



# **Nandini - An Autobiography**

Story of Nandini from Innocent Man

**Anne Reporter**

Nandini

An Autobiography

Anne Reporter

# Chapter 1

I was a rebel from a small age. Being the lone child of my parents, they gave me full freedom. By the time I came to high school, I had become an arrogant selfish brat.

So, I was thrown out of school when I was in eighth standard. Because I was in a fight with other students.

Unable to find a better school, my father put me in Dehradun school and hostel. What he did not know was that I could get spoiled more there.

But they were very strict there. It seems my father must have warned them, they didn't give me any wriggle room.

This way I completed my 10th there.

Seeing I had improved in my studies, my father continued my college there. Even though it is a college for the outside world, it was considered a school only.

We have to follow all the school rituals., like uniforms etc.

But my world turned upside down when I saw Kumar with one of my seniors. I felt I had a connection to him. Like I know him from many lives.

But when I came to know he had come as their servant, I was disappointed.

Later when I came to know he was not her servant but her lover. From someone I came to know he was not her lover, he came to sell sex. Yes, that's correct, I found that he was a gigolo. This is the first time for me to find one in India.

I don't know to laugh or cry about that.

But when girls started a rumour that if we have a first night with him, we will have lifelong satisfaction in sex.

They also told me that he would return next summer and Nimisha would arrange for girls with money a week-long experience with him. So, I started to put aside some money for his return. What if I can't have him for myself, a week with him should be heavenly.

He did not come with Nimisha next year, and out of frustration, I spent the amount collected for the last year on useless things.

But he came after two weeks. This time Nimisha decides to arrange an auction for him for a week. She told us there would be four rounds of auction for a week each.

I participated in the auction, but I did not have enough money with me. So, I can't make a bid here.

I asked Dad about some money but it arrived too

little too late. Then I thought what if not this year, maybe next year?

For the next year, I spent the time in anticipation of his exploits. I heard a lot of stories from the people who have spent time with him. Even if it isn't about lifelong sexual satisfaction, they would say the experience should last for a lifetime.

Next year Nimisha gave a shock of a lifetime. She came with a boy, he was not Kumar. No one was ready to spend any time with the new boy.

He just worked as a servant and they returned.

After completing my school there when I returned to Guntur. I went to Vijayawada in search of Kumar.

The only way to know his whereabouts is by Nimisha. So, I went to one of my classmates who spent time with him and subsequently became pregnant. Her mother stopped her from attending school. She gave me the address of Nimisha, as their bungalow is well known in Vijayawada. But there also I faced disappointment as he sold off his business and house and went over to Bombay and she didn't know his address. He did not give it to anyone fearing people would approach him there. The only person who could know about him could be his ex, Sunitha.

Nimisha told me it is useless to approach Sunitha as she came to know about his activities in Dehradun from her neighbour, who is the mother of the girl he impregnated.

So, I went to that girl, but Sunitha also left for Bombay and she didn't have any idea where she was staying.

I thought if he is meant for me he will come in front of me. When some of the girls were contemplating going to the USA for further studies I also applied and joined in hospital administration. My cousin studying to become a doctor, and I want to manage the hospital to be built by my father with his brother.

## Chapter 2

I completed my Hospital administration in the USA and returned to Hyderabad. Now my father is building a hospital in Hyderabad. I did not let any man come near me during my stay in New York. I thought if I kept my mind on Kumar, he would come in front of me sometime or other. Also, I want to lose my virginity to Kumar only. When I make up my mind about something, I don't waver from my resolution.

Our hospital is almost complete and they are giving the final touches. Dad and mom have to go to Guntur to attend a marriage of the close relatives. Also, Krishna uncle's daughter's marriage is fixed to be performed in Hyderabad. So, Dad asked me to help them out, as they will be coming from Bombay to perform the wedding. Krishna uncle is a very close friend of Dad's and he visits our house whenever he visits Hyderabad. Being in the USA, I never met him, but Dad speaks so highly of him. He is a selfless person and helps everyone. One of Dad's cousins was in the Telecom department and Krishna uncle helped him when he had to face corruption charges. Also, he helped his business partner to clear bills from the department.

I went to their hotel room to meet with Krishna uncle. He spoke very sweetly with me and introduced his wife and daughter. His elder son did not attend the wedding, but his younger son

went out to run an errand. He is spending the whole amount for this wedding, including clothes and ornaments. He sold some software and earned an amount of Rupees 50 Lakhs. In those times, 50 lakhs were a big amount. That means he should be a good programmer. I heard about software in the USA, I also want to use software in our hospital. If we can have software, it should be the first hospital in India to have a software-running hospital. It should bring some name to the hospital.

When he returned to the hotel room, I had a shock of my lifetime. He is none other than my Kumar. I could not believe my eyes.

I spoke to him about this and that, it seems he is little sad, aunty told me that his girlfriend who was working as an air hostess died in a plane crash last week. That means he is single and ready for my plan of action.

I asked him can he make hospital software. He said he has the full knowledge of the development of the software. I asked him to come with me to the hospital, I will show him our hospital. I took him and showed him around and went to my cabin and acted as searching for some papers and then went to dad's cabin and searched there too. I told him I wanted to give him a document detailing the details requirements, it should be at the home.



I drove to our house in Jubilee Hills and stopped outside the gate, opened the gate came back and drove inside and parked. I opened the door and when we entered I closed the door and locked it. I don't want someone barging in.

He asked, "Is there no one at home?"

I replied my mom and dad went to Guntur for a wedding, they should return before your sister's wedding.

I went to my room and returned and told him I couldn't find the papers, maybe they were with Dad.

I asked him do you wanted something to drink.

He replied anything would be fine.

So, I returned with a bottle of whiskey and asked how about this?

He seemed to read my mind and replied ok by me.

I went to the kitchen brought two glasses and poured a peg each.

I again went to the kitchen brought snacks and placed them on the table.

Kumar picked up the glass sipped a little and looked at me. I looked him over, he is 5' 5" in height and not thin but seemed to work out daily, with a body on him, normal people would

be envious of him. There was something in his eyes, I could not place it. Is it sadness or knowledge of the world or what?

I saw him looking me over, I asked him, "What are you looking at?"

He said, "I have not seen anyone like you."

I asked him, "How many have you seen?"

He replied, "You are one in a million."

"Am I, then what are you waiting for?"

He seemed to understand my intentions and he came over to me. I also stood up and looked into his eyes.

He also looked into my eyes, I don't know what he found there, he kissed me hard on the mouth. It seems like my long wait come to an end. There is something magic in his kiss, his kiss and the way he is holding me. We were kissing for an eternity and I stopped him and took him to my room.

He took me to heaven with his lovemaking. His experience can be seen in the way he is making love.

After completing our lovemaking, I took a pocket of fags and handed him. He took one lit it and smoked. I took the fag from him and smoked a little passed back to him.

I said you were better than I heard about you.

There was surprise written all over his face. He looked at me sharply and asked where did you hear about me?

I said don't you remember me, I came to meet you when you were returning. I thought I would meet you next year, but you never returned. I know everything about you but don't worry, I will not tell a soul about you. I know how you turned your life around. Your mom told me everything, how you found a small girl and wanted to raise her how your wedding got cancelled at the last minute and later she has gone missing and how your girlfriend died in the plane crash. Also, you were covering all the expenses of your sister's wedding.

He said, "I just got 50 lakhs as compensation for my software."

I asked, "50 lakhs, what kind of software did you develop?"

he said, "data transfer between branches through telephones."

I asked, "For that, they paid the amount?"

He said, "They wanted to use it in the USA, so they don't want to have any problems because I sent them legal notice about the software. They did not have any other option than to pay me,

but I did not expect they would pay that much amount.”

He is not only intelligent but has brains. Who else can do that?

“What else can you develop?”

“I have lots of ideas for software, so I am starting a software development firm.”

“But first, you take up our hospital software.

“I will do your software first, ok.”

I looked at the time and said, “Let us go for dinner and come.”

I wanted to impress him so, I took him to a fancy restaurant.

He did not seem impressed by that, either that or his mind seemed to be somewhere else. What could he be thinking when a beautiful girl like me is in front of him? Is he not impressed by me? Will he love me as much as I love him? I know he knows many girls, I heard his last girlfriend Sunitha is very beautiful as she is an air hostess. But she is not in this world. Would he keep that in his mind?

If he doesn't have any feelings about me, why did he make love to me? He doesn't look like a cheating type. His previous relations seemed to have left him rather than he ditched them.

We returned home, I switched on the TV and went and changed came back and sat beside him.

He looked at me and he seemed to recognise love in me and sat back relaxed. Seeing him sitting relaxed, my mind came to a rest.

I caught him by the shoulder and sat watching TV. After an hour of watching TV, I told him to let us go to sleep. He came behind me like a puppy following his master.

He started making love to me passionately. It seems he loves me as much as I loved him all this time. He seemed to recognise my true self and my love.

I heard a sound from the ground floor.

Kumar got up from me. I said it must be a cat or something.

He said, "It could be a thief or something, I will go and check." He got out of bed put on his underwear and went towards the door.

What I found was that the door was opening and seeing us a thief dropped his bag and ran away,

Kumar picked up the bag and said, "There is not much in this."

He went down and came up saying, I locked the doors and windows. He came and sat on the bed and continued his lovemaking.

\*\*\*\*

Kumar woke me up from sleep saying I have to go back to the hotel; my parents must be wondering where I disappeared.

I said, I will drop you at the hotel and go to the hospital, I will cover up for you, don't worry.

I readied and dropped him outside the hotel and went over to the hospital.

I checked the work going on and returned to the hotel. What I find is that they all have gone out.

I waited for some time and found they had returned to the hotel from the groom's house.

Kumar's mom asked me, "Are you waiting for a long time."

I replied, just five minutes. I came to take Kumar with me to the hospital. We have to complete documentation."

Kumar's Mom said, "Our ceremonies are completed, now you can take him with you. You return him back by the time of mahurat."

I said, "ok."

After sitting in the car, I said, "Tomorrow our family is coming back."

"Will they attend our marriage?"

"Certainly."

We went to our house, this time he got down and opened the gate and let me drive and closed the gate. By the time I reached the front door and opened the door, he reached there and we both entered the house he locked the door and went and sat down on the sofa.

I went into the kitchen and brought lunch. After completing lunch, we went to my room and continued our romantic escapades. How much he tried to satisfy me, I would want more, I think he had used all of his experience with me and at last, I was satisfied and we went to sleep.

I woke him up after two hours and handed him a fag and asked, "Do you want a peg?"

"Please get me one."

I brought him a peg and handed it to him. He sipped and sat back on the bed. I sat beside him, kissed him and said, "I love you."

He thought a minute and said, "Before I commit to anything, I have to tell you something."

"What is it?"

"I have had a few girlfriends before."

"I know your history, I don't care about any girlfriends."

"Then I have to tell you about Leena."

“I know, you have adopted her, that’s what you want to say?”

“It is not that, she is really my own daughter.”

“How is it possible did she was born to you at 12 years of age?”

“No, I have to tell you the full story. When I went on vacation in my first year of degree college, I met Sahithi in Bombay, then we had a one-night stand. She became pregnant and she prayed and she was taken to another dimension, she was brought back after giving birth to Leena and she just missed a few hours. Did you understand, that she became pregnant and after a few hours later returned home leaving her daughter behind. Leena was raised by another me, who is a pujari and Sneha, who was my classmate from junior college. Then Leena returned to me after one year, at the age of seven years. Now, will anyone believe that she is mine and Sahithi’s daughter? So, I told my parents, that Leena’s parents are known to me and they are missing and I would raise her as my daughter. Then I was to marry Sahithi, then my girlfriend Sunitha spoiled our marriage and Sahithi was taken abroad by her parents. Now Sunitha is missing from an aeroplane accident. She was presumed dead because her body was not found. Now it is up to you to decide what you want.”

I said, “I like your honesty, I don’t understand a bit about Leena, but I don’t have any objection



to her being your daughter. Let us go, I will drop you at your hotel and pick up my parents returning from marriage.”

## Chapter 3

I readied and went to the railway station to pick up Mom and Dad returning from Guntur.

Mom enquired about Krishna's Daughter's wedding preparations.

I explained to them what was going on there and the time of Mahurat to attend.

I told Dad about Krishna uncle's son Kumar, who is going to develop our hospital software.

Mom asked, "What is the need for the software."

I explained how software increases productivity and our hospital would be an attraction for the patients.

We reached home, got readied and reached the wedding hall. Dad stopped the car and I got down and reached the wedding at a fast clip.

Mom was asking what the urgency.

I ignored her reached the wedding and looked around the hall. Kumar with his Daughter Leena were sitting in the front row.

When I saw Leena, I could not understand how he could have such a big daughter.

He asked, "Where are your parents?"

"They are coming behind."

Seeing them enter the hall, Kumar's father went and welcomed them. He brought them to where we were sitting and Kumar got up and wished them with a namaste and shook my father's hands. His Dad sat them down and went to look after the wedding preparations.

Dad asked, "What are you doing?"

"I am starting a software development business."

"How do you know software?"

"I learned and did some software for a company and got fifty lakhs as payment."

Dad exclaimed, "Fifty lakhs, must be something important."

"With that money, I am going to start a software development business and Nandini was asking about developing hospital software."

"Do you have any idea of doing that?"

"I had full knowledge of how to develop it. Let me go back to Bombay and I will prepare a prototype and show you."

"You better coordinate with Nandini."

Kumar nodded his head. I saw my mother go and speak with his mother. Then Purohit called for the bride to do some puja. They both went to bring my sister to the stage. My mother stood by

his mother during the whole wedding ceremony until the time she was sent away with the groom.

After sending off his sister both of our mothers sat down to discuss. Then they called my father and her father. After some time, they called me and asked for my opinion of Kumar.

“I liked him on first look, he seemed to be intelligent and he had a certain charm. Over that, he earned 50 lakhs for a piece of software.”

Then after speaking with me, his parents called him and his father told him, “Nandini’s parents have agreed to our alliance and Nandini also agreed to it, and she is aware of your cancelled marriage. They agreed to sit and finalize the alliance.”

He said, “I don’t have any objection to the alliance, but I want to concentrate on my business first.”

My parents said, “We also don’t have any objection to that as we have to concentrate on the hospital first. However, he will be working on the software front with us, and we will keep in touch.”

So, in principle, they agreed to our marriage and decided to keep in touch. As his sister will be living in Hyderabad, his parents will be coming to Hyderabad for one occasion or another.

\*\*\*\*

Kumar started preparing Hospital Management Software and we were in constant touch not about software but we were making future plans.

Finally, it took him a month to prepare the software, so he called Dad to have a look at it. Dad asked me to check it out. I had been waiting for that, so I booked a ticket on the first available train and reached Bombay.

Kumar came to pick me up from the station and took me to his flat.

As soon as we reached the flat and he locked the door, he started to kiss me passionately. He must have been waiting for the last month for this moment.

He took me to the bedroom, satisfied, let me go and have a bath. After having lunch, he sat me down and showed me his software. He showed each and every screen and explained each column and its use. I was amazed at what he developed. He had considered every requirement while developing. Every one of my requirements he met. I told him that and I can't remember anything else to incorporate in the software.

I asked, "How could you develop this software that too to my requirements."

His reply surprised me, "You have instructed me your requirements in my dream. So, I will start my background coding."

He took me to the bedroom, after having a quickie he took me to his parent's house.

I took their blessing and after greetings, Kumar's mother took me to their bedroom and enquired about our family. She asked are you two are having a relationship.

I lowered my head in shyness and replied yes.

She said, "I am not commenting about your relationship, but be careful about getting pregnant before marriage."

I replied, "I am being careful. I am aware of the consequences. I need to set up our hospital before our wedding. If I get pregnant, we have to get married immediately, which I want to avoid. But how do you know we are in a relationship?"

"Seeing the glow on your face, I could understand."

I looked at the mirror on the cupboard in front of me. I could not see any difference in me, maybe I am seeing this face every day. I thanked her for her advice and we went to the hall.

Seeing me Kumar enquired with his eyes. I nodded my head I will tell you later.

After lunch, we returned to his flat in his car. We went to his parking and he had trouble parking as a bike was blocking. I asked, "Whose bike is this in your parking space."

"Mine only."

"Then you should give me a ride on the bike."

"Do you like to have ice cream?"

"Yes."

"Then let us go for a ride", he took me to the Juhu beach and brought a cup of ice cream each and we sat on the beach, had it and returned to the flat.

I went into the bedroom changed and came out, he was sitting on the sofa having a fag.

Kumar asked, "What did your parents say about me?"

I said, "My father was asking how could they give 50 lakhs just for a piece of software code?"

"For that, I have to give you the sequence of events. In a meeting, I gave them the idea of data transfers using modems. Even the people from the USA do not have an idea how to achieve that. So, they asked me to prepare the code and show them. So, the way I had the idea of hospital software, I had the idea for that data transfer and I prepared the software and we checked and it clicked. So, we installed it all over India and

they were thinking of using the technology in the parent company and their subsidiaries like our India company. See for the idea or software they did not give me any incentive or even gave me credit for that. Then I got an idea for Pan India Matrimonial services software. I prepared a document and submitted it to our MD for consideration. Because to run the idea of the matrimonial service we need a company like our courier company which has an all-over India presence and it uses the data transfer software I created. Now instead of coming back to me on the matter, they have instructed their software guy to prepare the software for matrimonial services. As I have not received any reply, I went and registered the name and idea with the registrar of patents. When the point came for linking with the data transfer services, they could not do it and the developer came to me to ask for the linking. I refused to provide the link to him and then I resigned from the company and sent them a lawyer notice to stop using the data transfer software immediately, as I hold the patent and development rights. They called me and we came to an agreement, and they paid 50 lakhs for using the data transfer software and matrimonial software and its name. Now thinking about it, Bob might have something to do with that.”

“Who is Bob.”



“He is the one who asked me to learn software, he also helped me in a tricky situation.”

“What happened?”

“When I was in the USA, one of my colleagues, who is from India, had a problem and I helped her to come back to India. She was so scared to stay at her home and I brought her here and let her stay. I went to Wadala and stayed overnight and when I came back the next morning, there was a dead body in the hall with an open door, and everyone was looking inside and someone called the police. The Police came and took the body and sent it to post-mortem and later the police took me for questioning as the murder happened in my flat. Then Bob came to the police station and convinced them I had nothing to do with the murder and they let me go.”

“How did they let you go so easily?”

“Bob told them I am from IB, working undercover. So, they had no other option but to let me go. Later I found out that it was not the girl I brought from the USA, who was murdered. Till now there is no trace of that girl.”

“I heard you have a great technique of lovemaking, when will you show me?”

“Whenever you want.” After our lovemaking, he asked, “You said you heard about my lovemaking, where did you hear it?”

“I have also studied in Dehradun, you were a craze among our students. They used to conduct auctions to get to be with you. Nimisha used to select the top 4 bidders among the auctioneers and collected the amount from them. I don't know what she paid you, but they were ready to pay top money to be with you again, but she made a rule that one person can meet you one time only for a week. At the time there was a rumour that one should only lose their virginity to you to get lifelong sexual satisfaction.”

“Did you not bid then?”

“I tried to bid, but I did not have enough money with me. I did not have any idea you would be coming there, I think you came a little late there. I saw Nimisha and did not find you with her and I was disappointed and spent my money on useless things. Then when you came there I did not have enough money. I called and asked my dad for money, but by the time he sent me the money, you had returned. Then I resolved that if I were to lose my virginity, it is to you only. Then next year I saved money to outbid any other girl. But you did not come there. I found out Nimisha's address and went and met Nimisha also. She said she had no idea where you were and gave me your house address. When I enquired there, I was told that you have sold the house and moved to Bombay and no one knows where you stay in Bombay. From that time, I did not let any other boy or man come near me. I

was waiting for you to come to me. When I saw you at the wedding, I could not believe my eyes. I know you came only for me. So instead of going to marriage with my parents, I stayed back and you became mine only.”

“it is fascinating one girl would wait for me like this. Yours is true love.”

## Chapter 4

I wanted a veil white in colour like a net. Kumar said I know a seller near Andheri West station.

He said, "I will take you there", and I took me in his car and we parked in the station parking area and walked to the shop. At the store, I found a girl waiting for the shopkeeper.

Kumar asked her, "Where is the shopkeeper?"

She said, "He must have gone to Namaz, he will be in a few."

Kumar asked, "Don't you remember me?"

"I was thinking that only, where did I see you."

"I had taken your interview at the courier company. Did you get the job?"

"I got it and left it also.

"Then what are you doing?"

"Nothing at present."

Kumar wrote his phone number on a piece of paper and said, "You call me, I want to speak with you. Meet Nandini my fiancé."

We both shook hands and he said, "Don't forget to call me, I might have something for you."

When the shopkeeper came, we brought what we came for and were walking back and one

thief pulled my bag and ran away. Kumar could not do anything as he disappeared in front of us.

I said, "I have my passport in that. Now we must lodge a police complaint and send a copy of the FIR to the passport office to get a new passport.

So, he took me over to the Andheri West Police Station. We went to the police constable (PC) and Kumar said, "We want to make a complaint about a bag snatcher."

PC asked, "Were there any valuables in that?"

I said, "Nothing valuable, but my passport is there."

PC said, "Wait a minute, I will lodge your complaint."

Kumar looked around for a place to sit. he found a few ladies sitting on a bench, who seemed to be prostitutes.

Kumar asked, "Why is that girl sitting with them?"

PC said, "She was caught with them and the man sitting there is their pimp."

I saw a man sitting on his knees.

Kumar asked, "Is he Suresh?"

PC said, "Yes, do you know him?"

Before Kumar could answer him, their SI came out of the room. Seeing Kumar, he came and shook hands and asked in a low tone, "Are you here on some official work?"

Kumar said, "Nothing like that, she is my fiancé Nandini, near Andheri station, someone snatched her purse and ran away, she has her passport in that."

SI said, "We will get the purse back, don't worry."

Kumar showed a girl and told him, "I know her, I brought her from the USA, she is a software professional. In a low tone, she is the one missing from the murder case."

SI asked, "Is she the one living in your house?"

Kumar said, "Yes, I want her and Suresh to be handed over to me. I will get the information from him and hand him back to you."

SI told the constable to get the forms signed release them to Kumar and get my purse back from whoever snatched it. Tell him when they do the snatching they should know whose purse they are pulling. He took a paper from his purse gave him a number and said, "Note this number with the release form."

We sat with them in the car and he took them to Vakola Shakha Pramukh, Deshpande. Kumar caught the collar of Suresh and we four of us went inside.

Seeing Suresh, he got up from the chair and asked, "What did he do now?"

Kumar asked him, "Do you remember I am Kumar, son of Krishna from P and T Colony?"

He said, "Yes, yes I remember, you came here with Sahithi. Now, what happened?"

Kumar said, "he is working as a pimp with prostitutes. Showing Joy, she is a software professional, missing from our house, he has something to do with her disappearance. I want to find out what connection he has to the murder."

Hearing murder, Suresh said, "I don't know about any murder."

Kumar asked, "Then what is she doing with you?"

Suresh said, "There is a gang, that kidnaps people. What I heard was that someone from the USA gave a supari and got her kidnapped and put her in a dark room. When the next payment has not come, they decided to pimp her and handed her over to me. I was taking her to sell off, and the police stopped our van and took us to the police station, with other ladies. The rest you know."

Kumar looked at Joy, she nodded her head.

Kumar asked Deshpande, "Now what shall we do about him?"

He said, "We will hand him over to the crime bureau, they will see what to do with him, you leave her at her house, and we will speak later."

Kumar said, "goodbye", to him and reminded him to hand over Suresh to the police and went over to Joy's house handed her over to her parents and came back to the flat.

Kumar said to me, "I was worried about Joy and what happened to her, now I can sleep peacefully."

We sat down and looked at the hospital software and he noted some suggestions from me. He started coding and I worked up to 8 pm. I sat beside him and watched him working, without disturbing him.

He said, "If I work like this I can complete the project within a week. let us go for dinner and come."

We went to a nearby restaurant by bike had dinner and came back.

After coming back to the flat, I asked, "Will it be like this if we get married?"

He replied I can't guarantee it will be like this only, because it will be different each day, will it be okay with you?"



I kissed him and said, "I know it will be different with you, life will not be a boring routine with you."

He continued working on the coding and I sat beside him patiently.

He said, "Sorry, I wanted to complete this work at the earliest."

I said, "It is ok, if you finish the work you can come over and install it in our hospital."

He worked until 11:30 pm and said, "Let us go to sleep."

As he was totally tired of the coding, we had a quickie and went to sleep.

The next day we went to Joy's house to enquire about her. She narrated her experience with the kidnapers.

Kumar asked Joy, "All of that is behind you now, and I am planning to start a software firm, would you like to be a partner with me?"

She readily agreed and he said, "I will leave you in Hyderabad for some time, so you need not be scared of anything."

Joy readily agreed to get away from Bombay for some time.

He said, "We will go and see the CA about finalizing the registration of the firm."

We three of us went and asked him to register the firm in three of our names. We signed the forms and the CA has already completed the formalities for the name of the company he said, "I will get the registration process started."

We left Joy at her house and came back to our flat and Kumar started working on coding.

I prepared the lunch and called him to have lunch.

We had lunch and he continued working. Now after completing a module, he started by copying the code and reusing it. This way it became very easy to do the coding.

After completing the second module, he lit a fag and sat back.

I went to him and asked, "Would you like to have a cup of tea."

He looked at me and said, "Yes, please."

I asked, "What are you looking at", as he was lost in thoughts and was staring at me.

He said, "I am thinking about how beautiful you look."

I said shyly "Thanks."

He got up and kissed me and said, "Be considerate like this always."

I said, "Sure."

I went inside the kitchen and brought him a cup of tea and placed it on the table.

He pulled me to his lap and started kissing me. I kissed back passionately.

He said, "Sorry."

"Why?"

"I thought you would leave me and go away. Promise me you will never leave me."

"Why are you talking like that?"

"Whatever happens between us, you promise me you will never leave me."

"I promise."

He let me get up and continued his coding.

He completed another module and sat back and lit a fag.

I brought a cup of tea and placed it in front of him.

He looked at me and said, "Thanks."

After completing tea, he got up and stretched and said, "Let us go for a walk."

We went to a super bazaar and returned with bags in our hands.

He stopped a lady coming and said, "I am sorry Aunty."

She looked at him and asked, "What are you doing here?"

He said, "I started a software development firm here" as if he was here on work, and said, "I am sorry about Sunitha."

Then I understood she must be Sunitha's mother.

She said, "I should tell you sorry for stopping her. She went to duty angry with me. I should have listened to her, she might be alive today. She told me it was all her misunderstanding. Someone filled her ears with jealousy because you were moving around with her. Later when she enquired she found out you were innocent. But by that time, it has become too late. She got your marriage cancelled and they were missing from that time. She was telling me before going that day, that you have become a big man and got a big amount for some software you created. You are richer than us, so you were not behind her money."

He said, "I got fifty lakhs as payment for my software after taxes."

She continued "What she is saying is correct, we hardly have around 10 lakhs in assets including our house."

He said, "I still feel she is safe somewhere. She will come back to us."

She said, "I hope your words become reality.

He said, "I hope so", and moved towards our flat.

I asked, "Is she Sunitha's mother?"

He said, "Yes."

We reached our flat and he placed the bags in the kitchen and came back and sat in front of the computer.

He must be thinking about Sunitha and must be feeling sad so, I pulled a chair and sat beside him. I put my hand on his shoulder as if to give him strength.

He looked up Deshpande's number and called him.

He said, "I am Kumar, I brought to you Suresh, did they find anything about his activities."

Deshpande said something on the phone.

He said, "I think he went to some meeting out of the city. So, what did you find?" he must be referring to his father.

Deshpande said something.

He said, "I will be away from Bombay, I have to implement my software at a hospital in Hyderabad, after coming back I will come and meet you." He thanked him and cut the call.

Before he could give me an explanation, he got a call lifted the receiver and said, "Hello."

He heard what the other person said, and said, "We just went to the super bazaar. I think you live in Andheri East; shall we meet at the restaurant near Andheri station."

The other person must have said yes, he said, "I will be there in fifteen minutes."

We took the bike and he parked outside the restaurant and we went inside.

Some guys were sitting there and Mahira introduced them as Chowdary, Rakesh and Salim.

He said, "I am Kumar" and we sat at a table beside them.

Mahira came and sat in front of us.

"I am starting a software firm and I want you to look after the hardware sales.

"Why hardware and why not software?"

"I know all about you, you will have a problem selling software, and you will fit perfectly with the hardware sales. I also have some more ideas for businesses, I will let you know at the right time."

Mahira looked at him hard and asked, "What do you know about me?"

“Your father works in the Airport; your sister also works in Indian Airlines and your brother works in the Merchant navy. You are staying at the IC colony, which I could know from your biodata. You have not resigned from the company, they told you to resign from the courier company, due to something happening there, I really don’t know what it is. You might have a friend named Dolly, I would advise you to keep away from her. She is dynamite. Shall I tell you about your friends sitting here? Rakesh is on drugs and Chowdary rants about astrology and all those things. Salim, I don’t know much about him. Maybe you know someone working on a small-sized fire extinguisher.”

“Salim works for them.” Now she started to panic and asked, “How do you know all this, are you a spy?”

“Nothing like that, I saw your whole life in my dream.”

“How can you see my life in your dream?”

“If I tell you the truth you won’t believe it. So, if you want to work with me I will arrange to have the hardware division set up.”

“Can I come back to you on that?”

“Sure, take your own sweet time.”

He lit a fag and passed on the packet to Mahira.

“How do you know I smoke?”

“I know your whole life, don’t worry, I will not use it against you.”

Mahira sat there looking at him, scrutinizing him, thinking how he could know all these things.

I was wondering the same.

“What were you telling about Dolly? She recently came into my contact. She was calling for a party next week.”

“Then I would like to meet her, get me an invitation to the party.”

It seemed she looked at him appraising him and his worth, so, he said, “If I bring a costly brand of scotch, would it be enough?”

“I will speak with her and see.”

*After hearing Kumar speak with Mahira, I started to doubt he was working as a spy. How did he know all about her? The SI was also telling the same, he worked in the Intelligence Bureau. Mahira was surprised by his knowledge of her. But in his work, he is coding like an experienced software programmer. I saw some programmers working in the USA. He is so much better than them. They would be searching books to what commands to be used. He never touched a book and he did not stop coding, thinking about what to write next. He did not even stop to check what*



*he had written. He would only check when he finished the module. He says he had learned on some Bob's say-so. What is his story about being made head of a business conglomerate? I did not understand his relationship with this Bob. One time, Kumar says he told him to study software and gave him a hand about making him a business head and then another time he is saved by him after the murder in his flat.*

*Is someone murdered in his flat? Wasn't he scared of that? I would be scared to stay there without him. Hope he doesn't leave me there and go somewhere. It is just a few days with him and can I stay without him at my side? What will I do when I have to go to Hyderabad leaving him here? If I have to go to Hyderabad, I will take him with me or stay with him here. Whatever anybody thinks, I don't care. But as his mom said I should be careful about getting pregnant. Because there is no urgency to have kids. I should concentrate on my career for the time being.*

We came back to the flat after having dinner at a restaurant. He continued with coding and completed another module by 11:15 pm. He lit a fag and looked at me sitting on the sofa dozing.

He must have felt pity for me because to not disturb his work I am sitting and dozing. He came to me sat beside me and kissed me.

I opened my eyes and asked, "Did your work finish?"

He said, "I closed my work for today, let us go inside."

He took me in his arms and placed me on the bed. He went back and switched off the lights and came back and lay beside me. Seeing me going back to sleep he lay beside me and tried to sleep.

\*\*\*\*

By the time I woke up, he was already working and I came from behind, caught him by the neck and kissed him on the cheek. I said, "Good morning" and turned his head towards me and kissed me on the mouth.

He said, "I already completed another module and now reporting only left. I know for the purpose of cost saving everyone uses dot matrix printers, some people prefer laser printing for diagnostics reports. You have to inform me what is your preferred method of printing."

He asked, "Do you want a cup of coffee?"

I said, "Yes, I will go to the toilet and come."

Seeing him going to the kitchen to make coffee, I went to the bathroom.

He brought two cups of coffee and placed them on the table beside the keyboard. I came back and sat on the chair beside him. He handed me one cup took another and started sipping it.

After completing the coffee, he put the cup on the table and looked at me. I held the cup with both hands and sipped it. He waited until I finished the coffee took my face in his hands kissed me and said, "How beautiful you look."

I put on an innocent face and asked, "How much?"

He put his hands apart and said, "This much."

I said, "Only this much?"

He opened his hands fully wide and said, "Then this much."

I said, "Oh!" and kissed him. So, this way we started our day.

He created an executable file and told me to check the application, "I will go and have a bath and come." He went to the bathroom and closed the door.

I knocked on the door and asked, "What will you have breakfast?"

He said, "Whatever you can make."

I opened the door and looked in and he kissed me in the air and I went into the kitchen.

He dressed and came and sat on the sofa. Thinking something.

I asked him, "What happened?"

He replied, "I decided it is worth having a look at Dolly to see if she is the one I saw in my dream."

"When did you see her in your dream."

"In my dream, I went to check on Dolly, if she is the one who killed Kumar of that timeline."

"I feel that Dolly is somehow linked to my life. The link seemed to be Joy, there she had kidnapped Joy to trouble the software company, and here they kidnapped her for money, given by the senior from the USA. Did he have so much anger on her to get her kidnapped and put her in a dark room?"

I brought Upma and placed it in front of him. He said, "Upma?"

"It is the easiest to make, so I made it. Don't you like it?"

"Nothing like that. Can you make a cup of tea?"

"Sure" and went into the kitchen and brought him a cup of tea.

I went and sat beside him.

"Sorry, I am making you do all these chores. If you are staying here I would have appointed a maid. Because I am alone, I don't want to get a maid, because they would gossip about me with neighbours. If I had been married, that would be different. The wife would be dealing with her."

“I understand.”

“Don’t worry it is only for a few days until we finish our work here. I could have taken you to my house, but we will not have this freedom there.”

“I understand that, I want to be with you not with your family. You are coming closer to me day by day. I don’t know how I will stay in Hyderabad without you?”

“Then we will get married as soon as possible. Then we can be together and no one will have any objections.”

Then the telephone rang, he spoke on the phone and said, “It is Mahira she is saying the party is fixed for Saturday evening, we are invited.”

“Ok.”

“Nandini, get ready we will go to Vakola.”

I said, “ok” and went to have a bath.

He called Joy and told her to be ready to discuss the business plan. Then when I am ready we both went to Joy’s house and discussed how to proceed with our development activities.

Joy asked, “You said you will take me to Hyderabad.”

He said, “I have to look at all the options available. Do you want to work at your house?”

Then I will get you a computer. First, let us go to Vakola and see the progress of the investigation.”

On the way, he asked, “Joy, give me details of your days with the kidnappers. Do you know who could be their leader?”

Joy said, “Their leader seems to be a woman. She talks with a Bengali accent.”

He said, “ok that is a clue.”

When we reached Vakola Sakha we went and inquired about Sahithi’s kidnapping.

Deshpande said, “Still there is no clue as to where she might be. Suresh does not seem to have any idea where they are kept.”

Kumar asked, “Then what about Sahithi’s family, where did they disappear? I don’t think they would have gone abroad. I think there is a locksmith near the bus stop let us take him to their house and check.”

We all went and took the locksmith with his bag and went to Sahithi’s house. It took the locksmith 20 minutes to open the door and we entered the house. The house has a stale smell hanging in the air. I looked at the floor, it seemed uneven.

