

*The story begins in an engineering college; before we start the story let me introduce one of the lead characters of the story.*

*Rithwik was born in a city called Mangalore which is situated in the coastal part of Karnataka. Mangalore is also a major port in Karnataka, and it sustains a number of educational institutes of different fields. As the city is close to Kerala many of the students there prefer Mangalore to complete their bachelor degrees.*

*So Rithwik is currently in the process to complete his bachelor of engineering degree in Mangalore. He is an average looking guy who values his friends the most over any other people. He likes to play cricket and is a pretty good batsman.*

*He has never been in a relationship because he truly believes that love happens only once in a person's life and that had already happened to him. But that love ended even before it started. The girl he fell in love for the first time was studying in tenth grade and he had just completed his tenth grade. He used to hang out with his friends in a bakery that made the best shakes in front of a school. It was not the only reason; the school in front of the bakery was a girl's school.*

*Now when the final school bell of the day rang, a girl walked out of the school gate. It was now Rithwik saw her for the first time; it was like what we call the "Love at first sight". It was a whole new*

experience for him; he had never ever experienced that kind of feeling till that very moment. It was like the whole world slowed down for a moment. In Rithwik's eyes she was the most beautiful girl he had ever seen in his lifetime. She had very long silky hair; her eyes were like magnets which Rithwik couldn't resist looking at. Rithwik was not bad in approaching girls and to start a conversation with them. But he did not or to be more precise he could not pull himself together to approach her.

So he approached her the next day, he waited at that very place for her to come out of the school gate the next day. When she came out of the gate he went up to her and started off by giving his introduction. She seemed to be impressed by his approach and told him her name, it was Manisha. They had a small talk for a few minutes and he felt some deep connection between them. They both used to meet near her school often.

Two weeks after meeting Manisha, Rithwik decided to convey how he truly felt about her. He went to the same place as always and waited there for Manisha to come out the school. While he was waiting for her, a guy walked towards him. That guy happened to be Sharul, who was an old friend of Rithwik from his previous school. They greeted each other and Sharul told him that he was out of town for a month. He also told Rithwik that he came there to meet up with his girlfriend.

*Manisha comes out of the school gate, even before Rithwik could greet her; Sharul runs to her and holds her hands and lets her know how happy he was to meet her. Sharul takes her to Rithwik and introduce her as his girlfriend. Rithwik broke down but he did not show it in front of them. He excused himself and returned to his home. So this was how his first love ended even before it started. As Rithwik valued friendship more than anything else he never met Manisha ever again. He was very sad after that day and in despair he started believing that it would be the only love in his life. Also that he could never experience that emotion ever again. In time his belief strengthened and he shut himself down from any such feeling.*

*Time passed and he joined an Engineering college; he made a few very good friends in college and three good years of his engineering life passed. Now he was a year short to graduate as an engineer. This was when she, the other lead character who was going to change Rithwik's perspective of life joined the same engineering college in which he was studying. Her name was Anjana; she was a pretty girl with black hair and gorgeous eyes. She was a graceful classical dancer and was interested in computers. She was always fascinated to know more about how software worked in a system which made her join computer science engineering.*

*Anjana was a happy soul and a loud mouth. Even though she had a lovable character which made everyone around her to like her*

company she had never been in a serious relationship. She truly believed in soul-mates and that she would somehow know when she would find her true love. And that day finally came when she met her soul-mate.

It was a beautiful sunny day and Rithwik along with his friends was sitting near the cafeteria sipping his cup of tea. It was break time and Anjana along with her friend came to the cafeteria to have a tea. She bought a tea and sat down on a chair which was few meters away from Rithwik. As she was sipping her tea from the paper cup she took a moment to look around her. That is when her eyes caught a glance of Rithwik. There was it the feeling that she hoped to experience when she finally found her soul-mate. It was something magical, her heart rate raised, even though there were a lot of people between her and Rithwik, it was like her brain filtered everyone out and he was the only person she could see. She neither could take her eyes from him nor could come out of that experience. She continued to gaze at him until her friend interrupted her when it was time for them to get back to class.

