

SILENCE CIRCLE  
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FADE IN

INT. MEGHA'S HOUSE - ATTIC - DAY

The place is clean except for some boxes and old furniture. Sunlight makes its way through a small window.

Six chairs, arranged in a perfect circle at the center.

Five people occupy the chairs. They are:

-MEGHA(50s), plump, grey hair. Notepad on her lap.

-SIMI(30s), beautiful, black hair with strips of grey.

-TONY(40s), muscular, tall, heavy beard.

-DAANI(20s), scrawny, walker haircut.

-ANITA(70s), nearly bald, specs.

Sitting with their heads low. Posture of defeat.

MEGHA

What about him? He ain't gonna come today?

No one speaks.

MEGHA(CONT'D)

He was here during last session. Where is he?

Still no one speaks.

MEGHA(CONT'D)

Anyone?

Everyone slowly shake their heads.

MEGHA(CONT'D)

Alright. Lets just begin. Who will start?

She looks around, Simi raises her hand.

MEGHA(CONT'D)

This is the first time Simi will initiate the session. Very nice.

ANITA

Indeed.

Tony and Daani remain silent.

MEGHA

So Simi, did you meet him?

SIMI  
Yes. Yes I did. Yesterday.

MEGHA  
How did it go?

INT. FOSTER HOME - DAY BEFORE

MEETING ROOM

Simi and her son, VIKAS(10), on a couch. Vikas holds her tight, knows that it wouldn't be long before she goes.

He looks messy, clearly shows how much he needs her mother.

VIKAS  
When will you take me from here? I miss you everyday.

A lump builds in her throat.

SIMI  
Soon. Very soon.

VIKAS  
You said this last time too. Please mom I don't like here.

She hugs him to her chest, kisses him on his head.

SIMI  
Don't worry. Mom's gonna take you very soon.

Tears stream down her face.

INT. ATTIC - PRESENT DAY

Simi sobs. Megha comforts her. The rest remain quiet but countenance their concern.

MEGHA  
How's job going?

SIMI  
Not well. I'm barely keeping myself up.

Megha scribbles on her notepad.

MEGHA  
Just hang on to it. Give your best. It will be over soon. You will be with him. Alright?

Simi nods. Megha turns her attention to others.

MEGHA  
I think we should go with Daani.

DAANI

Me?

He bolts upright.

MEGHA

Is there any other Daani here? Nope right.

DAANI

I'm alright. I did it.

MEGHA

What? You took it.

DAANI

No...no. I said no.

MEGHA

Oh really.

Megha clearly looks skeptical.

MEGHA(CONT'D)

Then tell me.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT BEFORE

Daani stands beside a dumpster. Waiting.

MEGHA(VO)

Did someone came?

DAANI(VO)

Yeah. They always come.

A man enters the alley. Black overall outfit with a mask on his face.

The man approaches Daani and hands him the dope.

Daani takes out a flashy locket, the man snatches it.

He looks at the locket suspiciously. Looks at Daani right in the eyes and punches him in the gut.

Daani falls to his knees.

The man walks away.

MEGHA(VO)

You took it. God.

DAANI(VO)

No..I mean yes. But I threw it.

INT. ATTIC - PRESENT DAY

MEGHA  
How can I believe you? Just...how?

DAANI  
I swear-

MEGHA  
Damn it. Anita do you believe him?

ANITA  
No.

MEGHA  
Tony, you?

He shakes his head.

Megha looks at Simi, she also gestures a no.

MEGHA  
See no one believes you.

DAANI  
I am...

MEGHA  
What I am?

DAANI  
I'm been honest.

Megha and Daani's eyes meet, she sighs. Clearly not convinced.

She turns to Tony.

MEGHA  
Tony. You are ready to talk?

He raises his head, looks around. Discomfort in his demeanour.

TONY  
Yeah...but why don't you go with-

MEGHA  
We.

TONY  
Yes. Sorry. Why don't we listen to Anita and then maybe I'll talk.

MEGHA  
Maybe? Why you don't wanna talk?

TONY

No. I mean yes I want to talk. I will talk. But not just right now. We can go with Anita first.

Silence for a moment.

ANITA

I think I should begin.

MEGHA

Ofcourse.

A hint of unease in her voice.

MEGHA(CONT'D)

As I told you to talk with your brother, which I suppose you might have did, how did it go?

ANITA

I talked with him.

INT. ANITA'S HOME - DAY BEFORE

LIVING ROOM

The room has sub-standard furniture.

Anita and her brother, JEEVAN(55), on a couch.

ANITA

Look we have to talk. It can't go on like this.

JEEVAN

Sis I tried and tried my best-

ANITA

No you didn't. You have to control yourself. You can't keep pushing people just coz they disagree with you.

Jeevan rolls his eyes.

ANITA(CONT'D)

See that's the damn problem with you. You don't listen. You can't take it when someone points your mistake.

JEEVAN

People act like enemies. They always pin-point every damn thing you do.

ANITA

It is your ignorance that is the enemy, not others. That is the reason why you aren't stable in your life.

For a second their eyes meet, then Jeevan looks away.

ANITA(CONT'D)

It will be harsh but I ought to ask you this. Can you look after yourself, if I am no more around?

He looks at her right in the eyes. His lips tremble.

INT. ATTIC - PRESENT DAY

SIMI

What did he said?

ANITA

He said he will try. He...will try.

MEGHA

You believe him?

A long pause.

ANITA

Yes. I do.

Megha scribbles on her notepad.

DAANI

Don't worry. He'll be fine.

SIMI

He will be, Anita. Give him some time.

ANITA

I am sure he will be.

MEGHA(TO TONY)

And now I think you are willing to talk. Everyone is done.

