

THE

COMPLICATED

WAY



The Complicated Way

Poli Borah

He must be waiting!!

Checking her final looks in the mirror Priya thought about the person she was going to meet after a decade (that's what she felt at the moment).

'Aditya Chauhan' famously known as Adi was waiting for her at Pan Bazaar bus stop.

Adi was moulding his thoughts over the conversation he had with his friend Nirmal the very morning and how he failed to convince him to see Priya.

Chal Na Yaar (Adi to Nirmal)

Adi I am not coming with you.

It won't be long.....just a couple of hours...Please.

That's not the point Adi. Yesterday only we met her. And I have work to do. If you want to go.....you have to go alone.

And now there he was waiting all alone for Priya.

Priya boarded the local city bus, took a window seat and start wandering about the things that happened in the last couple of months. Time waits for none.... it actually flies....just that we can't see it.

Priya wandered back to the day she met Adi for the first time after school. "Time of summer break and there was a get together party at Talukya's house. Most of the people were back in town to be with their families. So were Talukya and Adi".

All four came in.....Nirmal, Adi, Talukya and Sen to pick her up from Charali in Adi's old Maruti 800 car. Priya was very much surprised to see Adi... the person she least expected to be there.

Aditya Chauhan with his long overgrown hair ... a bit taller than she remembers towering everyone else there.

A smile curved her lips on the thought of an incident that took place on the way back to Talukya's house from Charali.

Adi was chatting along with all others and started his car without looking ahead and bumped his car bonnet into a lady's bump. And then... The lady folded her umbrella and beat him through the open window and scolded him in her native language which Adi could not understand. Everyone was laughing out loud. What a day....

It was a wonderful evening and since then Adi and Priya were tied up with a bond called friendship.

Let's get some insights...

Adi was doing his bachelor from Delhi College of Engineering and Priya was doing her Bachelor in Science from Guwahati University. Even though they were placed in two distant parts of India....they stayed connected.... either through net, phone or msg.

They had grown closer in the past couple of months... now they share their day to day activities too.

Adi used to call her up whenever he is in a net cafe would ask her to join him. There was a net cafe near to Priya's hostel.... so it was very easy to do video chatting whenever they wanted to.

Back to her present ... The bus took a halt, but it wasn't her stop. Priya counted and there were still four stoppages to go. It was yesterday, Adi landed in town and was so excited to be back that he called her up the very moment and insisted on seeing him.

Morning sleepy head!!

You..... So early!!!

Yes... I am in Guwahati...Just landed 0 hour ago.

What? And you did not even bother to tell me

Thought I would surprise you...

Yah ... I am surprised.

Can we meet today?

You can come down to the high court stoppage and I'll bring the rest of the people with me.

Who all are coming?

And then they all...'Nirmal, Adi, Mukund, Mili and Priya' went for lunch and site seeing.

But today it was all very different. She and Adi will be all alone. Adi had asked her if she was comfortable meeting him alone. She said yes, but somehow she felt different whenever she is with Adi. Priya knows she was in trouble. However, she was looking forward to meet him.

Adi also took a city bus to reach the pan bazaar stop. Now he regret about it, coz he was all drenched in sweat. He was hoping that Priya would not make him wait too long coz he hates waiting... be it anyone... does not matter.

Just then the driver to Priya's bus pulls the bus to a stop at pan bazaar bus stop giving a break to her thoughts. She got down and looked around for Adi.

Adi was already there standing at a corner under a shade from where he was keeping an eye on every passenger de-boarding the buses and waiting for Priya.

As per his plans, the moment Priya was down from the bus... he took a couple of minutes to explore her... she was looking fresh and feminine.... she looked confused but then she saw him and gave him a bright smile.

Suddenly her throat was all dry. All he needs to do is put his eyes on her and she can feel the butterflies in her stomach.

Oh man I am in real trouble. (Priya murmured to herself)

He was wearing his all time favourite short checked shirt and denims with his floaters which he prefers in summers. He looked so fresh and real that give a kick to her heart.

Priya reminded herself that she and Adi were just good friends ... nothing more.

But the way she felt whenever he is nearby is totally new to her.

Adi adores Priya as a very good friend. Still he could not believe his eyes the first time he saw Priya at Talukya's get together party after school.

She was all grown up unlike school times...more plumpy and beautiful than ever. She wore a peach color salwar with bright orange and white flowers on it. It enhanced her colors and the kajal make her big eyes more captivating.

There was something in Priya that was different and he wants to treasure her forever.

Now seeing her all in sapphire blue....He cursed under his breath.

Can't she wear something simple like jeans and t-shirt? Why every time she has to look so damn feminine?

Brushing off his thoughts.... he wanted to enjoy his time with Priya and talk about anything and everything they want.

He just wanted to relax and he knows very well he can confide anything to Priya.

Adi approaches Priya.

Priya asked *'Am I late? How long you been waiting?'*

Not long (Adi shrugged)... just a few minutes.

Where is your Vespa (LML Vespa)?

Oh I took the city bus this time.

So where are we going?

No idea... you suggest (Adi prompted Priya)

Okay... there is a park nearby... we can seat, talk and if you feel like eating something, we can munch over too.

Sounds great to me!

