



Author's POV:

Zaheer sat in the car attending to a call while Arjun and Diya sat there talking.

"How is everyone at home?" asked Diya.

"They are fine," Arjun said with a small smile, lost in his thoughts.

"Arjun, where are you lost?" asked Diya.

"Hu! No where. I was just thinking about something else," said Arjun.

"Do you really want me to believe you?" Diya asked, narrowing her eyes.

"It's nothing, Cookie," said Arjun.

"I thought that we would share everything with each other. But, it's okay," Diya said, turning her face away.

"Fine. I can't win over you," Arjun said, shaking his head in disbelief.

"Hari Thatha met with a small accident a week ago."

Before he could say something, Diya glared at him and said "Why didn't you tell me before, Arjun? And why didn't anyone tell me about this?"

"It's just a minor accident, Cookie. He is fine now. We know that you will come there, leaving everything behind. That's why Thatha told us not to inform you about that," said Arjun.

"How is he now? Nothing serious has happened, right?" asked Diya.

"Nothing serious. He was returning home from our farms with Gopi Babay (one of their workers) by walk when a bike coming behind them hit them. Thatha fell down. But nothing major has happened. He got a few stitches on his forehead and his right leg had swelled," said Arjun.

"Why didn't you inform me about this, Arjun? How is Thatha now?" asked Diya.

"He is fine now," said Arjun.

"I don't believe you. Wait, I'll call him," Diya said, narrowing her eyes.

"Fine. Do whatever you want," Arjun said, twisting his mouth in annoyance.

Diya called Harinath and started taking his class.

"Himm. I have forgiven you this time. Tell me, are you taking your meds regularly?" asked Diya.

"When did he take his medicine properly? He nags like a kid to take his medicine," Revathi complained, making Arjun laugh.

"What is this, Thatha? How are you going to recover if you didn't take your medication correctly?" Diya said, sternly.

"They taste bitter, Diyu Kanna," said Harinath.

"That's why they are medicines. They won't taste sweet like the sweets you eat secretly with the help of your dear granddaughters," said Revathi.

Diya and Arjun burst out into laughter listening to her. They talked with them for a while and then bid bye to them.

"Are you happy now?" Asked Arjun.

"Yeah," Diya said, smiling sheepishly. "By the way, I forgot to ask you. What is that lady doing?"

Arjun gave her a nervous smile and said "She went to her home."

"Is it? Thank God! Everyone can be peaceful now," Diya said, smiling.

Arjun looked at the time and dragged Diya with him to the camp, making her perplexed by his sudden behavior.

"Arjun, where are you taking me?" asked Diya.

"Do you trust me?" Arjun asked her

"Of course. I do," said Diya.

"Then just follow me," said Arjun.

"But why are we going there?" asked Diya.

"You ask too many questions, Cookie," said Arjun.

"Arjun, please," Diya said, as everyone was looking at them.

"Sh! Pack your belongings and come," said Arjun.

"What?" Diya asked, confused.

"You want to resign, right? So, why don't you do it at this moment? Now go and pack all your things and come," said Arjun.

The senior doctor came toward them nervously and asked "Any problem, sir?"

"Yeah! Actually, my wife is resigning from her post. So, I'm telling her to collect all her things here," said Arjun.

"Finally," said one of Diya's colleagues.

Arjun glared at him, making him shiver.

"But sir, one cannot resign just like that. They must inform the authorities at least one month before they resign from their post," said that doctor

"But I thought that my wife had a special privilege as she is the daughter-in-law of your Janaki Mam," Arjun said, with an innocent face.

That doctor gulped, listening to Arjun's words.

"Cookie, go," said Arjun.

Diya stood there confused, not understanding what to do. She looked around and saw everyone looking at them.

She composed herself and said "Arjun, we will discuss this a er duty hours. Please."

Arjun nodded his head. He definitely doesn't want to create a scene here and he needs to discuss this with his parents and MIL too. He understood that she had made this decision in haste and would definitely regret it later. He told her to go, and he moved out of the camp.

Zaheer le a er informing Arjun that he had important work that needed his attention, Arjun sat in the car and called his mother.

"Hey, Aju!" Janaki greeted Arjun as she answered the call.

"Hey, Amma, Are you free now? I've to discuss something important with you," said Arjun.

"Is everything okay there, Arjun? Is Diya fine? You sound tense," asked Janaki.

"Cookie is fine, Amma. Tell me, do you have any important work now?" asked Arjun.

"I'm free now. Tell me, what's the problem?" asked Janaki.

