

A MOUNTAIN AFFAIR

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PROLOGUE

'A Mountain Affair' is a fiction novel which is about the beautiful hill station, Shimla in Himachal Pradesh. It gives you a lot of information about this city with its snow-capped picturesque mountains and the lush green landscapes. The novel describes about the emotional bond which a family shares with each other. The two families have so much love between them. It also gives a clear picture about how love that began in Shimla with the breath-taking picturesque mountain and takes us to New Delhi, a city so different. There is information about the experiences shared by the characters which are worth reading about.

Please read the entire novel to enjoy it.

A Mountain Affair

Chapter one

The high rise building in a residential area of Chandni Chowk in Delhi was where Rohit Kapoor popularly known as R.K lived. The family of Rohit shared a special bond with each other. His mother and younger brothers, Ritesh and Rihaan were the world for R.K. It was around five years since his father's demise and he had always been supportive towards them.

The apartment in which they resided was a huge one with a terrace.

Chandni Chowk, also known as Moonlight Square has the oldest and busiest markets in Old Delhi. They lived on the top floor with a beautiful view from the terrace.

Rohit Kapoor was the CEO of a multinational firm in Connaught Place which was a commercial area. R.K was also the Founder of a primary school in Greater Noida. Overall Rohit was so very busy, involved in so many activities, he hardly had any time for himself. He had achieved so much in life at the age of thirty two but yet 'single ready to mingle' would be the correct phrase to describe him. Rohit Kapoor was tall man with a broad physique and an admirable height of 6ft. Many girls were eager to marry him but he had not yet decided who would be the right choice for him. He was waiting

for the suitable girl to enter his life who would be his wife.

It was Sunday morning Rohit's family were enjoying the cool, winter breeze having their morning cup of tea on the terrace and chattering away happily in their leisure time. His mom suddenly asked him, "What are your plans for today." Rohit replied, "Mom, I'm free today, no particular plans as such." His mom said she would like to visit the local market for shopping if it was convenient for him. Rohit said, "Sure, Mom, I will definitely accompany you."

Rohit and his mother decided to go to the local market for shopping in the evening at around 5 p.m. The Chandni Chowk market has many shops that sell books, clothing, electronics, consumer goods,

shoes and leather goods. The specialty of the market is its variety and authenticity and also different kinds of food delicacies. Rohit's mom shopped for saris and traditional gold jewellery. There were beautiful lamps which he bought to gift his friend. Shops sold mementos which they bought to decorate in their home. Overall the markets in Chandni Chowk had all types of handicrafts and essentials which one would buy if interested. Rohit's mom shopped for daily groceries and once done they returned home glad to have visited these lovely markets with so many options.

Rohit rang the doorbell and his brothers welcomed them home. His mom said, "I'm tired and will rest now." Rohit kept the shopping items in the living room and

told the house help to assist him to keep them in the kitchen and the rest in the store room, which he would arrange later. Ritesh and Rihaan, his younger brothers said, "We will also help you bro." The three sat on the sofa in the living room which had beautiful interior designing done which was eye catching.

After having spent time with them he said, "Will meet you both at dinner and proceeded to his room. Rohit had a quick shower and relaxed in his room. He thought about tomorrow and his work schedule and planned out everything for Monday. Being a CEO of a multinational firm, he had to shoulder a lot of responsibilities but he loved whatever he was doing and his mother and brothers were very proud of him.

The next morning Rohit got ready to travel to his work place which was in Connaught Place. He travelled by his car so that he would reach on time. This place is one of the main financial, commercial and business centres in New Delhi. The Georgian style architecture the buildings were built in this area was really

Commendable. Rohit reached his company's building and quickly pressed the button for the twentieth floor where his office was, he went to the cabin. All his employees were on time and busy doing the jobs allotted to them. R.K also called his secretary and updated him for today's assignments.

The whole week would be hectic and on Saturday he had to visit the school of which he was the Founder. The only day

he would get to relax with his family would be Sunday.

R.K loved his life but at times he felt that besides the few friends he had, he thought that there should be a partner who would share his joys and sorrows too. Rohit said to himself, “There must be someone who would be the right girl for me, hope I meet her soon”.

The clock in his cabin struck one, it was lunch time for his staff. Rohit, too decided to have the lunch sent by his mom, which was usually vegan. He thoroughly enjoyed whatever his mom cooked with so much love for him. He took a round in the company and enquired with the employees as to how they were doing and updated their progress.

He praised Annie and other girls for the hard work and said, “Good job! Keep it

up.” They all were in awe of their Boss who was so very impressive.

Rohit and his staff worked non stop, it was evening they finished their work and left the company to go to their respective destinations. A few would go directly home while others would be first meeting their friends on the way to their homes.

Rohit or R K, as he was fondly called picked up his car keys and brief case, locked the cabin door and proceeded towards the lift to go downstairs. He drove his car towards his house to Chandni Chowk. Usually he had a driver but today he sat in the driver’s seat as he was on leave today and started his car. There was a lot of traffic on the busy road but he finally reached home. Rohit’s mom answered the doorbell, it was evening. His

mom asked him, "Son, Would you like to have tea or coffee?." He answered, "Mom, today I would prefer coffee." R.K went to his room after a shower and change of his formal wear, he went to the terrace where his mother had arranged the beverages with some snacks. It was beginning to get dark as it was winter, the sun would set slowly and the view from up was very beautiful. The sky had different shades of colours which looked lovely. After sometime his brothers Ritesh and Rihaan also joined them, all of them enjoyed each other's company. Their mom said she had chores to complete in the kitchen and also had to make preparations for dinner so she excused herself, while their younger brother Rihaan said, "Ritesh and I am going for our daily evening walk. Would you like to come with us?. Rohit said, "I'm pretty

tired but would definitely join you guys next time”.

Rohit went to the living room and after surfing a few channels, watched the news and later checked his mobile if he had to answer a message or important call he had to respond to if urgent and necessary.

When it was dinner time all of them went to the dining room and had their meal, after which they went to their bedrooms so that they all would wake up early tomorrow.

Rohit lay on the bed deep in thoughts and was fast asleep in a few minutes.

Chapter two

Charvi Rana was a simple, homely girl and a true beauty as her name suggested. She lived in Shimla in Himachal Pradesh. This Indian state is popularly renowned for its Himalayan landscapes and popular hill stations. Shimla in Himachal Pradesh is the most visited place and was once the summer capital. This hill station. He is famous for it's landscapes and scenic beauty.

Charvi was fortunate to have been born here and her parents adored her. She had done her diploma in Fashion Designing and worked in a boutique nearby. Charvi loved her job and was always trying to do her best. She had an elder brother Yash

and the youngest was her sister Gul who lived with them. Their house was a cottage which had all the modern amenities and was compact. The cottage was built on a small mountain with greenery everywhere. The lawn outside the cottage was full of fresh green grass which had to be mowed often. The garden was having wild flowers and bamboo trees, there were also pine and oak trees. The fragrance of the flowers made the atmosphere enchanting and a place worth living.

Charvi had to travel by bus to the city as they were in a small village. She enjoyed the trip always and looked forward to it whenever she had to go to her work place. Two girls assisted her in the fashion boutique. Charvi was involved in this work and earned enough for her family. They also had the poultry farm and a goat, so

every thing was good and going for her. Charvi's brother Yash was hoping that his sister Charvi gets married and settles down soon, but she was only twenty-four and could wait for a couple of years for the right man to come into her life.

Charvi's parents were middle aged and hard working. Her mother was a simple woman always busy doing some household chores or other activity and her father, too was happy gardening and attending the poultry.

Charvi got a call the next day from one of the girls that she had to visit the boutique, she was working for and she got ready to go there. She dressed formally in jeans and wore a pink top to coordinate with the outfit, she tied her long black hair in a tight plait so that she looked neat and smart. Charvi took the

bus for the city as she was in a village and this was one of the basic transports used here. The boutique was in the main city of Shimla. She reached within two hours of journey and walked down to her work place. 'The Miss Boutique' as it was named was one of the famous shops which sold Indian traditional dresses at a reasonable price.

Seema and Ritu were happy to see her and after wishing her "Good morning" told that there would be some customers who were interested to buy the ethnic wear they sold. Charvi was thrilled to hear this and replied, "Wow! That's real good news." The two girls finished designing and stitching different colours of outfits they would show to their customers. Mostly tourists visited the boutique and loved whatever they would buy. Some ordered and got them stitched in the

patterns they preferred or some would buy the readymade stuff. The customers arrived, they seemed to be foreigners. The women praised the dresses and one of them exclaimed, "It's so pretty." Charvi and her two assistants were happy that they had done good business today as the women purchased the Indian wear with so much happiness and excitement. Charvi thanked the girls. She was in the boutique till the evening and guided Seema and Ritu for tomorrow, as she would come after two days. She knew the girls would manage everything as they were skilled and capable at the same time and always did their jobs efficiently. Charvi said good bye to them and left the place promising to meet them soon. She took a bus back home to her family in the village.

Charvi reached home in the evening. Her family was waiting for her, Yash and Gul were overjoyed at her arrival. Her parents too welcomed her. Gul said, "Sis, We will all have dinner together." Charvi replied "Yes dear." She went to her room and rested for sometime. Charvi recollected all that happened in the day and was happy that today her boutique had done good business and prayed that it continued to do so. Yash, her brother also supported his family. He was a Chief accountant in a firm in Shimla and was very good in his work. He wanted that his sister Charvi should get married soon and hoped that she meets the suitable man who she would settle down with, he would then think about himself. Gul was in college so she could wait till she completes her studies.

Charvi and her family had dinner and talked in between about the day, discussing almost everything. The family was a close knit family and their bond was really strong. Charvi was in her room when a voice interrupted her. She looked up to see that it was Gul who asked "Are you thinking about some handsome man you met today?." Gul, her younger sister always joked and teased her whenever they were alone. Charvi laughed and replied "Don't be silly, nothing like that yet. You will be the first one to know if anyone comes into my life, as I share everything with you." Charvi was feeling sleepy after the long, hectic day, she changed into her night wear and lay on her bed, in a few moments she was fast asleep. Gul and the rest of the family switched off the lights as it was time for them to go to bed too.

The next day, Gul had to go to her college and Yash had to attend office, they were up early while Charvi did not have to visit the boutique so she had planned to sleep for more time than them. Her assistants the girls, Seema and Ritu would take care of the work there. Charvi was in a relaxed mood when she woke up, after shower, she dressed up in casual T-shirt and trousers and proceeded to the cottage lawn where her parents were seated on the chairs and asked her to join them. The kettle and tea cups were on a small carved wooden table. Her mom said, "Sit dear, I shall make you a hot cup of tea." Her dad was already enjoying the cool breeze and reading the newspaper. Charvi sat with them and had tea. Her dad asked her, "How is your boutique doing?." She

replied, "Quite good, dad. Everything is fine. I am doing good business."

After having tea, she took a long walk in the lawn and admired the beautiful landscape in which their cottage was situated with the evergreen trees and the scenic mountains which were beginning to be snow-capped which looked so heavenly and beautiful. Charvi visited the poultry farm and also saw how the goat which was there was doing. She said to herself, "Everything seems to be okay" She heaved a sigh of relief and after complete satisfaction went back to her cottage and thanked God for blessing them always.

