**Raja Tharasa and the Band**

**2nd Edition**

**By Pialee Roy**

Raja Tharasa and his friends and love interest are a fun, talented and educated, group of people. These fictional vignettes are a humorous look at some of their life events getting to know each other.

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**Raja Tharasa & The Band written by Pialee Roy, Edited 11/17/17**

**A Fictional Story**

**Chapter One:**

**Nancy:** So, our “Best Star”, Raja Tharasa, How was your performance at the theater last weekend? And your band performances?

**Raja Tharasa:** Sold out, fortunately. We did a version of “Romeo & Juliet” where instead of both dying at the end they date privately without family and friend intrusion and live happily ever after. The costumes and set design were done really well. A talent recruiter was in the audience and offered a contract for work if I’m willing to move from Boston to New York.

**Chom-Chom:** That’s fantastic. I want to visit you backstage at least once to be done up by the makeup artists for fun.  Are you taking the talent recruiter up on the offer?

**Raja Tharasa**: I am. And I hope you’ll visit me takes Chom-Chom’s hand and recites or sings a few lines from a song from the play…

**Chom-Chom:** laughs

**Norendar:** I don’t appreciate you holding my girlfriend’s hand.

**Nancy and Sundar :** laughing nervously.

**Raja Tharasa:** Take it easy, man.

**Norendar:** You’re always singing to people and now you’re holding her hand. That’s enough.

**Chom-Chom:** laughs. I’ve known him almost my whole life don’t worry.

**Raja Tharasa:** No problem.

**Nancy:** Excuse me, I think we should just transition to dessert. Sundar will you please help me get the cake?

**Sundar:** Sure. Starts laughing.

**Raja Tharasa:** I’ll help also
Raja Tharasa also excuses himself with Nancy and Sundar to get the cake.

**Norendar to Chom-Chom:** Why did you have to hold his hand?

**Chom-Chom**: Pleae stop overreacting. He’s my friend and we’re just having fun.

**Raja Tharasa turns to Sundar:** What’s with that guy? Is she even happy with him?

**Sundar:** laughing. Don’t worry. He’s a science guy, very serious. Not sure how long this one will last.

***1 year later.***
Chom-Chom is single again. She wears a nice dress and is looking forward to meeting friends, Chom-Chom, and (“extras”) in Boston.  They play Carem at an apartment before heading out to billiards and dancing at ***a club (or restaurant)*** with drinks to celebrate her 30th birthday.

***5 years later***.

She is spending some time thinking while walking alongside a park bench. Her job has run out of funding and she is leaving Massachusetts to work and study more in Delaware after dating sporadically and not finding the right guy where she is. In 2012 she is 35 years old and attended a lovely wedding of her Chinese-American friend Lisette to her Greek-American boyfriend George. In 2013, Chom-Chom is 36 years old and has attended many more events of friends. She is beginning to wonder if she’ll ever meet the right guy and upon trying online dating discovers that someone has already placed a profile for her. Her friends suggest to go out to a comedy night and Chom-Chom agrees… her friend Dawn McCallister and Dawn’s husband suggest to go to one at a university event in Delaware when she learns of a comedian visiting town the following weekend.

During the week: Dawn McCallister and Chom-Chom meet at a local Delaware park to go for a walk. Dawn is already waiting when Chom-Chom arrives.

People playing basketball…
**Chom-Chom talking with her friend:** who are they?

**Dawn McCallister**: just local guys from the office building there. They have been playing weekly for the past month and I noticed them and thought the eye candy was worth inviting you over to the park for. Smiles.
**Chom-Chom**:Thank you. Smiles

**Dawn McCallister**: So I heard that one of them is a detective and maybe given your unknown ad poster situation, maybe you could talk to him…?

