



"No"

else'

"Because all she'll ever have is the fact

that she was my dance partner, nothing

"But If it makes you feel better, you can tell

her how I did this" He kissed her again,

The next day Anna felt happy driving to dance class, as happy as someone could be, knowing what she knew. He looked at her and smiled, feeling her happiness. He had picked her up from her house and then she had insisted on driving.

"Anna, you know I could have driven us!"

"I know Raj, but don't you want to see my awesome driving powers" She said laughing, feeling silly.

"Oh of course, vou're a great driver!" He said. "But Please, No special treatment because of..." He couldn't finish.

"OMG, Raj! No, I didn't want to drive because of that - I just thought it would be a nice change - plus you know I love your car - I can't afford a nice one like this on my accountant salary" She said smiling at

"I'll give you this car" He said warmly "Everything I have is yours"

"What are you saving? You need YOUR car to drive to places, silly" She said trying not to think about what he had meant.

They got out of the car a couple of minutes later and walked into the studio. She wanted to be a lone with him. They started warm ups and then went onto learning a new routine. He held her by the waist and quided each step.

Him holding me by the waist and gently guiding me - oh we had so much chem-

"Raj - I uh um" She stuttered, pushing herself away from him. "What happened?" He asked

"Raj....." She couldn't say it, she felt silly.

He pulled her closer to him and gently pushed away a stray hair from her face.

"Well, Mahi once told meYou held her by the waist....She said you two had chemistry" Anna said and immediately wished she hadn't. She felt silly expressing her jealousy like a child. Of course he had held her by the waist, they had been dancing partners.

Raj felt Anna's displeasure at the thought that Mahi had danced with him. He didn't want her to feel that way, Mahi was no one

"Did she tell you, how I held her like this?" He said as he pulled her even closer, mov-ing his arms behind her back and resting his forehead on hers

"No" She said quietly, feeling nervous. "Did she tell you....hmmm How I did this to her?" He said as he kissed her cheek gen-

You did that to her?"

"She didn't tell you anything like that did

one another but will destiny force them apart? the steps and she learned quickly.

"Jai will definitely love this dance" Raj said

feeling his heart droop. "Oh no, this dance - I will be doing only with

They travelled great distances to be together, broke

through barriers to love

you" She said winking back at him. Rai couldn't help but laugh at Anna's

attempt to be sexy.

"What!!" She said wriggling a little

"Nothing" He said grinning

Neither of them noticed, the man and woman standing near the entrance watching them.

"Okay, so you follow them to their holiday destination and try to win Anna's heart'



moving slowly down her Jaw line. He paused just near her ear, "Would you tell

She could barely think she was in heaven. "No. never"

"Good, She doesn't need to know" He whispered as he moved lower kissing her neck. A shiver ran down her spine. "Raj - I"

"Shhhh" He whispered as he pulled her back and held her face close to his. "How are you feeling?"

"Cold...hot" She said without thinking, it was true - she felt cold and hot at the same time

"I can feel your heart beat" he whispered. "Am I making you nervous?" "No!" She quickly said returning to her old "You? Make me nervous?

He laughed at her childishness. This is

"Okav Miss almighty, let's dance" "No, I'm not in the mood anymore" She said sulking. She wished she hadn't pulled away from him, but she was so embar-

He caught her by the waist and pulled her into him. "How about some slow dancing?" He said winking. He guided her through

"What If I can't sis?"

'You must! One way or another, force her if

I wish she was mine, she's so beautiful - I would love to win her over

"Oh please don't get all lovey dovey on me! Just do the job and do it right!" "Alright alright sis - relax, I'll get it done" "Good, I know you will succeed Mahesh"

They stood watching for a little while and went away unnoticed

"Raj - Work wants me to go to London for two weeks. I'm going to make it back for the ball - but I won't be able to go on holiday with the two of you - I'm sorry'

Jai, c'mon we were all going to go!" "I'm sorry Raj – but please you two go and have fun for all three of us!" "Anna won't be happy!"

"I think she will" Jai said barely audible. Raj didn't hear him. Jai wanted to give Anna and Rai some space. He has promised to make her happy and he felt this way was the best. He would back away. The first part of this plan was to invite Raj to the ball and now sending them on this trip alone. Jai's heart felt heavy at the thought of them alone, but he had to do it for Anna's happiness.

"Hello?"

A novel

Ву Shanali Edirisinghe



care" Jai put the phone down and sighed

Rai was upset Jai couldn't go with them. He had hoped to spend time with both of his best friends. He rang Anna to tell her, wondering why Jai didn't want to tell her himself.

"Hello?

"Anna I have bad news"

"Raj? Are you okay?" Anna was frantic. So many thoughts were running through her

"Anna relax! Nothing wrong with me!" "Did you take your medicine?" Anna stressed.

"Annaaa It's not about me, relax – Jai told me he won't be able to come on the trip' "Why?"

"He was called to work on a shoot in

"Aw Rai! I was really looking forward to spending time with the both of you - like we used to when we were young!" Whined Anna

"I know, but we can't do anything about it we can cancel and go after the ball?

"No no, It's been planned and everything is ready, we'll do something with Jai when he's back"

"Alright, be ready tomorrow morning, remember - don't be late"

"Yea yea! I know"

She was so excited to go on the vacation; she felt a new rush of excitement thinking that she would be spending time with Raj alone.

"I guess it's just the two of us now" Anna said, feeling excited.

"Yea, would your parents let you go?" "Of course Raj, they trust you to keep me safe completely!" Anna said grinning to her-

"Who says I will keep you safe?"

"Fine! I can keep myself safe, I'm a big girl" "So you keep saying – but you don't look like one" He aigaled.

Just because I'm short - you'll see just how much of a woman I can be" She said cheeki-

Raj laughed. She was a woman and the most beautiful, kind hearted and amazing woman he had ever laid eyes on. He felt a pang of pain, as he remembered just how much time he had left with her

"Anna, Are you sure you want this?" "What?"

"To be with me"

"I already told you, this is what I want and I know what I'm going - please just forget everything else

"What about Jai?"

She didn't know how to answer. She felt bad for Jai every day. But she had very little time with Raj, and she didn't want to waste a second of it

'I want you"

"Riaht"

"Yup, so deal with it" She said and put the phone down smiling

to be continued