

# Ride on Royal Enfield



Tanuja Krishnan

Copyright © 2018, Tanuja Krishnan  
All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording or any information storage and retrieval system now known or to be invented, without permission in writing from the publisher, except by a reviewer who wishes to quote brief passages in connection with a review written for inclusion in a magazine, newspaper or broadcast.

Published in India by Prowess Publishing,  
YRK Towers, Thadikara Swamy Koil St, Alandur, Chennai,  
Tamil Nadu 600016

ISBN-10: 1-5457-4344-4  
ISBN-13: 978-1-5457-4344-7  
ePUB ISBN: 978-1-5457-4348-5  
Mobi ISBN: 978-1-5457-4349-2

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication

# Contents

*Acknowledgement*

Hakuna Matata

A Great Fighter

A Glass of Sparkling Wine

A Ride to Kurukshetra

When a Bike is Stolen, A Fairy Dies

Let the Adventure Begin

Breakfast at Manali

The Confluence of Chandra and Bhaga Rivers

Gear Up for the Second Major Hurdle

Best Views of Sunrise and Sunsets at Shanti Stupa

A Perpetual Love Drizzled on Us with a Scenic Sunrise

Lake of Changing Colours: Pangong Tso

If You Fear It, Face It

Riding through a Ghost of Gata Loops

The One Last Ride

The Road Less Taken is More Memorable

The Amber of Love

Soldiers Never Die They Just Fade Away

I Am Half Agony, Half Hope

Dum Spiro Spero

When the Memories Hit You

Benny the Bike: The Last Hope

# Hakuna Matata

**Tara:** A golden key can open any door. I mean to say “Enough money will accomplish anything”. I hope you didn’t get my point, so let me explain you clearly. To fulfil some of your dreams, you need to be wealthy enough, so stop dreaming of silver clouds. Did you get the point now, Anvi?

**Anvi:** Tara, my friend, come and sit. You know what? You just missed the logic about the door. It’s just the key that is required to open the door. I don’t need a golden key because I don’t want such an expensive door. Now the point that you need to understand is that I am not just dreaming, and I am working very hard to make it happen in reality. I have two months left to earn the key, I mean the remaining money that I needed for my adventurous bike trip, and definitely, I will succeed in opening the door of my dreams. “Hakuna Matata”.

**Tara:** What that means?

**Anvi:** It means “no worries”. Goodnight, my friend. Sleep tight.

It was next day morning and Anvi was in a hurry for her interview.

**Anvi:** Oh God! It’s already 8 in the morning. By 9 am I have to reach the office address. Rain or shine, I should not miss this opportunity. Where’s my bag?

**Tara:** Good morning, Anvi.

**Anvi:** Morning, buddy.

**Tara:** Cool yaar, Anvi, relax, think and then search you will find. Meanwhile, I will get your breakfast to the table.

**Anvi:** There is no time for breakfast, Tara. I am running late already.

**Tara:** Oh, then I will not force you. OK, listen at least for now go by metro, because in hurry, you can’t handle the bike in Chennai traffic.

**Anvi:** Excuse me! Chennai traffic? I handled the great Hyderabad traffic. I can manage here in Chennai. Moreover, I am very much addicted to Benedict. OK bye, have a good day, buddy. Oh, Benny here I am let’s start the ride.

**Tara:** I seriously don’t understand what this girl Anvi thinks about herself. It was pretty much better for her to travel in train; it would save some time

for her. Anyways hope so she reaches safely on time.

Anvi reached the office on time for the job interview.

**Anvi:** Excuse me, sir, may I get in.

**Jai:** Yes, please have a seat. Are you Miss Anvitha Chowdary from Hyderabad?

**Anvi:** Yes, sir.

**Jai:** So why you are still not employed after your course, your year of passing in M. Tech. Automobile Engineering is 2016, right?

**Anvi:** Exactly sir, I do have a very valid reason for 1 year of gap. And those reasons are not just excuses; they can give you a point to offer this job.

**Jai:** Really? If you are that much confident, then let me also know those super-valid reasons.

**Anvi:** I handled two projects titled “Power Transmission in Automobiles” and “Automatic Tyre Pressure Inflation System” in my college, Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute, Mumbai. And I have even published a paper in a science journal. Post publishing the paper, I have been offered a job from a few reputed companies like Hyundai, Tata Motors and BMW.

