

Author's POV:

Soon, it was evening, and Diya and Arjun were packing their bags for their three-day stay at Murty Mansion. Diya was giving him the necessary things while he was placing them in the bag neatly.

Diya frowned, looking at the big bag, and asked, "Whose bag is that?"

"Mine," said Arjun.

Diya narrowed her eyes and asked, "We are going for only three days, remember?"

"I know that, I want to arrange some of my clothes there," Arjun said, making her smile.

Diya nodded her head and continued her work. Arjun got a call while Diya moved to change. Soon, both of them came to the living room, with workers carrying their bags behind them.

Zaheer asked, "Shall we leave beta?"

Arjun nodded his head.

"Zaheer, Aasma, both of you come here and sit," said Revathi.

Zaheer and Aasma sat beside each other on the sofa. Janaki and Jai placed some glass in both of their laps.

"Now, what's the need for all these, Didu?" Aasma asked Janaki.

"It's a ritual and you shouldn't say no," said Jai.

Nagamani frowned, looking at the scene. She looked at them with envy. Before she could say anything, she saw Hanmath glaring at her. She shut her mouth as she definitely didn't want to get scolded again.

"We will leave; it's getting late," said Zaheer.

"Nanu, where are you going?" Vansh asked, pulling Zaheer's pants.

Zaheer picked up Vansh in his arms and said, "We are going to Murthy Mansion."

Vansh inquired, "Mama and atta alsho (also) coming?"

"Yes!" Zaheer said, poking his chubby cheeks.

"Aasma, let me alsho (also) go," Vansh said, looking at Arpita.

"Amma, I'll also go," Varsha said, making a puppy face.

"We will go tomorrow, kanna," Arpita said, picking up Varsha in her arms.

"No, Amma. We will go now with Mama and Atta. You come tomorrow," said Varsha.

"Let them come, Aru," said Aasma, caressing Varsha's cheeks.

Arpita and Yash looked at Vansh and Varsha, who were looking at them hopefully, making them sigh.

"Okay. You can go, but promise Amma that you guys won't trouble anyone there," said Arpita.

"Pinky plomish," Varsha said, pinching her throat, and Vansh repeated the same.

"Okay. Let me go and pack your bags," Arpita said, sighing.

Vansh and Varsha danced happily, making everyone smile.

"How can you send those little children with whom they don't know anything properly?" said Nagamani.

Arpita looked at her, narrowing her eyes, and thought, "Why does this woman have a problem when me and my husband don't have any problem?"

"They know them from the time they were born, and I think my grandkids know better how to take care of their children," said Radha.

Nagamani twisted her mouth in annoyance and said, "I'm saying for their good only."

"Whatever," Radha said, rolling her eyes.

"Nanamama, they know everyone in our family and they are comfortable with them," Arjun said, sternly.

"Vadina, you go and pack their bags," said Diya.

Aer awhile, Arpita came down with two small bags in her hands.

"Varsha and Vansh, be like a good girl and boy. Eat properly without throwing any tantrums. We will come tomorrow, okay," Yash said while kneeling down in front of his babies, who they bobbed their heads cutely.

"We will take you leave then," Aasma said, picking up Vansh in her arms, while Diya picked up Varsha in her arms.

Everyone nodded their heads and bid them bye. As soon as Diya stepped inside the Murty Mansion, Aura came running towards her and started licking her feet. Diya kneeled down in front of it and caressed its head. Varsha copied Diya and caressed Aura's head while it licked her hand, making her giggle.

"Hehe. You are (are) shooo (so) cute, Aura," Varsha said, giggling.

Vansh was clinging to Arjun like a koala. Diya picked up Aura in her arms and moved inside, while Varsha followed her.

Razia and Laxmi were sitting on the two-seater sofa in the living room and chatting. Ahmed, Janardhan, and Raman were sitting on a four-seater and looking the news. Ragini, Meera, and Taara were in the kitchen cooking dinner for everyone with the help of the maids. Sameer, Rehan, and Veeru were in the garden playing badminton. As soon as Diya saw her grandmother, she ran towards her and hugged her tight.

Aura jumped from her lap and moved to the garden. Arjun, Zaheer, and Aasma smiled, looking at her. Arjun greeted the elders and settled on the bean bag, while Zaheer and Aasma moved to their room. Varsha and Vansh happily settled themselves into Laxmi and Razia's laps.

