

By,  
sree

The whole idea of falling in love with a total stranger is a bull sh\*t. Seriously!?! You believe that? Then you must be a girl who still thinks that your so called prince charming is on his journey towards you or a guy who doesn't wanna fall in love. This is what I thought but when I met that GUY, things changed a bit. It happened just three days back. Can still remember that moment. The day that changed my life in an odd way.

3 days back.....

I was walking in the college corridor. Well yeah... You know how it is to walk in that area especially during the break which lasts for 15minutes. You'd know how to reach your destination, meet the staff, get your work done, have a cup of tea and return back to your class.....all this in just 15minutes. Man! Indian engineering colleges really teach you how to manage your time. Whoa! Sorry.....coming back to the point... I was standing in the middle of such a crowd struggling to find my friend who was with me 2minutes 30seconds back. At that point of time....there were no trees near by, so don't expect that mild breeze, moving trees, flowers from those trees falling over head.....which is commonly known as a sign of your soulmate coming towards you. But I just knew it would've happened if I was standing somewhere in between trees. A guy in the crowd caught my eyes. But who's he!? A guy quite tall, dusky tone, fit and of course had good looks. I really have met him somewhere before!Isn't it?? That's a mess. I stood there so still wondering why the heck did I even think like that about a perfect stranger!

"Ronnie..... Where were you? I got it signed! Let's move!", pulling me towards my class, said Preethi(Preethi Vasudev, my bestie at college).

" Got it done? I was searching for you" I asked thoughtfully. My mouth talking to her ....yet my mind is working on his familiarity.

"Oh! Really? Standing like that!?! What were you even doing? In the middle of the crowded corridor? Like that!?" she spoke in a hurry.

Yep! Right! There was a pause just like you expect. I didn't say a word.

"Whatever! It's late already! We have a class to attend,remember?" she filled the gap.

"Yep! Move now!" Phew!

I managed to listen to the lecture somehow. But his thought kept me distracted. Not the thought of his good looks( I swear!) But it was about why I reacted like that on seeing him.He's just some guy who I just came across. Isn't it?

2 days back.....

Got up at 8am...managed to get to class on time. Yep! Skipped the breakfast. It happens at college, you know?I was running towards my class with Pree( That's how I call her)

"Are you alright?", asked Pree.

"Yep! totally!", I said. I was actually shocked at her sudden question.

"Fine if you are alright. But you are acting really weird from yesterday. To be more accurate, from the time you got lost in that corridor" she stated. I understood the what she mean't. She pointed out standing in the middle .....not the getting lost part. But I ignored it.

"I didn't get lost!", I argued and paused for a moment because she gave that OH!REALLY!?

look. I gave up. Man! Its really hard to justify your action to your bestie.

"I was trying to find you and then...." I stammered.

"And then!??", with her huge eyes looking awed.

"There came this guy..." I struggled to say each word.

Here....as you expect..just like all other friends she started interrupting. To be more accurate, TEASING!

"A guy!? Whoa! Whoa! Whoa! Good looking? Got stunned by his looks!? I knew it from the way you stood! But it's quite surprising that even you have all those feelings of a girl" she said ending it with a wink.

I guess now its time for you to know about me. From her comment, you must've already come to a conclusion about me. Yep! I am a girl who's not girlie. I don't wear a make-up and a total no for nail polish. I maintain short hair which comes out well with a pony tail. I am quite short and not lean(ain't really fat too.....and I don't go on diets. Just chill....like it? have it! type) and dusky toned.I guess this would do.

2 days back....cont'd.....

"No! Not that way!" I lied.

"C'mon! I know you! Don't lie to me!" she said innocently.

"I felt like I knew him. That's all." I justified.

She gave that look again. Before she said something else I had to end that convo.

"Hey! We've reached our class. Hope the lecture hasn't started yet." I muttered.....changing the atmosphere.

"Oh yeah! Get in....soon!"she said and walked in.

After the class,during the same break I met him before, I was walking in the corridor. I really didn't expect to see him again( I won't swear now! Even if I ain't girlie I'm still a human!) I just kept walking and suddenly heard someone shouting "Hey! You!" Just like how anyone would've turned back, I too turned back. A guy pointed at me and said "You only".

I was like "Me???"

"Not you my girl! The guy behind you" he said.

Who the heck is that? I turned back. Yep! You are damn right. It was him. Right behind me. And I was facing him. We stood there really close....close enough for him to say "sorry....did I scare you? Excuse me now", softly. I came back to my senses after 1 minute 32 seconds , when Pree shouted "Hey! Ronnie! Planned to bunk the class??"

"I wasn't scared" I said, on my way to class.

"What???" I never said you were!" said Pree shocked.

"Huh!?" I said thoughtfully.

"Saw him again???" she grinned.

"Who?" I asked innocently.

"Don't act like you don't know what I mean!" she snapped.

How does she even know that? God! You're making it really tough for me!

"Yep! I did" I confessed.

"Haha...again? Sounds interesting! What's his name?" she asked out of pure interest.

"Don't know" I said.

"How did you see him this time?" she enquired curiously.

"Someone called for him and I responded instead. And he was standing right behind me" I explained.

"Wow! I guess you guys are made for each other!" she shared her thought.

WTF!?

"Stop it! I don't even know him! Cya! Going back to my room." I objected her view.

"Okay, gorgeous! Next time you see your prince...let me see him too. Puhlease?" she irritated me.

"Get lost!!" I snapped.

Thank god! The convo ended. I walked peacefully back to my room. I don't really get along well with my room mates. I don't hate them either.

My room mates:

1.Sara - a silent girl who's really sensitive.

2.Hema - a weird girl.

I don't really spend time in my room. I go to Pree's room mostly. I return back only to sleep.

Sara asked "..Roshii ..back this early? Surprising!"

No need to panic! Time to disclose more information. That's me.....Roshini, Roshini Siddarth.

Then why Ronnie? You'd not expect an Indian girl to be named as Ronnie, right? There's no reason behind that name.....people just started calling me like that. I guess they find it difficult to use the 'sh' sound in between. God only knows!

"Sara! Don't embarrass me like that. This is my room, right? and I'm tired. That's why", I said already half asleep.

I actually wanted to have a fake sleep but eventually I slept. Know what? Actually when you like someone you have a better sleep. I slept peacefully after a long time. The theory of no sleep was proved wrong..... at least in my case. Yep! I confess.....I really liked him.

A day back.....

Pree is never gonna keep her mouth shut after what happened in the past 2 days. I had to plan what to tell her this time. As usual we were running to our class.

"Are you in love?", she started.

Arre yaar! See! This is how your friends spoil you!

"Nope! Shut up!" I snapped.

"Then? Why is it that you are really disturbed for the past 2 days and really uncomfortable to talk about him?" she said.

"Me?? Who said that!? Not at all! C'mon! What do you wanna know?" I replied back calmly.

"Who's he? How's he?" she enquired again.

"He's....." I dashed on the notice board. Ouch! That really did hurt. Hit on my head.

People stared at me. I guess it made a huge noise. There was a commotion going on. A group of guys doing something in the mid way turned back and gave me a glance. That's quite embarrassing right? But in the mid of that group I saw HIM. I don't really know what I thought at that point of time. I pointed my finger towards him and said "Him!" To Pree.

"Him!?" said a shocked Pree pushing my hand down.

"Have you gone mad? You pointed at him when he was watching! Ronnie! Do you even hear me?" She murmured.

"Huh!?" I said.

"We are late to class! Sh\*t! Run!", ran Pree pulling my hand.

We reached our class a bit earlier than everyday. Hehe.....she just saved me from the sudden situation.

Which just means.....she's got her enquiry time! Crap! Not again!

"That guy?? He does look smart!" said Pree softly.

"Did I even ask you???" I said in a way of discouraging this convo.

"It's my duty to say!" she said trying to be innocent.

Man! This girl is never gonna understand. But yeah! Thank God! She brought me to class! She really managed it well.

"Hey! Pree! Why did I do that?" I asked wondering about my weird reaction.

"Do what?" she murmured.

"What happened out there! That one!" I whispered so that we don't get caught talking in the class during lectures.

"Oh! Yeah! Even I wanted to ask you the same question. Know what? That guy seems like a silent guy. He doesn't look like your type of guy! But who knows what your destiny has for you!" she stated....ending sweetly which kinda irritated me.

"Zip it! I ain't interested in any relationship! But I just don't understand why I do that every time! This convo ends now! Lecture time!!" I said...there by ending the convo.

Today.....

Man! I managed her yesterday. But today...if I see him again don't know what I'd do. I don't even know his name. And Pree's never wrong about characters. She gets them right! So...he won't even start a convo. That means I gotta do it first. Am I.....Am I? Am I really thinking like this!? Dude! I've gone crazy about that guy! I know why. Because he's a perfect stranger. So I'm developing a crush on him. Once I become friends with him...everything will be perfectly fine. Isn't it?

It was the morning recess. I was roaming around with Pree. She said "You know? May be you are right. How can someone fall in love with a stranger?"

Ha! Now! This is my CONVO!

"At last! You realised it!" I exclaimed in joy.

"Idiot! So.....get his name first! Then be in love!" she shouted.

Pree! For a second I thought you have your sixth sense! Sorry about that! You are the same old 5 sensed Pree.

"People never change!" I sighed.

Pree shook me like I was her newly bought cold cafe can.

"What now!?" I questioned.

"Your HIM is here!" she squealed.

"Where!?" I panicked.

I am stupid. Isn't it? Yep! absolutely! I make it easy for her all the time. I must've uttered

"what!?" But what came out was..... :(

He was about to cross me. I don't know why I did that! But I just did that! Know what I did??

I stopped him saying "Hey!"

He paused and gave me a PARDON? look. I asked him "Have we met before?"

"Yeah....." said HIM brushing his hair with his hand.

"Huh!?" I lifted my eyebrows in confusion.

"You stood in front of me and my friends called me.....that day..... Remember?" he explained. That's really DUMB! He thinks I have amnesia? It just happened 3 days back. How would I forget that!?

"Oh yeah! That guy..... Got it" I confirmed.

Don't criticise me! I told you already.....something happens to me when I see HIM.

There was a big silence. Pree murmured behind me "His name! Ask it!"

And yes.....just the way its not supposed to happen. I said "I'm Roshii".

"Rohan" he smiled and after a small pause, "Time for my lecture..... Got to go. Bye"

"Bye" I said dreamily.

What the heck happened? Did I just do that? I did! Yep! I'm CRAZY!

"Ronnie.....!" exclaimed Pree with her hands on her mouth.

"Yeah what?" I said stupidly.

"How did you do that? You made it so obvious now!" she asked in total amazement or astonishment....I wasn't sure.

"Pardon? What are you talking about?" I asked her looking at her eyes.

"Now he'd think what I think!" she said with her hands still over her mouth.

"What will he think? And....what do you think??" I really started panicking.

"That you are interested on him" she said.

"What the hell!?" my mouth dropped open.

## Chapter 5

That really didn't end well! at least not the way its supposed to happen! I mean....what would people think about me? What's gonna happen to him? It's not that simple. I started something. I did something publicly. Man! I'm giddy!

I want Rishi so badly now! Yep! Rishi Ravichander, my other bestie. He's gone on a 2 week family holiday trip. He's my rescuer all the time. I didn't even bother to ask him where they went because I didn't want him to go. Anyways he's gone now....I gotta handle the situation. Pree's of no help!

There's gonna be so many gossips. And Rohan might even end up running away from me if he sees me again. Am I exaggerating? God only knows!

I took a deep breathe before entering the college. Since I've meet HIM(it's simpler to use HIM instead of Rohan) in my block every time.... I guess his class is somewhere in the same block. So I ought to be alert! From? Don't know! From whatever is about to happen.....

"Rohan weds Ronnie..... Sorry Roshini. How nice???"

I nearly fell down hearing something like that all of a sudden. Who else would say such a thing? My dear Pree!

"Shut up! Will you? I've already had enough! " I said angrily.

"Had enough?? Without me?? What did I miss!?" she shouted in excitement.

You might wonder how I hangout with such a girl. The answer is I'm just like her. But since this issue is something related to me I'm kinda worried. Wait till I get something to make fun of her. She's dead if that happens. Hehe..... But for now let me focus on my issue.

"You missed nothing! Let's go to our class! just let me know if HIM's around! Okay? " I said softly.

"Yeah! Sure!" she accepted the task.

In few seconds the silence was broken by "Ronnie!!"

It was again her! This girl is so dead now!

"What!?" I snapped.

"HIM! Hey!" She said to me and then to him.

He saw me and looked around like making sure everything's okay and then came to me.

I said "Hey Rohan".

"Hey Roshini" said HIM. I'd die to hear it again.

"Why is it that every time I see you..... You look terrified? " I uttered.

"No no. Nothing of that sort....."he stopped.

He never ends his sentences. So reserved. I like that too! Oh man! The real me is out now!

"Ronnie!!" Shouted Pree from a distance. When did she even go there!?

HIM was like "Ronnie??"

"That's how my friends call me..... Time for my lecture .....got to go. Bye" Silly me! I repeated his reply to me the last time I saw him...! What would he think!?

He laughed and said "Bye Ronnie"

Did he just say that!? Why did this girl leave me alone with him like that!?

I smiled and walked towards Pree waving at HIM.He waved back.

Pree said "Blooming flower! Lovely to see! "

"Zip it! We are just friends!" I said

The only thing that was on my mind was....

"Pree!" I called her.