Kumar said, “Something grotesque happened here. You better call the police.”

We came out of the house, and by that time few people gathered there.

Their neighbour asked, "What happened Dada?"

Deshpande asked, "Does anyone have a telephone at their house?"

Next door neighbour said, "We have a phone."

Deshpande went and called the police. They came within 10 minutes. He spoke with them and they went in and checked the floor, their SI said, "These floor stones seemed to have been placed recently.

The SI called their team on their radio. A specialist team came and removed the stones and dug into the sand underneath. There they found two skeletons. They took the skeletons and sealed the house. Now the case has become a very serious matter.

Kumar looked at Deshpande for advice.

He said, "You go home and I will speak with you later."

Kumar gave him his telephone number and he went to Raj's house.

He left us in the car and went to Raj's house. He called him to the car and offered him a fag. He told him about the party at Dolly's, and Raj readily agreed to come to the party. He told him about him signing the contract and receiving the

money and he had to let the guests know my present status to impress them. It is very important for our operation. He also told him about finding the bodies in Sahithi's house and information about her, that she was kidnapped and it is required we find her immediately.

Raj said, "I will also get my friends with me to the party and we will enact the scene to impress the guests with our antics."

Then Kumar introduced me as his fiancé and Joy as our software development partner. He also told him if he is free he can come work with us.

Kumar said, "Let me see." He gave him his phone number and we returned to our flat.

He told Joy to look at the software he developed for hospitals.

Kumar and I started preparing lunch for us.

\*\*\*\*

It is Saturday night and we went to Dolly's house where the party was being organised.

On the way, Kumar picked up Raj and he said, "Harry and Shekar and Julie will come in Shekar's car."

We went to the address given by Mahira. She told us to take the SV road, then at Santacruz West take a right and go to the end of the road, where the road turns right towards Juhu Beach,



and take a left there. Go to the end of the road, there are all the bungalows there on the right side. The Last bungalow is where the party is arranged, that area is called Juhu Koliwada.”

We drove into the parking area in front of the bungalow. We got down and Mahira came and met us at the entrance.

Mahira took us to meet Dolly. Dolly’s features are striking. She seemed Bengali, she is around five feet 2 inches and rather plump, but she had a figure on her, with a round face and she must be on full makeup. She is wearing the latest fully flowing party gown, the kind we see in Hindi movies where Vamp or dancers wear, which shows her full figure.

She looked every inch a villain to me. Maybe because Kumar told me about her.

Mahira introduced Kumar.

She shook his hand and asked, “What do you do?”

Kumar said, “I am starting a software business.”

She looked at Mahira for information.

Mahira said, “he recently sold a piece of software to a global company and got a substantial payment.”

She asked, “Substantial is how much?”

Mahira said, "After deducting taxes he got fifty lakhs."

Dolly said, "Wow, that is substantial for a piece of software." She asked him, "How much time did it take to make the piece of software?"

Kumar said, "Something like two to three days."

She looked at Mahira as if she could not believe his words.

Mahira said, "he gave them the software and went and took the copyright and filed for a patent. Then he sent them a legal notice to stop using the software. Then they used the software in all the branches in India and they planned to use it abroad too. So, the parent company called him and made a contract and paid the amount for using the software."

Dolly said, "Intelligent and cunning too."

It seemed he got the required reaction from her, so he introduced me as his fiancé and I am running a hospital in Hyderabad.

She asked, "Running means?"

He said, "It is their own and she came to me for software for the hospital and we clicked and our families have fixed our engagement."

And showing Joy, he said, "She is Joy our partner in software development."

I waited to see her reaction, she seemed to have heard her name but may not have laid her eyes on her. She looked a little surprised she came with us and her being our partner. She must have thought to deal with her later.

Then Raj and the gang entered. Kumar introduced Raj and said, "he is going to work with us. Shekar runs a Bar and Restaurant in Santacruz East. Harry is planning to go abroad."

As he had not introduced Julie, she looked at him. He is a tall and lanky guy, as he is from Goa, and he knows good English. He told her I am Krishna, I am working with an air conditioner firm.

After introductions were over she said, "Please enjoy the party" and went to a couple who just entered the house.

Mahira took us to the backside where the party was arranged. We went and sat at a table and a waiter came and took our order and went away.

Now one man approached Kumar and introduced himself as Rakesh Khanna.

Kumar stood up shook his hands, and sat down.

He said, "Can I have a word with you."

Kumar got up and went with him.

Kumar returned after 10 minutes. Raj said, "Your drink is waiting for you."

Kumar said, "You can have it." He ordered another drink and sat nursing it for show.

Dolly came and announced dinner and guests went over to the dining area. We waited for some time and Rakesh came and asked us to come for dinner. After dinner, I saw Dolly select some people and send them inside the house.

When we completed our dinner, Rakesh came to us and asked Kumar to accompany him and took him inside the house.

Kumar returned after an hour, told Raj to come over to us tomorrow and we went to our flat on the way dropping Joy at her house.

After reaching the flat, I asked, "What did you find out."

He said, "There is certainly a link between kidnapers and Dolly's gang. It seems Sahithi is also kidnapped by them only. Rakesh said he would find her and bring her to me. It seems Joy was also kidnapped by them only. They are conducting auctions in the house for kidnapped girls. This seemed to be a big gang, we need police support, but I want to wait until we get some information about Sahithi. Then we can move forward."

*Why Kumar is hell-bent on finding Sahithi? If he finds her what would be his reaction? Will leave me and go back to her? In what position she is*

*in? From what he says about the Dolly Gang they kidnap girls and either sell them or pimp them. From what Kumar says in Rakesh's words, they run brothels and high-class call girls. First, they put them in dark rooms made them scared and remove any fight left in them. Then they must be offering this life or else death. Fearing death most of them choose this life. Luckily Joy was found by the police while transporting these girls, otherwise, she would have ended up somewhere or with someone. Now I have to see what he does when he finds her. Maybe he is looking for Leena's mother in her. Whatever I may think, I can't be Leena's real mother.*

By the time we came back from the party, it had become quite late.

Kumar went and lay on the bed and called me to come and sit on the bed.

He said, "You don't have to worry about Sahithi coming back, she was just a one-night stand then. I agreed to marry her because Sunitha rejected me and said not to show my face to her. Then when the marriage is fixed, she went and spoiled that too. Now she is no longer with us, and our parents have given their word to your parents, so I always stand up to their words. If I could find Sahithi, I would like to show her some way to live her life. Maybe get her a job and settle her life and nothing else. If it is okay with you, please tell me."

I said, "You were always my first priority with me. I don't have any problem with that."

He kissed me and said, "Go to sleep, it has become very late."

The next morning Raj called and said he would be coming to our place and took the address. He is coming with Shekhar and Julie.

They came over in an hour. He kept a whiskey bottle ready for them, He knew what is Raj's weakness.

I brought some snacks and put them on the table. He poured drinks and gave them and Kumar asked them "What is their opinion of Dolly."

Shekar said, "I find her trying to impress people and try to pull them to her."

Raj said, "Most of the people were either men or couples and she singled out single men for the auction you mentioned."

Kumar said, "Let me give you full details of the auctions. They closed the doors and brought one by one girl for auction and they are starting the bidding at rupees one thousand. If the bidders like the girl they would raise the price. The highest bidder will get the girl delivered to wherever he wants and if he wants he can keep her or return her whenever he likes. Rakesh says the returned girls are being put in circulation,

which might mean they are used as prostitutes. What I feel is that Sahithi must have been auctioned off and he is trying to locate her and bring her back. I am thinking when her whereabouts are known we can approach the police with the information. Otherwise, we may never know where she is.”

Krishna asked, “How you are going to approach the police?”

Kumar said, “The Andheri West SI is known to me. He thinks I am an undercover cop, so I can ask him to verify the details discreetly and let him take the credit for arresting the gang. I can ask him to keep my name out of it. So, what is your final verdict? Do you think they are a gang?”

They all nodded their heads. I went and asked, “Shall I prepare rice?”

He said, “Sure, but first, bring some chicken for chakna.”

They sat completed the bottle and got up for lunch. After lunch, he advised them if they wanted to have a nap, they could sleep in the second bedroom or on the sofa.

I and Kumar sat and reviewed the hospital software. Making changes that were suggested by me. We worked up to 6 pm.

They all came from the second bedroom after having a nap. Raj said, “We will leave for our

house.” He nodded his head and they went away.

\*\*\*\*

We waited for a week and had not received any information from Rakesh. Then we decided to go and finish the software installation in Hyderabad. He informed Raj and gave Nandini’s number and told him to keep us informed about Dolly’s activities. He informed Mahira about our trip to Hyderabad and asked her to check out about taking dealership for computer hardware and check about giving bungalows for movie shootings.

He rang up his mom and said, “I am going to Hyderabad for the implementation of software and would be there for at least a week.”

His Mom rang back and said, “I spoke to Nandini’s mother and they decided to have an engagement next week.”

We booked flight tickets and went to Hyderabad and took a room in a hotel near the hospital, registering both our names.

So, our work started with ordering computers for the hospital. Then networking had to be done. For this, we had to call an expert from Bombay. We ordered the hardware from Bombay and told them to ship it to Hyderabad. Being from Bombay and having Mahira and Raj in Bombay



working for us helped in this matter. Our hardware business started with the hospital project itself.

I convinced Dad to stay with Kumar, so we could work better. After a week of checking for a good mahurat, his family came over to Hyderabad and our engagement was performed at a grand level. Even though none of his friends except Mahira attended from Bombay, our various relatives attended the function, who could come at short notice, including his cousins from Hyderabad. They must have got jealous seeing our pair.

\*\*\*\*

At last, our hardware arrived from Bombay and I started preparing the computers for usage.

Having networking completed, we started checking the networking and started training the users to use the computers. This total work took more than a month and we inaugurated the computer systems and they started using them officially.

So, ours became the first hospital in Hyderabad or even in Andhra to use computers for hospital management. After completion of the work, He returned to Bombay alone as I am needed to run the hospital. He told me he would be back as soon as he settled Sahithi's matter.

\*\*\*\*

I went over to Bombay and took leave from the hospital and appointed an assistant and left the work to her. If my assistant has any problems she could consult her on the phone.

I started to assist Kumar in the firm and would visit hospitals in Bombay to get software contracts. Then we finished our project with Godrej and Reliance with Vimal brand has given us a contract to develop software for them.

\*\*\*\*

*When our idea to give for rent our bungalow failed, we started to use it for our Hardware business and software development.*

*Now we are planning to import kits and assemble computers. We have started using the first floor of the bungalow for assembling the computers and started our production. Kumar gave Mahira, Raj and Krishna 10% each and made them partners in this hardware division apart from their salaries.*

*Mahira looks after the marketing Raj looks after the distribution and Krishna looks after the production.*

*Kumar made Sahithi resign from Godrej and handed her the company management. What he gave Sunitha in the book, I handed the duties to Sahithi here.*

About taking revenge on Dolly and her gang, Kumar consulted Andheri Station SI, and when he got transferred to the CID division, started their operation.

He appointed two constables as our watchmen, and we purchased the paan shop opposite our bungalow and put one of the newly appointed constables as the Paanwala.

He used to attend Dolly's auctions regularly, and even though he didn't bid, they didn't have any objections. Seeing his popularity, they would let him attend. Sometimes those girls who are not bid by anyone, he would take them at the minimum bid price and send them to their parents, or if they don't have anyone or don't want to go back due to poverty, he would employ them in our companies after giving them training.

When he got some information about them transporting girls, he would inform the CID and they would raid the convoy and would arrest the gang members.

This way we started to cut down the gang members. SI would keep Kumar's name out of the information to his superiors and would mention his constables as passing on the information. He still thinks Kumar working undercover and would act accordingly so as not to leak his name anywhere. One advantage of this is corrupt police would not leak his name to

Dolly and she did not have any idea he is involved in bringing her downfall.

Now when Dolly worried about the raids, Kumar would say the gang members became bold and would not heed warnings. It is their own foolishness, that is getting them caught.

Now her gang members were scared to kidnap girls. Even if they are kidnapped from far away or from rural areas, bringing them to Bombay has become a headache. They would be caught in border areas. Slowly her business has come down and she is planning to shift to some other city.

So, when it has become apparent she will jump ship, because she has not renewed her rent with the owners of the bungalows, the police in a midnight scoop arrested Dolly, Rakesh and whoever the gang members were present there.

The police have information about the other members from the constables placed around their bungalows and from the gang members, then started arresting them one by one.

when our parents have fixed our marriage. He offered to host the marriage ceremonies in our bungalow. We have a good area in the backyard for all the functions. We can spare a room or two for our family in the bungalow.

## Chapter 5

*When Mom said they were going to speak with Kumar's parents about our marriage, I literally jumped with joy. They must have suspected our living together, they could not say anything as I was working with him and they could see how the company grew in a short time. We are getting contracts from big, big companies and we had to appoint a travelling manager to go and meet the client's requests. We don't have to sell our software; the clients would come to us with requests for customised software.*

*Then Joy is totally looking after the development as it is her forte and has appointed developers as per her requirements. Kumar would have a look at the software test it and would release it to the market. He has a knack for finding mistakes in the software, and sometimes those mistakes if not found, could have led to very bad remarks in the market. When Kumar offered the use of the bungalow for our wedding, our parents readily agreed to it. Now we have rented the bungalow vacated by Dolly, and the owners have given us a lower rent on recommendation by the police. They were scared of what kind of action the police would take on them for renting it to a gang.*

*So, Kumar said we would start living in the bungalow rented.*

*Our wedding was performed at a grand level and to get more clients we had a grand reception in our new bungalow backyard. We placed TVs with running videos of our products for guests to know about our businesses.*

\*\*\*\*

The guests arrived from all over India. One couple from Manali who were running a hotel chain caught Kumar's attention.

They came on stage and gave us presents and they both shook hands. Raj introduced them as Mr and Mrs Singhania from Manali came for software for their hospital.

Surprisingly Kumar spoke to her in Telugu and asked, her "How are doing?" and she seemed to understand him but replied in Hindi.

Kumar called Raj and whispered something to him.

Raj came and whispered something and Kumar whispered something back and Raj went away,

Raj came back and whispered and Kumar told him thanks and he went away.

I told him thanks and he went away.

I asked Kumar, "What are you whispering with Raj?"

he said, "I am organising a honeymoon for us."

I asked, "Where?"

He said, "Manali."

I turned towards him and kissed him on the cheek. The photographer must have been waiting for that and clicked us. I smiled at the photographer and let it.

When we went to get blessings from our elders, his grandmother was telling his relatives about how he was singing a million rupees and asked him, "Is she Sneha?"

He told her, you know she is not Sneha, Sneha used to come to our house and also had food at our house many times. This is Nandini.

She said, "I forgot about that as I am getting old."

Then his father's elder sister asked how much money do you have?

He told her I stopped counting, maybe a crore. Then his uncle from Madras was saying I know you will come up in life, I saw the potential in you.

After the wedding ceremonies were completed we entered the new bungalow we rented and retired to our bedroom after some ceremonies by our mothers.

After sitting on the bed, I asked, "When are we going on the trip?"

He said, "Prathap is planning the trip for us too. They will book tickets along with them. We fly to Delhi and then from there, they arrange cars to drive to Manali.

The next day I was informed after two days would be our trip to Manali.

\*\*\*\*

We went to the airport and met Prathap and his wife Preethi and we flew with them to Delhi and from there to Manali by road.

Now during the whole flight, Preethi was sitting with me and chatting. I heard at one point, Preethi asking me how I met Kumar and how our marriage was fixed.

I played it down and said, "We met at his sister's marriage and both our mothers decided we should get married and consulted among themselves and fixed the engagement."

I did not elaborate on how we stayed together.

Because Preethi got attached to me, Prathap and Kumar became thick friends during our trip. They discussed business and Kumar explained what are his future plans.

Prathap asked Kumar how he started the software firm when he was not from a software background. Kumar told him about Bob and how he gave him a hand after learning software. How



he used it in the day-to-day working with a courier company, how he got the capital from them and started this firm. Then how did he get the hospital software order from our hospital, how did we trap Dolly and get their bungalow for rent now.

Then Kumar asked him how he met Preethi and married her.

Prathap told him when they went to Guwahati to look at a hotel site he found her there with some workers. She helped in coordinating with them and he liked her instantly for her insight, intelligence and knowledge.

Prathap inquired about her and found she was found on the riverbank in an unconscious state and she forgot her past as she seemed to be suffering from amnesia. They kept her with them and when they came to the city she helped them in settling down.

We reached Delhi airport and a car was waiting for us and we got in the car. Prathap sat in the front seat and Kumar had to sit between both of the ladies.

Prathap turned back and said, "It would take fifteen to sixteen hours so, we will take turns to exchange seats."

After two hours of journey, I started to doze off. So, I put my head on his shoulder to sleep.

Prathap is looking at some papers on the front seat.

When the driver applied a sudden brake, I moved a little Kumar adjusted my head on his shoulder and I went back to sleep.

As it was getting dark, the driver stopped the car for supper.

We got down and stretched and went to the toilet to relieve myself. We ordered and Kumar finished dinner first and walked around came back and sat in the middle.

When we resumed our journey, he was telling Preethi our story in Telugu. When Prathap asked, he told him, "We just found out that she is from our village and speaking to her in our language." Prathap did not object to anything further as he must thought she had someone known to her.

It was around 10 am when we landed at the Manali hotel.

Prathap told the boy to take our luggage to our room.

Kumar shook his hands and said, "I will take some rest and will see you in the evening."

Prathap told us he is staying in the hotel on the same floor, so come later.

We took baths had breakfast and lay on the bed. I must have slept four to five hours, I woke Kumar to have lunch.

We had lunch and he lit fag and went and stood on the balcony.

When he returned from the main door, I asked, "Where did you go?"

He said, "I went to see Preethi's daughter."

I said, "ok."

For the next day, he booked a day-long visiting trip. It is a group trip arranged by Prathap. From the morning he started to visit the toilet, I think he was suffering from diarrhoea.

When I wanted to cancel the trip, he encouraged me to go with the group.

He said, "I will come with you the next time. Prathap will be there to give you company."

After cajoling by him, I agreed to go with them.

I came back in the evening and seeing him still on the bed asked, "Did you have lunch?"

He shook his head and said, "I had some tea."

I said, "I will order something."

He said, "Nandini, it seems the weather or water is not matching me, I think it is better to go back."

We got Prathap to arrange for a return journey back to Delhi and to book tickets from there to Bombay. We stayed one more day and returned to Delhi and from there we caught a flight to reach Bombay.

## Chapter 6

After finding Sunitha alive, Kumar became calm and quiet. He would concentrate on his work and produced brilliant software. How he gets the ideas, I don't know. Sometimes he would get up in the middle of the night and start to scribble something and the next day he would be discussing the software to be developed with Joy. Some ideas he would pitch to the big companies and get the government to look at them. He started to import what is called telephone modems and he pitched them to bring internet to India. Then when they ask what about the connectivity? He said, "it has to be provided by the government and they should pressurise the government to do the needful."

He went shopping and bought a white colour suit with a dark grey colour shirt. We went to Tirupati a few days back and he had given his hair there and become fully bald. Seeing him in that dress, I could not contain my laughter.

He said, "The suit is for his daughter Leena's birthday party."

He threw a big party for her.

At the party, he proudly presented her as his daughter and Sahithi as her mother. When someone asked him, "Is Sahithi his wife?" then he turned to me and said, "Meet my wife Nandini."

Now the man did not know what to say to that. Someone took him aside and explained to him that Kumar adopted Leena who is Sahithi's daughter.

For him, I could leave the hospital and work with him. I did appoint someone to look after the hospital, but would the company run without him? My father saw my devotion to him and did not force me to come work at the hospital.

Our life was running smoothly until that day.

\*\*\*\*

It was his birthday eve. Kumar was arranging for a party

In the evening he took me and visited our neighbour's house. Seeing us the watchman opened the gate. He must have been watching us moving around the houses. He took us to the main door and called madam.

One servant came and asked him, "What?"

He said, "Guests have come to meet madam."

She looked at us, she must have seen us, she told us to sit on the sofa and went inside to call her madam.

A lady came out, this was the first time for me to see such a lady in person and close. She is the most beautiful lady I have seen, she is around 5 feet 3 inches in height. She had a figure on her, being a lady myself, I was envious and I am no ordinary girl. We stood up and Kumar said, "Hi Loveleen, we are your neighbours. I am Kumar and she is my wife Nandini."

I was wondering how he knew about her, must be from the security or servants.

Loveleen stood there and must be thinking about where she could have met us for him to call her by name. Then she came forward and said, "Please be seated" and sat on the other sofa.

Loveleen looked at us expectantly.

Kumar said, "We are having a party on Saturday, so we came to invite you."

Loveleen asked, "What is the occasion?"

Kumar said, "Do we need to have an occasion to throw parties? In fact, it is my birthday."

Loveleen asked, "What would be your age?"

Kumar said, "I am turning 25."

Loveleen asked, "What do you do?"

Kumar said, "We are running a software firm and a computer hardware firm in the next building."

Loveleen said, "So you are on both sides of my bungalow."

Kumar smiled and said, "We are your security, Loveleen."

Loveleen looked at us appraisingly and asked accusingly "Do I know you?"

Kumar said, "You may not remember me, but I know everything about you."

Loveleen asked, "What do you know about me?"

Kumar said, "You were born and brought up in Delhi and you are running an interior decoration firm and your family is from a combination of business and political family. Your father is expecting to become chief minister of Haryana and he needs my help to achieve that."



Loveleen asked, "Why do you think so."

I said, "I can look into the future and I can tell you about your husband, ...." and stopped.

Loveleen looked at him stunned as very few people knew about her personal life. She looked at him and said, "Come and meet me tomorrow at 10 am" and gave him her card.

Kumar picked up the card and put it in his pocket without looking at it.

We got up and he said, "Be seeing you" and came out of the building.

I asked, "What happened there? Why are you talking like that with her, as if you knew her your whole life?"

He said, "I know everything about her and her father needs us to win the elections."

"Why does he need you?" I asked.

He said, "Because I know a little secret about them."

*It was a surprise the way he was talking with Loveleen. He was doing that again, what he had done with Mahira. He spoke to her the same way as if he knew all her secrets.*

*I sat stunned sitting there listening to him speaking with her. He was referring to her as a*

*close acquaintance as he knows everything about her and her family.*

*When he challenged her to tell her about her husband, she stopped him and asked him to come and meet her at her office. He took the card and without looking at it he put it in his pocket. Sometimes he acts as if he knows what is going to happen in the future.*

We came back home and he went to look after the preparations. This time he is taking extra care as if he is expecting some special guests. Is he doing all this for Loveleen?

\*\*\*\*

The doorbell rang and I looked at the time, it was 6:30 am. Who is at this hour, I was about to get up and go and Kumar got up and went and opened the door. I looked from the balcony, it was Loveleen's watchman and he told Kumar that Madam is calling. Why is she calling him at this hour?

When he returned I went to him and asked, "It took you so long, what does she want from you?"

"Her mother called last night and talked about fixing her marriage."

"So, what is the problem?"

"That is the problem, her would-be is supposed to be impotent."

“What do you mean supposed to be?”

“Didn’t I tell you about the future I have read about in a book?”

I exclaimed, “You read the future in a book?”

“Yes, but the sequence of events is a little different, but I am trying to follow that route in business and we have been successful in our endeavours.”

“Yes, most of your business ventures were successful except that idea of renting out to moviemakers.”

“I think I have taken that venture a little too early, but we did not lose anything in that.”

“So, what is your next step?”

“We have to expand our businesses all over India, especially in the south, and for that, I need her investment.”

“So, you are doing all this to get her to invest in your businesses?” Isn’t our capital enough to expand the businesses?”

“We need her capital to invest in real estate in the south. From what I have seen, real estate is the next thing after the software. Here in Bombay, there is no use in investing in real estate, the south is where the future in real estate is.”

“So, all this you have read in a book about the future?”

“I have not only read, but I have also seen the outcome of all this. How a big business conglomerate can be made.”

“Is this the only way?”

“Otherwise, you have to be born with a silver spoon. I did not have any financial backing from my family, but now I have a capital of more than two crores in my name, here I am excluding your share in the company. When I finished my degree in the year 1984, I had a house in my name in Vijayawada. I worked hard by doing deliveries and then starting a business, whatever I earned I invested in the house. Then, I sold it to my grandfather and came over to Bombay. When I could not get any job, I joined as a courier boy and then got promoted to Marketing Executive with my ingenuity. When Bob came to me with the idea of learning software, I brought a few books and learned and used that in my company, then got a chance to have training in the US. Now the training is only to work on their software, but nothing useful personally. I gave them the idea of data transfer and they asked me to develop that. Then seeing I was not given credit for that idea or software, I patented it and got 50 lakhs from them. That is my seed money for the businesses. Now we are supposed to have a business conglomerate by the year 2000.

How can I achieve that without further investments? My capital is blocked in these two companies. I can't invest anymore, and I don't want to ask you or your family to help me out. Because that would be taking advantage of you, I don't want anyone to say that I married you for your money. I married you because I love you. Even if you offer, I won't take any money from you."

*It was noble of him not to ask us for money. I have seen many husbands asking to bring extra dowry from their parents. I read about so many of them killing their wives for extra dowry. He did not take any dowry from us, he made me a partner in this software company without any investment.*

He said, "I will have a bath and come, get me some breakfast" and went over to the bedroom.

*Loveleen called him at 6:30 and he said she called him to inform him that her family had fixed her marriage. Kumar is saying her would-be is impotent. How would he know? Did he go and see him? For everything only one answer he has, that is he knows the future and he has read it in a book and saw it in his dreams. If he knows the future why don't he bet on events like horse races or things like that?*

*I know he is against gambling, he hates it. He is also against lottery tickets, as his grandfather lost all the money to that. Possibly he did not*

*know all the things like horses winning. Maybe he read a person's life. What he says is it possible? He says his alter ego went over to the future and he sends information from there in his dreams. Did anyone hear such a thing? Now he says he wants Loveleen to invest in his ventures. His logic is that if he could convince her to invest with him he could grow his business into a conglomerate like Tata or Birla. If he shifts his focus to the south, maybe we can work from Hyderabad and I can look after the hospital too.*

*I love him so much, I can't leave him for a day. Or is it to do with trust? Do I really trust him? After bringing Sahithi he got her a job and let her live her way. He did not try to bring her back into his life. What he said about her was it was a one-night stand with her and when she gave birth, he could not abandon his daughter, so he raised Leena as his own daughter. He could not explain her age so he is telling people that he adopted her otherwise he does not have fear of accepting her as his and Sahithi's daughter, the conversation at the last party confirmed that. Now Sunitha was presumed dead and he wanted to find out if she was really Sunitha or not when he confirmed that she was Sunitha, he left her to live her life.*

*He is not afraid to let go of his past relations. I don't have to be afraid of my position with him. From the time I met him, I have not seen him having a roving eye for anyone else. I saw Dolly*

*presenting him with many girls, he was just trying to save them and did not think of keeping any girl for himself. I put my spies in the workshop to find out if he was acting inappropriately with any of the girls working there. I got reports that he would act with them as his sisters and would encourage them to tie him rakhi when the festival came. He would only touch them on their head, not on their shoulders. I was a little scared about his past, but he has left the past behind. But now this lady who stays between our house and the office, what to think of her. He had taken me to see her. Maybe he wanted her to know that he was married and he did not imply anything other than business with her. But seeing her I was struck with her beauty. I have met a few society ladies who came to our parties, but none like her. Maybe because they were all married and she is not yet married. Over that, Kumar says that the man she going to be married to is impotent. How he would know that? He never met him. What they have discussed today?*

The phone rang and it was from the office, Joy calling regarding project delivery. She is one more girl he saved. But he had also kept her away. Joy also did not try to throw her hooks into him.

I said, "We are coming to the office." I went and saw him getting dressed. Day to day I am getting drawn to him. It must be his personality. The way

he saves people respects others and is considerate of them. His stature in my eyes is growing day by day. I went and kissed him and he kissed back and said, "Let us go and have breakfast".

I told him about the call from the office. He nodded his head in acknowledgement.

*I looked at him going out of the room. His fitness is shown in the way he wears his dresses. He tries to keep fit even with his busy schedule. He eats healthy and maintains a healthy lifestyle. Don't drink much even socially. For the sake of the show, he would nurse a glass in his hand. He says parties are a necessary evil, we have to throw parties to keep up with the customers. He says there is a saying keep your friends close and your enemies closer but you keep your customers closest.*

*I ran behind him to the kitchen to serve breakfast. He does not mind preparing breakfast himself, but I would say don't involve yourself in my work.*

Kumar returned after 9 pm.

I asked, "Where did you disappear?"

He said, "I went to Loveleen to discuss business, she was telling me that her father is coming tomorrow to our party."

"Her father, "but why?"



“Must be to discuss political matters.”

“What do you know about politics?”

“If I don’t know I will learn. What is there to learn? I already had an idea of how to follow up on that.”

I served dinner he completed dinner and asked me to sit with him in the backyard. We sat on a bench and looked at the beach through the open gate.

He said, “Knowing someone else future and trying to imitate is very difficult. I might be going in the wrong direction in certain things. Take for example the renting of our bungalows, but I started to use them for office space and it worked well for us. But we also started the hardware company earlier than what I read. In the story, he had put Sahithi in Loveleen’s company, and I have put her in our company, which place would have been taken by Sunitha. In the book, he started the software business after he had helped Loveleen and we had already started our company. So, we are ahead of the book in our lives. Now as per the book, Loveleen’s father won the next elections, after discrediting a minister, and when the elections have come. Now if we have to make him CM we have to change the future. Now I feel the future is already different from the book.”

“Take the case of Sahithi, he had married her when he was married to Sneha. In my life, Sneha was not in my life after junior college. Sunitha entered his life after the death of Sneha. Here she came into my life during my degree. Now Sunitha is already out of my life. You have entered into his life later on and here we are already married. So, the two timelines won’t match exactly.”

“What I am trying to do is make some money and get ahead in the business world. Now if we can get ahead in getting Loveleen’s father as a Chief Minister our work would get ahead. I am not worried about future business scenarios, I am thinking about the people entering my life and leaving. All the ladies have come and left. You were just a friend there and here you are my better half. He did not have any romantic escapades with Loveleen. Maybe he looked at her as a boss or business partner only.”

There was a minute pass, as if he was recounting the events and he continued “But Loveleen was his main investor. I am betting on her investing in our business ventures. If we could make her father a CM, we can look forward to her investing else we have to look elsewhere for our investment or think of a different line of businesses.”

He looked into the reflection of the light from the buildings opposite.

“Recently I was getting a lot of information passed on to me about his activities, which I could not unscramble easily. When he was reading the book, I would properly get information. Now his day-to-day actions are being sent to me. After marrying Sunitha he kept all the other ladies away. He kept professional relations with them. It seems Sunitha is pregnant and is expecting a baby anytime.”

I asked, “So, what have you decided.”

“I will see how the events play out. There is a saying Man proposes and God disposes.”

He took out a fag and lit it and we sat there enjoying the sea breeze.

He called the watchman and told him to lock the gate and we went inside the house.

Rosy is holding the phone and says, "Sir, Loveleen madam on the phone".

Kumar picked up the phone and started to speak.

I went over to the bathroom to have a bath.

By the time I returned, he was cradling the phone and a phone book list of call girls was open on the table.

He went over to the bedroom, I looked at the telephone book. It was the list of girls settled in Delhi. What does he need the book for?

I went and took his left hand lay my head on the hand, and put my hand on his chest and asked, "Why are you checking the list of the call girls?"

He said, "I wanted to use them to find the truth about Guru."

I asked, "Guru means Loveleen's would be?"

He said, "Yes."

I asked, "But how will you find out?"

He said, "I will send her to him and see what is his reaction."

I asked, "Will he agree to meet her?"

He said, "As per my guess he will want to use her in his business ventures."

I asked, "How?"

He said, "Some kind of hostess and then try to send her to his clients. Let us go to sleep we have a full day tomorrow."

## Chapter 7

It was around 10 am when the receptionist said madam there is a call for you. Thinking it was from some client, I told her to connect the call.

“Madam, I have some important information to give to you about Kumar sir.”

“Tell me.”

“You come to the Juhu beach, there is an ice cream parlour, you ask for Ramesh, and I will show you the real face of Kumar sir.”

I drove to Juhu Beach, parked and went in search of the ice cream parlour. Being morning many of the shops were closed, but one ice cream parlour was open.”

I went to the shop and asked, “Are you Ramesh?”

He asked, “Are you Nandini Madam?”

I nodded my head, he handed me an envelope. I opened it and found some photos of Kumar’s parties. I know about his parties, he says parties are a necessary evil. Then there are stories of his past relations and his activities at Dehradun. Who would know all this?

I returned home in an angry mood, angry not because of the photos. I sat beside him. He looked at me, seeing me angry he asked, “What happened?”

“It seems there is an enemy around.”

“What do you mean enemy?”

“I got a call in the office to come and meet and he said I will show the real face of Kumar.”

“I know everything about you, but I wanted to know who it was, and what he wanted to show me.”

He told me to come to the Juhu beach and there is an ice cream parlour at the beginning of the row of shops. He told me to go there and ask for Ramesh.

When I went and asked for Ramesh, the shopkeeper handed me an envelope.

I opened it and found some photos of your parties and you were speaking with some ladies. Ok, it is not much of a proof of anything. Then there is some intimate information about your relations. Ok, I know all of that. But who would try to influence me with this information? If I did not know about you, what would I have done? I might have left you and asked for a divorce.”

He asked, “What does it mean?”

I said, “Someone is trying to break us up.”

He said, “Now they have seen your reaction, they might stop influencing you.”

I asked, “But who would try to do that?”

He thought for a minute and said, "Nandini go and have lunch and come. I will wait for you."

Loveleen's watchman came and knocked on the door.

Kumar went over to him and asked, "What happened?"

"Sir has come from Delhi, madam wants you to meet him."

Kumar came to me and said, "I am going to Loveleen's house to meet her father."

I nodded my head, he went over.

I should visit a beauty parlour and take my car to the parlour.

I spent around 3 hours there and returned to the house.

\*\*\*\*

I changed my dress and went over to the party area. Kumar took me to the party behind our office for the staff, and cut the cake and let it be distributed. These people will have dinner and will leave early for their houses. They gave him a present together and he put it aside and thanked everyone personally. These people were looking forward to these kinds of jesters.

He said, "I will meet them later", and came to the party behind our house.



VIP guests have not arrived yet, but office staff who are attending drinks party started arriving. Then one by one cars started arriving. Then VVIPs started arriving. We are attending to every guest and letting them sit at the tables or the bar. Those who have come single would sit at the bar and those who have come with families would sit at the tables.

Then Loveleen came with her father and he shook Rajveer's hand, and Loveleen gave him a peck on his cheek and told him a happy birthday. I was looking at her angrily for kissing my husband. We only met her yesterday and she is kissing my husband? Is the information in the envelope true?

Then Mahira brought me a couple to introduce us. Kumar shook their hands and Mahira said, "Kirit Trivedi and Nishitha Patel."

Kumar asked them, "What are you doing?"

Kirit works with a Chartered accountant's firm and they are looking for software to maintain their clients' accounts.

Kumar enquired about Nishitha and what she does. Obviously, she is looking for some kind of job, but cannot decide which line to take. She has asked Mahira about going into software.

Kumar said "I know what occupation would fit you", and took her to Loveleen and introduced

them and told Loveleen, "I think she would be suitable to work with you and should allow her to work as an assistant."

She told her to come to her office and gave her a card. When she went over, she asked, "Is she in my life too?"