Arjun told her whatever happened there, while Janaki listened to him patiently.

"Amma, she got hurt a er listening to all these taunts by her colleagues. But how will she feel when she comes to know that your aunt talked ill about her and called her a bad omen? I can't even lie in front of her properly. She easily catches my lies," said Arjun.

Janaki sighed and said "But we hide the truth too, Aju. What if she learns from someone else? She will be more hurt then. Arjun, tell her everything. Trust is important in every relationship. She trusts you, and knows that you will be there for her, holding her hand. And about that issue, I'll talk about it with Anu. I can step in and handle the matter, but it's Anu who deals with the branch where Diya is working. By the way, where is Diya?"

"She went to work and I'm in the car," said Arjun.

"Arjun, stay there for tonight. But where will you stay?" asked Janaki

"Don't worry, Amma. I'll manage," said Arjun.

"Okay, I'll talk to you at night. Don't think too much, Aju. Everything will be fine," said Janaki.

Flashback:

Janaki just came out of the operation theatre and went to her cabin a er instructing her assistant and talking with the patient's family. She was going through some files when she got a call from her husband.

"Janu, come to the emergency ward immediately," said Jai.

"What happened?" Janaki asked him, but Jai had already cut the call. She muttered a few curses and moved to the emergency ward.

She noticed her husband standing in front of the ICU, consoling Revathi. She got worried and went towards them.

"What happened?" She asked Jai.

"Mavayya met with an accident," said Jai.

"How? Is he fine?" Asked Janaki.

"Doctors are treating him," said Jai.

Janaki moved inside the room and saw a nurse cleaning his wounds. A doctor is giving him stitches on his forehead.

Janaki wore her mask and asked the duty doctor, "How is he now, Chandant?"

"He got a big cut on his forehead and a few scratches on his right hand, Mam. I think his right shoulder bone got dislocated a little as the whole-body weight fell on the right side," said Chandan.

"He is diabetic, Chandan. Check his sugar levels too," said Janaki.

"Okay, Mam," said Chandan.

"Any other injuries?" Asked Janaki.

"There are no external injuries except them, Mam. But we have to check to see if he has any internal injuries or not," said Chandan.

"You guys carry on then," saying that Janaki moved out of the room. As soon as she came out of the room, Jai and Revathi started bombarding her with questions.

"Amma, calm down. He is okay. He got a cut on his forehead and a few scratches on his right hand. The doctor is giving him stitches on his forehead. He is saying that his right shoulder is fractured. His wounds will take some time to heal as he is aged and also diabetic. Now, calm down, Amma. He is sleeping now due to anesthesia. Once he wakes up, he will behave crankily. You know, right? He's hated hospitals since that day," said Janaki.

Revathi nodded her head and sighed.

"But how did this happen, Ram?" Janaki asked her husband.

"He and Gopi Anna are returning home from the farms on foot. He stopped on one side and was talking to the priest of the temple when a bike hit him. Gopi Anna and the passers-by admitted him to the hospital immediately, as his forehead was bleeding continuously. They caught that man; he said that a dog came in front of his bike, and he lost control of it," said Jai.

"Poojari Garu (the priest of the temple) and Gopi Anna are fine, right?" Asked Janaki.

"Poojari Garu is fine! But Gopi Anna's leg was fractured. He is getting treated in the other room," said Jai.

"I'll go and check on him too," said Janaki, and she went from there while Revathi and Jai sat in the lobby.

Harinath was discharged the next day. The doctor suggested that he should wear a sling for two weeks.

It's been a day since Harinath was discharged. The whole family came to visit him. Everyone le because of their work, but Maya, Sakshi, Rishi, and Anjali stayed back.

Sakshi and Janaki are cooking in the kitchen while Anjali is feeding soup to Harinath, who is sulking like a kid.

"Thathayya, stop sulking like a kid and have the soup silently like a good boy," Maya warned him.

"I want to have spicy food, but this is bland," Harinath said, pouting.

"Didn't the doctor tell you to eat less spicy food until your wounds are healed?" Asked Arjun.

"That doctor didn't have a brain," Harinath said, muttering curses.

Revathi, who sat opposite him, glared at him, making him gulp, and he drank soup without making a fuss. Maya and Arjun giggled, looking at him.

"Maa, have these fruits. You have not eaten properly for two days," Janaki said, giving a bowl of mixed fruits to Revathi.

Now Harinath glared at Revathi as she was about to push the bowl. She ate it silently, as he wouldn't eat properly if she didn't eat.

