


Diary of a Rose

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Thirty years after the Sikh massacres of 1984, two History majors at Hyderabad Central University find a water-damaged, tattered diary with the symbol of a rose on its cover, that tells a tragic story. Discovering the real-life drama within it brings forth a message of peace and brings them together as they fulfill a long awaited destiny.

“A Rose, by any other name...”

When two history students from Hyderabad University find the secret diary that details the tragic past of two star-crossed lovers whose lives were destroyed by social violence in decades past, they find true love and a lasting message of peace.



“O, let my books be then the eloquence, and dumb presagers of my speaking breast, who plead for love and look for recompense, more than that tongue that more, hath more express'd.”

~William Shakespeare

Synopsis

TITLE: Diary of a Rose

GENRE: Romantic Comedy/Drama

MAIN CHARACTERS:

PAM, A HISTORY MAJOR AT HYDERABAD CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

KRISH, Friend of Pam, also a history major at HCU

SITA, A young woman writer, killed in the Sikh Massacres

RAM, A young Sikh activist/a political science professor at HCU

SAJJAN, A Sikh activist writer, colleague and traitor to Ram

RAJ, A history professor at HCU, teacher of Pam and Krish

LOGLINE:

Thirty years after the Sikh massacres of 1984, two History majors at Hyderabad Central University find a water-damaged, tattered diary with the symbol of a rose on its cover, that tells a tragic story. Discovering the real-life drama within it brings forth a message of peace and brings them together as they fulfill a long awaited destiny.

SYNOPSIS:

In the diary, although the first page is missing, a young woman writes of her love for a young Sikh activist. This man, Ram, is wildly persuasive, and her moving speech adds to his charisma. Ram believes that his advisor, Sajjan, is writing the text.

Sita, an almond-skinned beauty, hiding with her family from the rioting, is writing in the diary as she watches a particular young man. All she writes about is this young leader, how he stands for all of them and how brave he is, how she wants to watch him become powerful, to have all his dreams come true, how she wants to be his someday...

When Sajjan, Ram's friend and colleague desperately reveals to her that he has nothing to offer for a speech he has promised to write, Sita pens a unique and powerful statement that Ram reads to mass applause. She contributes quite a lot in their campaign for recognition, and gives the credit to Sajjan.

Sajjan, however, secretly takes money to set up Ram to be assassinated. Sita learns of this treachery and writes about it in her diary. She is scribbling something, a note, and folding it into the diary, but suddenly drops her

guard in her rush to warn him. She runs out of the small room, up the stairs and out the door of the building. Before she can warn Ram, however, a rioting crowd, just outside the building where they had taken shelter, kills her. An explosion rips through cars in the outside world, screams echo, shots are fired, and sirens shriek. Dust begins to settle.

Ram appears enraged, a black-eyed, keen-minded man, an activist and hero. He is bitterly sad, aching inside. He is charging around, looking for a weapon, furious and emotional. He doesn't notice the diary lying on the table. He picks up a weapon from under the stairwell. He leaves the building as she did.

Outside, Ram is fighting the same rioting crowd in the street. An explosion blows everything into obscurity, his fate is unknown, and as part of the building falls in during the following chaos, it appears that the diary is lost...

The present day, two students whose families are friends, studying history in Central University at Hyderabad. Pam and Krish are like family but not related to each other. Neither has enough money for books, so at the family get-together, his aunt tells her mom that they should share book costs, to help make ends meet. Pam rolls her eyes, she doesn't want to be stuck with him, and he thinks she is stuck up; but the families have little and so they agree.

Pam becomes more annoyed when they are looking for apartments and the perfect one she finds first falls through, when she gets there, someone else has rented it, even though the landlord promised it to her. She has to ask Krish if she can stay at his apartment, which she called a "hovel" until she can find something better. She goes looking; he tags along. But every time, something is very wrong, or it's not available. At the end of the second day she is in tears and he finally asks her if she just wants to split his apartment with him since it is big enough. It is so sensible and he is so patient, she takes his offer, though it shames her to do so. Instead of thanking him she pouts and yells at him, "It's annoying! I want my own stuff! I had to share everything with my sisters; I want stuff that's just mine, like books. I love books."

Since they have an apartment together, people keep thinking they are a couple; she keeps correcting them, and he has insanely protective feelings toward her, it's unnerving to her. He's uncomfortable about it, because she is not welcoming, but he still feels the need to protect her.