He said, "Yes, she and Sahithi were working under you and they did a good job."

She asked, "Then where is Sahithi?"

He said, "She is already working with us in the office."

She said, "I will speak with Nishitha and see if she is suitable."

Slowly guests started to disperse after having dinner and he sat down with a glass at a table.

I went over to him and asked, "Are you all right?"

He said, "I am ok, just a little tired." Loveleen came and sat at his table.

He asked her, "Do you need a drink?" Seeing them interacting I went away.

Seeing him completing his dinner, I went over and said, "Come inside they are closing up."

He got up and said goodbye to Loveleen, and we went inside.

he changed and sat on the bed with his back on the headboard. I went after changing and sat down on the bed.

He said, "I am sorry, I seem to be keeping you away recently. This work is keeping me busy and tired."

I said, "It is not you alone, I was also getting busy and tired by the night."

He said, "We should take a vacation."

I said, "Yes, we should take one."

\*\*\*\*

I was sleeping and felt a kiss and Kumar said, "I will go to Loveleen's and come."

I nodded in my sleep.

*I got up and started searching for Kumar, but he was not there. Then I remembered him telling me he was going to Loveleen's house. What work does he have at this time of the morning? He seemed to get closer to her. But what he said about her is true. He wants to use her as a stepping stone. He says he can see what she can do for them if she puts her mind to it. Kumar says because of her they could start branches all over the country. They have invested in real estate, which brought them handsome results. She helped them to become a business conglomerate in India. And Kumar was running it. In just four*

*years he had amassed this wealth, what could he do if he got a little help? Over that, he knew the future, which he could use profitably. He is already pushing these business houses to bring in the future technology before time. He started investing in telephone modems, now he is getting them to invest in bringing a kind of national network using these modems. He knows about the future of technology and what the country will be like in fifteen or twenty years. He is saying TV and internet will be provided through cable to households. Then mobile phones will come, which will allow us to talk on the move. When we go out, we don't have to search for these payphones anymore. There are also some sad happening also, another political leader would be assassinated and a party would come to power using sympathy votes. Then a masjid would be demolished and it would bring a storm to the country and culminate in bomb blasts in Bombay. Thinking about the bomb blasts I get a shiver in my spine. We should get away from Bombay by that time. But Kumar would not reveal the exact time of that. He says revealing such information, could harm us. It must be his superstition. Otherwise, why not let the information be known?*

\*\*\*\*

Kumar came back from the meeting at Loveleen's house.

I asked, "What have you decided in the meeting?"

Kumar said, "Loveleen's father gave us permission to go ahead with the operation."

Does he mean to say he was having a meeting with her father, and not her?

Kumar was telling me sorry in the night for keeping away from sex, is it because he was tired or he had lost interest in me? I heard he was satisfying four girls at one time, why would he get tired, or is it me who is tired as I mentioned to him?

I asked, "What you would like to have for lunch?"

Kumar said, "Whatever you want, I am going to my study to note down points to discuss with the consortium."

I asked, "What is that?"

Kumar said, "We are making a consortium of big companies to get our future ideas implemented."

*I was astonished by his words. Is he getting big companies in to get his future ideas implemented? Will he be successful? Won't he lose all his money in this venture?*

*All his investments are tied up in these two companies, so he can't put any money from these companies into that. So, he might be trying to get*

*other companies to put in the money for the heavy investment these ideas might require.*

I went into the kitchen and explained the items to be prepared for lunch and came out.

*She is one of those girls he had saved from Dolly's gang by paying the minimum bidding price. Her family stays close by and she started working in my house to show gratitude. He asked her to work in the office, but she insisted on working here. Kumar does good work like this. But I could not digest his devotion towards Loveleen. I could not understand what kind of feeling he had for her.*

Kumar came from his room and said, "Let us go to Wadala."

I said, "What is the urgency, let us have lunch and go."

Kumar said, "ok" and sat down on the sofa.

*What has come over him, he met them only yesterday. Must be to discuss something with his father.*

*What does Loveleen think about him? She was giving him a peck, I have not seen anyone doing that. In just one day did she get so close to him? Kumar has a way with women. He was telling me how he and his BM were closing the deals with the customers. He was telling about Anjali, whom he befriended When his BM challenged*

*him. Then she went to her father and told him about Kumar. Her father seeing his age ridiculed him and Kumar maintained his relationship with her until her father fixed her marriage and made her consent to marry whom her parents fixed. In this context, he was talking about how they used his ingenuity to close the deals.*

*Did he use his charm on Loveleen to get his work done? What will she do when they come closer while working together? Will she put her viles on him to come closer to him?*

The maid came and said, "Lunch is ready madam. I will go home and come later." I nodded my head.

What is my future in this home? I went and called Kumar for lunch. He must have been waiting for that, he came immediately. I served for two of us and he completed his lunch and said, "I will get ready and come."

He always eats so fast. I said, "Let me complete my lunch."

He came down and sat on the sofa going through the notes he prepared.

I went and changed and came down to him and said, "Let us go." He lifted his head and looked at me in appreciation. Must be the dress I am wearing has to do something with that.

*I know how to dress for the occasion, yesterday for the party I was wearing party wear, now going to meet his family I am wearing a conservative dress. If I go to meet his grandparents, I will wear a saree. Meeting clients, there is a dress code for that. I know all about dressing up in Bombay.*

He went out and started the car waiting for me. I took some gifts for Leena from the ones we received yesterday, which she would like and put them in the back seat. He likes her very much, who would not like their own daughter? He always worries he could not give her a mother. From the time she was found, she is staying with his parents. Now we have this big house here, he doesn't want to spoil her studies. Probably she will come for the summer holidays. What will she do here, she will get bored, there at least she might have some friends. Now she must be 11 or 12 and any day she will mature. Will they carry on traditions like in Andhra and or hush, hush like in Bombay?

We went inside the gate and parked the car. I gave him some gifts and I carried some. He gave the gifts I handed him to the watchman to hold and locked the car and took them from him. We went and rang the bell, normally Leena would have opened the door, instead, it was Kumar's mom who opened the door. Seeing the gifts in our hands she said, "How did you know, I was about to call you?"



I asked, "What happened, mom?"

She said, "Leena is matured, I was going to pick up the phone to call you, and you came over here."

I said, "I will inform Sahithi" and went and called Sahithi and told her.

Sahithi asked, "What needs to be done?"

I said, "Leena's grandmother will do the needful. Just come over when they need you."

She said, "ok, I will come by evening."

By the time I turned my head, Kumar went and was discussing something with his father. I let them discuss their business and went and sat with Leena.

Kumar came to Leena's room and said, "will come and see you later" and handed his mom money to arrange for her function and told her to let us know about the date and came back home.

We entered the gate and parked the car and the watchman came to Kumar and said Loveleen madam enquired about you.

He said, "I will check with her" and went to her house.

*He again went over to her house. She called him and he went behind her like a puppy with a wagging tail.*

*He came back after two hours fully drunk. I had not seen him so drunk in my life. From what he said he must have drunk last like that in Dehradun. He came and slopped on the sofa. I had to spoon-feed him and let him sleep on the sofa, as I could not take him to the bedroom.*

Kumar got up from sleep catching his head in his hands as if with a hangover. I gave me an Aspirin and he took it and slept for some more time.

I brought him a cup of coffee and after having the coffee, he seemed a little better.

I asked, "What is the need for drinking so much."

"We were discussing Haryana politics and I did not know I was drinking. By the time I realised, it had become late."

"ok, get up and let us go to the office, some new projects have come, and we need to discuss development plans."

"I am coming" and went to the bathroom for a bath.

After breakfast, we went to the office and spent the whole morning in the meetings.

After lunch, we continued our meeting. We worked until evening.

\*\*\*\*

After a week he went over to Delhi with Loveleen.

Kumar called me after two days. He told me about what Guru did to Dimple, how they sent a doppelganger in place of Loveleen and how he fell for it and asked her to accompany him to a party on Saturday. It seems it will take some time to complete this operation, hang on there.

I said, "I will come over to Delhi for a brief period."

He said, "I am missing you, if you can free yourself from the business, you can come over here, I have a house for myself here".

*How can he be alone, when Loveleen is there?  
Did he mean she left him someplace and went over to her house?*

I said, "I will try to get some time off to come to Delhi."

He said, "You do that", and cut the call.

The next day Kumar called and explained what he was doing there in Delhi. He said he might get a lead after printing the photos taken at the party.

The next day I got a call from Mr Godrej's PA. He asked me where is Kumar. I told him he was in Delhi about some business. He gave the phone

to Mr Godrej, who said Please call Kumar to come back to Bombay immediately, at least by tomorrow morning's flight. We have a meeting with the consortium at 11:30 am tomorrow. I said I would pass the message and cut the call.

I called him on the number given by him.

He said to me, "Tell me."

I said, "Mr Godrej has called now and asked you to be present for the meeting at 11:30 tomorrow."

He asked, "What is so urgent."

I said, "I don't know, something must be urgent, when I said you are in Delhi, he told me to ask you to come back on tonight's flight, or latest by the first flight in the morning." I cut the phone. I suspect I heard a lady's voice in the background, is it Loveleen? Or is it my imagination?

\*\*\*\*

Kumar reached home after completing the meeting.

Seeing me cooking in the kitchen, he asked me what are you doing here.

I said, "I want to prepare your dinner myself. After getting the maid to cut the vegetables I sent her home."

He came near me and kissed me on the neck.

he said, "I will have a bath and come and then we can have dinner."

After dinner, he sat down on the sofa and lit a fag. After two minutes I went and sat beside him. he looked at me and snubbed the fag.

I asked, "Why did you do that, you could have continued.

He said, "It does not matter."

I asked, "What happened to your meeting?"

He said, "It is a success, we got an order for installing two servers, one here and one in Delhi."

I said, "So, you can clear your stock of modems."

He said, "I ordered 100 more from our assembly to distribute from here. I am planning on selling subscriptions to use the servers and data transfer. Whatever we earn on subscriptions I will transfer to the fund so they can't object to us using the system for other users."

She asked, "What will be your profit on that?"

I said, "Our modem stocks will be sold out and we will have control over the data transmissions in India. When the internet reaches India, we will be in an advanced position with the services. It will also give us a leg up on our other future ventures."

I did not say anything and sat there thinking, what the future holds for us. He also must be thinking something, he did not say anything for a long time.

I got up from the sofa and said, "Let us go to bed" and he got up and followed me.

By the time I reached bed, he sat on the bed with his hard-on. Seeing him like that I looked at him questioningly.

He said, "Thinking about our night see what happened, and come fast to the bed."

I got beside me on the bed and he started talking about how much he missed me and how he spent sleepless nights with my thoughts.

He started to make love to me passionately. It was as if we were transferred to our first night in my bungalow.

After our lovemaking, I said, "It was the best night of my life."

He looked at me lovingly, kissed me and said, "Mine too" and adjusted himself on the bed and lay.

\*\*\*\*

*Suddenly shifting bug bit him, he wanted to shift the factory to somewhere else. He says this building will be needed for development and the factory needs more space for running.*

*After coming back from Delhi, he seemed different. It was as if he had enjoyed his stay there and had not missed me. What to make of him? Did he have an affair with Loveleen? She does not seem to be that kind of a lady. Why would she fall for him? He is already married and she is a high society lady. She is fair and he is dark and he is not very tall, compared to others what he would be in her eyes? Why would she fall for him? He went there to get her father a foothold in the political circle. What way they would look at him, someone like an assistant or a servant?*

*It could be someone else, he was using those call girls for his work, did he get connected to anyone? I can't decide on anything.*

He came to the office and told me he has taken a factory for rent at Bhandup and he is shifting the factory there. Why does he need to shift the factory there and spend so much on rent?

He is telling me he has big plans for both the software company and the hardware company. Maybe getting the order for the data transfer server got him to move the factory. Let us see where this leads.

\*\*\*\*

I went into Kumar's cabin picked up the photos on his table and went through them.

I asked, "What are these?"

He said, "The photos that were taken at the party last Saturday." He showed me Sonia and said, "She is Sonia, Loveleen's double", and showed Dimple, "She is Dimple whom I had sent to unmask Guru."

Showing the photo of Sonia, I said, "The resemblance is uncanny."

He said, "To make her look like that I called for a makeup man from Bombay. He did a good work on her, isn't he?"

I said, "If I see her original photo I can tell how much work he has done."

He looked at her photo and thought back and said, "He did pretty good work there. Now I can't decide how to proceed further."

I asked, "What is the problem?"

He said, "I can't decide whom to target and how. I have to discuss this with Loveleen."

I said, "Let us go and discuss with her."

He asked, "Do you want to come with me?"

I said, "Yes, I want to see how this goes."



He thought a minute and said, "I will have a bath and change, I was working on the shifting the whole day. Maybe we will do it later I am fully tired."

I thought when I wanted to accompany him, he was making excuses. Then I smiled and said, "Then let's go home, maybe you want a peg of whiskey."

He said, "That would be lovely."

He got up took my hand and walked to the house.

\*\*\*\*

That Saturday he got an invitation for a party through Loveleen.

My cousin Rohan's engagement is fixed for Sunday and I said, "I will leave on Saturday evening as I am expected there."

I could not go earlier as I had an afternoon meeting with a client.

Kumar and Loveleen decided to go to the Party.

I returned from the client and was going to our room when I saw Loveleen standing behind him and touching on his shoulder. What she was doing there, with no time to check out, I went to my room changed and caught a flight to Hyderabad.

\*\*\*\*

From the time I landed in Hyderabad, I was busy first with Rohan's engagement and then our friends from college met. Most of them I studied in Dehradun and then in New York too. They are party girls and we partied every day in the USA and now, and I forgot about Kumar and Loveleen's act on that Saturday in his room which angered me.

On Saturday evening when I returned, after shopping, I found Kumar sitting on the sofa in the living room. I went over to my room placed the shopping bags and came back and took him by hand out into the garden.

I was simmering inside, and at last, I tried to get my anger under control and asked, "What are you doing with Loveleen?"

He asked, "What did I do?"

I asked, "What Loveleen is doing in your room?"

He asked, "When?"

I said, "Last Saturday."

He said, "Last Saturday she came over to go to that party, and you said you could not come."

I said angrily, "That day what she is doing standing behind you?"

He asked, "What she could be doing behind me?"

Nandini said, "By putting her hands on you, what is she doing?"

He must have thought about that day and said, "I was wearing a tie when she entered, then she handed me the coat and must have done something on the shoulder. She must have removed some speck of dust from the coat, what else she can do."

Nandini asked angrily "But what is she doing in your room?"

He said, "She is like a family member, what is wrong with her coming to my room?"

I said, "angrily so, she is like a family member to you, what is your relation with her?"

He did not reply immediately, must be thinking what to reply.

I asked, "What is your reply?"

He said, "She is like a friend to me."

I said, "Like a girlfriend?"

He said, "If she is a girl and she is a friend so obviously she is a girlfriend.", he said it in such an innocent way, I could not contain my laughter and started to laugh.

He asked, "I called you so many times, why did you not reply to me?"

I said, "Our friends met after so long, I went on tour with them. I could not get time to think about you."

I looked at him sitting there with a sad face, I said, "Come I will give you a present then I had to go back to my friends, I did not know you would come, otherwise I would have cancelled the program."

I took him to her room and we had intercourse, I dressed up and said, "I am going out, you decide when you want to return."

He said, "I will take a ticket and return to Bombay."

*From the time I came to Hyderabad, I was busy with my friends. Rohan's bride is one of my school friends. My college friends had come to meet me. This is the first time I have met them after my marriage. Then they planned an outing after the engagement party and I had been busy with them. I didn't expect Kumar to come to Hyderabad what with his busy schedule. When he came suddenly I had two doubts in my mind, either he came here to check up on me or he had a guilty conscience so he came here to confirm the same. So, I grilled him the way I did and seeing his face I could not contain my laughter. It seems he did not understand how to treat*

*Loveleen. I know it was a harmless gesture by Loveleen before the party.*

*Now I have to go and meet my pals for an outing. So, I took Kumar to my room and gave him what he had come all this way for and told him to return to Bombay and go to meet my friends.*

\*\*\*\*

We were partying hard and one of the friends was pestering me to tell them about my husband. I told them he is a businessman in the field of computers. Those who studied with me in the US know about computers, but those from the college here, don't have much knowledge of them.

Laxmi asked, "What does he do?"

I told them he develops software and also assembles computers from hardware and parts."

"What is the worth of the business?" Karishma asked.

I said, "I did not put a penny as an investment and my share is now around 1 crore in the business."

Karishma asked, "How long did it take to make that?"

I said, "around 2 years."

Karishma said, "Ow! In two years, you are crorepati" and asked, "What is his name?"

I was hesitant to tell his name at first, then slowly said, "Kumar."

Karishma asked, "Do we know him?"

I said, "How would you know him he is from Bombay."

Karishma asked, "Will he be coming to the marriage?"

I said, "Why would he not come, it is my cousin's marriage."

*Now I have to make sure, he would not attend the marriage.*

*I don't want our junior college classmates to see him, they might recognise him from Dehradun. He looks exactly how he looked when he came for the second summer. Then I thought am I ashamed of him to show him to be my husband? No, I am not ashamed of him, who can become crorepati in two years and can do wonders in his lifetime. Then most of them would have known about him if not met him. If they come to know he is the same Kumar, they will start to throw their paws into him.*

Lakshmi asked, "where did you meet him? Did your parents fix your marriage with him or is it a love marriage?"

I said, "Both of them. I met him at his sister's marriage. His father and my father were friends. His father is an officer in Telecom, Bombay and he had helped my father's friend on my father asking about clearing some bills, then when he visited Hyderabad, he used to come and visit my father. Then at his sister's marriage, my parents went away to Guntur for another marriage and they asked me to visit them and help them if they require any help. I went and met his parents and then he came out from running an errand and I fell for him at first look. I took him to my house and we spent the night there."

Karishma asked, "Did he come with you willingly?"

I said, "he was a little sad because his girlfriends are missing."

Lakshmi asked, "Girlfriends?"

I said, "One girlfriend's daughter he adopted and she is missing and he had another girlfriend from his college days, who was working as an air hostess, you know how air hostesses look, she is presumed dead in an air crash."

Karishma asked, "Presumed dead?"

I said, "At the time everyone thought she was dead, but she lost her memory and she was found by some hill people and when she came to our wedding party he recognised her. That is

another story. When we came back to the marriage after spending the night, we started to be close I told his parents that we were working on software for the hospital and went back home. When my parents were coming, I left him at the marriage hall. When my parents attended the marriage, seeing us together my mother spoke to his mother, then to my father and then to his father. After consulting with each other they thought we were a good pair and then asked me about marriage. I readily agreed as he is my dream man.”

Lakshmi asked, “What do you mean by that?”

I said, “He has a certain charm, he just earned 50 lakhs for just a piece of software and in bed he is marvellous. He fully satisfies me and then I want more, he is that kind of person. We stay at a bungalow on the beach side.”

Twinkle asked, “What is he really worth?”

I said, “I don’t know fully. In the software company, he has 50 per cent share and I have 25 and another software professional has 25. My share is around 1 crore and he have another computer hardware company in that he has a 70 per cent share. He gave 10 per cent each to his friends. That company’s worth, I don’t have an idea.”

Twinkle said, “So, in the software company his share would be at least 2 crores.”



I said, "I suppose so."

Lakshmi asked, "How lucky you were to catch him?"

I said, "Is he some fish to catch?"

Lakshmi said, "A fish worth 3 cores."

Twinkle said, "When he comes to the marriage are you going to introduce us or are you going to keep him in a safe and lock him up?"

I said, "Why I would not introduce him to you?"

*I thought it is better to keep him away from these leeches.*

I said looking at my watch, "I have booked a cab to drop each of us at our homes. He should be here any minute."

\*\*\*\*

I woke up and came down and found Praveen sitting in the hall. I asked, "When did you come to Hyderabad." He is working in the US as a software engineer.

Praveen said, "Today early in the morning."

I said, "You landed today and came over here."

Praveen said, "I came to see you, I could not come to your marriage. Congratulations, where is your husband?"

I said, "He is in Bombay."

Praveen asked, "What is he doing in Bombay?  
Running another hospital?"

I said, "In fact, he is running a software firm."

Praveen asked surprisingly, "Software firm in  
Bombay, how come?"

I said, "he also has a computer assembly too."

Praveen said, "ow! Our country is improving."

I asked, "How come you are here?"

Praveen said, "I came to attend Rahul's  
marriage."

I asked, "So early?"

Praveen said, "My mother is looking for matches,  
so she wants me to come early."

I looked him over and asked, "Will you do me a  
favour?"

Praveen said, "Whatever for you."

I said, "You have to act in front of my friends as  
my husband."

Praveen asked, "What? Your husband?"

I said, "My friends want to see him, he is very  
busy there with shifting his factory and they have  
started a new coalition with the likes of Tata,  
Birla and Godrej. They are developing cutting-  
edge technologies for the future of the country.  
Until I show them my husband, they are not

going to leave me alone. You just have to meet them for a few minutes and you can say you have some other work and getaway.”

Praveen asked, “What did you tell them about your husband?”

I said, “he had around 2 crores in his software business and I don’t have any idea of how much he has in his hardware company.”

Praveen said, “Two cores in a software company, he must be doing well.”

I said, “My share in the company is one crore other than his 2 crores.”

Praveen jumped on his seat and exclaimed “Your share is a crore of rupees. What is he doing robbing banks and putting it his company.”

I said, “Before he started the company, he developed a piece of software and sold it for fifty lakhs.” Now he opened his mouth and kept it open and looked at me astonishingly.

I said, “You are from the software industry, why are you surprised by this?”

Praveen said, “Now I know how the software companies offer to pay these salaries in the USA.”

I asked him, “So, have you decided to help me or not?”

Praveen said, "If I have to act like your husband for a few minutes, I don't have any objections, for at least a few minutes I could be a crorepati and your pathi."

I said, "I will call them in the evening."

Praveen said, "ok. I will go home and come later, give me a call", and he went away.

After one hour I got a call from Karishma and she asked, "Are you coming to the party in the evening?"

I said, "Kumar just came over from Bombay, how can I leave him and come."

Karishma said, "Why don't you say so, bring him to the party."

I asked, "where is the party arranged?"

Karishma said, "At my friend's farmhouse nearer to your house."

I said, "ok, I will ask him if he is ready to come or not."

Karishma said, "Bring him at whatever cost."

I said, "ok, I will try, and cut the call."

I called Praveen and told him about the party in the evening.

Praveen said, "ok, I will come over there."

I said, "Remember your name is Kumar."

Praveen said, "I will tell them Praveen Kumar, that way I won't have a problem telling my name."

I said, "ok by me."

I took him to the party in the evening and introduced him as Kumar. Seeing him they were disappointed that he was not the Kumar from Dehradun. If I had shown them the real Kumar, what would they have done? But now Praveen is bitten by Karishma.

Praveen said, "I like her and see how she is looking at me."

Now when I looked at her, she smiled at me. Now how did he interpret her smile, I don't know. He was behind me to introduce them to me. Now I have introduced him to them and I have not introduced them to him. So, I took him around and introduced him to each one of them. If I have to give him a chance, I have to get away from them for a few minutes.

I said, "I have to make a call" and made a call and said, "I will be back in a few minutes, there is an emergency in the hospital" and went away, leaving him to deal with the party in his own way.

\*\*\*\*

I returned to the party after one hour. From the time I reached, Praveen was trying to catch my attention.

I went to him and asked, "What happened?"

Praveen said, "Come with me and took me outside and said, "Karishma knows about me, she recognised me from the photo her mother showed her. Now I told her everything."

I said, "It's ok, I will tell them I played a prank on them and Karishma caught me. It is not a big deal."

We went back inside and Karishma accosted me and said, "When are you going to show me your real husband?"

I said "I told you, I will show him at Rohan's wedding. This is just a prank."

Karishma said, "I know just a prank. What is this Praveen is telling about your husband getting a big project from the Railways?"

I said, "I don't have any idea."

She said, "Yes, it was not announced yet, Praveen's father called him to ask about the project and Praveen said he didn't have any idea about it. What is this software he is talking about?"

I said, "I told you, for a piece of software they paid him 50 lakhs. I lowered my voice and said he says he picked the software from the future."

She looked at me astonishingly, and asked, "How is that possible?"

I said, "That is his speciality, otherwise, how can he earn this much in a short time? He just created our hospital software from memory within a month. I was there with him the whole time, he did not even refer to any book, and he did not even consult me on the workings of the hospital. He said the total knowledge has been passed to him in his dreams."

She kept looking at me as if she could not believe my words.

I said, "When you meet him at the marriage, you can ask him about the future and what kind of gadgets we are going to have, he will tell you himself."

\*\*\*\*

*Kumar called from Bombay before going to the airport, he will be here in another 2 hours. I have to go and meet him at the airport. Maybe I have to tell him the dos and don'ts at the wedding as I don't know how these girls are going to behave with him. I have to tell him to take everything with a pinch of salt. I have to warn him about Karishma, she might try some tricks on him as her match is being fixed with Praveen.*

*I went to the airport and waited at the arrival lounge. He came after one hour as he had to get his luggage. It seems he came prepared to attend the wedding with his suits and all. He had changed his hairstyle too. With his new hairstyle,*

*he looks different from what he was in his college days. That is another good sign. As he is climbing the social ladder he is changing himself to the society he is moving around. Did Loveleen have something to do with that? Whatever it might be. When he came out I went and hugged him and he looked at me as if you had missed me, why did you not call me? I can read his mind.*

I took him to my house and took him to my room and put the luggage in a corner. I told him to take a rest, and I will speak with him later.

I returned after one hour. He put aside the document he was working on and looked at me. I asked, "What are you looking at?"

"After how long I am looking at you?"

"What, only a week?"

"That week is like one year for me."

I said, "Don't talk rubbish."

He said, "Come here."

I said, "I will change and come."

I went and wore a negligee and came.

He asked, "When did you get this?"

I said, "I had it for a long time."

I went and stood before him.

He said, "You bring the best in me."



\*\*\*\*

I woke Kumar early in the morning.

He asked, "What?"

I said, "We have to go to Rahul's house."

He asked, "Isn't the wedding tomorrow."

I said, "We have to attend other functions."

He said, "ok, coming" and went to have a bath.

By the time he returned from having a bath, I brought a cup of coffee and placed it on the table.

He sipped the coffee and asked, "What shall I wear."

I said, "Wear casuals."

I dressed and we both went to Rahul's house where the functions were being conducted. The ladies bathed him after applying turmeric and then gave him a bath with some paste. After the bath, they put up a bindi and a black spot on his cheek.

Then he came to visit us. Kumar shook his hands and congratulated him.

Rahul said, "It is the first time we are meeting after the marriage."

Kumar said, "I came here and also to the hospital, you were always busy."

Rahul said, "Nandini told me how busy you are, and how the meeting went with the Railway ministry."

Kumar said, "We have submitted our proposal, let us see where this goes."

Then people started coming and I introduced them to Kumar.

Next are Praveen and his sister Neeta. Praveen said, "I heard a lot about you, this is the first time I am meeting you."

Kumar asked, "Did you not attend the marriage?"

Praveen said, "I was in the USA, so I could not attend the marriage."

"What are you doing in the USA?"

"I am a software engineer there."

"Nice, must be getting a good salary."

"Salary-wise is good, but not like you here."

"To reach this position I had to work hard and manipulate some people."

"What hard work did you do?"

"I started with deliveries in my college. Then I did not study software engineering like you. I joined a courier company as a courier boy, where I was elevated to Marketing executive. Then there I

started to do data entry and then I got an Idea for data transfer and I developed it and they have installed it all over India at their branches and then they sent me to the USA for training on their systems. I came back and, seeing them not giving me credit for it, I patented it and they had to cough up the money.”

“Is it the software the Railway were considering?”

“How do you know, did Nandini tell you.”

“No, I came to know from my father, he called me to India for this only. He wanted me to develop that software, I said I didn’t have an idea how to do that. My father said what did you go to the USA for, the software was developed by an Indian, and you can’t do that. I said I have not heard about it; how can I do that? How did you get the idea?”

“I read it in a future book. I mean a book about the future.”

“So what else you are working on?”

“We are working on Mobile telephony, we can talk on the telephone while we move around. Then the Internet. Internet might be available in the US as a telephone-connected modem. We are working on Broadband internet, that’s what it is going to be called in the future. It does not use telephone lines, it is connected through

wires. I have already ordered our hardware suppliers to provide a prototype.”

Kumar continued, “Then we have AI, artificial intelligence. You might know about robotic software this is something like that, but not connected to Robots. It will be connected through the Internet. There are many more I am working on at the documentation stage.”

“That is all ok, but how did you get the future book.”

“My future self is sending the information in my dreams. From the dreams, I could develop whole software.”

I interjected and said, “he had developed the hospital software just from his memory, no referencing books and not even taken my suggestions. After completion only, he had taken my suggestions, because I wanted it to work that way. He said that in that book I had given him full information about developing the software. You know one thing his daughter Leena is a time traveller.”

He asked, “What? Time traveller? How could she do that?”

I said, “For that, I have to tell the story from the beginning. He had a one-night stand with a girl named Sahithi. Then she became pregnant and was about to be killed in an accident, she went

into the future to meet his look-alike wearing a dhoti. He took her to his house, and after the delivery, she was back at her house missing a few hours. Then his daughter returned to him after a year but she is grown up and was about 7 years old.”

“Where is she?”

I said, “She is staying with his parents, they landed today morning and went to his sister’s place. I have sent a car to bring them here.”

Praveen said, “I want to work with you.”

Kumar said, “You are welcome to work with me, I am looking for experienced developers.”

I said, “I thought you would say, you can’t work with me because of this all secret.”

Kumar said, “Nothing is secret in this world, it will come out today or tomorrow. In the future, they are going to put cameras everywhere and are going to watch your every move.”

I said, “Ow! In the bedroom too?”

Kumar said, “Some people put them there too. And there are a few scandals about them too.”

Praveen said, “I will wait for some time before coming back from the USA, Karishma wants to go to the USA.”

I said, "They are in discussions about his match with Karishma."

Rahul's mother came and asked, "Did you have breakfast?"

Kumar shook his head and said, "No."

She scolded me, "Why don't you look after your husband?"

I said, "I forgot in their discussions. I will get it now; anyone else wants breakfast?"

Rahul said, "Get for me too. I did not have even coffee from morning."

I said, "I will get it for both of you" and went away.

Kumar said, "These ceremonies are brutal on us."

Rahul said in a low voice, "I heard from the time she met you, Nandini did not leave your side, did she think someone would steal you?"

Kumar said, "I don't know about that, I was developing software continuously and she looked after me for the whole period."

Rahul asked, "That is why you married her because she took care of you?"

Kumar said, "Not that. I was very down mentally when I met her and she understood my problems and stood by me this whole time. She

knows my past and I know my future, so we clicked that way and we understand each other.”

Hearing them discussing I went into the kitchen to arrange them breakfast.

Rahul asked, “We heard you gave her a 25 per cent share in the software company.”

I brought two plates of breakfast and handed them to them.

I asked, “What are you discussing so seriously.”

Rahul said, “Kumar is telling how you are supporting him.”

After breakfast, I handed them 2 cups of tea.

\*\*\*\*

Now some of my friends came over and I introduced Karishma, Lakshmi, Twinkle and Narmada. Lakshmi looked at him adoringly, must be thinking about how he made all that money. Twinkle and Narmada were courteous. Karishma has an altogether different attitude. She is looking at him in a teasing manner.

Karishma said, “I feel I met you somewhere.”

Kumar asked her “where are you from?”

She said, “Vijayawada.”

“You must have seen me making deliveries around the houses.”

“Were you making deliveries when you were in Vijayawada?”

“I did that for three years during my degree college days.”

Then it really struck her that she saw him there. She asked, “Then you must know Sunitha.”

“She was my girlfriend.”

“Was?”

“She was with me for some time and as she was working as an air hostess, she was missing during an aeroplane accident.”

To side-track her, He changed the topic and went on explaining how he saw Sunitha follow her and took her to Bombay.

Then Twinkle started to ask him about our business activities.

Lakshmi was interested in how we made so much money.

So, this way lunch is announced. We all went to the lunch room.

There were mats placed around and banana leaves placed in front of those who sat down.

He sat down and on one side Karishma sat and on her other side Praveen sat down. On this side, Twinkle sat down.



He looked at me, I said, "I will serve and will sit later."

Twinkle tried to steal his sweet and he took it and dropped it back on her leaf. They had jokingly completed lunch and came back and sat on the veranda.

Karishma asked, "What about the future of TV?"

"In the future there will be hundreds of channels", remembering his alter ego experience when he went to the flat for the first time and switched on the TV. "All the programs are in colour and they have very big TVs. They are like mini theatres. The sound is extraordinary. They have mobiles which will fit in the hand. You can speak with anyone easily, with no problems with std codes. You can do train or bus reservations sitting at home."

He continued "You may have heard about 3d movies. If you watch the movie, it appears like everything is happening in front of you. They have internet facilities which I am trying to bring to India, using which you can get any information from all over the world. You don't need reference books, you can check on your computer. There will be a company Google, which retrieves all the information from all over the world and you can search it out."

"They have what they call email, which replaced postal mail. Nobody writes letters, they send an

email. Even wedding invitations are sent online, no one goes to give them. They call on phones for marriages. Only for the old people's sake, they go and give actual wedding invitations."

"You can speak face to face with anyone around the world through a mobile phone or computer. So many wonders the world will be made of in the future. Whenever I remember them I make a note of them and try to fast forward them into reality."

Twinkle asked, "How do you do that fast-forwarding?"

"We made a consortium of the big business houses like Tata, Birla, Reliance and Godrej. I could not do it with the limited resources I have. We try to influence the government with licences and take up required infrastructure projects to help us in this. This is the first time Railways wants to use our technology for their ticketing system."

Praveen asked, "Can't they use the phones for this work."

Kumar asked, "Do you mean to call the other station to confirm the ticketing?"

Praveen said, "Yes, something like that."

Kumar said, "They did that and later by sending a letter. The phone call has failed as they are making a lot of mistakes. Here the document is

prepared by the system itself. So, there is little chance of a mistake.”

Lakshmi asked, “So, this railway project will be taken up by the consortium and not by you directly?”

Kumar said, “Yes.”

“So, what is your profit in that?”

“My hardware company sells them all the computers and other items. The software has to be prepared by me and they will pay me a royalty for using the software. Maybe in the future, they will read in their books, about who has brought a technological revolution in India and my name would be mentioned there.”

They looked at each other’s faces. They must be thinking about how it would be reading the textbooks about the technological revolution.

We heard a voice ask, “What projects are you taking up on your own?”

We looked back it was Monica, who was not present at the time of lunch. He looked at her quizzically.

She said, “Oh, sorry I am Monica, Nandini’s friend.”

He said, “We are working on AI at our R & D.”

“What is AI.”

“Artificial Intelligence.”

“Isn’t it what they showed in some movie.”

“You must be referring to the Terminator Movie, this is software and it should be able to answer your questions. Then it is supposed to do what the human brain can’t do in its lifetime. Also, I have not received full information on that at present.”

Monica stood there looking at him.

“Why don’t you sit down?”

She thought a minute and asked, “Can I speak with you privately?”

Before he could answer, I was called by Rohan’s mother and I went inside

I came into the veranda with a cup of tea for Kumar. He was not there, I asked, “Praveen where is Kumar?”

Praveen said, “Monica took him outside saying she wanted to speak with him in private. I told him to go and speak to her, she might want to invest with him. I heard she came into all that money after her father died. Now she is running her father’s business.”

