no one—including you—can stop this from happening. You will become my wife by tonight,” he vowed.

Listening to those words, her legs gave out from under her, and she collapsed on her knees unable to swallow the defeat.

“How this is so messed up. Why am I cowering in fear?” she whispered, unable to work up a louder voice. She kept her eyes on his face, pleading. “Please stop this marriage.”

He didn’t respond, and neither did he do anything for a long moment, just kept his eyes firmly locked on her face.

After an indeterminate amount of time, he broke the deafening silence. “So. You are my bride-to-be,” he stated rather than asked in a deep voice.

In India to meet with her late father’s relatives. When she got there, what transpired was right out of her nightmares. Stuck in a land of no rules or law, where family honor meant everything, she was to be bound by revenge to a family, a bright career as a doctor, and a man who was her best friend with a possibility of turning into something more.

But one phone call and an impulsive decision changed it all... She headed for a two week vacation to a place...