They have a tiny television, and Krish plugs it in, much to Pam's annoyance as she is trying to go to sleep the first night. He falls asleep listening to a history program, and she has a dream of breaking glass, panic in the street and a big explosion. She screams and wakes up, not knowing where she is — he wakes up and runs over to calm her (protective instinct kicking in); she shudders and tells him about the scene in her dream, they talk about it. She almost allows him to cuddle her for a moment but when he looks too long at her, she breaks away. She says the dream felt so real, like she was there at the riots when they happened, and she wants to start her research there.

It's as if the writer is silently reaching out to have her story told. Pam is taken with a need to research this historic event, and the next day they go looking for books. Since they are doing the same project, they look up everything about it and stumble upon this old diary with a pink cover and a rose right in the middle...

Pam and Krish discover the badly damaged rose-covered diary in a small bookstore. They must carefully restore the book, so that each damaged page can be separated and read. When they do, they see the truth: Sita wrote in support of Ram's politics, and she never told him that she loved him.

Their professor of historic documents at the university is the stern professor Raj, who looks just like Sajjan; and he doesn't want to accept their project. "Prove that it has historic significance," he says. In reality, he wants to claim the diary for himself and either claim it as his discovery or sell it as a collector's piece.

Pam, obsessing on the diary, spends every night and day recovering each page, leaving Krish to take notes in school for her and cook, shop and do laundry. As Pam becomes more obsessed with the diary, Krish panics more

and more to protect and ultimately possess her, desperate to find a way to break her free from her overblown focus on the diary.

He finally becomes frustrated with this situation and decides to get the diary away from her, waiting till Pam is asleep to attempt to take it from her nightstand. This is a big mistake, as she has all types of traps arranged around her bed and nightstand. Nevertheless, he manages to avoid waking her and gets the diary into his hands. He starts reading it, wondering if he might see

something in it that she didn't see. She wakes up, sees him with the diary standing in her room next to where she was sleeping, and gets very angry.

Pam tears the diary away from him, or tries to, and he refuses to let it go. She gets angrier still, now in a full out tug-of-war with him, over the diary. At the risk of destroying it, they tumble over each other with feathers flying out of the pillowcases. Soon she has lost her real anger and something more playful surfaces. As much as Pam resists, she is beginning to love this madman, Krish.

Even as she takes the diary back and shoves him out the door, unwilling to allow herself any weakness, unwilling to let him in, she is laughing despite herself. She slumps down against the door on her side; he slumps against the door on his side. She tells him that she will go back to class as soon as the next two pages are opened.

They wish each other good night through the door, and for the first time, it's not like family between them, but something more personal...

The next day, Krish goes to class, and again, she stays home, working as she is, on the careful steaming of each page of the diary. Meanwhile, at the university, Krish realizes that the history teacher seems to have a lot of surly-looking assistants around. One of them reminds him that Raj has an "open-door" policy if he ever needs help with anything... Later, when he gets home,

