

# Left Unsaid ..

“Follow your dreams...listen to your heart...” as Nikita heard these words her mind travelled back to 20 years. These were the very same words she had heard then from her uncle who had come over from the UK for a vacation. He had said, had he not followed his dreams, he would have never been this happy. He was a successful entrepreneur having a company of his own and employing around 100 people. That’s what he always wanted to do. To be the boss.

Now, while Prof. Kumar was delivering his speech at the inaugural function of the new sports complex of RV College, where Nikita worked as a lecturer, Nikita started thinking if life will ever give her the opportunity to do what she likes.

Nikita was born as the eldest daughter to the Adiga’s. They were a middle class family. Nikita was married off immediately after she completed her graduation as she had 2 younger sisters of whom the parents had to take care of. Nikita was married to Rajiv who was a mechanical engineer. Nikita and Rajiv rented out a small apartment in Bengaluru. Rajiv urged Nikita to take up the lecturer’s job in a nearby college so that they could be better off financially. Soon, Arjun and Aravind were born and the family needed a bigger breathing space. That was when they decided to buy an apartment of their own. With kids and a new home, the family had huge loans to pay-off which ensured Nikita could never stop working as her job gave the steady and secure income the family needed. In fact she never had time for herself as she had to take care of the house, kids and her job. Years passed by and the kids were big enough to take care of themselves.

As Nikita was returning home after the inaugural function, she started thinking has she ever lived her life as per her wish. Has she done anything which she really wanted to do since her childhood? Nikita was very passionate about painting as a child and that’s what she wanted to be. An Artist. But her parents never encouraged that, saying painting is just a hobby not a profession. Now as Prof. Kumar’s words echoed in her mind, she started thinking about following her dreams. The loans were cleared and Rajiv earned a handsome pay to take care of the family. She thought she no longer had to be this lecturer who bored the students. Instead she could paint the canvas with all the colours she wanted and her life would be as colourful as it could be. As she contemplated this, she entered the house to the loud screams of Arjun and Aravind. She thought she would discuss about quitting her job and pursuing her dream once Rajiv was back from office. Excited, she went to kitchen and started cooking everything Rajiv and kids loved to eat. Rajiv was back from office and the family had a nice, sumptuous dinner.

Nikita entered the room after finishing the household chores to see Rajiv and kids playing video games. As she sat on the couch, Rajiv got up, came and sat next to her, took Nikita’s hands in his and started speaking. He said ‘Nikita, you know our loans and cleared-off. Kids are grown up too. I have told you a couple of times earlier also, how I wanted to be an actor and when I had told my Appa about it, how he had reprimanded me and put my dream to death. Now that dream of mine has started living again. I was thinking if I could enrol myself in an acting school and start doing theatre and plays. I don’t think it will be difficult for us financially as you are working and I have some of my savings for a rainy day. I know acting is a tough profession until you have the right contacts, but I do want to give it a try. I need your support to be with me and kids while I pursue my interest. You are going to be there with me, right Nikita?’

Before Nikita could speak anything, the kids came running and hugged Rajiv as they shouted 'Yay.....Appa is going to be an actor'.

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