**Jai:** Well then why didn't you join in any of the companies? Why are you here?

**Anvi:** Sir, “Why are you here” means? This is also a reputed company like them. And I will have job satisfaction if I work here because it's my dream company. Literally, I did automobile engineering just to join this company.

**Jai:** Seriously? Okay, now no explanations just answer to my question in a single statement. Why have you not joined the above companies and what is the main reason to join us?

**Anvi:** Simply sir, I love bikes rather than cars, and you may ask why, for that, I will say “Travelling in a car is like watching a film, riding a bike is like starring in it”.

**Jai:** Smart answer, Miss Anvitha. But I would like to shoot one more question to you. You said you love bikes and that's why you are here by leaving all the above opportunities related to cars, so what if you have offers from the most reputed bike organizations like Harley Davidson, Triumph and yes even BMW that has bike manufacturing unit, right?

**Anvi:** Yes, of course, but those are not “Made like Gun” and those are not

“Royal Enfield”. I personally very much connected to RE and so I am eagerly waiting for the opportunity to work here.

**Jai:** Excellent ... the way you answered and your confidence levels impressed me and here you go with the offer letter designated as a “Research Engineer” in the main unit. Congratulations, Anvitha.

**Anvi:** Oh, thank you so much, sir.

**Jai:** You can call me Jai and you will be working in my team. Joining date and particulars are mentioned in this offer letter. So see you soon at work.

**Anvi:** I have a question Jai, may I?

**Jai:** Yeah sure, go ahead.

**Anvi:** As per the earlier discussions in the previous rounds of interview, I have requested job location as Hyderabad, and the recruitment team informed me that my job location will be maximum Hyderabad only but for face-to-face interview, I need to come to head office in Chennai and so I am here now but what about my job location?

**Jai:** Anvitha, you will be trained here in the head office for one or two months, and after that, your posting will be changed to your preferred location. I hope you can manage two months here?

**Anvi:** Yes, Jai, absolutely and I am very happy to join your team.

**Jai:** Good luck, Anvitha, and have a great day.

**Anvi:** To you too, Jai.

Anvi was very much excited and she was calling Tara.

**Tara:** Hello.

**Anvi:** Tara, guess what?

**Tara:** What you didn't attend the interview?

**Anvi:** Try another guess.

**Tara:** You might have struck in the traffic with your Benny?

**Anvi:** Oh shut up yaar, Benny took me on time perfectly.

**Tara:** Then what happened, Anvi? It's not that you failed in interview?

**Anvi:** Idiot why can't you be positive at least for a while.

**Tara:** Because I am running with negative blood, remember I am A Negative. Will you tell me finally, what made you go bananas on the

phone?

**Anvi:** Go bananas! What are you talking Tara, you know I went for the final round of interview not for selling bananas.

**Tara:** Miss Anvi, “Going bananas” means going crazy I just meant to say why you are going crazy. Can you at least tell now?

**Anvi:** Tara get ready, I will pick you up in 40 minutes.

**Tara:** But where are we supposed to go, Anvi?

**Anvi:** You forgot that you promised me that if I get this job, we both should climb “St. Thomas Mount”.

**Tara:** Anvi, really? You achieved it finally. Come soon then I will be ready by the time you come, and listen I will be waiting near the coffee shop so it covers half of the distance. Okay bye.

**Anvi:** Hell with the traffic, anyways I am so happy today and hectic traffic can no longer bother me now. Thank God, I crossed the signal, hmm, where is she? She was supposed to be near the coffee shop.

**Tara:** Anvi my darling, hearty congratulations buddy; finally, you achieved what you wanted.

**Anvi:** Thanks yaar, now let’s go climb the St. Thomas Mount. Oh no, I forgot the route from here.

**Tara:** Do not worry; from here, I know the shortcut. Go straight, take right at the signal and then drive straight. Let’s take left, stop, stop here we come. Park the bike here; meanwhile, I will take candles.

**Anvi:** How many steps to climb, Tara?

**Tara:** Even I too don’t know, Anvi. I always come from another entrance where there is a straight way to the gate. But one of my friends said it might be approximately 100–150 steps.

**Anvi:** Cool, now let’s start climbing without halt. Uff, finally we are on top of the “St. Thomas Mount”.

**Tara:** This way, Anvi.

**Anvi:** Wow! What a view yaar! We can even see take-off and landing of planes very clearly from here. I just loved this place, Tara.

