

Madhav Jha(Arjun Kapoor) from Simrao, Bihar, gets admission under the sports category at St Stephens, New Delhi . The college prefers those who are fluent in English. Madhav doesn't in on that account, however because he's a A-league basketball player, he manages to get in. On campus he sees Riya Somani(Shraddha Kapoor), the stunning, affluent, Delhi girl who also likes basketball. The two of them strike up a friendship though they are from culturally different backgrounds. Both speak different languages but they decide to be friends—actually Shraddha tells him she will be his half girlfriend—that is dost se zyada, girlfriend se kum. Now it so happens that at home, Shraddha has a troubled life. Her parents are constantly fighting. She finds escape in music and dreams that one day she will perform live at a New York bar. Arjun's mother, Rani Sahiba(Seema Biswas) runs several schools in Bihar. She is a dedicated worker and is sad that girls in the State cannot come to school because of lack of amenities like toilets.

On campus Madhav and Riya's friendship becomes stronger. However Madhav's friends tell him that he must put his friendship with Riya to test by getting intimate with her and seeing how she reacts. Madhav falls for this. One day when Riya is catching some rest in his hostel room, he tries to get close to her. She doesn't like that. She warns him saying that she is not looking for such intimacy in this relationship. Next, Riya starts avoiding Madhav. One day she calls him to India Gate, their favourite meeting place and tells him that she is flying to UK and is getting married. Madhav is heartbroken. After that he completes his studies and goes home to Simrao. However, he is continuously pining for Riya. A couple of years later he meets her at a hotel in Patna. She is now working for a toothpaste company. They meet and talk. He even takes her home to meet his mother. However, his mother is not happy with Riya. She doesn't approve of the fact that Riya has ended her marriage in just one and a half years. She doesn't want Madhav and Riya to get close. However Madhav is hopelessly in love with Riya and he tells his mother to be 'kind' to her. He also asks Riya to coach him in English because he needs to make a presentation to the Bill Gates Foundation for a grant. He feels they can help him get funds to make toilets in schools and more girls can then get education. Madhav's speech is a hit and he manages to impress the Bill Gates foundation who then offer him an internship in New York. In the meanwhile, Riya has disappeared from his life without leaving a forwarding address because of what Madhav's mother has said to her. In New York, Madhav stays with his school mate Shailesh(Vikrant Massey) and he goes ahead with his internship. However, his sole aim is to find Riya who is now singing at some bar in New York.

Spoiler alert—only read if you have watched the film
Before leaving Bihar, Riya leaves a note behind for Madhav saying she is moving on because she has been diagnosed with blood cancer and she doesn't have too long to live. She pleads with him to forget her. But when he lands in New York, Madhav has a gut feeling that Riya will be performing at a bar in the Big Apple. So every evening he goes to different bars looking for Indian girls who are performing there. Somewhere deep within he has a fear that Riya may have succumbed to cancer.

His friends try to hook him up with other girls but Madhav is hell bent on finding Riya. On Christmas Night he actually finds her singing at a bar and he proclaims his love for her. At this juncture, she tells him that she had lied about her illness because she wanted him to go far away from her. Post this, Madhav and Riya return to Simrao. They run a chain of schools here. Their daughter also goes to school here. And everyone including Madhav's mother Rani is happy to have a complete family.