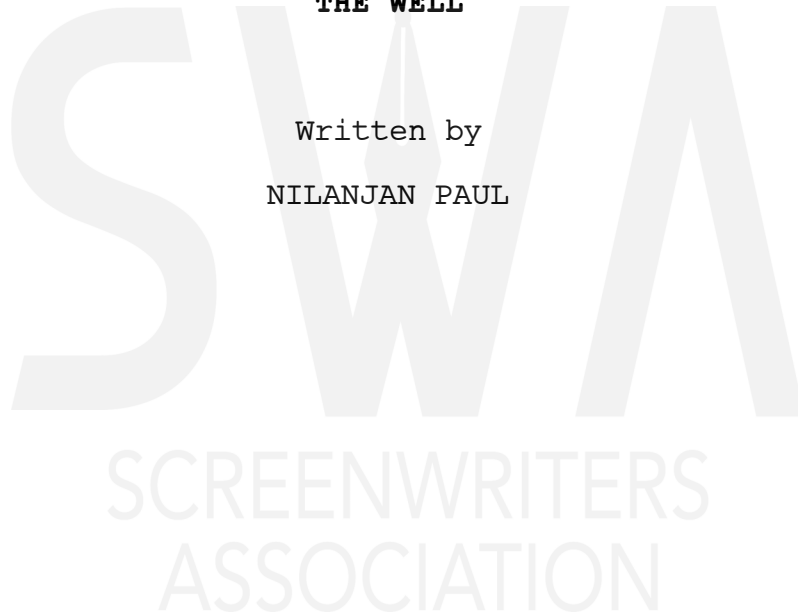


THE WELL

Written by

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INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The house has a color of brown and is a middle class house where KSHAY, a boy of about 10 is standing in front of his mother and father alternatively asking for something.

KSHAY

Mother, I want it. I really want it

The MOTHER has a baby strapped to her and is making food. She is doing a shaking motion to put the baby to sleep.

Now the boy is standing in front of his FATHER who is drinking tea and working on some documents on his worktable, asking the same thing.

KSHAY (CONT'D)

Dad, please give me some money. I will get those.

The face of the MOTHER and FATHER isn't revealed but the FATHER while working asks

FATHER

Kshay, what do you want?

The boy is answering in front of his MOTHER now. The two instances CUT back and forth.

KSHAY

It's a flower mother. Very rare. I liked it and I want it.

MOTHER

So will you be able to take care of it?

KSHAY

Yes I will be a good boy and water it everyday. It is everything I want. Even for my birthday I don't want anything after this

FATHER

Okay what's the price?

KSHAY looks down before speaking.

KSHAY

800 Rupees

MOTHER

800?

The MOTHER stops her work. KSHAY looks up guiltily and with an apologetic face at his MOTHER.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
Did you ask your dad?

KSHAY nods.

MOTHER (CONT'D)
What did he say?

CUT

FATHER
Go ask your mother

KSHAY
I want it really mother. Why don't you divide equally and give me the money. Please.

MOTHER
Okay. But two conditions.

KSHAY
Yes. Yes.

MOTHER
You will help me take care of your little brother-

KSHAY
Yes, yes sure.

MOTHER
-whenever I ask

KSHAY
Yes.

MOTHER
And second, you won't keep the flower in any rooms or the verandah

KSHAY
Where do I keep it than?

MOTHER
That you figure. Your little brother has just learned crawling. He will rip your flower apart and I don't want such a costly flower plant to meet the fate. So that you will figure

KSHAY nods.

His MOTHER gives him the money.

His FATHER gives him the money and says

FATHER

Kshay you can keep the flowers near
the old well. Nobody goes to that
place now

KSHAY

Okay

CUT

EXT. MARKET - DAY

The market sounds of a lot of noises.

KSHAY walks to the man selling flowers. He calls the man two
times as the man was in a daze.

KSHAY

I want this Purple Flower. How much
is it?

The man looks at the flower and than looking at KSHAY says

FLOWER SELLER

The flower seller has a paper and
seeing it says 600.

KSHAY

Oh

KSHAY gives him the money and gets the flowers. He gets the
change back and he pockets them.