**Tara:** Prayer first and enjoying the views next. Leave your footwear here and enter. Bend your knees and pray for a while.

**Anvi:** I don't know how to pray here but I will just say thanks to the Lord and ask him to clear all my hurdles.

Anvi began to pray, "Dear God in short and sweet, make everyone happy, wealthy and safe and let me be one among them too. And please give abundant strength to the people of Kerala who are fighting the floods. Oh, I forgot about Benny. God shower lots and lots of blessings on my love Benny and make sure that we will ride together forever. Amen".

**Anvi:** Tara, where to light the candles, here?

**Tara:** Yes, buddy. Now, have this coffee.

**Anvi:** Thanks yaar.

**Tara:** Now, tell me how your final round went, when is your date of joining and what about the job location?

**Anvi:** The name of the person who interviewed me is Jai and he is supposed to be the Senior Manager and I am going to work with him.

**Tara:** Is he good looking?

**Anvi:** Shut up idiot.

**Tara:** OK, carry on.

**Anvi:** He seems to be a nice but very tough guy. He asked lots of very tough questions in the interview. My date of joining is 27<sup>th</sup> August, i.e. next Monday, and I will be here in Chennai for a training programme for two months and then move to Hyderabad.

**Tara:** It means you are going to stay with me for two more months! It sounds so great, and we have a week time to go crazy around.

**Anvi:** Tara, you mean going bananas.

**Tara:** Ha ha ha.

**Anvi:** Come let's go to the room and take some rest, I am too tired.

**Tara:** Hello Miss Anvitha, where is the Party? Don't you even throw a party for achieving your dream job?

**Anvi:** Oh no not today, Tara. I need to rest badly, and let's party tomorrow after your shift hours. Is that okay?

**Tara:** Umm, Okay.

**Anvi:** And the coffee was so good; it tastes like Kumbakonam coffee. Okay,



let's make a move?

Wow, the road was so clear we reached room so fast. Finally, we are on our beds, goodnight.

# A Great Fighter

**Officer Mahinder:** Guys, everyone is here? Where is Advaith?

**Patel (Advaith's friend):** He is very busy in the basketball court.

**Officer Mahinder:** What? Go call him, man.

**Patel:** Sir, I have called him, he is not willing to join the party and we know that as this is not the first time he is ignoring to join us in parties.

**Someone in the batch:** Yes, he only joins us in command operations.

**Officer Mahinder:** Patel.

**Patel:** Sir.

**Officer Mahinder:** Tell him to meet me sharp at 7 pm in my office.

**Patel:** Yes, sir.

**Patel:** Advaith, Advaith.

**Advaith:** Yaar Patel, why are you here again? I said I don't want to join the parties.

**Patel:** I am not here to call you for the party. Mahinder sir asked you to meet him sharp at 7 pm in his office. Bhulna mat dost.

**Advaith:** Yeah I will meet him. Ya rabba koyi warning jaise na ho? Oh, it's 6:45, better to be ten minutes before the time he said.

Advaith reached Officer Mahinder's cabin in a rush and knocked at the door.

**Advaith:** Excuse me, sir.

**Officer Mahinder:** Come in.

**Advaith:** Good evening sir, I am here on time.

**Officer Mahinder:** You are not on time; you are five minutes before the time. Sit.

**Advaith:** Sir, may I know the reason you have called me?

**Officer Mahinder:** Coming to that point, here is your parcel I actually supposed to give you last month a week after your parents passed away, but you were in the rescue operation in Kerala. Apart from this parcel, I would like to suggest you few things personally.

**Advait:** Sir.

**Officer Mahinder:** How long you will be alone like this, Adi? So get married to Lathika; she likes you a lot. And it's not too good to be alone. And I am saying all these things just because you are not only my favourite in the troop but more than that you are my friend's son. I and your father Amardeep Varma always think about your future whenever we meet, and your mother Anila was very anxious about your wedding. As both are not here with us, I think it's my responsibility to bring you back to normal like before, and I need to find a girl who will take care of you and be ready to lead a life with you, and I hope Sharma's daughter Lathika is perfect for you, and the luck is she already likes you. So Adi, should I talk to Sharma regarding this proposal?

**Advait:** Sir, I am fine with the way I am right now, and I am not alone, I am with my fellow brother's, and I have the most responsible job to fight for the country. I am very happy in the family called "Indian Air Force", but it takes time for me to digest my mother's death.