"Yeah what??" she said.

"Did I blush??" I asked slyly.

"Haha..... my girl's back. At last! So curious about that!?" she teased.

"C'mon! Tell me!" I insisted.

"You kinda did! That's how it's supposed to happen, right?"she smiled.

"He'd know that I like him nah?" I asked nervously.

"Well....yeah. What's even wrong in that?"she gave me an assuring smile.

"Nothing!Forget it!" I ended it.

"Okay! Calm down. People take time. Hope you understand that!" she presented her view in a polished manner.

"As you say my Lord!" of course I understood. She wants me to wait till he approaches. As simple as that.

A day passed by.....with him on my mind. But I did my best trying not to have a convo about him with Pree. I returned to my room earlier than usual as I tried to avoid having a convo with Pree.

Hema said "Roshini! Something going around?"

Whoa! How does she know??? People came to know about it so soon!? But I did nothing!

"Huh!?" I exclaimed.

"Between you and Preethi. Is everything fine? You stay back at room more than usual lately" she said.

Is this a problem now? Man! I was shocked for a minute. These girls! Can't they just say things directly!?

"No no.....nothing of that sort!" Gosh! Remember that!? Of course you would! See! How much I'm into him!? This is totally wrong!

Pree phoned me. I hesitated to take the call. But later picked it after 25seconds.

"Hey Gorgeous! What? Started texting your prince already!? Why is that you get back to your room earlier nowadays?" she listed question after question in ultra speed.

Well.....that's a great idea! The TEXTING part!

"Hey! No man! Was tired! Wanted to sleep early. That's why" I reasoned out.

"Okay. Whatever. Cya at dinner" she sighed.

"Okay! Bye"

Hurrah! The convo ended!!

## Chapter 6

Who am I frightened of? Well.....the answer is me! I really ain't that kind of a girl who's okay with a boyfriend. I ain't that type! Seriously! It'll never work out with me. I wanna be free! Absolutely!

We were late to class. So didn't have time to talk. There was absolute silence. Only lecture and no cross talks. The professor got out of the class and then the convo began! Making me really uncomfortable.....

"Hey Rohan! How are you doin?" said Pree.

"How many times do you want me to repeat it!? Shut up yaar! I really ain't comfortable with this!" I said in an upset manner.

"Hey! Don't worry about this! I know! You feel bad about liking this guy. But you gotta accept it. You like him without any reason. Love happens!" clarified Pree.

"You call it love!? I barely know him. He's just a friend i made from nowhere!" I rebelled.

"You didn't know him before. You spoke to him just because you liked him. You wanted to know him. And now you do! You call this as FRIEND FROM NOWHERE huh?" she put front her views.

"What else??? He's a friend! That's it! Got it?" I put forth mine though it didn't make sense.

"Whatever" she said in a really irritating manner.

Man! This girl! Can never change her. She's my bestie! What'll she be like?

"Pree.....few things are easy to say but difficult to accept" I tried to hide my frustration.

"Just like how we decide not to eat icecreams every time we get cold after having one....but still have it?" she compared.

"Well....yeah. Something like that" I said.

"Does that mean you love him but just hesitating to accept it?" she questioned with wide open eyes staying at me.

See! Sometimes a girl as silly as her can come with such wonderful questions. This question changed the way I looked at stuff. Give me the definition of LOVE. To be frank your definition will not be similar to mine. Every one has their own definition when it comes to love. Unless you feel that you are in love, you ain't in love. More than you knowing this, I have to keep this in my mind.

I came out of the college. Walked towards the lawn. Especially on a summer day like this, the sunset looks beautiful from that spot. Both of us sat down after a silent walk from college. The only place where I can feel nature is this area in between the college and the hostel. When I saw

the sun setting I realised that that guy has really made an impact on me. But liking someone a lot for no reason is not love. Its just an infatuation.

"Pree.....you think he likes me?" I asked thoughtfully.

"Of course. Silent guys don't talk to all girls like that." she said with a huge smile on her face.

That smile is a bit contagious. I got it on my face too. I was just smiling for some 1minute 35 seconds when I heard "Hey Roshini.....The Ronnie". Some familiar male voice. I looked up to see Rohan standing right next to me. (I don't find using HIM interesting anymore. I guess Rohan is itself more interesting ;- ) ).

"Hey Rohan" I said and yep! As you expect Pree was no where to be seen.

"What are you doing alone here?" , he asked.

Waiting for you. What else!?

"Just some me and myself time. And you?" I said without even thinking.

"I was just passing by to hostel. Saw you. Thought a small chat would be okay." he explained.

Wait a minute....did he just see me and come to me to talk!? Kidding me? Rohan??Doing that?

"Ronnie!!!" Someone shouted from a distance. "Ronnie!" the sound was louder the second time.

"Wake up idiot! Is this why you brought me here? Let's go to the hostel and have a nap" shouted Pree.

Ha! Thought so! Told you right. It was indeed a dream. I don't know Rohan much... but I guess I know him at least to this extent. He'd never stop to talk to me.

We stood up. And I looked around. I didn't want to see him but didn't want to go back to my room without seeing him either. It was then I remembered that I kept my notes on my desk back at class. I never forget them!

"Yikes! Pree... Got to go to our class once again. Left my notes " I said, already walking towards college.

"Right behind you.... But Ronnie.... My legs ache" said Pree.

Poor girl. She doesn't complain like that unless it's a big one.

"Fine then. You better go to your room and take rest. I'll join you in.....15 minutes " I said waving at her.

"Be back soon" she waved back.

I smiled and moved.

## Chapter 7

I walked alone through the corridor. I watched how empty the corridor was in the evening. It was funny to see it like that. I reached my class. Took my notes and was moving back to Pree. Heard a noise in a classroom on the way. It was open. So I peeked in just to find a rat running over the desks. Crap! For a minute I thought some one was trapped inside and I even started planning the rescue. I came out of the class and laughed at myself. On my way back, I stood still in the place where I saw Rohan for the first time. I looked around. It was funny that I was able to imagine the whole scene. I walked further through the corridor and paused again at the place where I spoke to him for the first time. I smiled when I remembered his laugh. I almost came to the end of the corridor when I heard footsteps behind me. I turned back and was quite surprised to see him at college at that time. He smiled.

"Hey!" I said.

"Hello." The expected YOU CONTINUE reply.

"Why is that we only meet in this corridor?" I asked.

"Because this is the only common place we both use" he said with a smile.



With a fake smile on my face I said "and yeah! Totally forgot. What's your number?"  
"Got to go. Catch you later " he said after giving his number and left as usual.  
Why is this guy like this!? I seriously still don't get why I like him! Funny thing he didn't even get my number back. Not interested I guess.  
I returned back to Pree and told her what had happened (not the cherishing memories part. Everything except that) and she wasn't surprised. I guess she got used to such stuff nowadays.  
"That's it? This is how you're gonna react?? Is this even a reaction!?" I said desperately.  
"Well... He's just a friend from nowhere. What do you expect me to say?" said Pree with that cool look on her face.  
This girl's turning smart and smarter. Have to be careful with her.  
"Fine! I give up! I really like that guy. And I want to know if he likes me too. Do something".  
Even the Titanic sinks. Isn't it?  
"You wanna make him like you or know if he likes you? "  
That's really tricky.  
"First the second one and if it's negative then go for the first one"  
"Smart! Really smart Ronnie! "  
"Say something useful!"  
"Go! Start texting your HIM"  
"Hehe..... Thanks Pree. Love you! "  
"Me?? Really!? But I guess I've got a competitor now! " she said with a wink.  
I smiled and ran back to my room. Picked my cell phone and sent a 'Hey. This is Roshini'  
Received a reply after hours of wait.  
"Hello Ronnie."  
Now that I have his number..... It doesn't make any difference! Forget it!  
I sent a text to Pree 'Its never gonna work out. :-)' '  
Received a reply 'Good ni8. Sleep tight. It's alright.Late ni8. Will talk abt it tomo'  
I sent a 'Good ni8. :-D ' and slept.

## Chapter 8

"What's up with Rohan?" asked an enthusiastic Pree.  
"Know what? Do me a favour.", I said with a smile.  
"Here comes my convo! Yeah! What? Anything for you"  
"Help me forget that guy! Will you?"  
I nearly begged. I was really devastated.  
"Hey... Hey... Hey..... Ate you crying?" Yep! A shocked Pree said that.  
"No! Why would I??" I was shocked too. I don't cry for silly stuff.  
"But..... You've got tears welling "  
"Forget it! See! He and me are totally different! It'll never workout! Why don't you understand that!?" I tried to be as nice as possible. Seriously!  
"But..... You like him!" she uttered.  
"Does it even matter?" yep! I yelled at her in the class.  
Every one stared at me. Except for the professor. I really appreciate his sincerity at work. Does his job perfectly.  
"You girls up to something?" said Rishi.  
"Huh!? no. We were just talking about the science fiction novel I read yesterday." I said.  
Rishi is a friend of mine at class. A tall, fair and quite a good looking fellow. Even though your

friend looks good you will never get attracted towards him/her. That's weird. Isn't it?

"But I thought I heard something else." he said with that DON'T LIE TO ME look.

I told you already. It's really tough for me to lie to friends. Not that I lie to others early but I still already manage others without letting them know the truth. But when it comes to my friends....I just spit the truth out!

Before I could say the truth....

"Well... Rishi, imagine this case. There's a girl like Roshini. She likes a guy who's really silent. It's so obvious that she likes him. How's it gonna end? " Pree to the rescue! Yay! But wait! Did she just say the while truth!? In an indirect way..... Better than me telling it. :-P

"Ha! Thats an impossible case. But you just asked me to imagine it. So..... The probability of she starting a convo is more. The other way is nearly zero. So... She would end up proposing him ", he said with that one eye look at me.

He got it! Isn't it? yep! Totally. Now you can easily predict what his next words are gonna be.

"Who's that Ronnie?" he asked.

C'mon! now... Everyone's gonna know it! He's my friend and he'd know it in few days anyways.

And I'm gonna get rid of that guy in few days. It doesn't really matter now.

"A guy I met few days back." I said.

"You like him? And he doesn't talk to you the way you expect?" enquired Rishi.

"Are you an expert in this or what? How do you ask the right question?" I was actually speechless! He's got the point. I was desperate as he didn't turn out the way I wanted him to.

That's the problem and it actually had no possible solution, from my point of view.

He laughed and said "I'm a guy. I know how it is for guys like that. Who's he? I can help you if he's my friend."

"Well..... You don't have to. Forget it! It won't work" I said half-minded.

"He's Rohan" , said Pree.

That girl is so dead if this ended up in a different way.

"That guy?? He's my friend idiot!" he said and hit me on my head.

"Ouch! Why did you do that?" I said in pain.

"He's a good guy. Yeah! a very silent person. But is fun when you know him better.", he said.

I don't know what happened to me but I started speaking my mind out.

"See! That's the problem. I don't get to know him better. How'll I know what he's like?" I said.

"Yeah man! That's a problem. You liked him on first sight huh? That's something interesting!

For a girl like you.....hehe" he teased.

"C'mon! I'm a girl! Remember?" I said.

"Yeah. I almost forgot that. And now now his is making me remember it."

"We are at our class! Hope you guys remember that! Get back to the lecture."

"As you say my Highness"

That was a good ending. That girl's safe now. Back to my problem. How do I make him talk!? I really have to forget him! Really!!!

"Hey Ronnie! Why didn't you tell that to me before?"started Rishi.

Oh no! How am I even gonna respond to that!?

"Well.....I was not serious about him. Pree kept on pestering mme and made me realise what is really on my mind just few seconds before you spoke at class." I paused and called Pree.

"She's gone. Left when I came."

"What? where?" And wondered how he'd know that.

"Well...forget it. Don't over think Rishi! He's just a guy I met and.."

"Fell in love with?" he interrupted.

"Huh!?" I was out of the world for 15 seconds and when I got back to my senses "No. I was about to say. I liked him on seeing him and just wanted to know him."

"To fall in love?"

I hit him on his shoulder and said "Stop it! Don't you do the same thing like PFree!"

"Why shouldn't I???"

What made him ask that question!? How'd I respond!?

Dear God,

Thanks for giving me such friends. I really love them. But please make me as smart as they are or just make them as dumb as me. Kindly grant me this one.

Thanking you

Yours lovingly,

Roshini

I'd really send this letter to God if I knew the address.

Gosh! How I wish I had never seen that guy!

"Because you are my friend! Mind it!" I said. Hope this keeps him silent for sometime. At least till I get out of the college. He won't accompany me till the hostel because the boys hostel is on the other way.

"So is she. But you let her do that. Why not me?"

It didn't work. So let me act like I'm smart for few minutes.

"Now you know about it and he's your friend. What's the big issue?"

"Wait a minute" he said pulling his cell phone out of his pocket. He has a high end phone. I do have a craze for them. The techie stuff. I managed to get a budget phone with awesome features. Thanks to my techie craze dad.

"He's gonna be here any time now." he said.

"Who!?" I blinked though I predicted the person, i thought may be the situation needed me to react that way.

"Your Rohan"

My what!? These people are really driving me crazy. Why don't they just understand that I'm trying to forget that guy. They're just worsening it!

"C'mon Rishi! Don't do that to me!"

"You did that to you by yourself not me!" he said with an evil smile.

That didn't suit the situation though. He's talking as if something bad is about to happen.

"He's here!" he said with an applause.

"Hey! Rohan! My buddy!" he welcomed Rohan.

