

The Good, the Bad and the Equalizer

by

Akshay Simpi

akshay.kumar.simpi@gmail.com

FADE IN

We see a door with a number 21 on it. Looks like a hotel room. An unknown figure enters the scene and knocks on the door. The door opens and the stranger enters in.

INT. ROOM 21. HOTEL BUDHAVEER- DAY

The person who entered just now is RAVI(28). There are two other people in the room. One who opened the door was TEJAS(27) and SIMON(29).

RAVI

Booking is confirmed. It's high time we leave this city tonight.

A sign of happiness etches in Tejas's face.

TEJAS

That's great news. Finally, we will be out of this hell hole.

But Simon is sitting with his chin resting on his palm, like he is in deep thinking and not really excited about what Ravi said.

RAVI

Simon...

Simon doesn't budge.

RAVI(CON'T)

Simon ji.

Still silence. Ravi comes and sits beside Simon.

RAVI(CON'T)

What da? Are you feeling alright?

TEJAS

Ignore him bro, he is silent from the day we came here to stay.

A sign of concern passes over Ravi's face.

TEJAS(CON'T)

Let's go to a grand restaurant, parties on me. We will say our goodbyes to this city by eating and drinking.

RAVI

Come on Simon, you have been sitting in this room for 2 days straight. Let's get us some fresh air.

A beat.

SIMON

You guys carry on, not interested.

TEJAS

Comon da, this might be th e last day we might see eachother. We need to celebrate this success.

Simon looks up at Tejas in disbelief.

SIMON

I do not want to call a bank heist something successful.

TEJAS

Don't think it as we robbed it. Think like a Government's donation.

SIMON

Someone crazy would think like that.

TEJAS

Maybe it's time for you to stop acting crazy.

RAVI

Hey Tejas, stop it da. He is little bit confused.

TEJAS

You don't know Ravi, I was the one who had been with him in this locked room for 2 days. He has cooked me up with many stories. Like how much of bad we have done and we are going straight to hell for robbing.

RAVI

Just leave him alone for a while. He will come along later on.

TEJAS

Okay. Lets get out from here Ravi. I need that drink.

Ravi turns to Simon.

RAVI

We will bring you some food when we come back okay. Take some rest, don't burn up thinking all day.

Ravi and Tejas are about to leave the room just then Tejas calls Ravi and tells him to wait for a second. Then Tejas runs towards the only wardrobe in the room, unlocks with his key and takes out a duffle bag. He unzips it and we are greeted with bunch of paper notes, like in lakhs. He starts to pluck some of them out and pockets it.

SIMON

Are you that conjuice to spend your own money?

RAVI

Tejas, don't use them right now. We will get caught if the numbers are traced back.

TEJAS

Don't worry, I am just keeping thes notes as a lucky charm.

Tejas smells the fresh printed note.

TEJAS(CON'T)

Never fails to excite me.

He shuts the wardrobe and locks it back again. They start to leave when they are interrupted by Simon's words.

SIMON

We need to return the money.

Both of them stop in their track and turn to face Simon.

TEJAS

Come again.

SIMON

We need to stop acting like we own the money, it's not ours.

TEJAS

Not now Simon. Don't make me feel disappointed in you.

SIMON

Look man, this robbed money is eating my head all day and I don't like it.

TEJAS

And you decide to be open about it now? After we stole the money!

SIMON

I was afraid before but not anymore.

TEJAS

Are you trying to play some good shit hero card? I don't know what you have been cooking up in that head of yours but we need that money.

SIMON

It's not our money.

TEJAS

Well it's now.

SIMON

Just think about what we have...

TEJAS

Shut up man, we don't want to hear your take your morality now. We got the money and we are going to use it. End of story.

A beat. No one speaks for a while.

TEJAS(CON'T)

You have frustrated me Simon and I don't like myself when I get really angry, so you better lock away those words in your mind and let us do our work. I am gonna take a piss and by the time I return, I hope you have changed your mind. Do you understand Simon?

Simon stays silent.

TEJAS

I said do you understand?

SIMON

What should I say Tejas.

TEJAS

Atleast give me a nod if you can't speak up.

SIMON

Whatever man.

Tejas barges into the bathroom and slams the door.

Simon looks at Ravi.

RAVI

Why are you looking at me? He is right. You participated in the act and you can't blame for us.

SIMON

You know what we are doing is wrong.

RAVI

And you know why I need that money.

A beat. Simon has no words to add to this.

RAVI(CON'T)

Look Simon, I don't know what is right or wrong. All I know now is that my life depends on that money. Anyway I am going to return it later.

SIMON

How would you do that?

RAVI

I will earn, it may take some time but the bank is going nowhere.

SIMON

And how exactly are you going to return the money. Are you going to go to the bank and tell them that I had robbed your money few years back and here I am returning it like a good citizen.

RAVI

You don't need to worry about that, I will manage it somehow.

SIMON

Look Ravi, I know you would return the money, I have known you for many years but I don't trust Tejas.

Ravi leans back on the wall nearby. Just then Tejas enter back into the room.

