

Armchair Adventures: An Interactive Story Podcast For Kids

A Hindu Wedding Adventure

Part 2

Connie: Welcome to the Armchair Adventures Travel Agency, journeys of the imagination. I'm Head Travel Agent and Host, Connie!

Music: Armchair Adventures theme tune

Connie: G'day, afternoon or bonne nuit, wherever you're listening from adventurers. The voices of this episode's special guest adventurers are...

Adventurers all say their names

Henry
Harry
Lilly
Ameilia
Isaac
Isabelle
Elizabeth

Connie: Hi Everyone!

Adventurers: Hi Connie!

Connie: You too can star in an episode of Armchair Adventures as one of our special guest adventurers. All you need to do is ask your grown up if you can join the Armchair Adventures fan club on patreon. For more info, simply head to the Armchair Adventures website. That's www.armchair-adventures.co.uk, and click on the adventurer fan club page!

Connie: On an Armchair Adventure we can go anywhere we like from the comfort of where we are right now, so they're perfect for everyone, no matter what age you are. Restart. Call. Now.

Hello?

SFX phone ringing

All the customers say hello

Connie: Last time we met, we were in Gujarat, in India, with our friends from Dipak Dristi. I'm going to Sura's sister's wedding and I want to

understand more about the traditions and rituals involved in a Hindu wedding.

SFX Hubbub of ensemble dressing Connie.

Ada: Stand still, Connie.

Connie: Sorry! The villagers have kindly got together to find me something to wear. I'm being dressed in a traditional outfit for the wedding!

Pauline: Oh, the red and gold looks lovely on you!

Connie: Thank you! And since now I'm her bridesmaid, I really want to make an effort! Anyway, I wanted to understand more about the Hindu wedding, so we decided to recreate the Baraat...

SFX Dhol drums beating a rhythm

Connie: Where we travel from village to village, like the groom and his family and friends do traditionally on their way to his wedding.

SFX The bullcart is moving

Cyril: *(Waving to everybody)* Hello! Jay Shree Krishna!

Villagers: Jay Shree Krishna!

Connie: Cyril played the groom and travelled on a bullcart. A balad gardi.

SFX Bull moos

SFX singing and music

Connie: We were treated so kindly and everybody joined in the fun.

Connie: Then we took part in the Mehndi, which is a party for the bride and her guests.

The Villagers chatter and giggling

Connie: We had our hands and feet painted with henna patterns. But then came the monsoon – strong winds and heavy rain!

SFX heavy rainfall splashing onto mud

Connie: The path was blocked and we couldn't get out!! So we started worrying about how we were going to ever get home. And then Sura called...

SFX Sura's chipmunk voice

Connie : To say that her sister wants me to be back by tomorrow for her wedding. But how are we going to get there?

Cyril: We could snorkel?

SFX swimming

Steve: Find a canoe?

SFX splashing

Keith: A surfboard!

SFX wipeout

Ada: Are there no elephants handy?

SFX elephant trumpeting

Connie: Adventurers, do you have any ideas?

SFX Ding

Adventurer: A dinghy.

Adventurer: What about a rocket?

Adventurer: We could zorb!

Connie: They're all great ideas. But we might have to accept that we're staying here for a bit longer.

Pat: And that's no bad thing! It's wonderful here.

Connie: I know, I like it, too. But they need me there tomorrow!

Anne: You look fabulous in your outfit, Connie.

Connie: Do you think so?

Christine: Give us a twirl!

SFX Connie turning in voluminous material.

Indu: You're wearing a lehenga. Which is the skirt.

Hansa: And a choli, which is the top.

Lalita: Let's finish it off with a red rose for your hair.

Connie: Thank you. What is thank you in Gujarati?

Kanta: Thank you is Aabhar.

Connie: Aabhar. Thank you to everyone for your kindness, for giving me an outfit to wear to the wedding. It's so kind of you.

Villagers: Bhale Padharo.

Lalita: Time to eat!

Keith: Wonderful.

Pauline: I can't wait!

Connie: Thank you very much. It all looks so lovely. But I can't eat anything right now. I'm so nervous!

Christine: We'll be alright, Connie.

Pat: Come on, sit down and eat something.

SFX torrential rain

Connie: *(Sighs)* It's still raining!

anne: There's nothing we can do about it.

Connie: I could just pace around over here?

Ada: That won't achieve anything! Come on, sit down and get something to eat.

SFX Hubbub of ensemble rushing around, setting the table with tin plates and cups.

Connie: It does smell good!

SFX water pouring into a cup

SFX Hubbub of people serving food onto tin plates.

Indu: This is dhokla, a savoury sponge dish from this area.

Kanta: And pahaadi saag, which is a curry with Indian beans.

Pauline: It is delicious.

Cyril: I need the recipe!

Lalita: This is a traditional Gujarati meal to eat during the monsoon season.