Sukleshwar Park (walking distance from Pan Bazaar bus stop and a perfect place to enjoy your evening)

The moment they entered the park, Adi was confirmed that it is a perfect place to relax in the heart of a crowded city like Guwahati.

An elliptical shaped long porch protruding out over the Brahmaputra River; where you can take a chair to seat and relax. Back of that porch, there's the park with jhulla, flower gardens and at the corner, a counter for fast food.

That's the positive part of living in a city on the bank of a river. You can have plenty of viewpoints to enjoy and relax.

There were a few floating restaurants which were getting ready to leave the bank for their routine river round with live bands performing on the decks. These boats are the favourites among the local youths.

These boats generally leave the bank by 6:00 or 6:30 pm and come back to the bank again by 7:00 or 7:30 pm.

Thanks Priya!

For what

You know this place is awesome. I like it. And only because of you, I had a chance to be here. So thank you!

Don't be silly. And I am glad that you like this place. This place is one of my favourites too. The place makes me feel so alive. As if it pumps fresh air into my lungs.

Adi felt so relaxed. The breeze seems to be scented and putting spell on him of some kind.

Sun was going down; the waves were dancing with different colors.

The whole moment seems to be magical.... *Oh Priya I feel so heavenly here.* (Utter Adi)

And then he looks at Priya and before he could think what he was saying, it was out.

Would you please not get marry in your life for me?

Not get marry? As in never get marry (There was a sudden confusion on her face)

Yes

And why would I do that?

Because if you marry our friendship will never be the same and I don't want to lose you.

Priya was so shocked by his words; she can't believe her ears and doesn't know how to react.

All she could do was look away.

Adi quickly realized what he has done?

He should not have said those words. But he can't do anything about it now and he was not feeling sorry about it.

It was almost 7 pm and time to move back home.

But something foreeful was holding him back....he wished this moment would never ends.

Priya was also in the same state of mind. But she was getting late. Or else she would have to give explanation to her hostel warden for the same. She does not want to do any such things. It was just her first year in college.

Adi! We should go now. Or else I'll be late

Can I call you later? (Adi asked Priya)

Yes you can.

Ok. I'll walk you to the bus stop. And let me know once you reach you hostel safely.

Sure.

They both walked silently to the bus stop. There was some tension in the air.

Once Priya was gone Adi took the next bus home.

He was wandering about the whole day and the talks he had with Priya.

He remembers her talking about going to Mazhaar tomorrow. He also remembers the famous beliefs and saying of visiting Mazhaar as narrated by Priya.

Priya what you doing tomorrow?

Tomorrow is Friday right?

Yes...what's about Friday?

Oh I am going to Mazhaar in the morning.

Which one?

Ullabari Mazhaar.

If you and Nirmal want to come;

By what time you go there?

7 O'clock in the morning.

Why Mazhaar?

My next door hostel mate, she believes Islam. And people believe that if you can offer your prayers 7 Fridays or 7 days or 7 weeks, whatever you pray for... you have it.

What you pray for?

Nothing specific....whenever I feel low... I go there.... gives me strength. You can buy red roses or chaddars to offer along with Prasad. Candles and scented sticks are also available.

Priya added "Most of the couples visit Mazhaar, to pray for their success stories".

Now on the way back home, Adi decided that tomorrow he would go to Mazhaar and this time he would convince Nirmal to accompany him.

Today was one of his best days. His every cell was relaxed and a new energy was oozing out. Though he was not sure what was the most effective part of it.... was it the ambience or the company of Priya.

Adi's mom was waiting for him to come back and have dinner together. The moment he stepped into the house...

Beta! You back... Let me serve you dinner. You must be hungry.

Mom...may be later. Not hungry at this moment.

Ok...let me know when you feel like.

Sure.

Is everything alright?

Yes mom...just had snacks so not feeling hungry...I'll eat later.

On other hand...Back in hostel, Priya was all drown in thoughts....she was replaying the time she spent with Adi today just like playing a movie clip 100 times.

Why in this world he said that to me?

Never get married???

This was something that engulfed her whole mind for the rest of the evening.

He did not say "he loves me" or that "he would ever marry me"

That's so selfish of him.

Only for the sake of friendship....he doesn't want to lose me.

That's not fair of him.

Just then she received a buzz on her phone. A text msg!

"Have you reached safely" Adi

This is called "Think of the Devil and the devil is here".

Normally whenever Adi is in Guwahati, he calls Priya daily around 10 pm.

So today also she was expecting his call.

She replied to the text msg *"Yah half n hour ago" and you?*

"Just in".... call you later.

After dinner Priya was all awake thinking and waiting for Adi's call.

They would talk for 1-2 hours all about wanted and unwanted things.

That night they talked only for half n hour as there was nothing much to talk about.

Adi did not tell Priya that he would be coming to Mazhaar tomorrow morning.

He thought he would surprise her.

Priya was awake all night. Something was not right within her.

There was a restlessness building inside her.

Dawn break in.... there was a knock at her door. The chaiwala was there for tea.

Keeping her thoughts aside and sipping tea in her cosy single room of her hostel, Priya was welcoming the day ahead.

End of Preview.

Rest of the book can be read @
<http://kinige.com/kbook.php?id=1535>

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