"Where is your lovely daughter-in-law, Janaki? It's duty more important to her than her family?" Nagamani taunted Janaki.

"She would have come, leaving everything there, if she knew about this incident. She didn't come because I told them not to inform her," Harinath said sternly.

"What an iron leg! It is not even a month since she became the daughter-in-law of this house, and this accident happened. Don't know what would happen in the future?" Nagamani said, mocking Diya.

Arjun clenched his fist tightly, and his eyes were spitting fire while everyone was glaring at the old lady. Revathi got up from her place and slapped Nagamani hard, making her look shocked at Revathi.

"A witch like you doesn't have any right to talk about my granddaughter. Do you understand?" Revathi yelled at Nagamani.

"How dare you slap me?" Nagamani said, glaring at her.

"I should have slapped you two years ago when your stupid granddaughter pulled that stunt. I should have slapped you when your so-called lovely daughter, Gowri, blamed my grandson. I should have slapped you when I came to know about your plotting against us behind our backs. I should have slapped you when that bastard grandson of yours harassed my granddaughter. In fact, I should have filed a case against you and your lovely daughter's family for defaming my grandson's character and all the conspiracies you've perpetrated," Revathi said, glaring at Nagamani.

Nagamani fumbled a little and shivered a little, looking at the fire in Revathi's eyes.

"My daughter-in-law, Diya, is not a bad omen. Your granddaughter is the one who brought bad luck to our family. Since the time we accepted Arjun and Chytra's relationship, one thing or another has happened. We lost Aditya. She is the one who defamed our whole family. She tried to separate Arjun from us. Because of her, my daughter has also suffered. In greed for money, she tried to spoil my son's life. What if I didn't go to his room on time that day? He would have died. If he came out of his trauma, then it's because of Diya. She was the one who made him normal and healed him. It's your granddaughter's luck that she came out of jail easily. Otherwise, she would have been in jail even now along with her idiot brother," Janaki said, throwing daggers at Nagamani.

"Isn't it you and Gowri who filled your grandchildren's ears against us? Both of you have spoiled Swapna's life. You got her married to your son, who is a drunkard and a gambler. Both of you have tortured her mentally and physically. You leeches her hard-earned money like parasites and snatched her share of properties too. You must thank her for her goodness as she didn't complain about you and Gowri. Do you know why she didn't lodge a complaint against both of you? It's because of your biological daughter, Rajni. She supported Swapna when she was in pain. She helped her and stood by her side like a shield, protecting Swapna and Aditya from you, your son, and Gowri. You and Gowri are a bad omen in our lives. That's why we faced all the pain in our lives. Just because we are tolerating you and staying silent, that doesn't mean we have forgotten everything. I remember everything that happened because of you. You are the one who changed the horscope on that day in the temple, aren't you? You are the one who filled Gowri's ears against us, and my brother have children were the ones who suffered in the end because of her deeds. Now, go and pack your bags. I don't have enough strength to bear your presence anymore. From this moment on, I and my brother have no relationship with you. We have respected you all these days as you are related to my father. If my father was alive, he would have broken all ties with you long ago. Now, leave," Janaki said, pointing at the door.

Nagamani felt humiliated and went to her room. A er some time, she came down with her bags.

"Ramu Anna, Check her bags. What if she has stolen something important from our house?" Janaki said, looking at a worker.

"Janaki, you are crossing your limits," Nagamani said, raising her hand to slap Janaki.

Revathi held her hand and said, "Low your tone, Nagamani. Don't forget that you are standing in our house. And how dare you raise your hand to slap my daughter? Leave this at this moment, before I change my mind and drag you to jail. And, ha, don't even try to spread unnecessary rumors. This time, I'll not leave you like the last time. You will land in jail for the next moment."

Nagamani went from there, fuming and cursing them and Chytra in their minds.

"If that mental girl hadn't pulled that stunt on that day, I would have ruled all these idiots. But, no. She spoiled everything with her stupidity."

Flashback:

Five days before the engagement:

Chytra was waiting for Arun in a cafe. She covered her face with a scarf so that no one could identify her. She was playing with her mobile and tapping her foot on the floor impatiently.

"Where the hell is this man? Can't he come fast?" Chytra said, looking at the time on her mobile.

Just then, a man came towards her wearing a mask and sat on the chair opposite to her.

"What took this much time to come to the cafe near your o ice?" Chytra asked, irritated.

"I'm the MD of a company, not jobless like you," he said, rolling his eyes at her.

