



sanjit
GUPTA

THE BIOGRAPHY

TW: none

sanjit gupta was born and raised in kismet harbor to veena and sham gupta. he is the eldest of two children in the gupta family. growing up the gupta household was filled with the warmth of tradition and community. his mother often told stories at the dinner table of her trips to india and her own childhood in kismet harbor since she was born in kismet. his mother always talked about how important it was to stay connected to their roots, even if they were no longer in the same place. their father, whom moved to kismet harbor later in life shared how difficult it could be to adapt to moving to a new country later in life, but always ended in telling his children that he was glad that he did. together, both sham and veena, created a household where punjabi culture was celebrated through music, food and festivities.

growing up, sanjit was a curious and confident boy and in addition to that, he often stood out from other kids his age. sanjit often struggled with how to handle living in such a strongly traditional home but living in an "american small-town" on the outside. from a young age, he and aditi or addie as she were often called (though not from their parents) were close. sanjit and aditi were close enough in age that, at times, their relationship could be competitive with each other. though, that was sometimes fueled by their parents. sanjit, however, would always take on the protective older brother role, but he wasn't afraid to tease her when necessary.

sanjit enjoyed being the center of attention during family gatherings and festivals, always eager to recite a newly learned prayer, crack a joke or share his thoughts on a particular subject. despite his confident exterior, sanjit has always been deeply eager to make his parents proud which could often be the cause of mistakes that he made. the thought of disappointing them was a quiet fear that stayed with him through the entirety of his life. sanjit never shared that feeling with anyone besides his sister, aditi, at least in his early years of life. he didn't want anyone else to know how ashamed he'd be if he did disappoint them.

from a young age, sanjit had a strong sense of self. he was the type of kid that never hesitated to speak up in class, was a natural leader for group projects and was never afraid to try new activities.

teachers often appreciated his enthusiasm and leadership skills, but there were times in which people often thought that his outspoken nature was bossy more than anything else. sanjit had a flare for the dramatics, loving to charm people with stories or dramatic reenactments of events.

traditions and festivals were a huge part of the gupta household. his childhood was marked by vibrant celebrations of diwali, lohri and holi. during diwali, he loved to help decorate the home with the rest of his family with rangoli patterns and diyas, which were oil lamps. the firecrackers were always his favorite part, feeling as if he was releasing the parts of himself that would disappoint his parents as he snapped them to the ground. a close second were all the treats that his mother made for them and the rest of the family and those that wanted to celebrate. lohri was a winter celebration that held a special charm for sanjit as they gathered around the bonfire with the family and tossed sesame seeds, popcorn and sugarcane into the flames. much like other days in his life, during holi, sanjit was known as the instigator, leading his friends and family in a playful barrage of colored powders and water balloons.

in addition to festivals, food and music, sanjit's life held adventure elsewhere. he had an adventurous streak from an early age and loved exploring fields and forests around kismet harbor. he often liked to imagine himself as a daring hero or explorer. this sense of

adventurousness extended into food and he loved to experiment in the kitchen with his parents in using different spices and flavors.

he struggled, however, like many children did growing up. however, he felt his challenges came from being a punjabi kid in a predominantly non-indian community versus an inability to make or keep friends. sanjit had always been a social butterfly and could easily attract people to him (the trick had been keeping them). there were questions and misunderstandings, but he had to give it to most people, they did try to understand his world and were interested in it. however, there were always people that disinterested in what he had to offer and sanjit learned to ignore those people.

as a friend, sanjit was someone that was persuasive, learning to be so early in his life. his strong personality could easily alienate people , but could be just as quick to win them back with charm and humor over time. it's how he managed to bring women into his life. that was likely the biggest divide between him and his parents. they really pushed for a traditional lifestyle for him, no matter how many times he reminded them that they were not in mumbai anymore. he tried to tell both of his parents that he could have traditional aspects in his life but he'd likely not return to mumbai and meet someone like his mother did - it seemed unrealistic to him, but they persisted anyway.

both sports and creative pursuits interested sanjit while he was growing up. he learned cricket from his father but also dabbled in painting and more so than anything, cooking. his family took annual trips to india, allowing him to try plenty of new foods and have new festival experiences when they went, as they went at different times of the year each year. sanjit was a bit older when he started showing an interest in the art of winemaking and was fascinated by vineyards as a whole. his parents always encouraged both of their children's interests, even if they came with reminders that they should find interest in something that would make them successful in life.

