

Anwar

goes to university

Gill Winn



LEARN ENGLISH WITH STORIES

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Illustrations by: Genji

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Chapter 1

Waiting for exam results

Anwar Shah was a good-looking young man. He was twenty one years old. He was not very tall but he was slim, with brown eyes and thick, shiny black hair. He lived in Cardiff with his parents in a flat near the city centre. His parents were born in Pakistan but Anwar was born in Wales.

It was the end of the summer holidays and Anwar was waiting for his exam results. He wanted to go to London University to study. Anwar left school when he was sixteen because his father was ill. His father Zaheer had a very bad heart and he wasn't able to work. To help his parents Anwar left school and he worked every day in a small supermarket.

In the evenings he went to classes to study. Last year he passed two exams. He wanted to study law. He wanted to be a lawyer but it was difficult because he must pass the exams with A's and B's. The results were coming in the post tomorrow. Now he felt afraid that he had not passed his examinations.

It was Sunday afternoon and Anwar was bored. It was hard to wait for the exam results and he wanted Monday to

come quickly. He rolled up little pieces of the newspaper and he flicked them across the room into the waste bin.

‘Anwar!’ his father said sharply, ‘Do something useful. Do you want to help me with the garden?’ Mr. Shah tried to do a little bit of gardening around the flats. The doctor said it was good for him. Anwar didn’t like gardening but he was polite.

‘Well... I don’t want to do the garden father. I was going to visit my friend Dave but if you need my help, I can stay?’

‘No! No!’ laughed his father, ‘Go and see Dave.’

It was a sunny afternoon and Anwar hurried downstairs. He went out of the door of the flats and he walked along the pavement. He walked quickly. He felt better now he was outside. He hoped Dave was home. Anwar turned left at the corner of the road and he walked down Park Street.

Suddenly, Anwar tripped over something on the pavement but he didn’t fall. He looked down and he saw a wallet near his feet. He picked it up and he opened it. The wallet was full of money perhaps £500! He closed the wallet quickly and looked up and down the street. He was afraid. Someone might think he had stolen it! Anwar decided to take it to the police station.

He went to see if Dave was home before he went to the police station. He knocked the door of Dave’s house loudly

but there was no answer. Anwar walked down the road.

The police station was in the next street. Anwar felt nervous as he walked into the police station. He went to the counter where two policeman were standing. The older policeman said, 'Here comes trouble.'

Anwar held out the wallet. 'I picked this up a few minutes ago in Park Street.' Anwar gave the wallet to the young policeman who opened the wallet and whistled when he saw the money.

Anwar said, 'I opened the wallet to see if there was an address but there was only a name on a bank card'.

'Thank-you for bringing the wallet to the station,' the policeman said. 'You are honest. A lot of people are not.'

The older policeman asked for his name and address. Anwar didn't like that. 'Why do you want my name and address?' he asked, ' I gave you all the money and the wallet.'

'We always take names and addresses,' the policeman said. 'Sometimes people want to thank you.'

Anwar gave his name and address and he hurried out of the Police Station. He didn't want to hear about the wallet again. He thought, 'I will go home to tell my father about the wallet.' Anwar was glad to walk in the sunshine again. He

didn't like the police station. 'I wonder why I feel afraid in a police station,' he thought. 'I haven't done anything wrong and the police are polite. I feel as if I am five years old when I am in a police station not twenty-one years old.'

Now Anwar thought about his exams. He passed two last year. He took more exams this year and if he has good results he will go to Kings College, London University.

'What if I fail?' he thought. 'If I fail I cannot go to University.' Anwar shook his head. 'I must not think about failing exams. I'm going to University this year. If I cannot go to Kings College in London University I can go somewhere else.' He sighed. It was hard to study after working in the supermarket all day. He liked studying but sometimes after work he studied until one or two o'clock in the morning.

The job at the supermarket was boring. Anwar wanted to go to University very much. He hoped to get an interesting job with good pay when he finished in College.

'Oh well,' he thought as he turned to go into the door of the flats, 'Not long to wait. I will know the results of my exams when the postman comes in the morning.'

Chapter 2

The important letter arrives

Anwar woke up early the next day. He felt nervous. He looked out of the window of the flat to see if the postman was coming.

‘Do you want some breakfast Anwar?’ his mother asked.

‘No thanks.’

‘What about something to drink?’

‘No, Mum.’

His mother looked worried. ‘You worked very hard Anwar and you must not worry about your exam results because you did your best. Your father and I are very proud of you.’

Anwar’s father walked into the room. ‘No letter?’ he asked his wife.

‘Anwar is looking out of the window to see if the postman is coming.’ Miah said.

‘The postman is walking to the flats now,’ Anwar told them.

A few minutes later Anwar and his parents heard a letter drop through the door. Anwar looked very worried. His father put his hand on Anwar’s arm. ‘Don’t worry,’ he said. ‘You worked hard my son. I am pleased with you, if you pass or fail.’

Anwar's father went to the door. He picked up the letter and he gave it to his son. 'Your letter Anwar,' he said. Anwar's father and mother both looked at him and they smiled.

Anwar said, 'You open the letter father and tell me quickly if I passed my exams.' Anwar put his hands over his face.

His father opened the letter. He read the letter quickly and he looked at Anwar and smiled. 'You have done well.'

'What have I got?' Anwar asked.

'Read it quickly Zaheer,' his wife said.

'The letter says you have two 'A's and one B. You can go to Kings College, London University.'