TEJAS

What are you people talking about?

SIMON

Talking about returning the money.

TEJAS

You still going about that? I told you to change your mind before I come.

Simon stays quite.

TEJAS(CON'T)

You know what to do to clear this situation, lets vote and majority wins. I vote in and what about you Ravi?

RAVI

I am in.

TEJAS

You see that Simon, majority is on our side and we dealt with this fair and square.

Simon sighs and has a feeling that he can't change their mind.

RAVI

Simon, take sometime and think what we can do with this money. We can escape our bad days and afterall we are robbing the bank just this one time right Tejas?

TEJAS

Yes and we promise you we won't be repeating this act again.

SIMON

I get the situation now.

TEJAS

That's good. Everything is clear now.

SIMON

No, no, no. Just one question though.

TEJAS

What is it now?

SIMON

Ravi needs that money for his operation and Tejas needs money for....

TEJAS

What are you trying to imply?

SIMON

I am not implying anything, I am giving you a blank space to fill.

TEJAS

I need that money to start a new life.

SIMON

Why? Because you used to live a scum life before.

Tejas stares at Simon with cruel intent.

TEJAS

You think I am a scum.

SIMON

You lost a job, father threw you out of your house and now you are here, robbing and cheating. You know spiralling down to failure.

TEJAS

Okay thats enough Simon.

SIMON

It's your fault that you are a lazy person. Instead of owning upto it, you are just blaming the circumstance now.

TEJAS

Shut up Simon, I swear if I hear one more word...

RAVI

Simon, I think that's enough.

SIMON

What Ravi, I am just elling you the truth. You think he stole the money to save you? He thinks of himself and has used us for his own gain.

A flying punch comes from Tejas to Simon out of nowhere and that force puts Simon on the ground.

RAVI

TEJAS!!!What's wrong with you?

Ravi rushes in aid to Simon.

RAVI(CON'T)

Have you lost your mind?

Nothing major as happened to Simon, just a little bit sting on his face.

TEJAS

It's you people who have gone crazy. I amtrying to tell you from a long time, we need that money and I helped you with that and this is how you treat me back.

RAVI

You know how Simon is, you should have thaught before punching your own friend.

TEJAS

Fuck him, he is not my friend and neither are you.

Ravi stands up and comes close to Tejas.

RAVI
What do you mean?

TEJAS
You heard me. If you were my friend
you would have stood along with me.

RAVI
For God's sake you punched
somebody, how can I agree with you
on that.

TEJAS
You have to agree because I got you
the money you needed, you vow me.

RAVI
I vow you?

TEJAS
Yes you vow me alright.

Ravi smiles.

RAVI
You know what? Simon thought you
were a bad person from the very get
go and I used to correct him but
you are really are vile person
arn't you?

A beat.

RAVI (CON'T)
I am voting out.

TEJAS
What you mean you are voting out?

RAVI
I don't want that money you
understand, I am out of here.

TEJAS
Ravi, don't be stupid. You need
that money for operation and...

RAVI
I will get that money somehow and
even if I could not manage that
atleast I can die in peace knowing
I did not vow nobody and definetly
not from who I used to be friend
with.

Tejas looks him in the eye with a sense of guilt. Before he
can open his mouth Ravi proceeds to the door.

TEJAS

Look Ravi, that was my anger who was talking, I really didn't mean anything.

RAVI

People show their true self in their most vulnerable state and I saw you Tejas, for who you truly are.

Ravi exits the scene. Tejas could not believe that Ravi left him. He walks back and sits on the bed in disbelief.

SIMON

Tejas.

TEJAS

Get the fuck away from em man, this is all your fault.

SIMON

Look, we can make all this fall back on right path okay.

Tejas sighs.

SIMON(CON'T)

We will catch up with Ravi, I know he will understand and this all was sudden burst at the moment. I am sure we did not mean all of this. Then we return the money.

Tejas looks up at Simon.

SIMON(CON'T)

This is happening because of this stolen money. Understand Tejas, lets get rid of this and let things fall back to normal.

Tejas gets up and comes way too close to Simon.

TEJAS

You are right. I should have done this way too early. I am stupid.

SIMON

Don't beat yourself up, let's go before Ravi leaves.

When Simon turns Tejas stabs him in the back suddenly. This came out of nowhere. He falls down on the ground wiggling in the agonizing pain.

Tejas then runs to wardrobe and takes out the money bag, he turns around to end Simon once for and all but he has already perished. He is not moving at all and is still like

a fallen statue.

Tejas feels terrible for a moment. He grips the bag hard and squeezes it. He is clearly in agony but decides to leave with the money anyway.

As soon as Tejas leaves, shutting the door, Simon wakes up gasping and struggling like he woke from a coma. He takes out the phone from his pocket and with shaking hands dials Ravi's number. We hear a ring from the other end and continuous for a long while.

SIMON

Comon Ravi pickup the God damn
phone.

Ring, ring, ring...

Screen cuts to black and the ringing continuous.

FADE OUT.

THE END