sanjit took this fascination and went to college for viticulture and enology. he wanted to continue to dive into world that he was captivated by and while it was a surprise to his parents, they supported his decision even if it was not quite the future they imagined for him. they had learned to give up some control here and there as both of their children got older. they could see how much he valued traditions growing up and how he'd implement their culture into his wines. it was the only time that they'd let sanjit veer from the path that they had envisioned for him.

after college, sanjit returned to kismet harbor where he wanted to carve out a name for himself. his education gave him a deep understanding of the science and artistry behind wine making. he was eager to apply such knowledge to the picturesque vineyards

of his hometown: cunnamore vineyards. he started low on the totem pole for his career but over the years, sanjit has rose in the ranks until he reached the position of executive winemaker. as an executive winemaker, sanjit thrives on the blend of creativity and precision that the role demands. his days are often filled with tasting sessions and experimenting with new blends, managing the vineyard's production process and he travels to promote cunnamore vineyard's wines at festivals. arguably, the travel is one of his favorite parts of the job.

his nature charm and persuasive nature make him a favorite at industry events where he enjoys networking with sommeliers, chef and wine enthusiasts alike. his love of travel ended up being a perfect match for the job as he has gone to wine regions across the world to draw inspiration from france, italy, argentina and beyond. while he is traveling for work, sanjit also explores local cuisines and vibrant cultures while meeting new people along the way.

after sanjit's return from college, life threw another curveball at the gupta family. veena and sham had been accepting of sanjit's career path of choice but when his sister, aditi, had a child, they were absolutely floored. aditi having a child out of wedlock had nearly separated the entire family. sanjit had managed to talk them into some sense, knowing that he didn't want to lose a relationship with his sister and her child because of some rather

backward views their parents had.

in terms of relationships, sanjit has had one major relationship in his years of life. beyza alpman was someone that he dated from the years of 2011 until 2016. for five years, sanjit was convinced that he could have married her and honestly, if it were not for the pressures of his parents, he thought that he would have. no matter how much sanjit tried to fend them off, to show them that beyza was special and important to him, they never gave up on pestering him to find a more traditional wife. it was after five years, that sanjit finally ended the relationship. he was very much in love with her and she'd always hold a special place in his heart but as time went on, it had become too difficult for him to appease his parents and as she knew, disappointing them had always been one of his biggest fears.

since the break up with beyza, sanjit has taken a different approach to relationships moving forward. while his career is flourishing, his personal life has begun to reflect the spontaneity and non-committal nature. he has a wide social circle and enjoys meeting new people, but he does find it difficult to settle down romantically ever since he and beyza ended their five year relationship. he does not see the point in finding someone on his own, knowing that his parents would not approve. he begun prioritizing his career and independence over long-term commitments moving forward. he's not opposed to the idea of

love, just knows it's better if his heart doesn't have a say in it.

though he has a busy schedule, sanjit maintains strong ties with his family. both of his parents remain a significant influence in his life and visits them often for meals and family celebrations. at times, his more outspoken personality clashes with his parents' more traditional views. he deeply respects them, at the end of the day, and takes their opinions to heart even if he doesn't always admit it. he's still close with his younger sibling, maintaining a supportive yet playful nature between the two of them.

his lifestyle is unapologetically indulgent. he has a penchant for high-quality clothes and is always impeccably dressed. one would never catch sanjit outside of his house in loungewear, so much so that he has a gym in his home to avoid being seen in it. as a foodie, he enjoys seeking out new flavors whether at fine dining establishments or hole-in-the-wall eateries. when he does have downtime, sanjit loves to host people at his home in hawthorne heights. he will pair wines with carefully crafted meals for his friends. sanjit has always been the type of person to thrive in social settings as he lights up the room with humor and energy. however, he never minds a good solo adventure.

it's not all perfect in sanjit's life, though he might make it seem like it is. his outspoken and self-assured nature can often rub people the wrong way and can lead to conflicts at work and in his

personal life (even if he likes to think that it is not entirely his fault). he also has tried to find a balance between his passion for adventure and his parents' expectations, though they have lessened over the years. they're proud of him, that much he knows, they worry about his lack of settled personal life, even if they wouldn't approve when he was trying to settle. sanjit continues on a journey of self-discovery as he nears his forties. he plans to make advances in innovation for winemaking and expand professional horizons. whether or not there is room for deeper connections? only time will tell for sanjit, knowing that he will remain unapologetically himself.