"Where are the boys?" Arjun asked, looking around.

"They are playing badminton in the garden," said Raman.

"Okay!" Arjun said, smiling at him.

"Nanu, I want to have your handmade mutton biryani. I've missed it a lot," Diya said, licking her lips.

"Sure," Ahmed replied, laughing.

"Dadu, though I've never tasted the food cooked by you, I've heard a lot about your tasty dishes. So, you have to share your secret tips with me and teach some dishes," Arjun said, looking at Ahmed.

"If you pamper her like this, then when will she learn to cook?" Razia said, frowning.

It's not that she is complaining about that. But she doesn't want her granddaughter to land in a situation where someone will point out to her that she doesn't know how to cook. And also, cooking for our loved ones is something beautiful. Seeing the happy faces of our family as they had a hearty meal cooked by us is so satisfying. That's why they cook at least one meal a day, taking time out of their busy lives.

"Let it be Dadi. What's necessary for her to cook? We have cooks in our house. And mostly it's Amma or me who cooks. And I definitely don't want to become her patient," Arjun said the last sentence with a mischievous smile.

Diya narrowed her eyes at him and said, "You are not going to get my handmade coe starting from tomorrow, and I will not let you taste my Maggi too."

The elderly couldn't help but chuckle, looking at the couple in front of them.

"Common young man. Let's go and cook biryani for everyone," Ahmed said, looking at Arjun.

"I'll also come," said Diya.

"What will you go and do there other than eating their brains?" Razia said, sarcastically.

"Oyi! Don't tease my granddaughter. You continue your gossip, while we cook food," said Ahmed.

"We can't win against these granddaughters-grandfathers duos," said Laxmi.

"Are you talking about me and my granddaughter, old lady?" Janardhan asked, narrowing his eyes at his wife.

"Of course, do you have any doubt?" Laxmi said, with a tight-lipped smile.

"Dadu, come," Arjun said, dragging Ahmed with him, while Diya followed them like a lost puppy.

Ahmed, Arjun, and Diya went to the kitchen and saw Ragini, Meera, and Taara preparing samosa and gulab jamun for everyone.

"Wow, samosa," Diya said, grabbing one hot samosa from the bowl.

"Diya, go and serve them for everyone," said Ragini.

"You guys have to empty the kitchen," said Ahmed.

"Why, babba?" Meera asked her father.

"Dadu and me are going to cook today. So, you guys go and take a rest," said Arjun.

"We will cook, Dadu. You guys go and relax," said Taara.

"No. We are going to cook and that's final. I'm going to cook mutton biryani, green chicken curry, raita, and kheer," said Ahmed.

"Wow, Dadu. Looks like we are going to have a feast tonight," said Taara.

"Both of you will cook, but what will this girl do in the kitchen?" Meera asked, pointing at Diya, who was gobbling gulab jamuns.

"I'll help them," Diya said, stuffing another jamun in her mouth.

"How many times do I have to tell you not to talk while eating?" Ragini said, glaring at her granddaughter.

Diya stuck her tongue out and turned her face away.

"Okay, you guys do whatever you want, but let us complete our work. Taara, make sure that Diya doesn't eat any more gulab jamuns. More than a dozen jamuns must be in her stomach right now. At midnight, she will complain that she is having a stomachache," Meera said, glaring at Diya, who gave her a sheepish smile.

Ragini and Taara served samosa and gulab jamuns in bowls and went out of the kitchen.

Meera showed them all the necessary items and said, "If you want anything, ask the cooks or call me."

"Amma, do we have cookies at home?" Diya asked Meera.

"Yeah! Yesterday, Sameer ordered some cookies. But why do you need them? Didn't your tummy get full with samosa and gulab jamuns?" Meera asked, placing her hands on her hips.

"Ayyo, not for me, Amma. Vansh and Varsha have come with us. So, if we have cookies, I'll boil milk and give them milk along with the cookies," said Diya.

"Okay! I boiled milk a few minutes ago and it might have cooled down a little. Wait, let me check," said Meera.

"Amma, don't let Vansh eat samosa. He won't eat spicy foods," said Diya.

"Okay, anything else?" Meera said, pouring milk into glasses.

"Nothing else. Feed them, otherwise they will mess up everything," said Diya.