Once after reaching home she went to the kitchen where her mom was getting the breakfast ready for them. Charvi prepared omelettes and some fresh orange juice.

She also sliced apples and decided that they would have bread and butter too. She was happy to be a helping hand to her mother whenever she needed her. Charvi and her parents enjoyed their breakfast together. Her parents praised her for the efforts, for always being with them and for supporting them by pitching in also, when required. Charvi's parents discussed that now that she had reached the time that she should settle down with a right man. They had been approached by some people but were waiting for a suitable groom for Charvi. They had given her freedom to choose whoever she felt was right for her but she was still unsure about it, as she wanted it to be love at first sight then she would take the next step.

Chapter three

Back in Delhi, Rohit was following the usual hectic schedule, he had hardly any time to spare. This Saturday, he would be visiting the primary school in Greater Noida of which he was the Founder. The whole week kept him on his toes, he was occupied with a number of projects and assignments to complete. R.K being the CEO had the workload more and also the responsibility was a big one. He was always ready to make it work for the company whenever he got a chance to so and was always keen on doing his job better than usual every time. His employees too looked up to him and assisted him well.

The week passed in the similar monotonous manner as always, he shuttled between office and home. Rohit's family coped with him in making his role of a employer a successful one. Saturday came, he woke up with the alarm ringing in his ears and remembered that he had to visit the primary school in Greater Noida. After freshening up, having breakfast and getting ready he took the bus from New Delhi to reach Noida. This place is a commercial complex, it has colleges and schools. He travelled in the bus for a few hours and reached The Sunflower Primary school. The Principal and the teachers were happy to meet him. They updated him about the school's events and how the management was doing. Rohit also met the students and interacted with them. The classroom was full of kids, both boys

and girls who welcomed him. They wished him respectfully and continued with their studies. They had a holiday on Thursday so the school was working today. The atmosphere in the school and the students were worth praising, all up to the mark as he desired. Everybody bade him good bye when he it was time for him to leave. The Principal said, "Please, do come again. It's always nice meeting you".

Rohit too said goodbye and went to the bus stand to board a bus which would take him back to Delhi, his home town. He reached home by midnight. He opened the door lock with his keys, instead of ringing the bell and entered the apartment. He went to his room, as it was late and every one in the house was sleeping. He also would sleep, Rohit decided. He would catch up with his

family in the morning as it was Sunday and he had a holiday.

Sunday mornings always seemed a little lazy for Rohit who woke up late. He was tired after yesterday's journey to his primary school in Greater Noida. He decided to sleep for some more time, it was 8.30 a.m. but he was up by 9.00 a.m. He went to the kitchen where his mom was busy with the house help, giving directions about the chores. Rohit wished, "Good morning mom." She answered back, "A very Good morning Rohit." His mom offered him tea which he took to the terrace and was deep in thoughts.

Rohit was planning to take a short vacation from his everyday work scenario and would discuss the place with his family. He wanted to tour a hill station with a group of friends. This would be

helpful in keeping off the stress of his hectic schedule. While having breakfast with his family, he told them about the vacation he wanted to take which would be around fifteen days and not more than that as he have to come back soon and re-join his company as he was the CEO. His brothers Ritesh and Rihaan were very thrilled about this wonderful idea. Ritesh suggested a few places, "How about Mussoorie or Ooty?." Rohit's mom and Rihaan suggested Shimla which was in Himachal Pradesh. His mom became emotional and said, "I had gone to Shimla with your dad. It is beautiful tourist place, you will love this hill station." Rohit immediately liked the idea of going to Shimla. He would discuss with his friends and plan a holiday there soon he decided. Rohit was always happy that his family

was so helpful and supporting whenever he needed their help.

Later in the day he would call up his friends and find out who would be ready to accompany him to Shimla.

His friends were very co-operative and he appreciated his bond with all of them, which was actually mutual. They were always there for him. He was excited for the upcoming trip he wanted to make and hoped it would be a successful one.

Sunday was one day which Rohit and his family spent together and waited for anxiously every week. R.K was the only person whom they looked upon after the demise of his dad, the head of the family. They shared all decisions with one another.

Rohit called up his friends and inquired about their wellbeing. He told them about his plan to tour the hill station Shimla and whether they were interested to join him. Ashish and Suraj, his long time college friends loved the idea of a vacation. Ashish said, "Oh! Why not, I will inform you on what dates we should finalise the trip." Suraj, too appreciated it and replied, "You can count me in." It was way past evening, the sun was setting and it was nearing night. Rohit's well deserved weekend was finally over. Many thoughts came into his mind and one of them was, it was high time he should marry and settle down. Will I find a suitable partner or the wait is still not over?. This query disturbed his mind now and then. Rohit knew that it is sometimes destiny which decides what we humans should do. He prayed to God for better things for his

family, friends and ofcourse himself. He had always been a God fearing person and believed in the Almighty. He was satisfied and thankful with whatever he had but hoped for more good things to cross his path.

He wished every one good night after dinner and went to bed with a smile on his lips. Rohit was snoring and fast asleep in no time. His mom and his brothers Ritesh and Rihaan too after watching T.V went to their bedrooms. The dark night eventually brought a bright morning every day with wishes and desires to be fulfilled.

Monday morning always began with a reminder that it would be a hectic day for Rohit. He got ready to leave for the company. While travelling to his office in Connaught Place, he decided he would contact a few travel agents on the

availability of air tickets and hotel booking. When he reached his work place he became so busy with the assignments that he was free only during lunch. He called up the agents and tallied with them about the tickets. Rohit found out it would be possible in around ten days. He informed Ashish and Suraj, his friends who would accompany him and they were o.k. with it, they said.

R.K as Rohit was called in the office had a meeting after lunch with one of his business associates. He prepared the presentation which he was excellent at and hoped it goes well. The presentation went well and he was excited that he got the next project for the company as he wanted to. Rohit was free from his work at around six p.m. and the driver was waiting with the car down stairs. He proceeded to the lift and pressed ground

floor. He reached the car and seated himself to travel back home to Chandni Chowk.

On the way back home he decided to tell his family that the dates and the tickets would be finalized in a couple of days for his much awaited trip with his friends to Shimla.

Ritesh and Rihaan were at home and his mom was in her room relaxing. He planned to tell them when everyone was present together.

When his mom heard the news, she said, "That's good news, son. Hope you enjoy your trip." His brothers were thrilled and excited. Rohit began counting the days for his vacation like a little boy and exclaimed, "Just ten days to go."

Chapter four

The nine days before Rohit's vacation passed quickly. He had a lot of workload to complete before going. His friends Ashish and Suraj confirmed the dates by calling him a few days ago. They all would meet at the Delhi Airport.

The day arrived to bid goodbye to his family and begin his journey to Shimla. Rohit and his friends met at the Airport and would be taking a 10.00 a.m. flight. Ashish and Suraj along boarded the flight with so much excitement which they were not able to conceal. The flight landed in the wonderful city, Shimla in Himachal Pradesh after a few hours.

Shimla is the capital of the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh and the

largest city. It is the principal, commercial, cultural and educational centre of this state.

Rohit and his friends took a cab from the Airport once the formalities were over. They reached their hotel which had a picturesque landscape with mountains beginning to be snow-capped was mid October, though it was not snowing the weather was very cold and pleasant. They had carried the woollens so that they would cope up with the weather. Ashish and Suraj were staying in one room while Rohit took a small room adjoining theirs. This would help them to be in constant touch with each other.

Today it was late evening, so from next day they would visit the tourist places together as they had decided.

Rohit ordered dinner in his room and relished the hot tomato soup with croutons. He also had mixed vegetable rice ,some paneer curry and for dessert he had truffle pudding. He enjoyed the delicious meal and decided he would have tomorrow's lunch with his companions, his lovely friends. He was overjoyed at the thought that his dream to come to this beautiful hill station had been fulfilled at last! He set the alarm for 8 a.m. and also told the hotel room service to give him a ring at the same time, in case he did not wake up at that time. He also informed Ashish and Suraj that they would tour the hill station in the morning after having their breakfast.

The next morning Rohit connected with the room service and asked them whether they could arrange for a tourist guide to help them tour the various places in the city of Shimla. He told them to ask the guide to come around 11 a.m when they said yes, Rohit went to the adjoining room and told his friends Ashish and Suraj to be ready as the guide would come by the decided time. He arrived at the time given by them and introduced himself as Harsh. They would be travelling to the tourist places by a cab.

Shimla is the place where you get to experience the Himalayas in all its enigmatic glory. Ashish praised the view and said, "What a beautiful scene!" They went through the evergreen forests and the rolling valleys. Suraj was astonished to

see the beautiful lakes and exclaimed
“How breath-taking is the sight!”.

Harsh, their tourist guide said they would visit The Ridge which is a popular destination and connects to the famous Scandal Point.

Rohit loved the snow capped mountains and said, “What a gorgeous view of the mountain ranges!”

The guide also showed them more tourist spots like the Jakhoo Hill and the Hanuman Temple.

Rohit clicked pictures with his friends of the lovely moments spent there with them. Harsh told them he would take them to the Mall Road and other places tomorrow where they could also shop if they wanted.

Harsh said, " You can also visit the city where you can actually see normal life, likewise the usual cities. Rohit and his friends admired whatever places they visited and decided to continue their tour tomorrow and see the other places as their guide told them.

The Mall Road was the place where Charvi had her boutique. It was at the end of the street. 'The Miss Boutique' was located in Shimla and did good business with customers, who always liked what they bought.

Rohit was very excited and joyful on coming to Shimla .Rohit said to Ashish and Suraj his friends, "This place is bliss, it's like heaven on earth." They readily agreed

on this statement. Their tourist guide would take them to other places as planned, tomorrow morning.

Charvi was very busy the next morning, when she arrived at the boutique. Seema and Ritu her assistants also came on time. The Mall Road was crowded as usual with people from different cities, mostly tourists shopping in the marketplace. There were visitors of all ages which this place attracted as it was a hip and happening location.

There was a plethora of cafes, showrooms and departmental stores and shops selling clothes, exclusive handicraft works. It was a privilege for Charvi to be owning a boutique here which did such good business due to her perseverance and hard work. The tourist guide Harsh along with Rohit and his companions came to

visit Mall Road and were astonished on seeing a row of shops and restaurants at this much acclaimed place. Ashish and Suraj brought handicrafts and beautiful trinkets which they would gift their family and friends. Rohit shopped for his brothers Ritesh and Rihaan he bought a watch for Rihaan and a jacket for Ritesh which he would definitely like he thought. Now it was the turn to buy something for his mother, he glanced everywhere and spotted 'The Miss Boutique'. He told his friends to wait outside for sometime and entered it. Charvi was busy arranging the new traditional wear when she saw Rohit.

She asked him, "May I help you sir?." Rohit saw Charvi and the first thought that strike him was "Oh! What a ravishing beauty!".