"Hey there! What's up?" Rohan said.

"This here is Roshini." he said.

"Hey Rohan" I said trying to smile.

"Oh yeah! Ronnie. Hey" he said.

"You guys know each other!?" Rishi said with a shock on his face.

What's this guy up to now??? God! Save me!

"Yeah....I met him few days back. We dashed into each other quite a few times." I said trying to make the situation less embarrassing.

"She's right. Good friends.....we are..." Rohan said.

Good what!?? This is how he thinks huh!? Rishi! Love you! Told you! My friends are damn smart.

"Oh....cool." Rishi said and his phone rang. He looked at it and said "hey guys.....give me a moment" and left us standing alone in the corridor.

There was absolute silence as you expect. But something unexpected did happen after that.

"Rishi's friend??" he asked. This he is.....of course.....Rohan!

"Yep." I replied.

"Oh. You are the girl he was talking about huh?"

"The girl.....??" I blinked.

"His friend at class. But he said you move around with another girl. Whenever I see you..... You're alone."

"Well..... It's a weird coincidence. Once she leaves, I see you."

Yeah! It's actually a weird coincidence. It's like God wants me to spend time with him when she's not around.

"You don't use your phone a lot, right?" I uttered.

That's a stupid question but I really have to know about it. Isn't it?

"Yeah. Not an avid user. Use it for calling purpose only"

That's a relief! He's not that guy who texts his friends(girlfriends) all the time. So there are chances that he has no girlfriend till date.

"Hey girlfriend! Is Pree back?" said Rishi returning back to us.

Did he just call me like that!? Girlfriend??? God! I didn't even send the letter. Why did you turn him dumb so soon!?

"Nope. She hasn't come yet" I replied.

"Girlfriend??" questioned Rohan with a confused look on his face.

I crossed my hands and was about to say 'no' before which that silly guy interrupted and took over.

"Yeah! Any problem with that?" said Rishi.

That's an awkward response! Rishi! You're so dead!

"Huh!?" Rohan responded. He was still for 15seconds. And then said "No....not at all"

Did it bother him!? Or was it an optical illusion!?

Rishi put his hands over my shoulder and said "This girl is just too good to be my girlfriend so I thought it'd be fair enough to make her as my bestie"

"Rishi!" I said looking at him in awe.

"Hey Rohan. I was just kidding. She's a great friend of mine man!" he said.

Thank God! He's at last back to his senses.

"Rohan, sorry about that. He goes mad at times. What were you talking about?" I said trying to change the topic.

"Nothing that important", he said.

"Got to go.....late for the hostel" I said and waved bye to both of them and returned to my room.

"Preethi???" responded Rishi.

"She's at her room. I just got a text from her" I said while walking away from them.

What the hell!? Things are not moving in the right path! Don't you feel that!?

## Chapter 9

"What did I miss???", said Pree.

"Nothing!", I said. "But where did you even go!?"

"It was my brother. He phoned me and wanted me to join at his friend's b'day party", she said.

"Oh!"

Pree's elder brother Prakash. He's two years elder to us which makes him be at the third year. He loves his sister. Wish I had a brother like him. I have no siblings. The single child at home, who was brought up under much care.

"Hey Ronnie! Don't have to thank me!" said a voice behind me. It was Rishi!

"Idiot! You want me to thank you??? You gotta thank me for not hitting you right on your face for what you did!" I yelled.

"See! I missed something!" said Pree.

"Yeah! Missed a lot Preethi! Missed something romantic!" he said.

"Zip it!!" I said.

"C'mon Rishi. Tell me!", said Pree.

"Forget it Preethi. You missed it and She doesn't want me to tell you. So ain't gonna tell it." he said.

Did he really say that!? That's nice. He's trying to be nice I guess.

I looked at him and he noticed that glimmer on my eyes and smiled back.

"That's my boy! Go and hang yourself, Pree", I said.

We laughed at her. That was a great scene. I was happy after a long while.

"Fine. Shut up! Don't laugh" she said.

During the bbreak, Pree left to meet Prakash.

Giving me and Rishi sometime to talk about Rohan.

"Hey Ronnie. Know what?" he started.

I just don't get it. He calls Pree as 'Preethi' and me as 'Ronnie'. May be he liked it that way. Whatever!

"Yeah what?" I said.

"He likes you."

"And he told you that?"

"No"

"Then? How do you say that?"

"The way he reacted after I called you as my girlfriend.....the way he spoke about you to me after you left. I came to that conclusion. "

"He spoke about me???"

"We spoke..... and I gathered it from him. He thinks you're a smart kid, open minded and talkative. I agree with all of it except for the first one." he said with a wink.

"Stupid! And yeah! Why did you call me as your girlfriend!?"

"Is it a crime to have you as my girlfriend?"

What!? Speechless. I mean he's far good looking and how can I be his girlfriend. I mean how can he be my boyfriend!??

"I mean...." And before I could finish he interrupted saying "Don't mean anything. Just tell me how you liked Rohan"

"I don't know Rishi. I saw him and just liked him"

"Interesting!"

"Why are you so much bothered about him?"

That was a stupid question but he's a friend he won't mind it. I guess....

"Because....." before he could finish Pree came and stood in between us saying "Had tea?"

We said 'no'. And she was like "what are you guys doing then? Move! Tea time!"

That was a big relief.

"Rohan!!" some one shouted behind us.

I turned back first to see him standing right behind us..... me actually.  
I said "Hey Rohan"  
He called "Rishi!" And glanced at me. Maybe didn't hear me. I almost whispered it.  
"Hey Ronnie" he said then.  
I tried to smile. He heard me. APPLAUSE!  
Rishi was on a phone call. So he had to wait. Pree was with us. At least this time I have to let him know who my friend is. I turned back.....and she was gone as usual. Where does she even go!? all the time!?  
"He's on a phone call. I guess you gotta spend time with me." I blabbered.  
What the heck!? Did I say that!?  
"I mean till he gets back here...." I corrected.  
He laughed. And said "yeah. So then? Noticed your bf isn't good enough lately?"  
"Sorry? Who!?"  
"Rishi. You are a good actor indeed. Don't act like you didn't get me the first time"  
"Hehe.....him!? why? What's wrong?"  
"He let's you talk to other guys and he's always with his phone"  
"Not all guys. Just you....I mean few."  
We were getting along well.  
"Why do you wanna meet him now?" I curiously asked.  
"Well.....saw you here. Thought he'd be with you. I wanted to get an information about our hostel from him so just came over."  
"Oh.....a guy shouted for you. The same one who shouted in the corridor that day."  
"Yeah.....my friend. He didn't know that I came here. I waved back to him. No worries. You remember that day??"  
"Of course. How'd I forget?"  
"Huh!?.....right. You almost got frightened. How'll you forget it?" he said with a smile.  
"Frightened??no I wasn't. I was searching for someone. And suddenly a guy pointed at me....that would shock anyone"  
"Just the way you shocked me the other day?"  
He didn't have to say further. I knew what he was talking about.  
"That one?? Well....." before I could end. My bestie came to the rescue.  
"What are you doing with my gf?" asked Rishi.  
"Stop.." I started and "saying that" finished Rohan.  
I was stunned while they both laughed at me.  
Now he has joined my SMART CREW!!! APPLAUSE!

## Chapter 10

So, Rohan entered into my friends circle somehow. Its not going to be awkward like before. It's gonna be something more than that now!  
My phone rang. I don't really get a call on a Sunday morning. I picked it half asleep.  
"Hey darling. Morning sunshine" said the person on the other end.  
"Rishi! Stop man! Morning! What's up?", I said.  
"Hey! That wasn't me! That dumbass did that and gave my phone back !"  
"That who!?"  
"Rohan!!" he yelled on phone.  
What on earth is happening!? Wait a minute..... Did he do that!? Blink blink blink! Is something

happening!?

"Huh!? Whatever. Why did you call me?"

"Let's have an ice cream and talk "

"That's yummy! Should I bring Pree??"

"Not necessarily."

"OK..... I'll call you when I'm ready"

"Okeydokey"

Rishi is a great friend of mine. Better friend than Pree but since he stays at the boys hostel we don't spend much time. He can't stay at my hostel either. So we catch up like this during the weekends and at college.

When I entered into this college, I was with big hopes just like every other student. Pree was standing alone in front of the class when I reached our class. I spoke to her and we became friends. I don't really remember how me and Rishi became friends. We spoke at class. He sits in the desk behind me. We became friends somehow.

"Hey! I'm out of my hostel. Where are you?" I said.

"Wait right there Missie. On my way " he said.

He reached in 2 minute 38 seconds. We went to the Ice cream parlour near by. We both have similar tastes at least in ice creams. Had our favourite black currant and chocolate combo.

"What do you think about Rohan??" he said.

"Rishi! Don't do that! Why do you bring him into each of our convo!?" I asked.

"Just tell me!"

"Fine. He's really sweet. Looks good. Talks well at least to me. Sounds fun. What else?"

"Okay?? Told you, right? Get in. She wouldn't mind your presence.", he said.

"Huh!? What!? Talking to yourself??"

"Nah! Rohan's here. I called him. He was like didn't wanna disturb your quality time with Roshini"

"Did he say Roshini?? That's weird. He calls me as Ronnie since I told him that my friends call me so."

"Oh. That's weird.He's here.....don't act weird. Keep calm." he said and waved to Rohan.

He gave a shy smile and came to us. He waved a Hi to me. I said "Hey Rohan. Sit down."

He sat between us and after a while said, "How are guys doing?"

"How do we look?" said Rishi.

He always pulls his leg. Man! Why does he do that!? Its so pity!

"Not bad", he replied.

What!? I thought he'd say 'Good'. Not bad is a really weird reply.I guess the shock on my face was noticed.

He corrected it saying "We look good....." A pause followed by "3 of us".

Whoa! That was more than just kidding!!!

We move out after an ice cream. Three of us sat on the college lawn.

"Are you alone??" asked Pree on the phone.

"Nope! With Rishi and Roh" she cut the call.

I guess she's gonna join us any moment now.

"Hey!" came a voice behind us. It was her. "Hey Pree! C'mon sit here.....next to me" I said.

Rishi and Rohan greeted her.

I introduced her to Rohan. He smiled as usual confirming that he's a silent guy.

I was sitting in between Rishi and Pree. Rohan was sitting next to Rishi.

Rishi murmured into my ears "Move now"

"What!?" I asked softly.

"I said move! Get back to hostel" he yelled softly. How can some one yell softly!? Only he can! I said "OK guys. Pree's got something to be done. We have to leave now. Catch you later."

Both of us stood up and started walking towards our hostel. Pree didn't talk a word to we reached the hostel gate. She said "What's with you and Rishi?"

"Sorry?", I said.

"What are you both planning for?"

"Nothing"

"You guys don't spend time like this often. You do it only when you people plan for something..... every time. And what now? Rohan with you!?"

"He mingled with us well"

"What about with you??"

"With me??? Good friend"

"Lie to me. Not to your self."

"I'll have it on my mind. Sleepy.....going to my room.Bye", I said with a big smile.

"Bye." said Pree smiling back.

## Chapter 11

I wondered why he shooed me like that the day before. We reached our class earlier. Pree said

"God! We're early. That ain't good"

I stared at her and both of us started laughing.

"Ronnie!" a voice shouted.

"Look who's here! My boyfriend!" I said and laughed.

"What!? You guys never told me!!" said Pree.

"We didn't find it so important to tell you" said Rishi.

"Rishi! Don't be mean! She's my bestie.", I said smiling at Pree.

She was SHOCKED! Absolutely!

Not because of how I supported her but because of the girlfriend-boyfriend stuff.

I stared at Rishi and we started laughing. Pree realised that we were making fun of her and yelled at us.

After a while I started the convo.

"Well.... Then? What was it that happened yesterday?" "Asking about our date?" said Rishi.

"No idiot. Meant the thing after that. Why did you shoo me away like that?"

"You guys went on a date!? Aww!" interrupted Pree.

"You shouldn't hang on to a guy like Rohan for a long time. He'd find it uncomfortable. That's why", he said.

"Oh.... Rishi, is it gonna work out!?" I asked hopelessly.

"My dear lollipop, it's already working out"

"But..... Nothing happened. It's all the same!"

"Give him some time and space"

"I don't want to..... " I started and he continued saying, " You don't want to?? How on earth will he fall for you then?? "

"I don't want to make him fall for me..... he has to do it naturally. You're making it to happen eventually"

"Huh!?? But....."

"Don't try it hard. Forget him. I'll do the same in few days"



"You both got along well because of Rohan I guess" said Pree.  
She was right. I smiled at Rishi and he didn't smile back. He was deep in thoughts.  
I patted him on his back to bring him back to his senses.  
"His friends tease him." he said.  
"What!?" I asked.  
"You asked his name in the middle of the crowded corridor. He's being teased for that ever since you did that "  
"It happens at college. I knew it would. Does it even matter?", I said carelessly.  
"He didn't say a word back", he said seriously.  
"Pardon!?" I was really confused.  
"He didn't stop them!" he said. I was able to see a bulb glowing on his face. He was that bright when he said that.  
"Hey..... Don't take it the other way. He's a silent and shy guy. How will he force his friends to stop that?" I justified.  
"Not as simple as that. Just answer this." he said.  
"Yeah. What?" I said.  
"You know him well now. Better than before. He's a friend of yours. Has your crush on him decreased?? Yes or no?? "  
It hasn't to be frank. I see his eyes and get stunned every time. Not a change in it.  
"Yes. It has"  
I thought it's better to tell him a lie. I didn't lie to me this time. Thanks for Pree's advice.  
The convo ended. Rishi got convinced that it was just an infatuation. I don't know why.....but I felt like lying to him on this issue was the best thing to do. His reaction to this whole thing is really weird.  
We walked through the corridor and Rishi was staring at me the whole time. I looked at him into his eyes. He turned away.  
"Rishi! This ain't that serious as you think" I said very seriously.  
He turned to me. I tried to maintain the seriousness and then he said "Good for you....if so".  
Pree joined us and we moved to our respective hostels.