Christine: It tastes wonderful. Thank you so much.

SFX Spoons on tin plates

Everybody is enjoying their meal

Lalita: Now that we've had our dinner, I'm going to tell you a story.

Connie: Oh, that would be lovely. But I'm not able to concentrate. Is it still raining?

Steve: Connie, come on! It's going to be alright. We aren't going anywhere tonight. Relax and enjoy this wonderful hospitality.

Connie: Sorry Steve. Yes, you're right.

Lalita: My Father used to tell me this story so that I felt safe and protected at bedtime. It's about Hanuman. He was the son of the God of wind.

SFX Wind blowing

Lalita: When he was younger he woke up very hungry and, when he couldn't find anything to eat, he saw the sun, which looked like an orange.

SFX bright sun glowing

Kanta: He got hold of the sun and tried to eat it!

Dinesh: The sun God was worried and all of the other Gods stepped in to stop him eating the sun and turning the world to darkness.

Indu: Indra, the King of the Gods, rode in on a white elephant.

SFX white elephant thundering along

Indu: And pushed Hanuman away with his powerful weapon, the thunderbolt.

SFX thunderbolt zap

Indu: It hit Hanuman in his face, which started to bloat.

SFX Face bloating. Like a balloon inflating

Hansa: His father, Vayu, the God of wind, picked him up and took him to a cave to nurse him better.

SFX Gust of wind

Lalita: The moment he went inside the cave, the wind stopped blowing. Men and animals gasped for breath.

Indu: All of the Gods came to ask Vayu to come out. They gave Hanuman great powers.

Hansa: They granted him strength, fearlessness, knowledge and wisdom.

Kanta: And he became immortal.

Dinesh: Vayu and Hanuman came out of the cave and thanked the Gods.

Lalita: Hanuman is now a powerful symbol of strength, courage and success.

Indu: And at night, children are told to think of Hanuman.

Christine: I can see how inspiring the story would be.

Anne: Magical.

Connie: *(Yawns)* It's a great story.

Music: Villagers sing Hanuman Chalisa

Dinesh: They're singing Hanuman Chalisa. About the God, Hanuman.

Connie: That was so lovely. *(Yawns)* I'm ready for bed, now!

Lilly: *(Yawning)* I'm so sleepy!

Connie: *(Quietly, as if praying to herself)* I really, really hope the rain stops tomorrow. I'm having the best adventure, but we're stuck and we can't get home and it's reeeeeally important to Sura and her family that I get there in time for the wedding. Please, please, please let the sun come out and dry the rain up, so I can go to the wedding. I've got my outfit

now and everything and I REALLY want to do a good job for Sura.
Please, please, please. Thank you. Goodnight.

SFX Light being switched off

Scene 4

SFX Sunrise

Anne: What a glorious sunrise!

Pat: Oh, isn't it lovely?

Pauline: It's stopped raining!

Keith: Connie, are you awake?

Connie: *(Groggily)* What, what time is it?

Ada: It's time to wake up and come and see this!

SFX Connie's barefoot footsteps

Connie: What? Oh wow! The path is dry! We might actually make it back in time
for the wedding! I'm so grateful for the sun!

****Promo swap begins****

Advert plays

****Promo swap ends****

SFX Phone ringing

Connie: Who's that? Oh, it's Sura calling!

SFX Answering phone

Connie: Hiya!

SFX Sura's chipmunk voice

Connie: Yep! We're heading back.

SFX Sura's chipmunk voice

Connie: Oh great! I'll let them know. Ok, better go!

SFX Sura's chipmunk voice

Connie: Bye, Sura!

SFX Phone call ending

Connie: Sura is so excited for us to get to the wedding. And she wants to invite you all!

The customers all cheer and are very grateful

Connie: And you, adventurers! You're coming, too!

Adventurer: Yay! I'd love to go!

Adventurer: Fantastic!

Adventurer: See you there!

Keith: Fantastic! That'll be so interesting!

Anne: I'll have to buy a new hat.

Connie: We've been made so welcome here, thank you for everything.

Villagers: Bhale Padharo.

Dinesh: The villagers have something for you all.

Lalita: Because you will all need something to wear, the villagers have brought some clothes to donate to you.

Christine: That's so kind, thank you.

SFX ensemble handing over clothes

The customers thank the villagers

Hansa: Saris and jewellery for the women. Shirts and trousers for the men.
Dhoti and kurta.

SFX Hubbub of customers changing into clothes

Connie: Wow! Give us a twirl!

SFX Customers oohing and aahing in their new outfits

Connie: You all look so smart! The henna completes the outfit! Well, I might look the part, and I know about the baraat, the groom's journey to the wedding. And the mehndi, the bride's party before the wedding. But I don't really know what's actually going to happen at the wedding.