Today Charvi had her hair left open, she was wearing a long mauve top with jeans and still looked so fresh and glowing with her fair complexion and high cheekbones with expressive black eyes, the high cheekbones were an asset to her Himalayan features .Rohit was lost in looking at her that he did not realize Charvi was addressing him. Rohit felt this was the girl he would marry. It was love at first sight for him though Charvi was unaware of what he must be thinking R.K selected the traditional wear with colourful mirror work done in the outfit in blue and white colours which his mom would like. He did the payment but all the time he kept on staring at Charvi and was unable to avoid it though it was rude to stare. “She is so beautiful!.” He admired every thing about her. Rohit came out of the boutique and joined his friends and

the guide. They went into a café as they were hungry and took a break before visiting other places.

They went to the Green Valley in Shimla with lush green forests of pine and deodar trees. The backdrop of snow capped mountains was eye catching with its pristine beauty which they captured in their camera. The tourist guide took them to few more tourist spots and then they decided to return to their hotel, all were thrilled as they would have been never before.

Chapter five

Charvi was really occupied with the work in the boutique. Her assistants, Seema and Ritu too helped her in completing the work of the clothing of a big brand that had come today. By evening she was very tired and she was waiting to catch a bus home to her village.

Charvi boarded the bus and there were many passengers today. She reminisced about the day and the first thing that came to her mind was the stranger who had come to the boutique who was continuously staring at her. She said to herself, "I am imagining too much, he was a decent man and seemed harmless He only came for shopping whatever he

wanted. Stop reacting so much Charvi”It was evening when she reached the cottage. The weather was pleasant and greenery was appreciative. Her mood changed automatically when she was with her family. Gul, her sister came to her side and asked, “How was your day sis?” She replied, Good but a little tiring. There was a lot of workload today.”

Charvi said bye and promised to be with everyone after some time.

Meanwhile Rohit reached the hotel and after freshening and having dinner with his friends, Suraj and Ashish planned for tomorrow’s tour in the city. They would leave the hotel by 11 a.m. he told them.

Next morning the tourist guide took them to Kufri in Shimla which was located at an

elevation of 8607 ft., this small hill station had panoramic views of the surrounding mountains. Harsh their guide informed that this place was famous for ice skating and skiing so it was also known as the winter sports capital of India. There is an amazing snowfall and the surrounding areas, also the mountains are covered with snow everywhere but not now, it is only on the mountains as the winter is yet to set in here.

Rohit and his friends also visited more places like the Himachal State Museum and the Tara Devi Temple.

The guide Harsh asked them if they were interested in shopping when they said yes he took them to Lakka Bazaar which gives you a good experience in shopping because of its quaint stores. Rohit was busy looking at some show piece when he

saw someone familiar he realized it was the girl he had met in the boutique at Mall Road. He was thrilled to see her and walked hastily to the next shop where she was buying intricate lace and looking at other designs of embroidery patterns. Rohit said, "Hello, I'm Rohit, we have met before?." The girl was none other but Charvi, she refused to answer and shifted from her place. She saw it was the stranger who had come to her boutique. Charvi glanced at this handsome man and hesitating replied with a hello. She said, "I don't know you, sorry." She moved away from the

Shop and walked to the street ahead so that he would not follow her. Rohit gave her a card saying "Please call me on this number, I want to be friends with you." Charvi did not answer and took the bus for her boutique. Charvi glanced at this

handsome man and hesitating replied with a hello. She said, "I don't know you, sorry." She moved away from the

Shop and walked to the street ahead so that he would not follow her. Rohit gave her a card saying "Please call me on this number, I want to be friends with you" "Charvi did not answer and took the bus for her boutique.

Charvi Rana reached her boutique, Seema and Ritu were busy arranging the traditional wear on the hangers in the shop. She handed them the lace and the embroidery patterns to carry on the further work for today as well as for tomorrow. Charvi would spend some time with her family and look at chores to complete in the cottage as well as the poultry tomorrow.

She told the girls that she would not be present the next day and so they could carry on together with the boutique's work.

Charvi was at home the next day and her father was glad that she would assist him today with the poultry. He needed help in gardening too and she readily agreed. Her dad said, "Thanks for staying home and helping out. I really appreciate it."

The family had lunch together, Yash and Gul were happy that she was at home, she finished her meal. She went to her room and was thinking of all that had happened yesterday at Lakka Bazaar where she met this man, who introduced himself as Rohit and had also given her his number. She didn't know the reason but she had kept the card which had his number safely in her handbag.

Charvi saw that the card had his designation and was astonished at him being a CEO and showing so much interest in her. She was a simple, homely girl. "Why me?." She thought to herself, he could get any girl for being friends with him. She brushed off the thoughts and decided to relax in her room. "No use of overthinking so much", she said to herself. She took a short nap as she had a lot of things to do later.

Sunset in the evening brought vibrant colours in the sky. The mountains looked more scenic and this view was really amazing. The small cottage with this beautiful family which had so much closeness with each other and the bond they shared was touching and at the same time truly commendable.

Charvi decided that she along with Gul, her younger sister would visit Jakhoo hill where there was the Hanuman Temple, the next day. The sisters got ready to visit the hill. They took a bus next morning. When they reached there they saw the Jakhoo Hill which was covered in a blanket of alpine trees, as the hill is the highest point of Shimla and offers scenic views of the snow covered Shivalik Ranges. The Jakhoo Hill is situated at a height of 8000.ft. above the sea level of an ancient Hanuman Temple that has the world's tallest statue of this Hindu deity. There were many devotees and tourists who had come to pray and some were foreigners and tourists who had come just to visit this famous temple. Charvi and Gul prayed for the welfare of their family and friends. The sisters felt a divine feeling and peace when they came here. Gul said,

“We must come here again.” Charvi replied, “We surely will come again next time with our family for blessings from the deity”.

They walked down the Jakhoo Hill to board the bus for their home, satisfied with today’s trip to this phenomenal place. Their parents and brother, Yash asked them, “How was today’s trip?.” The sisters replied with just one word “Devastating.” Charvi and Gul were happy that they had visited the temple and felt blessed at having done what they were planning from so long. The sisters went to their rooms, tired from today’s trip, they freshened up and met their family in the lawn for chatting and updating them about today’s trip to the Jakhoo Hill which was worth discussing. Yash asked Gul, “Do you have college tomorrow?.” She replied affirmatively and Charvi also said she

would be going to her boutique too. Once in her room she called up Ritu and said, “I will be coming tomorrow at 11a.m, please call Seema and tell her to arrive on time. There will be important clients visiting the boutique. Dinner done with, Charvi was alone in her room and as usual wondering who the man Rohit she met and tried speaking to her was and was inquisitive about knowing more about him. She told herself, “Why am I showing so much interest in him?!. But the thoughts went unanswered.

Chapter six

Rohit was up and looking out of the hotel balcony sipping his morning cup of tea. Last night he had decided the timings of their daily touring of places in Shimla. Ashish and Suraj were very much ok with it. The tourist guide Harsh would come around 11a.m outside their hotel to pick them up. It was nine days since, Rohit and his friends had arrived from Delhi to this beautiful hill station, Shimla. They had visited a number of locales but there were so many places which they could not cover in this trip and would visit here again whenever possible next time.

Harsh came at 11 a.m. and said he will be taking them for the Kalka-Shimla train ride which is a highpoint of Shimla tourism. This narrow gauge railway has

recently been added to the mountain railways of India. The journey is a scenic and mountainous route winding from the Shivalik Range foothills at Kalka to Shimla, the train ride offers spectacular views of the surrounding hills and villages. Rohit and his friends immensely enjoyed the train ride. Ashish said, "We must come again on this awesome train journey." Rohit and Suraj readily agreed. The train stopped on number of tourist destinations and also many bridges, curves and tunnels. Rohit said, "This is spectacular we will never miss this train ride when we come again in the future".

The Kalka-Shimla train ride took their full day and it was night so Harsh told them they would visit some other places tomorrow.

The next day he decided to take them to Mashobra in Shimla. Harsh said, "This place is for thrill seekers." Rohit and his friends saw that this was a less crowded destination, being a small town in Shimla. The guide shared information this place is worth visiting in December when it turns into a paradise for winter game enthusiasts. He showed them pictures where this place was covered with a glistening blanket of snow and there was a lush green expanse. The location was an excellent base for skiing as it appeared in these pictures. Rohit and his friends said, "We will definitely come here in winter for the fun activities"

The trio of friends, Rohit, Ashish and Suraj decided to stay in the hotel and relax in the lounge today. Rohit had other plans, he would be visiting Mail Road and meet Charvi, the girl at 'The Miss Girl Boutique.'

He was so captivated by her beauty and would ask her for a date today. Rohit took a cab and with the help of Google Maps reached the location easily. He paid the cab driver and walked towards the boutique. He went inside and as it was only 11a.m there didn't seem to be any customers. He was happy about this. Rohit saw Charvi with his assistants, Seema and Ritu. He pretended to be glancing at the traditional wear, when Charvi innocently came up to him and asked him "Can I help you sir?." She looked up at the tall, suave and handsome man .She saw it was the same man who called himself Rohit and had given his visiting card at Lakka Bazaar. He apologized for coming and immediately asked her, "Can we have a cup of coffee at the nearby cafe?. Please, please, I want to be your friend." He went on, Charvi

was astonished at the fact that though she was trying to ignore him here he was coaxing her for a date. She thought for a moment and said "O.k. I will come, but please go before the girls realize who I'm talking and about what I'm talking to a stranger and also other clients will come to the shop soon. I will meet you in some time." She excused herself and joined Seema and Ritu with the work they were busy doing.

Rohit did some window shopping at Mall Road and was amazed at the stuff sold here. Charvi had promised to meet him in an hour at the cafe. He waited outside till she came looking fresh and beautiful as she always did. They both went inside and seated themselves near the window. Charvi was busy looking outside. Rohit

said, “You know me but tell me about yourself.” Charvi hesitated at first and then told about where she lived in Shimla about her cottage , her elder brother Yash and sister Gul who was younger but her friend too. She said, “I have done Fashion Designing which helped me in starting this boutique.” She suddenly realized she had told a lot about herself and asked him to tell about him. Rohit said, “I live in Delhi where I’m the CEO of a company and also the Founder of a school in Greater Noida. I don’t have a father, I live with my mom and brothers Ritesh and Rihaan.” Charvi seemed so engrossed in his talks and he seemed so friendly. Rohit asked her “What about your parents?.” She told him she helped them in the poultry and gardening at the cottage, her home. I also help my mom in the household chores whenever I get the time.” Rohit was

impressed and said “You seem to be a multi talented girl!.” He praised her so much that she had to stop him. They had already had their coffee and snacks. Charvi said, “I must go now, there a lot of tasks to be completed at the boutique. The girls must be waiting for me.” She said Good bye and rushed out of the café wondering whether she had done the right thing by meeting Rohit though he looked like a gentleman.

