

The Book of Dreams

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Dedication.

To Dadu,

Prof. Ashok Sharma (Daddy), my inspiration because from him I have learnt basics of English and to help others!!

Acknowledgements

We are sojourners in this world. After leading destined time here we have to go back to our original home. I agree with T. S. Eliot who says "Man's destination is not his destiny!!". Bhagwat Gita also emphasises upon the importance of action. As a result of this, here is this piece of fiction. It would not have been possible without the blessings of almighty, my grandparents, my parents, my cousins and everyone near and dear to me.

Foreword

I have always believed that the spirit of youth can change the course of rivers and move mountains. I say this in context to Devanshi who has taken her first steps to becoming a writer of some distinction with the publication of her first novel. Let me say that the journey to becoming a full-fledged writer is not easy. The writer, especially one as young as Devanshi must first and foremost have the courage of one's convictions to first pen her thoughts and then go out on the arduous journey to get her book published. It is no mean task. But young Devanshi has realised her dream and her book is soon going to hit the bookshelves all over the country in a short period of time.

Her novel tells the story of Arvika, Aarav and Aadheer. All three are young, impressionable much like Devanshi and this is their story of their relationships, their love, longing and even anger and hatred for each other. It is a compelling read and a great start for a young writer.

Now that Devanshi has taken her first steps to becoming a writer I can only say that the path to becoming a writer can appear to be tough and even frustrating at times but in the end the reward for all the effort put in is enormous. A writer enjoys the love and affection of so many people in society and that is a heady feeling. And Devanshi deserves all this and more that will surely come her way.

– Juggi Bhasin(Author of *The Terrorist*)

Prologue

The book of Dreams!

Love

The two love birds

On a branch of a tree,

I saw two birds so free.

Sitting on the tree,

The two seemed so sweet.

The two lost in their gaze so keen,

Trying to forget the world so mean.

The two were in love,

For sure in love.

After their first meet,

The two looked so sweet,

Lost in dreams.

They were so in each

The two were in love.

For sure in love.

They kept meeting, talking and wondering,

The two were lost,

And surely in thoughts,

They looked wonderful and felt successful.

The two were in love,

For sure in love.

After some days

The two were one.

The two were in the state of ecstasies'!

The two became we,

From you and me,

Everything around was happy and cheerful.

The two were in love.

For sure in love

After all days of happiness,

The law of average took its place,

The two went away.

Still the two were in love,

Yes....love.

Well! Have you heard of a heart which beats to pump someone else's blood? Have you heard of a soul wondering for the peace which lies in someone else's body? Have you thought of a person living for the sake of completing the other one!!

If the answer you have got in your mind is YES, then my dear friends here is one story of Aarav and Arvika who will show an inexperienced version of love and change the meaning of love for you!!

And well, if you have not heard it, in that case, my Aarav and Arvika will force you to believe in the most lovable and adorable word in this world-LOVE..

Aarav and Arvika – a dream which all the love birds would like to see!

Aarav and Arvika – a song which the soul mates would love to hear again and again!

Aarav and Arvika- a fragrance like the lavender rose, whose aroma lingers every time you smell it!

Aarav and Arvika are something weird, lovable, cute, sweet, new, simple, complicated, contradictory, smart, handsome, pretty, cool, hot, crazy, cynic, intelligent and they are UNIQUE. But the love they share is *something more than everything!!*

Prologue

It is said love is tough, it is heard that love can take any curve, it is felt that love is fake but just a minute, just close your eyes and think of the love that is pure, that can survive all odds, that has the capability to fight the time for the sake of their own chime!! This story of Aarav and Arvika will make you believe in love, trust and relationships!

This story expresses the alpha of love in life with the onset of teenage. Although rarely it happens that a crush of class 10 is your life partner but still the feeling of infatuation and love cannot be ignored!! Love is easy to start but once in love, I am sorry to say that you lose the capability to reason!! Lol 0(by the way, LOL here means laugh out loud).

Love faces hurdles, Aarav and Arvika also did but now let's see can Arvika and her love stand against all odds and be the shining couple out of the many who contradict this fact. In life, it is not that simple to say that "we ended" as after our heart starts loving someone, then it hardly beats for us, instead it beats for the one you love. So with this short intro of my story, let's enter into the world of Arvika and look at life from her point of view. Arvika, a girl full of joy, smiles and miles away from sadness and cries. A fun loving girl who is really kind at heart.

Well! Now I leave to my wonderful readers to analyse if Arvika stands against all odds and still love Aarav? Does she endure the fever and stress of life? Will she realise that life is not just milk and roses but a crazy and hazardous journey? Will she be able to find out her destiny?

This may happen or may not, one thing is for sure that Arvika will make you believe a quote of Robertson Davies, "what we call luck is the inner man externalized. WE make things happen to us in life...."