**Chom-Chom:** That’s a great idea… I’ll write to him.

**Dawn McCallister**: just go introduce yourself when they take a break! He’s right there.

**Chom-Chom**: okay… hesitating…

**Dawn McCallister**: I’ll go with you!

**Chom-Chom:** Okay…

**Dawn McCallister:** Excuse me! My friend here saw you and wanted to be introduced if you have a few minutes?

**Detective Vikram:** smiles, sure…

**Dawn-McCallister:** This is my friend Chom-Chom. Someone has posted an ad in the paper for marriage and she has started to receive several emails from suitors.

**Detective Vikram:** so, what’s the problem?

**Chom-Chom:** I don’t know who posted the ad!

**Detective Vikram:** Let me read the ad….Slender 40 something female… (stops) You’re not slender

**Chom-Chom:** jaw drops – well you’re observant.

**Dawn McCallister**: to Chom-Chom let’s go

**Detective Vikram**: Sorry, I meant to say you’re more built. Smiles.

**Chom-Chom**: what does that mean?

**Detective Vikram**: sorry, you’re okay. Smiles

**Detective Vikram:** (continues reading…) “Academic. Pleasant personality. Requires a professional male to be her husband. Preferably Tall and Serious Going Personality”

**Chom-Chom**: Well?

**Detective:** laughs.  How many suitors do you have?

**Chom-Chom:** You can’t be serious.

**Detective Vikram**: Okay, are you single?

**Chom-Chom:** Sort of. I’m in between relationships.

**Detective Vikram:**  laughs

**Chom-Chom:** I have a brilliant idea! YOU should interview the suitors.

**Detective Vikram**: laughs. Are you seriously contemplating paying me to do this?

**Chom-Chom:** yes.

**Detective Vikram**: Sends a text message. Okay, I’ll need an assistant. I think you should help me interview them also. (Smiles)

**Chom-Chom**: yes! I’ll pretend I’m the sister or friend of the female they would like to meet!

**Detective:** laughs. Why don’t you just date them or request the agency to take the ad down and post a real ad for yourself. Wait - I just got a text message from the ad agency – the request is legitimate and came from your parents. Laughs.

**Chom-Chom**: no way…

**Detective Vikram:** yes way…

**Chom-Chom**: well then, I suppose I should have guessed as much. I’m wary about dating total strangers though.

**Detective Vikram**: It’s the new wave online dating and newspaper ads.  Oh wait. Another text message. Laughs. Your parents just invited me over for dinner. Apparently they knew someone’s uncle who has a son interning at the newspaper agency who found out from his friend’s sister that an inquiry was made about the origin of the ad posting and your parents want to make sure there’s no trouble. laughs

**Chom-Chom**:jaw drops. Typical Indian-American family. Ummm… I have a brilliant idea! I’ll bring you over as my new boyfriend and tell them I called the ad agency to call off the detective. And YOU can convince them not to post any ads for me anymore. Problem solved.

**Dawn McCallister**: laughing. Hooray.

During the week, Chom-Chom explores more information about the comedy show they have planned to go to. She thinks the comedian looks just like Detective Vikram but thinks it’s too much of a coincidence. She tells Dawn McCallister. Dawn laughs and says well, we’re going to the comedy show regardless of whether or not the Detective shows up at your house for dinner. Then you can find out for sure who the guy is.

The weekend arrives and although Chom-Chom is really looking forward to the event she is not feeling well, has a ton of unfinished work and has to cancel going to the show… she begs to reschedule for the winter holiday show instead. Her parents will conveniently be away and her work will be complete and she will have more time to sort through this mystery.

**Dawn McCallister:** okay, but we’re making these plans to go eventually…

Then, Raja Tharasa calls Chom-Chom one day from New York and have a conversation about how busy life has gotten. They reminisce about being away from Boston area and decide to get some of their friends together in New York and attend a gallery art show and music performance.

**Chapter Two**
Friends (Nancy and Sundar, Bhim and sister Misty) from Boston get in **the car** and start singing along to bollywood music, including Bengali Indian traditional folk music to visit Raja Tharasa in New York and then also ask Chom-Chom to visit New York from Delaware.