Rohit was literally on the top of the world he said to himself, “Mission accomplished.” He was joyous and felt like celebrating that his dream of meeting Charvi had been fulfilled at last. He reached the hotel in a happy mood, went to Ashish and Suraj’s room and chatted with them for sometime. He told them he had gone out but did not disclose the purpose behind it.They too were unaware

of it. Rohit said, “Guys we have a few days left for our tour so we must visit some more places in Shimla to make the trip memorable.” His friends said, “Ofcourse, we will.” They called the tourist guide, Harsh and asked him to come tomorrow as they would like to tour the scenic hill station and visit more places. He told them he would come to pick them up tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Charvi reached the boutique and the girls were cheerful on seeing her back. The ethnic wear that had come today needed finishing work which she told Seema and Ritu to do. She started thinking about her meeting with Rohit at the café in Mall Road and realized she too was beginning to get attracted to this handsome man. “Was she falling in love

with him?." She asked herself this question. Charvi completed all the work, many customers had come to buy the traditional wear. All the clients seemed satisfied with the reasonable price and the quality of the clothes they bought from the boutique.

Charvi was done with today's work and instructed the girls that after their tasks would be over they could also leave for their homes. She reached the bus stand to go to her village and boarded the bus for her house. Once home she was relaxed and decided to skip going the next day unless something urgent comes up. The girls would definitely manage in her absence they were capable of doing so, she knew. The weather was pleasant and cool, she admired the nature's beauty, the high mountains and the lush green landscapes.

“This is one such place I would never leave, it is so beautiful living here.” The hill station always made her love it again and again.

Gul was waiting at the entrance of the cottage and was excited on seeing her. Charvi said, “How’s my lil sis?.” Gul replied, “I’m good, how was your day?.” Charvi recollected today’s day when she had met Rohit, but instead of saying anything about it said, “Well, the same usual routine.” She told her that she would meet her after some and entered the cottage to go to her room.

Chapter seven

Rohit and his friends woke up early, as Harsh would be taking them to tour a few more places in Shimla before their trip back home to good old Delhi, their home town. Rohit along with his friends could not stop praising this wonderful visit to Shimla as all of them came here together. He thought that meeting Charvi here made the hill station all the more special like her. He thought to himself, "I must meet her again." Harsh, the tourist guide came on the decided time.

Today the guide took them to the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, one of the iconic places to visit in Shimla. The building was built by Lord Dufferin who once served as the Viceroy of India. This ancient building has a structure that

draws attention due to its majestic Victorian style of architecture and grandeur was the information which Harsh shared with Rohit and his friends.

The last time they came to Mall Road they forgot to visit The Himachal State Museum. Rohit always got excited on the name of Mall Road where he had met Charvi for the first time .They reached the Museum which was in Mall Road ,Rohit started looking here and there for Charvi's boutique in the hope of seeing here.The boutique seemed to be in a different direction. The Museum has a rich collection of miniature paintings, stone sculptures, coins, dolls, weapons, handicrafts to name a few. Ashish looked at one painting and exclaimed, "So artistic, such beautiful colours!." The Museum depicted the fantastic culture of India. Everybody was impressed by

whatever they saw here. The public, the other tourists too were in awe of this place.

Rohit and the gang went for a lunch break in the nearby restaurant. They ordered a five course meal as they would be going to visit more places before going back to their hotel. The food here was mouth-watering and the delicacies made them all the more hungry. They finished their meal and all the while Rohit kept on looking here and there for Charvi's presence. He planned to call her and meet her before going back to Delhi. The times spent in this scenic hill station will always be cherished by him and his companions. They also visited Gaiety Heritage Cultural Complex which was also situated near Mall Road. The century old building had a magnificent architecture and Harsh told them a lot about this place. He said, 'It is a

renowned centre of performing arts and is visited by artists and art enthusiasts from across the world.”

Harsh told Rohit and his friends Ashish and Suraj they should also go for trekking in Shimla, otherwise their tour in Shimla would be incomplete without this experience. They would seat themselves comfortably in the lobby of their hotel and plan which place would be suitable for them.

It was decided to visit the Summer Hill Trek tomorrow early morning for the trekking.

Rohit arranged whatever would be needed for the trekking in a backpack tomorrow. He kept all the essentials required for the trip in the night and decided to keep the food items in the morning. He had also instructed Ashish

and Suraj to do the same. All the three were thrilled and at the same time excited for the trekking experience. They began their trek in a cheerful mood. Harsh had told them that they would take a bus and continue their trek by road as it's done by everyone. Rohit and his friends started the trip and were amazed by the sheer beauty of the hills. This path is a must visit for whoever goes to Shimla. They alighted the bus at Summer Hill railway station, the tourist guide, Harsh asked them if they preferred they could take the toy train from here. Rohit said, "No, we would rather walk from here." They walked up towards the hills and were enchanted by the pristine beauty of nature surrounding them. Harsh explained that the Summer Hill is a part of seven hill cluster and if one actually wants to enjoy trekking it is best explored on

foot. All of them saw the pine and deodar laden hills which offer great panoramic views of the surrounding hills. Suraj said in excitement, "What a scintillating view from here!, I will capture this moment in my camera and share it with my family and friends. I have never seen such beautiful landscapes in the city. Truly mind blowing!." They reached the Summer Hill top, they had successfully completed their trekking .They had only stopped for an hour in between when they had tea and sandwiches during the trek. They walked down the hill to reach the ground where they took a bus to go back to the hotel where they were staying. Rohit and his friends were exhausted but had thoroughly enjoyed the trekking. Ashish said this was an altogether a different kind of trip which they had done today. Rohit said, "It is sad

our tour will get over in two days. I will miss all these events so much.”

He suddenly reminded himself to meet Charvi before going back to Delhi.

Rohit and his friends reached the hotel late night reminiscing the lovely memories of the day.

Sunrise from the hotel’s balcony, the golden sun rays coming into the room woke Rohit early next morning. He was in a cheerful mood but the thought that the Shimla tour would get over in two days, saddened him. He would miss the memorable times spent with his friends and especially Charvi a lot. Rohit was also happy at the same time, that he would be reuniting with his family after a fortnight.

Ashish and Suraj had suggested that they visit a few more places and the last day

i.e. tomorrow could be spent in shopping whatever they desired to buy for themselves or for their families though they had also done enough shopping. Suraj rang up Harsh and told him about today's plan about going out.

The trio along with the tourist guide, Harsh went to the Christ Church, The Tara Devi Temple and they also went to the Himalayan Bird Park, which has a small collection of exotic birds. Rohit was amazed by the lush greenery and exclaimed, "Marvellous." There were so many places and the list was unending. Some places were such that you would feel like visiting again and again. Their tour to the wonderful hill station Shimla was finally coming to an end. Rohit told Harsh, "Tomorrow we will manage the shopping on our own." Rohit thanked Harsh for this lovely tour and their

experience with him. Ashish and Suraj said, “Thanks for your cooperation. We had great fun and good times with you”.

They all took a cab back to the hotel and Rohit spent some time in the lobby with his friends and told them, “I will be going to Mall Road in the morning, you guys can join me if you want.” His friends said they would rather rest in their hotel room.

“You carry on.” The actual reason of Rohit, going to Mall Road was for meeting Charvi before going to Delhi. He would miss her so much he thought.

Once Rohit reached Mall Road the next day, he went straight to ‘The Miss Boutique’ and started looking here and there for Charvi. Once Charvi arrived, he asked her “Could you spare me a minute?.” The girls Seema and Ritu had not come. She said, “O.k. tell me your

problem.” Rohit replied, “I’m going back to Delhi tonight. Please come to meet me there if you can.” Charvi was stunned at this statement and said, “We hardly know each other.” Charvi too was getting attracted by Rohit’s presence and said “O.k. if I visit Delhi I will meet you. It sounds impossible but I shall try.” Rohit’s happiness knew no bounds. He gave her his address again and bade her good bye hoping to meet again. He would convince her once she comes to Delhi he told himself. Rohit shopped for gift articles and jewellery for his mom and decided to go back to the hotel. The trio did their packing in the rooms and once it was completed got ready for taking the flight tonight for Delhi from the Shimla Airport.

Chapter eight

Rohit and his friends, Ashish and Suraj landed at the Delhi Airport. Their tour to Shimla was a memorable one. They took their individual baggages and proceeded to the arrival gate. Rohit said to himself, “Finally back to my hometown, Delhi.” The trip to Shimla, the beautiful hill station in Himachal Pradesh would be an unforgettable one with so many good places and people he had met there. Friends. Rohit took a cab to his residence in Chandni Chowk while his friends went to their homes.

He reached his apartment and Rihaan opened the main door. His mom and brothers welcomed him home. The

affection his family showed towards him was something he had been missing since a long time. His mom gave him a hug and said, "It seems like we are meeting you after ages." His brothers agreed, Ritesh asked spontaneously, "How was your trip bro?. Rohit nodded and replied, "Yes we enjoyed and had real fun in Shimla. It is worth visiting, we all shall go together next time."

Rohit when alone in his room decided to call Charvi and speak to her, she was one person on his tour who was special and would be remembered always. He would resume his company from tomorrow as a fortnight was a long period that had passed and so there would be a lot of projects and tasks to be completed.

Back in Shimla every thing was the same for Charvi. She visited the boutique, took part in helping Seema and Ritu with the designer wear collection which had come today. She thought to herself, "There is something missing in my life today. There is a void" She suddenly she remembered that Rohit must have reached Delhi. "Why am I getting attracted to him? Why am I missing him?" Charvi said to herself. She tried to brush away such thoughts which would distract her from the boutique's work. Seema and Ritu were very hard working assistants so she too must be totally involved in the work she told herself. Charvi completed today's work and boarded the bus for her home to the cottage in the village. The fortnight had been a remarkable experience for many people in Shimla and also for those who had gone to their hometowns. The hill

station had the same backdrop and landscapes which had wonderful incidents for two people Rohit and Charvi. Their hearts went out to Shimla basically they were missing each other but were not disclosing their feelings to one another and Rohit was waiting for the right opportunity to do it.

Charvi and Gul, her sister were in the kitchen talking to each other, when their mom entered. She said to Charvi, "Please go to the market for buying groceries and grains as it has finished, we will be needing them." The next morning both the sisters shopped for the groceries so they came to the local market which was close to their village.

Once home, they kept all the necessary items in their respective places. They had also brought fresh vegetables and fruits

also which they kept in the refrigerator. Gul was enthusiastic as usual and asked Charvi, "How is the work at the boutique going on?." Charvi then decided to tell her about the stranger who had visited the boutique. Charvi replied to Gul's question and said, "Everything is good, there was a stranger who had come there and was highly inquisitive about knowing me." She told Charvi that she had met Rohit who was a tourist from Delhi who was interested in meeting and knowing more about her. Gul teased Charvi and said "Looks like you have finally met your Prince Charming." Charvi laughed and answered, "Are you serious, it is nothing like that. He is just a friend".

The two sisters chatted away happily and after completing the household chores, had lunch with their family. Gul then left for college while Yash had already gone to

his work place in the morning. Her father got busy in the gardening while her mom went to her room to relax before tea time. Charvi too went to her room and got busy watching T.V for some news updates.

Tomorrow would be same monotonous day she thought. The next day she was in for a surprise the mobile rang, she answered the call it was Rohit, hearing his voice made her heart skip a beat. He asked, "How are you doing?." She was thrilled and said, "Good, what about you?." Rohit said, "Why don't you come to Delhi? It's my birthday at the end of the month and it would be wonderful if you came." Charvi said, "I have other plans I will let you know." She disconnected the call and did not know whether to be happy or how to react, she was speechless for sometime.