Anwar took the letter from his father's hands. He was smiling now. His mother laughed and cried and clapped her hands. 'Congratulations,' she said as she hugged him.

His father said. 'I'm very proud of you Anwar. One day I think you will be a good lawyer.'

They were all happy.

'I must telephone my sister and tell her you are coming to stay with her in London soon,' his mother said. Anwar was going to live with Aunty Khadiga and Uncle Tom when he was in London University. 'After I have telephoned Khadiga I will make breakfast,' Anwar's mother told him.

The door bell rang. Anwar's mother went to the door. Anwar and his father heard a man's deep voice and they heard Anwar's mother speaking. 'Yes. Anwar Shah is my son. Yes, he lives here. Please come in.'

She hurried back to the room. 'Zaheer! It's a policeman!' she whispered. She was frightened. 'He wants to speak to Anwar.'

'Don't worry Miah,' Zaheer said and he went to talk to the policeman. Anwar heard his father say. 'Come in officer.'

His father and the policeman came into the room. Anwar recognised the young policeman who was in the police station yesterday.

‘Hallo Anwar,’ the policeman said. ‘The man who lost his wallet wants me to give you a £100.’

Anwar looked at his father. Zaheer was smiling proudly at his son. Anwar shook his head. He said to the policeman, ‘No thank you sir. I don’t need a reward. My parents expect me to be honest.’

The policeman smiled and he held out the envelope. ‘Go on young man, take it. Your father said you had an important letter this morning. He said you have passed your exams and you are going to London University. London is expensive.’

Anwar looked at his father. Mr. Shah nodded. ‘Yes, it’s ok. You can take the money.’ Slowly Anwar took the money.

‘Will you have a cup of tea or coffee?’ Anwar’s mother asked.

‘Thank-you, but no, I must go. I’m very busy today,’ the policeman said. He walked to the door of the flat. ‘Good luck Anwar,’ he called ‘I hope you have a good time in London.’

Chapter 3

Anwar meets Uzma

Anwar worked hard at the supermarket every day in the summer. He wanted to save money to help him when he went to London in October and for his parents.

Uncle Tom talked to Anwar on the telephone. He told Anwar about London. He said there was plenty of work. Uncle Tom said, 'You can work for money when you are studying at London University Anwar because there is always evening and week-end work in London.

Anwar was pleased because he needed money to help his parents and he wanted money to give his Aunty and Uncle for his food. He needed money for books too.

One Saturday at the end of September Anwar finished work early because his parents wanted him to meet Mohammed. Mohammed came from the same village in Pakistan as Zaheer. He was a rich man and he came to Britain for business. He always came to Cardiff see his old friend Zaheer.

Mohammed's wife and daughters were in Cardiff with him. They were staying for one week and Mohammed asked Zaheer, Miah and Anwar to have dinner in the hotel.

Anwar's mother fussed. 'You must put the new white shirt on Anwar and the new suit you bought for your interviews.'

'Yes, yes I will mother,' Anwar said. Twenty minutes later he showered and he dressed. Anwar was pleased when he looked in the mirror in his bedroom. Usually, he wore jeans and a tee shirt. When he went into the sitting room his mother beamed. 'You look handsome Anwar,' she said.

Anwar put one arm around his mother's shoulders and one arm around his father. 'I am very proud of you both, I have wonderful parents.'

'We must go,' Mr. Shah said. Mohammed has booked a table for us to eat at eight o'clock.

When they arrived at the hotel, they asked for Mr. Khan. Soon Mohammed arrived. Zaheer chatted to his old friend. Anwar did not always understand because his father and Mohammed talked the language of the village. At home Anwar's mother and father spoke Urdu.

Mr. Khan asked the waiter to fetch drinks. Anwar asked for a fruit juice. He did not drink alcohol.

When Anwar was seventeen his father talked to him about alcohol. Zaheer said. 'Many young men in Britain drink. I know your friends like to drink. If you want to drink alcohol Anwar you must be careful. Drink a little. If you drink too

much you can do things to hurt other people.’

When Anwar was eighteen he went to a party and he drank too much. He was very ill all night and he had a very bad head the next day. Anwar didn’t want to drink again.

Mohammed’s wife and his daughters walked into the hotel dining room. Uzma was the oldest girl and Naila was two years younger. Uzma was pretty. She sixteen. She had silky golden skin and long black hair that was thick and shining.

The two families went to the table to eat. Mohammed said, ‘Anwar, you sit next to Uzma.’ Anwar’s mother and father smiled and everyone looked at Anwar and Uzma.

Anwar felt angry. ‘They are trying to arrange a marriage for me with this young woman,’ he thought. He did not want to have a marriage arranged. He felt sorry for the girl too. He tried to talk to Uzma while they were having dinner but she did not say very much. It was very difficult to talk to Uzma. Anwar spoke Urdu because her English was not good.

‘What do you think of my daughter Uzma?’ Mohammed asked Anwar after dinner when the ladies went to sit on the sofa to talk. Anwar was polite.

‘I like your family, Mr. Khan,’ he said.

When they went home at 11 o’clock Anwar said, ‘I’m going to bed.’

His mother looked disappointed. 'Why don't you stay and talk with your father and me?' I will make a cup of tea.

'No, mother. I don't want to talk now. I'm tired.'

'I want to know what you thought of Uzma. Isn't she beautiful?' his mother asked.

'She is a very nice girl but I'm not interested in girls at the moment. I'm going to University soon.' Anwar said firmly.

'But.....' his mother was going to talk more but Anwar's father waved his hand at his wife.