"Hello, madam! Don't forget that I've taken care of you and your brother," Meera said, rolling her eyes, while Diya gave her a sheepish smile.

"Okay, attayya. Now, go and enjoy your snacks," said Arjun.

"Baba, we don't have chicken in the house. Shall I tell someone to bring it?" Meera asked Ahmed.

Ahmed thought for a while and said, "No need."

"Okay, then." Saying that, Meera moved out of the kitchen with a tray of cookies and two milk glasses.

"Zubeda, give me mutton and fish and also the big clay pot," Ahmed asked the maid.

"Okay, sir. Shall I clean them?" Zubeda asked Ahmed, to which he nodded his head.

"Is fish fry and mirchi ka salan okay with you?" Ahmed asked Diya.

"Anything is okay, Dadu. Mutton biryani is important to me," Diya said, making Ahmed and Arjun chuckle.

"Okay, go and chop onions then," said Ahmed.

"Himm," said Diya.

Diya and Arjun were chopping onions, while Ahmed was marinating the cleaned mutton for biryani.

"Arjun, will you marinate fish? I've to prepare masala for the curry and biryani," said Ahmed.

"Okay, dadu," said Arjun.

"Arjun, I'll do it. Give me instructions. Please," Diya said, making a puppy face.

Arjun thought for a while and said, "You shouldn't divert your attention then."

"Done," said Diya.

"Okay, now take a big plate," said Arjun.

Diya took a big plate and placed neatly cleaned fish pieces on it.

"Okay, now take 2 tbsp of salt, 1/2 tbsp of turmeric powder, and squeeze a lemon and coat the fish with them properly," Arjun said, while grinding the ginger garlic paste with the small stone rotor and pestle.

Diya nodded her head and looked at the spoons in front of her, confused. On not getting any response from her, Arjun looked at Diya, who was scrutinising the size of the spoons.

"Mrs. Arjun, may I know what you are doing?" Arjun asked, folding his hands.

"Which spoon should I use?" Diya asked Arjun.

Arjun hit his head mentally, while Ahmed chuckled, listening to her.

"Take this," Arjun said, giving her a spoon.

"Shall I use this spoon for all the measurements?" Diya asked him.

"Yes," Arjun said, sighing.

"Okay, now tell me what you said before," said Diya.

Ahmed laughed out loud, looking at Arjun's expressions.

"Take 1/2 tbsp of salt and 1/2 tbsp of turmeric powder and coat the fish with them properly and set them aside," said Arjun.

Diya took a half tbsp of salt and showed it to him and asked, "It okay?"

"Yes!" said Arjun.

"Now?" Asked Diya.

"Now take a bowl and add 2 tbsp of ginger garlic paste, 2 tbsp of red chilli powder, 1 tbsp of garam masala, 1 1/2 tsp salt, 1/2 tsp coriander powder, 1/2 tsp pepper powder, a tbsp of mustard oil, and squeeze a lemon," Arjun said, while giving her ingredients.

"Which one is coriander powder?" asked Diya.

"U, this one," said Arjun, giving her the jar.

"Okay," said Diya.

"Mix all those properly into a paste," said Arjun.

"Now?" Asked Diya.

"Check the taste," said Arjun, while chopping onions.

Diya coughed and said, "It's so spicy."

Arjun tasted the masala paste and asked, "How much pepper powder did you add?"

Diya thought for a while and said, "1 tsp."

"I told you to add 1/2 tsp," said Arjun.

"Now, what to do?" said Diya.

"Take another plate. Then take 3 tbsp of rice flour, 3 tbsp of gram flour, 1/2 tsp of salt, and 1/2 tsp of red chilli powder and mix them properly," said Arjun.

"I can't do it anymore, Arjun. You continue the rest," Diya said, pushing the plate away.

Ahmed chuckled and said, "Someone said that they wanted to cook."

"The process is so big, Nanu. I can't do," Diya said, pouting.

"Okay then, chop onions and green chillies for raita," said Arjun.

She hopped onto the kitchen counter and sat comfortably on it. Just then, Varsha and Vansh came inside the kitchen running. Behind them, Taara came with their glasses of half-drunk milk.

"Atta, what are you doing?" Vansh asked her.

"Didn't you finish the milk?" Arjun asked, looking at the glasses.