Charvi went back to the past when Rohit was in Shimla and was eager to meet her in spite of not knowing personally. There were few instances and the duration of Rohit going back to Delhi was a short one but it seemed like ages when she had last met Rohit at the boutique.

The day when Rohit went back to the company was a Monday and so it was an hectic day. He hardly any time to think about any other topic besides the assignments of the company. Rohit was the CEO and hence had to shoulder the responsibility of the company. The employees respected him a lot and followed all the instructions he gave them. This was the secret to his success, their obedience which made the company to thrive so much. The profits the company gained was absolutely team work. Rohit had home made lunch in his

cabin and continued with the work, with not a moment to spare for himself. The day ended with the presentations and assignments been completed. He was happy to be back and also being busy though it was a little tiring by evening.

Rohit took a cab home to Chandni Chowk. He could catch a glimpse of the traffic jam with vehicles waiting for the signal to turn green so that they would move ahead.

The cab halted at a signal, suddenly Rohit was deep in thoughts about Shimla where there was less traffic and he wondered what Charvi must be doing now. He could not get her off his mind even for a while. He could imagine those beautiful, black eyes staring at her. The Himalayan beauty was so pretty that whenever he thought about her it brought a smile to his face. He prayed to God that she comes to Delhi

and that he could meet Charvi again. He was so engrossed that he did not realize that he had reached home.

Rohit paid the cab driver and proceeded to ring the doorbell.

'Home Sweet Home', he said to himself. This time with the family when everyone were together was what he waited each day. His family and their affection towards him was adorable. The family united with each other and their bond became more strong each passing day.

Rohit thought to himself, "Will they welcome a new member when the time comes?. I hope they do."

Chapter nine

Charvi loved everything about Shimla, she was always fascinated with the beautiful scenery, the lush green landscapes, the tall mountains and the overflowing waterfalls which gave a picturesque aura to the lovely hill station.

She decided she would also want to experience the city life, whether it was adventurous like this village where she lived as a kid. Charvi expressed about her desire to her parents about visiting Delhi, one of the metropolitan cities, where the lifestyle of the people is quite different and at the same time very unique. She told her mom that she would like to go to Delhi where her maternal uncle and his family lived. Her dad was hesitant at first

and then said, " O.K., you can visit your uncle if you wish to do so".

Charvi was happy at their decision. The actual reason of her wanting to go there was to attend Rohit's birthday party for which he had invited her and was at the end of the month. She would tell Gul the real reason but inform her brother Yash afterwards as she did not know how he would react on hearing this.

There were more than ten to twelve days left so now she would carry on the work of 'The Miss Boutique' as usual and try to be completely involved in the job. Charvi decided to call Rohit and inform him about her coming, she knew he would be overjoyed at this news.

Rohit answered her call, firstly astonished at knowing it was Charvi. She said, "Hello, how are you doing?", after talking about

other things she told him, "I have thought about coming to Delhi to meet you and my parents have granted me permission as my uncle and his family also live there so it is o.k. with them." Rohit was thrilled and answered, "Thank you, I will be eagerly waiting for you whenever you come."

Charvi was in a very good mood the whole day and planning about her trip which would be definitely a memorable one when the time arrives.

Charvi was deep in thoughts when Gul entered her room and found her staring at the wall opposite here. Gul interrupted her by saying, "Where are you sis?, in Shimla or it looks like you have reached Delhi. Stop overthinking. Everything will be fine." Charvi laughed and replied, "It's

nothing as you are imagining, just planning about my trip.”

Charvi then told her about Rohit’s birthday party and said, “He has invited me and is eagerly waiting for me to come.” Gul though she was the youngest amongst the three siblings was very lively and humorous. She teased her and said, “Now I know the real reason, going to meet your Prince Charming aren’t you?.” Charvi blushed shyly and the only face that came to her mind was Rohit’s, she knew by now that she was getting attracted to the suave, handsome guy. She hoped that she meets Rohit soon. The end of the month seemed like a long duration to wait. Charvi asked Gul that she would need her help in shopping and packing, her sister readily agreed. Charvi also decided to buy a birthday gift which Rohit would like.

Her uncle lived in Karol Bagh in New Delhi. His wife was a housewife and they had a daughter the same age as Gul. Her cousin's name was Shweta. She would be meeting them after a long time. They had come to Shimla three years back. Charvi was excited that she would be going to Delhi and meeting every one again. She was more thrilled that she would be going for a vacation and especially for meeting Rohit. She would book the ticket to go to Delhi, she had decided she would travel by train.

The Delhi weather was getting cooler with the mercury dropping to bring in winter. Rohit enjoyed the breeze on the terrace with his lovely family. He thought about the times spent in the hill station Shimla and recollected the moments with Charvi.

He told himself, “Finally I will meet her, I will propose to her when the time is appropriate.” Rohit had told his mom and brothers Ritesh and Rihaan about her, they had liked her picture and were very much interested in meeting her and knowing more about her and also her family. They knew Rohit must have chosen the right girl to be his life partner. Rohit and his family spent some time together each day and always had new things to share whenever they were together.

“I will have to go to Greater Noida to my Sunflower Primary School this Saturday”, Rohit informed his mom at the dining table “O.K, son”, she replied .Tomorrow was Friday he would attend his regular work at his company. He would travel early morning to the school the day after tomorrow, he told himself. On Saturday

he woke up early in the morning as he would be travelling by bus which took a few hours to reach there .R.K i.e Rohit Kapoor being the founder of the school was very sincere in his work, be it the company or the school. He reached Greater Noida on time.

The Principal greeted him saying, “Hello, A very Good morning.” Rohit happily answered the same and inquired about the curriculum of the school. He was satisfied with the school staff who was handling everything so well. He praised them and said, “Well done! Good job!.” They had arranged a meeting at the school’s auditorium. Rohit motivated the students and guided them in achieving more success in their studies. The students were overwhelmed and thanked him. Rohit interacted with the Principal for sometime and once he was done with

his work, he took a bus to reach Delhi, his residence.

Rohit was delighted that his trip was a successful one.

Once home he could carry on spending time with his family, he thought. The journey was a long one as he was alone but still his mind wandered and he was again reminiscing about his vacation to Shimla. He was busy counting the days when Charvi would come to New Delhi.

“I hope she does not go without meeting me”, he said to himself. He would get in touch with Ashish and Suraj, his friends whom he had not spoken from the time he reached home. He would be inviting them also for his birthday party and decided to introduce Charvi to them too, besides his family.

The bus halted he realized he had reached his destination .He walked home a bit tired. A surprise awaited him, his uncle Mr. Harish had come to visit their family. He was a thorough gentleman always concerned about the family's welfare and came now and then. He spent some time in the living room with everyone and after sometime kindly excused himself, he went to his room to freshen up and rest for a while. "Today was hectic", he murmured to himself.

Sunday mornings were always full of enthusiasm and fun for the Kapoor family. Rohit loved spending the leisure time with his family. Ritesh and Rihaan enjoyed discussing about the week's events with Rohit their adorable big brother .Their mom too was at ease with the complete family being together at home. The

moments spent were memorable and full of emotional attachment.

Rohit said to his mom, “I will begin the preparations for my birthday party which besides inviting everybody would be arrangement of decorations for the large hall in the house.” She replied, “Yes, ofcourse, son you must.” There were a few days left he would also catch up with Charvi and ask when she would be coming to Delhi. He also had to take care of ordering the birthday cake. He would also decide the menu for his special day. Rohit wanted to make it a grand celebration where he would formally introduce Charvi to his family and guests.

Monday morning he called up Ashish and Suraj and reminded them about coming, “You both have to come, so no excuses”, he said. His friend Ashish said, “How can

we forget your birthday. We will definitely come”.

The atmosphere in Charvi’s home in Shimla as usual was commendable. Gul was busy helping Charvi in packing her suitcase as there were few days left for her journey to New Delhi to her maternal uncle’s place. Charvi was joyful and eagerly waiting to visit Delhi and everyone. Charvi was hoping to meet Rohit too when she would reach there. She had bought a birthday gift for Rohit and also brought presents for her relatives whom she would be connecting after a long period of time. Gul told Charvi, “I will miss you sis.” She replied, “Me too dear”.

Chapter ten

Charvi had just two days left to go to her uncle's place in New Delhi. She would be travelling by train to reach there.

The day finally arrived, Charvi was all set and ready for the long journey when she would be changing two trains. The family bid her Goodbye, They all said, "Safe travels, keep in touch, dear ".She had kept her luggage light as she was alone.

The best method to travel between Shimla and Delhi was by the railway route. This involves two trains with a connection at the bland city of Kalka. Once Charvi reached Chandigarh, she would take another train to New Delhi. The entire train travel was done in around 6-7 hours. This visit unlike other trips was

for a reason. Delhi was the city where besides meeting her uncle and his family she would also be meeting Rohit and attending his birthday party.

The Sharmas i.e her maternal uncle and his family welcomed her at the station once the train halted there. Her cousin, Shweta seemed thrilled and recognized her immediately. She hugged her as soon as she alighted the train. Shweta said, "Good to have you here sis." Her aunt, a simple and homely woman in her late forties was also happy at seeing her after a long gap of three years. Her uncle blessed her and said "Welcome to our city, it's nice to meet you my dear niece." The porter took the luggage to a cab at the departure gate. Everyone sat in the cab which would take them to Karol Bagh her uncle's home in Delhi.

Karol Bagh is a mixed residential cum commercial neighbourhood. Their house was in the building and near to The Ghaffar Market. This area was a bit crowded unlike her home in Shimla where her cottage was in a village with a peaceful atmosphere. Charvi was finding everything different but knew this trip will be an altogether a contrasting experience from Shimla, the hill station in Himachal Pradesh.

Charvi was glad to have reached New Delhi and appreciated that her relatives welcomed her so warmly. They reached Karol Bagh from the station in a short period of time. Shweta took her to the guest room and helped her to keep the luggage. Charvi thanked Shweta, her cousin saying, "Thanks dear, you remind me of my younger sis Gul, you are so much like her." Shweta smiled at this and

said, “You can freshen up and relax. Lunch is ready, do come to the dining room.” Charvi nodded with a yes. Once alone she decided to call up Rohit and inform him that she had reached his city.

Lunch was a simple affair and the meal was delicious. She interacted with her uncle and aunt who enjoyed her talks about her family in Shimla. Her aunt said, “We too will visit Shimla, sounds like an amazing place.” Charvi finished her meal and went with Shweta to help her in the kitchen chores. Shweta refused saying, “No sis, I’ll manage you must be tired. Why don’t you help me next time. You can rest now.”

Charvi loved the kind nature of the family, she knew they would not let her miss her own family. She dialed Rohit’s number once in her room.