**Chapter Three:**
The friends go to a local gallery where some items are on display…before a music show starts…

**Raja Tharasa:**  Have you seen the pottery exhibit?

**Chom-Chom:** yes! I submitted a piece there.

**Raja Tharasa:** Really? Which one? Since when do you do pottery?
They walk over to the pottery exhibit…

**Chom-Chom**: This one.

**Raja Tharasa**: wow. What is that?

**Chom-Chom:** It’s pottery.

**Raja Tharasa:** No, really.

**Chom-Chom:** Okay, is it that obvious?  I couldn’t decide between an ashtray and a vase, so it’s a combination

**Raja Tharasa:** That is… (laughs) fantastic. Sees Songeeta... Wow, who is that?
Chom-Chom: I think that's the singer. *A little bit disappointed that Raja Tharasa has noticed the singer.*

An announcement is made that Songeeta will start performing. The music starts. Raja Tharasa wants to get to know the singer. Others in the audience include Jeff and Misty…

**Jeff Caritas:** Hi, I’m Jeff are you by any chance, going to the event at the museum event next weekend?

**Misty:** hi I’m Misty…I’m actually trying to get out of class to go to a multicultural fusion dance show which includes hip hop, bhangra, in NYC but I’m not even sure if I’m allowed to go, even though I’m over 21 and all.

**Jeff Caritas**: Oh…disappointed and confused.  Why wouldn’t you be allowed to go?

**Misty:** My older sister practically had to be engaged in order to get to last year’s event because it is out of state. The bus and train are cheap. I’m just using the excuse that I’m staying at my cousin’s place and have to take a standardized test the next morning.  Not trying to elope to get married or something, just trying to have some fun.

**Jeff:** Well, I have a car and I’m allowed to go. Smiles…

**Misty:** That’s because you’re a guy.

**Jeff:** We should go. Who are your cousins? Maybe I know them?

**Misty:** No offense, but why on earth would you know my cousins?

**Jeff Caritas:** Even though, I'm White, I have some Indian family members, actually, for your information.
If your parents are hesitant about letting you go, what are they concerned about?

**Misty:** Too much alcohol at the parties and getting distracted from school with boys.

**Jeff Caritas:** Laughs. I think that’s typical for most parents.

**Misty:** I don’t even drink. I want to be a DJ or a media journalist when I “grow up” and that is not as routine as a science job like they have which they would say is more “reliable”. But although I’m Asian I’m not good in math.

**Jeff Caritas:** That’s because you don’t go to class from what you told me earlier.

**Misty:** laughs. Okay, just trying to defy stereotypes. Recently, I was the only Indian in the math class and the teaching assistant was a really smart 16 year old prodigy from India.  He kept choosing me to answer the questions because he assumed I would know the answers, being Indian-American and all. At least, that is what I think happened.

**Jeff Caritas:** Maybe he liked you.

**Misty:** That’s totally inappropriate.

**Jeff Caritas:** Okay maybe it’s what you said.

**Misty**: Well…let me know if you want to go.

**Jeff Caritas:** I have cousins also there that might want to go, so maybe I’ll meet up with you there.

**Misty**: Sounds like a plan. Smiles. Let me ask some friends. That sounds fun and really nice. I’m from the Boston area by the way.

**Jeff:** Really, what a coincidence, so am I!

Singer performs some songs… Raja Tharasa talks to the singer after the show.

**Raja Tharasa:** Hi, great show.

**Singer:** thank you!

**Raja Tharasa**: I’d love to collaborate with you on some music. I have a band also.

**Singer**: interesting. Let’s exchange contact info then.

They exchange contact information and Raja Tharasa is happy.

Valerie Valeeni, a friend of Raja Tharasa also is at the show: she invites him to her cooking class the next day.

