

SOME LOVE STORIES DON'T BEGIN
WITH A PROMISE, BUT WITH A MOMENT.



Love, By the Way

A STORY ABOUT TWO STRANGERS
WHO ALMOST MISSED EACH OTHER FOREVER

*Love is not
an accident.
It's a decision.*



A ROMANTIC
JOURNEY OF
HEARTS,
CHOICES &
DESTINY



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Preface

Love stories are often told as grand events.
Dramatic meetings.
Unforgettable declarations.
Perfect endings.

But the truth is far more delicate.

Most love stories begin quietly.

A passing conversation.
A shared moment of laughter.
A glance that lingers a little longer than expected.

Many people walk past each other every day without realizing that destiny has just crossed their path.

Sometimes love arrives late.
Sometimes it hides behind misunderstandings.
And sometimes it appears in the most ordinary sentence spoken almost casually—

“Love, by the way...”

This novel is about such a love.

A love that was not planned.
A love that grew slowly.
A love that survived silence, distance, and time.

Because the most powerful love stories are not the loudest ones.

They are the ones that quietly change two lives forever.

Why This Book

In a world dominated by speed, ambition, and endless distractions, human relationships often become secondary.

We message instead of speaking.
We scroll instead of feeling.
We chase success but forget connection.

This book explores a simple but profound question:

What happens when two people discover love in the middle of ordinary life?

The story of *Love, By the Way* reminds us that:

- Love does not always arrive dramatically.
- Sometimes love grows slowly between conversations.
- And sometimes the most important words in life are spoken almost accidentally.

This novel is written for those who believe that destiny sometimes hides in the smallest moments.

Chapter 1 — The Accidental Meeting

The rain had started suddenly.

Arjun Mehta stood outside a small bookstore in Delhi, holding a cup of coffee that had already gone cold.

He had entered the bookstore merely to escape the rain.

He had not expected his life to change.

Inside the bookstore, a young woman was arguing with the cashier.

Not angrily.

Passionately.

“This book is not about philosophy,” she insisted.
“It’s about human loneliness.”

Arjun turned toward her.

She was holding a worn-out copy of a novel.

Her eyes were intense, curious, and strangely fearless.

The cashier sighed.

“Madam, please pay for the book.”

She searched her bag and frowned.

“I forgot my wallet.”

The silence that followed was awkward.

Arjun stepped forward.

“I’ll pay.”

She turned toward him.

Their eyes met for the first time.

“Why?” she asked.

He shrugged.

“Because unfinished arguments deserve books.”

She smiled.

That was the first moment Arjun met **Maya Kapoor**.

Neither of them knew it yet.

But this small moment would begin a story that would last a lifetime.

Chapter 2 — The Coffee Conversation

After leaving the bookstore, they walked toward a nearby café.

Maya insisted on repaying him.

Arjun refused.

So they compromised.

She bought coffee.

They talked.

About books.

About music.

About how strange life can be.

Maya was a journalist.

Curious about everything.

Arjun was an architect.

Quiet but observant.

The conversation lasted two hours.

Neither noticed the rain had stopped.

Finally Maya looked at him and said casually—

“Love, by the way, is the most misunderstood word in the world.”

Arjun laughed.

“Why?”

“Because people think love is a feeling.”

“And it isn’t?”

She smiled.

“Love is a decision.”

Arjun didn’t respond.

But that sentence stayed in his mind long after the conversation ended.

Chapter 3 — Two Different Worlds

Over the next few weeks, they met several times.

Sometimes intentionally.

Sometimes accidentally.

Maya’s world was chaotic.

Newsrooms.

Deadlines.

Stories of injustice.

Arjun’s world was structured.

Buildings.
Blueprints.
Perfect symmetry.

Yet somehow their differences created harmony.

Maya admired Arjun's calm.

Arjun admired Maya's courage.

But neither of them mentioned the possibility of love.

They behaved like friends.

Even though something deeper was quietly growing between them.

Chapter 4 — The First Silence

One evening Maya stopped replying to Arjun's messages.

Days passed.

Then weeks.

Arjun assumed she had moved on with her life.

But the truth was more complicated.

Maya had received an assignment.

She was traveling to a conflict zone to report a dangerous story.

She had not told Arjun.

Because she feared attachment.

Because she feared love.

Chapter 5 — The Distance

Months passed.

Arjun focused on his career.

New projects.
New buildings.

But occasionally he would walk past the bookstore where he first met Maya.

And he would remember her sentence.

“Love is a decision.”

He wondered if she had decided to disappear.

Chapter 6 — The Unexpected Return

One winter evening Maya appeared at Arjun’s office.

Unannounced.

Unapologetic.

“You disappeared,” Arjun said.

“I know.”

“Why?”

She hesitated.

“Because I was afraid.”

“Of what?”

She looked at him.

“Of caring about someone.”

Chapter 7 — The Truth

That night Maya told him everything.

The dangerous assignment.

The loneliness.

The fear of losing people.

“I thought distance would make things easier,” she admitted.

“Did it?”

She shook her head.

“No.”

Chapter 8 — The Growing Bond

From that moment their relationship changed.

They were no longer casual friends.

They shared fears.

Dreams.

Childhood memories.

And slowly, quietly, love began to take shape.

But neither said the word.

Chapter 9 — The Confession That Didn't Happen

One evening Arjun almost confessed his feelings.

They were walking beside a lake.

The sunset painted the sky orange.

He took a deep breath.

“Maya, I think—”

His phone rang.

An urgent call from his office.

The moment passed.

Sometimes destiny delays things intentionally.

Chapter 10 — The Misunderstanding

Weeks later Maya saw Arjun with another woman.

A colleague.

They were laughing.

Maya assumed the worst.

Without asking questions, she withdrew again.

Love is fragile when communication disappears.

Chapter 11 — The Letter

Instead of confronting him, Maya wrote a letter.

Not a message.

A real letter.

She wrote:

“Love, by the way, is terrifying because it makes us vulnerable.”

She never sent it.

Chapter 12 — The Accident

One night Arjun was involved in a car accident.

Nothing fatal.

But serious enough to land him in the hospital.

When Maya heard the news, she rushed to see him.

All her fears disappeared.

In that moment she realized something important.

Love is not logical.

Love is inevitable.

Chapter 13 — The Confession

When Arjun woke up, Maya was sitting beside him.

“You look terrible,” she said.

He smiled weakly.

“You disappeared again.”

She took a deep breath.

“I love you.”

The words finally existed in the air.

Arjun stared at her.

“You took a long time to say that.”

She laughed.

“I was thinking about it carefully.”

Chapter 14 — The Decision

Months later they faced a difficult choice.

Maya received an international journalism opportunity.

Another country.

Another life.

“Should I go?” she asked.

Arjun answered calmly.

“Love is a decision, remember?”

She smiled.

“Yes.”

Chapter 15 — The Leap of Faith

Maya accepted the opportunity.

But this time she did not run away from love.

Arjun joined her later.

Two careers.

Two dreams.

One partnership.

Chapter 16 — Love, By the Way

Years later they returned to the same bookstore.

The cashier had changed.

The city had changed.

But the memory remained.

Maya picked up a book and smiled.

“Love, by the way,” she said softly, “is the best accident in life.”

Arjun replied—

“Not an accident.”

“A decision.”

They walked out of the bookstore together.

And this time they knew something with certainty.

Some love stories are dramatic.

Some are tragic.

But the most beautiful love stories begin quietly—

With two strangers meeting during the rain.

The End

✧✧ *Love is rarely announced loudly.*

✧✧ *Sometimes it simply appears... by the way.*