**Officer Mahinder:** Then why don't you go out for a trip ... you have leaves use them at least now.

**Advait:** I will for sure but not now, I already planned 14 days of leave in the next month.

**Officer Mahinder:** Oh, so this is the first time in your carrier that you are taking a long leave; it's good actually because a peaceful mind can serve the nation much better. By the way, where have you planned for, Adi?

**Advait:** Leh-Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh, sir.

**Officer Mahinder:** Good, you have the habit of planning the trips around the Air Command areas, isn't it?

**Advait:** I didn't get you, sir?

**Officer Mahinder:** Adhi, when you were appointed as a "Squadron Leader" in Eastern Air Command (EAC), you took four days of leave and you went on a trip covering Chabua, Guwahati, Tezpur and Shillong. Now you are in Western Air Command (WAC) so you are planning a trip under WAC's responsibility areas.

**Advait:** How do you know all these?

**Officer Mahinder:** Your friend Patel told me. Adi, think about what I have said; as you asked time, this trip is the only time you have, and after this

trip, you have to obey me and have to follow my commands to marry Lathika.

**Advaith:** Yes, sir.

Advaith left the cabin and went to his room.

**Patel:** Adi kya yaar bath kya hi jaldi bathao na?

**Advaith:** Kuch bhi nahi bus vahi purane bathein.

**Patel:** You mean, mingle with everyone, be like the way you were before, marry Lathika, etc., etc., the same lecture again!

**Advaith:** Haan bola tha na. Ab chalo we have to go to bed early, and tomorrow we need to attend the training sharp at 5 am.

It was midnight 2:18 am and Advaith was unable to sleep thinking about his mother.

**Advaith's inner voice:** Maa..! I need to talk to you but I know you are not here right beside me now, but you are the only one with whom I can share all the things. I had a discussion with Mahinder sir, he spoke about my marriage with Lathika, she is a very nice girl but as of now, I am not ready for marriage and I have been always telling you that you should select the girl for me. You left me alone in the peak stage of my life; please guide me to choose the right girl, until then, I cannot sleep properly.

Let me open the parcel what sir has given. Letter! "Open when you are really in a confused state!" And it's Mom's handwriting! That means mom wrote a letter for me during her treatment.

Mom, I am missing you very badly, and you are the world's best mom. Love you maa.

**Patel:** Arey! Adhi you didn't sleep, you are sitting here all night? Pagal hogaya kya? Dost it's 3 am, please sleep for an hour at least.

It was the next day morning, and all were gathered to honour Advaith for his selfless service to the nation.

**Officer Mahinder:** Good morning, boys.

**Batch responding:** Very good morning, sir.

**Officer Mahinder:** This is a very vital part of the training; getting appointed in WAC is not only a very pride thing but it's very tough to work accordingly. Appropriate experiences are necessary, both to build and develop the leader's own force of character, and also to increase his ability

to influence others. A real leader must be an agent for change, an inspirer and developer who is able to show the way forward, integrate people and ideas, and be prepared to instigate rapidly the most effective option.

Particularly, in times of tension or war, an effective leader will have to be able to bring both colleagues and subordinates along in a way that is at once identified as pragmatic, meaningful and militarily cost-effective.

Finally, the good leader in our world's society is a rare breed.

I am very proud to take Advait Varma as an example for such a good quality leader who guided a squadron in a very intelligent and smooth way during the previous command operations. He even took a lead role in flying branch as a fighter pilot.

I can tell you his height of dedication and responsibility towards his job by sharing one of the most recent incidents. As he was in the command operation as a Squadron Leader for the first time, we got a message from his friends that his parents have passed away, and they requested us to send him home immediately. We somehow sent him this information to him; you know what his response was? "I already lost my mother and I cannot allow any of the mothers to die here in this situation, it will take four hours for this rescue operation to complete, and I will head to home after saving few lives".

He then successfully led the rescue operation by saving each and every person, not a single death noted.

He is a great fighter of a great mother.

We not only thank his mother but we thank all the mothers who gave their children as a warrior for this country.

I am very proud once again to honour him with the medal, and I appoint him as a Squadron Leader to "Helicopter Unit", Leh Air Force Station.

**You've Just Finished your Free Sample**

**Enjoyed the preview?**

**Buy: <http://www.ebooks2go.com>**