

# First crush



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

And then she entered . A vision filling the door way. My breath caught and my heart raced. " There u r! " something shouted in my head " finally! " She sparkled like a jewel; glowed in way that made her seem unreal. Her lush brown hair curling carelessly over her shoulder and framing her gorgeous face. Her glossy pink lips smiling as she talked to someone . Her expressive eyes shinning like brown topaz with full of humor and warmth. Her porcelain skin and the hint of a cheek bone making her seem so delicate; the curious little dent in her chin as though the maker had given her a mark of approval. She dazzled me so completely I felt dizzy with the sudden rush of joy flowing through me. Every thing else seized to exist and everyone faded in the background as if it was just the two of us. I felt a sudden urge to be by her side the intensity of which surprised me. I had seen her dozens of times, stood by her laughed with her but never once felt like this. This giddy feeling that made me want to jump out of my skin, rush across the room to be with her. It was madness. Yet I was helplessly drawn to her. My brain tried to rationalize. After all it was just Neha.

I knew Neha and this couldn't be possible. We had meet a thousand times before; gone to a many parties together. How cud this be happening now. Then it came flooding back to me; the way we laughed ourselves silly working late on some assignment together; talking late into the night, how it felt just right sitting by her in companionable silence. The way she would make fun of me when I got to stuffy or cheer me up when I was low. The way she had looked at me when I had given her the silly little dog for her birthday. Her every expression and every movement as familiar to me as mine.

She turned finally and looked at me. Her eyes sparkled and her lips curve in a smile full of warmth and welcome. That one smile filled me with bursting joy. My heart drumming in my throat, my lungs hollow, my body tingling I walked towards her and thought this was love. Surely this had to be love that made me so ecstatic, giddy and dizzy at the same time. Only love could make all rational thoughts drain out from my brain leaving only her and the need to get by her side. This magical almost incandescent sense of knowing she was the one. The one and only.

I moved towards her barely about to feel my feet. My attention so focused on her I forgot that we were surrounded by friends. Waving away people blocking my path with a single nod of acknowledgement I moved towards her. She looked up a little puzzled when I took hold of her hand and pulled her in for a hug but she returned it none the less. "Hi" I said my voice sounding breathless to me. "Hey" she returned a look of confused bafflement in her eyes. Suddenly I didn't know what to say. My throat clogged up. I opened my mouth but nothing came out.

She looked at me with concern "Are you alright Hussam?" she asked, "Do you need some water or something?" Since my voice was lost I just nodded. Giving me another look of concern she moved towards the water coolers. I let out the breath I didn't realize I was holding. I was in love with her. I was sure of it. It left me baffled, scared, vulnerable, happy, and joyous and confused all at the same time. I didn't know what to do.

What to say to her. I knew I had to tell her. I was still mulling over my thoughts when she came back. I gratefully accepted the water from her. I

turned to her and she said, " I'm going back to India! she told me excitedly, " I'm getting married! " I could feel the world around me crash. In what I thought was a very calm tone I croaked " What!! " " How can you just go? " I said after clearing my throat which was dry as dust. " What about college? " " Oh! I will finish my studies in India now," she said " Hamid my childhood crush send the proposal for me. I'm so excited. I can't believe it! I am leaving in a week. I just came to say good bye to u" with that she hugged me and turned to talk to some one else. I turned around silently and left.