

THE WOMAN UNDER THE SUN

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INT. HOME - AFTERNOON

ABHI[16], looks at his watch. The time is 3:00 pm. He goes to the bedroom. His MOTHER[38] is sleeping. He wakes her up.

ABHI

Maa..

She opens her eyes. Still lying on the bed.

ABHI

Main Kaushik ke ghar jaa raha hoon. Darwaza laga do.

MAA

[In a sleepy voice]
Extra chaabi table pe rakha hai, vahi leke jaa.

ABHI

Theek hai.

MAA

Hmm.. Ab sone de jaa.

ABHI

Hmm..

Abhi comes out of the room. Takes the keys from the dining table. Then leaves the house.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

The Sun is shining very brightly. A very hot and dry wind is blowing. Abhi is walking. Beads of sweat drop from his forehead. The street is empty. The shops are closed. He takes out a handkerchief and wipes the sweat on his face. He watches a dog sleeping under a car. He sees a building which is under construction. There is no one around.

A metallic sound is heard. He stops walking and looks around. He sees a WOMAN[late 20s]. She is beating a big stone with a hammer. He glances around again. Then, he looks at her perplexedly. After a few second, he goes towards her.

ABHI

Aap kya kar rahi hai yaha?

She looks at him.

WOMAN

[Still beating the stone]
Patthar tod rahi hoon.

ABHI
Ha vo to pata hai. Koi aur kaam nahi karta
kya yaha pe?

WOMAN
Ha karte hai.

She then takes another stone and starts beating it.

ABHI
To aap akeli kyu kaam kar rahi hai?

WOMAN
Garmi ki vajah se sahib ne sabko aadhe din
ki chutti di hai. Islie sab chale gaye.

ABHI
Fir aap kyu itni dhoop mein kaam kar rahi
hai?

WOMAN
Taaki mujhe poore din ki tankhwa mil
jaaye...

She picks up another stone and starts beating it.

WOMAN
Jisse mere bacchon ko raat mein kuch khaane
ko mil jaaye. Do din se kuch nahi khaaya
dono ne.

ABHI
[In a low tone]
Oh!

He thinks something for a while. The woman is busy in her
work.

ABHI [CONT'D]
To fir aapke pati kya karte hai?

The woman stops beating the stone. She looks at Abhi.

WOMAN
Vo guzar gaye.

ABHI
[Shockingly]
Guzar gaye! Kaise?

WOMAN
Do saal pehle kaam karte wakt imarat ke
upar se girke marr gaye.

She resumes doing her work. Abhi stands there dumbstruck. He looks at her for a while. Then leaves the place.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Abhi is walking. He looks a bit tired and sad. He reaches his friend's house. He rings the bell. The door opens. KAUSHIK[16], welcomes Abhi.

INT. KAUSHIK'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Abhi is sitting on the sofa. Kaushik switches on the fan. Abhi looks at the fan. He feels the air. Kaushik brings two glasses of lemonade. He gives one glass to Abhi and the another for himself. They both take a sip. Abhi still looks a bit sad.

KAUSHIK

Kya baat hai yaar, aaj itna mood off dikh raha hai tera.

ABHI

Kuch nahi yaar, aise hi.

KAUSHIK

Chal chal mujhse chupayega kya. Bata kya hua?

ABHI

Arre yaar, yaha aate wakt wo building ka kaam chal raha hai na, vaha pe ek aurat akeli kaam kar rahi thi.

KAUSHIK

[Nods]
Ha, toh?

ABHI

Toh matlab itne dhoop mein vo akeli kaam kar rahi thi. Maine jab poocha KYU, tab usne bola apne baccho ke khaane ke liye kaam kar rahi thi..

KAUSHIK

[Interrupts]
To fir uska pati kya karta hai? Pakka koi nashedi ya juari hoga.

ABHI

Nahi yaar. Maine bhi yahi socha tha pehle, par jab maine poocha usse, tab vo boli ki do saal pehle vo kaam karte waqt upar se girke marr gaya.

Kaushik listens carefully.

ABHI[CONT'D]
Main sirf ye hi soch raha hu ki vo akeli
kitne din aise mazduri karte jaayegi, aur
kab tak apne bacchon ki aur ghar chalane ki
zimmedaari apne sar par uthaegi..

They both look at each other for a while.

KAUSHIK
[Pats on Abhi's back]
Arre chhod na yaar, jaane de. Ab hum kya
kar sakte hai bata? Unke naseeb mein yahi
sab likha hai. To na to main kuch kar sakta
hoon aur na hi tu kuch kar sakta hai. Unko
unki haalat mein rehne dete hai, isi mein
apni bhalai hai. Samajh raha hai na main
kya bol raha hoon?

Abhi takes a sip of lemonade. He looks a bit disappointed.

ABHI
Hmm...

EXT. SAME STREET - FEW DAYS LATER

Abhi walks past the building where the woman was working a few days ago. A dozen of labours are working. He looks for the woman. But can't find her.

EXT. SAME STREET - TWO DAYS LATER

Abhi is walking. The Sun is shining brightly. He comes across the same building under construction. There are many labours working. He looks around the place. The woman cannot be seen. He goes towards one of the workers.

ABHI
Are suniye bhaiyya ji

The worker looks at him.

WORKER
Ha boliye

ABHI
Vo ek aurat akele kaam karti hai na yaha pe
jo kuch din pehle aadhe din ki chhutti
lekar nahi gayi, kaha hai vo?

The worker still looks at him. He says nothing.

ABHI

Arre vo jiske do bacche hai, aur jiske pati
do saal pehle guzar gaye.

WORKER

[In grief]

Usko to kal kaam karte wakt daura padh gaya
aur aspatal lekar gaye. Tab ooha doctor
sahib ne bola ki vo marr gayi.

ABHI

[Very much shocked]

Aur uske baccho ka kya?

WORKER

Pata nahi. Saayad apni mausi ke saath hai
ab. Bahut bura hua, bahut bura hua bechari
ke saath.

The worker got back to his work. Abhi looked at the place
where the woman was working a few days ago. He stood there
silently.

THE END