"FVI, I'm a house surgeon," Chytra said, narrowing her eyes at him.

"Look, tell me what you want to say. I've got a meeting lined up with the promoters and investors. I don't have time to sit and listen to your nonsense," he said, straightly.

"Look Arun, I didn't come here to speak nonsense. I came to give you the blood test report of Arjun that you asked for. I also have a busy schedule," said Chytra.

"Where are your medical reports?" Arun said, taking the reports.

"I've mailed them to you in the morning," Chytra said, rolling her eyes.

"Okay then. I'll check them later. Did you talk with that doctor and that girl?" Asked Arun.

"Yes! Everything is ready from my side," said Chytra.

"Okay then! I've to leave then. No one should get doubt that these reports are fake," said Arun.

"Let's keep these reports aside, what if they perform tests? Though I have managed some doctors at the hospital, I work, still we can't take a risk, right?" Said Chytra.

"Look, Chytra. Don't let fear overpower your emotions. We will definitely do a mistake when we are afraid. Tell me if you want to back out, I'll handle everything in my way," said Arun.

Chytra thought for a while and said, "We will do this."

"That's good. I've a meeting. Be careful. No one should get a doubt on us," Saying that, Arun le the cafe taking the reports with him.

"I can't understand this man at all," Chytra said, sighing.

She opened her mobile and dialled Arun's number.

"Where did this man die? He is not even answering my call," Chytra told herself.

A er some time, she le for the hospital where she works. She went to meet the doctor, whom they bribed.

"Hello, Madam!" Chytra greeted her.

"Hey, Chytra!" said that doctor.

"Did you talk with that girl again?" asked Chytra.

"Yes! She said that she would come on that day. She kept a condition that her parents shouldn't know about this," said that doctor.

"What's all this, doctor? Why didn't she say this before?" Chytra said, angrily.

"Look, Chytra. She came to me to have an abortion for her without letting her parents know about that. She agreed to help you as you said that you would give her money," said that doctor.

"So what? She is taking money to act, right? Didn't I tell her before that she had to say in front of everyone on my engagement day that she impregnated Arjun's child as he forced himself on her when he was drunk? Anyhow, her parents will come to know about this through the media. What will she do then?" asked Chytra.

"I don't know all that Chytra. But I'm warning you before, nothing should happen to me and my job," said that doctor.

"Look, doctor, I'm telling you before only. We are going to deal with the owners of the Medicare group of hospitals."

Before Chytra could say further, that doctor shouted, "What?"

Why didn't you mention it before? Do you know how powerful they are? My whole life will be ruined," that doctor said, panicking.

"Don't act smart, doctor. Didn't I tell you that he is the son of Jai Ram and Dr. Janaki?" Chytra said, annoyed.

"Girl, I don't know why you are trying to frame him. You could rule them if you became their DIL. Do you have any idea about their power?" asked that doctor.

"Look doctor, I know what I'm doing. You have taken money, right? So, do your work properly. I don't want any mistakes from your side. Remember this: you will be screwed if you do something stupid." Chytra warned her and le from there.

That doctor hit her head, not understanding what to do. Chytra came out of the doctor's room and banged her had on the wall frustrated.

Chytra was working as a house surgeon at a private hospital. As per her and Arun's plan, they bribed a gynaecologist who does abortions secretly. One day, Chytra talked with that doctor and asked her to help them in return for a huge sum of money. They also bribed a girl who came to have an abortion secretly. They told her to act as the victim of Arjun. They told her that she should tell everyone that Arjun molested her when he was intoxicated by drugs. Later, he forced her to have an abortion so that no one could know about his deeds. That girl too agreed, as she would get a huge sum of money.

Chytra was going to her cabin when she got a call from her mother.

"What is it, Amma?" Chytra said, irritated.

"Why are you getting irritated now? What happened?" asked Gowri.

Chytra composed herself and said, "Nothing. Just some work tension. Now tell me, why have you called me?"

"Your MIL has sent some jewellery and dresses for you and asked you to select from them," said Gowri.

"What? How could she select on my behalf? Send them back, I'll take that man for shopping," said Chytra.

"Look, Chytra. You can do whatever you want a er the wedding, but now, stay calm. And it's also a ritual. So, select the ones you like from among them. Don't pull unnecessary stunts till your marriage, otherwise my years of hard work will become waste," Gowri warned her daughter.

Chytra rolled her eyes and said, "Do whatever you want. Now let me live in peace."

Before Gowri could say something, Chytra cut the call, cursing her mother.

To be continued....