## Chapter 12

A whole week passed without any talks about Rohan. It was so smooth. I was totally free..... mentally. The same old classes and hanging out with my besties.  
In the evening, Rishi phoned me and asked me something really weird but it did make sense. He asked if I was sure if it was just an infatuation. I didn't believe so till that moment but I said strongly "yep! Sure". I hoped that I never regret it ever again. I did wonder if I spoke the truth. I never knew it for sure so I convinced myself.  
I liked walking alone in the corridor every evening. So I shooed Pree off every time. When I walked through it I cherished it. There was no particular reason but I smiled when I looked up at the sky and walked over there. It felt great.  
One such day, some one else accompanied me in the evening. I felt it but for some reason the other person was sneaking behind. At that moment, all I wished for was "Please let it be Rohan". I stood there....right in the middle and was actually freaked out because of my wish. Questions started rising in my mind.  
"Why??Him??"  
"Do I really like him to that extent??"

"What am I thinking???"

"How could I wish for something like that??"

"Am I such an a\*\*hole!?"

Well....yeah I guess. The most irritating part was that I was giving so much importance to a guy who doesn't even notice my existence. Sometimes I think first love is meant to be given up. But I did regret the fact I never had the courage to tell him that I liked him. May be if I had done that. That lonely walk around the college in the evening would've not existed. I did like walking like that. I realised that there is no use in wasting my time on him but it was almost some involuntary function of brain. I had no control over the thought. I almost forgot the presence of someone with me in that corridor.

Came back to my senses and said "Who's that?"

There was absolute silence for few minutes and asked it again. I turned back and what I saw was a guy looking down standing 10 steps ahead of me. I questioned "Why were you sneaking around like that?"

I expected nothing from that guy. I didn't want him to reply back. I wanted to turn around and walk away. Before I did that, there did come a REPLY.

"Hey..... I am Rakesh"

I turned back to glance at him. I've never seen him before. I don't mean that I know everyone at college but I at least would've seen people. But this guy was totally new.

"Rakesh? Who?" I said out of curiosity.

He was a tall.....of Rishi's height. I guess that isn't tall but not short either. He was struggling to talk to me. Gosh! How did I talk to a total stranger that day!? This guy is having a really bad time. I..... was about to get myself indulged in my sweet dreams about the guy I liked before which I realised that I was actually standing in the empty college with a guy right in front of me. I had to get in to the hostel. That's when I said "Rakesh. Do you know me? Do I know you?"

"Well..... No for both I guess. ", he said and smiled. That was a warm smile. I was indeed surprised with that answer. He doesn't know me and I had no reason to know him but why did introduce himself like that to me..

"Huh!?" I blinked.

"Just kidding....I am a friend of Rohan. I've seen him talking to you. You are... some

Ro.....right?", he said.

"Roshini" I snapped.

"He used to mention you before. Don't you see him nowadays?" he asked.

What the hell was that supposed to mean!?

"Something wrong with that?" , I replied. He was astonished to some extent on my reply. I guess he didn't know what to say for a minute. A phone call to the rescue. He got a call. For no reason I was curious to know who was on the other end.

"Yeah...I am at college....saw Roshini and I was having a small chat with her" he said with a big smile on his face.

That whole situation had nothing to do with me. I just wanted to get out of it. That guy really was confusing me with his unknown intentions and absolutely abnormal actions.

A girl came from the other end of the corridor. Ha! Yep.....they were supposed to meet over there where I was standing like a third wheel. I laughed at myself. I apologised to Rakesh. And he introduced that girl as Maya, his girlfriend. I almost left the corridor. Rakesh shouted

"Roshini!"

I looked back at him and asked "Yeah???"

He said "You really like him just like I thought. He's totally available. Do something before its too late." and gave his warm smile. I didn't really know why he said that but I responded "Okay" and smiled back.

### Chapter 13

I told about whatever happened at the college to Rishi and Pree but all they did was.....laughing. They said someone messed up with me. I was damn sure it wasn't like that. It was like manipulating me further. I couldn't even get a clear picture of what was happening around me. How sickening!?

There was the usual morning recess....and as usual Pree vvanishes. It must've been Prakash. Me and Rishi were sitting in the classroom. He said, "So? Your life getting interesting now?". Huh!? Man! This guy is really weird at times!

"Sorry?" I said blinking.

"Well....you have a guy now. That makes it interesting right?"

"Rishi! Nothing like that yaar. To be frank its interesting when I'm with you" Jeez! What did I say!? "and Pree". So....I do think at times.

He starred at me for few exactly 20seconds and opened his mouth to say "That's.....something .... great to hear! Its weekend tomorrow... Any plans?"

"Plans?? Without you? It's the same bestie time. I really wanna have some good ice cream Rishi! Yummyum..." I said. I was almost drooling thinking about ice cream.

He laughed the usual my-stupid-friend laugh. I ended up doing the same too. We were laughing and Pree came in.

"God! You guys have real fun when I'm not around!" said a really bad mooded Pree.

It made me think. Is it? Well....yeah. Rishi is so me! That friend who's always fun to be with. But it's just weird that he doesn't talk like the real him in front of Pree. He's always the professional-kinda-guy when she's around. I guess only I know how cool he's.

I really slept well. I opened my eyes lazily. It was all bright! It's saturday morning! 'Yay!' a part of me inside shouted. I checked my phone. The time was bloody 11AM. 11 missed calls. Crap! It was Rishi. He has called me 9 times. The other 2 were from Pree and my mom. I called my mom first and spoke to her for almost an hour. My dad joined in between so I ended up at 12PM.

Rishi's gonna be dead angry. I called him next.

"Hey!" I said trying to be eenthusiastic. Hope its contagious.

"Hey...." said a dull voice on the other end.

"Rishi....am gonna join u for lunch in 15mins. Get ready" I said trying to lighten his mood.

"Whoa! Cool! Okay!" I can feel his high spirit right here in my room. Cheers! Roshini you are great at this! I cheered myself.

"Hey there! the guy in blue T!" I shouted.

Rishi turned back "Hey girlfriend. At last you're here. God! I thought you were dead...when you didn't pick my calls."

"Sorry man. It was on silent mode. Slept like a log! Forget it. Let's dine! Am damn hungry!" I said.

We ate really well. Gosh! I get real HUNGER! I ain't those girls who are very cautious about their diet. Pree is really thin. Sometimes I wanted to be like her but why get rid of little pleasures for some appearance. I really like the people who like me the way I am.

Rishi was very happy. An ice cream wouldn't harm. "Hey....ice cream?" I asked with pleading

eyes.

He gave that so Rishi-like smile. That's a yes. I went into the parlour and bought two blackcurrant sticks. I wanted to eat and walk. He was okay with it. Both of us walked the whole way to college with licking the ice cream and chatting. The conversation went on really well.

We reached the college and I was so thankful to God for not bringing Rohan into our convo.

When j was about to thank God... "Ronnie...how's it with Rohan?" I struggled to give a reply as I was mentally blank so ended up giggling.

"Huh??" he gave a confused look.

"Well....I told you already..it ain't serious. But that guy speaking like that to me yesterday has got me thinking again" I said sincerely.

"You think you like him?" starts the enquiry.

"I....don't know.....I guess so"

"Got any reaction from his side?"

"He doesn't react at all. But I get hints about his interest from others. I guess.....that's quite enough motivating me." I smiled without knowledge.

He smiled back.

All of a sudden a thought struck me! Jeez! He was always with me and I've never asked about his girl of interest. He hasn't said any too. I've never seen him talking to a girl. Oh no! That's weird... Isn't it?

I mumble "Rishi..... What about you?"

"Me?? What about me?" he responded very seriously.

"Any girl??" I spilled out.

Gosh! That's so wrong. Must've not have got it out that way.

"Nah! None yet" he laughed.

Was that funny? I guess I didn't get the joke as usual.

"Why don't you talk to girls?"

Am I drunk? I just had an ice cream. May be they mixed some drug in it!

He was amused at that question. It's been five months since we know each other but I've never asked such questions.

"Well..... Don't really know. Don't feel like talking. As simple as that. I ain't that flirty kind" he blushed.

"I know the second part" I gave an assuring smile. We didn't really talk a lot after that. We sat on the college lawn looking at my favourite view.

Suddenly I heard a bunch of laughter's near by. It was Prakash and Pree and few other guys.....Prakash's friends I guess.

I shouted "Pree!". She turned to me, said something to the group and joined me.

"Ronnie!!" she shouted and glanced at Rishi " Hey Rishi".

Rishi greeted back. She explained about what her brother was up to now. A friend of his has liked Pree and has actually told that to him. GOD! Brave guy....made such a bold move. The funny thing was he has also approved it. But Pree didn't. She explained her reasons and everything was sorted out.

For a good looking girl like her, these stuff are quite common. She has never been into a guy so much. She's had her own boy interests but doesn't take it to the next step. I guess its the fear of not-gonna-work consequence.

That guy Rohan has really got me think a lot. And now I got to know a lot about my friends. Must thank him for that.

"Time to move." said Rishi looking at his watch.

"The day moved so fast..." I said.

"It did....got to know a llot" he smiled.

Don't know what he really meant but whatever.....it got me smile. I still think about Rohan..... what is he!?

"Hey... Look who's here!" said Rishi in amazement. I turned around to find Rohan. "Time to make my move" he said. What's he gonna do now? Sometimes I wonder why he gets so involved in this matter.

He waved to Rohan and he waves back and starts walking towards us. I stay there stunned....don't know what to do actually. It's been a long while since I saw him. I've only seen such stuff in the movies but for real...I couldn't see others. All of a sudden it was like there was no one near by me except for Rishi and Rohan. Rohan walking towards me... getting closer and closer. Man! That's not so Me! I got out of it. Feeling way better! I can see everyone. Now Rohan is standing right next to me talking to Rishi.

"The weekend hangout huh?" he asked Rishi.

He nods with a smile. If I'm more silent people will get suspicious. So I try to interact. I say

"What are you doing this weekend?"

"Me?? Nothing much. Just a new book to read." said Rohan.

Whoa! He reads! I read! I've never heard of a guy who reads! How cool is that?

We talk about books and convo picks up. Oh Rishi! Where would've I been without you?? I look at Rishi right in his eyes. He smiles but his eyes don't seem equally happy. He has some issues which he doesn't tell me. I get distracted from the convo with Rohan when Rishi takes a call.

"Rohan....is Rishi having some trouble? Anything you notice?" I murmur.

"Well.....He's changed. Not a big one. But I did notice it. Something's up with him." he replied.

"Since when??" I say in a shock.

"Quite recently.....few days back only" he said.

"Oh" I tried to reply.

I really didn't know what to say. How did I miss this? He was right there for me all the time and I didn't notice this! Kill me!

"I guess....you are quite distracted for now." he grins and "and I have people to hangout with.

Catch you later Roshini" Rohan started leaving.

I corrected him saying "Ronnie.....Rohan. Yeah. See ya"

He turned to smile but didn't correct it. Man! This guy is always a mystery.

"Rishi! cut it " I say taking off his phone. It's his elder sister Mira. I said " Hi Mira! How are you doing"....blah blah blah and cut the call I'm 2minutes.

Rishi stares at me. He definitely wanted an explanation for what I just did. I didn't mind it though. I wanted an explanation from him. I crossed my hands and gave him a hawk eye stare. He said "what?"

"You gotta say it. Spill it out!" I snapped and noticed Pree's absence. When did she even go!?

Back to Rishi. "C'mon! You think I don't know? What's wrong with you?"

"Ron.....nothing of that sort." he said looking down.

Ron??? Hehe.....that sounds even better.

"Look at me and talk!" I said.

"Well.....I don't know. I don't get it why I don't make friends..... I mean.....close ones" he trembled.

Want the hell!? Who am I???

I look in his eyes and its filled with sorrow. God! How did I not know this!?

"Rishi! Chill man! What am I then?? I thought...." I couldn't finish the sentence. It was just my thought. I always thought him as a close friend but didn't know if he felt the same or not. May be he didn't. I'm such a LOSER. I guess he understood what was going on my mind. Because he said "I know. You try to but...."

I knew how to solve it... Didn't give him a chance to continue. I spoke my mind out. "Listen! Everyone makes mistakes. I know I don't make a great friend to anyone. But I do my best. You know how its to be the close friend right? Why can't you just do that?"

He stares back at me now. "You want me to be your bestie??"

My mouth drops open. He thought I talk like this with all my friends?? I start laughing.....it was genuine.

He stares at me even more.I stop and talk again.

"I always thought you as one!You are such an idiot! Isn't it more than enough to be my bestie??" I tease.

He starts smiling. The so-rishi-like smile. He looks better with that.

He takes his right hand to his forehead and said "God! Ronnie! How do you make people happy just like that?"

"I'm a child prodigy, you know?" I said with a huge smile.