She said, "Surprise, guess where am I?." Rohit was excited on hearing her voice and surprised that she had reached Delhi and began planning about when the two would meet. Charvi told him, "Don't be so much in haste. I will meet you and will also definitely come to your birthday party." The two talked for sometime and both of them continued updating each other as they had a lot to chat about. Finally Charvi interrupted Rohit saying, "I think we are done with enough talking. I will keep in touch with you and said, "Bye" and disconnected the call hurriedly. Charvi was lost in thoughts about her home in Shimla and was suddenly missing her family too.

The two days of her trip to Delhi were spent in the similar manner with her relatives. On the third day, Charvi got suddenly alert when her mobile rang, she

answered the call it was Rohit. He told her he would like to meet her tomorrow and would pick her up from Karol Bagh, where her uncle stayed. He asked her, “What about visiting the Lodhi Gardens and a few other places in Delhi with me. I’m accustomed to this city and as you are new what better escort than me. Are you interested? Charvi liked the suggestion and said she would definitely like if he accompanied her. Charvi and Rohit decided to meet each other the next day .She informed her uncle and they had no problem with her decision. Her uncle said, “Why not, go ahead and enjoy with your friend. Charvi also told everyone about Rohit’s birthday party which was scheduled for the upcoming Sunday and took permission from her uncle and aunt whether she could take Shweta too.

They replied with a yes. She was overjoyed and was waiting for her friend's big day.

The next day Rohit picked her up from Karol Bagh and they reached Lodhi Gardens at around 11.00a.m. Lodhi Gardens is a city park spanning over 90 acres. It is a luscious garden and is a favourite spot for morning walks for the Delhites. Charvi was enchanted by the beauty of the fabulous gardens. She said "So beautiful!." Rohit had brought her to this place for a reason, when they were seated on the bench looking at the romantic couples hand in hand walking, he too proposed to her by taking her hand and kissing it saying, "I love you, will you marry me?".

Charvi was astonished at his statement and was in a loss of words but replied, "I love you too and missed you a lot." They sat silently admiring each other with their eyes doing all the work. There was no need to converse at this moment.

The two realized that they were deeply in love with each other and also inseparable. Rohit told her he would directly tell Charvi's parents about his interest in her and that he wanted to make her his life partner. They also visited the Red Fort and Qutub Minar, the historic places in New Delhi. The two enjoyed the trip together. Rohit was happy to have finally revealed his feelings to Charvi and all the more happier that she had reciprocated his feelings for him. At the end of the day Rohit dropped her to Karol Bagh promising to meet everyone soon as he had an important meeting lined up for

tomorrow. They both bid each other good bye. Charvi was in a very good mood when she entered her uncle's house. Shweta noticed it and teased her as she had told her about Rohit yesterday.

The affair which had started in the mountains had taken a wonderful turn in the city.

Rohit was in the office busy completing the assignments and an important presentation was scheduled for 4.00 p.m. The day was a hectic one with hardly any time to think other things except for the work of the company. Once the presentation was done with the boss and employees of another company for about an hour and half, that he heaved a sigh of relief and was happy that today was a fruitful day with having achieved a good bonus for the company. He had

accomplished the target he wanted. This was the meeting he had told Charvi about, was now over successfully.

Rohit finished the other tasks and decided to go home to his family.

Chapter eleven

Charvi had plans to visit the local market and what better place than the Ghaffar Market which was nearby. She requested Shweta to accompany her so that she would shop for whatever essentials required. The market is usually crowded as it was in Karol Bagh, it is in a walking distance and there was no need of a vehicle. She shopped for things needed for her stay in Delhi. The duo returned home once done with the shopping. Shweta was preoccupied with other chores so Charvi went to her room and called her family in Shimla, her parents and siblings were overjoyed to hear her voice. Gul asked, "How are you sis?, must be missing us, we are also waiting for you

to come back.” Yash her elder brother as he was over protective like all brothers said, “Take care lil sis, hope you all are good.” Her parents also gave love and regards to her and everyone.

Charvi suddenly felt home sick and was missing her hometown and her village. She suddenly came back to the present remembering that she had to attend Rohit’s birthday party this Sunday and had not planned about it yet besides bringing the gift for Rohit. The name brought a handsome, suave gentleman in front of her eyes who was so caring and now more than a friend. Not a single moment passed that she would not be lost in his thoughts. Shimla the place where she met him was always etched in her memories. The next city which had probably had memories to cherish would definitely be New Delhi.

Charvi, with the help of Shweta decided what attire she would be wearing for the upcoming birthday party of Rohit with just a couple of days left. Shweta selected the clothes and accessories for Charvi according to her choice. She told Charvi, "Sis, you always dress up in Indian clothes so try a western attire for the party". Charvi was unsure at first but Shweta successfully coaxed her for this decision. Shweta would be wearing an ethnic costume which Charvi had got for her from the boutique she owned Her cousin was keen and also thrilled at the idea of meeting Charvi's friend, Rohit for the first time.

Chandni Chowk would be the place of celebration for Rohit's family, friends and guests. Rohit had planned almost

everything and was eagerly waiting for the day to arrive. His mom was busy arranging everything with the help of Rohit. His brothers, Ritesh and Rihaan also helped him in whatever way they could right from calling the caterers and the decorators for the party. This event was going to be just as Rohit and his family wanted His friends, Ashish and Suraj were excited and asked if he needed any help.

Saturday came and the girls Charvi and Shweta visited the local beauty salon for skin and hair treatments. They wanted to look their best.

Charvi had guided Seema and Ritu on the work of the boutique at beginning of the week as Sunday night would be a late one and she would therefore come on Tuesday to handle the work but she knew they would manage.

Sunday was the normal weekend for Charvi and her relatives. Shweta had prepared tea and breakfast as usual when she woke up. Charvi praised her cousin for always been there when she needed her. Charvi helped Shweta and her aunt in the preparation of the lunch, she chopped vegetables, also got the dining table ready so that Shweta could get time for herself too. They were waiting for today's occasion and now the time was near.

Charvi dressed in the red pleated evening gown with matching accessories and left her long black tresses loose with a strand of hair left on one side. She looked devastatingly beautiful and the Himalayan features were enhanced with the minimal makeup she used. The red lipstick and her kohled eyes made her look all the more lovely, her chiselled features added to her assets.

Shweta had worn a multi coloured ethnic outfit, she too looked vibrant and eye-catching like her cousin. They had booked a cab to travel to Chandni Chowk from their place to Rohit's house. The cab arrived on time, after a hush hush good bye to everyone, Charvi and Shweta sat in the cab from KarolBagh to Chandni Chowk. It took them around 20 minutes to reach there. It was a beautiful evening and they were so excited for this occasion for which they had been planning for ages as it seemed.

Rohit was standing at the entrance and when he saw Charvi he could not take his eyes off her. "My God! She is looking so mesmerizing and beautiful!" Charvi introduced Rohit to Shweta and the two got along talking to each other. All of them entered the hall which was well decorated with the birthday cake kept on

the large table in the middle of the hall. The buffet was arranged at the sides. Rohit introduced Charvi to Ashish and Suraj and they liked her instantly. Ashish commented “Good choice, bro.”

The party mood was on with soft music playing in the background. Some couples were waltzing to it. Rohit introduced Charvi to his mom and brothers Ritesh and Rihaan. His mom admired this lovely girl who was Rohit’s friend. He confessed to her that he was interested in her and would like to marry her. His younger brother, Rihaan teased him, “Why so much haste elder brother?.”

It was now time to cut the birthday cake and Rohit with his mom’s blessings did the formality. The guests and everyone sang the birthday song with enthusiasm and energy. The atmosphere in the room

was lively and full of happiness. Rohit gave the slice of the cake to Charvi after his family. Shweta and Charvi were thoroughly enjoying the party. Rohit asked Charvi for a dance. The two were so close to each other and the moment was worth capturing. The couple were excited and loving everything today in each other's company. Rohit kept on staring and admiring Charvi with the strand of hair that made her look all the more lovelier. Today she was looking all the more attractive and different from the previous times he had met here. The red colour gown she wore was enough to make everyone notice her and praise her as well. The guests were wondering who this wonderful girl was who had Rohit so much in awe of here. The dinner was a grand one with exotic dishes and drinks for everyone present. The celebration

continued and then Rohit thanked Charvi and Shweta to be able to come and grace this occasion. "Special thanks for your birthday gifts which I shall open later with the rest of the presents."

Charvi looked at Rohit, who appeared to be so dignified in the three piece grey formals he had worn. "This man really knows how to charm beautiful girls", she said to herself. The party had ended and Shweta was all praises for Rohit. She told Charvi, "You really are lucky to be associated with such a handsome dude, sis. His family also seems to be of pretty good human beings. Hoping I meet someone like him later in life when I want to settle down." Charvi smiled and answered, "You will too." Charvi and Shweta wished good bye to Rohit and his family, they proceeded towards the door,

Charvi promised to meet him soon later in the week when possible.

The cousins took a cab home, as they did not have any escort so that they should reach home on time. Charvi and Shweta were truly exhausted but definitely happy that they would have missed something if they had not attended this fabulous birthday party. Shweta could not stop discussing all that had happened and whoever she had met. Overall Charvi was satisfied and waiting to meet Rohit again.

Rohit was busy till late night, when everyone went only then he had time for himself. The birthday wrapped up finally with all the guests having left for their destinations. This event was memorable and he truly enjoyed his wonderful day. The guests had thanked him for hosting a

party which nobody could ever forget. His mom and his brothers said, "Everything was so organized and the guests were so cool and friendly." Ritesh teased Rohit by taking Charvi's name, "You have chosen the right girl bro, praying that her family also likes you. Wishing you all the best for your future." Rohit knew his mom's blessings were always with him. The family bond was very strong and remarkable.

Chapter twelve

Rohit went to his room and changed into his nightwear. He was happy that the party ended on a good note as he had wanted, with the blessings and wishes of his elders and friends. It was fun and everyone truly rejoiced, so he was satisfied. Moreover, Charvi had kept her promise and came all the way from Shimla to New Delhi for his party. She was a special person in his life and now she was all the more close to his heart. Rohit and Charvi were deeply in love with each other and now their feelings for each other were mutual. The romantic bond had grown more strong. This weekend he did not have to go to his primary school in Greater Noida so he would plan to meet

Charvi. Now as everyone knew about their feelings for each other she could inform them in her uncle's house that she was going to meet Rohit ,she would not have to hide where she was going. This thought made him all the more happier and he thanked God for everything.

The next few days after Sunday was the same, monotonous with up down from home to office and back. Thursday during lunchtime he called up Charvi and asked her "How are you? How's everyone?." At first Charvi was astonished to hear Rohit's voice as she was sitting in the living room. She excused herself as she was busy in talking to her aunt when he called .She replied "Well, I'm fine what about you all?." Rohit was so glad to hear her lovely voice that he was speechless for sometime. He answered "All's good. I would like to meet you this weekend."

Charvi said “Okay, I will inform you what time I can come and where we should meet.” The two chatted for sometime and finally Charvi said goodbye and disconnected the call as she heard her aunt’s voice calling her name as Shweta was in college. “She must be having some work with me”, she thought to herself. Charvi decided to go to the Lotus Temple and also visit the Red Fort, the famous tourist places which she had not visited yet. She could meet Rohit there and then they could visit any restaurant nearby and talk to each other about whatever they had to discuss. Rohit had previously told her he was interested in meeting her family and asking them if they would agree to their marriage. Even the thought of marrying Rohit brought a smile to her face. Charvi decided to coax Rohit to accompany her to Shimla where he could

her family when she would go back to her hometown from Delhi. They would also get a lot of time to know each other well she thought. "This seems like a brilliant idea." Charvi was cheerful and her mind was suddenly charged up. On the whole she was very excited.