From that day on there was not a day on which Anjana missed going to the cafeteria. The cafeteria was also the favorite place of Rithwik, he used to come there along with his friends and spend some quality time with his buddies. This made Anjana's work a lot easier because she could easily find Rithwik every day. That way Anjana used to see Rithwik almost every day, she badly wanted to

*talk with him but couldn't make up her mind to go near him. This hesitation continued for two more weeks, she was desperate to talk to him but she could not do it.*

*One day when Anjana was on her way to the cafeteria as always she found it more crowded than usual. On that day their college was conducting a workshop on web development and many students from the neighboring colleges had come to attend that workshop. Anjana found Rithwik in between the crowd trying to get his order. She thought for a while and decided to ask Rithwik's help to buy her a cup of tea. She wanted to make the best use of this opportunity to start a conversation with him so hurried towards him. She reached out to Rithwik with Rs. 20 in her hand; she asked him whether he could buy her a cup of tea. Rithwik collected the Rs. 20 from her hand, ordered two cups of tea one for him and the other for Anjana.*

*With a bit of hustle he finally got his order and made his way out of the crowd. Anjana was waiting for him, he gave her a cup. Anjana thanked him and immediately put out her hand for a handshake and introduced herself by telling him, her name. Rithwik shook her hand gently and told his name, they talked for a full five minutes then Anjana returned to her classroom when the bell rang. Then on they used to meet at the cafeteria most of the days and they had become good friends. Both of them connected*

very well and enjoyed each other's company. One month passed but Anjana still did not confess her love to him.

A few more days passed and both of them got engaged with their studies to prepare for their semester exams. Soon after their exams Rithwik had to start working on his final year project. While Anjana just finished her first semester exams and had a one month of vacation to spend. For Rithwik this was the final semester break he would get in his engineering period so he and his friends had already planned for a small journey. He enjoyed nature's company a lot and always explored its beauty. He enjoyed trekking, the experience always made him happy. He also envied the idea behind it, you go through all the hardships and obstacles to reach the top and that sight at the hilltop is the fruit of all your hard work. The challenges and difficulties just make that experience a hundred times more wonderful.

As Rithwik always liked the company of Anjana he asked her whether she would like to go on that journey with him. Anjana was excited, anyways she had nothing else to do during her holidays and how could she turn down such a wonderful offer. The journey was planned on a Friday, they started their journey at 6 am and they had to travel for three hours to reach the destination. The trek was about 5 kilometers and on their way they had to cross small streams. During the first half of the trek they had to go through a thick forest with very tall trees. The trekking experience was

*literally beyond words and all of them had a reviving feel throughout the trek, away from all the loudness and disturbances of the city life.*

*It was the first time Anjana experiencing a 5 kilometers long trek. It was very difficult and tiring for her but the company of nature and all her friends made those difficulties lighter. All of them were very understanding; whenever they found Anjana tired they stopped to take a break even though she never asked them to do so. They neither wanted Anjana to feel bad that she couldn't keep up nor to make her exhausted. Each one of them had a lot of fun in that journey and not to forget about the visual treat that was waiting for them at the hilltop. It was such a mesmerizing sight that no one would ever forget in their lifetime once they have caught a glimpse of it.*

*Everything that starts has to end and their fantabulous journey came to an end when they reached back to Mangalore. Rithwik dropped off everyone to their respective houses and returned to his home. Rithwik then continued working on his project for the rest of the holidays. The classes of the even semester started after the vacation. Rithwik had only three theoretical subjects so rest of the time was allotted for the final year project. So both Anjana and Rithwik had different schedules and they couldn't meet so often.*

*A few months passed, the semester exams were approaching and for Rithwik it was the final exams in his engineering life. Anjana soon realized that after this semester Rithwik would not be around and that thought really troubled her very much. She was worried of the fact that she still couldn't express her feelings for him. This made her think a lot and she finally decided to tell him. She didn't want his mind to be disturbed during his exams so she made up her mind to do it on the final day of his exams.*