"They ate all the cookies, but didn't finish the milk," Taara said, glaring at them, making them pout.

"Varsha and Vansh, if you finish the rest of milk, then I'll give you a chocolate," said Diya.

Their eyes twinkled, listening to chocolate.

"Pinni, give us milk," both of them asked Taara.

Diya jumped from the kitchen counter and was about to slip, but Arjun held her at the right time. Diya clutched Arjun's collar tight and closed her eyes in fear.

Arjun looked at Diya's face. She was chanting Lord Krishna's name. He tucked her hair and caressed her face. He pulled her close to him, making her gasp. She opened her eyes with a jerk and looked at him wide-eyed.

Taara dragged Vansh and Varsha with her, while Ahmed continued his work turning aside.

"What are you doing?" Diya asked, meekly.

But Arjun didn't hear any of her words. He caressed her cheek with his thumb, looking straight into her eyes while Diya looked down, unable to bear his intense gaze.

Their moments were broken by the cooker whistle. Both of them got separated, immediately recognising their surroundings. Suddenly, Diya's leg got twisted as she moved in a swi.

She winced pain and took the support of the kitchen counter. Ahmed and Arjun looked at her worried. Arjun kneeled down in front of her and placed her leg on his thigh and held her foot.

"Arjun, it's painful," Diya said, looking at him painfully.

"That's why I will scold you for being clumsy. What's the need to jump? See, now what happened?" Arjun scolded her.

Diya pouted, listening to him and complained to Ahmed, "Dadu, see, how is he scolding me?"

"Did he say anything wrong? When will you grow up, Diya? Did you remember how you slipped down the stairs when you were a kid?" Ahmed said, glaring at her.

"Is it, Dadu?" Arjun asked, twisting her leg slowly.

"Yes," That day, Razia made kheer, and this girl and Azira were playing upstairs in their room. When Razia called them to have kheer, this girl was jumping like a bunny while descending the stairs. She slipped from the stairs and hit the railing. Her leg was fractured, and she got a few stitches on her forehead. See, even now you can see that scar. Thank God, that day she fell from a small height otherwise I don't know what would have happened," said Ahmed.

Diya gave Arjun a nervous smile, as he was glaring at her.

"I was just 8 years old then and also fell from the 6th or 7th step," said Diya.

"Then, you are 25 years old now. Why did you jump like that now?" Arjun said, sarcastically.

"This is bad, Arjun. You are scolding your cute and sweet wife when she is in pain," Diya said, pouting.

Arjun twisted her leg once again and said, "Acha, you are anything but sweet. In fact, you are a gayyal (shrew)."

"Did you just say that I'm gayyal (shrew)?" Diya said, gritting her teeth.

"See, how you're losing your temper unnecessarily." Arjun said as he twisted her leg again, making her wince slightly.

"Ah, stupid. What are you doing?" Diya yelled at him.

"Aye, I'm just helping you. Now stop scolding this handsome man and try to walk," said Arjun.

Diya rolled her eyes at him and said, taking a few steps, "Thanks for the help, Mr. Handsome Husband."

"You are welcome, Mrs. Cute Wife," Arjun said, winking at her.

"Don't forget that, this old man is also here. You can do your flirting and all in your room. Now come and help me," Ahmed ordered them.

Aer an hour, they finally finished cooking and moved to the living room. They sagged on the sola's empty seats.

"Are you guys done with your cooking?" Aasma asked them.

"I'm tired, Mami," Diya said, leaning her head on Taara, who was sitting the le of her.

"You are saying as if you cooked everything," Veeru said, rolling his eyes.

"Of course, I was the one who prepared the fish fry," Diya said, boasting herself.

"Poor fish," said Meera.

"Is it edible to eat?" Rehan teased her.

"I know how to cook, okay? You do not need to tease me and I cook better than you," said Diya.

"She didn't do anything other than eating our brains and cookies," Arjun said, with a mischievous smile.

"Haw! Arjun, stop lying. When did I eat cookies? It's you who ate my Oreos by stealing them," Diya said, smirking at him.

"Yeah! How can I forget those stupid Oreos? I'll definitely get my revenge for that," Arjun said, glaring at her.

Vansh and Varsha giggled, listening to Oreos, while Arjun glared at them too.

"What happened now? Did we miss something?" Veeru asked, looking at Diya and Arjun, who were throwing daggers at each other.

