dinner.

"Anna dear, you're always locked away in here! Come eat and spend time with us!" She scolded

"Sorry Maa, I'll be right there"

"I heard that" Raj replied giggling. "Such a bad daughter – Go spend time with your



parents!"

"HA HA very funny! – I'm going!" She said feeling angry.

"Hey hey!! Anna! C'mon I was joking! Don't be angry okay? We have to dance on Monday!"

At hearing this her heart filled with glee.

"I'm so excited! I'll see you then! – text me the address of the place ok?"

"Sure, bye then"

"Bye" I think I love you....she thought to herself but forced it down. He didn't want her so it wasn't possible.

Raj went to the bathroom to take a shower and couldn't stop thinking about Anna. All he wanted to do was to hold her and tell her how he felt. He brushed his hand through his hair in frustration.

Jai arrived at Anna's house on Sunday morning knowing she was at home. He crept in using the spare key under the mat and headed upstairs. He wanted to surprise her and let her know the good news! He slowly opened the door to her bedroom. She was awake and typing at her laptop.

"Anna" he shouted as he got closer to her. She jumped up in surprise clutching her heart.

"You idiot!" She turned around and hit him hard.

He burst into laughter as she glared at him in anger.

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

"GO away!" She crossed her arms across her chest and turned away from him.

"Aw comon!! I was only playing – I have some news for you!"

"What might that be?" She said without looking at him

"I got a new job!"

She forgot her anger and turned to hug him. She was so happy for him!

"What's the job?"

"I got hired at Pose magazine as a fashion photographer" he said happily

"Oh wow! Jai that is so brilliant! Im sooooo happy for you" They all had new jobs and everything was going great! She felt so happy.

"I wanted to take you out for some breakfast to celebrate!" He said

"OH? Okay I'll come down in 15 mins"

They enjoyed breakfast and also took a stroll down the lake at the local park. She clung onto his arm and for some reason it felt good. He was warm and he was very gentle with everything he did. Then it hit her.

"Will you be going overseas a lot?"

"For some projects I'll have to, but most are local or India-wide" He replied.

"Awww....I'll miss you Jai!"

"I won't be gone for long" He said squeezing her arm that was linked to his.

"You'll have fun though photographing pretty young models" She said laughing
"Jealous?"

"No" but she was. She didn't like the thought of him with someone else, but she also could not be with him. She was being unfair to him. "I think you should find a beautiful girl on one of your projects" She suggested.

"I've already found one" he replied silently. She barely heard him but she knew who he was talking about.

Monday arrived faster than Anna thought it would and she was so excited for her first lesson with Raj. She was also a little nervous. She wore loose clothes like he had asked the night before and drove to town. She spotted the studio in the direction Raj had instructed and felt relieved that it wasn't hard to find. He hadn't arrived yet so she went inside and sat herself down on one of the chairs. She slowly looked around scanning the studio to familiarise herself with it.

One entire wall was covered in a huge mirror while another wall had a long ballet bar fixed onto it. Everything else just felt like a large indoor basket ball court with shiny floors. The place was very clean and spacious. In one corner of the room there was a huge grand piano. It took her by surprise as she hadn't noticed it before, it blended into the black wall. She had learned Piano for eight years but did not own one, so she decided to take the opportunity. Sitting herself down she started playing one her favourite pieces, Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata in the first movement, slow and serene. The music carried her to a different place and she saw Raj holding her by the waist and the pair of them slowly spinning in graceful unison to the tune. They just drifted peacefully in each other's arms and suddenly there was clapping. She stopped playing and looked back.

He was there smiling and clapping for her. She immediately stood up feeling nervous.

"Please keep playing" he urged gently.

"Uh that was just nothing. I don't want to play anymore" She felt shy

"You know how much I love you playing Piano. You can play so well"

"Raj please! Okay let's dance" She felt excited again.

"Okay okay but you have to play something else for me soon" He demanded smiling
"I will later, now c'mon teach me master" she said giggling.

"You know, you play Piano with such grace and rhythm – I don't know why you can't dance"

"Maybe if you teach me I'll be good" She said cheekily. "I've just never had a good teacher"

"We will begin with a warm up, I'll do a couple of steps and you follow okay?"

"Okay"

He performed some simple sequences but

A novel

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she had trouble following. It was a very simple dance routine and she was frustrated that she couldn't do it right.

"Raj! I can't do it, I suck" she said angrily.
"I'll watch you do it, and fix your positions, go start from the beginning"

She wobbled around and did her best. But she couldn't find the rhythm. Raj moved around her and watched, thinking intently. He then stepped in and fixed her arm, her hips. He didn't want to touch her too much because he knew the power she had over him, but he couldn't help it. She was doing a little better now, but there was more to fix. He went around her back and put one of his arms under hers and around her waist.

"Like this Anna" she said pushing her arm up. She felt his breath warm on her skin and felt his face close to her ear. She froze and lost all concentration. He moved away from her.

"Concentrate Anna!"

"Oh sorry!" She got back into position and did it the way he had shown.

"Okay I think that's enough warming up. I'll teach you a couple of ball room routines. We'll do one a session okay?"

She nodded eagerly. He stepped in front of her and took her by the waist. "Put one arm over my shoulder and give me the other hand" They stood in the basic ball room position suddenly feeling very warm.

Raj shrugged it off quickly "Okay step to the left then back" They did it together. He felt her body against his and he struggled to keep in control. He cursed himself because he knew this would happen. After a couple of minutes of the routine Anna felt tired. She wasn't used to physical activity - she was never the sporty type!

"I'm tired Raj, can we have a break?"

"We have to hand back the studio in an hour Anna, can we keep going for a bit more?"

She agreed and he continued teaching her. But she was so out of breath after the addition of more steps to the routine that she felt dizzy and tripped. He caught her midway down and held onto her kneeling on one of his knees.

"Sorry Anna, lets rest – you're very tired"

She clutched onto his shirt and pulled herself closer to his face. She looked into his eyes and lost all sense of reality.

to be continued