'Let him go to bed,' Zaheer said. 'Anwar is tired and he's quite right. It's important for him to study for the next three years.'

The following week Anwar went to see his friends to say good-bye. His mother packed a suitcase full of clothes and clean, ironed shirts. On the 16th October Anwar was going to London. He felt excited. His case was packed and a big box of books and clothes was sent to London for him to open when he arrived.

Chapter 4

Leaving Home

Anwar was going to London on the ten o'clock train and he was excited. He wanted to go to University very much. He wanted to study. He got up early and ate his breakfast in the kitchen. Anwar ate toast and he drank two cups of tea. He didn't want a second cup of tea but he thought his mother wanted him to have more tea so he said 'yes' to please her.

'I hope you will help your Aunty and Uncle. Tell them when you go out what time you are coming home,' his mother said.

'Yes, mother.'

'Uncle Tom's heart is not good. You carry things for him if they want someone to paint, decorate or move furniture.'

'Yes, mother.'

Zaheer said to his wife, 'Miah! Anwar is not going to London for a holiday. He will have a lot of work for college.'

'I can do my work and I can help Uncle Tom too,' Anwar said to his father and he smiled at his mother. 'I like to do practical things after I have been studying for a long time.'

His mother laughed. 'My sister is very pleased you are staying with her.'

'Well, Anwar, it's time to go,' said his father suddenly. 'You

must not miss your train.'

Anwar stood up quickly and he smiled. He was excited. He was ready to go. He looked at his mother and he saw tears in her eyes. Anwar gave her a hug.

'I'm not going far away,' he said. 'I will come to see you soon.' His mother nodded and smiled. She was afraid to speak because she might cry.

Anwar's father picked up his case.

'No, Dad,' Anwar said. 'Let me carry the case. It's heavy!' His father put the case down on the floor and he smiled.

'Yes, I must remember you are an adult,' he said.

Anwar and his father walked to the door of the flat - his mother followed. Miah was not going to the station. She had to go to work. Her boss told her yesterday that it was alright for her to go to work late because Anwar was going to London. But he said she must be in work at 10 o'clock.

Anwar put his hand on his mother's arm. 'Don't come downstairs, Mum.' he said.

His mother smiled and hugged him but she did not speak. She kissed him before she went back to the kitchen. 'Don't forget to telephone,' she called.

'I won't,' Anwar shouted back - and the flat door shut with a click.

Chapter 5

On the train

Anwar and his father arrived in the station early. They sat on the bench on the platform and they talked. Soon the train arrived and Anwar climbed on and waved goodbye to his father. The train moved slowly out of Cardiff Station.

Anwar put his bag up on the shelf above the seats. He sat back. He felt happy and grown up because he was going to live in London. He was happy to stay with his Aunty and Uncle. Next year he would have friends in College and perhaps he would share a flat with them.

The train was quite crowded and Anwar saw a girl was sitting in the seat opposite him. She was staring out of the window of the train.

Anwar took a letter from Kings College out of his pocket. The letter had a lot of information about College life in London. He read the letter. After reading the letter, he put it in his pocket. The girl sitting in the seat opposite Anwar smiled. She spoke. 'Are you going to London University, to Kings College?' she asked Anwar.

'Yes, I am,' he answered. He smiled at her. 'How did you know I'm going to the University ?' he asked.

The girl laughed shyly. She said, 'I recognised the letter. I have the letter too because I'm going to the same College in London University.' She took a letter out of her bag - it looked the same as the letter Anwar was reading.

'Are you a fresher?' Anwar asked.

The girl nodded. 'Yes. It is my first year in college.'

'Do you live in Cardiff?' Anwar asked her.

'No, I live in a village in West Wales. I live on a farm. My father is a farmer', she said.

Anwar said, 'It is good to meet someone going to the same College.'

'Yes, I'm glad to meet another student. I feel strange leaving home. My name is Sue. What's your name?'

'I'm Anwar... What are you studying Sue?'

'I'm studying science, chemistry. What about you?'

'I'm doing law.' Anwar said.

Anwar and Sue talked for an hour. The time went quickly.

A refreshment trolley came through the train. When the trolley stopped near him Anwar put his hand in his pocket for money. 'Do you want a cup of coffee Sue?' he asked her.

'Oh yes, I'm thirsty, thank-you.' Sue held out money to pay for the coffee but Anwar paid the man.

'Please take the money,' Sue said. She tried to give Anwar

the money. She said, 'We are both students and you cannot afford to pay for me.'

'I want to pay for your coffee Sue. I know I'm a student but I can afford a drink for you,' Anwar said with a laugh.

But Sue still held out her money. She said, 'I insist on paying. I will not drink the coffee if you do not take my money. Sue put her cup of coffee in front of Anwar and she held out her money. She wanted to pay for her coffee. She was not going to drink the coffee if Anwar didn't take the money. Anwar sighed. He took the money and he put the coffee back in front of Sue.

'Thank you,' Sue said. 'I think students should pay for themselves but it was very kind of you.' She smiled. She had shiny, shoulder-length dark hair.

'How pretty Sue is', Anwar thought. 'She has beautiful brown eyes.' He remembered he was staring at her. He looked away and he took biscuits out of his bag.

'I hope you will have one of my mother's special biscuits. I didn't pay for them and my mother is a very good cook,' Anwar said with a smile.

'Thanks very much. They look delicious,' Sue said.

When the train arrived in London, Sue and Anwar got out of the train. Sue said 'good-bye' and she hurried away.