**Valerie Valeeni:** hi, I thought that was you. Macking on the singer I see.

**Raja Tharasa:** laughs, just thought I’d try to collaborate on some music with her if possible.

**Valerie Valeeni:** sure, sure, whatever – hope it all works out. I am running a cooking class tomorrow- maybe you should stop by and invite her also. And I have some paperwork from one of our projects to give to you also.

**Raja Tharasa:** okay I’ll try...

Later on, Raja Tharasa calls the singer: It was great to meet you and attend your show. I wanted to know if you’d like to spend the afternoon together? My friend asked me to stop by her cooking class to pick up something, but then we can get coffee/tea, and perhaps check out a music studio together if you’re interested?

**Singer:** Sounds good.

**Chom-Chom has been talking with Jeff Caritas and Misty and friends say goodbye temporarily and Chom-Chom explains she has to head back to Delaware.**

**Chapter Five**
**In a kitchen the next day...**
**Valerie Valeeni, the Instructor**: We are making an individual tandoori chicken pizza. The instructions are on your tables and I will guide you throughout the process if you need help.  Course evaluations will be passed out at the end so please don’t leave right away.

**Walking over to Raja Tharasa, Valerie Valeeni:** So I’m trying to cook more instead of ordering from the diner all the time. I have to maintain my figure but you all can motivate yourselves however you want for the love of good nutritious food.

**Raja Tharasa**: So what have you been up to since I last saw you?

**Valerie Valeeni**: more of the usual, fashion shows, events, and Sunday coffee with friends at the diner
I should introduce you to some people…The cooking is just a hobby. Okay, I need to get back to the class.

**Raja Tharasa**: Sure thing

**Valerie Valeeni**: I also happen to have talked with Songeeta, the singer. I think you two should meet again and get to know each other.

**Raja Tharasa:** Smiles. Interesting. Laughs. Okay, I'm interested. And in fact I brought her with me. She’s over there by the ad board.

**Valerie Valeeni:** do you want to join me for the class?

**Raja Tharasa:** we’ll stay for awhile…but go ahead with your class and if we leave early I’ll catch up with you later…

**Valerie Valeeni:** okay…

**Valerie Valeeni, Instructor:** says dramatically and humorously tossing ingredients around…after marinating the chicken in yogurt and tandoori spices, cook that on the stove for 30 minutes. Then sprinkle some cornmeal on the pizza stone or flat pan, on a premade naan bread or flat bread, use some garden vegetable pasta sauce on the dough, sprinkle mozzarella cheese or any shredded cheese blend you like.  Add the chicken pieces. Sautee some zucchini and squash on the side in some butter, salt, and pepper.

**Sejal S. and Sarbajit:** are attending the class. mumbles to herself: You'd think she was an expert or something. tossing ingredients and trying to tell other attendees how to make their pizza (humorously). then tries to be like the instructor when she is talking with Sarbajit and accidentally tosses her food onto others' plates and then fixes the situation humorously when others have gone to get more ingredients at the main counter.

Sheel and Somandra are also attending the class: Sheel is trying to avoid Detective Vikram and who he saw at the park. Sheel wants to act in a stage performance with Raja Tharasa and his band but got in trouble for hounding him too many times. He is so happy to see Raja Tharasa at the cooking class but maintains his distance.