CUT

EXT. KSHAY'S BACKYARD - SOME TIME LATER

KSHAY walks with the heavy flower pot towards a suitable
place near the well.

A soft rumbling is heard, and KSHAY turns to see if its from
the well but he thinks its just the sound of wind. He finds a
good spot and puts the flower pot there, some distance away
from the well and leaves.

CUT

INT. KSHAY'S BEDROOM -NIGHT

KSHAY picks up a call from his friend.

KSHAY
Hello?

FRIEND
Yeah, Kshay. What are you doing?

KSHAY
Nothing much. Hey what did I hear from Anshuman?

FRIEND
Yeah

KSHAY
So its true?

FRIEND
It is. My dad's been transferred so we are moving.

KSHAY
But you are my best friend?

FRIEND
And you are mine, Kshay

KSHAY
Sunit went and now you. I don't have anymore friends left and I will be so alone now that you're gone

FRIEND
I am so sorry my friend, I don't want to go either

As the conversation continues, the scene changes but the conversation continues as voiceover.

CUT

EXT. KSHAY'S BACKYARD - DAY

KSHAY goes to water his flowers with a water spray bottle. As he passes the well he again thinks he hears some rumbling.

KSHAY
It's okay. Maybe we will again be together in the future, friend.

KSHAY looks at the well for sometime with a bit of fear.

FRIEND

Yeah and take care of yourself
Kshay. Don't mess with the bullies.
Just ignore them

KSHAY ignores the well and than goes to his flower. He waters them with a bit of preoccupied mind.

Another day, same thing happens. He is dressed different, the daylight is different but he hears some rumbling. He looks for sometime, takes a step forward and than steps back to go to his flowers.

KSHAY

But Sunit was telling me to face my-

FRIEND

I think he is stupid. They will hurt you, just enjoy school Kshay. I will try to meet in the vacation, alright?

KSHAY

Sure. Goodbye.

FRIEND

Bye.

EXT. SURREAL LOOKING BACKYARD - DAY

KSHAY stands there one day, as winds blow, and the camera travels like the wind and comes to him as he is looking at the well and some sound is rising from it.

Than OTS of him looking at the well.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

KSHAY is standing near his FATHER who is working on his laptop again and with a lot of papers.

KSHAY at first is looking down and rethinks if he should ask what he is about to. But asks

FATHER

Yes?

KSHAY

Father, who gave me my name

FATHER pauses his work for sometime and than says

FATHER

Your grandfather. Why?

KSHAY

Its weird. My friends...

FATHER

Your friends what? Don't like it?

KSHAY

Its not sweet. Its not...

FADE TO:

INT. KSHAY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

KSHAY is sleeping as the camera zooms in to KSHAY as the same sound of wind blows like before. The camera stops at KSHAY's closeup and it is all silent. Than the similar sound starts.

UNKNOWN

GHMMM.... GHMMMMMMM....
GHMMMMMMMMHHYYYY.....SHYYYYYY....

And KSHAY's eyes open. He has been dreaming and sweating. He wakes up looks around, drinks some water and lies back the camera following his movement to his pillow. He closes his eyes and when he wakes up he wakes up in a toally different place.

KSHAY V.O.

This is confusing. I am so confused.

INT. KSHAY'S BEDROOM - SOME TIME LATER

In Long Shot, KSHAY is sick and his parents are putting wet towel over his forehead to calm his fever down.

Extreme Closeup on KSHAY's eyes, red and he is sick.

KSHAY V.O.

My friends have all gone

A phone lying on a table outside which is all black and the phone is calling his Best Friend but the phone keeps on ringing.

The ringing sound continues to another scene where KSHAY is sick and his MOTHER brings his favorite flower to his room and keeps them on his desk and leaves.

KSHAY V.O. (CONT'D)

I have what I need now...

KSHAY reaches his hand to touch the flower but he is too sick to touch. On his left the phone is re-ringing his BEST FRIEND but the phone is not being picked up.

KSHAY V.O. (CONT'D)

...but still don't. I miss my friends. I feel so alone.

KSHAY is sitting on his bed, better, his flower near him and he waters it at home.

The ringing sound slowly fades away making way for some rumbling.

UNKNOWN

GRMMMMHHYYY...RHHHHYYYYY...RHHHY
YYYY..