Anwar called out, 'I hope we can meet again in College.'

Sue stopped for a minute. She turned round. 'Yes,' she smiled and she gave Anwar a little wave. Soon she was gone.

Anwar saw his Aunty and Uncle in the station. They were waving and smiling at him. 'Welcome to London Anwar,' his Uncle said. 'The car is near. Come this way. We will soon be home and your Aunty has cooked a good meal for us.'

'Who was the girl I saw you talking to?' Aunty Khadiga asked.

'Oh, she is someone I met on the train.' Anwar pretended Sue was not important.

'Is she a student too?' Aunty asked.

'How long will it take to drive to your house?' Anwar said. He wanted Aunty to stop asking questions about Sue.

'We live only twenty minutes from here,' Uncle Tom said. 'Now, Khadiga. Stop talking about people on the train. Anwar is probably hungry'. Anwar was glad his Aunty did not talk about Sue any more.

But he hoped to see Sue in College tomorrow.

Chapter 6

The First Week in College

Anwar had a good sleep in Aunty and Uncle's house. He got up early the next day, at 6 o'clock. He talked with his Uncle for an hour after breakfast. At 8 o'clock he was on his way to University. King's College was in the Strand in central London. It was a very old, important-looking building.

New students had to go to a large hall. There were many older students waiting there. The older students wanted to tell new students about College Clubs. 'Come and join the swimming club,' a student said. Anwar shook his head. 'No thanks!' The only sport Anwar really liked was football. He played football quite well.

Anwar went to the coffee machine to buy a coffee. He spoke to a girl who was standing by the machine. She wasn't friendly. When Anwar asked the girl what she was studying the girl said quickly, 'History' and she looked away out of the window. She didn't want to talk to Anwar.

Another student started to talk to Anwar. His name was Paul. He was friendly. Anwar and Paul were pleased when they discovered that they were both studying law. They agreed to go to the first class together the next day.

Suddenly Anwar saw the girl who was on the train on the other side of the hall. She was talking to a woman student. Sue was quite short. She was also slim and graceful. She was wearing a pretty blue jumper and a long black skirt.

‘Anwar - I don’t think you’re listening to me?’ his new friend Paul said.

‘I’m sorry Paul,’ Anwar said. ‘Will you excuse me - I have seen someone I know and I want to say ‘hallo’ to her?’

Paul laughed. ‘Oh yes Anwar! Which pretty girl do you want to speak to?’

‘Her name is Sue. I met her on the train.’

‘Ok. You go and speak to her. I will see you tomorrow Anwar. Shall we meet at 10 o’clock?’

‘Yes - that will be great! See you tomorrow Paul’

Anwar started to walk across the big hall to meet Sue. Suddenly, he saw a tall young man going to speak to her. The young man was dark haired and very good-looking. He touched Sue on her arm. Anwar stopped and he watched them. Sue’s face lit up. She gave the young man a big smile and she hugged him. The young man talked to Sue. Sue smiled and laughed all the time as if she liked him very much.

Anwar’s heart sank. He thought, ‘How silly I am. Of course it’s ok if Sue has special friends.’ But... his heart said it

wasn't ok. He turned away quickly and he walked out of the hall. 'I will not speak to Sue today,' he thought.

When Anwar went out of the hall, he decided to go up the large marble steps and look at the College rooms on the first floor. Kings College was in the centre of London, in the Strand. The College was in a lovely old building but Anwar was not thinking about the building.

'Who was with Sue?' he wondered.

He was glad he met Paul today. It was nice to have a friend in College.

'I will go back to Aunty and Uncle now,' he thought. 'I will come to College early tomorrow and meet Paul. I will be glad when College starts and I have lots of studying. If I have a lot of work I can stop thinking about Sue.'

Anwar walked downstairs. He was passing the hall where he had seen Sue. A lot of students were leaving the hall. He heard Sue's voice shouting. 'Anwar!' He turned to look. Sue smiled and waved. 'I've been looking for you Anwar', she said happily. 'Can you come here?' The tall young man was still standing next to Sue.

Reluctantly, Anwar went to speak to Sue.

'Anwar, I want you to meet my cousin Gareth,' she said. Gareth put out his hand to shake Anwar's hand. Sue said

‘cousin’- Gareth was her cousin! Suddenly, Anwar felt better!

‘Hallo Anwar,’ said Gareth. He was friendly. ‘Sue said she met you on the train.’

‘Yes, that’s right,’ Anwar answered.

‘Can you excuse me for a few minutes?’ Gareth asked them. ‘I have to speak to my Professor. Perhaps we can all have lunch when I get back?’ Gareth hurried away.

‘Gareth passed his degree in Kings College last summer,’ Sue told Anwar. ‘He came back to College today to meet me. He’s very nice. He’s getting married this summer to my friend from school.’ Sue talked happily. Anwar nodded, he didn’t speak a lot but now he felt cheerful.

‘I saw you going out of the hall Anwar and I called you but you went so fast,’ Sue told him.

Anwar did not tell Sue he left quickly when he saw Sue with Gareth. He said, ‘Your cousin is friendly.’

‘Oh yes, Gareth’s a sweetie. I’m very fond of him.’

Gareth came back in ten minutes. He said, ‘I know some good cheap places to eat. Are you coming to have lunch with us Anwar?’

‘I hope you will come with us Anwar,’ Sue said. ‘We are going to a really interesting Greek restaurant.’ Sue sounded as if she wanted Anwar to go to lunch with them. ‘Thank you

very much. I would love to come', he said.

