

**Author's POV:**

The next morning, Diya came out of the bathroom a er having a shower. She came out of the closet a er getting ready in a saree. She looked at Arjun, who was lying on the bed and playing with Aura.

"Arjun, come on, get up," Diya said, throwing a towel on his face.

"Let me play with Aura some more time, Cookie," said Arjun.

Diya glared at him and looked at Aura, who was licking Arjun's face.

"Aura, go to the garden now," Diya said, looking at Aura.

As if understanding her master, Aura jumped from the bed and moved to the garden, wagging her tail.

"You scared my poor baby," Arjun said, sitting on the bed.

"Think whatever you want. I want you to be ready in fi een minutes," Diya said, wiping her wet hair with a towel.

Arjun looked at Diya, who was looking at him with her big eyes.

He pouted and said,"You are such a devil, Cookie."

"Are you going or not?" Diya asked him sternly.

"I'm going, Don't give those looks to me," he said, standing on the bed.

"What the hell, Arjun? Get down," Diya yelled at him.

"Potti (shorty) you are looking more Potti (short)," Arjun said, teasing her.

"What did you say?" Diya said, glaring at him.

Arjun jumped from the bed and said,"You are soo cute, my Potti Wifey." He kissed Diya's cheeks and ran into the bathroom.

Diya fumed, listening to him, but soon a smile adorned her face, looking at his antics.

Arjun and Diya came down a er getting ready. Both of them moved to the puja room. They saw elderly ladies doing the preparations for the puja. They greeted them and sat down to do the puja.

Today Diya's mangalsutra is going to be united, which is another sacred ritual in the life of a bride. It is usually performed by the groom or by an elderly member of the family. The two golden discs are united in one common thread, separated by a few black and golden beads, such that the two golden discs don't clash with each other.

The uniting of Mangalsutra depicts the union of two people and two families in a common thread of love.

"Arjun, wear this around her neck," Revathi instructed, handing him the mangalsutra, which was now united.

Arjun took the mangalsutra into his hands and wore the mangalsutra around Diya's neck. He blessed her by showering flower petals on her while Diya took blessings from him. Jai and Janaki blessed Diya and gi ed her a new saree and jewelry.

"Diya, go and take a bath and change into this saree," said Janaki.

Diya nodded her head and moved to her room. A er having lunch, Meera, Aasma, and Diya were sitting in Diya and Arjun's room. Diya was checking her bags to see if she had packed everything or not.

"So, when will you return from your camp?" Meera asked Diya.

"A er three weeks, I guess," said Diya.

"Diya, I know you are passionate about your work. And I don't have any problem with that. But it's been just two weeks since you got married. Just tell me one thing. Is everything okay between you guys?" asked Meera.

Diya sighed and kneeled down in front of her mother and said, "Amma, everything is fine between us. I accepted to go to this before my marriage was fixed. And of all these things, I totally forgot about that. I've already talked with Attayya and Mavayya. They said that they didn't have any problem and told me to take care of myself properly. Arjun also didn't say anything. In fact, he helped me pack my bags just like you used to every time. I'm happy, Amma. You don't get tense about us."

"When did you start to organise everything properly without clumsiness?" Aasma teased, looking around the room.

"The credits go to your son, because he is the one who arranges everything. In fact, he is the one who packed my bags too," Diya said, jumping on the bed.

"Lucky girl. Your Mamu messes up everything. He keeps his mobile on his study table, and while going to his o ice, he searches for it everywhere except on the table. And in return, he scolds me for messing up his things when he is the one who messes up my whole room. And that younger son of his is worse than his father. A er coming from his college, you will find his bag on the sofa, his books on the table, his pens will be under the table, and the next morning he will take the entire house on his head, saying that he is not able to find a single thing," Aasma said, whining.

Meera and Diya burst out laughing while listening to her complaints.

"Leave that. Diya, when will you grow up? Don't forget that you are married now. When will you start to keep your things organized? And instead of helping Arjun, you are making him do these things. You don't know how to cook, you don't know how to keep your own things organized, you are still that clumsy girl who needs your Amma. No one will point it out to you, but they will taunt us," said Meera.