*At last the day was here, Anjana asked Rithwik to wait near the cafeteria after his exam. Rithwik went straight to the cafeteria completing his final exam as asked by Anjana and he found her waiting for him. She asked him to walk with her and started explaining to him about her belief in true love and soul mates. She also told him that this was the reason that she had never been in a relationship. She told him everything about the day she met him at the cafeteria, the magical feeling around him and also how she felt when she realized that he won't be around anymore. And finally the three magical words came out of her mouth, the moment she proposed Rithwik was stunned, not even a word came out from him and Anjana could not lift up her head and look at him properly. After a few minutes of silence between them, Anjana said that he need not give a reply then and also that to take his own time to think about it. In the end she made it clear that whatever be his answer yes or no, she needed to know it.*



*Rithwik still could not digest what just had happened. He slowly started walking towards the parking space trying to figure out the complete picture. He started his bike and made his way home. He thought about Anjana a lot for days. One week passed, two weeks passed but Rithwik did not give her an answer. Anjana texted him for his answer and she mentioned that she would be fine with whatever his answer would be. But Rithwik did not reply to that, he did not know how to talk to her although he had thought about an answer. Rithwik neither answered her calls nor replied to her text messages. He always thought of talking to her but something was stopping him from doing so.*

*Couple of days later Rithwik and the boys planned to meet up and go to the beach. Since they were going to see each other after many days all of them were excited. It was a bright sunny day with a few clouds in the sky. All the boys got to the beach around four o'clock in the evening. They were all kind of nostalgic, reminiscing on the sweet memories of their college life and also talking about their jobs. All of them were placed in different firms through campus placement and most of them had to go to Bangalore for work even Rithwik. They all sat down on the bench after wetting their feet in the sea.*

*Two girls came to the same beach at five o'clock and one of the boys called them out by their names. It was Anjana and her friend, the moment Anjana saw Rithwik her expressions changed completely.*

*She was angry, sad, frustrated, all these mixed emotions caught her. She dashed towards him grabbed him by his arm and took him away from his friends. She started staring into Rithwik's eyes in an aggressive way, her look was really frightening. Metaphorically her eyes were balls of fire burning very brightly and furiously. Rithwik could feel what was going through in her head just by looking in her eyes. She asked him with a demanding tone what wrong she had done to be treated that way, also asked him why he did not reply to her and what made him think that she did not deserve an answer. This made Rithwik mad about himself for making Anjana suffer so much. He spent a minute recollecting him and the answer waiting for Anjana was something that no one would ever expect.*

*He apologized to Anjana from the bottom of his heart. He started consoling her and asked her to sit down on the bench that was close by. He said that he was a coward and he could not gather up the courage to talk to her. He started telling about his first love and how he shut himself from any such feelings. When Anjana proposed he thought about it so much which made him realize that there was something special, something more than friendship between them. He said to her that it made him realize that he loved her and also he told her that he wanted their relationship to last forever. So he had come up with a difficult yet mature decision. He asked Anjana to listen carefully to whatever he was*

about to say next. He told her that till she graduated they would have no contact with each other and after her graduation if the same feelings still exists they would get together. He made it clear that he was not saying that because he wants to avoid her instead he came up with that decision to strengthen their bond. He also told that it was very difficult for him to make that decision. He said that he loved her and he didn't want that to be temporary.

Anjana was amazed listening to all of what Rithwik just said; she never expected such a mature decision from him. She loved him and wanted their relationship to last forever. She had waited for her true love for so many years and she felt that Rithwik's decision would be the best to test her love for him. All that Rithwik said made her feel proud about him, it was not easy to come up with such a mature decision on a relationship. She thought about all of it for a few minutes and she agreed to Rithwik's decision. So Rithwik told her to take some more time to think about it but Anjana was sure about her decision and she knew that her feelings for Rithwik would never change in three years or more. In addition to that she felt that even Rithwik has similar feelings for her. So it was decided both of them deleted each other's contact number and also blocked each other in all the social media sites. It was the last day they saw each other and they would not meet each other or have any contact till Anjana graduated.