**Singer:** So how do you know Valerie?

**Raja Tharasa**: Valerie Valeeni works as an international actress on projects including me.

**Singer:** I thought she looked familiar. Anyways, let’s go to the studio and see what music we can come up with…

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**Chapter Six:**
Chom-Chom goes to get manicures and henna and gets advice from Shukru. She meets with friends there.
**Pinky Patel:** applying henna to a customer’s hands…
**Pinky Patel:** check out the Diwali celebration when you get a chance
**Chom-Chom:** sounds good...
**Chom-Chom**: I feel like I need music and fun events in my life again. I’m busy studying but there are guys I want to talk with!
**Pinky Patel:** You’ve been spending a lot of time in grad school, although I heard what happened with the online dating ad posting – that’s pretty funny…
**Shukru:** laughs. How was your visit to New York?, she asks Chom-Chom
**Chom-Chom:** Good. I was talking with a guitarist Bhanu and I think a singer named Songeeta is interested in Raja Tharasa.  However, Raja Tharasa is busy with work and travels sometimes as an international diplomat. When he is back in the USA he is busy as an international actor who also works on projects in New York, and of course elsewhere. I am happy for him but I miss spending time with him sometimes for some reason. I wonder what is going to happen with him and Songeeta.
**Projapatty:** Chom-Chom, You seem interested in different guys. Maybe you need to fill your time with the things that you like to do more often, especially outside of relationship matters because you never know how things are going to turn out.
**Chom-Chom:** I’m not too worried. I’m just in transition and am looking for jobs so my priority has been about that. Raja Tharasa is someone I care about with a lot of affection. I’m genuinely happy for him when things are going well for him. I just want to spend some time in a different environment or with him sometimes.

**Pinky Patel:** I think you’re just tired of studying all the time after having gone to a few fun events. Get your work done, then have fun and I agree, don’t worry.

**Shukru:** What do you think about that guy Balraj Balreddy? He’s a business man in NYC that sometimes does some comedy presentations. I think he’s dating a few people.
**Pinky Patel:** I know him! Fun person to spend time with.
**Chom-Chom:** he sounds interesting.
**Projapatty**: An art or comedy show sounds like something fun to attend. Shukru, what do you think? What have you been up to lately?
**Shukru:** I started guitar lessons
**Chom-Chom:** That’s so great! I can only play four chords. Will you play something?
**Shukru:** Okay, you two can sing. (guitar playing…and singing)

Phone call from Sabriya
**Sabriya:** hi Chom-Chom- where are you?
**Chom-Chom:** Hi Sabriya. I’m spending time with Shukru and Pujoli…
**Sabriya:** I’m with Deepthi headed to a yoga class. We’re down the street and are stopping by before then…I’m exhausted from my work week as a doctor at the new location so I’m trying to get rejuvenated with some good energy. That’s Deepthi’s suggestion because she has been taking some ayuvedic medicine classes also.

**Chom-Chom**: interesting! okay sounds good, see you soon. Sabriya and Deepthi are visiting.
**Projapatty and Shukru**: happy with the news. Great!
Guitar and singing continues when Sabriya arrives.
**Sabriya**: hi everyone, so we’re back from organizing a mobile medical van visit to older adult apartment housing units for health screenings and community based support for chronic health issues.

**Deepthi**: We had speakers and partnered with local organizations, we got sponsors and the event turned out really well.
**Projapatty:** that’s a great idea!
**Sabriya**: What are you all up to?
**Shukru**: The usual, talking about work, guys, etc.
**Sabriya:** Well, I think we shouldn’t worry too much. We all work so hard. Let’s just enjoy the music.
Pujoli: I agree. Let’s just have some music now.
***Sings another song.***

Diwali event announcement is read by **Deepthi** at the store: this looks interesting,
does anyone want to go?
"Sure, sounds fun" says **Pinky Patel, Shukru, Chom-Chom, Projapatty and Sabriya…**
**Chapter Seven:**
**Diwali celebration dance event the next weekend...at any club or restaurant or stage. Traditional Indian Folk dance is mixed with Indian modern dances.Several people are in attendance.**

**Chapter Eight**

**Raja Tharasa telling his guy friends** DJ Ajay and Puneet, that he heard several people are interested in Chom-Chom while he was spending time with Songeeta.

**Guitarist Bhanu**: So, I play on this basketball team weekly and I heard she's been talking with a detective to figure out who posted a marital ad for her.
It turned out to be a friend or family member.

**DJ Ajay:** Mystery resolved. Hooray.

**Puneet:** That’s hilarious and typical for Indian or Indian-American women and men to go through…

**Chapter Nine:**

After Raja Tharasa leaves...Gossiping continues...

