

## The tale of love (fiction)

Life is like a smoke in the fire for him. When it goes no one knows as he was also going out like a smoke. Though want to live life to the fullest but destiny has not given so much time for that. But it was a dream to be in top and he is fulfilling that and would fulfill that, as it is said “the biggest adventure you can take is to live the life of your dreams”. Though he had no regret out of life but sometime he thinks if it was not be like that then his life would have been different. He would definitely have been in some industry even without higher education and if that would have happened, he would have got his love too. But then the life would have been without any adventure. It is just an imagination; everyone imagines the life to be different than the way it is. I am not the philosopher, not a story writer even but a technical person authoring the life of a person and imagining it to be different than what it is. The purpose of this story is to express the agonies faced by him in love and the way he wants to live life but destiny has not allowed him to do so. This strange but true love story is written by heart, but at the end of the story he is satisfied that at least he experienced the most beautiful thing in the world, that is the love. Absence makes the heart grow fonder. He still loves his beloved and is in tears on remembering the time spent with her, he still waits for her and when is in a sad mood remembers her and even sends her message whether she reads it or not. It is believed that as we grow in strength in our spiritual life, we give up the habit of worrying. It serves no purpose other than to make us feel tense and miserable. If I stop fretting about things that are beyond my control and rather focus on generating optimistic and kind thoughts, my life can begin to flow in more positive directions. Such a light and easy approach to life enables me to take everything in my stride. But this approach is hypothetical rather than realistic for him. The story starts at this stage which is truly heartening and I as an author of the story would not be able to present the whole picture of the story if I do not imagine myself to be in his place.

The saddest time of my love “Falling in love is awfully simple, but falling out of love is simply awful” It was the 3rd April 2009 at 8:34 pm, I received a message from my school time friend Sonam “I am going to United States today, I will talk to you once I reach there, take care”. I was in deep thought as what she wants to tell me, as she never sends me message like that. It seems something very urgent and maybe it is concerned with my life. She was my school time friend and married to a software engineer. She was working in a software company in Delhi. As her husband had been transferred to US and she was going to join him there. It seems that the message had been sent from airport only. Next day was a usual day for me. I simply forgot about her message too. At around 8:30 pm she gave me a call and said “Hi Sameer, how are you? I was in hurry that day so I simply sent you a message, because I was boarding flight to US. I want to tell you something which seems to be very important in your life”. I was excited “What? Please tell me, I am dying to hear what you want to say.” She replies “I had been in Jammu for few days. I met Sonia’s sister. She is going to marry in the mid April and she was busy in preparations for the same. Please forget about her as she is going to be someone else’s wife now”. I became mute for a moment. It seemed as if someone has taken heart away from my body, as if I was a body without soul, a warrior defeated in the battle of life. I was in tears, my heartbeat increased and it seemed as if my heart will come out of my body. She asked me, “Are you there Sameer? What has happened to you? Are you alright?” “Yeah, I am alright. When is she going to be married and what her fiancé do?”

I asked in great despair. “Well I don’t know more details about that, but Sonia works in a Delhi and her fiancé is also in Delhi and also he is from southern part of India” She replied. It reminded me of her reluctance to talk to her family on the basis of caste as in her view her family had orthodox views in matters related to caste. But, what about her marriage to a person, who was not only of different caste but belonged to a very different

culture also. Why her orthodox family did not object to her marriage with that boy. I have many questions to ask Why she was not hesitant in talking about that guy with her family Why the person, who loved me, hid the relation from everyone even from her close friends or simply she had played with my emotions Is love related to physical aspect of a person or is it related to emotions Last but not the least:- If someone loves the person like me simply because of mercy, am I an object of pity Do the persons like me have no right to love “How it all happened? How?” I asked her with tears. “Forget about her dear. She does not deserve you, you will find a much better life partner, forget about her once and for all”. “I am in tears Sonam. How can I forget her with whom I have spent two years of my life? Why she has done this to me?” I asked with a broken heart. “Leave her now dear, think about your life in future. I am feeling guilty, I should not have told you about her”, she said with guilt in her heart. “Ok dear, I have to go now as I am not feeling well tonight, bye” I said. She replied, “Take care of yourself and close this chapter once and for all dear and please don’t lose heart, take care, God bless you”. It was the most despairing moment of my life, even worst than the worst I have ever experienced. Even worse than my breakup day. I was in tears, was sleepless the whole night as if someone has taken something very precious away from me which is even more precious than my life. I kept thinking of the past, the moments spent with her. I was unable to understand what to do. I was like a dead person whose soul is out of his body. Sometimes thought of ending life, but destiny desired something else. “You have to live, not for yourself but for her, you have to. You have to find her wherever she is and with whom she is, ask her many questions, ask her that why she had ruined my life. Now, you have to ruin her life as she had done with you.