'We must speak English with Anwar,' Sue said to her cousin. Anwar looked surprised. Sue said, 'Gareth and I speak Welsh - when we are home or with the family.'

'I don't mind if you speak Welsh I like to hear other languages,' Anwar said. Sue laughed. 'Oh, no! We'll speak English. Do you speak a different language at home Anwar?'

'Yes, I speak Urdu to my parents. I know a little Welsh I did Welsh at school. I took GCSE in Welsh and French.'

The Greek restaurant was a friendly place. The waiter knew Gareth. Sue, Gareth and Anwar laughed and chatted like old friends. Gareth told Sue and Anwar about life in College. Anwar started to feel very happy. He thought, 'I'm going to enjoy these years in College in London.'

Chapter 7

Anwar Looks For Sue

Anwar felt happy as he travelled on the underground train to his Aunty and Uncle's house in South London. He thought about the day. Sue and Gareth were friendly. Perhaps he could ask Sue to have lunch with him next week.

Suddenly, Anwar remembered he did not know Sue's surname or where she lived. He didn't have Sue's telephone number either.

'It doesn't matter,' he thought. 'We are in the same College. I will see her soon. I will bump into her one day.'

The next few weeks Anwar worked hard. Paul was a good friend. Anwar and Paul liked to argue about law and they drank lots of coffee while they talked. Anwar hoped every day to see Sue but he did not. There were hundreds of students in College and Anwar and Sue were studying different subjects.

Anwar walked near the science rooms everyday. He hoped to see Sue but he never saw her. Every week Paul asked Anwar to come to College dances.

'Come and meet some of the other students Anwar,' Paul said. 'There are lots of nice girls at the dances. You cannot

work all the time.’ Every week he asked Anwar to go to the disco at College. ‘Come to the disco this Saturday Anwar, I will meet you there,’ Paul asked Anwar again.

‘No, I don’t think I can come.’

‘You work too much Anwar. You must enjoy University too.’

Anwar didn’t speak.

‘Please come, Anwar. Come once - perhaps you will like it.’

Anwar sighed, ‘Yes. Ok, I will come once to please you Paul but if I don’t want to come again you must not nag me!’

‘I agree,’ Paul said.

Soon it was Saturday night and Anwar was going to the disco! He looked attractive in his red shirt and dark jacket and he felt excited when he walked into the disco. The music was loud and the lights were bright in the dark room.

Anwar saw students he recognised. They waved and nodded. It was a friendly atmosphere. Paul was standing near the bar. Anwar bought a fruit juice for himself because Paul had a drink in his hand. He stood next to Paul. In a few minutes a girl spoke to Paul and he asked her to dance.

Anwar was left alone. He felt shy. Now he was sorry he had come to the disco. He didn’t want to ask a girl to dance in case she said ‘No’. He saw a girl sitting near him. She was tapping her feet to the music. Anwar plucked up his courage

and he asked her to dance. She said 'yes'.

The girl who danced with him was called Ann. When the music stopped Anwar asked Ann if she wanted to go to see a film next week. She was friendly but she said 'no'.

'I'm sorry Anwar. I can't go to see a film with you I have a boyfriend at home in Birmingham,' she said. When they finished talking another student asked Ann if she wanted to dance. 'Excuse me,' she said politely to Anwar and she went to dance. Again Anwar was alone.

'I will not come to a disco again,' Anwar thought. 'I do not like it'.

Suddenly, Anwar felt a touch on his arm. Turning round he saw Sue looking up at him. 'Stranger,' she said with a smile. 'Where have you been for five weeks?'

Sue and Anwar talked for a long time. The music was very loud and they had to shout sometimes. Then Sue said, 'I have to leave the disco now - I must go back to my digs. I don't want to be late.'

Anwar said, 'I insist on taking you back to your digs'.

'I cannot ask you to come in my room,' Sue said. 'It is too late and I'm very tired.'

'That's ok,' Anwar agreed.

Sue did not live very far from the College. They arrived at

Sue's digs in half an hour. When Sue got her key out of her bag Anwar said, 'Will you come to the Film Club with me next Thursday, Sue?'

Sue nodded. 'Yes, I have heard there is a good film on Thursday. Can I meet you in the College hall at 7 o'clock Anwar? My class finishes at 6 o'clock.' Sue asked.

Anwar agreed. He walked down the road and he waved to Sue as he left her. 'See you Thursday,' he called quietly.

Anwar felt very happy. He travelled back to his Aunty and Uncle's house on the underground train. At last he knew where Sue lived and she was going to see a film with him!

Chapter 8

Going to see a film

Anwar telephoned his parents every week. Today, his mother answered the phone. 'Anwar, I can hear you are very cheerful,' his mother said.

Anwar smiled. 'I can never hide anything from my mother,' he thought. 'She always knows my feelings.' He said, 'Yes, I had a good week in College Mother. I'm coming home soon. There are six weeks to the Christmas holidays.'

'Why was this week good?' his mother asked. Anwar grinned and he raised his eyes to the ceiling as he held the phone. He knew his mother wanted to know if he had a girlfriend. Anwar was not going to tell her about Sue.

Anwar's mother wanted him to marry her friend's daughter but Anwar wanted to choose his wife. He did not want his mother to choose a girl for him. His mother asked again, 'Well, why was it a good week Anwar?'

He told her the good news from College. 'I had my essay back. I had the best mark in the class. The Professor said if I work like this all the time I will have a very good future.'

