

Iqbal, on the other hand, seems to have taken her for granted. I don't mean that in the negative sense at all. You only take a person for granted when you're sure of her or her unconditional love and loyalty. And if there's one thing Iqbal is confident about, it's the faith and trust they have in each other.

I can't say it's been a long journey for them, because honestly, they have years ahead to spend together. But what I can see is that in these two-and-a-half years of being involved, there's a certain acceptance of each other, not just as individuals but also as beings who will most definitely spend the rest of their lives together.

In a first-time exclusive to *Showtime*, Iqbal Khan reveals the love of his life, fiancée Sneha Chhabra. They reveal their first impressions, that something special, which makes their love story all the more interesting, and the dreams they've woven for each other.

The first time Iqbal and Sneha met was six years ago this June. And that too, because they were co-starring in a Falguni Pathak music video. Iqbal doesn't remember the details too well but the thorough narration that Sneha gives makes it sound like it happened just yesterday. "We met in Bandra because that's where we were supposed to leave from for Hyderabad. The video was shot in Ramoji Rao Studios. I met him the first time outside the Universal Music office."

Iqbal adds, "It was a very normal meeting. Absolutely nothing happened. I didn't have any impression of her; just thought she's an absolute kid."

Sneha interrupts, "But I was a kid. I was just turning 17. When I saw him, the only thought that went through my mind was okay; this is the guy I have to work with. Everything was so new to me, the video, going out of town without my parents...so I wasn't really thinking about anything else. We exchanged hellos only when we reached the railway station. Hello, hi, that's it."

Even during the course of the video, there was no attraction. They went about their work as professionally as possible. The real love story began a good three years later. Who would have thought that an accidental meeting at a restaurant would turn into a life-changing occurrence? "After three years I saw Sneha in Bandra at *Just Around The Corner* (a restaurant in Mumbai). She wasn't a kid anymore. She had grown up. I recognized her, of course, went up to her and said hello. We exchanged numbers then. A couple of weeks later, it was New Year's Eve. I wasn't doing anything, as I'm quite a boring guy. She was also boring that time and wasn't doing anything."

"It wasn't partying or anything," says Sneha, "We were just five-six friends on a common friend's terrace." Iqbal continues, "We met there and after that, we started meeting everyday. And we still meet everyday."

But how did they know that it wasn't just about dating someone? That there was something more; something special that made them want to spend time together. Iqbal explains, "The kind of mature love I believe in does not happen in a day. It has to grow. After the New Year's meeting, I started seeing her everyday but it wasn't like I was in love with her the first day. It was very gradual. There was never this point in our relationship where I went and asked her out or she asked me out. It was a fade-in kind of a thing where I didn't realize at what point things took a serious turn."

He takes a moment before stating, "I was so much into work that time that I was quite surprised to find myself interested in a girl, especially one who was so nice."

Sneha's reaction to seeing Iqbal after three years was quite the opposite. "I swear I didn't recognize him probably because he had make-up on and his hair was long. He was shooting for *Fun2shh* then. He was just



"When you're in a relationship, when it's serious, it means you're in love. She comes from a very disciplined family; I come from a small town. And my openings in life have always been small"
- Iqbal



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