Part her from her husband, then she would be yours, wake up, wake up, you have to do that, you have to get your love at any cost, after all everything is fair in love and war”, devil in me kept on telling me to do that. Next day was quite disturbing for me. I had a talk with my close friends. They tried to soothe my mind and I felt a little better but not so much. It was the mid of April, generally the marriage season and my beloved was also going to be married in the month. I didn’t know the exact date but whenever I saw a marriage ceremony it hurt me as I was reminded that my beloved was also going to be someone else’s. It really hurt me and brought tears into my eyes. The ghost of April 2009 haunted me very much. It seemed a gift which had been gifted to me by God, is going to be someone else’s now. Whenever I saw a newlywed couple, I was reminded of her which greatly disturbed my mind. I was in a dismaying state. Often her remembrance haunted me. Her sweet voice, her beautiful smile, her love for me, her promises with me, the dreams we had seen together, dreamt of having a beautiful hut in the hill station, me and my beloved living a beautiful life where only love prevails, she in my arms and I having an infinite love for her, but all my dreams dashed to the ground. My love was in the mortuary and I was collecting the corpse of the time spent with her.

Contentment is a great virtue, though it may not attract one's attention at first. Those who are truly content are usually quiet about it. It is a pleasure to be in their company, because they are full, peaceful, and generous. In my college days, I was a very introvert guy, didn't talk much with girls. But I like to share my views through my poetries and writings for which sometimes I have to face criticism from my close ones. Big desires, big thoughts and big sayings all are the part of my life but more hypothetical than realistic, veil my emotions, my thoughts from everyone except me. In my college days I had a strong desire to be in love and be loved. In my graduation days I was infatuated for a girl living near my house. It was one sided love affair, she used to take tuitions with me in my school days and I never expressed what I felt for her as I myself didn't know what was that. My heartbeat used to increase on seeing her. She used to come to my house to take books and notes from me. But I didn't talk much with her. She was junior to me in my college. It was my strong desire to see her once a day. One day she left my college as she was going to join a course with some foreign university. I was very much hurt on hearing that. Though she didn't know about my feelings for her yet I experienced the feeling of love for the first time in my life. Love is a very unique feeling and if it is both sided then nothing is sweeter than that. It is said that the spaces between our fingers were created so that another's could fill them in. It definitely changed my life and gave me a new enthusiasm and energy to live life and I thanked God for letting me experience this beautiful thing in life.

The step of love in my life LOVE: We think about it, Sing about it, Dream about it && Loose sleep worrying about it. When we don't know we have it, we search for it. When we discover it, we don't know what to do with it. When we have it, we fear loosing it. It is the constant source of pleasure and pain. But we don't know which it will be from one moment to the next. It is a short word, easy to spell, difficult to define && IMPOSSIBLE to live without.

"Love is a better teacher than duty." - Albert Einstein

It was the mid of February 2006, I was standing with my friend Sunil on my roof top. I had completed graduation in engineering and used to help my brother in his business. Wanted to fly in sky, had high aims but my health seemed to be a big deterrence in that. Me and Sunil used to talk about everything, politics, new trends and girls etc etc etc etc. I was having a look on the contact list in his mobile and one number that struck was of a girl named Sonia. I asked him who the girl was. He told me that she was his classmate and now worked in airlines and also that it was very difficult to handle her. Being little bit overconfident I told him that nothing is impossible. Next day I sent her a message on her mobile phone "Hi. How are you?" She called and asked "May I know who you are?" I got confused and asked "Are you Maya?", then simply kept the phone. Maya being the name of my best friend in college struck to me in haste. I again send a message "Hi, I am Sunil's friend, Can we be friends?" She asked "Which Sunil?" I replied "Your classmate in Masters" She replied "ok" Then I again asked her "Can we be friends?" She replied "Yeah, as you are Sunil's friend, I am automatically your friend"

