

Dancing with Destiny

Chapter 5

Anna banged on Raj's door. His parent's car wasn't at home but she saw his was parked in front of the house. Why wasn't he responding? She felt so guilty and frustrated. Suddenly the door opened and there stood Raj drenched in water. She didn't look, she didn't think – she launched herself into his arms.

"Hey hey Anna! You'll get yourself wet!" He tried to push her off. But she held on tighter. She cried and cried into his chest. He started to worry.

"What's wrong?" He asked gently as he pulled his arms around her holding her securely. He felt her warmth and was overwhelmed by his feelings for her. He allowed one of his arms to slide up her back and onto her head.

"Anna, please talk to me" He pleaded, but she kept crying. She didn't have the strength to look at him. She felt as if she had betrayed him and couldn't face him. The warmth of his body radiated against her and she felt herself pushing herself harder against him. How could she make it up to Raj? She had given her first kiss away to another man when she loved this one. No, that wasn't her first kiss – she was in denial, she could remedy this situation. Without any warning she lifted her head off his chest and looked up at him. The rush of emotion she felt for him overtook her and she longed even more for what she was planning on doing. He looked into her golden eyes and felt himself melting. He wanted her so much at that point but the concern he had for her was stronger. Why was she crying?

"Anna tell me what's wrong" He held her chin as she lowered her gaze, forcing her to keep looking into his eyes. She lifted herself up and to his shock pressed her lips against his and started kissing him frantically. He immediately pushed her away.

"Anna!!" He said feeling a mixture of shock and confusion. She cried harder pushing herself of him and moving back.

"I'm sorry Raj" She said hardly able to look at him.

"What's wrong? Why did you do that?"

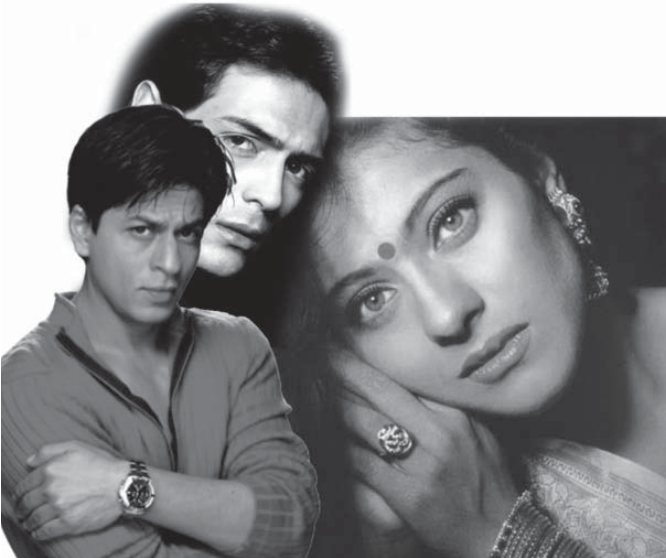
She cried harder and moved back further. "I wanted to give you my first kiss Raj...." As she said it she ran. She seemed so distraught that he couldn't let her run away like that. He got into his car and pursued her.

He pulled up in front of her and got out.

"Stop and get in the car" He said more severely than he had intended.

"Raj don't talk to me like that" she said angrily through tears.

"Please get into the car" He said it more gently and opened the front door. She complied. She was tired and felt mentally



drained. It was dark now and she was afraid of being a lone out on the road.

They drove for sometime before Raj decided to talk to Anna.

"What happened? Tell me..." He said stiffly.

"No" She replied flatly.

"Anna please?"

"Raj I can't tell you"

"Why did you....what made you?"

She knew what he was referring to. The answer wasn't simple – Her guilt, her desire for him to be the first, everything held up inside her heart had prompted the kiss. How could she tell him any of it? Where could she begin? Feeling a little self conscious she asked a different sort of question from him.

"You didn't like it?" She worried that Raj

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

didn't love her the way she loved him. She felt ashamed that she had forced herself upon him. She felt horrible and started crying again.

"Anna! Please don't cry – It wasn't that I didn't like it...." How could he answer without hurting her "It came out of no where, I'm just confused"

"Raj, I'm confused too" She replied wiping her tears. "I'm sorry about what I did"

"Its okay, just leave it now. Everything is okay – we'll forget it ok?"

"Raj – I can't....I did something bad" She didn't know why she was telling him this.

"If you want to tell me, I'm listening" he replied feeling tired all of a sudden.

"I kissed Jai back" She blurted out.

He felt rage beyond anything coursing through his veins. He gripped the steering wheel tightly and told himself to relax. They had kissed! Why should he be so angry? He had told himself that this was how it should be. He forced himself to calm down, but felt his heart beating rapidly.

"Oh....Is that a bad thing?" He tried to force a smile.

"It is...." She replied feeling saddened by his

"It's okay, lets forget it then" He dismissed it all on her being confused and tried to push it back.

"I don't love him Raj" She sighed

"You shouldn't have kissed him then"

"I know! But I felt sorry for him, he looked so hurt"

"But Anna, he will think you like him now"

"I kissed you, do you think I like you too?"

"I don't know Anna, You confused right now"

"Raj, he's my best friend how can I hurt him by rejecting his feelings?"

"Then maybe you could grow to love him" He

A novel

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felt his heart drop as he suggested this.

"What if, I love someone else?" She looked at him as she said this. His face stiffened as he wondered who this other man was.

"Then tell that person" He said feeling sick.

"I don't know if he loves me back...."

He didn't respond. He felt tired and a bit dizzy.

"I'm going to drop you home ok?" He said biting back his pain

"Okay" she whispered. The little time they spent together in the car helped her. Getting things off her chest felt good and she thanked God for having a best friend she could rely on.

When they arrived back at Anna's house her mother came running up to the car crying.

"Anna!! Where were you, I was so worried when Jai came and said you ran off"

Anna got out of the car and hugged her mother. Raj got out and started explaining.

"Aunty she came to my house to talk" He lied.

Jai walked out of Anna's house stone faced and looked at Raj. He wondered why Anna had gone to his house instead of back home. He didn't like their closeness. They all walked inside and Anna went up to her bedroom to rest, leaving the two men behind. She didn't want to be in their company – today's events felt too overwhelming. She felt silly and stupid for kissing Jai and then Raj and just couldn't look at them.

Raj and Jai both left Anna's house a little while later. They didn't disturb Anna by saying bye to her. As they walked out Jai spoke up.

"What was she doing with you?"

"Nothing"

"Why did she come and see you then?"

"She was confused" Raj had such a huge headache now and just didn't want to answer these questions.

reaction. He seemed fine and she expected him to be hurt.

"Why is it a bad thing? That's a natural thing Anna" He didn't know what else to say

"I kissed him because I felt bad for him, not because I wanted to" She replied truthfully

Raj felt something heavy lift off from his heart. He was relieved but immediately felt bad at his relief. She was unhappy with what had happened and here he was feeling happy. He knew Jai loved Anna – or so he had shared with Raj before coming back to India, yet it was becoming hard for Raj to let Anna go so easily. He was becoming a slave to his emotions and he couldn't afford to drag Anna into his messy life.

"Then why did you kiss me?"

"Because I wanted you to be...." She sighed. "I was being stupid, I'm sorry Raj" She was calming down now, it helped her to just talk with him.