**DJ Ajay:** Speaking of Raja Tharasa, he has been away from friends and family for awhile due to a hectic work schedule. He met another actress colleague during his travels and that got him thinking about where he wants to live and work in the next year few years. They filmed a movie in which they look like they are married.

**Puneet:** I agree his travel schedule has been busy. I hope he stays around but I understand he may have other priorities also.  Work wise I told him a girl named Sejal has also been in town after she lived in a few places and wants to know if she can work on the musical and has auditioned. I have said: “not at this time” however now we are aware she is in town if needed. She is busy working on an a cappella medley anyways for a Diwali program with her friend Dil Hoshan.

**DJ Ajay:** oh okay. Meanwhile, Chom-Chom’s graduate studies progressed to a research proposal for her PhD, so she has spent more time in Delaware than in New York or Boston lately. Raja Tharasa has been planning a proposal for someone because he is starting to get ready to settle down. The proposal is to be a song presentation…He’s still trying to figure out who to live with also. He practiced a proposal scene for an art project with Songeeta when an engagement ring got stuck temporarily on her. Now they are living together.

**Puneet**: Laughs. Oh no ! What now?

**DJ Ajay:** after that mishap, Songeeta and Raja Tharasa started to live together, date and even sometimes work together which is fine because Chom-Chom who seemed interested is primarily just a good friend. They are both okay with this decision for now, given her graduate school priorities and his schedule. She still visits him sometimes when possible but is waiting to get to know Songeeta better. Raja Tharasa and his Band and art projects are quite popular and so are Songeeta's projects. They are amicable with Chom-Chom who is busy with life and I heard she is working on her own art projects like a play called "Bijoux Chandon"...which is to commemorate her relationship to Raja Tharasa since their childhood.

**Puneet:** Sounds good! I think he cares for Chom-Chom tremendously but they have more of an affectionate relationship of friendship anyways. I think he has romantic interest in Songeeta.

**Chapter Ten**

Chom-Chom and friends attend a comedy show and discover with Dawn McCallister that Balraj Balreddy the comedian is in fact Detective Vikram. He invites them to get tea/coffee…and they are at the tea shop for awhile.

**Chapter Eleven**

**Setting: walkway or aisle outside the tea shop**

Boishak: Hi Raina

Raina: Hi Boishak

Boishak: I bought you your favorite.

Raina: and what would that be?

Boishak: a sweet, Gajorer halua obviously.

Raina: thank you. And Samosas?

Boishak: Samosas also. Can we talk about music and singing practice for band tryouts? I need someone to replace me for some songs because my photography hobby is starting to get busy. I have to take pictures for a fashion show while simultaneously my band is supposed to be playing. Can you help me out?

Raina: Sure, sounds fun. I don’t have much more than amateur singing experience but, I’ll try if you can you coach me.

Boishak. I have time to coach you but I have to develop my photos this afternoon at my studio. Why don’t you stop by?

Raina: Okay, but I have to write an algorithm for social justice in the world, so I won’t be free until Friday.

Boishak: That’s fine. I have a photography session until 3pm and then I want to bring my portfolio to the tea shop to see if they will feature some of the photos to sell.

Raina: I can complete my research before then and meet you there. We can walk over to a studio for music practice afterwards.

**Chapter Twelve. Setting: the tea shop.**

Surya: excuse me, may I have a chocolate chip walnut cookie

Server 2 (Dharoon): Hi, I’m Dharoon. Aren’t you Surya, the restaurant and art reviewer?

Surya: yes, I am. How are you?

Server 2 (Dharoon): nervous now and excited. Would you like to try a coconut raspberry cream macaroon? Or Butterscotch oatmeal cookie along with the chocolate chip walnut cookie?

Surya: that all sounds very interesting. Yes.

Surya: may I also have one banana walnut bread and red velvet cupcake please

Server 2 (Dharoon): surprised, Sure, and anything more to drink?