Rohit Kapoor and Charvi Rana, friends and now more than friends were eagerly waiting for the weekend to arrive when they would be meeting each other. They did not know what destiny had planned for them but knew whatever would happen would be the best for them and their family. There were no hurdles as such, so life would be smooth journey for all.

Saturday came with a lot of love in the air, Charvi as planned reached Qutub Minar where Rohit must be already there she

knew. This place lies in old Delhi. It is a minaret or a victory tower and a famous historical tourist spot. Rohit was delighted to see her and giving her a hug exclaimed, "So nice to see you! Missed you every moment dear." Charvi responded with a "Me too, dear." Rohit could not stop adoring her and kept staring at her with so much love in his eyes. They spent some time exploring this wonderful place. Rohit said, "Can we now go to Red Fort? Have you visited it?." She said "No I have not gone there yet. I would certainly want to visit it with you." The two then decided to tour the Red Fort which was nearby. It is also known as the 'Lal Qila', it is a historic fort that served as the main residence of the Mughal Emperors. Charvi appreciated the beauty of the fort's massive red sandstone walls. "This tall monument is such so beautiful and worth admiring",

she told Rohit. They spent some time there and when they felt it was enough Rohit said “I know of a restaurant nearby why don’t we go there and eat something. I’m really hungry.” Charvi agreed to the idea and they took a cab to reach there.

Rohit and Charvi entered the restaurant holding each other’s hands the perfect couple in town whom anybody would envy. He, the suave, dashing guy and she, the perfect, gorgeous mountain beauty. What more could they have asked God for?.

The restaurant was not so crowded, they chose the corner table. Rohit and Charvi ordered their favourite cuisine ofcourse, Indian. The lunch was really delicious and they truly relished it. When they had finished eating Rohit ordered some

orange juice while Charvi wanted to taste the special chocolate ice-cream, as in Shimla she hardly ate cold items besides hot soups and beverages. Rohit suddenly asked her “What would be the ideal time to meet your uncle and his family. It’s my wish to know them personally as he and his family also live in Delhi. It would be nice to meet them”. Charvi replied “I will talk to him and let you know soon”.

They had enjoyed spending the day together and getting to know each other more. It was fun and they had really loved it. Rohit dropped Charvi home to KarolBagh and then reached his Chandni Chowk apartment. It was nearing evening and his mom was waiting for him with his brothers, Ritesh and Rihaan on the vast terrace which looked very beautiful with the sky having different hues of colours, the sun was about to set. He spent some

time with his family, all along thinking about the girl who had brought so much affection and happiness in his life which he was experiencing for the first time for anyone. Their love had blossomed more since they first met. It was a feeling he could not describe in words.

Rohit decided that he too would go to Shimla with Charvi when she would leave Delhi for her hometown Shimla, and meet her family finally so that he would talk to them and know whether they were ready for her marriage with him. This would be the appropriate time for them when he would be there and easier also to make a decision soon. Rohit said to himself, "I can't live without Charvi, now I must marry her soon." He hoped she felt the same for him too.

Charvi spoke the next day with her uncle and told him that Rohit wanted to meet him at their house. She asked him, "Is it alright with you?." Her uncle replied, "He is your friend and always welcome, he can come here anytime." Her aunt and cousin Shweta were also o.k with it. Charvi called up Rohit and said, "You can come tomorrow evening after your work at the company is complete, as it is also important so you can do it and come here." Rohit was glad that her uncle was a friendly man and had said yes.

Tomorrow evening he would take the cab from his firm in Connaught Place to reach KarolBagh to Charvi's uncle's residence.

Chapter thirteen

Shweta was in the kitchen when Charvi entered, she greeted her with a good morning and Charvi said, "Same to you lil sis." Charvi then said, "You have been so helpful and friendly that you made me so comfortable during my stay, you did not let me miss Gul, my younger sister. She is just like you always affectionate and supporting and you too are same. I will really miss your company when I go to Shimla." Shweta was happy to hear this and answered, "Thanks a lot dear sis, you also are always loving and now my dearest friend, I will miss you too" Charvi hugged her hearing this.

Charvi then told Shweta that as Rohit would be coming in the evening they should prepare some snacks and coffee

for him and everyone as he is coming here directly from work and he will be tired. Shweta said she would help her as always when needed.

Rohit was the last to leave the company and took the cab and reached Karol Bagh at the address given by Charvi. Everyone were delighted to see him. They all sat in the living room where Charvi introduced Rohit to her uncle and aunt. Shweta was familiar with Charvi's friend and said, "Hi" to him. Rohit was very cordial and deferential towards her uncle and aunt and they after talking to him, immediately liked him. Rohit told her uncle, "It's my pleasure to have met you all. Do come to my house, I stay in Chandni Chowk. Her aunt replied, "We will definitely, I would like to meet your mom and know her personally." They all had coffee and snacks and in between interacted with

each other. Charvi admired Rohit's charm which worked on anyone who knew him even for a short period of time. He spent some more time with them telling them about the primary school in Greater Noida of which he was the Founder. They were quite interested in the conversation that took place between them. Rohit thought this was a day spent well reasonably with Charvi's relatives. He enjoyed their company and felt they were so warm and friendly, not ignoring anything he spoke about to them. Rohit bid everyone goodbye, "I am taking leave now, but will surely meet you all again", he promised them. Charvi went to leave him at the entrance but was also a little sad to see him go so early.

Charvi said to Rohit, "My vacation in Delhi is over and in a day or two I would be returning to Shimla, my hometown to my

family. This was a pleasure trip and also a successful one. If you are interested in traveling to Shimla with me, you can book my air tickets with yours. We can go together and you will be able to meet my family there. Gul, my sister is very eager to meet you and so are my mom and dad. Yash, my brother will also get to know you better.” Rohit appreciated this idea and replied, “I will get in touch with you tomorrow and then we can plan out everything.” Rohit travelled home taking good memories of today. He could not get Charvi off his mind specially when he was alone. Her thoughts lingered and always cheered him with her beautiful face in front of him. She had a magnetic personality he thought to himself.

Rohit was busy the whole day at work, he was engrossed in the hectic schedule that he forgot to call Charvi as promised. His

family had no objection to his going to Shimla to meet Charvi's family. Tomorrow he would book the flight tickets. He decided to call her later and inform if she was ok with everything. Rohit prayed that his trip to Shimla for the purpose of meeting Charvi's family turns out for the best.

Charvi was in a cheerful mood humming a tune to herself while preparing tea for everyone, Shweta teased her saying, "You sound in a romantic mood, thinking about Rohit aren't you?." Charvi laughed at the remark and said, "Nothing like that, you are imagining things".

Both the girls loved each other's company, they would definitely miss each other when Charvi leaves from Delhi to Shimla. Charvi went to her room, when her mobile rang she answered the call. It

was Rohit on the other side confirming if she was alright with the flight two days later at around 12.00p.m. She said, “Yes, no problem, I’m busy will call you tomorrow. I better tell my uncle also.” Rohit replied “Ok, fine. Goodbye and take care. Give my regards to all”. Charvi started planning out as what all would be necessary to be done for the trip before she is ready for the flight. She hardly had time, she would tell Shweta to help her in packing. Charvi also called Ritu at her boutique and asked her how was the business doing and said that she would be returning soon to Shimla. She was overjoyed at the news and told all is good.

The two days passed so soon that Charvi suddenly realized she would be missing New Delhi and was getting so accustomed staying her, she would miss her relatives and the time spent with them. The trip

was a memorable one with so many things she could not forget. This time Charvi had connected so well with everyone that an emotional bond that she would not forget had been created. This trip where she had met Rohit's family for the first time at his birthday party was truly worth remembering.

Charvi got really busy the next day with just one day to go back to Shimla. She finished packing her suitcase and reminded herself to keep all her belongings in one place. Her uncle and aunt seemed a little sad, so was her cousin Shweta who was now also a dear friend. She would be missing every one and knew they would also. They insisted on dropping her at the airport but she refused saying "Rohit is with me, hence I shall manage. Thanks for everything. It was a pleasure being here and I

thoroughly enjoyed my stay in New Delhi”.

Rohit had told her he would be reaching the Indira Gandhi International Airport before her. So, Charvi reached there on time at around the 12.00 p.m. flight timings. The airport spread over a large area, it was in Palam and is the busiest airport in terms of flight traffic. Rohit was waiting at the entrance and explained to her “We will be changing our flights from Chandigarh to reach Shimla.”

Charvi replied, “It’s fine with me as I have you for company, dear.” They boarded the flight to Chandigarh after security and checking formalities. Rohit said “We will reach Shimla in around 4 hours and 15 minutes, counting the time of both the flights.” The Chandigarh flight relaxed them with Charvi amazed at the beautiful

view from the window. Rohit said, "I have booked a hotel near your house and will come to meet your family once I'm settled there in your hometown." She nodded her head with a yes. The flight landed in Shimla. They had reached the scenic, mountainous Shimla finally! Charvi was excited and happy being back to her beloved family after so long. Rohit and Charvi decided to part ways here promising to meet each other soon. Yash was present at the arrival gate at the airport and was in a cheerful mood. Rohit had told her he would meet her family together at the cottage and hence went before Yash had arrived though Charvi said he would not mind it that she was with him.

Charvi and Rohit were glad that they had reached their much awaited destination, Shimla. The hill station seemed more beautiful than before with the snow capped Himalayan peaks and green pastures. This was the place where both of them met each other for the first time, how could they forget?.

Rohit had taken a cab to the hotel while Charvi with Yash reached her family at the cottage in the village. She was excited to reunite with them and had a lot to talk to them. Gul, on seeing her elder sister hugged her saying “Missed you so much, is.” Charvi replied, “Me too dear.” Her mom and dad too was overjoyed on meeting her and inquired about the uncle, aunt and Shweta. Their faces beamed with happiness. “How was your trip?”, her parents asked her, “Very good”, Charvi

answered happily. "I enjoyed a lot", she told them.

Charvi went to her room to freshen up and muttered to herself "Back home, sweet home".

Chapter fourteen

Rohit, in the meanwhile was trying to register where he was. He could not believe he had finally come to Shimla and in a few days time he would meet Charvi's family and they would be partners for life. His wish would soon be fulfilled.

This was the amazing place where he had met Charvi for the first time. The mountain affair which started would be taking a beautiful ending. The love which had blossomed in each other's heart would stay there forever for life.

Charvi, the Himalayan beauty would finally become his wife. His joy knew no bounds. There was not much time for this

miracle to happen. He was sure that her family would agree to their marriage. Rohit was waiting to meet Charvi in Shimla again, this time things would be different and better than before he thought to himself. He could not stop thinking about her. "OH!, How much I love her!" he kept on repeating this line to himself. It brought a certain pleasure to him. His face showed how much he loved her and prayed that she too felt the same for him.