"Vadina, don't get so worked up. She will learn everything slowly. We weren't masters of everything when we got married. Don't you remember how Nadiya Didu and Ammi used to help me when I was newly married to your brother? She at least knew how to make co ee. But I didn't know anything. Didn't you all guide me? You guys used to manage household work when I used to go to college. With time, she will get used to everything. And who will say anything to her. Don't you know about Jai Jijju and Janaki Didu? So, stop worrying about it," said Aasma.

"I know about them, Aasma. But that old lady is not leaving a chance to mock Diya or Arjun. She is even taunting Jai Anna and Janaki Vadina. Didn't you see how she made a big scene when she found out Diya and Arjun went to the hospital on their first night?" said Meera.

"Amma, leave that old lady alone. She still thinks that her granddaughter, Chytra, is the best for Arjun. So, she is trying to make me feel low. I would have to feel bad if there was no one to take a stand for me, but the entire family is supporting me. It's not that I need someone to take a stand for me. You have taught me how to be strong and independent. I'm being patient because she is older than me. And also, I don't want her to mock my in-laws unnecessarily because of me. I'm telling you again, Amma. I'm happy with this marriage and I've got the best in-laws who treat me as their daughter. So, stop worrying about me unnecessarily. Yeah! I may act childishly sometimes, but your Diyu is mature enough to handle things. So, now give me your beautiful smile," Diya said, hugging her mother.

"Did she know that you were going to camp?" asked Aasma.

"No. Attayya told her that me and Arjun were going to stay in Vizag for a month as Arjun had some work over there. I told her to tell the truth, but she said that she didn't have the energy to listen to her nonsense," said Diya.

"So, is Arjun also going to come with us tomorrow?" asked Aasma.

"Yes! He will stay with Anju Attayya's family," said Diya.

"Did Anna call you? That brother of mine totally forgot me a er going on his honeymoon. Yesterday evening, Taara called me and talked with me for a while. She complained that Anna was working even on his honeymoon" Diya said, chuckling.

"He talked with me yesterday morning," said Meera.

They continued their talk when someone knocked on the door. Diya unlocked the door and saw Siri and Nandan standing there.

"Did we disturb you, Vadina?" asked Nandan.

"No, Nandu. Come inside," said Diya.

"No, Vadina. Everyone wanted to watch your marriage video. So, we came to call you guys," said Siri.

"Okay! We are coming then," said Diya.

"Then come to the theatre room. We have to call the others too," Nandan said, and dragged Siri with him.

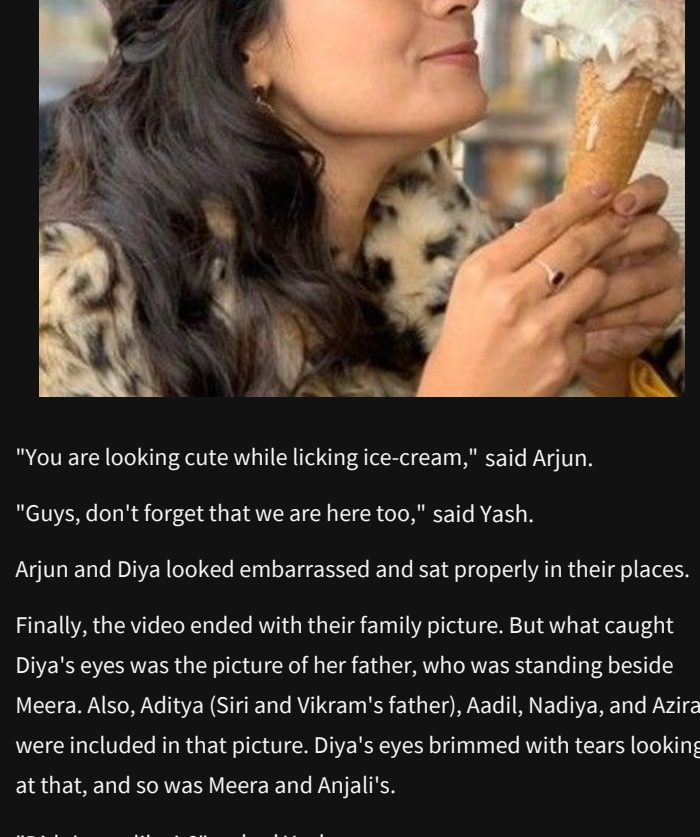
Diya chuckled, looking at them, and moved inside.

