

The peer pressure

by

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INT. MERLIN HOSPITAL - WAITING HALL - DAY

The waiting hall is just in front of the hospital bedrooms where patients rests. A period of silence followed by loud shrieks and moaning of a boy can be heard. In the bench, in front of the room no 401 sits BHUMIT(21), He has come to see his friend AMLESH(21) and is sweating in fear.

AMLESH(O.S)
(shouting In awful pain)
I want freedom from this torture.
Why did this happen to me?

CUT TO:

INT. MERLIN HOSPITAL - ROOM NO 401 - DAY

The hands and legs of Amlesh were tied to the corners of the bed by ropes,two nurses enters unties one of the rope and holds Amlesh tight by his arms. Doctor takes an injection and fills it from a bottle then turns towards amlesh.

DOCTOR
Amlesh my boy please try to have
some control over yourself. You are
a good boy, everything will become
normal, no one is after you.

Doctor pushes the injection into the arms of amlesh and amlesh after a brief period of struggle slowly becomes unconscious.

CUT TO:

INT. MERLIN HOSPITAL - WAITING HALL - DAY

A nurse rushes out of the room and heads straight towards bhumit with a prescription in hand.

NURSE
Please hand this prescription to
Mr. Rakesh.

Bhumit nods his head in approval and takes the prescription from her hand.

BHUMIT
Where can I find Mr.Rakesh now?

NURSE
He is at the office of Orphaned
Child Education Association. You
know that he runs an NGO. Do you
know the address?

BHUMIT
Yes mam and thank you I will
contact him and hand him over this
prescription.

INT. CAB - DAY

Bhumit is sweating and he picks out his phone from the pocket and starts to calls Mr. RAKESH(45).

BHUMIT(V.O)

(In anxiety)

Come on sir pick up the phone

RAKESH(O.S)

Yes bhumit, did doctor tell you something about amlesh?

BHUMIT

No sir, I was told by the nurse to hand over the prescription to you. Can I meet you now at the office?

RAKESH(O.S)

Yes, I would be waiting for you.

INT. MR. RAKESH'S OFFICE ROOM - DAY

Bhumit is sitting on the sofa, towards the top right corner of him lies an antique table with cover files above it. The wall at the back side of the table has got a painting of duryodhana and yudhishtir from mahabharata playing chaupar. A pendulum clock hangs just beside it and above it, a holy cross of jesus is present. Mr. Rakesh enters the room, Bhumit stands up.

RAKESH

Sorry, I apologize for being late. One of my friend was suggesting me to shift amlesh to a nursing home.

BHUMIT

How did this happen sir... I know him since my school days and I have heard from others that he did not went to college for many weeks in the last semester.

RAKESH

I asked him many times but he did not said a single word about what happened. You know that I have got many children like amlesh to take care of. I could have prevented this had he given me even some hints.

Rakesh goes to the chair at the back of the table and sits down then starts talking again.

RAKESH(CONT'D)

Before you a girl named homa chakraborty came and was crying
(MORE)

RAKESH(CONT'D) (cont'd)
 heavily. I tried to pacify her but
 it was in vain. Maybe she knows
 something about the reason behind
 this condition of his.

BHUMIT

Thank you sir for the information
 and it is not your fault, please do
 not blame yourself for what has
 happened.

Bhumit picks up his phone from his pocket, we zoom in to his screen and see the uber app open, followed by a couple of taps by bhumit and finally booking confirmation page appears. Then he puts the phone in his pocket following which he heads out of the room.

EXT. HOMA CHAKRABORTY'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE DOOR - DAY

In front of the door hangs a small joker's relic. Bhumit rings the doorbell. The door opens slightly, HOMA CHAKRABORTY(21), a beautiful girl with pale blue eyes peeks through the door and opens it fully and lets the anxious Bhumit in.

INT. HOMA CHAKRABORTY'S HOME - FRONT HALL - DAY

While entering the front hall, towards the left corner lies sofa and in front of the sofa, a round glass table is there with a flower pot on top of it, below it there is a beautiful red carpet. Homa signalled bhumit to sit in the sofa and they both settled down on sofa.

BHUMIT

Tell me a good reason why I should not suspect you.

HOMA

I did nothing, please believe me I did nothing.

BHUMIT

He used to be with you, Lokesh and others. From the present scenario who else can be trusted, moreover before coming here I heard from my friend that you blocked him in facebook.

HOMA

I am telling you everything that I know and have heard and in no way I am guilty. You were doing internship at that time, it all started from the tuition of Mala mam 3 weeks ago.

FADE TO:

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE:

INT. PROFESSOR MALA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The whiteboard faces the front door of the room, a torn out mat is placed on the floor and on it Homa, LOKESH(21), Amlesh, MOHAN(22) and other students were sitting. Miss MALA(48) is distributing results to her students.

PROF. MALA

Amlesh your grades are a bit of a concern for me, try to improve it and as for Lokesh, Homa and others. What did you write in the paper.

A period of silence prevails in the air.

PROF. MALA(CONT'D)

You wrote science fiction rather than actual science in the test.

LOKESH

Mam... I just want to pass... I would be playing district level football championship within few weeks.

OTHER STUDENTS

Wooooo / awesome Man/you are the dude bro.

Prof. Mala's husband calls out to her and she goes out of the room. Other students starts to gossip among themselves.

AMLESH

Hey Lokesh... That was just awesome... How do you manage so many things?

LOKESH

Thanks bro, just stay with me and you'd become awesome.

HOMA

Your facebook posts are becoming quite popular these days lokesh.

