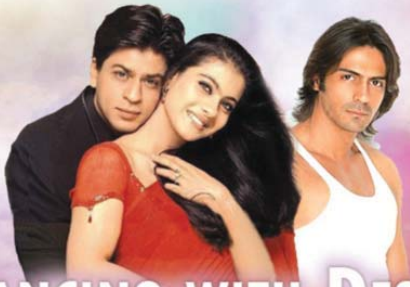


They travelled great distances to be together, broke through barriers to love one another but will destiny force them apart?



DANCING WITH DESTINY

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Raj felt weaker than usual, after he had heard what Mahi said. It had taken all his will power to resist Anna for all this time, but after what he had heard it was extremely hard.

"Was what she said true?" he asked unable to believe what he heard.

"What?" Anna said trying to dodge it. "Do you love..." He couldn't say anymore. He was finding it hard to control himself. Anna was Jai's, it wasn't right to feel this way.

"Raj, just leave it" Anna snapped. "Anna, please I need to know." "No! I won't answer that question" "Please Anna, please! Don't you love Jai?"

"No I certainly do not love him!" She couldn't look at Raj in the eyes "Then? Is what Mahi said true? Is it me?" "Is what you?" she deflected again "Anna, be serious – I need to know"

"Oh God Raj, who cares right? Nothing will happen right? It's what you want and you're making sure of it, yea?" Anna felt angry now. She wanted him to let it go and forget about it.

"Anna. It's not what I want but what must be done" Raj said feeling his heart drop.

"Why the hell does it have to be done?" Anna screamed "Why can't things run their course?"

"Because they can't, it's for your best" "You have no right to decide on my behalf, it's my life!" She said feeling more angry. "Anna please! Stop, let's forget it then"

"I love you Raj, I love you so much that it hurts me every day because you don't seem to notice or return my feelings!!! And I've tried to forget it, but I can't!"

They both stood motionless staring at each other. Anna had tears rolling down her cheeks and was in shock at what she has just done. She felt stupid. She wanted to run away.

Raj couldn't hold it in anymore. "I love you, the other day – it didn't come out right....So I'll say it again properly. I love you Anna. Don't cry if it's because you think I don't love you."

"You said it the other day and ignored me after that" Anna replied grumpily.

"I'm sorry, it wasn't meant to come out like that." Raj explained.

"It's okay..." Anna replied sobbing. "You just going to stand there, or give me a hug now?"

This made Raj laugh, as he reached out to take Anna in his arms. It felt nice to hold her, to know she would be his. Then reality hit and he remembered Jai. He knew this wasn't right. She didn't know the truth.

"Anna there's a reason we can't be together"

Anna pulled away and examined Raj's face. "There you go again with the reasons!"

"I'm only trying to be as honest as possible"

"Then tell me the reason"

"I think you would be great with Jai" Now he was avoiding the question. "Oh god Raj!!! If I don't love him then how the hell can I be with him?"

"But he is good for you and you could grow to love him"

"But this is my life; shouldn't I be with the one I want?"

"Sometimes the one you love isn't the right one for you"

"So you would let me go? Just like that? I thought you loved me Raj – uff you're so hard to understand!"

"I don't want to let you go. Try to understand how hard this is for me!" Raj said frustrated. But he had no right to be. She didn't know what was happening.

"I don't understand. When and if you make up your mind about us, call me" Anna turned around to leave.



"Wait Anna! Just please? Give Jai a chance? See where things go?" Raj pleaded.

"Dam you Raj – Stop playing with my feelings" Anna yelled.

"Gah! Anna I'm sorry! I don't know what to do!" Raj ran his fingers through his hair and sat down, cupping his face in his hands. He felt lost. His heart was overruling his mind and it was making a mess of things. Why couldn't he control himself better than this? Why did he have to be so weak!?

Anna walked over to Raj and sat on the floor next to him. She took his hands away from his face and held them. He had his face down and tears were running down his face. She looked up and saw that he was crying. This made her feel terrible.

"Raj, I didn't mean to...I'm sorry" She wiped his tears.

"No Anna – It's my fault" He pushed her hands away and sat up looking away. "I made you confused, I did stupid things to lead you on"

"No no, don't say that – If you can't tell me the reasons, then let's just be together for now..." Anna pleaded. She wanted him and if this was the only way to make it happen

she would find peace within herself to stop seeking answers.

"It's for your own good Anna, I've made a mess of everything already, let's not complicate things anymore than this" Raj said stiffly

"If you really don't want to be with me this much, I'll leave now and you won't see me again" Anna said getting up. She brushed the tears off her face and went to get her bag.

"Your mobile" Raj said gesturing toward one of the benches "I put it there before you came"

"Thanks" She replied quietly.

This was the best way, Raj thought. He loved her, but she would hurt later on if he didn't do this now. He had messed up but from now on he wouldn't mess up again. "Come to lessons Anna, we won't touch on this topic again. I know you can be happy with Jai" Raj replied as Anna walked toward the exit.

"Right" Anna said and left feeling weaker and more tired than ever. They hadn't even had a lesson!

The next few days went like a blur. Anna couldn't do a lot; she didn't even go to work. She felt heart broken and depressed all day. Raj hadn't contact her and neither had Jai. She missed them both but she couldn't be bothered talking to either. She didn't want to talk to anyone in fact, not just them.

her and Raj was here, claiming he loved her, but refusing to be with her. But she loved Raj. This made her even more confused and she decided to go back to her room.

Her parents had no idea what had gotten into her but they didn't like it. Anna was moping around the house all day and looked constantly miserable. They decided to tell Jai and Raj to come and check up on her.

Jai came first, an hour after he had received the call from Anna's parents. He felt bad for not visiting Anna more often; he had been so busy with his new job and was always tired after work.

"Anna can I come in" he asked as he slowly opened her room door. "Yeh sure" she replied without looking up.

He walked in and went to sit next to her on

A novel

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the bed. She was busy reading something and was intent on not looking at him.

"Anna watsup?" He asked trying to catch her gaze.

She ignored him.

"Halooo?"

"You remember me now?" She said moodily. "I'm sorry Anna" he replied holding his earlobes and making a baby face.

"No you're not! You totally forgot me!" She said angrily. She didn't even feel angry at Jai but he was copping her general displeasure.

"I could never forget you!"

"Well you did and so did Raj. My parents want me to get married. I'll get married to a guy who wants me and then I won't need either of you"

Her words pierced him like a knife. Anna marrying another guy? Jai felt horrible for not making time for her, he wanted to get on his knees and beg for forgiveness.

"Anna I'm so sorry – I'll quit my job and come to visit you every day!" he said "What? You would quit your job? For me?" Anna said in disbelief.

"I would do a lot for you, know that"

"Jai, I'm sorry I was just upset that's all – I would never make you do something like that" Anna said feeling bad for Jai. She really did love the guy, even if it wasn't in the way he wanted.

"But you're getting married?" He asked his voice full of worry.

"I don't want to; my parents want to find me someone"

"Oh, Is there no one you would like to Marry Anna?" He asked full of hope. But he knew she wouldn't fulfil that hope, not today.

"Jai, to tell you the truth, there is someone – but it won't work out" She thought to be honest with him.

He was taken back by this response; he wasn't expecting this at all. He felt horrible after hearing it and wondered who this guy was. So he just asked, maybe he might get lucky?

"So who is he?"

"I don't think..."

"Anna, you can tell me – It's okay" he said controlling his voice. He felt miserable.

"It's....well, It's Raj" She replied and waited for his expression.

to be continued