A er some time, everyone gathered in the theatre room. The video started with their engagement function, followed by pellikutturu and pellikoduku functions, mehendi and saangeet, and finally the wedding.

Diya got emotional when she saw Meera getting emotional when Veeru and Taara were doing her Kanyadanam. She saw her grandparents smiling in between their tears, looking at Diya when Arjun was tying the Mangalsutra around her neck. Diya held Arjun's hand and leaned her head on his shoulder.

Finally, a video of Arjun and Diya's photos from their childhood to their wedding reception was played.

"Hey! When did you take that picture?" Arjun asked, pointing at a picture of him and Diya, who were staring at each other while dancing.

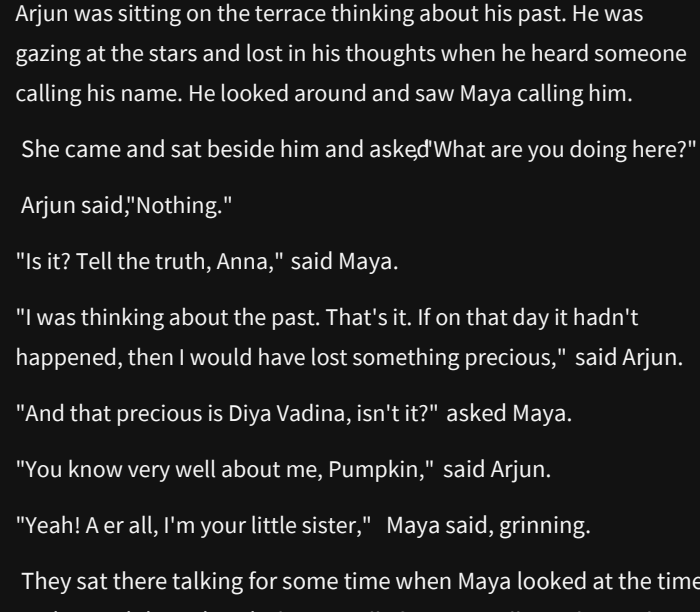


"It's from my saangeet function," said Avi.

"I know that. I'm asking when did you capture that picture," said Arjun.

"Did you forget that we have a family photographer who is best at capturing candid pictures?" asked Sravya.

And then came a picture where Diya was capturing a selfie of her and Arjun when Arjun was sleeping. Diya looked at it, surprised and embarrassed.



"How did you get that picture?" asked Diya.

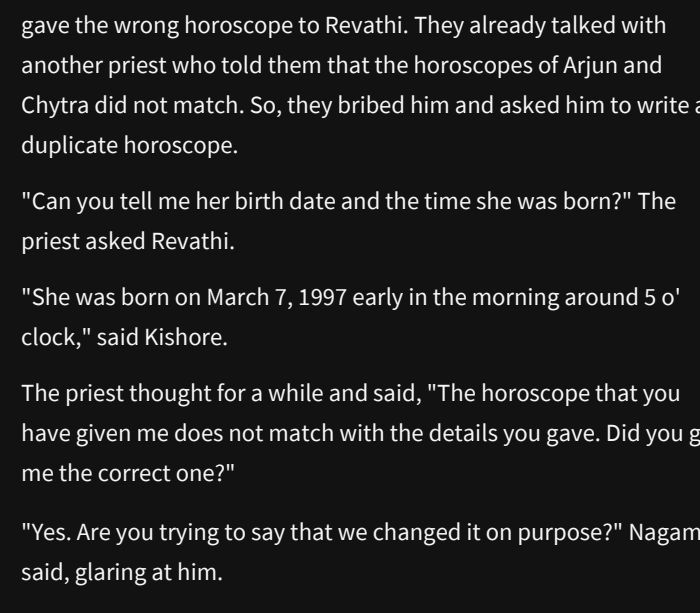
"Veeru has sent that to Yash," said Arpita, smiling cheekily.

