



The Hidden Secret of Amma

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Vasu stands at the front of his bright classroom, helping a classmate with a difficult math problem. His teacher looks on with pride at the most intelligent and helpful boy in the school, who always has a smile for everyone.



One sunny afternoon, Vasu visits a local home for the elderly, carrying a small bag of treats and a warm heart. The building is peaceful and quiet, filled with the soft whispers of stories from the past and the scent of blooming jasmine.



He is introduced to a gentle woman with silver hair and a face etched with kindness, whom everyone fondly calls Amma. She sits in a wooden rocking chair by the window, her eyes lighting up with a soft glow as Vasu approaches her.



Amma reaches out to pat Vasu's hand, telling him how wonderful he is and how proud his parents must be of such a lovely boy. Vasu beams with a modest smile, feeling an instant and inexplicable connection to the elderly woman.



As they talk, Vasu mentions that his father is a Senior Engineer with the Indian Railways. Amma pauses for a moment, a look of distant memory crossing her face as she shares that her own son also works for the railways.



The conversation deepens when Vasu adds that his mother works as a postal employee. Amma's voice softens with surprise as she notes that her daughter-in-law held the very same profession, and a strange coincidence begins to hang in the air.



A heavy tension fills the small room as Amma leans forward, her voice trembling with a mix of hope and fear. She looks deeply into Vasu's eyes and asks him for his father's full name, her hands clutched tightly in her lap.



Vasu speaks the name clearly and confidently: Shivendra Banerjee. The silence that follows is profound, broken only by the sound of the wind rustling the curtains and the distant whistle of a train.



Tears begin to flow down Amma's wrinkled cheeks as the truth finally settles in her heart. Vasu watches her with wide eyes, the pieces of his father's long, mysterious silences about his grandmother finally falling into place.



Vasu leans in and wraps his arms around Amma in a tight, comforting hug, his own eyes filling with tears of joy. In this tender moment, a broken family link is restored, and a young boy finally finds the grandmother he had been searching for all along.