"This girl exchanged the cream in Oreos with toothpaste," Arjun said, making a disgusted face.

"Don't tell us that you ate them, bhai," Sameer said, making a yuck face.

"Unfortunately, he tasted one," Diya said, controlling her smile.

Everyone burst out laughing, listening to her, making Arjun snrk.

"Mama, what happened?" Varsha asked Arjun, innocently.

"You little devil, you are on my side. Did you forget that?" Arjun said, picking up Varsha in his arms.

"They gave me ice-cream (ice-cream)," Varsha explained.

"So, they bribed you with ice-cream, haa. Shall I tell your Amma that you ate ice-cream?" Arjun said, tickling her small waist slightly.

"No," Varsha said, giggling.

"Then you shouldn't cheat Mama," said Arjun.

"Otay (okay)," Varsha said, pecking his cheeks.

"You guys go and change. By then we will set the table," Meera said, looking at Arjun and Diya.

Arjun and Diya nodded their heads.

Diya looked at Varsha and Vansh and asked them, "Come, I'll give you a bath."

"Don't worry, we will do that. You guys go and freshen up first," said Aasma.

"Their bags are in our room," said Arjun.

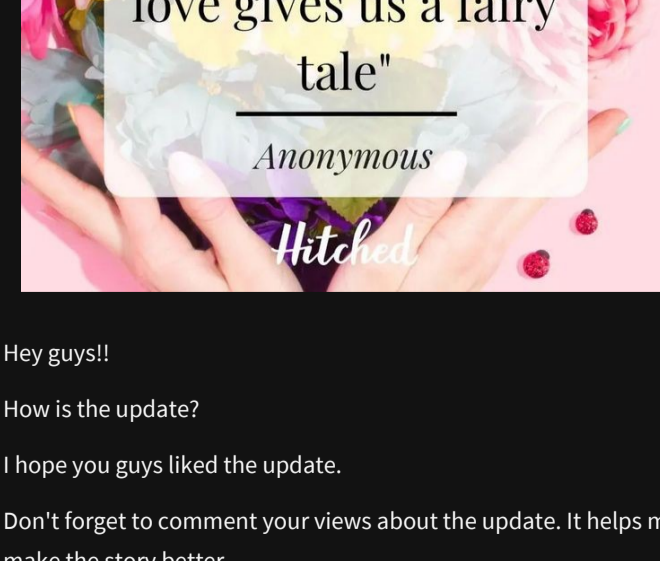
"I'll come and take them. You don't worry," said Aasma.

Arjun nodded his head and moved to their room with Diya.

As soon as they reached their room, Arjun pulled Diya towards him and traced his finger on her face slowly.

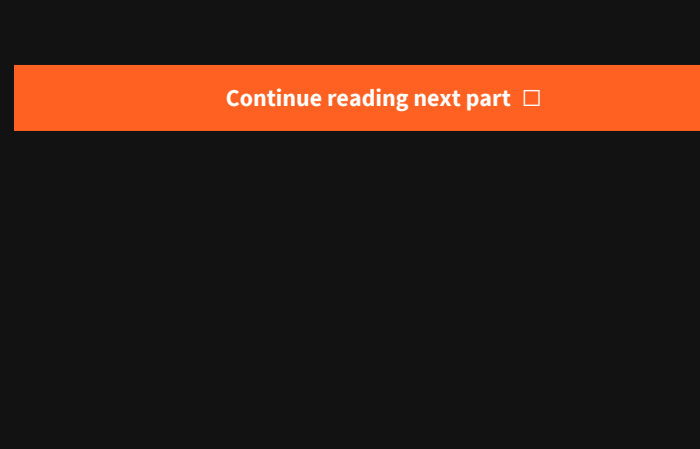
He moved close to her and kissed the corner of her lips, then pecked her lips.

"You are looking gorgeous in this saree." Saying that, he moved to freshen-up grabbing a towel.



Diya stood in the same position until she heard a knock on the door. She blushed realising what he did and composed herself. She opened the door and saw Aasma standing at the door. Diya brought their bags and gave to Aasma and locked the door.

To be continued....



Hey guys!!
 How is the update?
 I hope you guys liked the update.
 Don't forget to comment your views about the update. It helps me to make the story better.
 How about some romance and some cute moments in the next chapter???



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