"So, you are taking my pictures, secretly, hm," Arjun whispered, huskily in her ears.

"As if you haven't taken mine," Diya said, pooking his cheeks.

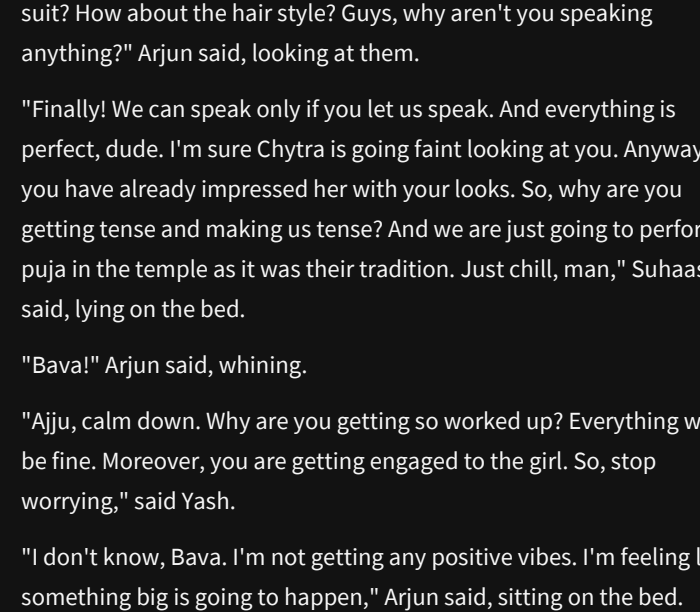
"Acha, when did I take them?" Arjun asked, innocently.

"Now, don't make that innocent face. I have seen my photos on your mobile. Didn't you take my photo from your balcony when I was playing with a chick two days ago?" asked Diya.



"You were looking adorable. So I have taken that," said Arjun.

"Then what about the one when I was having ice-cream with Maya?" Diya asked, raising her eyebrow.



"You are looking cute while licking ice-cream," said Arjun.

"Guys, don't forget that we are here too," said Yash.

Arjun and Diya looked embarrassed and sat properly in their places. Finally, the video ended with their family picture. But what caught Diya's eyes was the picture of her father, who was standing beside Meera. Also, Aditya (Siri and Vikram's father), Aadi, Nadiya, and Azira were included in that picture. Diya's eyes brimmed with tears looking at that, and so was Meera and Arjun's.

"Didn't you like it?" asked Yash.

"Are you the one who edited that picture, Anna?" Diya asked, looking at Yash.

He nodded his head slowly and mumbled,"Yes!"

Diya stood up and went towards him. She kneeled down in front of him and hugged him tight and said,"Thank you, Anna. That means a lot to me."

Yash said,"It was actually Nandan's idea. Not mine. He added Adi Mamayya's picture to the family photo of Maya and Avi's wedding. So, he suggested that we could edit your wedding photo too. He and I collected those pictures and made a video as a small gi for you guys. We then gave the video to your wedding photographer and told him to add it at last."

"Thank you, Nandu," Diya said, looking at Nandan, who smiled at her.

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Soon it was night and everyone retired to their rooms a er dinner. Arjun was sitting on the terrace thinking about his past. He was gazing at the stars and lost in his thoughts when he heard someone calling his name. He looked around and saw Maya calling him.

She came and sat beside him and asked,"What are you doing here?"

Arjun said,"Nothing."

"Is it? Tell the truth, Anna," said Maya.

"I was thinking about the past. That's it. If on that day it hadn't happened, then I would have lost something precious," said Arjun.

"And that precious is Diya Vadina, isn't it?" asked Arjun.

"You know very well about me, Pumpkin," said Arjun.

"Yeah! A er all, I'm your little sister," Maya said, grinning.

They sat there talking for some time when Maya looked at the time on her mobile and said,"Shit! I totally forgot to tell you that Vadina is searching for you. Come, let's go down."

With that, both of them stood up and moved down.

"By the way, where is your husband?" asked Arjun.

"He is attending a video conference with a foreign client," said Maya.

"Okay. Good night," Arjun said, kissing her forehead.

"Good night, Anna," said Maya.