Surya: yes please, one cup of masala chai and one cup of earl grey.He starts jotting down some notes:

**Chocolate Chip Cookie:** Chocolatey Decadence with unexpected every kind of pinache with a dash and a verve of some delicate kind of sweet nothing other than the best of the world sweet and saltiness that keep competing for balance in my mouth.

**Coconut Raspberry Cream Macaroon:** Delicious. Makes me want to swim in jam and coconut flakes. On a cruise ship.

**Butterscotch Oatmeal Cookie:** Makes me want to hopscotch to funky town with candycorn

**Banana Walnut Bread:** Typical.

 **And Red Velvet Cupcake:** super duper

Server 2 (Dharoon) to Server 1 (Shondheybala): We have a restaurant or café critique occurring. This is exciting. Maybe we’ll get an article in the paper.

Another customer, Chandra walks in with a sketch pad, camera, and a fashion magazine

Surya: (reading a newspaper or magazine)

Server 1 (Shondheybala): Hi, I’m Shondheybala, what can I get for you?

Chandra: (to the server at the table as she takes out her sketch book) Hi Shondheybala, May I have one order of darjeeling tea please and what cd are you playing today?

Surya: (looks up)

Server 1 (Shondheybala): yes, one tea coming right up, for? What name can I put on the order?

Chandra: Chandra. Thank you.

Server 1 (Shondheybala): the CD is a recording from my band Green Sugar. title track “Sailboats”. The band includes my friends Songeeta, Boishak and a new singer: Raina.

Server 1 (Shondheybala): We started writing new music just last week for that track.

Chandra: I like the percussion and wind chimes

Server 1 (Shondheybala): thank you. What are you working on?

Chandra: new designs for a fashion show. We’ll be here tomorrow night. A music band will perform while a few people walk the aisle in fashionable outfits. There will also be a dance scene with folk outfits for garba or dandia-raas if there is space. I’m thinking of asking Pinky Patel and some her friends to do those dances.

Then there will be a classical dress and performance by a Bharatnatyam dancer as well.

Server 1 (Shondheybala): Cool. I heard that we were singing for the fashion show and that the actress Valerie Valeeni and others including some guys Puneet, and Ajay are going to be in the show.

Chandra: Yes! I’m looking forward to the collaboration. I wanted to stop by this venue and check it out and enjoy the café goods. Thanks for the tea and will catch up with you more later. goes to a table with her tea and starts sketching

Server 1 (Shondheybala): Yes of course. Talk to you later!

***Lyrics playing in the background with music (music needed) for “Sailboats” by Green Sugar (The Band)***

*Blue waves ebb and flow*

*Not sure when I’ll get to go*

*Be with a true love you know*

*That is the way of chasing sails*

*Maybe speed boats miss the romance tales*

*Distant shores, know no more*

*About what was better than before*

*Perhaps without much more thought*

*Letting go of what love was not*

*Is a better way than to pass the day*

*When blue waves ebb and flow*

*Getting us to where we need to go*

*Salty fragrance makes the seagulls dance*

*Course planning directors take a chance*

*Getting closer to horizons they advance*

*Among waters and sails then blue becomes green*

*then drawing curtains changing scene*

*When blue waves ebb and flow*

*Reaching the place we were intended to go*

**Chapter 13: Art studio**

**Boishak and Raina see Raja Tharasa and Songeeta and wave hello. Raja Tharasa and Songeeta wave to them also.**

Boishak (to Raina): Okay, let’s practice scales

Raina: (sings a few notes off scale)

Boishak: Let’s try that again

Raina: (sings a few notes correctly and improved)

Boishak: Better! (but worried)

Raina: I think I’m just stressed from my paper due date

Boishak: what are you writing about?

Raina: I have an opinion paper that the economy should be thought of as fluid and dynamic instead of static and concrete, so that people more often consider sustainable use of resources across time for basic human needs.