I was very happy and excited that day. It was mine first experience of a different type of friendship with a girl whom I had never seen. Being physically not fit I had always desired to be in company of a girl with whom I would have shared a special relationship like any other normal boy of my age. It is the stigma of Indian society that a person with any sort of disability is not accepted by a normal person of the opposite sex as a life partner or as a special friend. But I was very much excited about the girl without worrying about the impact of my disease on our relationship. Next day I sent her message "Hi, how are you, how was the day for you?" She replied instantaneously "Good, I am fine. What about you?" I replied "I am also fine. Do you have any boyfriend?" She replied "I am not that type of girl, so don't ever think like that." It made me laugh as every girl would say the same and was not at all surprised. At that stage of life I was very hard hearted man, without love for anyone and not much for my family even. I only thought of my own pleasures, at whatever cost it may be. I had no idea that life was going to change and which would make me so soft hearted. So I started interacting with Sonia very frequently but only through messages on phone as I was too scared of talking to her directly and meeting also because I felt that if we meet then she would have come to know about my physical condition. She messaged me at 10 pm and asked "Where are you?" I replied "I was busy finding job for me on internet" She replied "Talk to me dear" I asked "So, what do you think about me?" She replied "You are a friend with whom I can share anything anytime and who will be there by my side whenever I need" This touched my heart and I am unable to express my feelings at that moment. I didn't know what had happened to me that night, I was so happy without knowing reason for the same. Everything seemed so so beautiful. Life after that seemed so exciting and beautiful that I did not worry about my health condition and consequences of the same. We used to chat through messages on mobile phone for one month and I didn't know even how her voice sounded. I was hesitant in talking to her and I think she also felt the same.

One day my friend Rohit asked me if there was someone who could tell about the fare of airlines as he had to go to Bangalore for interview. I said, "yes, one of my friends is in airlines" and I called her. I said "Hi" She had not expected my call. So hesitantly she replied "hi" I asked "one of my friends has to go to Bangalore, so can you please tell me the fare" She replied in a low tone "yeah, I will let you know tomorrow". I replied "ok".

It was a strange experience of talking to a girl with whom I had good friendship but only through messages. Through messages we came to know well about each other. We cared for each other but on voice call it seemed as if we were strangers to each other. Next day she called me up and told about fares of airlines and asked me to repeat what she was told by her. I replied hesitantly but was not in order. She gave a laugh and cut the call. It was a great experience that she shared her laugh with me. I messaged her "your laugh is very beautiful". She replied "Thanks but I was very much scared while talking to you, don't know why" I replied "Me too, and that's why I didn't remember what was said by you." Then next day I called her and talked to her. Now I was bit less hesitant in talking to her. I was feeling some energy in my body. I didn't know from where it came. I felt as if some angel had stepped into my life and gave some meaning and strength to it. That night she

called me at 1am. I was very much surprised on getting call. We talked till 5 in morning. She asked me about my family etc etc. I asked her to cut the call but she kept on telling that she was not feeling sleepy and wanted to talk to me. That day I realised that Sonia had something for me and she really cared for me. But I could not gather courage to tell her about my health and about my inabilities. I was scared of telling her these things as I was afraid losing her. For the first time I blamed God and medical science for my sufferings.

It was my biggest mistake that I did not tell her the reality. Though I was getting the care and love of a girl, which I had never ever experienced in my life, but sometimes I felt that I was playing with her feelings. A thought was also there in my mind that true love never cares about anything or it does not have any condition. Sometimes I used to ask myself whether it is possible for a person to love another without even seeing her or him. Is this the love? Love with the voice only. But whatever I felt for her cannot be explained in words, then what was it? No one has defined love. Love is not the terminology but a feeling for someone, for whom you care. So I was experiencing new excitement in my life, we used to talk once during the day time and once at night, after dinner. I got selected in one of the competitive examination for the entry in a post graduation course. I called her “hi dear, I got selected in competitive exam for PG course” She replied “congrats, I have full faith in your abilities” But she said in a sad mood “now as you are going out of city, will you forget me?” I replied “No dear. How could I forget my dearest friend and it is because of you that I passed the examination” It seems strange that I gave the whole credit and not my family who were the main contributors. But love is a strange thing and I was also expressing my selfish nature. So a strong bond of friendship was getting formed between both of us. However there was an insecurity in my mind that whenever she comes to know the reality about me then what would happen to this so called love. Though we had feelings for each other but we had never ever expressed that. Feelings are to be expressed by deeds but not by words. My attitude changed for my family also. Now, I was more polite, started caring for my family, my mother. These changes were there in me because of that girl and it is truly said that “Behind every successful man there is a woman and behind every unsuccessful man also, there is a woman”. Maybe I am getting too harsh for women, blaming them for everything. One incident which made me realize that it is impossible for me to live without her was that she was going to Bangalore for a training session of 7 days.

She called and said “you know I am going to Bangalore for a training session of seven days”. I replied in a low tone “good”. She asked “why you seem to be low?” I said, „nothing” She insisted then I said, “You will forget me and will find new friends there” She replied “I will not ever talk to you, good bye once and for all” I asked, “What happened dear? I am sorry if I hurt you, please never do this to me, I am sorry”. She kept mum for few minutes. I was feeling as if someone had taken my heart out of my body. Then after the pause she spoke and I felt new energy in my body. These few minutes seemed so long. I astonished, what was happening to me and my emotions. She replied “Ok, that’s fine but don’t ever think so as I am your friend and will remain forever”.

