

Unspoken Love

Raj was a college student, an introverted soul who found joy in the quiet rhythm of his life. His days were filled with lines of code, tinkering with Linux systems, and exploring the endless possibilities of the digital world. It was in this serene yet predictable routine that Raj found himself facing an unexpected challenge: love.

She was Meera, a girl in his class who seemed to embody everything vibrant and lively in the world. Her laughter was infectious, her kindness genuine, and her eyes held a spark that Raj couldn't look away from. She wasn't just beautiful; she was magnetic. Every time she entered the room, it felt brighter, as if she carried her own sunshine.

Raj had loved her for as long as he could remember. But his love was unspoken, hidden behind layers of self-doubt and fear. He wasn't earning yet, still dependent on his parents, and immersed in his studies. He felt small in comparison to her seemingly endless confidence. Yet, he couldn't stop himself from hoping, even though he knew it was a false hope.

He tried to get close to her, weaving his presence into her life in small, almost invisible ways. He'd volunteer for group projects just to be around her, help her with technical problems even if she didn't ask, and linger near her friends hoping to catch snippets of her world. But every step he took toward her seemed to push her farther away. She was polite, even friendly, but never more than that.

One evening, as Raj sat in his room, staring at the blinking cursor on his screen, he thought about giving up. It wasn't worth the heartache, he reasoned. But a quiet voice within him rebelled. It whispered, *What if?* What if she knew? What if he could show her his world, the beauty he saw in lines of code and the magic in his aspirations? What if she could see him, truly see him?

The next day, he decided to take a small step. He wrote a program, a simple yet heartfelt one. When executed, the program displayed a message:

Meera, the way you light up the room is the way I hope to light up someone's life someday. I don't know if I'll ever have the courage to tell you this, but you inspire me. You inspire me to hope, to dream, and to become better.

He saved it on a USB drive, labeled it with her name, and slipped it into his bag. But as the day went on, the weight of his fear grew heavier. By the end of the day, he couldn't bring himself to give it to her.

Days turned into weeks, and Raj continued to carry the USB drive in his bag, a symbol of his unspoken love. He knew he might never gather the courage to confess, but the hope it gave him was enough to keep going. In the meantime, he poured himself into his studies, building skills and projects that gave him a sense of purpose and achievement.

Raj wasn't sure if he'd ever win Meera's heart, but he realized something important: his love for her had made him strive for more, to be more. And while it may have been a false hope, it was a hope that had ignited a fire within him.

Perhaps, one day, he would tell her. Perhaps, one day, she would see him. Until then, he would carry his unspoken love, a quiet yet powerful force shaping the man he was becoming.