'That is wonderful news Anwar. Your father will be very proud of you.' His mother forgot about girls and she called

Anwar's father, 'Come and speak to Anwar, Zaheer.'

After Anwar had talked to his father he put the phone down and he looked at his watch. He must leave the house now. He was meeting Sue at 7 o'clock to go to the Film Club. Anwar arrived early in College and he waited in the large hall. At quarter past seven Sue was not there. The film was starting soon. A girl came into the hall. She walked towards Anwar.

'Are you Anwar?' she asked.

'Yes.'

'I have a message for you. I'm sorry Sue cannot come tonight. She asked me to give you this note.' Anwar tried not to look upset. Sue was not coming. When the girl left the hall Anwar opened Sue's note.

Dear Anwar,

I'm very sorry I cannot come tonight because my sister is in London. Will you excuse me? Perhaps we can meet at the Film Club in two weeks? If you do not want to meet me - please put a note in my pigeon hole. If you do want to come - I will be in the College hall at 7 o'clock. I will come next time!

Sue.

Anwar felt much better. It was ok. Sue wanted to meet him again. He put the note in his pocket. He went to the film by himself but he didn't enjoy it very much.

Anwar and Sue went to the Film Club two weeks later. They met often after that and they had lunch together once or twice every week. When Christmas time came they were very good friends. They were both looking forward to going home.

Chapter 9

Anwar's father is wise

Sue and Anwar travelled home on the same train. When the train arrived in Cardiff Anwar got out. The train was held up at Cardiff for thirty minutes and Sue got off the train to talk to him until it was time for the train to leave the station.



Sue was going home to Carmarthen. Anwar knew she lived on a farm and she had one sister and three brothers. Sue's father was meeting her at the station in Carmarthen.

As Anwar waved goodbye to Sue, he thought how pretty she looked in her red jacket. Her dark hair was shining and she had pretty white teeth.

Anwar enjoyed the holiday. It was good to be home again. Home was different. His mother and father treated him like a man now. They didn't worry about where he was going and what time he was coming home. Anwar talked to his father on many nights until very late.

Once, his father asked him about Sue. 'You talk about this young lady Sue quite a lot Anwar. Are you going to bring her home to see us one day?' his father asked.

Anwar wasn't sure what to say. He thought, My parents will never want to meet a girl who is not from our community. 'Oh, she's just a good friend,' Anwar said quickly.

'If a young lady is a good friend with a young man of your age – I think it is important?' Anwar's father looked straight into the eyes of his son.

'Yes,' Anwar agreed reluctantly. 'Sue is important to me. College is fun because Sue is there and she's good for me. I want to work hard, because....' He stopped talking and he

looked down at the carpet.

‘... because one day perhaps you will be more than friends?’ His father’s voice was kind. Anwar looked worried.

‘Will you and my mother be upset if Sue is more than a friend? I don’t know how Sue feels about me because she is not from our community. I do not know what to do father?’ Anwar wanted to talk about Sue. He was glad his father seemed to understand.

‘Well, it’s a good idea if you are friends first,’ his father said slowly. ‘You have two years more in College - that’s a good time to know each other better. Don’t rush Anwar, treat her with respect.’

Anwar’s father stood up. He pulled the curtains across the window and he touched his son’s shoulder gently. ‘You have grown up in another country Anwar and modern life is changing fast all over the world. Your mother and I know you may fall in love with a women from this country.’

There was a few minutes silence. Anwar’s father said, ‘Is Sue a religious girl?’

‘I’m not sure,’ Anwar answered. ‘I know she believes in God. She is a very kind person and she wants to do good things with her life. And...’ He stopped.

‘And?’ his father said.

‘And... I want to choose the woman I marry, father.’

Anwar’s father nodded. ‘Whether you choose a wife or we choose - we cannot be sure you will be happy. If your wife is a good person and she loves you, that is important.’

‘I will ask Sue if she will come and visit my family in the summer. Is that ok father?’

‘Yes. But, I hope you’ll meet the young women your mother and I want you to meet too. Women from our own community and religion? You are friends with Sue but I think it is a good idea to meet other women as well. One day you will choose and we will accept the woman you choose my son.’

Anwar went to sleep that night full of love and respect for his father. ‘How wise my father is,’ he thought. ‘I hope one day I will be like him with my own children...’

Chapter 10

A Quarrel

The first year in College went quickly. Sue and Anwar went to concerts, films and restaurants together and they talked about many things. They did not always agree and sometimes they argued fiercely.

Sometimes Sue told Anwar how to speak Welsh and she asked Anwar to teach her a little Urdu. Anwar was amazed how clever Sue was. She learned a little Urdu very quickly.

One day they talked about farmers. Anwar was reading about farmers in his paper. Anwar said, 'Farmers need to change their way of living. They cannot have money from the government for sheep if people do not want to buy a lot of lamb to eat.'

Sue was furious. 'How dare you speak like that when you know nothing about farming,' she told Anwar.

'But the paper said some farmers are the problem...'
Anwar started to explain what he was reading but Sue was very angry.

'Everyone is against farmers,' she shouted. 'You have no idea how hard my brothers and my father work. They are up very early, working outside in every kind of weather. I'd like

to see you do it. You will earn ten times more than a farmer when you are a lawyer and you will not work half as hard as a farmer works.'

'But in the paper it says...' Anwar spoke quietly but Sue stood up.

'I'm going,' she said angrily. 'I don't want to hear what you think about farmers.' She snatched her books and red jacket and she left the cafe. Anwar was very shaken up. He had never seen Sue so upset.