*I don’t know what to say to Praveen. I remember she is one of the girls who spent time with him in Dehradun, at last, the past caught up with*

*Kumar. I don't know what she will do, I went out to look for them, but he was not there.*

I asked our driver, "Did you see Kumar."

He said, "The other madam took him in her car."

*Now what she will do to him?*

\*\*\*\*\*

Kumar and Monica returned after two hours.

Praveen asked, "where did you go away."

Kumar said, "We are discussing business" and did not elaborate.

I took Kumar aside and asked, "What did she want?"

"She wanted to invest, so she was asking for ideas."

"What did you say?"

"I have an idea for manufacturing electronics components, if she is interested I will speak with my contact, they want me to start a unit here in India."

"how much investment is needed."

"It is quite a capital-intensive process, I have to check with them before coming up with the amount."

"Did she agree?"

“I gave her some time to think it over. Even if she is not interested we might need to start it in a small way.”

“If she says no, tell me I will try to get us some capital.”

“I will just come” and he went out and lit a fag and stood there. Praveen came and asked for one, he gave him one.

Praveen said, “If you are looking for investors, I would like to invest.”

Kumar asked, “Did Nandini put you up to this?”

Praveen said, “No, it is my own idea. I got some amount saved and I can borrow from my father saying I will return the money from my further savings.”

Kumar said, “Let me see how this goes. I have to contact the company who provides the kits, they are based in the USA and they have their production facilities in China and Thailand, which is where I get my components. It seems they are looking for alternate manufacturing facilities and like in China our labour costs are low. If we can work with our paying rent, we can shift our assembly to the manufacturing centre. I think a manufacturing facility near Vizag would be ideal. Nearby port and availability of raw materials would be added advantage, only thing we have to see is if Monica has any land around there.

First thing I have to speak with the manufacturers in the night and see where this goes.”

\*\*\*\*

I took Monica into a room and asked, “What is your idea of taking my husband for a ride?”

Monica said, “You know how is this with the relatives, they want to lay their hands on our money. They would bring useless proposals to make me invest money with them. I know once I invest what happens to my money, I will not see a paise back. So, I was asking Kumar for advice on investing money. I find his honesty while advising. He refused to invest my money saying his ventures are all futuristic and don’t have any time limit on when they will give returns. When I said you could invest in a venture where you think is most risky, and you would yourself hesitate to invest. Investment is mine and we will share the profits and if any losses it would be me to bear.”

“What did he say?”

“He said he had an idea for manufacturing the components used in his assembly, it is a capital-intensive project. He gave me time to think it over.”

“For that, you had to take him to the farmhouse?”

“I had taken him with a different idea. But he refused to have anything to do with it. He is loyal to you. He said as long as Nandini is with me, I won’t touch another woman.”

“Did he say that?”

“He didn’t tell me exactly but to that effect. He was saying how you gave your hand when he was down and how you kept his side from then on, he also said that this is the longest you have kept away from him and he is feeling the after-effects.”

*I thought if what she says is true, I don’t have to worry about him with anyone else. He is a gem. I looked to her for any subterfuge, but there did not seem to be any.*

“What is your opinion if anyone else wants to invest in the project?”

“I would welcome it. It would decrease my risk in the project.”

“It would also decrease your control over the company.”

“I don’t want to involve myself fully with the company, if anyone else wants to participate in the management, they are welcome. I would like to have more advisers in the project.”



*After having the chat with her it seems her intentions seemed to be genuine. Let me see how this plays out.*

\*\*\*\*

After 9 pm Kumar asked, "Nandini where can I make an ISD call."

"We don't have an ISD facility here, you can go to an STD Booth at the centre."

"I will make a call and come back."

I nodded my head and Praveen said, "I will come with you, it will be a walk for me."

They returned after the call and Kumar asked, "Nandini where will we sleep today?"

"They are arranging to sleep in the hall.

"Ok" and went to the veranda to sit.

*It seems Kumar has felt bad about sleeping in the hall, he went and sat in the veranda. We should have gone back to the house. But the functions will start early in the morning and I am required to be present at the functions. Let him stew, it will be just for a day. Maybe he is missing my companionship.*

\*\*\*\*

I woke Kumar early in the morning and asked him to have a bath and come.

When he returned from the bath, I handed him a traditional wear.

Seeing Praveen helping him, I went to attend the functions.

After the wedding, everyone left after lunch and a few relatives left.

I saw Kumar going to his family and speaking with them.

After Rahul's in-laws completed the giveaway, we reached with the bride and groom to Rahul's house.

I brought him a cup of tea and said, "Garbadhanam Muhurtam is fixed for 9 pm. After Garbadhanam, we will go back home. He nodded his head.

He called me and asked, "I have not seen Monica, did she not come for the marriage?"

"Monica was there briefly and then went away."

it is around 9 pm. Now they sat the bride on a chair and she is handing full coconuts to married women. When that finished they sent her to the groom's room and closed the door.

I went and sat beside Kumar and said, "My work is finished here. Shall we go?"

"On the way I have to make a call to the USA.

“ok, let us go.” He picked up the baggage and put them in the car and the driver drove us He stopped at the centre and went to call from an STD booth.

He came back sat in the car and we went to our house the driver brought our luggage kept it in my room and went away.

He had a bath changed, and sat on the bed. I came after half an hour and went to take a bath.

I came after changing and sat on the bed beside him.

I asked, “What are you thinking?”

“How much money is needed for the new factory?”

“What do you need 10 or 20 crores? Don’t worry about the money, it will be arranged.”

“I am not worrying about the money. Until now I have not used other's money in my business, this is the first time I have ventured with other's money.”

“You were ready to use Loveleen’s money.”

“I never thought Loveleen’s money as other’s money. She is part of our destiny. She is part of our family.”

I was taken aback by his talks. I asked, “What are you saying?”

“As per what I have read about her and her future with us, she was staying with us in our house and her son Dhruv called me daddy along with Sneha’s children. I understand her husband Guru was killed by some gang outside his house. Then whatever her inheritance she invested with me in real estate.”

“So, it is after her husband’s death, that she started to invest with us.”

“No, she was investing with him from the time he started the software firm. I think her father’s black money she was investing with the firm. She was so discreet about the source of the money and he never asked her. She started by giving him the first bungalow we are now staying and he used that for his software offices. That is when her father got elected as CM. Then her father gave him this second bungalow she is now staying and he started to live there. Then after Guru’s death, her father gave him the fourth bungalow thinking they would set up her business there. He did use the bungalow to live for both of them, that is himself with Loveleen and her son. Then he gave the second and third bungalows for rent to movie production.”

“That is why you tried to give the office building for rent and when there are no takers you turned it into our office and factory.”

He nodded his head and said, “Now the thing is he started his software firm in the year 1991,

until then he was working as a manager with Kirit's factory."

"Kirit is he the one who showed the factory at Bhandup?"

"Yes. We started our software company in 1987. We are ahead of him by 4 years. I am trying to take advantage of that fact. I am going back to Bombay tomorrow, will you be coming with me?"

"I need more time here to finish up pending works. I will come there next week."

"It's okay by me."

I said, "It seems you are missing my companionship come here" and kissed him.

Satisfied he rolled from me and lay beside me. I said, "You seemed to be distracted."

"I don't know my mind was filled with so many things. Sorry if I disappointed you."

"Nothing like it, you were not your usual self."

\*\*\*\*

Kumar was working at the hospital setting up systems, I went to him and said, "Let us go for lunch.:

I took him to a restaurant. When we entered he was surprised all my friends were present there. Not only Monica, but Pranitha was also there.

Pranitha got up and came to him and hugged him and said, "After so long I am seeing you."

"How are you here?"

"Before my wedding, I am giving the gals a party, it seems Nandini brought you as my present."

He smiled and said, "Ask me what you want?"

Pranitha smiled back and said, "Nothing from you, only your visit enough for me, thanks for coming."

He is the lone guy among a group of girls. Pranitha asked, "What would you have."

"A bottle of light beer."

Pranitha got him a bottle and sat beside him. She asked, "What I was hearing about you starting a factory?"

"It did reach you too?"

"Monica is my sister and she was talking about you too.

"I got the documents from the USA, but I had to go through them. Once I go back to Bombay I will check them out. Then I have to put them up for our consortium and then I will let you all know about it."

"What is this about the consortium."

“We have the top companies in the country as a group, we go through all the future-affecting decisions. Now we want to bring internet here and mobile telephony, AI, all these we have to go through this group.”

“Is it advisable to go through them?”

“All the products we are going to be producing in the factory are going to affect the future of our country, it is going to put our country ahead of the USA too.”

“If you are going ahead with the factory idea, I would like to invest too.”

“How much you are willing to invest?”

“How much the project cost would be?”

“I don’t have the cost estimates yet. We have to import equipment from the USA. Then we have to see how much import duty we had to pay, we have to use our contacts and get it reduced. That is why it has to go through the consortium. So, what is the basic investment you want to make and what maximum you can invest? Based on that I will come back to you with the details. Monica is also considering investing, doesn’t she?”

Monica said, “You give us a ballpark costing of setting up the factory and we sit together and decide how much can we invest as our share if it is ok with you.”

“It is okay with me. After going through the documents, I will prepare the costing and will send them to you, then you can come back to me with your share of investments.”

We agreed to that and toasted for the future partnership.

He left us to do our party and went over to his sister’s place to meet his parents and Leena.

\*\*\*\*

Kumar said he received the funding for the factory from Bob and Bob has a proposal for us to invest in a research project. Kumar said it might be for electronics only.

I went to meet friends at the usual hotel where we regularly meet. I explained to them what Kumar said. If they are keen on investing, there is an opportunity for investing in the R&D centre he is proposing to start in Andhra. The returns will be good but it might take a little longer than the factory. But once the Research is completed we can expect a good income from royalties.

Lakshmi asked, “Is it like the software where he got 50 lakhs and still using the software.”

“It would be something like that, but that is software and this is hardware. If what he says is true, if we are successful, even the USA will come to us for the products developed by the centre. It will revolutionise the country in the world.



Kumar says there is no pressure on you to invest with him, as he got the investment for the factory, he can get investment, but because it was your idea to invest that led him to think of starting production, he would like to give you an opportunity to invest. It is up to you to decide.”

Monica asked, “What he is expecting as an investment?”

“There is no upper limit or lower limit, as per your investments he will issue you shares and as per shares you will get dividends. Now dividends will only be paid when they have surplus income to distribute.”

Pranitha asked, “What would be the research subject for them.”

“It would be obviously electronics. What exact products they will be researching will only be known after the research head arrives.”

Monica asked, “Is there going to be a research head?”

“That is what Kumar told me Bob has offered.”

Lakshmi asked, “Who is Bob?”

“He is the one who provided the capital for starting the factory, he has already ordered the equipment and also provided the money for import duties and all.”

Karishma asked, “Who is this Bob really?”

“He is the one who told Kumar to start learning software. Then when Joy’s friend got killed, he got him cleared without fuss.”

Monica said, “We will speak with the Research head and decide about the investments.”

“That is an excellent idea, but better keep your investments ready. He may want to start the centre immediately.”

Twinkle said, “We are discussing going on a tour somewhere. I proposed we go to Araku Valley I heard it is very pleasant at this time of the year.”

I looked at the others and they all nodded their heads in agreement.

I thought can I go with them? I told Kumar I would come to Bombay after a week. He would miss me, but I was with him from the time of his sister’s marriage. This was the first time I was away from him. There is a saying distance makes you come closer. There is no need to inform him of my going with them. If I tell him this, he might become sadder, otherwise he would think I am working and would not care.

“Ok, count me in.”

Someone arranged tickets to go to Vizag. There is a morning train from the Vizag station to go to Araku.

We reached Vizag and sat on the Araku Train.

\*\*\*\*

The train hardly started and it was stopped as if someone pulled the chain.

We looked out and someone speaking with the guard and they came to our compartment and asked us to alight from the train. I asked him what was the reason we couldn't go on the train.

He said you were called back on some emergency, he will take you back.

He took us to a telephone booth and asked me to call Kumar.

I asked Kumar, "What is the emergency, they stopped the train and asked me to call you immediately."

He said, "Police are here to enquire about your whereabouts, please speak with them."

He gave the phone to the inspector. We spoke and he returned the phone to Kumar.

He said, "You better cancel your tour and come back home."

"What happened?"

"What is today's date."

"27<sup>th</sup>."

You know what is the correct date, it is the 29<sup>th</sup>."

"How is that possible?"

“So, you better come back I will explain everything.”

I booked a ticket to Bombay, called Kumar and said, “I am coming by the flight now, come and pick me up.”

He said, “ok.”

He came and picked me up from the airport. On the way back I asked, “What happened you had to stop our trip?”

He asked, “where were you going?”

“Araku.”

“Did you catch the Araku train?”

“Yes.”

“Then what happened?”

“Someone stopped the train and showed the conductor some ID and he asked us to get off the train as some emergency had come. Then he took us to a phone booth and asked me to call you.”

“Do you know what happened?”

“I had no idea.”

“You caught the train and reached Araku and you took rooms at the Padmavathi Gardens on the tree-top huts. Something happened there and

you all went missing, might have been kidnapped or dead.”

“Kidnapped, I had no remembrance of being kidnapped.”

“That is why we had to intercept you before you caught the train. Bob went back three days and stopped you from getting on the train and stopped you from going to Araku. He brought you all to our time and made you call me because the police were waiting to take me to Andhra to interrogate me.”

“Interrogate you, what did you do?”

“I did not do anything, I don’t know who complained, it seems they thought I took their money and made them disappear.”

“Do you mean to say I have travelled in time?”

“Yes, after Leena and Sahithi you were the next person to travel in time.”

I did not say anything, I thought about how I felt time travelling. I did not feel anything.

We came home and it was around 10:30 pm.

I said, “I had dinner on the flight.”

“I had my dinner and came to pick you up.

“Then let us go to bed, I have been waiting for you.”

“You did not remember me when going on the trip?”

“I made a mistake baba, I am sorry.”

“It is ok, come then.”

\*\*\*\*

I called Praveen and spoke to him. It was he who complained to the police and told them about the talks going on about investment.

*But how could he think Kumar would be involved in that when he said he didn't want any investment at present? There must be some miscommunication on his front. If they complained after two days about our missing, first thing how did he think we were missing? He must have asked Karishma to call him every day. When Karishma did not call him for two days, he would have complained to the police. What could have happened to us, to go missing? I can't remember anything other than getting on the train and the train being stopped and we were forced to get down. I don't understand how Kumar could pull that trick. I am forever grateful to Kumar for saving all of us. He is my lifeline, I should never think of keeping him away from me.*

I heard the doorbell ring and two men were standing at the door.

One of the men said, “Hi I am Bob, is Kumar there?”

“Come in. Is he the Research Head Kumar told me would be coming?”

Bob said, “Yes, he is Dimitri Ivanchevek. You can call him Dimitri.”

“Ok, come and sit, Kumar will be here in a minute.”

I went and called Kumar and after the introductions were over, Bob said, “You discuss about the arrangement of the R&D centre”, and went away.

I asked him, “What would be the requirements for the centre.”

He said, “We will need at least 10 acres of land.”

“That can be arranged in Andhra.”

“I will arrange to build the labs and then I will arrange the equipment and research fellows also.”

“What would you be researching there.”

“Obviously it is about viruses and anti-virus medicines and vaccines.”

I was taken aback, Kumar told me they would be researching electronics.

I said the same, “I thought we would be researching electronics.”

"I don't know anything about Electronics, I am a microbiologist and I am brought to research some new viruses coming into the world."

"From where they are coming?"

"Obviously from space. Bob told me there was a meteorite fall in India and it was kept very secret because of its impact on the health of the people living near that place."

"What happened?"

"The whole villagers were killed by the virus attack. The area is Cordoned off and no one is allowed to go near. We have to isolate the virus and do the research."

"But building the research lab would take months."

"We have a mobile lab, which we will use to collect the samples. If you let us know about the land, I will get our men to start construction."

"We better go there and inspect the land."

"Ok", and called Bob after the conversation was over, he said, "Bob is arranging for a chartered flight for us, let us go."

I looked at Kumar, he said, "You better go, I can't go at a moment's notice. I have a meeting with the consortium members. You know about the land or get the information from your friends."



“Monica is in Vizag only, I will call her and tell her to meet us at the airport.”

Kumar said, “ok you do that.”

\*\*\*\*

We are going towards the area where the meteorite crashed. Protective gear was arranged for all the occupants of the van.

When I told the gang about starting an R&D centre for Virology, they were a little hesitant. They were saying we never heard of such a thing like that.

“If you don’t put investment it is ok at least give me 10 acres of land somewhere near Vizag. We will see about the building, maybe Kumar or Bob will provide the funds for that.”

Monica conceded to give the land as part of her investment, because of her asking only Kumar started to venture into this field and she promised Kumar, I am ready to invest, if we get profits we will share and if there are losses, it will be my loss.

Monica said, “Don’t worry about the funds for building, instead of wasting money on relatives, I am ready to use the money for the greater good.”

So, we are going to collect the samples from the place. Dimitri got an assistant from Russia and

they both will be collecting the samples, and we were ordered to stay away from the area in our protective suits watching them work.

We stopped outside an area that was cordoned off by the military and protected by military personnel with guns in their hands.

Dimitri got down with his assistant and showed them some papers and then showed their IDs. They must have asked about us sitting in the van.

Dimitri shook his head indicating not part of the group and said something. They came back and picked up several body bags and went inside the area.

They brought three bodies with the help of the military personnel. They placed them in the van and they all washed their hands with some kind of liquid and came and sat down.

We proceeded to Vizag.

When we reached the city, they took us to a small lab they had set up. They got them stored in the lab and came out.

“Can we get out of these dresses?”

“Go inside the bathroom and remove them and put them in the bin and your dresses in another bin and have a bath and come out and check which of the dresses fit you and wear them. Next time possibly you keep some dresses here.”

\*\*\*\*

We went to the bank and opened an account in the name of the lab with the documents provided by Bob, and transferred an amount of 10 crores from their account to the lab's account.

Then we went to see the land to be used for building the lab. I called Dad to look at the building plans drawn by the engineer engaged by Dimitri.

Dad said, "I will provide the cost for the same."

I told him to immediately start the construction work.

He said, "I will put the equipment for fast construction."

I sent a message to Kumar that we started the building construction with the help of my father. It became an advantage that he is in the construction business. I sent him the registration papers of the company. The company is in Kumar's name as the main partner, me, Monica and Pranitha as major partners and Praveen and Karishma as minor partners. Twinkle and Lakshmi insisted on being partners and I gave them a 3 per cent share each.

So, the final shareholding pattern is Kumar's 30% and mine 20%. Monica and Pranitha at 14% each Praveen and Karishma at 8% each and finally

Twinkle and Lakshmi got 3 per cent each. This way I paid back Kumar for giving me a 25% share in the software company.

\*\*\*\*

Building work is going on at a fast pace with Dad using the equipment. I think it is the first time he is trying to build something this fast. It is a single-floor building spread over 2 acres. The remaining area is for cushion, that is what Dimitri told me.

Dimitri said, "If we can get more area surrounding the building it would be better."

We got a fence erected around the area earmarked for the Lab. All-around "do not enter, Danger" boards with Skull and Cross are installed. Once the Lab started Dimitri said, "We should install alarms on the fence."

\*\*\*\*

*The work in the lab is going well. We can expect to start the lab in a fortnight. The equipment has arrived and is being erected as of now. Because of this, I had to keep away from Kumar, previously I had thought can I stay away from him, but now I actually kept him away for so long. Once the lab is completed and starts working, I might be able to come back to Bombay to be with Kumar.*

*Kumar called me to Bombay for the inauguration of the factor*

*Now one more feather in his cap was added with the factory going to production. Maybe I can spend two days with him.*

I told Kumar, "The building is almost ready. Dimitri is getting equipment from Russia imported."

Leena broke coconut at the machinery. She seemed to be growing day by day. She is almost my height.

*Kumar sent Leena and his parents by car and we started for our house in his car. I sat in the backseat with Loveleen, and Kumar sat in the front seat beside the driver and was looking at some papers. He has become very busy during my absence. He was working with the consortium to bring the internet to India. I heard they have taken a transponder on rent on INSAT 1c. They want to connect through satellites to the US internet. He said if we can connect the internet here, he can think of taking up US software projects. I looked at Loveleen, it seems in my absence she has taken over my responsibilities in looking after the company. She has handed over her company to Nishitha and most of the time she is spending her time looking after the company.*

The driver stopped the car in front of Loveleen's house and she got down, Kumar put his papers in his briefcase and readied to get down. The driver drove to our bungalow and stopped in the

parking. We went inside and Kumar placed the briefcase on the table and sat down on the sofa.

Seeing us our servant Rose came out

Kumar said, "Please give me a cup of tea."

Rose went into the kitchen. I went and sat beside him.

Kumar asked, "I missed you so much when are you coming back?"

"You have to come for the inauguration of the lab. Then I can think of coming over here."

He asked for the details of the lab we are building. When I gave him the details, he asked "Is the lab set up for this virus or is it for the future? Is there going to be some virus attack in the world?"

"Why do you think so?"

"From the way he is conducting the things around."

"Who?"

"Bob. We thought of starting a manufacturing unit with the help of your friends and he took the idea supplied the capital and let us set up the factory. And with your friend's money, he wants us to set up a lab. I thought it was very important for him to start the lab immediately, so, he manipulated it this way."

Rose brought tea and put it on the table.

He picked up a cup and started sipping it.

\*\*\*\*

I stayed for two days in Bombay, now we have to inaugurate the lab.

“Kumar, who would inaugurate the lab?”

“we can’t ask PM or CM for inaugurating the Lab. Maybe someone from the consortium would like to do that. I will ask Mr Godrej regarding that.”

“You check that, I will leave for Vizag tomorrow morning.”

\*\*\*\*

I landed at the Vizag airport and I was greeted at the arrival lounge by Monica, she asked, “who is going to inaugurate the lab?”

“Kumar is looking into that.”

“Next time we will fly by helicopter to the lab.”

“How is that possible.”

“Dimitri said that Bob has arranged for us to use of the helicopter.”

“Maybe he arranged to have VIPs flown from the airport to the lab. He is getting a helicopter landing strip with your father’s help. How is the trip? What Kumar is doing?”

“It is ok, Kumar started production on his electronics spare parts. He was disappointed we are building a lab instead of Electronics R&D, even though Bob has promised him he will let him have the latest in electronics from the USA.”

“He promised me we will set up a production facility for electronics, he already got it from Bob, what else does he need?”

“Maybe he thought he would be working with you all on the electronics production and maybe he is missing that.”

“Do you think that he is missing us?”

I smiled and said, “it seems so.”

She did not get that I am pulling her leg.

“What did you most like in Kumar.”

“His honesty.”

I thought she would say something about his sex, but her words surprised me and I asked, “why do you think that?”

“When I spoke to him at the farmhouse, I saw honesty in his eyes and his talks. He was telling me how much you meant to him. It is not like he was scared of you not to act inappropriately with anyone else. But he does not want you to feel bad about that. He does not want to hurt your feelings. He was hesitant to put my money into the business. Because if he loses the money, he



felt how he can show his face to your friends. When I told him the profits we will share and if any losses I will bear, then only he considered my offer and told me about the electronics production offered by the US company. From that, I know he will not act recklessly because it is not his money. When this lab offer came, first I was apprehensive of investing. But then I thought I am doing something for the country. Somewhere I have read because of our country's population if something like a virus outbreak happens, then it would spread rapidly."

"You went and read about the viruses."

"I not only read about them, but I also went and spoke to Dimitri's assistant for a long time. He told me lots of things about the outbreaks in history. He said the Plague is one such outbreak that has brought the world to its knees. He said the world's population has lost around 50 per cent of the population to this Plague. Some people even think it was deliberate action by some people to cull the world population, that is what he said."

"What does it mean?"

"According to him to cut the rising world population, some group of people deliberately released the plague into the world. He said it started to spread from China with their merchants and travellers."

“Kumar was telling that only, as Bob expected some kind of danger in the making and started this lab to safeguard the world.”

“Why India?”

“Kumar says Bob’s operations are centred around India. Somehow even though his name is Bob, he is linked to India or ordered by his bosses to look after the Indian sub-continent or allotted him this area for his operations. Kumar says that he did not have this information from this book because the dead Kumar was not involved with this Research. Bob is specifically helping us with some future in mind.”

“Who is dead Kumar?”

“His book is the future guide for Kumar. He dies in the year 1999 end.”

“Based on what he read from that book, Kumar operates keeping the future in mind.”

“Something like that.”

“But how did he get the book?”

“If I tell you the truth you may not believe me.”

“I believe whatever you say, after all this, why will I not believe you.”

“Bob approached Kumar and said to him to learn Software programming and he would make him head of a big conglomerate of companies. Now

Kumar was looking for an opportunity to start some business and went and brought some books and started reading them. Then after a week Bob gave him a computer and told him to practise. When Kumar became proficient with computers, Bob told him to clear his work, tell all the people he was going abroad to take leave from his office and say goodbye to his girlfriends and come to him. When Kumar went there, he lay him on a bed and told him to close his eyes. When he woke up he was still on the bed. So, Kumar got angry at him for cheating him, caught his collar and demanded an explanation. Now what Bob said will surprise you. He said I had sent an alter ego to another dimension by creating a timeline and from that timeline, he sent him to dead Kumar's timeline to replace him there. Now you go and live your life. Kumar came out cursing him for wasting all his time and disturbing his life. He had to undo all the things he had done."

"What happened then."

"After some days Kumar started to get dreams of what his alter ego was doing in another timeline. He said he had met me, I was married to someone else but my child was his. Sahithi and Sunitha whom he married later and Loveleen was his main partner in the business conglomerate. Loveleen's money, the dead Kumar used to raise in the business world. Then Sunitha brought a book written by the dead

Kumar and gave it to him to read. In that book, Kumar wrote about whatever he had done in his life and what technologies were used in his time. How using software, he had made Loveleen's father CM of Haryana, etc. Now he still receives information from his alter ego 17 years into the future. Sometimes he is so confused with the information, he sits still to process all that information. But suddenly he comes out with some information, that was used in the future. From that information only, he developed that data transfer software and even my hospital management software without my help. He says I have already given him all the information and he can develop from that. He says I was the one who helped to get the hospital project developed."

"Then why didn't he marry you there?"

"he had already married twice and his first wife Sneha, died in a fire accident and the second Wife Sahithi was with him and he had an affair with Sunitha. Kumar says in the book I was very much behind him to have an affair with him and that is what got him killed in the end."

"What do you mean."

"It was Nandini's husband Prathap who got Kumar killed using Sahithi in that time."

"His own wife helped him kill Kumar?"

“Kumar says either it is jealousy or for money she did that.”

Monica did not say anything, she must be thinking what kind of wife does that?

*Sahithi did that because he was having relations with others. What would I do, if I was in her position? First thing, if Kumar does that, it means I am not satisfying his needs. Second, the other person is giving him the mental piece, which I might be disturbing with my constant nagging. I read somewhere that wives themselves push away their husbands with their constant nagging. They think they are putting their husband in their place, but once she loses his control all hell breaks loose. If the wife did not act in the nick of time in such situations, she would lose him forever. If I had to face such a situation, if he is having an affair, I would take him away from such a situation instead of letting her have him. Why should I leave my husband to that leech of a woman?*

“What are you thinking?”

“What kind of woman kills her own husband?”

“I was also thinking the same.”

“We got side-tracked, I was asking you about your opinion of Kumar and you said his honesty. You did not like his sex?”

“After Nimisha and Pranitha, I was the first to go to him at the hotel. He had some kind of magic in him. He is not selfish in his approach, he would not leave a girl until she is satisfied. I had a few boyfriends after him, but none like him and I left them after a few days. But it is not like I want him again, I want to cherish his memories, and don’t want to spoil them by sleeping with him again. That day I just called him to see what kind of man he is, not with an intention of sleeping with him. I could have talked to him at the house, but that effect would not be there, I wanted him to think I took him there to have a fling with him. Seeing his honesty, I decided to invest with him. After all those people’s advice, I am scared of listening to another investment advice. I felt he was the one who would safeguard my money.”

“You know when registering the software company, he gave me a 25 per cent share even though I have not invested a paise with him that was even before marriage and he gave his other partner 25 per cent, trusting she will invest her time in the company. He takes his decisions like that. He takes his decisions from heart not from brain.”

Seeing the lab nearing I said, “Talking about Kumar, we did not feel we had travelled all this distance.”

She concurred with me.

Seeing our car, the security opened the gate and we drove inside. Near the fencing, on one side staff quarters are being built. We are staying at one of the completed buildings. This building is fully furnished with both gas and electric stoves installed. We have an electricity connection with a generator backup. A water tank was installed to pump the water after filtering and another tank was set up to filter the water for drinking water purification.

\*\*\*\*

The equipment arrived and they are being fitted in their respective labs on instructions of Dimitri. Our duty is to make payments. We don't really know which equipment is used for what. Once they are fitted we have to get information on the equipment. Now we have to set a date for the inauguration and set it with the arrival of VIPs. Because of the arrival of the VIPs, they have not attempted to start the use of the lab.

I rang up Kumar and asked, "Who would like to inaugurate the lab."

He said, "I already informed our consortium and they contacted the PM and he suggested to get the President to do that. We will fix it somewhere in the next week."

Now we have to make arrangements for the guests to stay in the building being readied. So many things to follow up.

During this time, I and Monica have become close.

I asked, "Why did you not marry?"

Monica said, "I did not find anyone suitable. Whoever my relatives bring is not trustworthy. They are only ready to marry me because of my money."



“Do one thing next time anyone brings a match, you tell them that you have given your money to a trust set up to help Indian poor people or something like that. We will say it has been done. Monica does not have control over the money and see how they react.”

“It is a good idea, we will really put all the money in a trust for some period and see how this goes.”

\*\*\*\*

Kumar called me and said, “We are going to name our lab, ‘The Indian Virology Lab’ after consultation with the government, who had permitted us to use the name. We planned to have the president and some VVIPs with the first sortie on the helicopter and it will return and take others to the site. Some who had planned to arrive earlier can either go by car so arranged or use the helicopter services as per their status or convenience.

Kumar got his family to arrive a day earlier and others have flown together on a single flight. Their plan was the president would cut the ribbon Leena would switch on the power and the President would switch on the first piece of equipment.

Then they all will come to the staff quarters and they take rest and attend a reception in the hall and will return by helicopter to Vizag and then by flight to Delhi.

\*\*\*\*

Everything went as planned and the President went back to Delhi and we had our party that night. Some people stayed back, and others who had planned flights left for their destinations.

Kumar sat in a chair nursing his drink.

Mr Tata came to him and congratulated us for setting up the lab and asked, "How did you manage the funding for this?"

Kumar said, "My wife's friends had put up the capital", and called me and Monica. He introduced us, Monica, as the main investor and Nandini my wife who had managed the project from the initial stage."

"Is it part of your vision?"

"It is not my vision but Bob's. He is the one who changed my investment from the Electronics factory to this and he totally invested in the electronics factory."

"Didn't you think you are taking a risk by investing in this venture, there are no fixed returns and it would take a long time for the returns."

"When I started this venture, I did not think of returns. When Bob said, there was an imminent outbreak of the virus, I redirected the funds to this venture. All credit for setting up the venture

should go to my wife Nandini and her friends for funding this venture on her say so.”

I interjected and said, “They have not invested on my say so, they have full confidence in Kumar, so they invested.”

His assistant came and said, “The helicopter is ready for you to take to the airport.”

He said, “bye” and went away with other VIPs.

Kumar asked, “Nandini, when are you likely to come back to Bombay?”

“I will come once the lab is running as per requirements and put someone in charge and then come over there.”

“We will go by car to the airport, we have a consortium meeting tomorrow. They are very much worried about the meteorite and the virus. They are calling top pharmaceutical companies for consultation.”

\*\*\*\*

They brought the bodies stored from the storage place in the city to the lab in a cold storage van by putting them in an enclosure.

They told us not to enter the lab until it was fumigated. After two hours Dimitri came to the housing building and said, “We have isolated the virus and we are trying to replicate it in our incubators. Now the process of fumigating the

entire lab is going on. We don't want anyone else to be infected by the virus. Non-Lab technicians are advised to stay here or at the office building.

"Am I needed here or can I go back to Bombay for some time."

Dimitri said, "If you can put a person to get our requirements, you can go and come back."

Monica said, "I will look after their requirements and Lakshmi will give me company."

Lakshmi came for the opening ceremony and stayed back.

"I will check the tickets and will go for some time."

\*\*\*\*

I called Kumar and said I am coming to Bombay for some time. He offered to come and pick me up from the airport.

I reached the waiting area and left the baggage, went and hugged Kumar.

He said, "I missed you even though I met you last week."

Loveleen was with and she came and hugged me and started telling me about their meeting with pharma companies.

Loveleen was talking all the way home.

We reached our house and Kumar stopped at Loveleen's gate she got down and said see you to me and went through her gate to her house. Seeing us, our watchman opened the gate and Kumar drove into the parking."

He picked up my baggage and walked into the bedroom placed it aside and sat down on the bed.

I came out of the bathroom with a towel around my body and went to the cupboard to pick up a dress. Kumar came behind me and hugged me from the back. I looked into his eyes through the mirror on the cupboard door. He extended his head over my shoulder and kissed me on the cheek. I turned my head towards him and he kissed me on the mouth and left me to dress and went back and sat back on the bed.

I went to him after dressing and sat beside him and turned towards him and asked, "Did you miss me?"

"Why would I miss you? You are always with me."

"How?"

"You are always in my dreams, so I don't miss you."

I looked at him adoringly and said, "But I missed you."

“You should miss me, I am your husband.”

I put my hand on his chest through the gap in the shirt and said, “I have been waiting for this day for a long time.”

“What is the need to wait, you could have come home anytime?”

I said accusingly, “Do you think it is easy leaving all the work and coming flying here?”

“I know it is not easy, but you could have made some time. What is the need to fight about that?”

I said accusingly, “Now you are saying I am fighting.”

He said mockingly, “Yes you are fighting. What are fights for if not to make up?”

He turned towards me and kissed me on the mouth.

I came home after a long time and what is he doing, fighting with me? I don't know if he is doing it seriously or making fun of me. But the way he kissed me after that, it seems he is not serious. He is just pulling my leg to warm up. I got up and sat on him and started to kiss him. I felt his hardened malehood that could only happen after a long drought. He continued to kiss me and touched my boobs with both his hands. I felt a pleasure rise in me and moaned. He caught me

by the shoulders and pushed a little and looked into my eyes as if searching for something. He always looks into my eyes as if to find some answers, sometimes I even feel a little uneasiness when he looks at me like that. I feel like he can read me through my eyes.

Maybe he found lust in my eyes, he turned me onto the bed and started removing my dress. Now I am in my undies. He started to kiss me passionately until I was begging him to fuck me. Then he removed my underwear and entered. He was going on and on and I was getting orgasm after orgasm. Until I had to cry to him to stop, then he slowed down and gently released his semen into me.

He rolled aside and I asked, "Is this a new technique?"

"No, a few days back I was taken to the Himalayas and brought back. From then I got a new power in me."

"How can you go and come back?"

"You know Bob, he can do anything."

"What did you do there?"

"They taught me some mantras to make me a new man. It has increased my stamina, and in this, I could hold it back forever. He must have given me the power seeing how tired I am getting. Over that, I am getting memory overload

from all the information I am receiving from my alter ego. Not only that I am also getting information from multiple sources. So, to contain the overload, they have given me powers.”

“What do you mean by other sources.”