It's as simple as we make life and not life makes us....

Let's enter the world of Arvika...

Arvika, first we need to see life from her point of view. So here I present the hearty Arvika with her wonderful views on her life...

It's rightly said;

"Geniuses are the luckiest of mortals,

Because what they must do is the same as what they most want to do..."

So is the case with Arvika...!!

Dear friends,

This is Arvika and my life is just what I want it to be. I firmly believe in just one philosophy of life... life must be understood backward but lived forwards. No matter what haunted you in the past, pay attention to the present and try to live life happily ahead. I have heard the law of averages and do admire and believe in it, it states that the nature balances the good and bad times of the life. The famous author P.B. Shelly quoted in his poem; 'If winter comes, can spring be far behind!' this line, when I read in the first try, didn't bother me but now I understood the exact meaning of that statement! I feel life is life and it knows to balance itself. Devanshi had taken me as a source to explain the teenage love and the stages of infatuation and I, by myself am sure that after reading my life, things would be much clearer... I went through ups and downs that you would read but never lost hope as I believed in the saying by Samuel Butler, "life is like playing a violin solo in public and learning the instrument as one goes on..." I definitely felt dejected at moments but I fought the conditions and waited for spring and trust me time comes when you feel you are the luckiest person on earth. In my journey, The most important people in my life are my parents...my life... my world... everything in life for me is my parents. Somewhere down I find a name-Aarav. Suddenly came in my life and blossomed it... I wish I never lose him as lost relations and a ring in the sand is just the same... never found back the same way! But life is not always a 'happyz endingz' as stated by SRK but my best friend or say my brother always used to say one thing that "the amount of bad happens is half when compared with the good we get after it"

And I now understand him...I hope this book makes you rejuvenate the past moments of your life where even you must be a teenager...even you must be under the web of attraction... times have changed but humans are the same, if humans are same, their heart would also be the same, and when their heart are still the same how could feelings change? Be it anyone, I bet you have gone through this phase of life. Arvika is a source to make you feel that you were Arvika at some point of time. Arvika is in every another girl but just close your eyes and feel the way Arvika does it. It may be helpful!

Happy readings!
Signing off!
Arvika

Chapter 1

Here starts my odyssey!!

Happy birthday Arvika...

13 July 2010, 11:30 pm; as a usual night should be, it was a cool night and god had showered some sprinkles of rain to make the atmosphere more light and cool. The sweet and calm breeze was moving around in the whole air. The night was halcyon and it felt like it was silently bidding a goodbye to the previous night and was planning to welcome the new adroit day with some showers and sprinkles.

The night was really calm and cool and those showers of dew made the pure atmosphere divine. In this calm and cool atmosphere, let's enter a room, a room which had everything systematically kept at their respective places. The room was on the third floor of the house and was coloured orange and green – the colours of brightness and spirit. Those bright colours were really shining with different photographs on them, which indeed looked great. The study table was undoubtedly clean except some books opened and were performing the exercise to turn pages as the reader had left them open. The bed was perfectly cleaned and properly tied up, the bed sheet had some really cute cartoons and on that bed a sweet looking girl was sleeping amidst cute teddies and dolls that symbolised cheer and the cute innocent nature of hers. The person sleeping was so adroit that anyone

would fall in love with her at first sight. A teen looking girl, sleeping calmly in her bed, maybe waiting for the next ecstatic day to come. There was a novel kept on her bed side and her specs was lying on that book. The calm and sweet breeze was making her hair move here and there, and was making her dreams more pleasant.

There was a lovely and serene looking girl who was lost in her wonderful dreams. She must have been dreaming something really beautiful as the smile on her face told something beautiful. She looked luscious when she smiled. Her smile was divine. She slept with her hands around her soft toy, she looked like a fairy or angel. She was dreaming and dreaming of someone who was really close to her. She dreamt of an unimaginably true love to find. She obviously believed in love and hoped to find it but she never mentioned it. In her dreams everything was like a princess' story which also included someone special, someone who meant something more than a usual friend for her. The person she was dreaming was not exactly what she knew he was but he was something different for her. The guy was strong and handsome, he had a wheatish complexion and he looked like a **genius**. He was a genius, he looked like one. His attitude was respectable and he was the only one who the girl in her dreams could trust with a blindfold on her eyes.

While dreaming about a happy story, the girl who was really happy in her dreams did not realise that the clock had struck 12 am and she had an awesome surprise to look on. She opened her eyes when she heard some sounds. She got up, and she got up only to find her room pleasantly decorated with balloons and shimmers. Glittered cards were adding to the decorations and then from the door entered her family and sang in one tone-

Happy b'day to you, Happy b'day to you, Happy b'day dear Arvika! Happy birthday to you..!!