Flashback:

A day before the engagement of Arjun and Chytra, the elders of both families went to the temple to meet their family priest.

Revathi gave the horoscopes of both Arjun and Chytra to him. He started to study them and got lost in his thoughts.

"Something is definitely wrong with the horoscope of the bride," he thought, looking at the horoscope of Chytra.

Gowri looked at Nagamani, who blinked her eyes in assurance. They gave the wrong horoscope to Revathi. They already talked with another priest who told them that the horoscopes of Arjun and Chytra did not match. So, they bribed him and asked him to write a duplicate horoscope.

"Can you tell me her birth date and the time she was born?" The priest asked Revathi.

"She was born on March 7, 1997 early in the morning around 5 o' clock," said Kishore.

The priest thought for a while and said, "The horoscope that you have given me does not match with the details you gave. Did you give me the correct one?"

"Yes. Are you trying to say that we changed it on purpose?" Nagamani said, glaring at him.

"I didn't say that. But by processing the details said by her father, I can say that this is not her horoscope," the priest said, sternly.

"Then prepare it now, gurusu garu," said Revathi.

"Okay, maa. I'll look into it and also send the lagna patrika (the paper on which the auspicious time of the marriage is noted down)," said the priest.

"Now, what will we do?" Gowri whispered to Nagamani's ears.

"I'll manage everything. You don't get tense, otherwise they will get doubt," said Nagamani.

"Hmm," whispered Gowri.

**On the engagement day,**

Arjun was standing in front of the mirror, gelling his hair. Yash and Suhaas are sitting on the bed and teasing him.

"How am I looking? Is everything okay? Do these shoes match anything?" Arjun asked, looking at them.

"Finally! We can speak only if you let us speak. And everything is perfect, dude. I'm sure Chytra is going faint looking at you. Anyway, you have already impressed her with your looks. So, why are you getting tense and making us tense? And we are just going to perform puja in the temple as it was their tradition. Just chill, man," Suhaas said, lying on the bed.

"Bava!" Arjun said, whining.

"Ajju, calm down. Why are you getting so worked up? Everything will be fine. Moreover, you are getting engaged to the girl. So, stop worrying," said Yash.

"I don't know, Bava. I'm not getting any positive vibes. I'm feeling like something big is going to happen," Arjun said, sitting on the bed.

"Don't worry, Arjun. Everything will be fine," Yash said, patting his back.

Just then, Siri and Sravya came inside the room.

"They are calling the groom," said Sravya.

"Sravya, did you see Ajay and Prem anywhere?" asked Arjun.

"They are downstairs with Avi Anna and Veeru Anna," said Sravya.

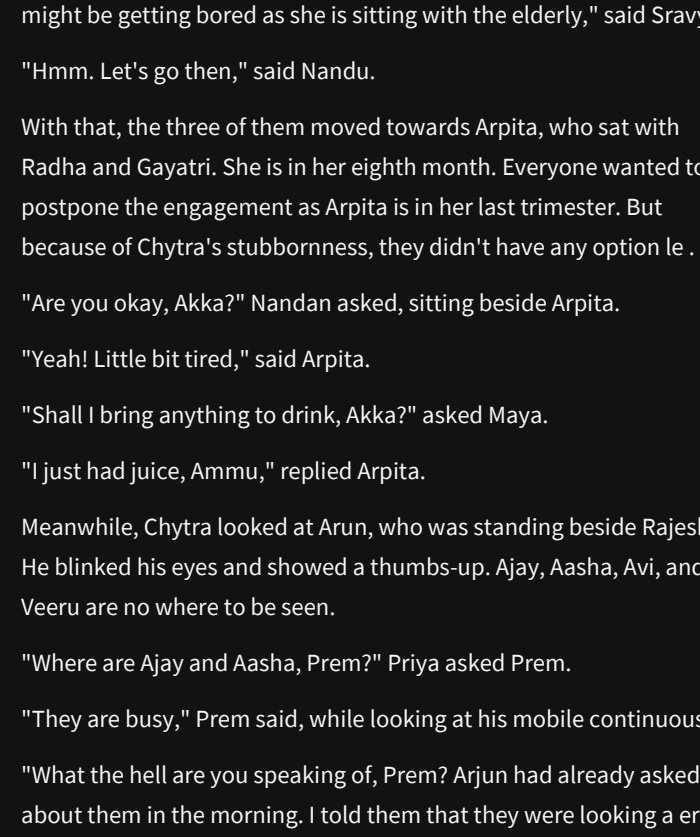
"Okay!" said Arjun.