Boishak: Any particular resource?

Raina: One idea is to have more access to clean water via irrigation systems from the ocean to dry lands or from the mountain tops, and piping to wells with equalizing pressure gauges to have better control over when access can be achieved and possibly used for bottling and selling water. Perhaps more apple plantations can be used for juice factories to be bottled and sold elsewhere also. There could be a collaboration for those who make bottles from recycled plastics and sold jointly with the providers of water or juice.

Chapter 14**: Still at the Music Studio**

Boishak: That sound really interesting. Cool. Okay, let’s try another scale – oh hey, Raja Tharasa with Songeeta are walking over to us. Songeeta is in our band! Let’s collaborate.

Raina: oh, that’s fortuitous!

Boishak: try to sing the scale again

Raina: (improved)

Boishak: great.

Songeeta: Hi guys, what are you working on?

Boishak: Please meet Raina, she’s the singer I mentioned would be joining our band. She is spending some time away from graduate studies to help us for the upcoming fashion show performance!

Songeeta: great! Good to meet you. What are you studying?

Raina: A hodge podge of social issues from clean water supplies to a paper including the need for early education and teacher training to improve the quality of supports for young minds.

Raja Tharasa: interesting. You should meet my friend Chom Chom. She’s studying public health and education policy issues also. She was planning to attend the fashion show we are performing for, but I think fashion show organizer Chandra has asked her to be the speaker or host of the show.

Songeeta: Great idea. And People always talk about the fact that teachers aren’t paid enough

Raina: True. And sure, I’d love to meet your friend. The teacher training programs can lead to more qualified teachers with higher degrees that can then demand a better standard for salary and pay. That leads to individuals who will recognize and know standards for teaching materials, educational toys, and curriculum that fosters healthy and happy infants and toddlers ready for other areas of their life.

Boishak: That is really important. Do they have a music program at your center?

Raina: They had a music teacher but that program needs to be brought back. The existing staff still sing songs together with the children: Something to think about for sure.

Songeeta: I’d love to work on a music program for kids in the schools. Maybe the members of our band can work on something

Boishak: That’s an excellent idea but for now, let’s show you what we’ve been working on.

Raina: I realize my voice was kind of rough at the start (unsure)

Boishak: That’s Okay. You just started and I’ll give you the music sheets to practice with.

Songeeta: You’ll be fine with some encouragement and Raja Tharasa has agreed to be our keyboard player and newest member of our band.

Boishak: Hooray: That makes us a group with lead singer: Songeeta, backup singer: Raina instead of myself, keyboard player Raja Tharasa, Guitarist Bhanu…and our usual drummer.

**Chapter 15: Setting: the tea shop**

Surya to Chandra: What are you sketching? Those designs look amazing.

Chandra: Oh, thank you. I’m just adding a few color mixes and color contrast matches for the fashion show outfits.

Surya: Is that by any chance for next week’s show?

Chandra: yes, I should have had this done by now, but just working out some perfectionist perspectives. Where did you hear about the show?

Surya: In the paper here that I write restaurant critiques for. I am also going because I am critiquing some aspects of the fashion show event. I am also waiting for the photography exhibit so I can critique that. I am a critical person for many events this week.

Chandra: ha ha ha. (laughing) I got that.

Surya: very serious. Those are good designs.

Chandra: Thank you. You’ll have to wait for the rest. This is just from a poster we had for some advertising.

Surya: And last minute perfectionist perspectives?

Chandra: laughing thank you for understanding. The photographer is Boishak, one of the servers here and you may have seen other members of the band performing for the show at this tea shop also.

Surya: Very interesting! I’d like to write a review if that’s okay to attend?

Chandra: Yes, of course! The more the merrier.

There’s a fashion show here in the evening that we are playing music for so we’re happy that you’re joining us.

**Chapter 16:**
**Chom-Chom:** and now the multicultural fashion show. Proceeds will support children's welfare...