Tony is quiet. Looking down.

MEGHA(CONT'D)

What? You want me to talk now?

Daani nudges Tony.

DAANI

Hey man. Something's wrong?

Tony still looking down-

TONY

No. Nothing's that wrong. I guess.

MEGHA

Look we ain't got a whole day.

She looks at her watch.

MEGHA(CONT'D)

Its twenty minutes before we finish. Plus you aren't the only guys I have got today. So please Tony.

Tony raises his head.

TONY

Alright. I will not take much time.

MEGHA

Oh thank you. Now tell us, how's your anger? Is it in control or not?

TONY(SIGHS)

It is...was. It was going fine. For the most part I had controlled myself. But...

MEGHA

But what?

ANITA

Come on Tony, let it out.

He gestures to the empty chair.

TONY

You know why PRAVEEN is not here today?

No answer.

Megha shifts in her chair, attentive.

TONY(CONT'D)

Well, praveen and I, after our last session went to his place for some drinks.

INT. RUNDOWN SHED - NIGHT BEFORE

Tony and PRAVEEN(40s), lean, shorter than him, on a cracked couch.

TONY

Dude you should buy a couch?



PRAVEEN

Yeah sure. Like my pockets are all green.

They laugh and chug down the beer from their cans.

PRAVEEN

Ain't enough. You?

Tony squeezes his can.

TONY

You think?

PRAVEEN

Great. Bought a case last night. Just a sec.

Praveen gets up, goes to the back of the shed.

After a second or two, Tony gets up. Hears a creak underneath his shoes, looks down and sees the floorboards slightly apart.

He bends down, separates the floorboards, sees sand. Brushes off the sand and sees small white packets.

Praveen comes back in, case in his hands.

PRAVEEN

Hey dude, whatcha doing?

Tony stands up, shows him the packets.

TONY

You tell me what the fuck you doing?

PRAVEEN

Hey hey big guy, chill. Its nothing.

TONY

Nothing. What the fuck's nothing? You got fucking drugs and its nothing. I bet you got more.

He looks at Praveen and back at the packets.

TONY(CONT'D)

Why the hell do you come to the sessions?

PRAVEEN

Tony calm down. It ain't that big of a-

TONY

Fuck you. Answer me.

PRAVEEN

You know that. I have depression  
ok.

Tony points at the drugs.

TONY

Yeah yeah why not. You are  
depressed right.

PRAVEEN

Yes Tony and you see these things  
help me.

TONY

My ass you bastard.

He throws the packets on the floor.

TONY(CONT'D)

Now I understand why the fuck you  
come at the therapy sessions. Not  
coz you got any problems but for  
your business. Selling this shit.

Praveen grows agitated.

TONY(CONT'D)

And God please don't say its Daani  
you're selling. Not that kid.

PRAVEEN

You're overreacting. Listen-

TONY

Damnit I'm overreacting.

PRAVEEN

That's it.

He drops the beer cans and pulls out a gun.

PRAVEEN(CONT'D)

Shut the fuck up or I wouldn't  
hesitate to make a hole in your  
head.

He slowly moves closer to Tony. Then hits his head with the  
gunstock.

This enrages Tony. He grabs the gun and begins turning the  
barrel towards Praveen. Overpowering him.

PRAVEEN

Fuck you.

Tony viciously headbutts him, Praveen falls on his knees.

TONY

You gonna make a hole in my head.  
You scumbag.

The barrel now is at the Praveen's head.

PRAVEEN

Stop! You fuc-

BAM!

INT. ATTIC - PRESENT DAY

Everyone stares at Tony. Shocked.

TONY

You see I didn't wanted to kill  
him. I really didn't.

He almost skips a smile.

Daani tries to slid out of his chair.

TONY(CONT'D)

Please Daani. Don't.

Tony pulls out a gun. Everyone gasps and stands.

SIMI

What the-

TONY

Please. Please guys, sit down. And  
I promise it wouldn't hurt.

They sit.

TONY(CONT'D)

You see this is the gun. The gun  
that took Praveen's life.

ANITA

You're crazy.

TONY

Maybe. Maybe I am. But I'm not him.  
Like Praveen. Jeopardizing others  
life. Especially young blood.

He looks at Daani.

TONY(CONT'D)

Right Daani?

Daani nods.

MEGHA

Tony please.

TONY

I'm not trying to justify myself. Not at all. I have killed someone and I feel guilty. Guilty of the fact that I could only kill that monster once.

SIMI

You're sick.

TONY

My anger has costed me a lot. But today I agree with myself that my anger indeed did something good.

ANITA

Tony please stop.

He places his hand on Daani's shoulder, Daani shivers.

TONY

I hope you will get on the right track. Don't waste your life.

He looks at Anita.

TONY(CONT'D)

Jeevan will be stable in his life Anita. I'm sure.

Then at Simi.

TONY(CONT'D)

You'll be able to provide for your son's every wish Simi. Just hang on. He will be with you.

Then at Megha.

TONY(CONT'D)

Thank you. Thank you for your support.

MEGHA

What you gonna do Tony?

He gives them a warming smile. A smile of assurance.

Then he puts the gun barrel on his temple.

MEGHA

Tony don't be stupid.

DAANI

You lost your mind.

BAM!

EXT. MEGHA'S HOUSE - PORCH- CONTINUOUS

Daani comes out, tumbles on the ground. Pukes.

Then comes Simi, assisting Anita. Both of them crying and shell-shocked.

Few bystanders notice the commotion, gather around.

Megha exits, wailing, phone in her hand. Tries to operate her phone but her hands shiver. Wipes her face and tries again.

Few more people gather around them.

Finally, Megha gives up and let her tears fall.

THE END