

## The Definition of Love

Pankti and Aryan walked out of the coffee shop as Akshay was busy paying the bill. It was raining heavily and all the three snuggled under their big blue umbrella as they proceeded towards the bus stop. "Hey walk slowly! I'm getting wet here". "Why don't you walk a little fast? Oh the bus is here. Run everybody!" yelled Pankti and the three of them sprinted towards the bus in the rain.

Pankti, Akshay and Aryan were best friends right from high school. People took their friendship as an example of loyalty and truth. They would always be united in times of joy and hardship. Each and every moment that they spent together increased strengthened their intimacy. They would meet at the library or in the coffee shop to discuss the happenings of the day.

The three of them had high aspirations. Pankti was always interested in the fashion industry while Aryan and Akshay had love for telecom and communication. Both of them joined technical institutes in the same universities.

Their academic year started and they started attending the institute. They never missed a single day and enjoyed academics. All was going on well. The three friends though were in different places but they continued to meet and enjoy together every day.

Soon, it was time for the fresher's party that was conducted every year by the senior students to welcome the junior students. It was supposed to be a great party and all were excited for this. Akshay was looking forward to the event especially because he had something that would determine his future.

As the party started, the atmosphere grew gleeful. Many of them were dancing, some indulged in group games. But the three friends were in sitting in a corner. Akshay was about to say something but something was stopping him from doing so. "Speak up Akshay, we are your friends." "But what if it annoys you". Akshay gathered courage and spoke up "Pankti, we have been friends since high school. I always admired your ways and I want you to share them with me for the rest of our lives. Do you understand?" Pankti was dumbstruck after listening him. She couldn't speak for few moments, then gained courage and spoke " I understand Akshay that you have developed feelings for me, but someone already asked this to me before and I have accepted it. And he is none other than our best Aryan." Akshay was terrified to know that. He totally broke down. "Come on Akshay, you have to be happy. You should be happy that it is Aryan." "Yes I am happy, but just a little terrified. I'll get over this."

That was the last night that Aryan and Pankti ever heard of Akshay. They thought that he had changed collage but he had actually left the city and went away to Mumbai. He was good at academics and he got an admission in a very reputed institute there itself.

After ten years.....

"Next!". Aryan, dressed in a black blazer and a tie entered the elegant office of the CEO of Satyam Telecom Inc. He was a bit nervous as it was his first interview and that too with one of the biggest software tycoons in the world. He prayed to god silently. The CEO was a young and a handsome guy

with a soothing smile on his face. "Welcome Aryan!" The sentence gave a boost of confidence to him.. He saw the name plate on the table and saw Mr. Akshay Mishra. CEO Satyam softwares Inc.

Both the friends had a very friendly chat and remembered their high school days. Of course Aryan was given the job and that too at a very good position. Soon day after day Aryan made progress and Akshay made all of his fortunes available to him. Just in a course of 3 months Ayan was working just under the position of Akshay's own. He was not given such a high position just due to his friendship with Akshay but also due to his own hard work and knowledge.

As company experienced huge turnover, Akshay decides to throw party to his all the employees. He personally invites Aryan with his family as they were best friends since high school.

At party, Akshay met Aryan with his wife as well as his 2 children. He was shocked to see pankti at the party. Her Presence made Akshay to go in past and recollect the moments of love which he spent with her during college life. Then he asks pankti how come she was there at the party. Then when pankti was about to answer Aryan suddenly came there and said that they were with him. For a moment Akshay got shocked but then he controlled himself in front of them. But he was little upset with what he listened so went away from that place and sat at a silent place where nobody was there enjoying the party. There in his mind comes a thought that he can regain his love with power and position. But then at same moment Aryan comes to call him and enjoy the party so when he was going back with him to the party he again thinks that he should not bother much about them as they were their best friends so he decides to leave it for mean time. Then gradually party gets over and everybody departs to their homes.

After 2-3 days an astrologer of Akshay's family was called at his house as parents of Akshay had called for seeing the fortunes of Akshay. When astrologer sees then he tells and advises Akshay to marry his first love as soon as possible as it would make him more successful as well as he would get happier. He now started acting strange and awkward towards Aryan, he would try and find some mistakes in his work. He used to reject his proposals saying that company right now does need anything new or sometimes giving reasons that a better plan was already put forward. He tried many times not to such partialities as he was his best friend but he could not stop it. Whenever he thought about Aryan, it always reminded him of pankti. He was so much distracted that he could not focus on any other things. And then he remembers the astrologer's words that "if he married to his first love he would be happier and successful".

Now he decided that if he married than it would only be pankti not anyone else. Now he planned what he could do to marry pankti. Now as per his new plan he threw Aryan out of his company saying that company had suffered immense loss. The total loss was greater than their expenditure and the company's market value was almost lost. He also proved that this person had no knowledge about business. Due to this no big companies were ready to give Aryan job and had to work in a small factory. Aryan was so much broken from inside. Pankti too was a very good interior designer but was not able to work as her children were small and father in law was not in pink of his health.