KSHAY walks in a field, all empty. There are sounds of boys playng gully cricket there but it is all empty now. KSHAY walks all around the sound haunting him. There is literally no one and no end to the field.

KSHAY V.O.

I have no friends now and I think...

UNKNOWN

HYYYYY...SHYYYYY...KSHYYYYY...KSH
AYYYYY.....

KSHAY V.O.

...it calls me

INT. KSHAY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

KSHAY goes to his bed, looking at the flower one time. The flower is decaying now. Dying. There is a tear in KSHAY's eyes as he closes his eyes to fall asleep. All sounds cease to exist now.

KSHAY V.O.

I think it is calling me

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. UNKNOWN PLACE - SOME TIME LATER

KSHAY wakes up and the camera is too close to him. He moves his hand and his hand hits something. He turns around to find himself somewhere else. He looks around sitting and finds he is sitting in the well.

Panic strikes and he gets up. He tries to climb and call for help.

KSHAY
HELP! HELP! I AM HERE. HELP.

He tries to climb but it is too flat too. He cannot climb the well he realizes and keeps on calling. He realizes he is in the well.

Then he sees something. Through the well wall he sees a boy coming there with something in his hand. He shouts for help but the boy doesn't see at first.

He realizes the boy was he himself, his younger version coming with the flower pot. The flower alive and new. He calls himself.

KSHAY (CONT'D)
HELP! HEY HELP ME. I AM HERE. HELP
ME.

But his past self looks at the well and ignores him goes.

Night falls, and he feels alone. He tries to climb and couldn't. Slowly he cries for sometime.

KSHAY (CONT'D)
I want to go home. Back to mom and
dad. I want to go home. I cannot be
here

INT. THE WELL - NEXT DAY

His Past Self comes to water the plants and he calls. He searches for something to throw but there is nothing. The well is dry and empty. He keeps on calling.

And days pass. Everyday his past self comes and he calls after him but the past self doesn't answer.

Slowly he starts becoming sad and calling after his old self.

KSHAY

I cannot be here. Get me out. Get
me out of here

The old self ignores him and one night he becomes angry. He punches the well wall and hurts himself. He sits there holding his hand. He screams.

KSHAY (CONT'D)

AHHH! GET ME OUT OF HERE

KSHAY is anger.

Next morning, the young self comes again and just stands there. He slowly mutters the words at first.

KSHAY (CONT'D)

Help me. Help me. Please I know you
can understand, I know you can see
me. Help me dammit. Get me out of
here. Please. oh, come closer. Look
down. Please. Please

But the Younger Self turns around and slowly starts walking back. KSHAY knows himself this is his last meeting and that his younger self never comes back. So KSHAY begins crying.

KSHAY (CONT'D)

Come back. No...come back. Come
back here. Help me. Help me.

It is night and KSHAY is crying.

KSHAY (CONT'D)

I want to go back. I want to go
home. I want to go back. I want to
be Kshay again.

KSHAY looks around and the well surrounds him. He sits there rubbing his tears and than sitting peacefully.

KSHAY (CONT'D)

I think I have to be here forever.

He sighs and decides to sleep peacefully.
He at first doesn't fall asleep and stares at the sky above.
The stars.

KSHAY (CONT'D)

It is really beautiful. One of them
is you Grandpa, I know.

The night sky is full of stars.

KSHAY (CONT'D)

I always wanted to ask you why you gave me my name, but I think now I know. And its beautiful, I accept it. I accept Kshay. I-shay. Ak-shay

And he closes his eyes to fall asleep.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. UNKNOWN PLACE - DAY

Its all black but a lot of sound of people around. And distinguishing from it a boy's sound.

We see a lot of people around and it is blurry at first, which unblurs slowly and it is a market we see.

He sees a young boy pointing at something and saying something he couldn't understand. He looks down to see its flowers, its a purple flower in the flower pot. And he realizes he is a flower seller now.

The young boy is KSHAY's Youngest Version asking for the flowers.

KSHAY'S YOUNGEST VERSION

How much are these flowers?

KSHAY now looks at the flowers and being the flower seller looks at KSHAY says

KSHAY/THE FLOWER SELLER

600

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END.

The Well

A Story by Nilanjan Paul

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