He was confused as his best friends, who used to stick with him all the time, never came to meet him. In the last two days, he found something strange in their behavior.

At downstairs,

A er completing the puja, Arjun and Chytra stood beside each other.

"You are looking beautiful, Chythu," Arjun whispered in her ears.



She tucked her hair and said, "Thank you!"

"Are you fine?" Arjun asked her.

"Yeah! Just little nervous," she said, stammering.

"Don't worry. I'm there, right?" Arjun said, holding her hand.

Gowri looked around the mansion, which was decorated in every corner with flowers. Everything in the mansion looked like money to her. This is what she wanted. She wanted to come into this house as a daughter-in-law, but luck wasn't on her side. When Nagamani came to ask Raghav's hand for Gowri, Revathi and Harinath straight away denied the proposal. They said that Vaidhehi wanted Jhansi as a bride for her son. That's true. When Jhansi was born, Vaidhehi asked her brothers that she wanted Jhansi to become her daughter-in-law. Raghav also loved Jhansi from childhood, so he didn't accept the proposal.

But Nagamani and Gowri's egos badly got hurt by it. A er the death of Gowri's mother, Nagamani took care of Gowri along with her children. A er that, Gowri's father fixed her marriage with Kishore. So, without having any option, she got married to him. Kishore worked hard day and night to provide a better life for his wife and children, but they never appreciated his hard work.

Gowri always made sure that her children spent most of their time with her only. Instead of being happy with what life gave her, Gowri became more envious day by day by looking at the growth of the Reddy family. So, she made a plan to trap them. For some money and to take revenge on the Reddy family, she didn't realise that she was destroying her own family. She did everything blindly to reach the sky, and Nagamani blindly supported her.

They tried to hitch Janaki with Nagamani's son so that they could get Janaki's share of property and control her. But even that plan flopped as Janaki sternly said that she would marry anyone other than him. And a er a few days, Jai told his family about his love for Janaki. Soon, their marriage was done along with Jhansi and Raghav's marriage.

Chytra has always been close to her mother since childhood, unlike Vythali. When she saw Arjun for the first time, she fell in love with him. But she didn't realise it in her greed for money. She didn't realise that she was spoiling her own life by listening to her mother's words.

Rajesh looked at Maya, who was busy talking with Nandan and Sravya.

"Let Arjun and Chytra's marriage be completed. I'll make you mine with the help of my sister. Till then, enjoy with whomever you want," Rajesh thought, smirking in his mind.

"Chinnu, can we stand somewhere else?" Maya whispered in Sravya's ears. "I'm not feeling comfortable as that moon is continuously staring at me."

"Nandu, come. We will go and give company to Arpita Vadina. She might be getting bored as she is sitting with the elderly," said Sravya.

"Hmm. Let's go then," said Nandu.

With that, the three of them moved towards Arpita, who sat with Radha and Gayatri. She is in her eighth month. Everyone wanted to postpone the engagement as Arpita is in her last trimester. But because of Chytra's stubbornness, they didn't have any option ie.

"Are you okay, Akka?" Nandan asked, sitting beside Arpita.

"Yeah! Little bit tired," said Arpita.

"Shall I bring anything to drink, Akka?" asked Maya.

"I just had juice, Ammu," replied Arpita.

Meanwhile, Chytra looked at Arun, who was standing beside Rajesh. He blinked his eyes and showed a thumbs-up. Ajay, Aasha, Avi, and Veeru are no where to be seen.

"Where are Ajay and Aasha, Prem?" Priya asked Prem.

"They are busy," Prem said, while looking at his mobile continuously.

"What the hell are you speaking of, Prem? Arjun had already asked about them in the morning. I told them that they were looking a er the arrangements. Are you hiding something from me?" Priya asked, glaring at Prem.