I guess I really made his day. I thought about what he said

Well he was right. I do make people happy. But I never get it back. Only you and Pree make me happy Rishi!

#### Chapter 14

I keep starring at board trying to understand the mathematic problem on a monday morning.

Trying to derive a solution.....but u probably know what's going on my mind. My two best friends are hiding stuff from me. Found one and corrected it....I guess. But at least found one's problem. The other one!? And more over the guy who's supposed to be the guy of my dreams doesn't even bother me. My life sucks!

God! You really want me to suffer???

I sense God's grin from my math class. Jeez! Cruel world. Yep! The math staff got me this time.

"Roshini! Get out"

I stand up not looking at his face because am not that dumb to ask him why when I know the reason. "Shall I join you?" said a voice. Of course! Who else? It was Rishi. I shake my head. No way! He's not gonna do that....will he?? What the hell?? I mean why should he?? Oh Rishi! Why do you help me so much.

"Me???" says another. Pree! You too!?

Both of them talk to me and yep the professor sees us.

"So then? What were you doing?", asked Rishi walking to my right. " Yeah! What?" joins Pree to my left. We were walking in the corridor.

"Nothing" I mutter.

Both of them give me the i-know-but-u-say-it look. What do they want me to do?

Definitely....the only thing they have on mind is.....Rohan! Fine...I surrender!

"You guys are right....okay now?" I snap.

"How do you know what I thought??" said Rishi trying to be innocent.

I starred at him! I looked up at the sky and what else THANKED GOD for my eyually dumb

friends.

"I've had enough stuff! Stop it!" I said and walked away.

As expected Rishi followed me apologising but Pree..... I turned back to fond Rishi looking apologetically! And Pree was nowhere to be seen! Where did she go now?

"Where is she?" I squealed.

"Who?" blinked Rishi.

Did he just do that?? He reminds me of some one....who??? Right now it doesn't matter.....Pree! For God's sake! Where did she even go?

"Oh...Preethi?" said Rishi. Yeah! What was he even thinking till now??

I nod.

"She got a phone call. She said she'll be right back. She went this way...." he pointed the way leading to the college auditorium. Why would she go there to talk on a phone??

"We ought to move." I said.

"Move? Where?" he enquired.

I pulled his hand.. "Wherever she's gone" I said.

Both of us peeked into the auditorium through the door which was half glassed. It was totally empty. I really hate that place. All I can remember about that hall is me sleeping. :-P Its quite large accommodating 750 students. Its usually full. I guess there was nothing special on that day as it was totally free except for 2 people sitting in the front. I could merely see them.

"A girl..... And a what??" murmured Rishi into my ears.

"Girl? Able to see??" I said under a shock. I guess I have to wear a specs or something. Oh freak! Focus Roshini!!

"Yeah.....its a girl and a....." he placed his hands on my shoulders and reached above me opening the door, "girl".

"Sorry?" I said confused.

"Don't have to apologise and all. There are two girls sitting" he said calmly.

I didnt know if I was supposed to laugh. I giggled....it was genuine. Hehe..... And said "Pree in there?"

"Yeah....but can hardly recognise the other girl" he replied.

"Good looking?? Must be.....I can say it from the way you're still peeking out there" I said giggling. My turn to have fun! Imagine me with an evil grin here.

"WTF? No! I was just trying to recognise her!" he squealed .....quite loudly that it echoed into the hall. I gave the CHECKMATE look at Pree.

Many questions arises in my mind. Who's she? Is she responsible for the missing Pree? Every time?? Or just now?

Pree walked towards us with that girl. I suddenly started recognising the girl! I couldn't believe it.... It was HER! I didn't know she still stayed back here! How could she???

## Chapter 15

It all happened 3 months ago.....that was exactly 2 months after entering college. Don't remember where Rishi was but me and Pree were walking near our department office when our HOD waved at us. We couldn't believe ourselves when he gave us a SEALED parcel and asked us to take it to the principal's office safely. We did the same. But when we entered in the office there was no one to be seen. We didn't want to let people misuse it too. So we waited for 5minutes. No one came. We didn't want to miss the next class. So we thought it'll be okay to place it under few papers on the table. We ran to our class after that. When the class was to be over....all of a sudden our HOD visited our class. Our chemistry staff paused. HOD searched in

the crowd to find someone. He stopped glancing around when he saw me. I swallowed something down my throat when I actually had nothing in my mouth. He called me outside. I obeyed him immediately.

"Roshini.....if in not wrong" he said.

Is that a question or a statement.....o don't have time to think so I just nodded.

"What did you do with the parcel I gave you?" he eyed me carefully....right at my face.

"Did what you told me to,sir" I said blinking at him and wondering why he's questioning me.

"Did you?" his eyes started burning. Man! He is FURIOUS!

"Yes,sir. Of course. What business do I have with that parcel?" I said. I really don't know where I get this bravery from! Its the first time I did something like that.....Rohan thing was the second.

"It had confidential information and I guess yi know what it is now" he said or asked.....whatever.

But I stayed there blinking.....trying to process what he had just told me. After 35seconds I understood his statement.

"No! I didn't open it!" I rebelled.

"SSure" he said.....this time I really had to ask if it was a question or a statement because it was really important this time.

"Statement" he snapped.

He ordered me to follow him to the principal's office. Right at that moment I knew what would be happening inside the class room. People discussing about my situation. I swear! I had nothing to do with that whatsoever parcel.

We reached the principal office...he was seated in the middle of his round table.

I wondered how he gets inside it every time. I finally found a door on one side of the table. Our principal is a short guy who's quite fat.....with huge spectacles. He smiled at our HOD who nodded back.

That's MEAN!Really mean!

I was seated in front of the principal....next to my HOD.

I welcomed a smile from the principal. But all he did was. "So Roshini? You really opened the pack? If I were you I wouldn't have dared to" he said so calmly with a smile.

I never wanted a smile at that point of time.

I blinked and said "Even I wouldn't!"

HOD turned to me and raised his eye brows like 'Really?' and said "but you just did it"

"How do you say?" I argued.

"The CCTV footage shows it." said Principal.

"What the ....." I stopped. Both of them starred at me. I blushed and "I want to see it! How can I be there when I was at class?"

Principal viewed me the video on his laptop. It showed a girl entering in.....I was astonished!

There was girl with a ponytail resembling me from the back. Her face wasn't clear. I know that it was some other girl because it wasn't me....but how could I possibly prove it!?I was stuck. I can't produce Pree as an eye witness because almost the whole college knew that we are best buddies.

"I need time" I murmured.

"To?" questioned HOD.

"Prove it isn't me!" I said.

"That's.....something said brilliantly.....I hope you disprove our suspicion on you within 2 days." said principal with a smile.

Crap! He just gave me 2 days....like aam a detective or something. But I actually asked for it...so



I nodded.

HOD couldn't say a word as the final decision was made.

I came out to find Rishi and Pree waiting outside.

They were CURIOUS! A LOT!

I explained everything.... they were shocked just like me on hearing about the girl.

I even showed them the footage which I got from Principal. They were REALLY SHOCKED! DUMBSTRUCK!

"Open your mouth guys....! We have to do something and quickly!" I said.

Rishi just blinked at me. I think he was marvelled by the way I asked time to disprove them. I'd have done the same at me if I were looking at me from a second person view.

Pree said "But I was with you!".

Rishi said "Yeah. You are always with her. Who would trust you when it's about her??"

Whoa! He thinks like me! I do have a smart friend! Thank you God!

"The duplicate Ronnie is definitely smart enough" I said.

"Nothing like you! You're smarter.....now think of a solution!" motivated Pree.

Rishi was looking at me with expectation.....I guess he wanted me to take charge.

"Rishi....think about the girls who look quite similar to me". He nodded. "And you Pree! Think of the girls who were near us when we walked from our HOD to Principal."

"As you say Ronnie!" she responded.

I rewinded.

I was walking with Pree. I got out of the HOD's cabin with the pack on my hand. I was having it so carefully that it looked like a waiter carrying a dish.

I watched a group of boys who were chatting and bouncing balls on the mid corridor. I noticed them when their ball almost hit me right on my leg. I stopped it and saw them.

Crap! I know who did that!!

## Chapter 16

"I got it!!" I shouted in joy.

"That's quick!! I've found a suspect too..." said Rishi delightfully.

"That girl!" shouted me and Pree together.

Rishi blinked. I giggled at his reaction.

"A girl ran into a group of boys in the mid corridor and I got to notice them when their ball bounced towards me....she had short hair.....I guess....was of my height....." I said with a triumphant smile with a mild doubt.

"Yeah! I thought the same!" said Pree.

"What about your suspect?" I asked Rishi who was thinking hard.

"It's just that.....Riya.....resembles you....I ran into her once mistaking her for you from behind. She's in our batch but don't know her department and all" said Rishi with a did-it-help-at-all blink.

"It did Rishi! That's FABULOUS! I gotta go now" I said walking my way to the Principal.

"At least have your lunch and go nah?" said Pree.

I winked her with a success smile and she couldn't say a word later. She knew that the most important thing to me in the world at that moment was sorting out this issue.

"Excuse me sir" I said.

"Yes,...er... Roshini" said Principal.

"Sir, I guess I know who did that."

"That's impressive..... you found it this quickly....You still have 2 days time. Don't be in a hurry"

"No sir. I did think a LOT."

"Okay. Tell me"

"It was a girl I saw when I neared your office. She must be a first year student. Not sure of who she is. I suspect it as Riya." I just wished Rishi was right about her! I crossed my fingers.

He checked something in his laptop and looked back at me.

"You sure? Can't waste a person's time during the lunch hour....." he said calmly as usual.

"Yes sir" I tightened the crossed fingers.....Rishi is usually right.... I hoped it was the same I. this issue too.

He took his pphone....dialed some number and someone picked it. He told that someone "Get Riya, No.304 Immediately." and cut the call.

I waited anxiously. The pune entered in with that girl. It was her! Riya!

Oh Rishi! What'll I do if it wasn't you???

I went to her. Removed my hair band and used it on her hair making a pony tail. Asked her to turn around. Jeez! She's me! I asked Principal to check her attendance. She was absent in the last hour. That's right! No one plays with me! I glared at her with a victory smile but my eyes burnt in anger. Why did she want me to get caught???

Principal apologised to me and sent me out. I didn't bother to stay back and watch what he does to her. I joined my wide eyed friends standing out.

"Victory!" I raised my right hand.

"Yay!" They both joined me.

That girl! is standing with Pree right in front of me now!

"You??" I uttered in rage and glanced at Pree with a wtf-are-you-doing-with-her eye brow raise.

Rishi recognised her too but didn't bother to say it out.

"Ronnie.....not what you think." said Pree.

"What do you think am thinking right now?" I am ANGRY!

"She isn't bad" she said.

What!? A girl who almost got me suspended or even out of the college permanently isn't bad.

"She had a reason!" continued Pree.

I was confused and she got it. She looked at Rishi.

What the hell does he have to do with this?

"It was because of him!" snapped Riya.

"What??" I glanced Rishi. He blinked trying to understand what was happening.

"She liked.....him" said Pree.

Oh! This is what this is all about. But liking him and getting me caught? What the hell is that?

"Didn't get you!" I said blinking.

"I think I got it right...." said Rishi.... FUMING!

He was terribly ANGRY! I've never seen him like that!

"Do you even know how much she means to me?? Don't you dare to even think something like that again!" he literally shouted at Riya.

I was quiet! Didn't really know what to say.

"She's my friend.....the best friend! Mind it!" he snapped.

"And know what? I might've liked you if you hadn't done it. Now the chances are zero! Don't even try!" he said.

"Ronnie.....let's move." he ordered.

I didn't even respond looking at him in AWE.

He turned to me and "are you even coming?"

I couldn't respond.....processing the stuff which just happened. He took my hand and pulled me away from the two girls.....outside the hall.

He left my hand when we reached the corridor.

I gained my senses back.

"What the hell just happened? How's it all related? " I asked.

"I met her 2 weeks after getting into the college. I reached out to her mistaking her for you.

That's all I remember about her. She liked me , from what Pree said. She must've found me hanging out with you somehow. She wanted to get rid of you so that I notice her. She got a chance and made use of it. As simple as that." he elaborated.

"Holy crap! She liked you so much that she wanted to get rid of me?" I murmured.

"She's just a pshyco! Who'd do something like that to you..... She could've just spoke to you about me.... Think Ron!" he said.

He's got a point. Yeah! She didn't have to get rid of me that way.

I just progressed all these on my head and walked along him. He paused all of a sudden.

"He's here" he said and before I could spot the he..."Hey Rohan!" shouted Rishi.

I stopped.....stunned.

Man! This guy just does this to me every time. Am I in a movie? Or am I really doing all these?

Feeling like this? Odd!

I just stand there grinning. Suddenly I remembered what happened. I look at Rishi and he's laughing with Rohan. How's he doing it?? He was just dead angry!

Whatever! I walk to them and join them. Talk a little and stare at Rohan more. He didn't notice me doing it....at least to the best of my knowledge.

I suddenly remembered how I first met him. And i also remembered how I tried to forget him.

How'll I even forget HIM???

He moved off as usual. He is totally different from me..... But I like him for his..... Don't really know!

A miraculous Monday! Gosh! I was mentally tired. I went directly to my room to face odd expressions on my room mates faces.

## Chapter 17

When I just lied on my bed Pree phone called me.

"Hey....sorry man!" She said.

"For what?" I asked like nothing happened.