Scene 5

Music: Dhol drums

SFX Party atmosphere

Hansa: This is an Armchair Adventure, so we can do whatever we like, Connie. Let's create the rest of the wedding now!

Lalita: We'll do a shortened version of a real Hindu wedding!

Connie: That would be brilliant. Let's do it!

Hansa: Ok. Then let's begin.

Indu: Here comes the Groom!

The customers and villagers cheer

Lalita: At the end of his Baraat.

Christine: He's having something red painted onto his forehead.

Dinesh: It's a tilak. A welcome from the Bride's family.

Indu: All of the men from the groom's side receive a tilak and they all hug each other.

SFX customers in awe

Pauline: The Bride looks beautiful.

Keith: Stunning in red and gold.

Kanta: The place where the wedding ceremony takes place is called a Mandap.

Ada: Why is the groom taking off his shoes?

Dinesh: It is the custom.

SFX ensemble giggling

Steve: Someone's done away with his shoes!

Cyril: Hey, give 'em back!

Lalita: Don't worry! It's another custom! The Bride's family will pinch his shoes and hide them. He has to pay a ransom to get them back!

Connie: Really?!

Pat: How much will that cost him?

Dinesh: Hundreds of pounds sometimes. He'll try to knock it down, but he has to pay it, or he can't leave!

Cyril: Nobody would want to pinch my shoes!

Ada: I can smell some really stinky feet!

SFX customers, pooooe, eww smelly

Pat: Ooh, I like this pair. I might swap them for mine.

Lilly: Hands off!

Steve: Cobblers to this!

SFX A wave of ssshh

Hansa: *(Whispered)* Next, it is the marriage ceremony.

Indu: The hast melap.

Lalita: The Groom's scarf, the chunni, is tied to the Bride's shawl. They are knotted together.

Pauline: They're tying the knot!

Dinesh: Exactly!

Hansa: They say their vows.

Dinesh: Then they walk around the holy fire four times.

Indu: Mangal Fera.

Dinesh: The fire witnesses their marriage.

Connie: Let's walk around the fire as well, adventurers!

SFX Ding

Cyril: *(As if too close to the fire)* Ee, ha, ha!

Lily: You're a bit close, Cyril!

Connie: Walk **around** the fire, Cyril. Not in it!

Indu: Then the Bride...

Connie: Dulhan!

Indu: Correct! You are learning a lot, Connie. And the Groom...

Connie: Varraja.

Indu: Receive blessings from their families. Known as Ashirwad.

Connie: Ashirwad.

Kanta: To wish them well.

Lalita: And wish them long lives, a happy marriage, good careers and a family.

The villagers wish the bride and groom a happy marriage

Anne: I'd offer them some advice, too.

Connie: What advice would you give?

Pat: Never sweat the small stuff.

Christine: Don't go to bed on an argument.

Lilly: Talk and be honest.

Connie: That's good advice for any relationship! And there are all sorts of relationships, not just Brides and Grooms. There's Grooms and

Grooms, Brides and Brides, friendships, siblings, Mother and child, father and child, there's loads!

Steve: That's true.

Hansa: When the bride leaves, she throws rice behind her.

Indu: Vidai.

Ada: Like the Bride throws her bouquet behind at other weddings.

Indu: Exactly!

Kanta: And then she walks towards her husband. And never looks back.

Pauline: I can see some similarities between the traditions.

Pat: Like tying the knot. Traditionally in our ceremonies, the Bride and Groom would have their hands tied together. It's called fastening.

Indu: And then the Bride and Groom drive away.

Connie: Wow!

Christine: It's spectacular, isn't it?

Music: Connie sings about the power of tradition

Connie: That was an incredible adventure. I've learned so much about the Gujarati traditions and those in a Hindu wedding. Thank you so much for leading our Armchair Adventure, Dipak Dristi. Aabhar.

Dinesh: You're welcome. Bhale Padharo.

Connie: I feel like I understand more now about how important traditions are.

Kanta: It gives the next generations an understanding of their cultural background.

Ada: Gives people a sense of belonging, keeps people together.

Steve: It's a connection to history. It gives you some identity, something that you all share.

Dinesh: It would be sad if traditions disappeared.

Connie: That's true. I see it now. Tradition is important. Each generation doesn't have to start again, when there have been so many years of learning before them.

Steve: Very true. Well said, Connie.

SFX Car horn honking

Connie: Oh! That'll be my Uncle Chris from the community theatre group! He's here to pick me up and take me to the wedding! How exciting! I'd better go! Thank you all so much for an incredible adventure! I'll see you all at the wedding.

All the customers say bye

Connie: End. Call. Now.

SFX phone down

Connie: Lovely.

Music: Armchair Adventures theme tune

Ian: This episode was produced in partnership with Dipak Dristi Social Group. Thank you to The National Lottery Community Fund and

National Lottery Players who have enabled us to undertake this project through their generous funding.

The End