“When you were missing and I asked Bob to find and bring you here, it was not received from my alter ego, but it had happened somewhere else that too in the future. Bob also asked me how do you know I can do that?”

*Now, what is he turning into? Earlier he was getting information about the future, now multiple sources mean, multiple futures.*

*Then how will he know what to follow? Is Bob making him this way to help in his own quest? Let me see how this goes.*

I looked at him lying beside me, he was already asleep. I have not seen him slip into sleep so fast. Maybe he is tired.

I put my hand on his chest and tried to sleep with his rhythmic breathing.

I felt Kumar sitting up, my hand was on his chest and it fell on his lap. I touched him with my hand and said, “Go to sleep, what are you doing sitting up.”



*Why did he sit up in his sleep? Was he getting sleep problems recently? I have been home after a long time, I don't know about his sleep patterns, over that he says he went to the Himalayas and was back.*

I told him to sleep and patted him to sleep.

I felt him get up and go to the bathroom. I looked at the time it is 6 am. It was his usual time so, I went back to sleep.

I felt him waking me up. I said, "Let me sleep for some more time."

Kumar said, "I brought your coffee get up and drink it."

I opened my eyes and looked at him. Seeing his fresh face, my remaining sleep went away.

"Good morning."

"Good morning, here is your coffee" and handed me a cup.

I sat on the bed and took it from him. From the rim of the cup, I looked at him. He is immersed in deep thought. What could be he thinking?

"A penny for your thoughts."

Kumar looked at me and said, "We have to go to the lab."

"But I just came from there, I want to stay here for some time."

“Then you can stay here for how long you want, I will just go over there check what is troubling me and come back.”

“Something troubling you?”

“I don’t know I feel I am needed there immediately.”

“Then go there and finish your work come back immediately”.

Kumar looked at me and called the airport. He put down the phone and said, “There is an afternoon flight.”

“Why you did not book tickets?”

“I want to check if Loveleen would like to come to the lab.”

“But why Loveleen?”

“I am involving Loveleen in everything we are working on.”

“That is what I am asking, why are you involving her?”

“She is helping me with the work, what with my disturbed mind I could not concentrate on the work. She has become a personal assistant to me. She is keeping my schedules and meetings. I have to check if any urgent works or meetings are there.”

*It seems in my absence he started to depend on her. Is it a good thing or bad? I can't disturb his routine at this time, he seems to be in a precarious mental state. If I disturb him in his state he might lose his mind.*

"Then check with her and book your tickets. I will look after the affairs here."

"You know I gave the factory responsibilities to my brother Ram."

"Yes, I know, you told me that."

"Now what I am saying is that Nishitha and he are working together with Loveleen's firm. I told him to help them with acoustics and lighting, but it seems he is more involved than that."

"Is it a good thing or bad?"

"It seems to be good, as he is taking more responsibility than given. You know he would shun responsibility previously. Now it seems Nishitha brought some change in him. It seems they are together now."

"How do you know that?"

"You remember when my mother told you to be careful, she asked me the same about him."

"What she asked, and when was that?"

"When we were returning from the Lab, she was asking me how they both were and if he is likely

to marry her. I told Mom I hope so. As he was shunning marriage earlier. It seems she is happy with the turn of events. I met Nishitha yesterday, she seemed different, not just happy but with some hormonal changes. Maybe she is pregnant.”

“Are you certain?”

“I don’t know I felt that about her. Maybe I will check with her.”

Kumar picked up the phone and spoke with Loveleen about the trip to the lab. Then he asked her to call Nishitha to her house. She must have asked him why, and he said he wanted to speak with her before his trip. He said ok, bye and cut the call.

Kumar looked at me and said, “I want to make sure before going to the lab. I am going for the bath, check what Rose is making for breakfast.”

I went into the kitchen, Rose was preparing chapatis and aloo curry was cooking on the stove. Seeing she could handle the breakfast I came back to the bedroom.

He finished his bath and dressing up. I went and adjusted his tie and handed him his coat from behind. After he wore it I touched his shoulders to remove a freckle of dust. I remembered this must be what Loveleen did that day.

*Did I misunderstand their relationship? He is heavily dependent on her for his day-to-day activities. After I went over to Hyderabad, he must have felt helpless and started depending on her. I should be happy there is someone to support him.*

I left him there and went to take a bath myself.

Dressed and came to the dining hall and found him sitting at the table waiting for me to come. I told him why don't you start?

"I am waiting for you, after a long time we are sitting at the breakfast table."

I served him chapatis on his plate and put curry in a bowl. He started eating. Seeing him I felt like a small child was sitting in front of me having breakfast.

Kumar lifted his head and said, "Why are you not eating."

"I am."

After breakfast, Kumar said, "Let us go to the office. He did not ask for tea, must be having that at the office.

As I was moving towards the gate, he said, "This way."

I thought what is he going to show me?

Instead, he took me through a small gate into Loveleen's compound.

"Whose idea is this?"

"Dead Kumar's idea."

Why bring dead Kumar into everything? We went to Loveleen's house from the back door and sat on the sofa. Her servant brought tea and placed it on the table. I asked, "What is your name?"

"Jyothi".

"Where is the other girl, what is her name?"

"She is working in Madam's office."

"How did you come to work here?"

"Krishna sent me. I am staying here 24 hours."

I looked at Kumar, he said, "Loveleen wanted a maid to stay at home, so Krishna arranged one known to him."

Is it his doing to replace the maid? What did he think I put her to chaperone on him?

Loveleen came and sat down on the sofa.

Loveleen said, "Ram is bringing Nishitha here."

Kumar said, "Good, I want to speak with both of them."

Kumar said to Loveleen “From the morning I am feeling an urge to go to the Lab. So, I thought I should leave by the first available flight.”

Loveleen said, “I got the tickets booked. It is a 2 pm flight.” He nodded his head. They were discussing business and I was listening as a silent spectator. I have a lot to catch up on the business front.

She must have told the watchman to bring both of them, Nishitha and Ram came and sat on the sofa. Nishitha looked at Loveleen to say what she called her for. Loveleen said, “Kumar wants to speak with you.”

Nishitha looked at Kumar. Kumar must have felt uneasy speaking with her about being pregnant, he looked at me and Nishitha now looking at me.

“Kumar suspects you are pregnant.”

Nishitha said, “How would he know, I did not know myself.”

“He knows things like that.”

She said, “I suspected something like that, I missed a month.”

Ram looked at her sharply as you did not tell me that.

Nishitha said, “I just had a talk with my mother about convincing my father about our marriage.”

“What is there to convince him?”

Nishitha said, “he madly believes in Kundali, my engagement with Kirit was cancelled due to that only. I told my mother to let go of any small problems in our Kundali.”

“What did your father say?”

Nishitha replied, “She did not tell me, maybe he wants to match our Kundali first and see.”

Kumar said, “to let him match, I know there won’t be a problem.”

I looked at him as to how do you know that.

It is the turn of Loveleen to ask him that.

His words surprised everyone. He said, “I know there won’t be a problem because their match is fixed in heaven.”

Ram, who does not believe all that, said, “Don’t talk rubbish.”

Loveleen said, “he is trying to fix your alliance, why are saying that, it’s ok if you don’t believe, she had to make her father agree to your alliance. Over that your castes are different, you are from the South and they are from the West, they don’t eat non-veg and you do. I don’t think Nishitha does not have a problem with that, but her father had to agree to your marriage. If he does not agree then you can think of



alternatives. Why take unnecessary tension before that happens.”

Looking at Nishitha she said, “Check with your mother and let us know. We are going to Vizag today to visit the lab, I will speak with you after we return.”

Nishitha nodded her head and said, “Can we go.”

Loveleen gave her some instructions and told them they could go.

Loveleen said, “Your instinct on these matters is dead-on, how did you know?”

“My mother was telling me to check them up.”

*I was about to say you were telling me something about hormonal changes, then stopped and looked at Loveleen, can I spot any hormonal changes in her? How long have these two been working? From the time of his birthday, when he saw her and called her for his birthday party. Is there a glow in her as my mother-in-law suggested? She seemed as beautiful as when I first saw her here in her house. Then she was a little haughty when we first met her. She must have thought who are these people invading her life? Now, she is more involved with his businesses than her own. Joy was telling how she had closed the deals with clients and over that, she got herself a contract for interior designing, which is also a big contract. Maybe getting*

*Nishitha as an assistant must have helped her. Kumar must have told her she was like a family and treated like one. There is a difference between working as if you belong in the company or just being an employee.*

*About their relationship, that day they cut short their operation, due to the meeting with the consortium. Then it does not seem like they are following up on that. What is their agreement for helping her father win the elections? From what he told me she will help him with the investments if her father becomes CM.*

*One thing good I did was to cut her short, I arranged the investments for him. Now he does not care if her father wins the elections or not. If he is not helping her, why she is holding on to him? Is she getting high on helping him out in his businesses? It seems she is fully involved with his businesses and he must be asking her opinion on all the matters. From what I know, he only asks for opinions, and the final decision is his only.*

They must have completed their discussion, Kumar got up and said, "Let go to the office."

She came behind him and patted him on his shoulders. What does it mean? You are doing a good job, or to show her closeness in front of me? Her subtle actions raise a lot of meanings.

We walked through another gate between her bungalow and our office bungalow. Now to

move between bungalows, we don't have to disturb the watchman. Did he get it done so that the watchmen do not keep an eye on his activities like moving around the house and office? Lots of things come to my observation, maybe because I have returned after a long time.

We were immersed in business activities. I try to absorb the changes made in the organisation. Then at 11:30, he got a call from Loveleen, which must be for going to the airport.

Kumar got up and said, "I will go and get ready.

"I will come and drop him at the airport", I will get some more time to spend with him.

He picked up the packed bag and we went to Loveleen's house. She showed him her luggage.

"I will get the car and went back and got in the car and drove to her gate. She got the watchman to put the luggage in the car. I sat in the passenger seat and told them about the lab. When we reached the airport, he picked up the luggage and put them in a trolley and they walked into the airport.

I came back to the office in the car and resumed my work.

I called Krishna and checked about the production.

Krishna said, "The production is planned by Ram, Kumar's brother and I am following that."

I asked him to pass the phone to Raj. Raj said the dispatches were going on smoothly and Mahira went to meet some clients. With that, I become up-to-date with the factory work.

Then I sat with Joy and looked at the projects going on. It seems Loveleen has her hand in the projects going on, as Joy was saying this is her idea, this is Kumar's Idea and likewise. At one point I did think, did I make a mistake to let her take over the business? Then I thought without her help we could not have expanded so fast. Now, what did he go to the lab for?

\*\*\*

Kumar came home after four days and we were hardly together for a day before he went away. Still, he does not seem to care for the fact I am with him. He is acting as he must have acted during my absence. I served him dinner. I completed my first course and he still looking at the food on his plate making marks. I got up and mixed his food and started feeding him. He ate it with an absent mind. It seems he would not have eaten it if I left him to be.

When he said, "Enough", I came back to my chair and resumed eating. He drank water and sat there, not even getting up to wash his hands. I completed my dinner, tapped on his shoulder, he

looked up into my eyes. Seeing his eyes, I was scared for the first time, he had a so sad face, I thought who died. Then he transformed the next minute and became normal. He looked at his hand and plate and then got up to wash his hands.

We went to sit on the sofa in the hall. I asked, "What happened, you looked so sad?"

"I saw what happens when the virus escapes."

"What happened?"

"They put the meteorite under a block of cement. Due to an earthquake, the cement block broke and it was exposed and now the surroundings were exposed to the virus. I don't know what would be the consequences. Then I saw Leena, not our Leena but the Leena who went back to her timeline from dead Kumar was working on finding the cure for that."

"If Dimitri can't find the cure, can she find the cure when a disaster is looming in the air?"

"She did not yet know about the disaster, she took up the virus for her thesis. They have the latest equipment and super-computers and all for their study. She had already done the DNA sequencing and found it was from outer space as she could not find a match. She went and asked her colleagues for help. Hope they will find a cure soon, so we can ask Dimitri to follow it up."

“If Dimitri already found it, would not they know about it?”

“They belong to different timelines; one timeline doesn’t know about what is happening at other timelines. It seems I am like an interface between the timelines. Now I have to check the status of the interface design I gave to my brother.”

Kumar called home and asked for Ram. Mom said, “he has not yet come home.”

I thought he must be dropping Nishitha and would be going home. Kumar told his mom to tell Ram to call him as soon as he came home.

“If you have this much knowledge why do you need an interface to link to a computer.”

“I have lots of data I have to save to the computer, which will release my mind space. Until I can clear my mind of the data, no more data can arrive. Which must be stopping me from getting the knowledge for the cure.”

I held him close by putting my hands around his shoulder and I sat like that with him enjoying his company.

Kumar got up to go to the bedroom.

We both went and he said, “I will have a bath and come.”

Kumar came out with a towel around his waist. I looked at his body, he seemed different, it appeared he put on weight. His chest expanded and no fat around the stomach. I went to him and tried to kiss him. He not only had to look down, but he had also to fold his legs to kiss me.

I asked him, "Did you grow tall these days."

"I don't know I feel the dresses were shortening and shirts were tightening."

"When did you start working out?"

"I have not been working out. I did not have enough time for work. Where would I get time for a workout?"

It seems it is not only his mind; his body is also improving. I caught him at his throat and started to kiss him on his chest, as I could not reach his lips. I lead him to the bed with his towel around his waist.

After our coupling, I lay beside him and put my hand on his chest, it seemed he had totally transformed in just two days. He was not like this when we had sex last time.

How is this possible, in just two days how he could transform like this? With the comfort of his body, I slipped into sleep.

\*\*\*\*

I woke up when Kumar speaking in his sleep.

When I tapped Kumar, he woke up. He opened his eyes and asked, "What happened?"

"You are naming some chemical names."

"So, what, for that, you had to wake me up? I was getting the medicine for the virus."

"Did I disturb you?"

"I don't know, I have to see if I can recollect the medicine or not."

"Sorry."

"It is ok, you were not there for a long time, you may not know what changes are happening to me. I started to get more dreams. Earlier I used to get dreams only from my alter ego, but nowadays I am getting dreams from elsewhere too. Today I got the dream from dead Kumar's Leena, who stayed for some time with him and went away. That must be another timeline. When you went missing, I had the idea from some other timeline and then contacted Bob. Sneha who is very old was asking very young Kumar, as young as me, to find her niece. He went searching for them in Araku and found they had stayed at Padmavathi Gardens and they went missing without paying their bills. Now you can't go inside the garden without a ticket, only those who booked the rooms are allowed to go in and out with an ID. How they can go missing from there? Even Bob could not find out what



happened to them and picked up Sneha's niece from the time before they could go on their trip. The same thing would have happened to you, so I called Bob and told him about your missing, and asked him to search for you as he had for them. He even asked how do you know about them. Here he saved all of you because you are needed for the lab."

I kissed him and asked, "Did you ask him to save me?"

"If I did not find you, the Andhra police would have arrested me and would have taken me to Hyderabad."

He smiled and said, "I am just joking, they don't have any right to arrest me, at least they informed me you were missing, so I could contact Bob. I called the Crime branch SI, and he spoke to the SI who had come for me, not to touch me."

"Did you not worry that I have gone missing?"

"I don't have to worry, I know where I can find you anytime. If not, Bob is there to help me out. When you went to collect the samples, did you find them in any way connected to your tour or the way you were about to travel? I am thinking does it have anything to do with your disappearance?"

I thought for a minute, I don't know for sure, because we went by van to bring them back. I have no idea which route we had travelled to pick the samples."

He looked at the time, it was 3:30 am. He looked at me, and my sleep also blew away.

He told me to come near and started kissing. I am not one to refuse a good fuck and so I cooperated with him. Tired we went back to our beauty sleep.

\*\*\*\*

I touched where Kumar would sleep in my sleep. Not finding him to my touch I opened my eyes and looked. He is not there on the bed. I looked at the time, it was 6:30. He must have got up and might have had his morning coffee already. I brushed and came into the hall shouting for coffee. When I looked at the sofa, he is not there, where he could have gone at this hour? Not to that Loveleen's house again?

*What does he see in her, he goes behind her and takes her wherever he goes. Why does he need to keep someone with him every time? Is it because he wants someone beside him as he might have problems with himself like falling asleep?*

*How he was talking in his sleep. Does he want someone to note them down? Could he recollect*

*the details or not? It was my mistake to disturb his dream. He is very much worried about the outbreak of the virus. I have seen what it can do. If it comes out into the population, maybe half the population would be wiped out in a matter of hours.*

*During my stay at the lab, I read some articles about the virus. Some people will have the natural power to fight viruses. Some will have just the opposite effect, they will be susceptible to infection easily. It must be nature's way of protecting the population from annihilation or being at the mercy of a virus.*

*There is a reason Kumar is worried about the outbreak of that virus, but why the government is not taking care of that, instead it is keeping it secret not only from the general public but from the scientific community too who would be prepared for any eventuality. How Bob is involved in all this? How did he get the letter of authority to get the bodies out of the meteorite strike area? How did Dimitri get involved in this? Has our government informed the Russian government to help out, so they sent Dimitri from their side to find a cure?*

*From what Kumar told me about their work in the lab, they don't seem to be that much experienced in finding a cure. They don't have the knowledge or having required equipment or additives to find the cure. Kumar of all people had to advise them*

*and order the required chemicals from the US with the help of Bob. How does Kumar know all this? If he is such a knowledgeable person, why did he not go and do the research himself?*

*He must be of the opinion, that there is a saying donkey work donkey to do and horse work only horse should do. So, he is letting them handle the work and only advises them when they are clueless.*

Seeing him coming back with a cup in his hand, I asked him, "Where did you disappear?"

He said, "I went to the office to note down the cure for the virus from the last night's dream. I sent Dimitri the combination for them to check against the virus."

Seeing the cup in his hand I believed him, he could not have gone to Loveleen's with a cup of coffee in his hand. She would scold him can't I give you a cup of coffee, maybe she might not have gotten up yet. She is like me late to wake up.

\*\*\*\*

We both had our bath and breakfast and walked over to the office.

Kumar and I just entered the door of the office. I was telling Kumar about the happenings in the office, and he was listening to me while looking at me.

Loveleen said, "That is Nandini, Kumar's wife."

There was a new girl who looked at Loveleen and said surprisingly "She is quite beautiful", as if she lied to her. "Is she the one Subba Rao's daughter?"

Loveleen said, "Yes."

She waited for us to come in and came in front of Kumar, hugged him and said, "Thank you Bhaiyya for saving my friend's life the other day."

Kumar caught her shoulders and said, "What is there just help with a word, if she is your friend she is also my sister", as if accepting her as a sister.

She turned to me shook my hand and said, "Your cousin Srinivasulu married my friend Pooja.

I nodded and said, "Oh, ok" and turned to Kumar.

Kumar said, "She is Sonali, we met on the flight to Vizag. It is nothing much, just a problem with the dowry. I told them if they don't get the amount, I will pay it and they continued the marriage, and the money arrived everything is good."

Sonali turned to me and shook my hand once again and said, "Thanks to you and your father, they just accepted Kumar Bhaiyya's word."

Kumar told Sonali to come with him and he went to his cabin and we all followed him. I and Sonali

sat in front of him on the chairs, and Loveleen and Joy went and sat on the sofa.

Kumar said to Sonali, "Have you met Nandini, my wife, she is the one, who is Mr Subba Rao's daughter. She is a partner in this software business along with Joy" and pointed out Joy. "We used to have computer assembly here but now we shifted it to another place, a factory where we established manufacturing facilities."

"What happened to the cure you were going to check after coming down here?"

"I noted down some chemical combinations and sent them over through the server. See this modem and showed a box-like thing on the table and said, "This is connected to a phone line, using this I can send a document to anyone with a modem and telephone connection. Now we will connect it to a satellite also. We have the server on the first floor."

"What about the vaccine?"

"Yesterday, I gave them an idea, they were waiting for some chemicals from the USA, and as soon as they arrive, they will start testing."

Now the three of us started talking in Telugu.

Loveleen and Joy looked at each other's faces, as they didn't understand a bit what we were talking and they got up and walked out of the

room slowly. Kumar looked at them and gave a smile as you can go and carry on your work.

Sonali asked me about our love story.

I said, "I had seen him at our college in Dehradun when he came to deliver some items. I fell in love with him at first look. But by the time I could get his contact details, he went away. So, I got the details from whom he came to deliver the goods. By the time I reached the address, he had already sold his house and shifted to Bombay. When my father went to marriage at Gunter and asked me to help her friend's daughter's marriage, I went to their hotel room and found Kumar there. I came to know he had collected a cheque for developing a piece of software, I took him to my house on the pretext of developing hospital software. He refused my help and said he could develop the entire software without my help. In his sister's marriage, their families discussed and decided to fix their alliance. That way we were married. It is partially love and partially arranged marriage."

Seeing him checking the system, I asked, "Any news?"

"Nothing yet, I can't say no news is good news in these circumstances. Once he knows something he will let us know. The best thing under these circumstances is to have a vaccine. Otherwise, by the time it was found that the virus has hit the population, many would be dead."

Kumar called on the phone and asked for Bob. It seems he is not available.

“What happened?”

“Bob is not reachable. He must have gone to check the earthquake zone.”

“Where is the earthquake zone?”

“I am not sure, the virus I was talking about has escaped after an earthquake and the people in that area are exposed to the virus. It seems Bob had gone there to evaluate the status of the area.”

“Will it be problematic for us?”

“I don’t think so, I was trying to contact Bob to inform him about the earthquake only. He must have already been informed.”

Loveleen came and informed us we had to go to the factory.

Sonali said, “Can I come too.”

“Hop in”, switched off the computer and got up.

“Nandini, are you coming?”

Seeing them I said, “You carry on, I have to meet some clients.”

They went out and took the car and drove away.

\*\*\*\*



Kumar, Sonali and Loveleen went to visit the factory. I called Loveleen's servant in the guise of asking about her well-being. I asked her how many people's food she had to prepare and what items she was preparing. Could she prepare the food items asked by Loveleen as she is a Punjabi, etc?

It seems most of the time Kumar is having food at Loveleen's house only. Then I called our servant and scolded her for not preparing food for Kumar as he was eating in Loveleen's house most of the time. Her words have supported what I was suspecting all this while. I told her to go and finish the lunch.

Then Joy came with a project and we sat discussing that. I prepared the cost estimates and she went away.

Kumar returned with Sonali and Loveleen, and Sonali went away and Loveleen went to her house.

I went and sat in front of Kumar while he worked on checking the projects. Seeing the time, he said, "Let us go for lunch.

After Lunch, he called up the lab to speak with Dimitri and it seems that the combination of the medicines seems to be working, they have to check further on that.

But the problem is medicines will not have much effect on these kinds of viruses. It required vaccines to control the spread of the virus. Kumar says they are working on the vaccines on another timeline. When they find the vaccine, he can inform Dimitri on how to create the virus.

What technique to use for that, Kumar already gave them a technique for creating the virus, the only thing that is missing with them are the chemicals used in the process, he is going to get them from the USA.

Kumar called Loveleen to ask for her driver to go to the factory. It seems he doesn't want to drive to the factory or return from factory driving. He might be testing the interface his brother is building, maybe he doesn't trust himself to drive back.

He spoke to her and said, "Bye" and went away. So, I slowly walked to the office.

The receptionist said, "There is a fax for you madam and handed over the Chemicals order from the US. They will be sent directly to Vizag. So, I arranged with the agent from Vizag to collect the cheque from Monica pay the customs duties and get the chemicals delivered immediately.

\*\*\*\*\*

I looked at the time it is 6 pm. I called Kumar at the factory, he said, "You have dinner and go to sleep. I will be delayed."

Delayed means when will he reach home?

I closed my office and went to the house. I switched on the TV and sat before it. I am switching on the TV after a long time. We don't watch much of the TV. When at 8 pm, I sat alone for dinner and after completing dinner, I went and lay on the bed, slowly I slipped into sleep.

\*\*\*\*

I came back from meeting with a client and our bedroom door is closed. Why is it closed? I turned the knob and pushed the door open. What I find is Kumar is in bed with Loveleen. She is lying on the bed with her feet down on the ground and he is pumping her standing in front of her. Seeing that I turned and walked back to the hall and fell back on the sofa.

Kumar must have felt I came, dressed up with haste and came down and stood before me.

"What are you doing there."

"Loveleen is feeling lonely, so I am giving her company."

I shouted at him "Is that the way to give company? I am not going to stay here for one more second. I am going back to Hyderabad. You

decide you want Loveleen or me. If you want me come with me to Hyderabad now. Otherwise don't show me your face again."

Kumar fell on his knees and said, "I am sorry Nandu, I want you and you only. I don't want anyone else."

"Then go and pack your bag and come.

Kumar went and brought two bags.

"Did you pack?"

"I packed for both of us."

"Then come with me. I took out the car and told him to put the bags in there."

Kumar puts the bags in dicky and slammed it shut. We took the next flight to Hyderabad and landed there.

"I can't stay with you in your house, what will everyone talk about me?"

I told him then you be here for a few days, we will look for another house and will shift there.

We got for rent another house nearby and shifted there.

"Look after the computer department in our hospital."

"I can't work in the hospital, it feels like I am eating in-law's food."

“I will get him some other job.”

Kumar went to some interviews and came back. It is like he doesn't want to work under someone.

Then I sent him to GVK to help them out in their IT.

Kumar went there and spoke to their Accounts Manager. He told him to do some data entry work for the computerisation of Assets.

Kumar came back and told me he started doing data entry work for 3,000 rupees per month. For the person who earned lakhs per month, three thousand is like peanuts. But he did that work for me.

Then one of my cousins drops by my house. She ran away from home, she would feel too shy to come to my father's house. She came over to me to reconnect with other relatives.

Kumar comes home and sits on the chair with a sad face.

I asked him what happened. He was working on the data entry, and he made a small tweak in the software for fast data entry. However, the EDP in charge called him and rebuked me for making the changes in the software. I don't want to work for these kinds of people.

My cousin said, “You come to live where we are, we will get you a job nearby.”

We shifted there and they could not get him a job, even a small one. Then we came to stay near our father's house again. Someone offered him a job in the JK Seeds Division as a data entry operator. He went and joined and seeing his background, first, they were offering him 1800, but now offered him 2000. He joined and the EDP head asked him to develop and show fixed assets software.

Kumar did it in a week. They offered him a permanent job as a software developer and gave him a salary of 5000.

Kumar developed their entire software in 6 months. Now when the time for confirmation came, they asked him to write a letter to the HO for confirmation. He did as they told him, they gave him confirmation but did not offer any increment. He felt very bad after doing the software, they did not even offer him an increment. Then their EDP Head offered him a job with a hospital for developing their software. Kumar did not tell him that he had already developed it. His boss made an agreement with the hospital and they set up a company to develop the software. Then for working so hard, Kumar developed Diabetes.

Then when the project was completed the developers went their way leaving Kumar to look after their software installations on his own. Then he got an order for installation of software

at a hospital. He went and installed and they took him as an IT Manager in their hospital. Now the hospital where he developed the software called him for some maintenance. He went and the doctor told him to have a physical and send him to their hospital to have a whole-body check-up.

There it was found his cholesterol was elevated and his TMT showed abnormal readings and he was sent for an angiogram. Where it showed his three arteries were blocked to the tune of 90, 80 and 70 and they advised him to have an open-heart surgery. He was admitted to our hospital for open heart at my insistence.

After the surgery, he was lying on the bed with all the tubes from his body. I could not see him like that and said, "How you were before coming to Hyderabad and how you became."

Then I woke up with a start and realised that I had dreamed all this. Before going to bed I was thinking of taking him away from Loveleen. Did the dream show me what would happen if I took him away to Hyderabad? Is it a signal for me to let him live life as he deems fit? But what about me? Does the dream mean he will always put me first, but not to take this too far with him and it will harm him more than it would be to my liking? Nowadays he is working on multiple projects, he is even helping Dimitry an experienced scientist with information from the

future. To get the knowledge he is even readying to connect himself to an experimental machine, without any fear of the consequences. His only aim at this juncture is to find the cure for the virus and stop the coming holocaust. If I disturb his routine, what would happen?

I called the factory and Krishna said they are calibrating the machine to receive the communications. Once this is done, he will come with the machine. I said, "ok" and went back to sleep.

\*\*\*\*

I got up and looked at the watch it was 7:00 am. I looked beside me, Kumar was sleeping peacefully, I didn't want to wake him for fear of disturbing his memory transfers.

I went back to sleep.

Then I woke up at 8 am. I looked beside me and Kumar already got up. I went to the bathroom, brushed and came over to the hall. Kumar sipping coffee, he must have got up a few minutes before me. I went to the kitchen door and asked Rose for coffee. She said she would bring it to me and I went and sat on the sofa.

I looked at him, he looked so innocent, that I wanted to kiss him. But then remembered what the servants said about him. I was in two minds what was correct and what was wrong. Rose



placed the cup on the table in front of me. I looked at her and nodded my head. I kept looking at Kumar. He turned towards me and lifted his eyebrows, in question.

I asked him, "If I ask you to come to Hyderabad permanently would you come?"

He said, "Why not, we could restart our career there."

It seems he doesn't have any objection to coming with me to Hyderabad.

\*\*\*\*

I did not think he would agree to come to Hyderabad so easily, but thinking about how he would turn out to be, I decided not to try my luck with this idea.

I have to reconfirm with Rosy what she saw.

I went to the Kitchen and asked her what she saw about Kumar and Loveleen.

"I went to give coffee to Kumar sir, he took the coffee and said to check with Loveleen madam sleeping in the guest room. Then I took her coffee and he woke her and handed it to her."

*So, what she is saying is Kumar and Loveleen slept in separate rooms. Why would she sleep when her house is next door? What did he say in my dream? He said she was lonely and he gave her company. Am I interpreting that as him*

*having sex with her? Would she have sex with him? She was unmarried, match fixed by her parents and her would-be is above six feet, with lots of money and political leverage, which all point to her father getting help from him in his career.*

*What Kumar can do? He had failed to give her any help fixing her father's career. He might have said Guru is impotent and there is no solid proof for that. He failed to give them any solid idea to dethrone the CM. After returning from Delhi, he was concentrating on other things and his idea to make her father CM has taken a backseat. Why would she be interested in him?*

*Maybe Kumar is keeping her with him for company, recently he was falling asleep all of a sudden, or behaving oddly in his sleep, so he must be wanting someone to look after him in such conditions.*

Kumar asked, "What are you thinking?"

"We have not received the courier reaching the lab with the chemicals ordered. I have got the agents from Vizag to make the payments to customs."

"They would reach in time don't worry."

"Was your experiment with the interface was successful?"

“I have yet to check the instrument. I have to link it to a computer and load AI and then I have to permit AI to receive the data through the interface. Then AI will interpret the data and sort it and store it in appropriate files.”

Now what kind of data it will retrieve from his brain? Can I have a look at it when the data is downloaded? Will it reveal his relationship with Loveleen? We have to wait for that.

Completing my coffee, I told Kumar I would go for a bath and come. I went into the bathroom put my clothes in a basket and turned the shower. I heard a knock on the door.

“What is it?”

“Can I come in?”

“Come then.”

He opened the door removed his dress and dropped them on the basket.

“We have not had a bath together for a long time.”

I came out towelling and Kumar is continuing his bath. Kumar always finds new ways to have fun.

*I went and stood before the mirror. I looked at myself. I am five feet three inches tall and have a glass figure body. I seem to be losing a little of my figure, but my boobs seem to be improving. It must be due to his way of lovemaking. Today he*

*was marvellous. With his improved body and height, I don't know anyone can increase their height like that. It is not that his height is increased with any artificial means. It seems to be natural because his whole body increased in proportion. Day to day he is improving, how can I think of losing him? He does not seem to be tired of me.*

Kumar came from behind hugged me and asked, "What are you looking at."

"If I am compatible with you or not."

"What is there to think, you and me are one and the same. We love each other, you have been my constant companion from the time we met, and you have been my inspiration and my support. If I had not met you then, I don't know if I could have done all this."

Listening to him I looked into the mirror, his one hand is on my boobs another was on my cunt handling them. From behind his manhood is pressing on my back. We just had sex in the bathroom and he is ready for another round. I looked at the time and decided who was going to ask about coming late and led him to the bed.

I got up and went to the bathroom and came back and dressed. By the time Kumar dressed and went to the dining room.

We completed our breakfast and went to the office.

Joy is sitting in her cabin and working. Loveleen has not yet come.

Kumar asked the office boy to bring the interface instrument from his car and place it on his table.

Kumar called Joy and asked her to load AI software into his system. She sat on his chair and loaded the software from the server. She typed something in there and said now the software is ready.

Kumar nodded and sat down on the chair and told me to connect the EEG leads to his head. I placed the leads on each side of his head.

“Switch on the machine.”

I put the power cord in the UPS power and switched it on. He looked at the AI readings. He sat back in a relaxing position and closed his eyes. I looked at the computer screen and looked at Joy.

Joy looked at the screen and said, “AI is reading the input it is receiving.”

After perhaps half an hour he opened the eyes and asked me to remove the leads.

I removed the leads and he typed something on the keyboard and looked at the screen. Now the screen showed running matter and when it

finished, he checked the directory and said, “It seems it can recognise the matter and can sort it through.

I jumped with joy and hugged Joy who was standing beside me.

Kumar started reading the matter and started noting down something on paper. Then he typed and sent it through data transfer and sat back on his chair.

“So, what did you find?”

“I noted down points related to the Lab, and sent them in the mail for the action to be taken.”

“Then they can start the production of the cure?”

“I sent them the medicines for the cure. For the vaccine, I have to work a little more. Then they have to receive the chemicals also.”

Kumar said, “I will try some more time. This time I will check about the future events.”

He asked me to put the leads on and then switched on the interface and sat back closing his eyes.

I told Joy to go and look after her work, I will watch Kumar.

She went away and I sat there looking at Kumar.

This time he had taken more than 2 hours. When he opened his eyes, I removed the leads and he got up and came and sat on the sofa. He asked for some water and then he asked for a cup of tea.

I called the pantry and told them to send two cups of tea.

Kumar drank the tea and relaxed.

“How are you feeling.”

“It feels as if a weight has been removed from my head. The heaviness has gone. I feel like I can take up some more work.”

“That is nice to know. Let us go home, better relax for some time.”

“We will go at lunchtime after one hour. Let me check what things we can take up immediately.”

I let him work until lunchtime.

“Come for lunch I am going home and will set up the table.”

Kumar nodded his head and continued his work.

I came back and arranged the table and he had not yet come home. I had to ring him twice before he came home. We had our lunch and went and sat on the sofa.

Kumar said, “Now I can concentrate on the future events as I had a good idea of how it was

going in which direction. I may require another two to three hours with the interface to clear my mind of all this junk cluttering my brain with things. Then I will be free of all this.”

“If you clear your mind, won’t you forget everything that is going to happen and you may not remember that at the required time, like in a meeting with the consortium.”

Kumar thought for a minute and said, “That is also there. But important things are never forgotten, they stay safe somewhere in the mind.”

Kumar went back to the office and called Loveleen.

I let them discuss what they wanted and went out to meet a client.

\*\*\*\*

This client is a hospital. The hospital was newly constructed and was about to start its operations. I went and met the MD of the hospital, who is a doctor himself, his name is Dr. Jason Rodrigues. His daughter Amanda looks after the management of the hospital. He introduced me to his daughter. We discussed the pricing and I promised them I would help them set up the hospital, as I had done with our hospital in Hyderabad.



Amanda asked, "If you helped set up the hospital, then why are not you running the hospital there?"

"I don't want to stay away from my husband, so I came here to look after his software company. Recently I had set up an R&D Lab near Vizag."

"What are you researching there."