"For hiding the truth about her.....I thought you won't approve her friendship"

"Whoa! How true? You definitely are a great friend of mine. You know me really well!"

"Hey! C'mon! Stop kidding! She really liked him.....she got suspended for a month as the parcel had nothing to do with us but got punished for disobedience"

"Does it even mean something to me? Why do you bother to tell me all these?"

"To let you know that she risked her education to get him."

"The correction is to GET RID OF ME!"

"Yeah right! Open your eyes Ronnie! Think about Rishi! He's a handsome boy and he's single!

But is totally unapproachable! And why is that!?"

"Do you mean....." Crap! She is right. He's always with me.

"Hello? There?

"Yeah....will talk to him about it tomorrow! Gotcha! Good night babes. Sleepy!"  
"Good night."

"Hey!" shouts Rishi.

"Hey.....I wanted to take to you and here you are!" I said sipping tea. Its HOT!

"Yep....tell me then" he said delighted.

"Its about Riya...." I started and he frowned.

"Stop it man! Let me talk!" I snapped.

"Okay!" he said.

"See! You seemed handsome to her...." I murmured.

"And not to you?" he raised his eye brows.

"Er.....of course....yeah....." I struggled to get words out of my mouth.

"Cut it! It's not gonna work. Is better not to have such convos" he said and smiled.

Crap! What is he doing? He made me speechless and telling me not to have such convos???Think Roshini! Think!

"Rishi!" I whispered looking down at the green carpet. The dark and thick material. Oh yeah! It's winter! Of course that makes sense.....that's why its placed down. Shit! Focus! Back to Rishi.

I glanced up to see Rishi staring at me in confusion. He wasn't sure if I called him or not.

"Did you just call me?" he asked.

"I did.... Think about her motives.....intentions. There's nothing wrong in it. You are a catch Rishi. Think about her situation." I said trying to show some sincerity in my eyes.

"Is it always the looks?? Love's concerned about?"he asked me with no expression.

I got blank....well....shit! What am I even talking about? Its definitely a NO!

"No! Of course not" I said.

"Then why the hell are you are forcing me to like that girl?" he said softly.

"Why would I?" I objected.

"But you just did it" he faulted me.

"No! I was just asking you to talk to her. Because you don't know what she has on her mind .....neither do I. Why are you guys always like this? Do you even know how the girl gets affected just because of your ignorance!?" I argue.

"So? I get it now! It was about you all the time! You are FRUSTRATED! Aren't you?" he smiled.

"Yeah! I am frustrated. But it has nothing to do with me. Its about you. At least you people get what you deserve..... The LOVE&CARE stuff. Just go and talk to hher." I said.

"Your eyes say something else" he handed me a hanky.

Jeez! I was crying! I didn't know that! I don't cry that easily. But now what's important is....

"What are you doing? Just go to her now!" I said ignoring the tears running down my cheeks.

"As you say my lord!" he greeted in a royal manner and walked towards Pree and Riya, who were on the other end of the tea bar.

I smiled at myself looking down and removing the tears on my face with his hanky.

I heard someone clearing their throat from behind and turned back.

"Hey" said Rakesh.

"What's up?" I asked with a fake smile.

"Ha! Nothing much. Just saw you standing alone. Wanted to find you a company"he smiled.

"Well....Thats very kind of you....but I ain't alone. I've got my friends around."I said with sparkling eyes. That should've taught him a lesson.

"Oh!fine" he said and waved at someone. It was Rohan!!! God!

He waved back and started walking towards us. I just told him that I had company. Why is he doing this?? To help me?? In totally fed up of my life already and he's helping me to enter into a worser life. Thanks Rakesh. You made my day!

SICK!

"Hey" I greeted Rohan looking at him standing right in front of me.

Rakesh spoke something and lleft. Leaving us alone into he crowded place.

"Hey Roshini" he smiled. Whoa! The way he pronounced it made me like my name more.....for a second.

But after all that had happened.... I couldn't just talk to him. Hard to think. I guess I've had enough mental pressure. As usual he waited for me to say something. It was a long wait! Poor guy. But what the heck can I do? I couldn't think of anything. If he wasn't there I would've cried. Why doesn't he open up? Why should I do the talking all the time..... In worried. Can't he just enquire about my sadness. He's so.....weird. Doesn't even fit the spot I created for him.

At last he opened his mouth and I felt a mild relief for no reason.

"Okay.....catch ya later" he smiled and left. That's it?

I would literally fall down anytime. I hate this sucking life! I was about to drop down.....when I heard "Job done". Yep! It was Rishi.

"Done??" I blinked at him hiding my fragility.

"Spoke to her. Happy?" he said nonchalantly.

That made me relax to some extent. Now I ain't the one stopping happiness entering into his life. I guess I did justice to my friends now. Pree doesn't have to go missing all the time now and Rishi doesn't have to be alone. I'm the happiest girl..... happy to some extent. I smiled whole heatedly after a long while

"You okay?" disrupted Rishi.

"Totally" I said aloud.

He laughed at me. I didn't find it funny but joined him. Didn't want to enquire about what happened with Riya because making him talk with her was more than enough of troubling him.

"You are weird" he said after ending his laugh.

"Of course. Am your ffriend....right?" I mocked at him.

He gave me a oh-really boyish look and said

"I mean.....how can you cry and laugh at the same time?"

"Its possible when you are really depressed.....yet you are able to see your friends happy. Cry for me and happy for you people." I said smiling at him.

He questioned my DEPRESSED with his eye brow lift. I didn't want to talk about it. So changed the topic.

"Time to go home.....hostel in our case. See ya" I said and he smiled back. I didn't wanna miss the opportunity. I moved to Pree to take her along.

That was close! I really don't want to run my shit on my friends' mind and spoil their mind.

"Slow down. Let me join you" said Pree. She said something to Riya who looked at me in.....AWE!?

"Yeah, baby" I responded to Pree who was presently running towards me.

"Whoa!whoa!whoa! So much in a day? Unbelievable! " said Pree.

I blinked at her asking her to explain.

"You didn't ask him about the Riya stuff....right?" she smiled.

I nodded.

"I know! you didn't wanna involve in his life more. You are such a good girl Ronnie " she smiled again.

My mouth dropped open making her laugh.

"Go and sleep. You've got loads to know tomorrow." she said.

"Can't you just tell it now?" I ask weakly.

"Well.....I can.....but you can't withstand it. Better sleep now. Talk to ya later." she waved and walked towards her hostel and me mine.

## Chapter 18

Took a hell lot of rest and here I am standing in between 2 happy people after spending 6 hours at class room.

"Rohan!" squealed Pree. I suddenly lifted my head up to find his eyes. Crap! Why do I do that? Its like the key word to bring me to the present.

I could feel two big grins near me. Yep! They fooled me.

Prakash waved at me and I waved back. He signalled me to send Pree to him and I did the same.....leaving me and Rishi alone.

No no no.....I know what's gonna happen now. Roshini! You gotta face it. Tell him the Ruth if he asks about your depression. My subconscious said to me. I was almost ready when he suddenly said "Don't you wanna know what happened yesterday?" he asked amused.

I shakes my head. He was shocked.

"And why is that?" he asked.

"I've already done enough in your life...I guess." I said and he understood the raw fact inside the polished statement of mine.

"You did nothing and I'm gonna tell you!"he mocked .

He was so happy which made me agree to listen.

"Spill it out" I said with a teasing smile.

"That's the Ron I know! What she said was 'Please apologise to Roshini on my behalf. I could never face her again. I didn't even realise my actual fault till now when I saw her shedding tears.....for me...' " I stopped him continuing.

Do I really want to know more then this? No! I've known enough. Its gonna be private from now. I guess he understood what I felt because he suddenly said "Sorry. Didn't mean to embarrass you"

I didn't respond to him for the first time and that was because I couldn't respond as I was in deep thinking about Rohan.

Suddenly I started doubting if Rohan was the guy for me. He never did anything to me. It was me who always starts a talk.....he doesn't even bother me and why the hell should I have feelings towards him ?

"I guess I know what's going on your mind" said Rishi.

Oh! You don't! You never can get to know that!

"Rohan only" I said. His mouth dropped open. I laughed and "Not the way you think.....I was just WO seri g if my judgement about him being the guy was wrong"

" That's an intense thought" he mocked.

"Yeah. Its.....draining my energy on a horrid wednesday!" O said with a smile.

"Spoke to him?" he asked tightening his smile.

"About?" I asked innocently.

"Your love" he said.

"Who's my love?" I asked blinking.  
"You gotta find it out by yourself. I ain't the guy who forces people to love" he said softly.  
"I.....er...." that's it! Couldn't hold it more. Tears welled in my eyes. He turned to me because of my sudden silence to find me almost draining in tears.  
"Tell me! Talk now! " he said promisingly.  
"He never fits in. I can't stop expecting .....even though I realised he could never fulfill them. Don't know why! I can't even understand a thing about him. How did I even fall in love HIM?" I starred right into his so-promising eyes.  
"May be.....you didn't" he said suddenly.  
The world paused for a moment. May be you didn't?? How does he know that I didn't fall in love? I blinked! How do I know that I'm in love!?  
"Got it?" he asked me .....so softly.  
"Yes!" I ssaid....wanting privacy.  
He understood and waved me a bye and left me sitting on the lawn looking at the sunset.  
I bent my legs towards me. Laid my head over my hands which were placed across my knees.  
I sobbed for 10 whole minutes. When my crying was over.....I started thinking about the situation with clear mind.  
May be you didn't.  
Did I?  
Didn't I?  
Did I?.....  
It was totally clear! I smiled.....because I knew the answer! Rishi is my rescuer!  
I walked calmly to my room. I sat on my bed...took my phone out.  
To: Rishi Ravichander  
Got rid of my Rohan depression. :-) :-) :-) Thanx.  
Pressed the send button.  
Next,  
To: Preethi Vasudev  
You were right.....from the beginning. I never got to see what you saw. Enlightenment now!  
Gud nite.  
:-) :-) :-)  
Sent.

But know what? I really liked his Black shirt and khaki pant he wore today. Wink!

I had enough thinking and the mental tiredness made me doze off as soon as I lied on my bed.

## Chapter 19

"Do you know something? I just understood there are two kind of heart breakers..... the ones who dump girls and the ones like you! Don't know if that's my fault or yours..... I just want to move on. Hope you understand" I snapped.  
I open my eyes and find a shocked Rohan. I'm holding a hand on either of my hand. I look to the right and see Rishi smiling. To my left stands Pree assuring me that everything was gonna be totally alright.  
Some forced light disturbs my eyes.....I close my eyes and open them to find myself wrapped in my favourite blue quilt in my room. It was a dream.....a nightmare!

Is that a sign of me getting over him??? God only knows!  
I sit up. Take a look at my phone. It was 7.15AM on a Friday. Ta-da! The weekend's CLOSE!  
2 unread messages. I open them.

From: Preethi Vasudev

Didn't get a word..... Still....sleep well babes. I miss my Ronnie. Waiting to see her tomo. :-D  
Gud nite.

That put a smile on my face.

Next one,

From: Rishi Ravichander

Glad to hear that..... Hope you didn't lie...;-)

Gud nite Ron

That made my day! Love my friends! That's a fabulous beginning. I felt deep down inside that I can do things better than before. I really don't know why I thought so but..... it was comforting. REALLY comforting!

Pree greeted me with a promising smile. I smiled back and to my surprise she didn't talk a word about my message or the-guy-who-i-forgot-from-yesterday. That's soothing. Met big wide open eyes on a smiling face..... Yep! Rishi! Suddenly..... I felt so grateful to him..... Oh Rishi! How much have you done for me! I took a seat next to Rishi.....the seat behind Pree's. Pree shifted back next to me. Well..... We did have to negotiate with Gita and Gauri who usually sit in the places we're seated now. Sweet girls..... They let us! Pree was shocked about my place shift but Rishi was.

"A place shift? Next to me?" he said with a confused look, hiding a smile.

"Wanted a chance. As simple as that" I said with a huge smile.

"It was easy for me to talk to you in your old seat" he mocked.

We started laughing.

Three of us had a great time together..... Talking and walking..... Just like few months back...no more things to hide..... But I had something distracting me all the time.....

"Rishi....." I mumble.

"Yeah?" he said with a what-all-of-a-sudden eye brow lift.

"Do you know Rakesh?" I asked.

"Why?" he says quite irritably.

"He kinda involved a lot in my personal stuff" I said.

He was angry..... no confused..... I really couldn't figure out what was on his mind.

"WTF? Personal stuff?? Like?" he asked with over flowing concern.

"He convinced me about Rohan and made me talk to him once..... for no reason..... It was like he wanted to help me..... but..... It was like he was sitting on me all the time... Waiting for the right moment" I said.

"Oh" he said. Pree was listening carefully to our conversation with a little shock.

"He and I aren't in good terms. We ended up at our warden's room one day. He's not a good kind.

" he said coolly.

"Oh" I said... Happy as he lost his rage.

"But no idea why he did that to you" he concluded about him.

I just smiled and said "it's okay. It's over now".



Pree said "That's a relief. Isn't it?" looking at Rishi.

He nodded kiddishly.

I lifted an eyebrow at Pree. We burst into laughter. It was all so good. I don't even feel the slightest of the pain I had in me a day back.

We says good bye to Rishi as we walked towards our hostel.

"DON'T worry about a sh\*t. We're there for you at all times." said Pree.

That was more than really comforting.

"I know" I said thinking of how lucky I am to get such wonderful friends.