Rohit had chosen a hotel close to Charvi's cottage, a few kms i.e it was at a walking distance. He could meet her whenever he felt he must see her. The view from his room's balcony was outstanding and breath-taking so that he would never feel he was alone. The sky looked immensely beautiful with the picturesque mountains adding plenty of aura to the lush green

landscapes. Overall, just like his mood at present, every thing was lovely and worth talking about.

Rohit decided to call Charvi tomorrow at the hotel's lounge before meeting her family. He called her and asked her if she was free in the morning. Charvi said, "It's been a long time, actually it was before my visit to Delhi that I have not gone to my boutique so I will meet Seema and Ritu, my assistants once I wrap up the work there, I will meet you in the evening at the hotel. Is it fine with you?" Rohit was impressed with her dedication to her work and readily agreed.

Charvi was her usual self with her family, concerned about their welfare and joking with Gul. The family had dinner together. Charvi helped her mom and Gul with the kitchen chores, everything was normal

and lovely to her. She was missing all this, though Shweta, her cousin had kept her busy and made her feel comfortable in the house in Delhi too. The night would bring another awesome day, tomorrow with so much to look forward to and plan a better future for her family and for herself with Rohit in her mind and heart always. “Everything seems so fascinating and wonderful” she thought to herself.

The hotel where Rohit was staying was in a picturesque location and situated a little above the ground. Shimla was a hill station and so it was normal for the hotels to be built in such a manner.

Charvi was busy at the ‘Miss Girl Boutique’, she gave instructions to Seema and Ritu about today’s work. There was a lot of finishing work to be done in the ethnic wear which had come today at the

boutique. She helped them in completing it and suddenly remembered that it was nearing evening, so Rohit must be waiting for her at the hotel's lounge. Charvi took a bus to reach the hotel and entered the lounge. Rohit was sitting on the sofa set at the corner. She wished him a hasty hello and seated besides him. The ambience of the lounge was very striking. The intricately designed furniture was exquisite. The chandeliers were very attractive. There was a certain aura here which made her feel romantic and cosy sitting next to Rohit. He asked her, "What will you have?." She replied, "Let's keep the meal light as it is too early for dinner." They ordered veg pasta, hakka noodles and a rice preparation. While the food came, Rohit kept staring at Charvi and admiring his lady love who looked so lovely in the Indian ethnic wear with

accessories to match. Her long, black hair was tied in a plait as she normally dressed for work. This was her usual look but Rohit was totally fascinated with Charvi. She smiled and looked at Rohit who was dressed casually in denim blue jeans and a white shirt but looked so sophisticated and handsome. Charvi realized she was lucky to have him in her life “He does not have an attitude and is so down to earth”, she thought to herself. Rohit and Charvi talked and then he said he would like to meet her family at her cottage. “When should I come?” he asked her. Charvi replied, “Very soon. I have told my family about you and they too are really interested in meeting you and finalizing everything with your family. We will be getting married soon, hopefully.” Rohit was so happy that he was speechless for

sometime. Rohit ordered mixed cocktails and said, "Let's celebrate this, cheers."

Charvi too was thrilled that their friendship would take a fabulous turn soon. She had not expected the events to occur so soon. This was certainly an occasion to celebrate and enjoy.

The next day was the same monotonous day at the boutique for Charvi, she instructed Seema and Ritu, her assistants with the work there and there was so much work to be completed that she did not realize it was lunch time. She was so engrossed in the hectic schedule that when she looked at the clock on the wall she saw it was nearing 2.00p.m. She hastily had lunch and continued working. Both Rohit and Charvi were equally hardworking and efficient in their respective fields.

Rohit on the other hand, was in his hotel room making important calls to the associates of his company. He told his personal assistant that once his trip to Shimla was over he would come back to Delhi and told them to carry on the good work they were doing. He was a CEO and had to shoulder a lot of responsibilities which he handled skilfully. He would call Charvi and decide with her about meeting her family. It was the day he was waiting since long and now his wait would be over soon.

Rohit also called his family and inquired about their welfare. They were happy for him that he had chosen the right girl and would settle down with the perfect partner he was desiring for so long.

Rohit had come to Shimla with Charvi for a purpose and so he would not hesitate in

fulfilling his wish to marry Charvi in a few days time.

Rohit spent his leisure time in the sports room and played squash which was his favourite sport and he would hardly get any time to practice it in Delhi. The exercise rejuvenated him and he got some time for himself. The trip to Shimla would be completed when he would finally accomplish what he had come for.

Chapter fifteen

Charvi, on the other hand had different activities to do tomorrow. She got up early in the morning. The cottage was in Shimla, so the cool breeze that blew from the window in her room where she stood touched the locks of hair and made her look all the more captivating. She decided to take a long walk in the woods. The walk made her feel more energetic, she had many things to do during the day. Charvi enjoyed her stroll admiring the beauty of the snow capped mountains with snow beginning to fall even on the paths leading to her cottage. She was wearing a thick sweater so that she would not catch a cold.

Charvi decided that today she would ask her parents when to invite Rohit home,

she had already told them he was staying in a hotel nearby their village and was keen on meeting them. Once home, she went to the kitchen to prepare tea for everyone. It was early, so all of the family members had not woken up yet. She sat near the fireplace on the chair in the living room and had her cup of tea, enjoying the aroma and flavour of the hills. This was one beverage she was really fond of having.

Her parents and siblings also joined her and they all got talking to each other. Charvi expressed her opinion about inviting Rohit tomorrow for lunch as it would be dark early because of the winter season and it would be better if he came during the day instead of calling him at night for dinner.

Gul, her sister seemed to be really excited on hearing this and before the elders would reply said, "Please do call Rohit sis, I'm eagerly waiting to meet him, I will help you in the cooking." Her mom and dad had no objection to her decision, Yash her brother too wanted to meet the Prince Charming in his sister's life and to know him better. They all said, "He is your friend and is always welcome anytime he wants to come".

Charvi called up Rohit late afternoon and said "Hi! Rohit, Guess what? Everyone wants to meet you, Why don't you come to have lunch tomorrow at our cottage? We will be waiting for you." Rohit was overwhelmed at the news and replied, "Ofcourse love, at your command dear, I will be right there".

Rohit told her about his family who were also happy that he wanted to marry her and they all would welcome her in his family whenever they agree to settle down in life. Rohit told Charvi excitedly, "The day is not far when we both will be together for life." Charvi got emotional and said, "Yes, I'm waiting for the moment to arrive soon." They bid each other good bye, Rohit said, "Good night and sweet dreams dear." Charvi got busy planning everything for the next day.

Charvi's day started as it always would, with Rohit in mind. She remembered that he was coming home today to meet her family and prayed all goes well. She, with Gul's help had shopped for the necessary groceries required for today's lunch which Rohit would be having with all of them. Once breakfast was done with Charvi and Gul began preparations for today's

cuisine. Rohit had expressed his desire to have some dishes which were Shimla's specialty.

Rohit arrived on time for the lunch. Her parents were already waiting for him in the dining hall. Rohit cordially greeted them. His mom said to Rohit, "I would like to meet Mrs. Kapoor your mother, we would like to finalize the dates for the wedding soon. I hope they would come down from Delhi to Shimla for the ceremony." Rohit replied, "I don't think they should disagree on this." Charvi's dad and Yash said "Let's have lunch and then talk about the other matters that need to be discussed".

Charvi and Gul with their mom's guidance had prepared a delicious ,healthy meal which had mostly recipes of Shimla which everyone in the hill station devoured.

There was Madra, a healthy and spicy chickpea based vegan curry that goes perfectly with rice and

Flatbreads. The girls had prepared both the items. There was also Maash Daal, a pulses dish and the famous Chicken Anardaana which Rohit really enjoyed. Charvi was glad he loved the meal which they had prepared with so much effort for him. Lastly they all had Mawa Sweets for dessert which Charvi had told Yash to bring from Mall Road.

Rohit could not stop praising the yummy food and said "Though I avoid sweets, the dessert was really tasty." His parents then started asking him about the dates for the wedding. Rohit dialed a video call to his mom and made Charvi's family talk over the arrangements to his family in Delhi. Ritesh and Rihaan said, "You don't know

bro, but we were waiting for this day from so long and it's a pleasure for us. We are sincerely happy for you."

Rohit and Charvi were super excited about the fact that their families were going to be meeting each other soon. A grand occasion was on the cards for everyone. They all started planning who would be the invitees and where they would keep the wedding.

Rohit and Charvi's dream to be together was going to become a reality in a few days time. They were so anxious for the day to arrive. The mountain affair would be a successful one for Charvi and Rohit the besotted ones.

The would be bride Charvi and the groom Rohit could not hide their feelings for each other. They would be happily married in a few days time.

In Delhi, there was the same excitement, Rohit's brothers, Ritesh and Rihaan were busy in booking flight tickets to Shimla. His mom was waiting eagerly for the joyous occasion to arrive soon. Everyone in the family were busy deciding about the upcoming wedding that would be in Shimla. It was decided mutually with Rohit and Charvi's family that it would be a traditional wedding with few close friends and family from both sides.

Ashish and Suraj, Rohit's friends were ofcourse invited. Charvi's family also invited their guests.

Rohit and Charvi wanted a honeymoon here in Shimla and what better hill station than this beautiful place. Shimla was the place where these two met and fell in love with each other. This was not one love story, there may be many who must

have felt the same in this scenic hill station.

Rohit's family and friends reached Shimla and so did Charvi's close friends and ofcourse her adorable family. Gul seemed to be sad but was happy for her elder sister. Yash her brother would definitely miss her presence in the cottage once she leaves for New Delhi. Charvi's mom could not stop crying and even though everyone tried consoling her she said "It's tears of joy." Charvi's dad had an unique and emotional attachment with his daughter, he was sad but did not show her that he would miss her a lot instead said, "Everything is fine, I'm blessed."

EPILOGUE

Charvi, the bride looked gorgeous in an Indian attire which had gold embroidery which made her look so splendid. The flowing lehenga or skirt with a choli or blouse was matched beautifully. She had her hair tied in a bun with a few locks falling on her face She was wearing matching accessories. Rohit was also dressed in a dignified manner in a light blue three piece which enhanced his 6 ft. frame. The gleam in his eyes showed he was waiting for this time since long and now they were happily married.

The rituals were performed accordingly with mutual consent from both the families. The Indian wedding rituals took some time. The priest pronounced them husband and wife.

The further celebrations which comprised of a party was done in a posh hotel with dinner and drinks for the invited guests. Rohit missed his father at this time to which his mom said, "I'm sure he is also blessing you both even though he is not there."

The wedding party continued for a long time. Once the guests took leave blessing and wishing the two a happy married life then Charvi and Rohit were with their families. Both the families had taken an instant liking to each other even though they met just a couple of times. Then they also bid the newlyweds a happy married life and also a very good night.

Rohit and Charvi would spend the night today in this hotel and from tomorrow they would have the desired honeymoon right here in Shimla.

The two went into their suite and finally their dream to be together was fulfilled.

The Mountain Affair had begun....

FARZANA HUSSAIN.