"We are into virus cures. We have been tasked with a deadly virus. Whoever was infected by the virus was dying within hours."

Jason asked, "Then why didn't we hear about it?"

"It was kept a secret by the government. Our country's president was about to make an announcement after inaugurating our lab, but I think the government pulled the plug on the announcement."

Amanda asked, "How serious is the threat."

"I can't talk about its origins, but it is a very credible threat. If the virus infects the general population, half of the country's population would be dead within months."

"Then how are you dealing with creating a cure?"

"We already found some chemical combinations for a medicine. But our main target is to find a vaccine for the virus. It is the only way the virus could be managed."

“So, what are they doing to contain the virus?”

“They have barricaded the area when I last saw it.”

“You went to the area?”

“We went there to collect the samples, with full body protection and all. They have military monitoring the area with full fencing.”

“So how much did you spend on the lab?”

“Until now we spent around 30 crores on building and equipment excluding the land.”

“How much land are you using?”

“The primary land for the lab is around 10 acres. And we are using more land as a buffer.”

“How did you manage the funding?”

“50 per cent of the funding is mine and the rest of it my friends chipped in.”

“Who is looking after the Research.”

“We got a Russian scientist by the name of Dimitri, he is the head and he had an assistant too from Russia. All the equipment is imported from Russia.”

“So how close you came to finding the vaccine.”

“My husband Kumar visited them and gave them some instructions on how to proceed with the vaccine development.”

“I think he is in the software field; how can he do that?”

“he says he got a link to the future, he is developing an AI, that is Artificial Intelligence software to retrieve information. He already passed on the medicine’s chemical combination to the lab for testing. He is waiting for future people to find the vaccine to pass it on to the lab for testing.”

Jason said, “It seems he is more resourceful than we thought.”

“Do you know they have a consortium of big companies, looking into future products? Recently they got a contract for the Railway Ticketing system, where they will use the data transfer technology developed by Kumar. We are using the same to communicate with the lab. He prepares a document and sends it to the server and the lab receives the document in their system, immediately. First, he developed this software for a courier company and they paid him 50 lakhs, which was his seed money for this company. Now we are manufacturing electronics components and assembling computers in our factory. I got the quotation for the computers, these are all assembled in our factory, that is the reason we can give them at the lowest price in the market. Now big brands are asking us to assemble them in our factory and supply them. If they are importing them, the

import duties are higher than importing kits. Nowadays we are only importing main components like chips and we are making the other components here. From PCBs to heatsinks, fans, resistors, capacitors, etc. In a year or two, our hardware division will surpass the software division.”

Jason said, “So you have three divisions Software, hardware and lab.

Amanda asked, “What is the investment structure made up of?”

“Our software company is 50 per cent Kumar, 25 per cent mine and 25 per cent our development partner. The assembly division is 70 per cent to Kumar and another 30 per cent to his 3 partners who are looking after the division. About the manufacturing company, I don’t know exactly the share capital structure. Because it was invested by one Mr Bob, who made the investment in the manufacturing company, which I and my friends were contemplating and he made us invest in the lab he got the equipment from the USA and paid for the import duties too. I think he has a problem paying in Russian Roubles, so he made us do the switch.”

They looked at each other’s faces.

“Sorry, I must be talking too much.”

Amanda said, "It is not your mistake, we were enquiring, we heard Kumar is just a commerce graduate, we were wondering how he could develop software, or is it his partner's knowledge he is exploiting."

"It is not like that, it was he, who gave life to Joy, our partner. When I met him at his sister's marriage, Joy, Leena's mother and his girlfriend Sunitha were missing and their whereabouts were unknown. Joy and Leena's mother Sahithi were kidnapped by a gang. In fact, Joy was paid by her senior at USA college to kidnap her and put her in a dark room. Sahithi was also kidnapped by the same gang and sold off. Then Sunitha was presumed dead in a plane crash, she was working as an air hostess. When I asked him to develop the hospital software, he just did it from his memory, he did not even take input from me. After completing the software, he gave it to me to test. I only made minor changes to the software. He said I had already given him all the required information. When we were in the testing phase, we found his partner Joy in a police station. They arrested her with a bunch of prostitutes. She was being taken to be sold off. He got her released by the SI and the man who was transporting them, but they could not get any clues. Then he had to run an operation with the help of police to find the kidnapers and at last, found Leena's mother Sahithi in Calcutta,

where she was taken by her buyer. But how did you know he just studied commerce degree.”

Jason said, “At the party, Raj was talking about Kumar and their friendship, he must have had two or three pegs already. He was telling the gathering how he met Kumar when he came for his holidays. How Kumar and Sahithi met and how he arranged for them to come close. How Leena was conceived and how Sahithi gave birth to Leena and left the baby. We did not understand what he said about her time travelling and all that.”

I didn’t want to elaborate on that and said, “I also don’t understand all that. But seeing Leena all grown up we have to believe it or Leena is someone else, he just says she is his daughter for her sake.”

Amanda said, “I also thought so. So, what you are saying is that he already knew the software when you met him?”

“I stayed with him for more than two weeks while he developed the hospital software. He did not refer to a book, he did not even consult me about what he should make. He also developed factory software keeping the future in mind. He says whatever he does, he keeps in mind the future. He wants to bring the internet to us. He says it will not be until 1995 that the internet would be in India from the government, that too through the telephone lines. He wants to get the

internet through cables, which will be many times faster.”

“But, what is the internet?”

“The internet is what connects us to the rest of the world. Any information can be exchanged in a matter of minutes. He says there will be mobile telephones. We can talk with anyone in the world while travelling or on the move. We don’t have to worry that we will miss communications. They are already working on that, all they need is licensing from the government. They have already leased a transponder on INSAT 1c.”

“You mean the satellite?”

“Yes.”

“What are they going to do with it?”

“They will be using it in communications, I don’t have an exact idea. Then he says we can watch the surgeries from far away and can give our expert opinion during the surgery. Then there will be robotic arms helping with surgeries. So much new technology will be used in health care and hospitals. He is preparing a document and will be submitting it to his consortium.”

“Who is part of the consortium?”

“All the big companies are part of the consortium. But Mr Godrej is closest to him. Mr Tata takes the lead in the discussions. Or the

government calls him for consultations. Then Mr Mehta comes to the meetings, and Mr Birla and most of the top industrialists are part of the group.

“We got a lot of information from you, let us go and visit the hospital and see what are the requirements to be met.”

\*\*\*\*

We made a round of the hospital and I gave her some advice on where services can be improved.

When we finished the tour, I said, “I will have your quote for the application and I already submitted the hardware quote. Please consider the purchases.”

I reached the office and while entering the door, I saw Loveleen come out of Kumar’s cabin. I smiled at her and she smiled back and asked, “Went to meet a client?”

I nodded my head and said, “A hospital.”

I opened the door and entered Kumar’s cabin and he sat there with the leads and machine switched on. I looked at the computer and it is showing the data being received from the machine and being sorted by the AI. I sat there watching him.

Two hours passed and there was no movement from him. I went to him and checked his



breathing, and it was even. So, I touched his shoulder and looked at the monitor. The data display slowed and stopped. He slowly opened his eyes. I removed the leads. He waited for some time and got up, I took him to the house and sat him at the dining table.

I brought the serving bowls placed them on the table and served him. He ate silently and got up to wash his hands. Then he came and sat on the sofa, putting his legs on the table and sat in a relaxed pose. Then he closed his eyes.

I let him be and I sat beside him.

I heard the telephone ring and woke up. It seems I sat with him and went to sleep. I looked at Kumar and his eyes were still closed. I got up and lifted the receiver and said hello.

It is from the office, the receptionist said, "There is a call from Amanda."

"Connect me." She wanted some confirmation about the software.

I spoke with her and cut the call.

I looked at Kumar his eyes were still closed.

I went and checked his pulse. His pulse is ok. It seems he is in deep meditation.

I could not leave him like that and sat back with him.

Kumar opened his eyes after one hour, and said, "Sorry I could not respond to you, I was receiving the information from somewhere else. This time it is another Kumar, he is sitting in a court and the court case is about his company, still, he is smiling that the case would be a sham, even if the opposite person wins the case, he would not lose anything. That is the last scene I received. I have to upload it and see what that means. As my mind is getting cleared, I am getting more information. I don't know how it will be helpful for me."

We went to the office and Kumar asked me to connect the leads and switch on the interface. Seeing the data received by AI, I went to check my work.

\*\*\*\*

Joy came to my room and said, "Dolly came and sat in Kumar's room and Kumar went into his room. I think he spoke to the watchman, who had warned him. What shall we do?"

"Let us go and see what they are doing."

We went near his door and Kumar asked her to fix the leads on his head. We stood by the door and looked inside, he switched on the machine and said to her not to disturb him. What is his play?

After a few minutes, he opened his eyes removed the leads and told her, “You were sitting in a political office, there is a U-shaped sofa and some policemen enter the office and you try to get away from them but they catch you and the politicians PA comes and tells that she is the one came to meet his boss. They take you away and put you in jail. When asked about her accomplices she tells them about a certain RK and they also arrest him. Then after some time a person looking like me comes and meets you. He asks why did you get me killed? You reply why would I kill you, I might kill you if you are a witness or something like that. I don’t have anything against you. But I got Joy kidnapped while she was coming to see your body. But how did you rise from the dead? I say that I am not the same person, as someone who looks like him. Do you want to know more?”

She said, “so this machine can show the future, whose future it will show? Can it show the past too?”

He said, “Yes, certainly.”

She said, “Then I want to see who has put me in jail.”

He said, “Ok, sit I will put the leads on you, you don’t open your eyes until I tell you, otherwise you may not remember anything.”

She nods her head. He puts the leads on her head and Kumar types something on the keyboard and then switches the machine. Seeing us at the door, he slowly gets up from the chairs and comes to the door opens the door and comes out and closes the door.

“What are you doing?”

Kumar said, “I am cleaning her mind of all the details of her activities. Then I will pass it on to the police. I will check how much I am getting into the system. You inform the SI to come to take her back.”

I rang up the SI from the phone book and told him I am Nandini, Kumar’s wife, Dolly is sitting in his cabin and he told me to tell you to come and pick her up.

He asked, “Is she armed?”

“Nothing like that, she came to him to ask for help. He got her on an interface machine, it will pick her brain and you can get all her activities.”

“I am leaving just now.”

“There is no urgency, she will not open her eyes for another hour at least.”

When the police took Dolly away, I went to Kumar’s cabin and asked, “What just happened?”

He said, “Dolly’s mind might have been cleaned by the machine. She went into some kind of

amnesia. I tweaked the machine to retrieve all her memories?”

“Be careful when you connect to the machine.”

“I don’t have much use for the machine now. Maybe once in a week would do the trick.”

“I am telling you to be careful when you connect the next time.”

“I know that. I am thinking of cleaning up the bad memories from Sahithi. I don’t know how much she endured when kidnapped.”

“You better be careful with her too, what if she loses the memory like Dolly.”

Kumar looked at me nodded his head and said, “That is the reason I am using AI and I am putting some security patch so, this will not happen. I did that as a test subject, I think what I thought was successful.”

“Do you mean to say you did that purposefully?”

“Yes, I don’t want her to go and tell her gang to target us. If she came here means she has some doubts. She wanted to find out who had put her in jail. Whatever our work has been completed.”

“What did you find from using the machine on yourself?”

"I found about other timelines, which were all jumbled up earlier. The AI has separated those timelines and I made some notes about them."

"Can I see them?"

"I am still making notes, when I complete them you can read them. Otherwise, I won't know if I am mixing the timelines. This Saturday evening, I am arranging a party."

"What is the occasion."

"I want to announce the engagement of Ram with Nishitha."

"Oh, ok." Doesn't he remember my birthday on Sunday? Ok, let it be, I will take revenge on him.

"I am going to my cabin" and left him to his work.

On the way I met Joy, and she winked at me, what does she mean by her winking?

I saw Loveleen coming from out and going to his room. I wanted to go behind her and see what they were discussing. I controlled myself and went and sat on the chair.

The receptionist called and said, "Call from Amanda."

I said, "connect." We spoke about the pricing and I remembered about the party, I said, "We have a party on Saturday."

Amanda said, "I have already received the invitation."

*They have already sent the invitations, who has done that? Is Joy winking about that? Is Kumar planning a surprise party for me? That is the reason they could be doing everything behind my back.*

\*\*\*\*

Kumar came to my cabin to call me for lunch. I got up and went to our house to arrange lunch.

I saw Kumar and Loveleen come together.

Why is Loveleen coming behind us? It seems Kumar called her for lunch.

He opened the backdoor with his keys and we entered the room we went in and Kumar sat at the dining table. Loveleen came from behind and sat down beside Kumar. I went into the kitchen to bring the dishes.

I heard a knock on the back door. I went and opened it. Jyothi is standing there with dishes in her hand.

"What is it?"

"Madam told me to bring them here."

"ok, put them on the table" and went into the kitchen to get more dishes.

*I sat opposite them at the table. I looked at them interacting while eating. It seems they were having lunch together for some time. They must have connected in my absence. But today, I saw a sea of change in Loveleen's demeanour. What is that I can't put my hand on it. It seems Kumar must have spoken to her about his visions. What did he say to her to make her more amenable to him? Does that mean they are coming closer or what?*

Kumar asked, "What are looking at stopping your eating?"

"I am thinking I am seeing a change in you."

"It might be because I am clearing my mind from clutter."

"I am also seeing a physical change in you. You have become taller and also put on weight."

"That is what I am wondering, now I have to change my wardrobe."

*I am saying those things just for saying something to distract his attention from Loveleen. What did he find in his memories, he was acting so close to her. This is the first time he called her for lunch in my presence. I don't know about the time I was not here. Did I make a mistake going away? I had to do that for the country's sake. I have to check them up on how they were successful in creating the vaccine.*



*Then I have to call them for the party. I have to see if they can make time for that. Then Sonali and her father might come and we have to discuss the manufacturing of the medicines and see if they can take up the manufacturing of the vaccine.*

\*\*\*\*

The day of the party.

Monica called me to come to Loveleen's house. I found all my friends there.

I asked what are you doing here.

Praveen said, "I called to inform you Dimitri has just arrived."

I said for that you had to call me here, but what are you all doing here?

Kumar called us for your birthday party. He told us to wait until midnight.

I went to confront Kumar at the party.

Loveleen saw me coming and came towards me.

I asked, "What happened here?"

"Where did you go?"

"If you don't tell me, do you think I would not know?"

"What did you come to know?"

"My friends were at your place. They called me to tell me that Dimitri had arrived."

"They are really fools, Kumar just announced the engagement of Ram and Nishitha."

"And?"

“And he had given them the computer assembly as their wedding gift.”

“Why do you think he did that? Is there something to do with his knowledge of other timelines?”

“It could have.”

I went to Kumar and took him aside, Loveleen followed me.

I asked, “Why did you give them the company share?”

Kumar answered, “When a new Kumar went to them he learned that they had taken their share and split from the company. So, I gave them the company, so they don’t ask for their share and split away or try to break the company at a later time. Now let them do whatever they want to do with their share. I did my share for them, they are on their own from now on. Before I handed them the company, I made an agreement between the manufacturing company and assembly company they had to buy the spare parts from us only and they have to develop our PCBs there. That means manufacturing the PCBs I transferred to them. So, if I get any more ideas like the interface, they have to prepare them and give us.”

“Will they agree to that?”

“I made it a clause in the transfer of shares, if they don’t like that clause they can return the company to me. Do you think they will do that? It is better to prepare a few PCBs and equipment than reject the whole company.”

“You did that to get better output from them. Now if it is their company, Nishitha will push him to work hard to get better profits and your business should boom from that. And your reputation will be maintained with your parents and relatives that you did all that for your brother. If she knows that your sister would not get annoyed?”

“She is not my responsibility, whatever my parents want to do for her, they would do it. If they want any support, I would give them, nothing direct to my sister.”

Kumar went back and announced whoever wanted to have dinner could start, but the party was not completed, as we had one more party after midnight.

Some went to have dinner and some went back to the bar for a refill. Krishna brought a bottle of champagne and handed it over to Kumar and he handed it over to his brother who opened it and started to fill glasses with it. Kumar gave Nishitha a peck and came and stood with us.

Now Amanda and Jason arrived and came to me. I introduced them as Jason and Amanda from the Rodrigues Hospitals.

Amanda shook hands with Kumar and said, "We heard a lot about you."

Kumar asked, "About me, from whom?"

Amanda said, "Who else from Nandini, if you have a few minutes we have to discuss something with you."

Loveleen told me to carry on, I will bring your friends from my house.

I looked at Amanda as to what she wanted to discuss.

Amanda said to Kumar, "I want to invest with you after hearing about your future outlook.

Kumar asked, "Two things I need to know, which field you want to invest in, and how much you want to invest?"

Amanda looked at her father.

Then all hell broke loose. My friends came with a cake and put it on my face. Seeing Sonali approaching us, Kumar introduced them and told them. "I will be just back."

*I went inside washed my face and changed and came out as my dress was spoiled by their throwing cake. I was told it would have*

*happened after midnight, but they took the initiative and did that at this time. Now they brought a three-tier cake for me to cut. I cut the cake and fed those who stood around me starting with Kumar. It was the best birthday party thrown for me. Last year it was a Friday and we had a small party at our house. This time it was a grand one and Kumar announced his brother's engagement and over that, he gifted the consortium the satellite phones. It is a little heavy to fit in the hand, but we can keep it in the bag or the car. From where is he paying for them, consortium's account?*

Then Dad and Mum just arrived, they were to attend at midnight. I went and hugged Mom and told them about Kumar's brother's engagement news. Then they went to his father to congratulate them. It seems Mr Patel is happy as his daughter got 35% of the company and he went and shook hands with them.

*I am still miffed with Kumar for giving them his share of the assembly unit. I don't know the value of the company, but to give away just like that. Maybe he thought it was not worth his time to maintain that company. If he had given the manufacturing company I should have been more peeved. More than 20 cores are in that company. Whose name the company is in? The total capital is provided by Bob.*

The party concluded on a high note.

After the party, we changed and he sat on the bed and I went and sat beside him. I asked, “where did the idea to give them the company come from? Did Mr Patel make you do that?”

He said, “Why would I listen to Mr Patel? I didn’t want to give them anything else, so I gave them the shares. Before giving them, I signed a contract between the Manufacturing and Assembly units. They have to purchase all their spare parts from us. They have to provide PCB support to us. I got more ideas and I want PCB support for those products. Now when my alter ego went there they took their share in the companies and separated. So, I made them separate from us. If they want they can purchase other’s shares or sell their share to them. Let them do what they want to do. We will get our work done. I withdrew cash from the company after paying the other’s dividend, so the capital is reduced.”

“Whatever I am doing I do it for the betterment of our future. Now Bob went and gave him some blueprints for the development of some products. I wanted to recreate the blueprints and see what they were for. For the time being you and Loveleen take care of the companies. I want to concentrate on these things. Now with the delivery of these satellite phones, they will understand my future outlook and start to support us more. I feel I have got the future somewhere up to the year 2020. I heard Bob

saying he could not travel beyond 2020. Because the future is uncertain after that. So, he must be planning something for that time. One young Kumar received these blueprints from Bob and told him to start making these products for internal use only. He is young, but others like Joy, Sunitha, Loveleen and Mahira are all old and they are having a meeting and discussing these matters. From their talks, I understood my alter ego who went there had died in his sleep, possibly due to poisoning. Then this young Kumar's girlfriend was also killed in the same way. Now Bob sent him there not only to look after the company, but he also wanted him to make these instruments. Until I prepare these blueprints, I will not get a correct idea. In his timeline, some girls were missing and Bob went and brought them back, using that I asked Bob to bring you all back. Where are your friends?"

"They went to Loveleen's house to have an after-party."

*Thinking about my friends in the next building I could not get sleep. I looked at Kumar, he seemed to be deep in his sleep. I felt a kind of unsettling feeling and got up and went to his liquor collection. I found a bottle on the table there half empty. I picked up the bottle and went into the kitchen picked a glass and came and sat on the sofa placing them on the table in front. I poured a peg and sat there sipping. Knowing about his past am I doing the right thing by bringing all*



*these girls into his life? He has a magnetism in him, which pulls girls towards him. See how Sonali came behind him after going to the lab and calling him to her friend's marriage. Now Amanda seemed to be interested in him, she wanted to invest with him. If these guys had not come she would have completed the sentence. I don't know what is his position with Loveleen is, now my friends are in her house, partying. I looked through the window, the lights were on in her house. I can't hear any sound. What they are doing? I thought to go out and look into her house, then I scolded myself for thinking that. Let them party, why should I care?*

I came back and sat on the sofa and refilled my glass. I heard a sound and found Kumar coming down the steps. He came down picked a water bottle from the fridge and came and sat beside me.

He looked at me and said, "What happened, not getting sleep?"

"I am feeling a kind of uneasiness and came down and found this used bottle and made myself a drink."

"I am not talking about your drinking, there is nothing to worry about the cure, it was found for the virus, and we are ahead in our work with our lab. We will soon start receiving the returns."

“It is not that, I was having a kind of uneasy feeling.”

Kumar caught hold of me and sat with me. He had a calming effect on me and I settled into his embrace.

I opened my eyes and saw myself sitting with Kumar and he was looking ahead into the darkness. I removed the hands around me and said, “Come let us go to bed. He got up and came with me and we lay on the bed and I put my hand on him and went to sleep.

I opened my eyes and found Kumar sitting on the bed, I asked, “Aren’t you sleeping?”

“I am looking into vaccine creation in the future.”

“Forget about the cures and come and sleep.”

I caught him closer felt his closeness and went to sleep.

I got up from sleep, went to the toilet, brushed and went down the steps, seeing me Kumar asked, “Do you want coffee?”

I nodded my head. He took his cup into the kitchen rinsed prepared a cup brought it to me and gave me.

“What happened last night, why you were down?”

“I don’t know I felt kind of despair.”

“You should not feel that way on your birthday. Happy birthday”, and kissed her.

I gave a thin smile and said, “Thank you.”

He must have thought I had not come back from depression and took me to our bedroom.

*I don't know why I felt that dread that something bad would happen to me that night. Until Kumar took me to bed and gave me a good fuck, I was feeling that dread and after that, I could go back to sleep and by morning I am feeling light-headed. What could that mean?*

\*\*\*\*

I saw Kumar sitting and contemplating something.

“A penny for your thoughts.”

“I am thinking about the blueprints Bob gave to one of them.”

“What are they for?”

“I don't have an idea, must be important to be given to him to be made. We don't have software like they have to make the blueprints, then I can ask the AI to prepare them. I think there is software available, I have to check them, then I can do that easily, thanks for your advice.”

He called Mahira and asked her to check for drafting software, and if they are available, get him a copy.

*Something or other is going on with Kumar. He is telling me he will take excess cash from the software company and he will invest in medical devices. I know as a medical field professional, that there is a good market in the future. But to invest so much money? Let him do what he wants, it is his hard-earned money too. He had not failed in any of his endeavours. He has something for everything. His mind is reaching far into the future. He has given an idea to increase the usage of those machines too. He must have seen how they are doing business in the future. But now what is this about blueprints? What are they, blueprints to the future?*

*It is really difficult to follow him sometimes; his mind goes far into the future. There is a phrase from Star Trek to boldly go where no man has gone before.*

\*\*\*\*

Kumar got a transponder on the Insat IC satellite. He ordered a big dish antenna and got it installed in the backyard and connected to his system on the first floor.

Then with the help of his brother, he built an instrument called a transporter, installed one each in the office and factory and checked it

thoroughly. Prepared another set and sent it to Delhi and one set to Hyderabad.

He with his brother went over to Delhi to install them.

\*\*\*\*

Kumar sent a girl named Kajal from Delhi through the transporter and told Joy to take her to his flat in Andheri. Who is she and why did he send her here?

Kumar called me and asked, "Has the transporter reached your hospital."

"It will be reaching by the night.

"I will try to come by tomorrow."

"Is your work finished?"

He said, "Finished, but we got into a tricky situation."

"What it is?"

"I will tell you later and cut the call."

\*\*\*\*

Kumar rang the bell. I came and opened the door and He introduced her as Prachi and took the luggage and closed the door.

Prachi asked, "Is he your watchman, he looked like a police constable."

He said, "You have a keen observation, he is a police constable, disguised as a watchman. The three bungalows and the paan shop opposite are manned by policemen only."

She asked, "Are you some kind of VIP."

He said, "Nothing like that, we have some security problems" and did not elaborate.

He told me to show Prachi the guest room and went to our bedroom changed and sat on the bed.

I went to the bedroom and sat on the bed. "What happened, you had sent that girl through the transporter?"

"I thought her life was in danger and sent her here and we negotiated, and now Rajveer Singh would become Deputy CM."

"Would it be sufficient for them?"

"I hope so, at least for the time being. Is Prachi comfortable there?"

"She is already snoring."

"Ok then, let us go to sleep."

## Chapter 8

We got off the plane at Hyderabad airport and we took our handbag and light luggage and went out. Dad sends the car with the driver. Prachi and Kajal are still in Bombay and enjoying the seashore and beaches of Bombay.

Kumar said to let them enjoy themselves here until the matter settled down in Delhi.

*From what Kumar told me I thought Guru was only a psychopath, Prathap took the cake away from Guru and proved he was a worse psychopath than Guru. I don't know what these people's problem. Instead of enjoying the girls, why do they want to do all that to the girls, even though they are callgirls? I can understand about Dimple, why did he do that to Sonia? She was supposed to be Loveleen. Would he have done the same to Loveleen if she was in her place? Is this the reason Kumar wants her to be kept away from Guru? Did he anticipate Guru would do something like that? Whatever it may be Sonia is in a horrible situation.*

We went directly to the hospital. We went and saw the CT Scan machine being unloaded and it would take some time to set it up. So, we went over to the house. The transporter machine's outer box was kept at the house. And the board and all that has already arrived and kept aside. Kumar set up the machine connected to power

and switched on. He called Bombay and told them to send our luggage. Instead of us lugging the luggage it was sent through the machine. We had our lunch and were back at the hospital. Now the CT machine is being placed in the place where it was provided for.

Two technicians have arrived from the USA after training. One learned about setting up the machine and the other learned to operate and do scans.

It has taken him the whole day to set up and configure the machine.

We asked the CM to inaugurate the machine. He came and cut the ribbon and switched on the machine.

If the CM inaugurates it, we will get free publicity from the press.

We asked him to pick a number from a bowl to have the first test done. He waited until we conducted the test gave the results and went away.

*The next machine will be installed in Rodrigues Hospitals. Maybe seeing us operating more hospitals would order them. One advantage we have is we know most of the hospitals in India as we approached them for software or they approached us. But only big hospitals can afford them. Still, we have many numbers of big*



*hospitals in India and even if we can install one in each city, we would be recovering our initial capital in a year.*

“I will look after the hospital and run the CT scan for some time”, Kumar went back to Bombay by transporter.

*This transporter will come in very handy if we have to move from place to place. This way we can have branches all over India and we can move from branch to branch easily.*

*Kumar is telling me he will install the next one in Manali, he said the 16-hour journey is too far. Maybe he wants to have a look at Sunitha once more. But will it not expose his invention? Or does he want everyone to know about that? At present, we have only checked on the surface. Will it work if we want to send people to say space lab? Did he think about that? Or maybe one on the moon, we can start space tourism. We can become billionaires using this machine. He does not tell me his plans nowadays. He got the AI to draw up the blueprints and he safeguards them with multiple security. Maybe he will develop a few inventions and then let the public know.*

*He may be worried about exposing himself to the public glare.*

I got a call from maintenance about some problem they are having, I have to go and look at

it. Why do they get all the problems when I am visiting?

\*\*\*\*

I asked at least two technicians in the radiology department to be trained for operating CT scans. Then when the installation was completed, I sent the installation technician through the transporter. It has become easy for us to travel between cities for us, no waiting at the airport, no travelling, and things like that.

\*\*\*\*

Kumar came back to the office.

“Where did you go?”

“I went to file the patents in the USA. So, we will have some security for our inventions. Even though I picked them from the future, they were given to them by Bob and it seems he has collected them from me only.”

I nodded and asked, “Ok. What was Rose saying I came to her and asked about you?”

“When did you go to her?”

“When we went to Hyderabad to install the CT scan.”

“How do I know if you have gone to her? What did she say to you?”

“She told me that she was talking about you and there is no reaction from me. But she felt something odd speaking with me that day. She could not control her talk, she was telling and telling and she could not stop even if she wanted.”

I thought a minute and said, “You were telling me about a shape-changing machine, what happened to that?”

“It seems to have a glitch with that. I checked on myself and showed Loveleen, she said she could see the original me, not what I was trying to change into. I have to check if there is some problem with that.”

I thought for a minute, is he lying to me and said, “Show me, I want to see it.”

He took me to the room and put a hair on the machine switched on and wore the coat. I said, “I could see you only.

“Now try this on you, and look in the mirror after switching it on.

“I am only there in the mirror. It seems there is a problem with the machine, did you prepare the blueprints correctly?”

“I have to recheck the blueprints and check the PCB again. Probably they might have put the wrong ICs on the board. That is very big work, I

will check later”, and switched off the machine and asked me to remove the coat.

I removed the coat and handed it over to him. Seeing me naked, he came to me and started kissing and one thing led to another and we had sex there in that room.

We dressed and unlocked the door and came out and locked the door. He switched on the alarm on the door and we went to the office.

“Was the Rodrigues hospital installation completed?”

“Yes, they are waiting for the operating technician.”

“There is that problem we did not think of. After completing the training for the technician, he will come over.”

“You should have called him for a day after checking the machine, so he could go back and complete the training. Use the machine, this transporter is for this purpose only. I am taking one machine and going to Manali, after fitting it there, I will give you a call. You get Sunitha’s parents and send them. I promised them I would send them to Manali to see their daughter.”

“How are you going?”

“I will put them in a van and go with the van. I have already rented a van for this. It should be a three-day journey.”

“What are you going to do for three days in the van.”

“I have printed all the matter I retrieved from the mind, and I am going to study that.”

Showing me full of printed material stacked in the boxes in the corner.

“You seemed to have lots of work ahead.”

\*\*\*\*

Kumar called and informed me, “I had reached Manali and was about to install the transporter, you should send the driver to pick up Sunitha’s parents. I wanted them to visit Manali through the transporter.”

I sent the driver to Sunitha’s house to pick them up, it seems he already informed them beforehand.

It took them half an hour to reach our house. I called Kumar and told him I am sending their luggage first. I put the luggage in the transporter and set the location to Manali, pressing the send switch.

Next Sunitha’s father sat in the transporter and I sent him to Manali. But when the turn came for Sunitha’s mother, she was hesitant. She was

scared, that if she sat in the machine, what will happen to her? Then I had to call Kumar and let her speak with her husband, who said it is very safe to use the transporter, and she agreed to sit in that. I sent her, closed the door and went to my room.

\*\*\*\*

The doorbell rang and I went and opened the door, it was Kumar waiting at the door.

“Your luggage came back two days ago, where did you go?”

“I went to visit Sonia, she is better now, but she is still in the hospital. Then we came back by train.”

“Why train?”

“Just to finish up my reading.”

“What did you find out.”

“As per my estimates, six timelines were running at present other than ours. The starting point for these timelines is around my completing SSC. The first time it split was around the time after his marriage. The second time it split after completing SSC. Then there were four timelines including mine which were split after completion of our junior college and Sneha was taken away by their parents. In my time I got a slap and became a delivery boy and the rest you know. In

my timeline, it split after we started to do deliveries into Purjari and Mine. When Sneha comes to Vijayawada they both elope to somewhere near Vizag and he becomes first as a doctor, pujari and then becomes a God-Man or Swamiji, with political connections, and money in Swiss bank accounts then he turns a leaf and starts doing philanthropy work by starting ashrams for old and sick people. He is the one who took Sahithi and raised Leena for seven years. Another Kumar in our timeline forgets her and marries Sahithi and his daughter Leena was kidnapped at the age of 1 and from the age of 2, she was raised by the dead Kumar. I told you about him many times. One thing I found about these timelines is that there was a Suresh, who was responsible for Sahithi's problems. One time he gets her daughter kidnapped. One time he kidnaps her and kills her parents, which is in our timeline. One time he kills their whole family, which is in Pujari's time. Which I just found out. On my instructions, Pujari Kumar went to Vakola and with the help of Deshpande got her house checked. They found their skeletons buried there. Only in Dead Kumar's timeline, he did not touch her or her family, it might be she marries him and goes to live in her own house given by her grandmother."

"Then recently one more Kumar was sent to dead Kumar's timeline as my alter ego was killed by someone. His story seems quite different He

goes to Bombay after his SSC and joins a Diploma course learns typing and shorthand and then joins with the paints company in Vakola, where Nishitha's father works. Then as time pass he works in a hotel and there he meets two girls. Under some circumstances, he takes those two girls and goes to Vijayawada to get away from their fathers. Then here Bob meets him in 1983 and sends him to 2017, and makes him run a hotel on the highway bus stop. Then he finds he has some inheritance coming his way on his 21st birthday, he starts learning computers and gets a computer and practises."

"Here is an interesting point, there will be a virus pandemic in 2019, where the whole country comes to their knees. All the shops, companies, offices, and manufacturing activity stopped except for daily necessities. At this time, he goes to claim his inheritance and waits until he turns 21. Now in the will, he was passed all the companies of the dead Kumar. I think Bob arranged it that way, he will replace my alter ego. One more surprising thing is that my sister with her daughter enters into the picture here. She remembers him as missing all those years ago, even though she is in the dead Kumar timeline. To this Kumar, Bob gave those blueprints to develop those items, which I picked and started to develop them. This is all I learned during my study on other timelines. The interface machine and AI have helped me a lot in



this process. If I did not have one of them, it might not be possible to develop these products.”

“Go and have a bath I will serve you breakfast, it already became late.”

“I am going” and went and had a bath and came back and sat down on the dining table.

Completing his breakfast, asked, “Any more items sent by my bother?”

“He is telling me he could not get some ICs.”

“I will check with him about what ICs are not available, maybe we will import them.”

He lifted the receiver and called Ram’s satellite phone.

“I just returned from Delhi, you were telling about not availability of some ICs?”

After listening to him, he said “It is possible they are not yet available in the market, I will check with US manufacturers”, and cut the call.

We went over to the office. Joy came and wished us.

He enquired about the DCM’s daughters.

Joy said “They are staying at your flat only. They said they will come later to the office to speak with you.”

He called Dimitri and spoke about manufacturing the vaccine for the outer space virus.

“It is a good idea, I will ask Bob to order more additives and start manufacturing the vaccine with the help of Sonali’s father. He is ready to set up a small manufacturing facility for the vaccines. I will send a transporter to the Lab, we can transfer the materials easily between Bombay and the Lab.”

He called Mahira and asked her, “Send a transporter fully made, packed in a wooden crate and send it to Vizag through surface courier. We will pick it up from their office.”

I went away to my cabin.

\*\*\*\*

I came to Kumar’s cabin, found Loveleen there asked, “What are you discussing so seriously?”

Kumar said, “Loveleen was asking about Kajal and Prachi.”

“What about them?”

“She was asking how long they would be here. I was telling her, we have to plan something with them.”

“What will plan with them?”

“Kajal was threatened by Prathap, I promised Prachi, we will take revenge on Prathap for doing that. That is why she kept quiet on that matter.”

“How will you take revenge on Prathap?”

He said “by committing him to a mental hospital. He is using his father’s influence and doing those horrible deeds. He got Guru as support for his deeds. Now if they both come together, I can’t imagine what they will do. But until Prathap’s father is CM, he will use his influence to wriggle out of any situation. The only way we can commit him is to remove Dharmendra Singh from the CM chair.”