Days passed smoothly.... our semester end exams were close. It was kind word that I didn't even see Rohan for the past 2 weeks..... it's the end of the semester now. Not that I'm worried.... It's just weird! I didn't dare to talk about him to my friends.

Exams were over successfully..... Did my best. Now the worst part.....gonna miss my friends.... It's semester vacation! 20 days..... Quite a long time.....The best part is gonna spend time with my family.... I packed my stuff and phoned pree and Rishi in the evening and bid them good bye. I stand outside the college gate with my bag pack wondering about the so many things I went through in just 6 months.

Of course! Life's indeed interesting!

## Chapter 20

20 days pasted in a jiffy. Its just weird that though you stay away from home for 6 months.....when you enter into your home it just seems so normal. Just like staying there all the time. May be that's how home's supposed to be.

I cleared the exams with a GPA of 8. Pree and Rishi scored the same too. Besties! Yeah! Told ya already.....my friends are smart....but I was quite shocked on my result.

Pree phoned me....early in the morning and said that she couldn't make it to the college because of her illness. She's got some kind of weird fever....water borne. She's under diagnose. She told me not to worry but how can I just not worry?? I am lost cried on phone. But she didn't hang up after talking about her illness. I sit on my bed thinking about what she said yesterday.

"Hi" I said.

"Hey Ronnie..." she coughed. "Long time no see. Won't be able to see you for a few days again."

"What? What's with that coughing?" I said.

"I've got some weird fever.....am under diagnose ....don't worry about it. I'm sure the docs will set me right. They're quite sure about it." she said calmly.

That was soothing to hear.....but not convincing. I just said it was okay.....just to encourage her....helped the docs....one way.

"Don't miss me" she coughed. "Rishi's there for you.....I guess you'd hardly miss me when he's around"

"Pree! Why do you talk like this? You know how important you are for me!" I snapped.

"Yeah. And I know how important you are for him too," she paused....I guess...it was to let me think about it.

"What's even going on? I really don't get you." I said....damn confused.

"I was really impressed by the way he distracted you from seeing Rohan every time he was on our way" she laughed or coughed.....not sure.

What?? I was on our way!?! I didn't notice?? Wait!! Did she say Rishi distracted me?  
"He would signal me to talk to you and he would eventually cover Rohan's view..." she laughed(definitely.... Sure this time).  
"But.....why?" I mutter.  
"You think.....you would've been this strong now.....if you had seen him all the time?" she paused.....and I could sense her smile. She was happy for ME.  
"Pree...I really don't know how I got such great friends like you and Rishi.... I don't even know if I deserved you people" I said almost sobbing.  
"Shut up! You deserve more than this.....and Rishi knows that better than me." she paused for a cough and "Just take care of him.....the way he takes care of you"  
"What the hell is that supposed to mean? He's my friend.....how'll I not take care of him! Its obvious" I said thinking about what's she trying to say by all these. I didn't even make sense.  
"Yeah girl! I know.....but just felt like reminding you that. And yeah.....I hears you telling him something about looks and love....if i'm not wrong... " she paused.....letting me know that I was supposed to respond.  
"I did.....but there was a misunderstanding...." I stammered.  
"I know what you think.....don't you even doubt it.....appearances have nothing to do when it comes to love.....like a guy who sees your eyes and likes you...." She said philosophically.  
"Hmmm...." I said accepting what she said.  
But talking about it at that point of time didn't make sense. What she said was right.....she cleared my doubts.  
'Is it always about the looks?' his question haunts me again.  
No! My subconscious says without even thinking. This time I guess I've finally made it sure.  
That's a relief. Its not about the looks.  
"Thanks" I said.  
"You don't have to thank me.....thank the person who deserves it more than I do.....hope you know.." she said coolly.  
Yep! Of course I know..... :-)  
"You really have to take rest..... now go....sleep" I said innocently.  
"Haha....yeah. Bye. Take care of yourself as I ain't there. But remember..... Am just a call away." She said promisingly..... The Pree style.

Gosh! It's just been a day since I spoke to her and I already miss her!  
I walked all alone to the classroom.....well yeah...there was the usual crowd....but still....I felt damn lonely. Reached class and there again was a promising smile. How'll I not notice this?  
Rishi!

I go and take the seat next to him.....Interestingly the Gita and Gauri are already shifted leaving me a seat near him.

I grinned at Rishi. Well...he understood why. Don't know how..... he knows a hell lot about me than me.

"Hey" I greet him enthusiastically.

He greets back mirroring my spirit.

"Where's Preethi?" he asked.

"She's kinda ill.....will be back in a week or so" I said....I could feel my face sadden.

"Chill....she'll be fine" he said assuringly.

"Why do you call her as Preethi?" I asked..... Jeez! I really have to think before I talk.

He's stunned.

"Because....that's her name....isn't it?" he said coolly with a big smile.

I couldn't stop myself from giggling. I wanted to counter attack him.

"And what's my name?" I asked raising my right brow at him.

"Amnesia?" he grins.

I laughed....he just made me laugh! I was sad a few seconds ago. God! Where is this guy from?

"Roshini! I do remember..... But you don't call mme with my name.....that's weird" I said innocently....trying to control my giggle. I really wanted to get it out from him. What is the difference between me and Pree from his point of view.

"You prefer Roshini?" he asked.

This guy is really tough to handle.

"What I prefer doesn't matter now.....I asked you why you don't call me with my name when you call her with hers" I said calmly.

"Well.....you are my close friend....I find Ronnie cooler.....won't this reason do?" he said saddening g his face.

For the first time I was able to see him ffrom a different angle.....he was ACTING. Haha....he's really good.

"No...it won't" I ssaid looking at his shock struck face. Couldn't stop it anymore.....I laughed out loud.

He couldn't stop mirroring my action. Both of us ended up laughing.

And the same old lectures..... Later.....RECESS! Yay!

Both of us walked to the tea bar .....he managed to get us both tea struggling through the crowd. Talented!

"How's your family?" he asked calmly looking at something else.

"Cool" I said thoughtfully looking in the direction of his eyes.

What was he searching? I couldn't find anything of interest.

I glance at him again and he's staring at me. What now?

"What?" I said.

"You.... asking me that?" He said.

I was speechless..... He's got me. I raise my hands in defeat. He grins.

"My family is COOL too" he ssaid....stressing the word cool making me giggle.

"You look different.." I said.....For gods sake! I must stop doing this head to mouth talk.....without thinking.

He actually seemed more comfortable..... than before. He's out of his .....don't know what .....but something which wasn't good. Cool! He's cooler than before.

"Different? In the sense?" he said widening his eyes.

"Whoa! that's hot!" I said.....sipping the tea. It was HOT.....I nearly burned my tongue.

"Pardon?" he said back to normal sized eyes.

I knew what he meant.....I giggled again and said "Don't you take it that way! I meant the tea"

"Oh yeah.....the tea" he said as if getting convinced forcefully.

I still wondered why Pree brought all those stuff on phone.

"There's something which I wanted to ask you for a long time...." he smiled.

"Yeah?" I was curious.

"Not the right time.....will get to you on it in the eve." he said nnonchalantly.....gazing at something else as if he's not interested in bringing in that convo.

I knew what he was doing.....increasing my curiosity..... It has impacts on me.....he knows that

really well.  
Chapter 21

Rishi was all musical plugging in to his iPod.

I was sitting near him looking at the sunset.....it was kinda boring. I glanced at him.... he caught my eyes. He removed his right ear phone and put it in my right ear. He tuned on some song.

It was.....'I LIED' By Nicki Minaj - The pink print.

Holy crap!

I'm very much affected by songs and their lyrics.....I go for the lyrics and beats. He knows it well. When someone knows everything about you. You are prone to be weak in their presence.

That's sad!

The lyrics goes

I LIED I LIED I LIED.....

TO KEEP YOU FROM BREAKING MY HEART.

Even though I said I didn't love.....I lied.

Even though I said I didn't need you.....I lied.

To keep you from breaking my heart!

I started reacting..... It worked Rishi! This is exactly what he wanted to know in the morning....

I starred at him! I couldn't bear it anymore.....

"What do you wanna know?" I outburst.

"Nothing.....but the truth." he said calmly not looking at my eyes.

"Fine! Turn this thing off..... I'll tell you" I shouted.

He turned that bloody thing off..... I gained his eye contact now.

"I sat right here that day when you left me....." I pause.

He motivated me to continue.....he's curious..... More curious than he had to be.

"I cried.....so badly.....I almost got dehydrated" that put a smile on my face.

He smiled promisingly.....and nodded in order to make me continue.

"I thought damn hard after I had enough crying..... I was set up....."

"What?" he asked in astonishment.

"Yeah....I was.....I just liked him....you people teased me....I didn't care about it either.....but few incidences were mysteriously so connected to my feelings about Rohan"

He was under shock.....but didn't say a word....encouraging me to continue.

"I didn't want to disturb you or Pree more....that's why I didn't say this..... You did the right thing now.....there was no other way to get this out of me...." I smiled.

"I know right?" he mocked and "Now tell me....the mystery.....we'll solve it together"

"Oh Rishi! I'm so grateful to you" I said.....I was happy that I even shed a tear.

"Zip it! Continue" he ordered.

I giggled and continued.

"That incident when someone called him and I responded.....it seemed like a coincidence....but a weird one.....

Its like I was made to see him all the time.....

I walked alone in the college one day.....I got to see him.....

I met Rakesh out of a weird coincidence.....when he was about to meet his gf.....

He set a meeting with Rohan when you went to talk to Mira.

I thought.....about all those meetings I had with Rohan.....again and again.

I remembered me being happy in the beginning.....but it wasn't because of him...." I

paused....looking at Rishi who was processing each word carefully.....he lifted his eye brows at me when I was starring at him instead of continuing. He gestured me to continue.....I was actually feeling light minded....all the frustration inside me was radiating out.....I just wish it doesn't have a bad impact on Rishi.

I continued.....

"It was because of you and Pree. I wanted him.....you people made me get to him....that made me happy....that was how it was...." I paused again.....something bad striked my mind....I started tearing apart.....couldn't hold on....I snatched Rishi's hand and laid my head on his shoulder and cried.

"Hey.....Ron.....don't" he said.....thus time he didn't hand me a hanky.....he wiped the tears.

I looked at him..... his concern.... In his eyes.....I stopped sobbing and continued...

"I was crying so badly the other day when you spoke to Mira.....I met him.....he spoke to me.....I hesitated to talk to him.....he didn't....." I struggled to say a word after that.....I pressed his hand tighter and he stroked my head with his other hand.....it was soothing.....making me conclude.

"He didn't console me....." I released his hand and wiped the tears off my face with my hands.

"He didn't even question my sob..... All I could think to become happy again was....." I stare at his eyes again....."you" I finished.

He smiled....that's it.

"That's it?" I said astounded by his reaction.

"What else?" he said .....almost teasing.

I couldn't help smiling.....I hit him and said "I love you Rishi"

He smiled again.....genuinely this time.

"Stay as my bestie forever.." I said

"I'll try my best to do that" he mocked.

What the hell? Oh Rishi!

I stood up.

"Leaving?" he asked seriously.

"Yep.....gotta take some rest.....am tired" I said.

He smiled and "You ought to be.....those mysteries will be solved by tomorrow. Sleep tight"

"You too....." I walked away.

Exactly after 5 steps from him.....don't know why....I turned back to see him. He was starring at me and was shocked or embarrassed when I caught him looking at me.

I smiled...."Rishi..." I said...loud enough for him to hear.

"Yeah?" he responded.

"Thanks.....for everything" I blushed.

"Enough of your thanks.....get lost. Take rest" he said as he stood up.

I smiled and moved towards my room.

When I climbed the staircase.... at my hostel.....I thought about the one thing which I hid from Rishi.

I always found something very familiar in Rohan's behaviour..... He always reminded me of someone..... His attitude.....the way he behaved with me.....was similar to.....some one else's general attitude .....it was Rishi! I fell for Rohan only because of it.....I really liked Rishi.... But I can never fall in love with him.....because he's my best friend.....so I wanted a guy like him.....I was totally infatuated with Rohan because of the way I related him to Rishi but it was my subconscious who did that job! I never really knew why I was attracted to Rohan until few minutes back....when I said every thing to Rishi....I just realised it.

I staggered to my bed..... Thank God! None of my room mates were back.... I guess I was early.  
I sat on my bed and continued thinking. I processed everything that Pree told me....

I KNOW HOW IMPORTANT YOU ARE TO HIM.

This sentence haunted me.

Wait a minute! My heart beats were audible.

It became louder and louder.... WTF?

Deep breathe followed. I exchanged all nonsense out....

He loves me! As simple as that..... He what!?

I protested with my subconscious. It was always him.

Suddenly I got reminded of I'D TRY MY BEST TO DO THAT..... He is in LOVE! His smile!

Crap! I didn't even realise this! He was with me all the time..... I didn't understand him! He held me get to Rohan..... Oh Rishi! What'll I do to you?

My subconscious started her talk.

Love him back! As simple as that.

What? No! I can't.... He's my friend!

Go..... Hurt him more with your nonsense..... Calm down and take your own time..... It's never too late. He's gonna be with you all the time. Just think how you want it to be.

Huh!? Did my subconscious just say all this? I'm not worth his such feelings! That's insanely CRAZY! But whatever..... what my subconscious said did make sense..... I have time. Inorder to stop thinking.....I had to plug in to my phone.... Tuned on to my favourite playlist.