LOKESH

Homa it is the culture that I am in, I just try to follow what other successful persons have done before me.

Lokesh turns towards amlesh and smiles then pats his back

LOKESH(CONT'D)

Hey Amlesh, I would be throwing a party man. It's just bro's party.
(MORE)

LOKESH(CONT'D) (cont'd)
dude I'll teach you all the cool
stuffs that I use. Would you be
present?

Amlesh and homa both smiles at Lokesh, amlesh nods his head
in excitement.

WIPE TO:

INT. LOKESH'S HOUSE - FRONT HALL - NIGHT

The party is going on, classic rock is playing in the
background with medium volume giving a thrilling atmosphere
inside the room, lights are glimmering in various colours.
Amlesh is sitting on a sofa nearby a table. Others are
dancing profusely as if enchanted by some spell. Lokesh
signals Amlesh to follow him to his living room. They both
enter the room.

INT. LOKESH'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

The room has got a couple of big black bags kept at
different corners of the room, some trail of white powder is
visible above those black bags. Towards the right after
entering the room, a study table is there and on it some
tablets are kept and beside the tablets, some tall and
slender glass bottles green in colour with screw-top caps
are kept and fully filled. The entire room is filled with a
strange odour. Amlesh starts to stare at different corners
of the room and after a brief period of time he focuses his
attention towards the black bags.

LOKESH
(laughing to himself;
staring in friendly
manner)
Those bags... Don't worry they have
football and some flour used to
mark the playground before the game
starts and those bottles have got
soda water in it. Hope you like the
air freshener its the latest brand
and has got mosquito repellent
properties. Ufff... Amlesh

AMLESH
(trying not to look
foolish)
Ohhh, yes quite natural!

Amlesh and lokesh together sits on the bed. Amlesh takes a
heavy breath then gulps his own saliva and then resumes
talking, a bit amount of sweat is visible over his forehead.

AMLESH (CONT'D)
 (nervous; depressed;
 wanting to hide his
 emotions)

I still have got weakness for
 Homa!!

LOKESH

And still you don't have the
 courage to tell her, then leave her
 man you can get many others like
 her

AMLESH

Last night at the tuition you were
 talking about some form of success
 mantra.

LOKESH

I take testosterone enhancing
 anabolic steroids before going to
 play. There over the desk

Lokesh goes towards the study table and picks up a packet of
 steroid tablet and hands it over to Amlesh.

AMLESH

But Lokesh this is illegal man and
 as far as I know this should be
 easy to catch.

LOKESH

Most of those who are successful
 takes those in sports but only a
 few are ready to admit it. If you
 don't follow this then you are out
 of the competition.

Lokesh picks up his smart phone from his pocket, opens
 google, shows some articles to amlesh and then shuffles
 through some of the pics from his camera to amlesh.

LOKESH (CONT'D)

See...this one... And this also...

AMLESH

Ohh my god... Lokesh you appear to
 be correct man but how is this
 going to help

LOKESH

This thing makes you more
 masculine. Take them and you would
 also be tagged as the bro guy just
 as I am.

Amlesh takes those tablets in his bag and leaves the room,
 the party has ended.

INT. HOMA CHAKRABORTY'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE DOOR - NIGHT

SUPER: 9:30 P.M, Homa's house

Door knocks are heard from outside, the sounds of cicada can be heard. The atmosphere is eerie in nature, after a brief period of time, homa slowly walks towards the door and opens it. Amlesh appears in front of her, he has got reddish eyes and with a smile in his face.

AMLESH

I was passing from here for gathering some materials for my project, thought that I should meet you.

HOMA

Okay... Umm you appear to be sick, are you alright?

AMLESH

(smiling a bit)

I am feeling better than ever Homa.

HOMA

Please come inside and be seated comfortably on sofa while I find some snacks for both of us.

Amlesh enters through the entrance door and heads straight towards the front hall.

INT. HOMA CHAKRABORTY'S HOUSE - FRONT HALL - NIGHT

Amlesh walks straight towards the sofa and sits on it. A few noises of utensils being taken out can be heard off screen. After a few moments, Homa comes out with some snacks in two bowls and places them on table and then sits next to Amlesh.

HOMA

Okay, so how was the party at Lokesh's house

AMLESH

Just Awesome Homa.

Amlesh stares blankly at homa who is now eating some snacks and then suddenly grabs her both arms.

AMLESH

(with tears in eyes)

I love you Homa please, give me a chance.

HOMA

(shuddering in fear)

What do you mean, just leave me

Homa pushes amlesh violently on the ground and within few seconds, Amlesh gets up and tries to grab her both arms again.

HOMA
(shouting)
Help, someone help

Her neighbours comes rushing in and grabs amlesh by his collar, throws him to the ground and then starts to beat him. Homa tries to stop them in haste but seeing things get out of hand calls ambulance and police.

INT. MERLIN HOSPITAL - WAITING HALL- NIGHT

Homa is sitting in front of the room number 401 where Amlesh is admitted holding some papers and documents. After a few moments, doctor comes out of the room and heads straight towards Homa.

DOCTOR
The boy was under the influence of anabolic steroids. He is in a state of trauma. Injections are needed to treat him, are you his family member.

HOMA
(crying profusely)
No, I am his friend and he has got no parent, Mr. Rakesh runs an NGO that takes care of him and others. Here is his address and phone number.

Before doctor could say anything, she heads out of the place.

END OF FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

INT. HOMA CHAKRABORTY'S HOME - FRONT HALL - DAY

Homa bursts into tears in front of Bhumit.

BHUMIT
You are equally responsible for this condition of amlesh as much as lokesh is.