The next day Anwar went to the cafe but Sue wasn't there. He telephoned her digs but the landlady said Sue was out. He didn't know what to do.

Anwar wrote a little note and he put the envelope through the door of her digs.

Dear Sue,

I am very sorry I upset you when we met. I am sorry I was rude about farmers. Of course you know a lot more about farmers than I do. Please excuse my big mouth! I hope you will come to the café tomorrow.

from, Anwar.

He went to the cafe the next day. He hoped to see Sue. She didn't come and Anwar felt depressed. The next

morning when he was looking in his pigeon hole in College, Anwar found a letter from Sue.

Dear Anwar,

Thanks for your note. It's ok. It was my fault. I am sorry we quarrelled. I was too angry with you. But sometimes it's hard when I hear people criticise farmers and I know how hard my father works. Perhaps we are meeting too much and we must have some new friends? Will you meet me for lunch in the cafe on Monday? We can talk about our friendship.

Sue.

Anwar had many mixed up feelings after he read Sue's letter. He was pleased Sue was going to meet him for lunch. But Sue said they must have new friends? Why?

Anwar was sitting in the cafe at 12 o'clock on Monday. He had two cups of coffee before Sue arrived. She was late. It was 12.30 when she came. They chatted and Sue was friendly. When it was time to leave the cafe Sue said, 'Can we meet here in six weeks?'

Anwar frowned. 'Six weeks is a long time - I like meeting you every week.'

'We are meeting too much Anwar. We cannot meet every

week. We have a lot of work with exams coming soon. Go out with a different girl if you want to, I don't mind.'

'But I do not want to meet another girl. I like meeting you.' Anwar put his hand out. He was going to touch Sue's hand but she pulled her hand away quickly and she stood up.

'No, don't Anwar. Go out with a new girl if you want to and I will go out with different students if I want to. We must both be free. Good luck with your studies.' She stood up.

'But...'

Sue did not let Anwar speak. She said, 'Do you want to meet me here on the 20th June? The 20th June is when the exams finish and it is two weeks before we finish College for the summer holiday?'

Anwar felt sad. He didn't want Sue to go out with a different young man but he wanted to see her again.

'Ok Sue, I will meet you on the 20th June. I hope the weeks will go quickly,' he smiled.

Sue smiled briefly. 'I must go now,' she said.

Chapter 11

College - without Sue

The next few weeks Anwar worked hard for his exams. He wanted to forget Sue. She told Anwar to go out with different girls but he didn't want to. He wanted to go out with Sue.

One of the girls in Anwar's class liked him. The girl's name was Sally. She always sat next to Anwar in College and sometimes she insisted on buying him a coffee. One day Sally asked Anwar if he wanted to go for lunch with her. 'No thanks Sally,' Anwar said. 'I must study'.

'Oh, come on Anwar. You can't study all the time. You have to eat.'

So, reluctantly, Anwar went with Sally to the cafe. Anwar bought Sally a sandwich and cup of tea. All the time he looked at the door. Anwar hoped to see Sue coming into the cafe, but she didn't. Sally noticed Anwar wasn't listening to her. 'Are you looking for Sue? You usually have lunch with her don't you?' Sally asked Anwar.

'Oh no, we are both free,' Anwar said.

'I saw her with Jeff Thomas the maths student,' Sally said. 'Everyone says Jeff Thomas is very clever.'

Anwar felt depressed but he answered quietly.

‘Sue is free.’

‘Oh, good. I thought she was special to you.’

Anwar didn’t speak but he thought, ‘Sue is special to me but I am not special to her.’ He felt depressed.

‘Will you come to the film club tonight Anwar?’ Sally asked.

‘No, I don’t think I will go.’

‘Please come Anwar,’ Sally said. We can forget the exam for a little while we watch the film.

Anwar didn’t answer.

‘Please Anwar, come to the film,’ Sally said.

‘Ok, I will come.’ .

‘Great! I’ll meet you in the hall at seven o’clock Anwar.’

When it was time to meet Sally, Anwar was sorry he had said ‘yes’ to Sally. She was nice but she was not Sue. He didn’t enjoy the evening very much.

After the film Sally talked a lot. Anwar did not say very much.

‘Are you worried about the exams Anwar?’ Sally asked. But Anwar was not thinking about the exams. He was thinking about Sue. Was Sue very friendly with this student called Jeff? The next few weeks Anwar tried not to think of Sue and he worked hard. Soon the exams were over.

Tomorrow the results were out.

Anwar got up early. He didn't want breakfast. Aunty and Uncle said 'good luck' when he left the house.

There was a crowd of students in the hall when Anwar arrived in College. They were all looking at the notice boards. Some students were laughing and one girl was crying.

Sally hurried up to Anwar. She threw her arms round him and she gave him a hug. 'Congratulations, brain box. You have the best marks in the first year and you have won the First Year Prize!' Sally said.

Anwar was thrilled. 'Did you pass your exams?' he asked. 'Yes, I've passed too.' Sally looked very happy.

Anwar was glad for Sally. He was sorry he didn't like her as much as she liked him. Sally was kind. He put his hand on her arm and he said, 'Well done Sally! I'm very pleased for you.'

Suddenly, Anwar saw Sue standing near the door of the hall. She was watching him! Perhaps Sue saw Sally hug Anwar! He walked to Sue quickly but she wasn't smiling. He wanted to tell Sue that she was special to him but Sue turned away and she hurried out of the hall.