Whoa! I opened my eyes.....

STANDING FROZEN.....IN THE LIFE I'VE CHOSEN

How ironic!? The lyrics made me jump from my deep sleep..... it was LET IT GO-FROZEN by Demi Lovato.

I smiled.....I couldn't believe it! I was smiling without a reason. Well.....I have time to become worthy enough. Wink!

I checked my phone.....it was 7.30AM.....Jeez! I've slept a lot.....time to make a move! How ironical.....again? Haha....

## Chapter 22

I reached my class..... You don't know how much I wanted to see Rishi. But I didn't love him.....that might sound weird.....but I still need time to get over Rohan. Right now.....all I want is to make Rishi happy. Take care of him....the way Pree said.

"Hey Ron" he smiled "you look different".

"Good different or bad different?" I said.

"Well.....I guess... a good different" he paused to see my reaction. I know he knows everything about me....so I planned to act different giving him no advantage. Hehe....that's FUN.

He continued "I met Rohan...he was happy as usual." Of course...he'd be. He never cared about me Rishi! Why don't you get it??"

"Oh" I said nonchalantly.

"Coming to the point....Rakesh is his room mate....I didn't know that," he said.

"Oh" I replied not knowing what to say.

He gazed at me doubtfully.

It seemed funny all of a sudden and I giggled.

He raised his eye brow as a gesture of asking what.  
I shook my head and urged him to continue.  
"Rakesh and I had a brawl few days after entering the college" he stopped. What??  
"A brawl?" I spilled out.  
He nodded.  
"Why?" I said.  
"He spoke something which he wasn't supposed to...." he said coolly.  
How's he do COOL about fighting a guy?  
"Am I missing something?" I said.  
He starred at me for a minute and started laughing. I didn't get it....but started laughing.. Joining him.  
"Back to the mission" I said....well shouted.  
"I didn't know there was a Tom Cruise and a.....Cameron Diaz...in our class" interrupted a rough voice.  
I turned towards the source of the voice. Yikes! I swallowed. It was our maths staff. He's tall with a really straight face and with his specs on....he resembles Dumbledore. The whole class laughed at us.  
He sent us out.  
"That guy!" I said.  
"Cameron....mission impossible 5 is still on" Rishi said without smiling.  
Gosh! How does he manage to do that.  
"Oh Tom! Don't confuse yourself with Mission impossible and Knight&Day like out math staff" I said.  
We laughed. This is FUN!  
"Did Rohan say something?" I must've not asked it! But I just did.  
"Hmmm.... Yeah. We made a deal." he smiled.  
That meant.... he wouldn't talk about the deal.I kept quite.  
"Back to the task" he said.  
I nodded and "that guy who shouted at Rohan....when he was behind me...."  
"Wasn't it Rakesh?" he asked thoughtfully.  
"No.... I met Rakesh with his gf..the other eve." I said.  
"But..." he paused "he doesn't have one" he tapped the table.  
We were in the library....discussion hall. It is for....of course discussion.... You can't disturb the readers by talking inside the library so they've arranged this room.  
"Who was she... Then?" I said.  
What the hell is going on? I thought it was just me liking a guy.....its more than just that. Where on earth is it leading to? Good only knows.

## Chapter 23

But deep down inside....I feel like Rishi's hiding something. But if its about me he would've told me.I starred at Rishi. He was writing down something. We just finished our lunch and got back to class. People are still giggling at us. Who cares? I'm worried about my life.....his life. I don't know...all of a sudden it seemed to be a life taking matter. Just my intuition. I hope it is totally wrong.  
I peeked into his notebook and started taking notes. It was chemistry class. I'm quite interested in sciences. So is Rishi but Pree has different ideas. She wants to be a model. Well with her

beauty...she would.

"What the hell? Roshini! Focus!" Rishi interrupted.

He grinned looking at my shock.

Then I tried to focus on the class.

"You never asked about what happened with Mira...." Rishi said with a hidden why.

"I know you'd tell it one day" I said nonchalantly. Not that I didn't care. I forgot! and now he's ready to tell it himself.

"Oh" he paused in confusion and " well.... What happened was....."

"Rishi..." Mira stammered "I didn't know that you both were... Lovers"

"Oh..well....even I didn't know that." I said.

"Sorry? what do you mean?" she paused "Don't tell me you both are just friends"

"Well.....I guess I ought to apologise because that's exactly what am about to say" I said.

Preethi tried to hide her giggle. I guess she didn't want to embarrass Mira.

"But.....the way you got angry....the way she's crying now.....I really don't get it" she murmured.

"Even I don't.....help me with it if you can. But right now our status is Friendship." I mocked.

"So...you are available now?" she said with a hidden smile.

"I guess I am" I said. Believe me or not. If you were there, hearing our conversation you would've regretted letting me talk to her.

She looked right into my eyes which didn't melt for her and "Rishi....you have no idea what you are...what you did to me....."

"Stop!" I snapped.

He raised his eye brow.

"She proposed you? Why can't you just say that? You don't have to tell me exactly what went on....its.... " I stammered.

Why did I stop him!?

"Its?" he questioned me with his look.

I didn't know what to say.

"Reminds me of someone" I babbled. Oh no! I could see his face sadden a bit. Its not what you think Rishi!but I had no other go.....I don't know what to say.

"Want me to continue?" he asked innocently.

I nodded.

"She proposed me.....and.." he started.

I couldn't stop giggling.....he mirrored my "she proposed".

"You want me to romance you?" I snapped.

Preethi giggled without control and said "sorry guys....I gotta go" and left us alone.

"To hell with you. Rishi! Did you just ask her that?" I asked half laughing.

He raised his brow gesturing YOU-WANME-TO-CONTINUE-OR-NOT?

I nodded "Sorry"

"Bye Preethi" I waved.



Mira was damn confused looking at me and at Preethi and again at me and back to her.  
"Rishi?" she said.

"Oh yeah.....back to you.... I'm currently unavailable." I said.

WTF? He lied to her? Oops! Sorry....back to his convo.

"But.....you just said you were available" she protested.

"That was few minutes ago. I just made up my mind. I ain't available anymore" I said calmly.

"And why aren't you available?" she asked kinda frustrated.

"Excuse me? It just means....I have a girl" I said.

"But you don't!" I shouted.

"Is it?" he grinned.

OMG! What now?

"And...." Mira started.

"Who that is?" I ended.

She nodded.

I mouth dropped open. Rishi held my chin and lifted it up to close my mouth. I giggled.

"C'mon..... Continue" I urged him.

"Yeah....who's that beauty?" said Mira.

"Love is never about the looks.....I don't know when you people will understand that!" I paused....highly frustrated... "You were right"

I heard drums beat inside me loudly.....too loud....louder and louder. It took me 5 seconds to realise that it was my heart beating that loud. Rishi paused.....I guess....seeing my reaction. I swallowed and "I'm fine.....you finish it off". He nodded....I saw sincerity in his eyes. They glowed so bright..... I felt deep inside some big truth is gonna be said in few seconds. Am I ready to hear it? Well its too LATE now...

"Pardon? Get it straight to the point Rishi! I've already had enough of you people" muttered Mira.

"Yes.... Getting right to the point.... I'm in love with Roshini." I said.

I wasn't ready to hear it! Before I processed what he said.....tears started dropping off my face.

"But..." I stammered. I couldn't take it. I cried aloud.

"Sshhh! Ron..." he held my face so that I could see him right through his eyes. "Look at me" he said. His eyes glimmering with tears held.

I nodded.

"Ron.....you shouldn't be crying now..." he said.

"I shouldn't have let you talk to her" I murmured.

"Told you!" he winked and "Hey....listen..."

"I am" I shrugged.

"Roshini...." he said with a big relief.

"Hmmm..." I responded.

"I love you" he said.

Without wasting a second I uttered "I know".

He laughed.

I got pissed off and "What? Should I react differently?"

A tiny droplet of water dropped down his cheeks. Enough! How long am I gonna hurt this guy?

I hugged him tightly. We stood alone in the corridor....to be more accurate...right at the spot where I first saw Rohan. The sun was setting down letting the orange and red merge together into a mixture..spreading all over the college.....entering the corridor....it reached us in no time. I couldn't stop the tears.....may be this time it was totally because of happiness. The orange-reddish light surrounding us made me smile. Because it was the sign of warmth.....a PROMISE. The promise we made to take care of each other...we wanted to make the other person happy. A couple of fools we were. Having happiness right next to us and didn't try to see it. Idiots!

Dear God,

You did both the stuff I asked you. You made my friends as dumb as me and then changed them back to normal....increasing my IQ to match them.

Thank YOU!

Yours everloving,

Roshini(Ronnie or Ron)

"Ron..." he moved from me and "you never replied".

"Pardon?" I said without a smile as if I didn't get him.

"The response for my proposal...." he said and smiled shyly.

"You want me to romance you?" I said with a giggle.

He laughed. Gosh! I would stand there watching him like that all life!

Crap! I'm in love with this guy standing right in front of me....how did I go not noticing this? I was all bonkers about a guy I didn't even know. You are absolutely stupid Roshini! Yeah! I know!

I wiped the tears off his cheeks with my hands and said "Answer me!". It was more of an order.

He nodded with a huge smile. That's the response I needed. I pulled him close and kissed him. At that moment I realised....it was absolutely LOVE! No more second thoughts.

## Chapter 24

We walked out of the college and I pulled him to my favourite spot in the college. THE LAWN.

We sat together hand in hand watching the sunset. Suddenly something struck my mind.

"Rishi" I murmured.

He nodded like he was ready to answer any of my questions.

"What was that MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 5 about?" I stammered.

He glanced at me and stood up. I had to raise my head up in order to see his face. "The deal we made was..." he started.

But I never asked about it. Anyways..... I decided to listen to him when he wanted to confess something. But I didn't get why he stood.

"The brawl between me and Rakesh was for my watch....a Swiss make... My mom bought me.."

I interrupted "How is that related to the deal?"

He stared at me and grinned. Oh boy! This ain't good. What were they up to?

"The deal was....if you proposed Rohan....and if he accepted.." Crap! I got it!  
"You'd give him the watch?" I said thoughtfully, half confused.  
He nodded and "You're definitely worth a Swiss make" and he starred at me.  
Why the hell is he starring at me?  
Jeez! Did he just say that!?! This is why he stood up!?  
"What!?" I shouted.  
He started walking backwards...away from me.  
"And the mission thing?" I asked....actually shouted.  
"It was ....." he paused for a moment seriously and laughed saying "a PRANK!"  
Yuck! He's so dead! I stood up and walked towards him....while he kept walking away from him.  
"And all the time.....I had a really good action sequence on my mind...." I was definitely more audible than I was supposed to.  
"That was your mistake. May be you just thought like a Cameron Diaz"he mocked.  
Was I supposed to get angry? No idea.....I laughed.....then...we laughed.  
He stopped backing from me.....but I didn't stop my walk towards him. I got closer to him.  
Looked at his glowing eyes.....actually starred at it....for 2 minutes. He put his hands over my shoulder urging me to get closer. I followed the suit....and whispered "I love you Rishi...but..this time....just Stay with me forever".  
I put my head on his chest and he held me. That was the MOMENT OF MY LIFE!

## Chapter 25

I reached college earlier than usual. Pree returned back the previous night. She was more excited than me. Now...both of us walking in the corridor just like few months back when I was not distracted by a guy.....but the difference is I was happier. So was she. I came to a halt when I saw Rohan. Pree was shocked on my reaction on seeing him "Not again". She held my hand and squeezed. I promised everything was gonna be alright and walked towards Rohan who was standing with Rakesh. He was quite stunned looking at me and I know why. I smiled as sweetly as possible. I got closer and closer.....each step I got closer...I could feel tension in his eyes.....and Rakesh was getting happier and happier.  
I stopped when I stood right in front of Rohan and "Hey Rohan" I said, still keeping the sweet smile.  
He moved back and hit the wall. He had no chance of running. Poor Rohan!  
"You?" he stammered. Now we talk! I have made an impact on him.  
"Yep! I AM THE GIRL who fell in love with you" I paused letting him breathe and "But not anymore" I snapped.  
It was a shock for everyone in the vicinity who were aware of what was going on including me. Did I just do that!?! Yahoooooo!  
I turned my gaze towards Rakesh and "And you! Forget the watch. Try to earn one" I said coolly.  
I turned back walking towards Pree who had her hands over her mouth. Amazed....TOTTALLY! I noticed Rishi standing near Pree starring at me with his eyes.....GLOWING...it kinda distracted me. Focus! My subconscious yelled and I turned back again at Rohan.  
"Dont you ever accept deals when it involves a girl. Understood?" I said and when he nodded, I was back on my way towards my friend and BOYFRIEND. Haha.....this is FUN!

Pree was still under shock! Three of us walked towards our class with mW in the middle. I

giggled and Pree said "Did you just..?" Before she could complete ,I pulled her hands down from her mouth and nodded "Yes! Indeed".

I laughed, she laughed and Rishi joined us.

Rishi took hold of my hand and tightened his fingers around mine. I glanced at him. He was happy.....happier than I've ever seen him. He didn't look at me..... Didn't have to. He was looking in the front. Looking forward for more interesting things to happen. I took hold of Pree's hand with my other hand. She squeezed it assuringly.

Who said LOVE&CARE stuff was limited to few people? You just have to..... Don't know..... It just happens. All you have ti do is.....keep CALM and wait for your moment in life.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pami". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial 'P' and a trailing flourish.