I looked at Loveleen and said, “So, the only way to do that is to make your father the next CM.”

Loveleen looked at Kumar.

“How do we suppose we do that?”

“Use the situation against them. Turn the tables against them.”

“Nandini, why don’t you advise Loveleen how to go ahead about the situation, I can concentrate on these electronics.”

Why is he asking me to advise Loveleen? Did he want to keep her away? If so, why did he take her to Delhi while going to Manali? Did they have a fight or something like that on the way?

I was telling Loveleen a plan of action and she asked Kumar what is your opinion. He must be thinking something, he just nodded his head.

He took the packet of fags, and went out possibly to have a smoke.

Kumar came back again and said he would return in half an hour and went out.

We were discussing various plans, and Kumar returned after some time with a packet in his hand.

I asked where did you go away?

“I went to fix mahurat for Ram and Nishitha’s wedding. We will go in the evening and check which card is suitable with Mom.”

The phone rang and the operator said a call for sir. He said hello, he was talking on the phone.

He spoke and cradled the receiver and the telephone rang again. The operator said, “Call from the courier company.” I handed him the phone. He looked at the time and asked me for a cup of tea. I went to bring the tea.

I put the tea in front of me and asked, “Who is it?”

“Mr Lal from the courier company, I don’t know what he wants. But he is enquiring about me. So, I invited him to the marriage. Let us go to Wadala and finalise these wedding arrangements.”

He collected wedding card samples and with me drove over to his parent's house in Wadala.

Seeing us the watchman opened the gate, Kumar drove inside and parked in the parking area. He got down collected the samples and clicked on the lift button. It seems the power was off, now we have to climb 7 floors. He looked at me, what shall we do?

I told him to call Leena to come down, we will wait until the power came on, and then we go by the lift.

He went to the car picked up the satellite phone and came over to the lift. The power is restored and the lift came down to the ground floor and stood there with the open door. We entered the lift and pressed the button for the 7<sup>th</sup> floor.

Kumar looked at me and smiled. I smiled back and we got down from the lift and proceeded to the door. He pressed the doorbell and Leena opened the door and said Daddy, caught him and took us to the sofa I sat down and she sat down beside me and took the samples from his hand and looked at them and asked are these for uncle's wedding?

"Yes, I brought them for your grandma's selection, then I will get them printed."

Leena took them and went over to her grandmother to show her.

Mom came out with the samples and asked will you have tea?

He nodded his head and asked if Dad had come home.

She said he had not yet come and must be on the way.

She selected a card and said this seemed to be good, what language will they be printed in?

He said they will be printed in English.

She asked with concern, we need them in Telegu to distribute to our relatives.

I said I will get them printed in Hyderabad and get them here.

Leena came over and said Grandpa is on the ground floor talking with someone. Kumar said to let him come up we will take his advice too.

Mom asked, "You gave a share in the factory to Ram, but why did you give a share to Nishitha?"

He said, "I know about Nishitha, they are business-minded people. She will push Ram to get better profits from the factory. If I had given only Ram a share, she might not have taken much interest, but whereas now she is an equal partner with Ram and both of them together have a controlling interest in the factory. Another reason I gave them my total share of the factory is I don't want them to interfere in my

other businesses. She might have an eye on a manufacturing company, as it is not my company and the total investment is by Bob instead of the Lab to be set up. The manufacturing company had to support the lab which was set up by Nandini and her friends. That's why I took an interest and solved their problems. Next to my knowledge we will create more medicines and vaccines and take patents on them and will release them to the market. So, they will get returns on their investments."

Mom asked, "You gave Nishitha a share to make her and Ram work better? But if you are scared about her why did you choose her for Ram?"

He said, "You know about Ram, he was talking of never marrying, then why do you think he accepted Nishitha's match?"

Mom asked, "Why?"

"I already told you, they have a cosmic connection, they were made for each other. There is no other way than to bring them together."

Mom asked, "Ram was telling you that you created a kind of device that allows you to go from one place to another in an instant?"

He said, "It is called 'transporter', I installed one in Manali, and I will send these newlyweds to Manali for their honeymoon. Then you and Dad

can go there for a trip in the summer. You know Sunitha is looking after the hotel there.”

Leena came and sat beside me and asked, “Daddy, what shall I give a gift to uncle for their wedding?”

He said, “Forget about the gift for uncle, I have a gift for you?”

Leena asked, “What is it Daddy?”

“I got you a partnership with the medical equipment company, you have a 25% share in the company. In one or two days we will get the papers for the company.”

I was silent for all this time asked, “Which company you are talking about?”

He said, “It is the newly set up company where we will be supplying CT scans and MRIs. I registered my share in the company in Leena’s name with others. The money I withdrew from the factory, I used for the capital.”

I asked, “So you have not withdrawn from the software company.”

He said, “To withdraw from that I had to take permission from both of you. I will speak to you about that later.”

Leena hugged and said, “Thank you, Daddy.”

“You are welcome.”



The doorbell rang and Leena went and opened the door and told his daddy excitedly, "Thathayya, daddy gifted me a company in my name."

Dad asked, "What is she talking about?"

I said, "Our new company for supplying medical equipment, I put it in Leena's name."

Mom showed him the sample cards and showed him one said, "I have selected this one."

Kumar said, "I will get a sample printed and get it to you for verification." He got up and said, "I will come back with a sample card."

Mom said, "Have dinner and go."

Kumar said, "We will have dinner later", kissed Leena said goodbye and came down."

When we sat in the car and returning, I asked what are you talking about opening the company in her name?

"I don't want legal tangles later about her, so I gave her the company share."

"What do you mean?"

"You know she is my daughter, but in the eyes of society, she is still the adopted daughter, so I transferred my share to her, she will have something in her name."

“Do you think I would show partiality towards her?”

“We never discussed about kids, what is your opinion about kids?”

“I never thought about kids. “

“When are you going to think about them? If you don’t want them, please let me know, and I will plan something.”

“If I don’t want kids, what will you plan? Plan with someone else?”

“I might do that.”

“Do you have someone in mind?”

“No that’s what I want to plan”

“Is Loveleen included in your plan?”

“No, Loveleen would get Dhruv, I have in mind Atul and Reena to adapt”

“Oh, you want to plan to adapt them.”

“For that, I don’t have to plan, they would come in front of us.”

“How will they come in front of us?”

“Maybe fate will bring them in front of us. Or Bob might bring them to us.”

“What is Bob’s interest in us.”

“He is a kind of guardian angel for us. He had to look after our needs and do what was needed. Now that Leena from another timeline became a scientist researching viruses.”

“So, your daughter would also become a scientist on viruses?”

“I think so. So, Atul, Reena and Dhruv are looking after their USA branch as software professionals in the timeline my alter ego went. In Pujari Kumar’s timeline also, Atul is looking after the software business which is headed by Joy. Maybe Reena and Dhruv might join him.”

“You are talking as everything is predestined.”

“Except for Pujari Kumar and CA Kumar, all went into software development one way or another, even though none of them has studied software engineering. Out of nine Kumars, seven were in software development.”

“You said only seven timelines are there.”

“Due to the death of two of them alternate persons were sent there. Now from what I was told on the Himalayas, I am being groomed for something coming up.”

“What it could be?”

“I don’t know, I was told I will be informed at the appropriate time. It might have something to do with a virus pandemic or war. Because of the

way, Bob is preparing other timelines. To one Kumar, Bob is giving all those futuristic items to develop. Bob took an island from Pujari Kumar to develop as an underground bunker. Bob told me that after developing that he will hand it over to me. It is in another timeline; how will he hand it over to me? Won't he hand it over to Pujari Kumar?"

"You mean to say, Bob is preparing you to meet some imminent emergency coming upon us mankind."

"There is a virus pandemic in the year 2019 and war clouds looming large after that."

"Is it the same virus, we developed a vaccine for?"

He said, "From what I have seen from two of the timelines, all the companies were closed. All the shops except food items selling shops have been closed. Schools and offices were closed for a prolonged time. From the last reports received, the atmosphere has not come back to fully normal yet."

"You did not tell me about the virus."

"It does not seem to be the same virus. The virus we researched is much more dangerous. This virus has a longer mutation period. Even though the death rate is high, it is not as dangerous as our virus. What I don't understand is why Bob is

not involved in that. It seems he was instructed not to interfere in the spread of the virus.”

Nandini asked, “What about the one crore you put in the Medical equipment company, you did not withdraw from the software company account? Did you withdraw from the manufacturing company?”

“No, it was withdrawn from the assembly company before handing it out to Ram and Nishitha. I want to give them only basic company. I paid Mahira, Krishna and Raj their dividends and withdrew my share of the dividend.”

“Others were doing investments in their children’s names. One Kumar put the money in a kind of trust for his children. Another two opened companies in their kid’s names to safeguard their future. Dead Kumar put all four bungalows in the Kids' names with 10 Lakhs seed money to start computer hardware unit.”

“Another Kumar while remarrying put some investments in the children’s names to safeguard their future. So, I did the same for Leena.”

“I am not criticising your decisions, you gave me a 25% share before our wedding without me putting any capital. You must have trust in me and Joy.”

“It is more than trust”, and did not elaborate. Did he mean love?

“So, what have you decided about Loveleen’s father’s situation? How do you want to proceed further on that?”

“I think we have until mid-1991 before the elections are announced. We should turn the tables by that time.”

“How it will be if we ask Manohar Das and Rajveer Khanna to come to Bombay for a consultation? We can ask Manohar Das to come to Bombay with regards to his daughters and Rajveer Khanna, we can just ask him to come over.”

“What will we discuss with them?”

“We will have Manohar Das understand the situation, he might be peeved at Rajveer Khanna got Home ministry. We can make him understand why he had to do that.”

“What will that achieve?”

“Let them get to know each other and let the Manohar Das understand whatever we did for the welfare of his daughters and their safety. Then at the correct time, they can rebel against the CM.”

“Excellent idea, you are picking up on the politics.”

“What will be our advantage if Rajveer becomes CM?”

“Not only we will keep our word with Loveleen, but we should expect some political mileage with our companies.”

“So, now you dropped the idea of her investing with you?”

“At least she is investing her time with us. While you were building the Lab, she took over your work. Over that when I was having problems with brain overload, she looked after me. That is why one time she stayed overnight at our house. I was troubled by the amount of data received from multiple timelines. She sat with me until I could sleep peacefully, then went over and slept in the guest bedroom.”

He continued “Another time it was at the lab, I was receiving massive amounts of data about viruses and their treatments and I had to sift through to find the correct way to prepare vaccines and the way to do it. Then I ordered additives with the help of Bob and prepared a paper on how to develop vaccines using the latest methods used in the 2019 vaccines creation and gave it to Dimitri.”

“So, you got the idea of how to develop vaccines from the future?”

“Yes, over that, I got the final vaccine preparation and medicine combinations from Leena, but not our Leena.”

“What you are saying about going to the Himalayas?”

“I was transported to the Himalayas and I recited some mantra there with other sadhus. Which increased my brain capacity and later helped my physical capacity too. They told me that now I am ready for whatever coming, but they did not elaborate even when asked.”

“Why do you think they did not tell you?”

“Maybe they don’t have the correct idea. Bob was telling someone he could not travel beyond a certain point in 2020. That means the future beyond 2020 might be volatile. That might be decided based on the events that led to that period of time.”

“But how Bob can time travel?”

“He must have advanced technology. I feel he is alien or working for them. But they don’t seem trying to do any harm to us. I think Bob or his bosses think there are enemies possibly tucked away in China, who are hell-bent on destroying mankind. They are working secretly and what I understand from whatever data I received, they are responsible for all the destruction in the last century. But another way it has led to scientific



advancement. From the way Bob is handling things, it could be a third world war in the making. The way he ignored the global virus pandemic, he might have thought that it is just a smoke screen to what is going to be sneaked behind the world which will be in shambles after the virus pandemic. The whole world went into lockdown during that time. Many small companies closed down. Big companies had to face losses. Only the software industry could recover slightly with work from work-from-home options and the food industry. Software companies adapted to the situation and allowed people to work from home. Because they have a robust internet technology.”

“Do you need the internet for this purpose?”

“Not only for this purpose, we need the internet for the growth of the software industry.”

As we reached the house, our discussion was cut short.

Maid said, “Madam I put the dinner dishes on the table and I am going home.”

I nodded.

\*\*\*\*

I called Loveleen, and said, “We came up with a plan for your father, please come over”

She asked, “Did you have dinner?”

I replied, "We just finished."

She said, "Then I will have my dinner and come over."

I said, "ok see you then."

She seemed to have dinner speedily and came over to our bungalow.

We were sitting on the sofa and she came and sat in front of us. She looked at me expectantly.

"Our next target is to make your father the next CM. Now at the present time, we blackmailed Dharmendra Singh to make your father Joint DCM. This kind of situation can't be continued for long. He will try to get the upper hand somehow. Then the situation can turn dangerous. Then by that time, Prathap Singh might try something with other girls. Knowing Sonia is the opposition leader's daughter, he tried to do such a thing can't be imagined. Or did he think Sonia is not real Loveleen or something? Could Guru have a hand in that? We might never know. Our first aim is to stop both of them from such acts in the future. Until Dharmendra Singh is in CM's post Prathap will do those acts with impunity. Now Guru has partnered with him. So, we can't imagine what they will do together."

Kumar said to Loveleen, "You must have seen how the doctor was scared about Guru. He was not ready to give us information, saying that

Guru has lots of political clout. I have to use my line to CID and PM's Office through my satellite phone. Unless they do their dirty acts here, I can't use the CID against them."

I continued, "So the only way left for us is to put both of them in a mental asylum."

"The only way to achieve that is to remove Prathap's father from the CM post."

"To achieve that the only way is for your father to shake hands with Manohar Das."

"How do you propose to do that?"

"We have to get Manohar Das here to have a discussion using his daughters as bait."

"We should use Ram's wedding as an excuse to bring them together."

Loveleen said, "We will do that", got up and said, "Then I will take leave." She went back to her house.

\*\*\*\*

I woke up from troubled sleep. My dreams were filled with the planning of meetings to be arranged with both the DCMs. I called Prachi to come to the office and I have to discuss something with them.

We both reached the office and Loveleen had already reached the office after discussing

today's work with Joy. I went to my room and Kumar went to his cabin. He said he is going to tweak the AI in the system to clean the brain of unwanted memories.

\*\*\*\*

I went to Kumar and said, "I am going to meet Amanda about finalising the order."

"If she asks for an extra discount, don't refuse her and finalise the order, now she is our partner."

I nodded and went to meet with Amanda.

When I went to meet Amanda, Sonali was there with her. It seems Amanda has invited her to our meeting. I did not mind her there, at least I have not taken Kumar to the meeting. It seems Amanda is also interested in investing with Mr Amit Mukherjee. It seems Sonali must have connected with Amanda at Ram's engagement party and explained to Rodrigues about her experiences at the Lab.

I explained to Amanda that Mukherjee Pharmaceuticals would be producing the medicines for the virus and ready for distribution. And the vaccine production would be taken up in a joint venture. Kumar would be arranging for the equipment and chemicals required in the manufacturing which needs to be imported, and Mr Mukherjee will arrange for the

factory space and a new company will be set up to produce the vaccines. Amanda said she had spoken with her father and they would be interested in investing in the project.

I said, "We all will sit and finalise the details."

I went to the office and called Kumar to come for lunch and came back to the house to have lunch.

\*\*\*\*

Kumar came with Loveleen and Sahithi.

I asked, "Why so late?"

He said, "Constables came to collect Dolly's printed materials. With the help of those papers, they can keep her in jail indefinitely."

I enquired about Sahithi and asked, "How come you are here."

Sahithi replied Kumar called me to come.

I thought it must be some business meeting and did not elaborate on the matter.

Jyothi brought Loveleen's lunch dishes and placed them on the table.

Kumar told me to serve us.

We completed our lunch and he asked Sahithi to come to his study to discuss business. With Loveleen tagging along, they went and sat in his study.

\*\*\*\*

Kumar called me and asked to come with Rose, he has to speak with both of us.

After 10 minutes I went with Rose to his cabin.

We sat he asked Rose, "You were telling something to Nandini when she was away in Hyderabad, she has come to you and you told her something."

Rose replied, "One person named Ramesh came to me and gave me 1000 rupees and told me to tell madam that when you come home I tell you all those things."

Kumar said to Nandini, "It seems one person named Ramesh, seems to target us and separate us. Either it could be jealousy or business rivalry, I don't know at this juncture, be careful what anybody says to you. I going deep into this matter and will catch who is responsible for all this."

I asked, "How are you going to that?"

He said, "I asked CID to look into this matter."

*If what Kumar says is correct, it seems someone is targeting us and trying to separate us, and what they want to achieve from that.*

*Does someone have eyes set on Kumar or me? No one ever approached me or proposed to me. It must be in the US when some guy tried to*

*propose to me and when I rejected him with strong words, no one dared to approach me again. Is he trying to avenge my rejection by separating us? I don't even remember him. If it is Kumar someone is targeting, who could it be? I don't think he ever rejected anyone. Sneha, she has left him herself. I never come across her again in his life. Someone from Vijayawada? Or one of the girls from Dehradun, who could not get to spend time with him or was rejected by Nimisha. But who would have so much money and time to target us to separate us to see us suffer? Or does that girl want Kumar for herself? Who could it be, who is so much invested in him?*

*Kumar says he is going deep into this matter and finding who is responsible. He has the whole police department behind him.*

*After helping them with Dolly's gang, they would be ready to do anything for him.*

*Let us see where this will lead.*

\*\*\*\*

Kumar came to my cabin and sat in front of me.

I looked up and went back to the papers I was looking at. Completed reading them, I looked at him enquiring what can I do.

He said, "I got the details of the person targeting us."

I asked, "Who is that?"

"One name Pallavi has come up in interrogation and her manager Sudhakar has come and paid the money and given Anwar the details about us."

"Do you know any Pallavi from Vizag by any chance?"

"I heard that name, but could not recollect."

"What enmity she would have with you or me to try to break us up like this? Check with your friends if they know of any Pallavi. Don't tell them why you are enquiring. We don't want her to be alerted by your enquiries. They already disconnected the phone used for this."

I nodded. I was thinking about where I could have heard the name.

Then he sprung the surprise of share allotment in the Manufacturing company.

"From what Bob informed me about the manufacturing company's capital, I have divided the share in this order." And explained to me the share distribution.

My phone rang and I spoke. It is from Hyderabad Hospital. After the installation of the transporter, I became more involved in the operations of the hospital. I instructed the assistant and put down the phone.



I said, "I have to go to the hospital tomorrow morning."

He nodded and said, "Return by the 22<sup>nd</sup> and while there, check about the printing of the wedding cards. When you get the cards, scan them and send me a copy, I will get approval from my mom. Maybe his Dad will come down there to distribute the cards to the relatives. Arrange for a car for them to distribute the cards."

Nothing going into my mind, I was thinking about Pallavi.

He went back to my cabin and said to Loveleen let us go and see the factory.

He got me to send them to the factory.

\*\*\*\*

I completed the work and closed the system. I went to Kumar's cabin.

Then I remembered Dad called about the software for the company that has given them a loan for setting up the power generating unit. The company gives billions of dollars in loans to these energy companies.

When Kumar came and told me about Pallavi, I forgot to inform him about the software. Still, it is burrowing in my mind, who is this Pallavi? Why is she targeting us? What is her endgame?

I looked at Kumar, he sat relaxed and looking at me for me to say something. How can he be so relaxed knowing someone is targeting us?

“Dad was telling me about a software requirement for the US company that has provided them with loans. They give billions of dollars in loans to these energy companies. He is telling you to visit the USA and get requirements from them to develop the software.”

He looked at me smiled and said, “What is the need for going to the USA to get the requirements, I have a prototype of the software, and I will send them a copy through courier and get approval for the same.”

I was surprised he has software for a company in the USA. What he has developed in his free time? Whatever I ask he says he has something for it.

“ok, I will get the address to send the courier.”

“ok, you get the details, after the approval of the project we will go to the USA for delivery and make a tour of the country.”

I got up and went over to him kissed and said, “Best thing to do at this juncture.”

“When Praveen is going back to the USA?”

I said possibly next month, his marriage is fixed for 26<sup>th</sup> December. They will be leaving for USA next month. Why?”

“I am planning to send a transporter to the USA.”

“Is it possible to send it there? Won't be a problem for sending it?”

“I will get Bob to take the necessary permissions.”

“Let us go home.” I got up and we both went home.

Kumar went, changed came and sat at the dining table.

I went to have a bath.

\*\*\*\*

Day of the wedding of Ram and Nishitha.

The wedding has been concluded with pomp and gaiety and in the evening a wedding reception party is arranged at our bungalow.

Many VIPs attended the reception. I stood beside the couples on the stage, collecting gifts and keeping a tab on them, as we have to return the gifts in the future.

When Mom and Dad arrived, Kumar brought them and handed them to me. After the introductions were over, I called Kumar for a group photo. After the photo session, Kumar went over to the guests.

I saw him attending to Mr Reddy, and Dad and taking them to introduce them to consortium members.

After introducing them, Kumar came over to me.

“What happened?”

“They want to meet the consortium members and I took them over.”

“How the company is shaping up?”

“At present, we are expecting around 300 crores in investment.”

“Will it be sufficient for your expansion plans?”

“This will be the founders’ share, we are planning to go public if the venture is successful.”

“Will you not lose control of the company this way?”

“Let us see how things shape up, even after going public, Mr Ambani did not lose control of the Reliance. So, nothing to worry about. I put the future of the country in their hands. I am looking at the future, keeping in mind what is in store in the future for us.”

“What do you mean by that?”

“I am thinking of those old men from the Himalayas. They said you are ready for what is coming up. I wanted to be ready for whatever will be coming up. So, if they want to appoint a

managing director to run the company, I am ready for it. If they want me to lead the company I am also ready for that.”

“What happened?”

Leena must be tired of standing with the couple on the stage, she came over saying, Daddy. Kumar said, “Sit with me, what is the news”.

Leena asked, “I heard they are going to Manali this night.”

“I am sending them there, Sunitha Aunty is running a hotel there, they will stay there. I will send you with grandfather and grandmother in the summer.”

“Aren’t you coming with us?”

“Last time I had a problem with my health and over that, I had to go to the USA for business. Don’t worry I will come and visit you there.”

“So where do you want to go to college? If you want to go abroad, I will plan that for you. After finishing your studies, I want you to look after the Lab.”

I tapped on his shoulder and he looked at me as to why am I giving her ideas now.

He told me, “I know she will be in research like that Leena from other timelines.”

People are going slowly for dinner. Seeing her mother calling Leena, I said to Leena, "Go and have dinner, grandma is calling you."

He looked at me and said, "Can you get me a peg?"

I took two pegs and gave him one.

"Where are your friends? No one seems to have come."

"They went to attend Pranitha's wedding."

"Pranitha is getting married and you did not tell me?"

"I told you, you seemed to forget about it, I even showed you their wedding card and you said nice wedding card."

After all the VIPs dispersed, we sat down for dinner.

Mom called me for Garbadhanam to be performed for the couple and they will leave for Manali after that.

I went over to Kumar after finishing their function.

He asked, "Everything finished?"

I said, "They are waiting to go to Manali."

Kumar's cousin Venkat asked how they would go, by plane.

He said, "No they are going by transporter, it will send them to Manali in a second."

His other cousin Ganesh asked in a surprised voice, "What? In a second, how is that possible?"

Kumar said it is my latest invention, and that is why they are all ready to put the money into my company. Let us send them to Manali and come. We all went to our house. I opened the room where the transporter was present and first Ram went over and then Nimisha went, later we sent their luggage. I got a call they reached safely there and said they would call tomorrow.

\*\*\*\*

When the couple went over to Manali, Kumar walked in front and I locked the door and turned to go to our bedroom. Rose came with two men and said, "Madam, these men were looking for you."

I thought they must have come for some payment, said. "what can I do please."

One tall and lanky man said, "Pranila madam sent us, she asked us to bring you to Vizag."

"Who is this Pranila and what work does she have with me?"

"How did you forget Pranila? She is Pranitha's younger sister", He said.

“What Pranitha has a younger sister. I never met her. But what does she have against me? Why is she doing all this?”

Other man said, “She just wants to speak to you, she has asked us to bring you to her.”

“How can I come at a moment’s notice?”

The lanky man said, “You are talking of coming at this time? We know you have a machine inside that takes us to the Lab in a second. Or to Delhi or Hyderabad”

The Second man said, “Open the door madam, we will go meet Pranila and return in half an hour.”

I thought a minute, what is the play of Pranila? What does she want? Why is she doing all this? I said ok opened the door and stepped inside.

The second man asked it to be set to Vizag and made me sit inside the transporter and I was in the Lab. Next Rose came behind and then the lanky man.

I asked, “where is the second man?”

He replied, “he would be in Bombay, and let us go.”

We came out and he told me to get us a jeep. Seeing me a security person approached, “Do you want a vehicle madam?”



I said, "Yes, get me a jeep."

He went and sent a jeep for us. We drove to the main road and got down. He told me to send back the jeep.

The jeep we came in returned the way it came.

After perhaps a minute a car came and stopped before us. He asked us to sit and sat in the front seat and told the driver to go.

\*\*\*\*

When I woke up, I was in our hospital on a bed.

I rang the bell and a nurse came over and said good morning madam, how are you feeling.

"Why am I in the hospital?"

"You were left on the stretcher in the corridor. Did you meet with an accident?"

"I don't know, I was going to meet Pranila, how did I land here?"

She said in a low voice, "Someone said you went missing twenty-five years back and returned now. You were looking as you were twenty-five years back."

"What year is this?"

"Year 2015"

What I landed in 2015, how could that be possible? It must be Bob's handiwork.

“Where is Mom and Dad?”

“Your mom and dad died a few years back. They could not take their only daughter went missing. In the hope you will return someday, they put the hospital in a trust to be passed on to you when you return. But how did you return as you looked then? Where did you go and what did you do?”

“I went to Bombay, married a software company owner and worked with him for the last five years.”

“But how did you come back?”

“That is what I can’t understand. Let me call him and see what is he doing.”

She brought a mobile phone and handed it to me. I looked at the phone, the model was Vivo, I asked, “Whose company this sim belong to.”

“It belonged to Airtel.”

I called Kumar’s office number. There was a voice this number did not exist.

What happened to Kumar’s number?

“How can I get Future India company’s number?”

“You just check Google, you can get any number”

She took the phone from me and typed something on the phone. “It says there is no company by that name.”

“You mean to say there is no Future India Company, what about Kumar’s International”

She again typed and said, “This company also not existing”

“Check if any company by the name of Kumar Software Development in Bombay.”

“There is nothing madam.”

*What happened to Kumar and his companies? Where is he? What he must be doing? Does he still exist? How to know?*

Maybe I have to go and check in Bombay, possibly his parents might be there in Wadala. Will they be staying there; his father might be retired now?

I got down from the bed, The Nurse said, “Madam, please stay on the bed, let the doctor come and check and discharge you, otherwise I have to hear from the administrator.

“Who is the administrator of the hospital?”

“A doctor by the name of Maithili Sharma.”

“Can you call her?”

“I will get her madam.”

After some time, a doctor walked in. “I am Doctor Maithili, what can I do for you, madam.”

“I heard your name is Maithili Sharma, do you know Kumar?”

“Kumar? Is it a name or sir name?”

“His name is Kumar, he is supposed to be your 10<sup>th</sup> classmate. You both fought for 1<sup>st</sup> Rank and you won, because he became sick before the exams.”

“You mean to say Reyansh Kumar. After our 10<sup>th</sup> Class, I never met him. How do you know him?”

“I don’t know about Reyansh, but Kumar is my husband, he is the top industrialist in the country.”

“I never heard of him.”

“Do you know where can I find Reyansh?”

“I don’t have any idea.”

The nurse handed the doctor some reports and said, “Madam’s reports have come. Please have a look doctor.”

Maithili flicked through reports and said, “Congrats Nandini, you are three months pregnant.”

*I was shocked by her words. Me, pregnant, how did that happen?*

“What happened madam, you don’t seem to be happy.”

“I'm happy, just a little shocked, I did not expect to be pregnant.”

“Take care, madam, I will come again to check up on you.”

The nurse said, “Congrats madam, do you want to inform your husband?”

“That is what I am trying to do, find my husband. But you are saying is nowhere to be found.”

“How could that happen?”

“Because I came 25 years into the future. What shall I do?”

\*\*\*\*

I used all the resources to find Kumar but to no avail. Then I thought if Kumar is not found and his companies are nowhere to be found, then I am in some other timeline. Is this Reyansh Kumar alter ego of Kumar? Then finding Reyansh would give answers to some of my questions. But how to find him? As per what Kumar said, he should be in software development. There are thousands if not lakhs of software developers in his age band. What would be his age? If I Compare the age of Kumar at present, Reyansh should be around 50 years.

I started to check in Mumbai circles, but he couldn't be located. After trying out all the methods at Mumbai, I came back to Hyderabad.

By this time, I had twins and I named them Atul and Reena as Kumar suggested.

It took me almost five years to locate him in Hyderabad. He was working with hospitals on hospital management software. I tried the hospitals he worked but they don't have any idea as he left them long back. At last, I found he worked at Nawab's hospital. From them, I got his mobile number. But the call went to his elder daughter. It seems she is using the number they have. From her, I found his address and landed at his room.

*When I saw the position, he was at the time, my eyes turned moist.*

I went to the address given by his daughter. Some ladies were sitting outside their house.

Seeing me coming inside the gate one lady, who seemed to be the house owner asked in Telugu, "Whom do you want."

"I came for Reyansh."

"You can go in; his door is never locked."

I pushed the door open. It was dark inside, slowly the light percolated from outside. I could see his form on the bed.

He asked who is there.

I asked, "Don't you recognise me Reyansh?"

Reyansh asked, "Sorry my eyesight is failing, who are you?"

I went closer to him and said, "I am Nandini, your penfriend."

He tried to remember and said, "Nandini, how come you are here? You left me heartbroken a long time back. How come you are here? But how could you look so young?"

I said, "I found anti-ageing medicine. I will also give you if you come with me."

He said, "What do I need antiaging for, whom shall I live for?"

I said, "You can live for me", and held his hand and pulled him up. He stood up and took a handstick and held it to balance himself.

I came out with him and said to the lady, "I am taking him to our hospital."

The lady asked, "Do you have a hospital?"

I said, "Yes, Rao's Hospital is ours only."

I helped him outside sat him in a waiting car, and told the driver to go.

\*\*\*\*

I took him to our hospital put him in a private ward and asked the doctors to give him all the required medication and he should be well and up in no time. There was a saying that if King

thinks everything happens. On my orders, the doctors started his treatment.

After two days he was feeling better and I sat with him.

Seeing me he said thanks for saving my life, if you had not come at that time, I don't know what would have happened to me.

I said, "Don't mention it, it is my selfishness to help you out."

"How come?"

"I am not your penfriend Nandini whom you met in the year 1984."

"Then who are you."

"I am Kumar's wife from another timeline."

"Which timeline are you from?"

"Anyone would have asked what is a timeline, you asked which timeline, do you know about timelines?"

"I know all about timelines and I have written several books on them. As per my knowledge, there were seven timelines and a few of them run over 2020 and their story completed. Few of them like Kumar who became Swamy or Kumar who became a top industrialist and planning to go into space technology. I think only these two timelines are running now."



“My husband is the one who is the top industrialist and I don’t know about space technology.”

“Recently he went over to Mars to meet with Indrasen and got a grant of \$ 10 billion.”

“What else do you know about him.”

After you disappeared, he married Loveleen and had a child by the name of Dhruv.”

“I remembered when we were talking about kids he said she would get Dhruv. So, he is the son of Kumar and Loveleen. What else do you know about him?”

“I think I should not reveal the details to you, but I am writing them down. When the completed stories are published. If it interests you can collect the books from my belongings.”

“Ok, I will do that, but tell me about your story.”

Then a nurse walked in and said, “Madam someone is waiting in your cabin.”

I said, “ok I will hear your story another time.”

\*\*\*\*

After two days I brought Atul and Reena, now aged 5 years to Reyansh’s room.”

I introduced them to Reyansh as my twins Atul and Reena and to the kids, he is your uncle, your

dad's elder brother. Your dad's looks like him when he was 30 years old."

They stayed with him for some time, spoke to him about their dad and I sent them away to home with our driver.

Now I sat with him and asked him about his story, when everyone else is so successful, why are you unsuccessful in your life?

He said, "My downfall started after I came to Hyderabad after my mother's death. My father died after my marriage and my mother died a few years later. So, I had to shift to Hyderabad finding no one else was there for me in Mumbai, also my wife forced me to shift."

He continued, "I was working with the Paints company as EDP in charge and the company went into lockdown because of workers' problems and at the same time we found ourselves without a house. We were staying with a family in a single room and my wife Anita talked about the owner's wife's sister to the owner's wife. So, she asked us to look for another house."

"After coming to Hyderabad, I could not get any job and I continued working with clients from Bombay, who have links to Hyderabad. Then I got a job with GVK for a paltry sum, which I did for some time. Then I tried to go and live with friends in Bombay and tried to find a job there.

During that time, I went to the Paints company got my final dues cleared and got my PF account closed for repayment. By the time I returned to Hyderabad my bank account was cleaned by my father-in-law. With no money in hand, I had to go and live at my in-law's house. At the time Anita was also pregnant. Then I got a small job with JK Industries and they took me as a software programmer to develop their software. Then I completed the software in 6 months and when they did not provide any increments, I shifted to developing hospital software with another company collaborating with Yashoda hospitals."

I interjected and said, "It seems I heard the story somewhere. Yes, I remember, I saw all this in my dream. I will tell you, at this time you got diabetes and later developed a heart problem and had to have open heart surgery. In my dream, I got you the surgery in our hospital, where did you get your surgery?"

"I got the surgery done free from Yashoda Hospital for whom I developed hospital software. They billed a low price and wrote off the amount. Later on, I was working with another hospital, and seeing they were not giving me proper respect, I left the hospital and joined a software company on a project basis. At this time, I was in a good position with two software contacts and one software project. When the software project was completed, I lost the other two too. Then with difficulty, I went

back to the software company for another project. But they didn't pay on time and I took up a job in Noida. After completing six months, I lost that job too. First time in my life, I lost my job and from that time I could not get any fixed work."

"But why your wife is not living with you?"

"I have to tell you about one incident, I was having a bath in the bathroom in the bedroom. I had my bath and came out and opened the cupboard and looked inside for a dress. My wife went out to a relative's house and returned and pushed the bedroom door, I did not even know it was closed. I had a towel around my waist and stood in between the doors of the cupboard. I turned and looked at her when she entered the room, and she was looking straight in an angry mood. I closed the cupboard door partially and looked at where she was looking, what I find is that her sister Sugandha is standing on the other side of the bed holding her saree to her blossom. It looked like we were in bed and hearing the sound I hid behind the cupboard door and her sister was trying to dress up. My wife turned and walked out and Sugandha threw the saree she was holding on the bed and left the house. She was fully dressed. I don't know what is Sugandha's idea to act like that. It seems she was angry with my wife for acting like that. The only thing I remember is that she was miffed with Anita for not allowing them to have the use of

the car for some travelling. She must be angry with Anita for showing off and trying to take revenge on Anita, rather it has become a punishment for me. After that, I had become depressed, with no money, no work and no one to look after me.”

“So, your present situation is because of your wife’s elder sister. Did she have any feelings for you?”