I had a sigh of relief and I wondered that whatever is happening to me is good or bad, but it seemed a very beautiful thing without worrying about the consequences. While leaving for Bangalore she gave me a call from the airport. Her mother and a friend were accompanying her to see off her.

She called and said, "Hello, how are you?" I replied, "Good. What about you?" She said, "I am leaving for Bangalore" I replied, "Good luck for your journey, take care of yourself." She gave a beautiful laugh and said, "You are saying the same thing which my mother said few minutes ago" I said, "I care for you like your mother". She replied with a sigh "I know" Then her mother came and she put the call on hold and had a word with her mother. After a pause she murmured, "Don't cut the call, I want to talk to you till I board the plane"

She seemed low and said with tears in her eyes, "I am missing my father very much, if he would have been in this world, he would have been very happy for me." I said, "Don't worry dear. His blessings would always be with you. I would always remain with you and give you strength". She said, "Let's see, what happens. God has never been kind to me, and this time it should not be repeated, I pray to God. Ok, take care of yourself. I will try to call you whenever I get time. I am about to board the plane, if something happens to plane or me then you can remember me with these words, good bye" and cut the call. I was in tears and was unable to stop. I didn't know what had happened to me that day; I keep on weeping without any reason. I was feeling so much emotional. Sonia lost her father few years back because of illness; she was the youngest of three sisters and loved by her father most. After her father's death she missed him very much but never expressed this thing to anybody except me. This again showed that she also loved me as a special friend. She had to reach Bangalore via Delhi. On reaching Delhi she called me, "Hi, how are you? I am in Delhi airport waiting for the flight to take off for Bangalore." I replied, "Good, take care of yourself and take something to eat" She said, "Don't worry, I will take care" I said, "I don't know what has happened to me today, I am in tears without any reason." She sighed and replied, "Don't worry. I am fine and safe here and good bye for now as I have to call my mother, bye, take care".

I wondered if she knows the reason which I am unable to understand. Then she cut the call. I wanted to understand what she said but how could I understand other person's feelings. That night there was no electricity due to rainy and stormy weather so I was in bed at 10'o clock. Now, I was very happy after talking to Sonia. I used to keep my mobile phone in cupboard. At around 11 I heard my mobile ringing but as I was sharing

the room with rest of my family, I could not gather courage to take the call. It rang for seven or eight times. I was sure it was Sonia. That night I was unable to sleep and was feeling sorry for her. She needed me and I was not available at that moment. Next day, I woke up early in morning and saw my mobile phone. There were eight missed calls, by three different numbers but surely it was not the number of my state. So I concluded that these were her calls from Bangalore. I waited eagerly for her call that day. The phone bell rang nearly at 2pm; it was her call as expected.

She asked, “Where were you yesterday night? Do you know I called you from three numbers as I was feeling scared and lonely here, where were you?” I got emotional and replied, “Dear, I am so very sorry for that, I also had a sleepless night. It was difficult for me to take the call as my whole family was with me at that time. But I am feeling guilty that you needed me at that time and I was not available, I really care for you”. She said, “It’s ok, I will talk to you at night, I have a class now and have to talk to mother also, take care, bye”. I replied satisfactorily “Bye, you too take care of yourself” and she cut the call. At night she called me at 10:30 from the hotel room. That night I was ready to share with her something which I had never before. She said, “Hi how are you dear?” I replied “Good and what about you? Have you taken your dinner?” She said, “Yeah and you?” I replied “You forget me, first take care of yourself, I am at home and you are away” She said, “Ok, ok, I am not a child, I am grown up”

She said these words in such a childish way that it touched my heart. Then we talked about her work and all. Suddenly she asked me something which stunned me and I took a pause for some time. She asked, “You are talking to me now, but if I get married then with whom you will talk?”

I got stunned with these words and replied in low tone “I don’t know” I was in a deep thought and then she again asked, “Tell me, will you find someone else like me?” I replied in anger, “Shut up, I don’t know” Then after a brief pause, I continued “I want to share something with you” She asked “what?” I said “I think, I have something in my mind for you, and I mean it” She sighed and replied “You think so but not sure” I said, “No, I am sure, I have feelings for you.” She kept quiet for some time and then replied, “But I am not sure. God has taken all those things away from me which I loved. I lost my father whom I loved the most and if I say yes to you and unfortunately something adverse happens then I will not be able to bear it, I will certainly die” I said “I will not forget you ever, trust me” She replied, “You take your own time and try to understand what you have said today, If something happens to our relationship then I will not be able to forgive myself for the rest of my life. I do not understand why God is so kind to me this time; he has taken all my beloved ones away from me. I don’t trust my destiny now. You also said that you think you have feelings for me but not sure. First you make sure that you mean whatever you have said. Try to give a thought to what I said. Bye, take care”