Sally ran to Anwar and she pulled his arm. 'Will you come

out tonight, to celebrate?’ she asked Anwar.

He shook his head. ‘No, I’m sorry Sally. I can’t.’

Sally sighed. ‘I think your heart is somewhere else,’ she said sympathetically. ‘You’re hooked, I can see.’

Anwar smiled sadly at Sally. ‘Perhaps,’ he said.

‘Go and speak to Sue. I won’t stop you,’ Sally said.

‘Thanks, I will see if I can find her.’

Anwar hurried out of the hall but Sue wasn’t there. He went to the café but Sue was not there either. He went back to Aunt and Uncle’s house. He must tell them his exam results and he wanted to telephone his mother and father.

Anwar’s parents were pleased with his exam results but Anwar wasn’t very happy. Of course he was glad to have good exam results but Sue was on his mind all the time.

Next Wednesday on the 20th June he was going to meet Sue. She wanted to meet Anwar and talk on the 20th June. He was going to meet Sue at the cafe. He felt nervous. Perhaps Sue didn’t want to be his friend any more. Perhaps she wanted to say goodbye?

Chapter 12

The richest man in town

On Saturday Anwar's father phoned. He said, 'Can you come home for a few days. The doctor says your mother must have an operation and she wants to see you?'

Anwar took the train to Cardiff that afternoon. His mother was so happy to see him. On Monday she had the operation and it was successful. Anwar wanted to help his parents so he wasn't able to go back to London for lunch with Sue on Wednesday. He telephoned to tell Sue .

'Don't worry. I'm glad your mum's ok', Sue said. 'When are you coming back to London?'

'I'm coming back next Saturday.'

'Can I meet you at Paddington Station Anwar? I want to talk to you. What time is your train?'

'Yes, please come to the station Sue. I will be glad to see you. My train arrives in London at eleven o'clock.'

'I'll wait at the station at eleven,' Sue said. 'Tell your mother I hope she's better soon.'

When Anwar put the phone down he thought, 'I wonder why Sue wants to meet me at the station. Perhaps she wants to tell me she has a new boyfriend.'

When Saturday came Anwar got up early. His mother was much better. 'I will be home for the summer holiday next week. I can help you a lot in the summer,' Anwar told her.

Anwar's father was not going to the station. He stayed in the flat to look after his wife. Anwar walked to the station. It was a lovely sunny day. He was happy because he was going to see Sue. When he walked down the road near the station, he saw an old lady fall down. She was very upset and crying. Anwar thought she had hurt her back.

Anwar used his mobile phone and he dialled 999. He asked for an ambulance. Anwar waited with the lady. Her name was Mrs. Jones. The ambulance arrived and the man and woman in the ambulance thanked Anwar and they took the old lady to hospital.

When Anwar arrived at Cardiff station his train had gone. He had to wait one hour for the next train. A few minutes later he heard a man speaking on the loudspeaker. The man said the train going to London had crashed. Twenty people were hurt! Perhaps it was better that Anwar missed the train.

Now, he had to wait a long time. All the trains were very late because of the accident. Anwar felt worried. He thought, 'Maybe Sue will think I don't want to meet her.'

When he arrived in London Anwar looked at the clock in

Paddington Station. It was nearly two o'clock and Anwar told Sue he was arriving at eleven o'clock. He thought, 'Sue will not wait three hours for me.'

Sue was not on the platform. Anwar walked along with the other passengers. He saw a large notice.

For information about the Cardiff train
accident go to the office near Platform 1.

Anwar looked around the station. Sue was not there. Perhaps she had gone home. Suddenly, Anwar saw Sue's red jacket, in the distance. Anwar waved but Sue didn't see him. She looked very upset.

Anwar called 'Sue!' He saw Sue looking around at all the people. He walked quickly towards her.

'Sue!' he shouted again.

She turned round. Suddenly she saw Anwar waving. With a big smile she ran to meet him. She looked very happy. Without thinking Anwar held out his arms.

'Thank God you're safe,' Sue said as she hugged him. 'I thought you were hurt in the accident.'

'I'm fine. I missed the train so I wasn't in the accident.'

Sue moved away from him. Anwar didn't want to let her

go. He put a hand on her arm and he whispered in her ear, 'I missed you very much. I cannot wait six weeks to see you again. You are very special, Sue.'



He looked at her to see what she was thinking. Sue was smiling and she had tears in her eyes. 'I wanted to see you too Anwar. You are special to me.'

Anwar smiled. He held Sue's hand. 'Let's go and have something to eat,' he said happily. 'I'm hungry.'

Anwar and Sue walked out of the station to look for a cafe. Anwar stopped. 'Wait a minute, Sue!' he said. He took money out of his pocket and he put £10 into a money box for the poor.

Sue was shocked. 'Anwar, how can you afford to give so much money?' she asked.

'Me? I'm the richest man in town,' he laughed and they walked across the road together.

People in the book

- Anwar - A student from Cardiff
- Miah - Anwar's mother
- Zaheer - Anwar's father
- Mohammed - Zaheer's friend
- Uzma - Mohammed's daughter
- Sue - A student who lives on a farm in Wales
- Gareth - Sue's cousin
- Paul - Anwar's friend
- Ann - A student
- Tom - Anwar's Uncle
- Khadiga - Anwar's Aunty

N.B. A few unusual words are explained at the back of the book

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ANWAR

by Gill Winn

Illustrations: Genji

Anwar was born and brought up in Cardiff. His parents were born in a small village in Pakistan.

Anwar wanted to study law. One day he met a girl called Sue...

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