“I don’t think so, she never acted like that. I always thought she had some kind of aversion for me. She always looked down on me, as if she was a beauty queen and I am the kind of person she would look down upon. I never thought she would do something like that. She did not even think if this news reached her husband and her family, what would be their reaction? Maybe she plays them on her little finger. He must be a henpecked husband. It seems she is keeping a grudge against me

“I had once a dream about my husband Kumar. When I returned from outside and went to our bedroom and opened the door and found my husband and Loveleen in a compromising position, I came back to the hall and sat on the sofa. Kumar came to me and I asked what are you doing with Loveleen. He said she was feeling lonely and he was giving her company. I gave him an ultimatum and asked him to choose between me and Loveleen. He said he would choose me.

So, I asked him to pack and come with me to Hyderabad. What happened next is what you explained about your life. I woke up when I dreamt he was having open heart surgery in our hospital. Seeing how his life turned out, I quit thinking about shifting with him to Hyderabad. I left him and Loveleen to work out their schedules and did not interfere with their work again. But what I don't understand is why I saw your life in relation to Loveleen, do you have a photo of Sugandha?"

"I might have some photos on my hard disk. I saved all the software and photos and things like that on an external hard disk."

"I got all your things packed and brought to my house, I put them in the store room. We will go and check."

When Reyansh was discharged I took him to my house and provided him with a room on the ground floor. Me and kids have rooms on the first floor.

After a few days of coming to the house on a Sunday, we both went over to the store room and I showed him his packed personal effects. He rummaged through them and found a white colour external hard disk, with cables. We both went to the hall and I brought a laptop and put it on the table, with a power outlet to connect the external hard disk. He showed me the photos from the hard disk.

I said, "Sugandha is quite beautiful, but she looks nothing like Loveleen. What could be the reason I saw Loveleen and Kumar in that position? Tell me truthfully did you have a relationship with her?"

He said, "It never crossed my mind to have a relationship with her. I always looked at her like a younger sister. She might be having those thoughts, which might have reflected on your dream."

I asked, "What are all these folders?"

He said those are all the software I developed during my lifetime.

I looked at the folders under the folder name software code, and said, "You seemed to have done lots of projects."

I read the names "hospital software, TPA Software, Water Billing, Telecom Marketing, Invoicing system, Seeds Manufacture, R&D, B2B Portal, B2C portal, Vista, DateorWed. What is this DateorWed?"

He replied, "I had developed software for those who wanted to Date and Wed."

"Is it something like our Pan India Matrimonial Application?"

"What is this Pan India software?"

“My husband planned this software for the courier company by using the data transfer technology he developed for them. It works like this, they have branches all over India and if you go to a branch they will collect your details of the bride or groom and feed them into their system. At the end of the day, the data will be uploaded all over India by connecting through phone modems.”

“Now we have internet, we connect through a server and web browsers, the data fed will upload to the server and we can check directly with the servers.”

“Why don’t we start a software firm, I have worked with my husband for more than 5 years in software selling. I can help you in the firm.”

“You know, I don’t have any money.”

“What is the need for money, you have so much software, it is more valuable than money. I will sell the software and you install and maintain the software.”

“Ok, we will do that.”

\*\*\*\*

I started a software firm with Reyansh and I provided office space in our hospital.

*Note: The following part was told by Reyansh to me.*



Reyansh was sitting in his office room and his mobile phone rang, it was his wife. She must have called after one year. This is the first time she has called after walking out on him. He waited for her to respond.

Anita said, “Sugandha called me and told me that she played a prank on me. You were not aware that she was there. She did not expect me to walk out on you and for that, she wants to apologise.”

“Tell me what really happened?”

“Sugandha had some problems at home and she went to meet her Guruji. He told her that whatever she was doing was wrong and told her to go and apologise. When she said it was just an innocent prank. He said to her that whatever she had done in the past was not a prank, they were deliberate acts, and karma would come back in a full circle. If she does not absolve herself from what she has done to your family, it will destroy her and her family. If she does not believe him, she could wait to test it out. But if anyone in her family gets hurt, he can't help her anymore. Now her younger daughter has met with an accident. She went back to her Guru, he advised her to first go and beg for forgiveness and return whatever she had taken from them. She has brought their property papers and cash and came to me to ask for forgiveness and return those.”

“You mean to say she has taken from us all those properties and cash? How did she do that?”

“She has used black magic on our family and was siphoning off our earnings to herself.”

“When did she start that?”

“It started when we came to Hyderabad. You were always saying Hyderabad was bad luck. It was not that, it was they used your talent for their selfish reasons. When the water has come up to her neck she is now coming out. She was saying that her Guruji told about you, you had a guardian angel behind you, and now another angel come to your rescue. The angel not only takes care of you, but she will also save you from all of those evil deeds.” She took a breather and continued, “Where are you, when I went to your room, the owners said you had vacated the house and a lady came and took you in a car. What happened?”

“I was in a very poor state and Nandini came and put me in her hospital. When I got cured, she took me to her house and gave me a room there. Now she started a software company and she told me she will look after the sales and I concentrate on installations. Now I am at Rao’s Hospital. She has a house on Gayathri Hills.”

“Ok, we will come and meet you at the hospital, it is closer.”

Anita with Sugandha was at the hospital within half an hour, and a compounder brought them to his room. Kumar told the compounder to call Nandini to his room.

Anita asked, "What are you doing here?"

"It is my office room. I am installing the hospital software here. So, what are you saying?"

At this time Nandini came and he introduced them. Nandini sat on another chair and looked at them.

Anita said, "Sugandha wanted to say something."

They all looked at Sugandha, she said, "I am so sorry for causing all this pain to you. I want to absolve myself of all the evil things I did to you, I brought these property papers and bank account details." She put a folder on the table.

Reyansh picked up the folder and looked inside. There was nothing inside the folder except some white papers and folded newspapers. He looked up at Sugandha.

Sugandha laughed manically and looked at Kumar mockingly. "What do you think, I will let go of my lifelong earnings like that."

Looking at Nandini, "Is this your new angel who came to save you? I will see what she can do. If

required I will spend all this money, but I will not give you a rupee.”

Anita asked, “Why are you doing this Akka? What did I do to you? Did I ask you to apologise? What have you against me? Why did you do that in my house? Why did you act like that, as if you had a relationship with my husband? Do you have any feelings for him or is it just to break us up?”

Sugandha waited for a minute to see if Anita would say something. Seeing her seething with anger she said, “I wanted to see this face of yours, seeing you helpless and do I have feelings for Kumar? Yes, I have feelings for him, I despise him. I hate him and I hate you. I hate you for being born my sister. I hate to share my parents with you. I hated that I had to share everything with you. Dad always liked you, I was nothing for him.”

Anita said, “You were always mama’s koochi. Mom always supported you, why do you need Dad’s support? Do you think he did not like you? Then when he came to see you, why did you refuse to entertain them? When mom wanted to see you, why did you tell her not to come to your house?”

Sugandha got up from her chair and threw the papers on Kumar’s face shouted keep the papers and stormed out of the room.

I looked at Anita as to what is all this.

Anita said, "Sorry for her behaviour, she was always like this only, she was jealous for no reason. How do you know Kumar?"

I said, "He is a friend."

Anita asked, "What Sugandha is telling about an angel behind you? Is it Nandini she is referring to?"

Reyansh said, "How do I know to whom she is referring?"

Anita asked, "What will we do?"

Reyansh said, "What will you do, you go back home and let me do my work."

Anita looked at Kumar angrily and stormed out.

Anita came back and said, "Sugandha met with an accident, I saw her being brought into the hospital."

We all got up and went to see what happened.

\*\*\*\*

*It seems Sugandha met with an accident and was brought to the hospital. Now what does it mean? Did she meet with an accident because she did not apologise for her behaviour? What do Sugandha's Guruji words mean?*

Anita called her mother to inform her of Sugandha's accident. She tried to reach Sugandha's daughters but no one took her call.

She tried her husband's number. He did not lift the phone, so she left a message on his WhatsApp.

He called back after half an hour, Anita informed him about the accident, and Sugandha was at Rao's hospital.

Anita and Kumar went to see Sugandha in the emergency. She is being wheeled into the operation theatre. With Nandini's instruction, they took her to the OT.

After half an hour Sugandha's husband Venkateswarulu came to the hospital with their two daughters. He asked Anita, "What happened?"

Anita replied, "She met with an accident outside the hospital. Kumar is doing software development for this hospital. So, the hospital administrator gave the go-ahead for the surgery."

Venky asked, "But what is she doing here at the hospital?"

Anita asked, "Didn't she tell you, Baava?"

Deepti said, "She said she was going to see Guruji and went out in the morning."

Anita asked, "Deepti, did she tell you that?"

Deepti replied, "Yes."

Anita asked, "But when did you come, I heard Priya met with an accident, did you come to see her? How are you doing, Priya?"

Deepti hesitated and replied yes and Priya replied I am ok.

I thought they were hiding something.

Venky said, "Deepti is staying with us now."

Reyansh thought she must have come back from her husband and they are trying to hide it and Venky must be the kind of person who can't hide things. But why did she come back from her husband? He had been to their wedding, they are respectable people and distant relatives too. If they had some kind of disturbances, they should have involved relatives and brought them back. It might be karma circling back. It was her own words, not mine.

Priya asked, "But what is she doing here?"

Anita replied, "We both came to see Reyansh."

Deepti asked, "Did mom have some kind of health problem?"

Anita replied, "No, she went to see Guruji and he advised her to apologise to Kumar."

Priya asked, "But why would he advise apologising to uncle?"

Anita replied, "Sugandha played a prank on Kumar and because of that I left him staying with Rashmi."

They all looked at Anita, what kind of prank Sugandha could have played?

Anita did not reply and said, "She brought me here saying she will apologise to Kumar and at the last minute, she turned around retracted her words and threw these papers on Kumar's face."

Venky took the papers looked at them and said these are white papers only.

Anita asked, "Deepti, why did you come back from your in-laws?"

Deepti replied, "He is having an affair."

Anita said, "He is not like that, who is he having an affair with?"

Deepti said, "You know his cousin Tanmay 's wife."

Anita said, "Don't talk rubbish, why would she have an affair with your husband?"

Reyansh thought she was hiding something, I knew their family. Why would he do that? Tanmay mostly stays at home, how Deepak would have an affair with her? It is not his concern, what they do. But why Sugandha should target him to break us up? What is her



end game? Is it what karma catches up with, by breaking her own daughter?

I went there and informed them that the surgery is in progress, and it might take some time.

Reyansh said, "Come we will sit in my room."

Sugandha's family said, "We will sit here."

I said, "Anita, come with me."

He looked at Nandini, she nodded to come along.

The three of them went to Nandini's cabin leaving them outside the OT room.

I asked, "What is their story?"

Reyansh said, "Deepti is married to our relative's son, now the girl they are accusing him of having an affair with is their uncle's son's wife. These two families are close. Sugandha must be jealous of their closeness and accused her son-in-law of having an affair."

Anita continued the story, "I came to know from some relatives, what happened. After accusing him they went to their house for Deepti's daughter's birthday. Then later they took some relatives and reached their house and accused him of many things. After the relatives fixed up the matter, went away. Sugandha phoned the relatives returning and told them their son-in-law under the influence of alcohol abused her in the night. Whereas in reality, she slept with her

mother-in-law. They brought her from in-laws to their house left her there and went away. Now it is confirmed that she had sent all the gold and cash in her procession with Venky two days before this meeting. It seems they have done this drama purposefully.”

I asked, “Purposefully means they enacted this drama, just to get the gold and all?”

Anita said, “It seemed like that only.”

I asked, “What does it have to do with you two?”

Anita said, “Sugandha enacted a drama to separate us. Blindly I fell for that.”

I asked what did she do?

Anita said, “I went to a nearby relative’s house, leaving the main door unlocked as Kumar is working in the hall. Kumar left the door unlocked thinking I would come back and went to have a bath. I came in and opened the main door which was unlocked and entered the bedroom. What I find in front of me is that Sugandha is standing on the other side of the bed in front of the door holding her saree in front of her. I thought she was having an affair with Kumar and stormed out and later sent my daughter to collect my clothes. Now, what I understand is that Sugandha was fully clothed at the time and holding the saree in front of her just for show.”

“Recently Sugandha’s younger daughter Priya met with a small accident and Sugandha went and met their Guruji and he advised her to do penance else something terrible would happen. So, she called me to apologise to Kumar and return what they had siphoned from us. I did not understand that part. How they could siphon off money from us. You have seen how she behaved.”

I said, “I can’t understand what is her problem.”

Anita said, “Sugandha was having jealousy problems from the beginning. With the help of our mother, she would abuse others. Now I am getting an idea of how she could do all this. She must have acquired a taste for money, it seems they have started taking others’ money using black magic. From the time we landed in Hyderabad, we started having money problems. Then after lots of problems, we started to settle down after Kumar got a hospital project and later joined a software firm. In the software firm, he had to meet many clients. Then one of my relatives offered to get us a car and asked Kumar for payslips. From the time of his supplying the payslips, his problems started. He had to get the car as he can’t drive a bike. The hospital he gave software has no proper access to the bus service. He appointed a driver to take him to his clients. Through the software firm, he got a project with another hospital. He was servicing these two hospitals. Then his manager joined the hospital

and offered him an IT manager's job with the hospital. He had to maintain the car, because of transport problems. Now all these people became jealous of us having a car. She must be one of them."

I said, "From all this what I understood is Sugandha is the type of person who wants to get her way."

Anita asked, "How long were you running this hospital?"

I replied, "This hospital, I was running for the last five years."

Anita asked, "What were you doing before that?"

I replied, "After completing hospital administration in the USA, I started looking after my father's hospital, I met my husband when he came to attend his sister's marriage and my father sent me to them to help out in their marriage as they are from Bombay. We clicked and I helped him develop hospital software, and our parents fixed our wedding, and after the wedding, I went over to Bombay to look after his software firm. Then in the year 2014, I came back to this hospital to look after it."

Anita asked, "So, you left your husband in Bombay to help out at the hospital?"

Nandini said, "No, I did not leave, I was sent here to look after the hospital."

Anita asked, "So, what is your interest in Reyansh?"

I said, "He is a link to my husband."

Anita asked, "What do you mean by that?"

I replied, "My husband is somewhere I can't reach directly, so if I speak with Reyansh, my husband can receive the messages. It took me four years to find Kumar. I enquired in Bombay. I checked with software companies there, but I could not find him. Then luckily, I found him in Hyderabad through my connections with Hospitals. No one knew where he was. At last one of his friends gave me his address. I went and found him in a perilous position what with corona and all. Then I took him to our hospital treated him and gave him a room at our house. From then on he is staying with us."

Anita asked, "Us means, who stays with you?"

I replied, "I have twins, one boy and one girl Atul and Reena. They are five years now."

Anita asked, "But how could you send messages through my husband?"

I said, "If I tell you, you would not understand."

Anita said, "Please tell me I will try to understand."

I said, "I came from another timeline and time travelled 20 years into the future."

Reyansh silently looked at them listening to them talking.

Anita said, "You are correct, I would not understand."

Reyansh said, "That is what I was thinking about how you could be so young."

Anita looked at him suspiciously and asked Kumar, "Do you know her?"

Kumar said, "She is supposed to be my penfriend from the 1980s."

Anita asked, "So you are assuming she time travelled and she could be your pen friend with you?"

Nandini said, "he is not my actual penfriend, I didn't have any interaction with him until I came in search of him.

Anita said, "ok I don't have a problem with you being friends. How much are you paying for the hospital software?"

I said, "Don't worry about money, I know you were in financial problems. I am expecting a client for his software. If the sale is finalized, your financial problems will be behind you."

Anita asked, "Reyansh, are you coming home?"

Reyansh replied, "You go ahead, I will come later to visit."

Anita got up and went away angrily.

I asked, "Why did you tell her that?"

Reyansh said, "You know how she left me and went away, why should I care for her feelings."

I said, "You seem to take everything coolly, whereas she seemed to be hot-headed."

He said, "When she left me, we were married for more than 20 years, still she did not think twice before leaving me. Maybe at that time, she must have thought I didn't have any money."

There is an announcement for Nandini to come to OT. She got up and went over.

\*\*\*\*

Reyansh was visiting Sugandha daily to check her progress. She was in a coma for the last two days. When her husband Venky came to visit her, Reyansh asked where are your daughters.

Venky was flustered and did not answer. Kumar looked at him, he seemed confused and with problems. He thought that his problems is not his concern. But Sugandha was his concern as she was in the hospital owned by Nandini.

Then Reyansh saw Sugandha having a disgusting face even in a coma and she started to move.

Kumar got up and went to call the nurse. A nurse went in and Kumar stopped at the door. Seeing her moving violently, the nurse went to call the doctor.

Reyansh went and sat in front of Nandini. She looked up and continued her work.

After a few minutes, a nurse came running and told me, Madam your patient has come out of the coma.

I asked her how did it happen. She replied I don't know.

We all went to the room where Sugandha was kept. Reyansh went and stood at the side with me. Sugandha was looking at him angrily and trying to say something. It seemed she could not talk and looked at us with fire in her eyes.

Reyansh smiled at her and said, "Did you wake up?"

She glared at him. Nandini asked the doctor for her vitals. The nurse said she is better now. She should recover in no time.

I asked the nurse, "Did you call their family?"

She said, I tried to call her daughters, but they came switched off and her husband did not lift the phone.

Reyansh said her daughters did not come to visit for the last five days.



Sugandha has a scared look.

Reyansh said it seems her daughter went back to her husband.

She tried to say something. The nurse tried to understand what she was trying to say, but could not understand.

Then Venky breezed in and asked, "What happened?"

The nurse said Sugandha came out of the coma.

I looked at him instead of relief there was fear on his face.

Reyansh said, "She is asking where are your daughters?"

Venky looked around as if to tell in front of us all. Sugandha moved her head in question.

Venky said to Sugandha, you know I took a loan of 10 lakhs through an app and they were demanding repayment. Now that money I had lent to various parties they were not ready to repay immediately. So, they have taken our daughters as collateral.

Reyansh asked when did that happen.

Venky said six days back.

Reyansh asked did you report this to the police?

Venky replied they said not to report to the police.

Reyansh said have you gone mad? Why did you not report then, now it is too late to do anything. He stood there thinking.

Then Reyansh called his sister Revathi and asked for the phone number of a relative of Deepti's husband. He is Tanmay's father. He explained the situation to Tanmay's father and he said he will look into the matter.

In half an hour Tanmay landed at the hospital with Sandesh, Deepti's husband.

Reyansh took both of them to his office room in the hospital and explained the situation.

Sandesh said when Deepti went from our home she took all the gold under her handover and went away. I heard Venky sold off all the gold and turned over the money in loans. So, what is the need to take a loan?

Reyansh asked what amount he could have got on the gold.

Sandesh said he would have at least got 25 to 30 lakhs on that.

Pranay asked what happened to Aunty. How did she meet with an accident?

Reyansh replied Anita and Sugandha came to me to apologise.

Pranay asked, "Apologies? What for?"

Kumar replied, "Sugandha played a prank on me and Anita, at least that is what she told us."

Sandesh asked what kind of prank and why would she play it.

Kumar said, "I feel shy to even say this. But you have to understand the situation, so, I am relating the turn of the events and explaining how Sugandha played it. I don't know what kind of feeling she has for us. She said to Anita that she would apologise to me but instead, she threw white papers in my face. I don't know what she wants to achieve by that. When she was going from our hospital, she met with an accident outside the hospital."

Sandesh said I suspected she had gone mad with jealousy. I did not understand her modus operandi. Until our wedding she was ok. Slowly she started to fill Deepti's mind with unnecessary things. Otherwise, how did she get these ideas about how I am having affairs with his wife? She was like a sister to me. From the time of their marriage, she was tying Rakhi to me. Over that, I treated their children as nieces and nephews which she could not bear. Until our daughter was born she was somewhat ok. After that, Deepti changed drastically, maybe due to staying with her parents. She was not doing any work at home. Even my mother did not admonish her for not helping her. She would

come down from her room leisurely have breakfast and go to her room only come down for lunch and dinner. She kept me away from the time of her pregnancy.”

In the meantime, Anita came over and stood at the door and listened.

Reyansh looked at her and told her to come and sit. He explained the situation with Venky's daughters.

\*\*\*\*

Sugandha was in the hospital for 3 months and her voice did not return. Doctors said during the accident, some part of the brain was damaged which controlled speech. At the time of discharge, she was passing on the messages by writing on a slate or on the mobile while outside.

I used my contacts in the hospital industry and got another hospital contract for Reyansh. They wanted to purchase the software with code and I haggled with them and finalised 50 lakhs for the software.

I sold the DateorWed to a matrimonial service company for an amount of 1 crore. Now Kumar is flush with funds.

Deepti went back to her husband. Venky went and hid in his in-laws' place until Sugandha was discharged. He tried to recover his loans but he

could only recover small loans and bigger loans were asking for more time.

Pranay and Sandesh got some relief for him to repay the loan to the app.

Venky asked Sugandha for land papers to clear the loan, but she refused to give them to him.

\*\*\*\*

It was my birthday and the hospital staff arranged a party for me.

I took Reyansh and reached the party. After the party, we were returning home, I remembered my last party with Kumar, where he gave me a surprise party and called all my friends. It was the best birthday party I ever had. But it must be the day my future was sealed. I was feeling depressed after the party, maybe I felt the future catching up with me.

I caught Reyansh and started to cry.

He pulled me closer and tried to console me. I saw Kumar in him and kissed him on the cheek.

But he did not take advantage of this and kissed me on the forehead as if to console me. We reached home and the driver stopped on the portico, Reyansh guided me to my room and lay me on the bed.

I caught his hand and said don't leave me and go.

He said I will change and come, by the time you also change. He went away to his room.

I changed and sat on the bed waiting for Reyansh.

Reyansh returned after changing, pulled a chair sat beside my bed and held my hand.

I looked into his eyes, there is nothing else than concern.

Seeing him my eyes started to fill.

"What is the latest with Kumar?"

He looked at me blankly.

"I know you receive information from all the timelines, I have read your books."

"But I have not completed your timeline."

"You have not told me about them, because Kumar married Loveleen. From the manuscript, I understood their connection."

Reyansh said, "Now we have crossed 2020, he is not receiving our information. There is no need for you to keep me here."

"It is my selfishness I am keeping you here. I don't want the kids to miss their father and overt hat you being here gives me courage in this life until I can go back to Kumar."

"You must be missing him very much?"

“I don't miss him that much, because you are here.”

Reyansh got up to go to his room, “ok then good night.”

I got down from the bed, but my night dress caught up in my foot, and I fell forward.

Reyansh caught at my shoulder with both his hands.

*I looked into his eyes, still there was only concern. Then for the first time, I saw his love towards me. He must have hidden it well. But from his books, I know how his heart broke when Nandini of this timeline broke up with him.*

*I have seen in his manuscript when he wrote about the death of this timeline Nandini. There were tears on the pages. He must have loved her very much, she was his first love crush. He knew he couldn't match her, but he still thought there was some hope she would accept his proposal if he proposed at the right time. But she came over to his sister's place and listened to his mother-in-law's mad talks and left him heartbroken.*

What would I have done in her place? Would I have checked with him? Would I have given him time to present his case? Now I know he was doing CA in Bombay and came to Hyderabad to get his degree. She misunderstood him that is for sure.

Seeing him still catching me at the shoulder I put my hand on his shoulder. I don't know what he saw in my eyes, he kissed me on the forehead.

I pulled him closer and kissed him on the cheek near his mouth.

He closed his eyes and shook as if from a cold. This time I kissed his mouth.

He responded to the kiss and kissed back lightly. I lowered my hands and hugged him tightly. At last, he must have felt my love, he put his hand behind me and hugged me.

I don't know about him, it took me to the first time I took Kumar to my house on the pretext of developing software.

I kept hugging him for a long time, enjoying his closeness.

\*\*\*\*

I woke up from sleep. I was semi-nude, only on my inner wear and Kumar was sleeping beside me. He was covered in the bedsheet, so I touched him under the bedsheet to see his position.

He seemed to be naked too. He was only wearing briefs covering his midriff.

I try to remember what happened last night. I remember up to hugging him tightly. Then I felt like I was floating in the clouds. At one time I felt



like I died and reached heaven. Then I must have slipped into sleep.

I did not feel like we had sex, at least not penetrating sex. I don't feel like my vagina has been touched.

Then what did happen?

Seeing Reyansh still sleeping, I got up, put on my nightdress, and went to the kitchen to prepare coffee.

I made two cups of coffee and brought them to my room, woke up Reyansh to have coffee.

He woke up and sat back to the headrest, picked the cup from me and started sipping.

I sat on the bed while sipping coffee and had a glance at Reyansh.

He looked forlorn and looking straight at the wall. It seems he does not want to look me in the eye. Did he feel guilty about the last night? His wife left him long back and my husband, I don't know when I will meet him again if I meet him. Then what is the need for feeling guilty?

"Reyansh, what happened last night?"

"Don't you remember what happened?"

"No, I can't recollect anything."

"What did you recollect?"

"I remember kissing you and you kissing back, then what happened."

"Nothing much, you slowly removed my t-shirt and your night dress and started kissing me all over my body. Then, when I started to kiss you, you removed your innerwear and made me kiss you all over your body. Then, what I remember is that we both lay on the bed and went to sleep in each other."

"So, you mean to say nothing happened."

"How could I go forward, we both are married?"

"What is there to think about marriage, I was away from my husband for more than six years and he is already married with a kid. Your wife left you and went to stay with your daughter. When she asked to come home, you did not go."

"I did not go back because, I wanted to surprise her by getting our own house. I took a vow, I would only call her to our own house."

"You already have money to get a new house, what are you waiting for?"

"I have taken a land and getting a house built there. I am waiting for it to be finished. We both will enter into a new house only."

"So, that is what is stopping you from coming closer to me. I know how much you love me. I can see the love in your eyes. I know how much

you suffered when this timeline Nandini broke your heart. At least she could hear your side.”

“It is my mistake, I did not try to explain to her when I called her. I already decided she left me heartbroken. I felt I was not worth her to pursue.”

“What is wrong with you, you have become a successful software professional, with sheer hard work.”

“That time I was a failure. I could not pass my CA exams, then with difficulty I completed my B.Com. I had to skip one year because of my leg injury. I wrote second and third-year exams at one time.”

“What is wrong with that?”

“There is nothing wrong, but I felt I was not up to your standard. If you had been in her place, what would you have done? I think you would have done the same. Your story is different. You loved Kumar despite his shortcomings. You went to the USA for studies, I don’t know anything further about this timeline Nandini. What she had studied and what she did with her life.”

“She only did graduation. She did not do much with her life. After her graduation, she kept to her home. She did not try to help her father in her businesses. She did not try to help out in the hospital construction. She became sick because

of her eating habits. She would not have proper food, she craved chocolates. Because of that her cholesterol got elevated and she had a heart attack. I think that time Bob's people must have picked her and put her on my timeline. If she had not rejected you, she would be a different person. I know how much fitness freak you are. But still, you got blood pressure and diabetes."

"You know the reason for my problems with my health. Someone played with my health because we shifted to Hyderabad. They don't want us here. You know the rest of the story."

"Still I feel this Nandini's life would be different if she had accepted you. All that is ok, so you want to go back to your family?"

"I am waiting for completion of the house."

"What if your family did not accept you?"

"Why would they not accept me, I have money now."

"That is also there. Ok, get ready, we have to go to the hospital, some other hospital people are visiting us to check our hospital software."

"Ok, I will go to my room and get ready."

"Why don't we have a bath together?"

"After hearing all this, you are asking this question."

“A girl has a right to have some expectations.”

“If you say so, let us have a bath.”

It seems he has accepted my proposal. He might be thinking he was taking advantage of me under the circumstances. But now I have myself invited him, so his doubts must have been cleared.

I took a towel and walked to the bathroom, he followed me.

## Chapter 9

1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2021.

I was sitting with Reyansh and were discussing about the hospital running. An attender came and said to my cabin, madam some visitors came to meet you. He said his name is Bob and he has some important information to give to you.

I said, send them in and looked at Reyansh what that could be. I already knew Bob, his full name is Robert Fernandes, and he is the one who sent me to this timeline. I met him when he came with Dimitri.

I was looking at the door in anticipation of meeting Bob who would bring some information about her husband.

But a stranger walked through the door and sat on a chair opposite, beside Reyansh.

I asked, "Who are you, where is Bob?"

The man replied, "Bob sent me to give you information about meeting with your husband. You have just a week to clear your affairs and be ready to be with your husband."

I was disappointed, I expected some news, about whether my husband received the messages sent by me through Reyansh. I know my husband received the messages and he enjoys my children's interactions with Kumar. Whatever he

is doing Reyansh making a note of the same. As other timelines have moved past our timeline and Kumar could not get any more information from them, Reyansh completed their stories and got them printed on Amazon and Notion Press India. I know Kumar went to meet with Indrasen and returned and worked on building a spaceship. From the information received from him, he completed the spaceship and moved it to Sriharikota.

In anticipation of going to my husband, I asked Reyansh, "Would you like to look after the hospital in my absence?" As he had already worked with many hospitals, he readily agreed and I called our lawyers and made all arrangements to hand over the hospital to Reyansh.

After a week Bob came over to meet with me. At the sight of him, I started to blast him, why did he do that, sending me to another timeline away from my loving husband?

Bob explained that for the purpose of god's work, he had to do that. He is ready to take me to the moon station, where they have an underground bunker where they would be merging the timelines.

Bob told Reyansh, you also have to come with us. We don't want to take a chance with you.

Reyansh said, "I have not prepared to go with you.

Bob said, "you don't have to prepare anything, you will be returned in one piece."

So, I made a change in the papers, in his absence, the hospital will be passed on to his daughters Leena and Rashmi.

After signing the papers, we went with the man Bob brought with him.

He put us in a lift-like thing and we reached an underground bunker on the moon. I could feel the low gravity on the floor. There are around eight partitions and there are already some people and Bob's men started to bring people and fill the partitions.

I saw that the other seven partitions were filled with people.

Then they brought a Punjabi lady and put her in our partition.

I recognised her and said, "Hi Loveleen, how are you doing?"

She looked young and around 25 years of age.

Loveleen asked, "Do I know you? How do you know about me?"

I was a little confused at first, then decided she was not the Loveleen who was staying beside our



house and said, "Sorry, I must have thought you were someone else. What do you do?"

"I was studying Law in London and was working as a junior advocate. These people kidnapped me and brought me here."

"I don't think they would have kidnapped you, they would have asked respectfully to come with them."

"Whatever, so who are you and what are you doing here?"

"I am Nandini and my husband Kumar must be somewhere around here. This is Reyansh Kumar, he looks like my husband but Reyansh is much older."

We were talking as normal women speak and then we heard the announcement of the Starting of the Timelines merger and the lights dimmed, and when the lights were switched on a few people were missing in other partitions.

\*\*\*\*

We saw people were taken away from other partitions and we were the last to be taken out.

First Loveleen was taken out from our partition, and then I with my kids.

At last, Reyansh was taken out and taken to Bob. They have a machine that is connected like

headphones and were checking me and then my children.

Reyansh too was checked and we were taken to Bob.

An older Kumar perhaps age of around 40 was with Loveleen and their kids were sitting aside. A few more people were also present, whom I could not recognise. Then there was another younger Kumar too.

Bob addressed us all and said, “We have different plans for all of you. Older Kumar will be involved in the taking off of the spaceship. He will be involved with the selection of people and he will accompany them in the spaceship with Loveleen and Dhruv. His wife Nandini and her children will be sent to New York away from the villains looking for you. I already spoke with the others and some others will accompany Reyansh to New York. You will all be provided with new ID cards.

Reyansh asked who would accompany us.

“Your sister Revathi with her daughter Shravani, Sunitha with her daughter Anjali, Loveleen with Dhruv who was divorced, Joy daughter of Kumar and Loveleen. Also, Molly and her daughter Simran. Reyansh all these people are your responsibility. You will have to look after them and their safety, and also look after their studies in the USA.”

We were sent to New York and given a medical equipment business to run. We were specifically told not to contact anyone outside our group, which can compromise our safety. Reyansh was specifically told not to contact Anita or his daughters.

\*\*\*\*

Reyansh, my kids and I were provided with a flat in New York. Others were also provided with other flats in the building.

On one side is my Kid's room and on the other side, is Reyansh's room. We have connecting doors.

I had only a brief view of my Kumar at the moon base. We were sent to New York in the name of security. Now I was told I could not contact him, as he will be going away to Mars with his spaceship.

Kids did not have any time with their dad. During all this time Reyansh took care of them like their father. I missed my Kumar. I thought after the merger, we will be staying with Kumar, but I don't know where he went, he did not come to meet us. There was a younger Kumar who used to visit us in New York.

I tried to immerse myself in the work, trying to forget Kumar, but day by day it became difficult. I missed his companionship and Reyansh kept

me at arm's length. Even though he left his family in India, he did not try to come closer to me. I know he loved me, but it seems he kept his breakup with Nandini in his mind and never tried to come closer emotionally or physically.

On a day like I had in my timeline before being sent to the original timeline, I felt despair and felt low.

That time Kumar helped me come out of depression with his love. Now I miss him the most, I don't have a way to contact him. As without another alternative, I opened the connecting door between our rooms for the first time and entered Reyansh's room.

What I saw, he was masturbating in his bed. Seeing me, he covered himself with a bedsheet.

I went to him and sat beside him on the bed. He looked at me silently.

I said, "I am feeling depressed, so I came to you for some companionship."

He must have understood my predicament, moved aside, and asked me to come.

I thought at last he was inviting me to his bed. I lay beside him and covered myself with the bedsheet.

He kissed me on the forehead and said, "Go to sleep, you will be better by tomorrow."

What did he think, I came for his closeness, did he not understand that I came to him for sex? How to make him understand? Then I remembered he was naked when he covered himself.

So, I put my hand on his groin area and handled his penis. By my touch, it sprang up. If he does not have feelings for me, why would he react like that?

Seeing me handling him, he pulled me closed and kissed me on the mouth. I responded by kissing back. It was as if I found my long-lost love. I don't know what I felt, I felt like we transferred to 1987 like in one of his books. He made passionate love to me. It seems like he was in draught from the time his wife left him, I was from the time I came to this timeline.

He made gentle love to me to satisfy me rather than to satisfy himself. He seemed to learn some techniques while writing the books. Or was it his knowledge passed onto other Kumars? He was their original.

I slept in his embrace, forgetting my depression.

\*\*\*\*

From that day we used to spend in his bed regularly. Unlike last time, I locked my side of the children's door and my bedroom door too. I

don't want my kids to come to my room and find the bed empty.

Every time, I felt I was in the presence of Kumar, not Reyansh. Maybe the merging of the timelines has brought the change. Now I feel Reyansh is my husband and started to live like one. Atul and Reena also started calling him Daddy. They forgot about their original daddy, Kumar.

\*\*\*\*

Once someone called on behalf of Bob and told us to expect Rashmi to come to New York to buy some medical equipment. We can take her to our housing complex and introduce everyone.

Rashmi landed in New York with her assistant Hrithik. They were taken to their hotel rooms and later were brought to the office.

I called Reyansh to come to my room. When he came, Rashmi looked at him and called Daddy and hugged him. We sat down and I explained to her what and how all this happened. After they looked at the equipment and finalised the deal we all went to our housing complex where she met with all the others staying there. After having a look at New York, they went back and Reyansh took a promise from her not to tell about us to anyone.

\*\*\*\*

Then one day we received information that aliens were coming to the Earth and we should return to India.

We packed our baggage and landed in Hyderabad using the transporter set up at our house.

**To be continued in Attack of the Aliens.**