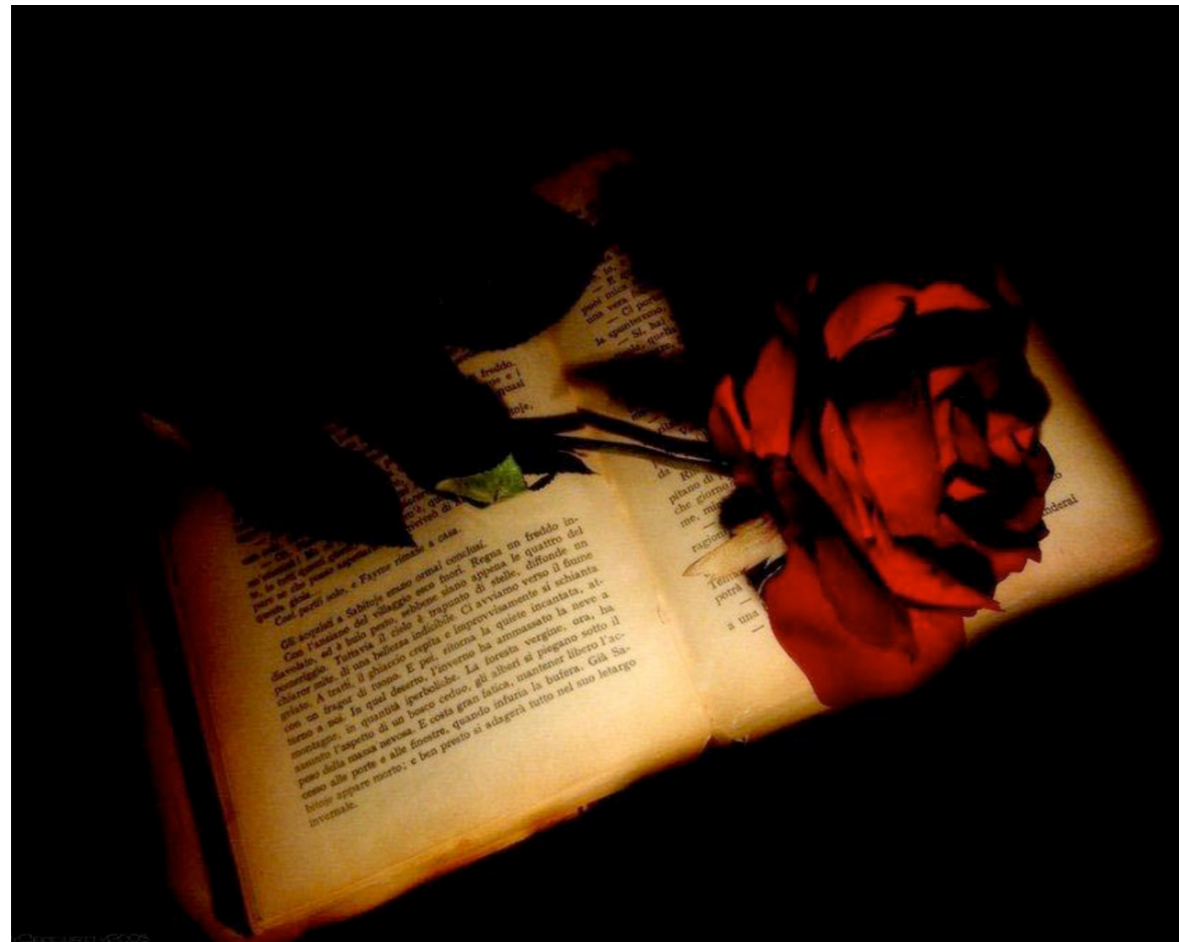


Krish finds that while he was away, someone has ransacked the apartment and Pam is nowhere to be found. She may be in deep trouble!

As it happens, Pam has revealed the location of the building where the few families and their defenders had hidden. Its broken bones still stand as a silent testament to the ravages of hatred.

Krish, terrified for Pam, is tempted to ask these thugs he's just met for help, but something warns him away from it; he knows better, and rejects the notion. Instead, he uses his intuition and research skills to find the place where Sita had written the diary and hidden from attacks during the riots of 1984. When he gets there, he finds Pam, being held at gunpoint for the book. It is Raj, the history professor, doing some digging of his own. He has realized from Krish's excuses as to why Pam hasn't been in class that the diary they've found is potentially more significant than they realize. He wants it to be his discovery, if indeed it is this exciting; he must have it for himself. He does not realize that it is mostly for the love story that Pam continues to dig through the crumbling pages.

Unknown to the rest of the characters, Ram is now a political science professor at the University. While they are held at gunpoint, Ram, the original activist, shows up dressed in formal clothes with a single red rose that he leaves at the ruined building for Sita on the 30th anniversary of her death.



He comes upon them stealthily and ambushes the villain, freeing Pam and Krish, and saving the diary. Raj is hauled away by police with one or two of his thug-like assistants. When Pam and Krish realize who he is, they give Ram the diary. Ram reveals that he has stayed alone, always feeling like he had missed his chance at love. The two leave him as he sits there in the rubble and looks through the book, tears filling his eyes. They walk outside as Ram sits with his memories and weeps, red rose and broken dreams in his hands.

Pam takes Krish outside the door and tells him she loves him and she wants him to know now. Because sometimes tomorrow doesn't come. They kiss. Somewhere, drums start beating, and flower petals fall from the trees.

Sita's sister, old now, presents an award to Pam and Krish for restoring Sita's diary, and it becomes published as a historical work. Because of Krish and Pam, curators and historians, Ram honors Sita at the University by displaying her work and publishing her writings.

The End