Akshay thought that Pankti will not be able to live in these conditions and would come to him for some help and he would use this opportunity and will be able to get Pankti toward him. His thoughts remained just the thoughts, Pankti never turned towards him for help or moral support. He saw his master plan failing and changed his plan a little. After a few days Akshay assigned an external agent to murder Aryan. He secretly kept whiskey bottles inside his car and made it crash by a truck. He also bribed a forensic doctor and proved that he was drunk. Police also found whiskey bottles in the car and at the accident spot. When police investigated and asked Pankti it was found that Aryan had a habit of drinking when he used to be a little upset.

The murder was planned and conducted, Q became helpless. She was well educated but did not get a good job all thanks to Akshay. He was such an influential person that he spread news in all the renowned companies not to give Pankti a job. Pankti's mother and father were no more as were Aryan's father and mother. Pankti had nowhere to go and therefore she remembered her old friend Akshay.

Akshay was happy as everything was going according to the plan. Akshay welcomed Pankti with all her heart. After supplying her with monetary help for about six months, Akshay now had got to the utmost evil stage but this all changed when he met Pankti's kids. He felt very guilty of what he had done to their father and thought about it for days. He didn't even try to contact Pankti for a month now, but then he realized it was too late for him to feel the guilt and now that he had started the task he should complete it. He decided that he would do no more evil and accept Pankti's children as his own as the last act of his guilt.

Akshay now proposed marriage but Pankti resisted it that day. Later when she went home and saw her kids sleeping and thinking what she would do without a regular monetary supply, she knew she had no choice now. She decided to marry Akshay. Later that week itself a grand marriage took place when they were married. Akshay accepted Pankti's children without any issues.

Pankti didn't seem happy with the marriage even after the occasion took place she was still in quite a depression of how her love, her husband died a ruthless death. She could no more think about loving someone else again while on the other hand Akshay tried to give her all the love that he had but he did not realize that on the receiving end there was nothing but a living corpse.

Pankti focused all her time solely on her children and cared a little about Akshay. She would often get lost in her thoughts of Aryan. Her daily routine included just remembering the memories that Aryan and she shared, getting her kids ready for school making food for kids, and doing everything and anything just for the kids.

Akshay was sitting in his huge office cabin and he began to think. Akshay was so madly in love with Pankti that he now started seeing her kids as a trouble to him. He thought that she focuses all her time on her kids and does not even bother to talk to him properly. He was at the heights of mad love that he decided now he will have Pankti at whatever cost required. He decided that if her kids were the issue he would eliminate even them!

Acting impulsively he called his driver at once and ordered him to get rid of the children while getting them back from school. The driver did as per the orders of Akshay and killed both the children and threw away their bodies in canyon where no one would ever find them.

Pankti got tensed when her children did not return from school. She called up the driver and got a reply that driver had not seen the kids since school was over. Akshay acted as if he cared and set up for a fake police squad to search for the kids. They were never found as per the plan.

Akshay was now satisfied that he had played his final card and there was no option left for Pankti to go anywhere else and focus on anywhere else but him. But due to the loss of her last hope of living Pankti could no longer bear these losses and she went insane. She would just keep on talking to the toys of her kids as if they were the children themselves. Akshay could do nothing but just watch. He hired the best of the doctors and psychologist to get her back to her senses, but everything failed. Akshay would just sit by Pankti entire day crying seeing her condition while on the other hand Pankti even failed to notice Akshay sitting beside him.

After a month or so seeing all of this, Akshay could no longer take it. He just grabbed Pankti by her shoulders and screamed at her with all his force shaking her and crying that all Aryan and her kids were gone forever, and they would never return. Pankti on hearing this collapsed in the arms of Akshay unconscious. Akshay immediately called for an ambulance

Doctor after his check-up responded that Pankti had an acute heart disorder and it she had only a week or so left to live her life. Akshay just revolted against the doctor telling him to her at any cost. The Doctor said that they would try their best but if she survives she will never able to lead a normal life. Akshay now began spending all of the time at the hospital focusing only and only on her. Akshay agreed for the operation even though there were such high risks associated with it. He believed that he loved her truly and his love would make her overcome the operation.

After hours of operation Doctor came out of the ICU and said that she had only a few minutes to live and nothing could be done now. Akshay rushed in the ICU and sat beside Pankti and held her hand while she was laying down looking blankly towards the light above her. Akshay was all in tears and head bowed down he confessed all his crimes done to get her. But before even he could notice the lifeless hand had already dropped and she was no more. Akshay's confession went unheard and all he could do was mourn for her death. During the funeral procedure

Akshay too went mad out of his love. He could not get the essence of people around him now and just kept banging his head to the wall. He was stopped by his colleague and hospitalized immediately.

Reports for Akshay came and his colleagues came to know that he had gone mad forever. He was then forever contained in a mental hospital where after suffering for 3 years he took his final breaths just thinking of her.....