*One month later Rithwik shifted to Bangalore to join the company that offered him his job. It took him about two to three weeks to adjust to his work schedule. Bangalore was nothing like Mangalore, it was a very crowded city and it took more time to travel to different locations within the city. The mornings were the worst it was very difficult to reach the office through the traffic. But the night life in Bangalore was a completely different story; the city had all kinds of night clubs and pubs where you could party all night. Most of Rithwik's friends were in Bangalore so during weekends they used to meet up and spend some quality time. The city contained all kind women and Rithwik used to meet many at the clubs but none of them made him feel special. The thought of Anjana always used to stop him from crossing his limits. Even though they not used to see or speak to each other he used to see her sometimes when he closed his eyes. Anjana started concentrating more in her studies and also continued learning different classical dance forms. There was not a single day on which the thought of Rithwik would not cross her mind and that thought filled her with a positive aura.*

*Three years later, Anjana was sitting in the exam hall for the last time and writing her final engineering exam. She was excited not only because it was her last exam but also because the three years long wait was going to end. She was excited and happy that the magical feeling that she experienced on the day she met Rithwik*

did not change for her. She finished her exam, after taking some final group photos with her classmates she went back home. She took out her phone and sent a message to Rithwik's friend asking for Rithwik's contact number. She got his number in the evening that day.

Rithwik was in Mangalore he had come to attend his friend's marriage. He had also taken a week's break from work. He got a phone call from an unknown number while he was sitting on the couch at his home. He received the call the voice from the other end made him so happy and excited. It was none other than Anjana's voice, her voice made him so happy that he could not speak for a minute. Then he replied, she sounded so excited and she told him that she was finally graduated and asked him when they could meet. He told her that he was in Mangalore and they could meet the next day. They agreed to meet in the evening at the same beach they met the last time. He didn't want to drop the call but also didn't want to talk everything over the phone.

Finally after three years they were going to see each other, Rithwik reached the meeting spot 15 minutes early and soon after a few minutes Anjana came to the meeting place. Both of them couldn't wait to see each other. She was walking towards him and the sand made her a bit slower, this was when the similar feeling that Rithwik had felt when he first met Manisha struck him. Everything slowed down, the sea breeze made her hair fly and she

had such a wonderful coal black hair. Her eyes had a magnificent glow it was like the entire galaxy could be seen through her eyes. Her eyes conveyed the excitement and the happiness clearly. She came close to him; Rithwik stood up, held her hands and gently rubbed her hands. They slowly sat down on the bench which was made of stone and they couldn't take their eyes off each other. For some time they continued looking at each other without speaking a word. And then Anjana asked Rithwik how he was, he replied that he was feeling great and was very happy that he could finally feel her. He told her that he could see her sometimes when he closed his eyes. And she said that not even a single day passed without thinking about him. She felt like the feelings didn't fade instead it strengthened; she was waiting for this moment to finally see him. Rithwik was happy to hear her talk and told her that they did not require any more assurance that this feeling was not just some petty infatuation. They finally got together; both were enjoying each other's company. Anjana could finally be with her soul mate.

Anjana had got placed in a firm in Bangalore so they could see each other easily. Their connection was magical and real, their relation just made their lives more and more beautiful. They supported each other very well and also that magic between them never faded it just strengthened as each day passed. They were happy, after a year they moved in together. They wanted to take

*their relationship to the next level; they were compatible on most of the things so they started living together. Their lives became easy because they had each other support even in their daily chores.*

*Five years later they got married, life was just mystical and joyful. Their lovely journey of life continued with some petty fights but with much more love. Their family was heavenly; whatever issues came up they had each other's back to overcome all the difficulties. They never had any secrets between them so there was more love than doubtful hates. Whatever small fights they had between them, they would not take more than a day or two to get it resolved. Their lives became more content when they got blessed with two kids a boy and a girl. Their life was like a beautiful river which flowed flawlessly through all the hardships.*

*When you are born into this very beautiful earth there will be someone, somewhere here in this earth meant to be with you and at some point of your lifetime they will always cross paths with you. You have to keep an eye out for them, for they will make your life more content and meaningful.*

*JHFFND*