Yes, it was their princess' birthday and they all planned to wish her at exact 12 in the night. They had all decorated the room perfectly. Arvika – that girl was Arvika, that sweet and adroit calm girl was Arvika. Her family was one of the coolest I have ever seen. Her papa was not at all strict and he was really smart and handsome. Arvika always wanted her life partner to be the photostat of her dad as he had all the gentlemen's quality with an affectionate and caring heart.

Here starts my odyssey!!

Her mom, again one of the simply beautiful and lovable personalities. Her mom-dad had a love marriage and she always believed that they were perfectly suited for each other and were a "made for each other couple". Her grandma and grandpa were the most respected people in her life. She loved them to the power of infinity and respected even more than that.

Yeah! So they all had planned a mid-night party for their dear daughter. She opened her eyes and found all the decorations. She was amazed to see the work and said:

"Hey my lovable family – love you all!!!"

The day of her birthday started at the night itself and it brought the most precious love of Arvika's family for her. Well!! Dreams are like seeds that have the power to grow.

After so much of enjoyment and rejoice, all of them left Arvika to sleep and now Arvika was excited for the next day's ecstatic moments. Arvika slept relax and eagerly waited for the next day's surprise. For her, small things mattered much more than the expensive luxuries of life. She had everything but she could live without them happily as she believed in relations rather than money!! She was a true *ulta pulta* combination of the 21^{st} century..!



Wow!! Its 14th

In the morning Arvika got up totally happy and elated. She was very happy with the pleasant surprise she got last night and now was really elated for next few hours in school as it was seriously gonna be a really cool day for her.

She got ready in her uniform, properly dressed and ironed, and shoes properly polished and her hair – they were looking like the one princesses have in the Barbie movies! They were half tied and half open and plugged in with pins and her falling hair on her face was looking more than beautiful, they looked awesome. Her face was shining with the make up of smiles and happiness. Her smiling lips had beautifully been covered with a shiny gloss. She was ready and was just coming down the stairs to wait for the bus when her mumma and dad called her and hugged her and wished her a great day ahead. She came down the stairs and was waiting for her bus. As usual she was on time, say before time. The

bus came and she boarded it with a huge smile. Amay was waiting for her...oh oh.. didn't tell about Amay!! Amay-was Arvika's brother, her most trustworthy person and she used to share each and every bit of life's part with him.

Arvika always said one thing that in life she was sure about three things which won't ever change and those three things were:

- 1. Her family's love and care,
- 2. Her dreams
- 3. Amay

Well, this list may add some more things ahead but Arvika was sure that in life Amay won't ever change and would be the same brother who she could fight and get light with.

Arvika was Amay's by-heart accepted sister and he used to support her at every bit of life. They used to fight, scribble (only due to Arvika, after all Amay was a mature one..lolz) but still they were "the best bro sis pair". Amay welcomed her and wished Arvika with a really warm hug and said:

"beta, happy birthday."

Amay used to call Arvika *beta* sometimes when he was really happy and Arvika really used to love it when Amay used to call her by that name as it used to feel like she had a big brother ... Arvika was just understandable. So after meeting Amay and after Arvika's excitement came down, she started to narrate the last night's surprise incidence to her brother and Amay commented:

"this is what a family is Arvika..!"

Arvika reached school and was walking towards her class with Amay when someone came from the back and kept his hand on Arvika's eyes and at once Arvika could guess who that was. Those hands were sweaty and warm. Those hands were familiar and Arvika knew whose they were. She knew he was the same guy who she saw in her dreams the last night. He was the one who could bring that divine smile on her face. He was AARAV!! No one else could do that kind of a gesture with her after all! Then they moved towards their class, their class where they became best friends, where started their odyssey, their class, their home way – 10 A.

Arvika and Aarav were friends since childhood and their families were at good terms. They became really good friends in class 10th and presently were the *bestest* of all friends. They trusted each other with a blindfold and were not affected by the comments of others. The two reached their class and then Arvika's friends came to

Here starts my odyssey!!

wish her with their best wishes. Aarav left her with her friends and then after some good chit chat with her friends, she came to her seat. They used to sit adjacent to each other and used to share all the happiness, sadness, jokes, studies, laughter, notes, etc., etc., (the list is really long, these two were so different but so alike).

So, here we meet the duo – AARAV and ARVIKA who were inseparable and were really made for each other but they still said that they were only 'best friends'! So, here I introduced you to my characters and their life styles! Well! It's just morning, lets wait for the next hours and see what it brings for Arvika!!