"Priya, I'll tell you everything. But this is not the right time. Shit, where is this guy?" Prem said, looking around confused.

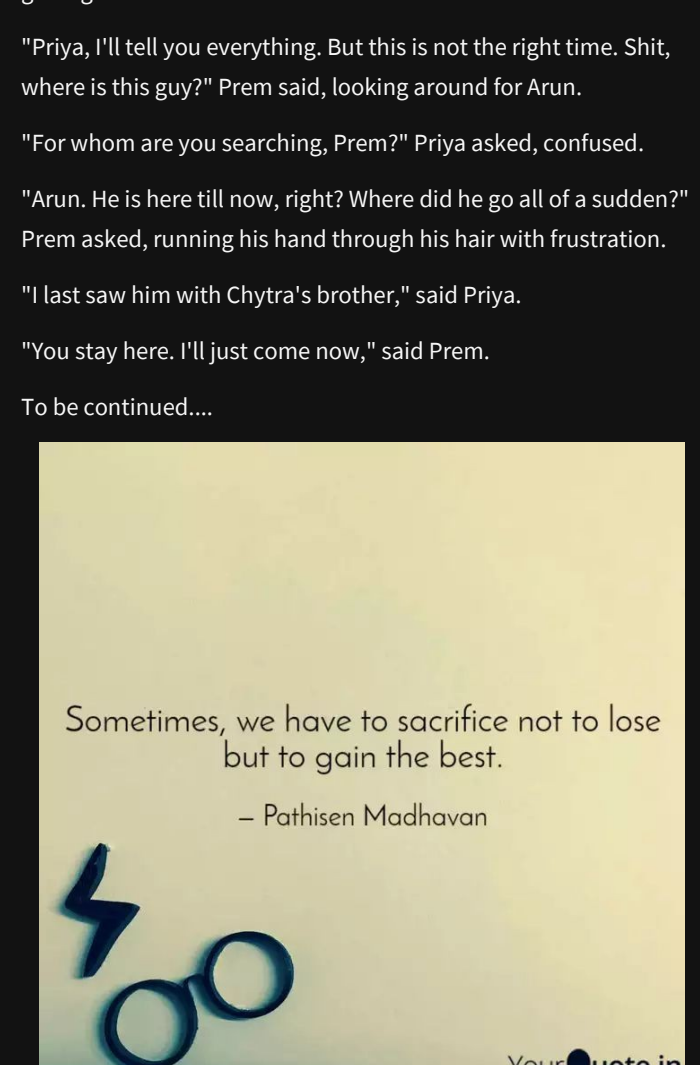
"For whom are you searching, Prem?" Priya asked, confused.

"Arun. He is here till now, right? Where did he go all of a sudden?" Prem asked, running his hand through his hair with frustration.

"I last saw him with Chytra's brother," said Priya.

"You stay here, I'll just come now," said Prem.

To be continued....



Hey guys!!

How are you all?

How is the update?

I hope you guys have liked the update.

Don't forget to comment about the update. Your views help me to make the story better.

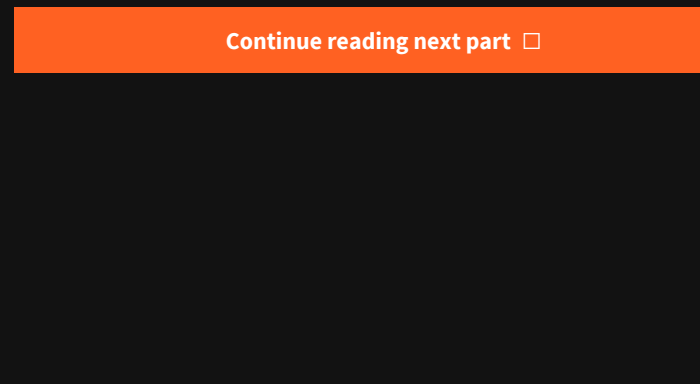
What is your opinion about Nagamani and Gowri?

Where are Ajay, Avi, Veeru and Aasha?

Why is Prem getting tense?

To know further, stay tuned.

Keep smiling and take care!



**Continue reading next part**