The hurdles in the smooth going story

Arvika and Aarav were sitting in their class and enjoying the wonderful day which Aarav had made a super cool day with his care and affection for Arvika. On the other hand, Arvika was treated like a princess(as he called her). They tried and spent each passing moment with each other when Aadheer and Praniti came in their class. Well! If to define Aadheer, he was the only villain in this sweet dreamy story. Aadheer was a guy of no self respect and values. All he had was ego – that wasn't of any dignity. He was good at studies but he still wasn't happy. How can people like him ever be happy? He somehow managed a girlfriend who was equally the limit he was – Praniti. They were also made for each other 'somehow'.

Aadheer was an egoistic guy and our Arvika would never tolerate anything of that kind with her. So, some days ago, when there was some competition where Arvika had to work with Aadheer, he did his work which was by the way pathetic. Arvika obviously didn't appreciate such nonsense and told him on his face. He was rigid and egoistic which made Arvika's anger move to cloud 9. She decided to teach him a good lesson and she did so when she decided not to give him a damn and this was enough to boost up his ego power. Since then, Aadheer and Arvika didn't talk to each other but Aadheer never left a single chance to trouble her, although he never succeeded as Arvika's bodyguard cum best friend cum buddy cum genius was there to protect her from everything that came to trouble her. And they say they are 'best friends'...lolz..!

Yeah! So, they had come to "wish" her. I hope you got why I kept wish in the double inverted commas!

They came in and tried each and every small to large comments to hurt Arvika but when her genius was with her, nobody could even get to her. Aarav was there trying to stop his anger and be nice to them as he didn't want any such scene to be created on his princess' birthday!!

Well! They always said that it wasn't love between them but then what was it!! Many times we don't even know and see, we are in love. In their case, every tom, dick and harry could see that they were in love but only these two had no clue of this four letter word – LOVE.

So, Aadheer and Praniti started a conversation after wishing Arvika and Arvika gave them the worst look she could manage at that time but sometimes when we don't give a damn to the people, they try every possible way to leave you bugging. They said to Arvika:

"so, Arvika happy birthday and Aarav, what plans with her?"

"nothing special...now, please guys, we need to leave for the mess," Aarav said with a taut face.

"oh! of course, you need privacy right."

"hmm...sought off...bbye guys!"

And, Arvika and Aarav left. The two people who were the most intelligent one but when it was love and commitment, they were really dumb!! And with this small intro of the only villains of the smooth odyssey we move ahead!! Well! if a story goes so smooth, the charm goes missing. And practicality says that life is incomplete without some fruits and nuts in it!! Folks, meet Aadheer and Praniti – the two who simply hate Arvika from every possible angle!!



The wonderful eve

After coming back from school, Arvika was excited and very much anxious about her intending moments in the evening. All her friends were to come there and she was really very happy to enjoy with her friends. I told you, for her what mattered was fun and emotions and nothing else. Yeah!

After coming from school, she came and sat with her family and told them the list of events that happened in the school – when she was really happy, she just spoke a lot! Her smile was somewhere hidden in her own family.

Here starts my odyssey!!

Arvika got ready and exactly when the clock showed 5 pm, she had reached the hotel and was just to enter the hall, she thought she was the only punctual one but she had forgotten that someone was more than her in every field. She was with family and when she entered, she was shell shocked to see that Aarav had cross checked her to reach earlier than her. Aarav was simply too good and really a caring friend. He was the one wishing her in each hour and sharing all chocolates (these two ate 25 dairy milks that day), he was the one to fight for her tears, he was the one to bring back her divine smile, he was the one to reach before the host at her own birthday, 'what was this guy? Who was he to make her feel so special?' she thought but then she had better things to smile on so she ignored all these questions and for Aarav it was just that he had to reach before. These two were total 'mad' people.

Well! When Arvika entered, Aarav was left totally confused to see Arvika, she was looking a real princess in her pink evening gown, and the dress had pretty pearl embedded in it. Her mumma and dad had chosen it for her. Her hair were full heartedly supporting the pretty dress by looking prettier than ever, her cute face had a touch of shimmer with the same, simple gloss which was there in the morning, her wide eyes were looking even more deep with a slight tinch of eye-liner, her rosy cheek were looking pinkier with a touch of shimmer on it. In short, to confine the huge paragraph (I know u must have had imagined a cute girl...well go on people) Arvika was looking gorgeous, as Aarav had named her, she was looking a princess, a real cute, sweet, shona princess.

She entered and met Aarav. Aarav and Arvika were like two small three year best friends, when they met, they were a real happy go lucky friend pair. Their parents were happy talking to each other and they, like always got involved in their chatting, they were the same since the last six years but the thing had changed now. Arvika and Aarav moved towards the seats to sit because they were alone at that time as no one had come and their parents were talking to each other. Aarav started the conversation:

"Arvika, you look a princess, the one in those Barbie movies."

Arvika blushed anyone would (at least girls, reading would for sure understand!) and then she started her blabbering. Only Aarav could tolerate all her non-stop talking about things and Arvika was a genius in taking out one topic from the previous one. She started: