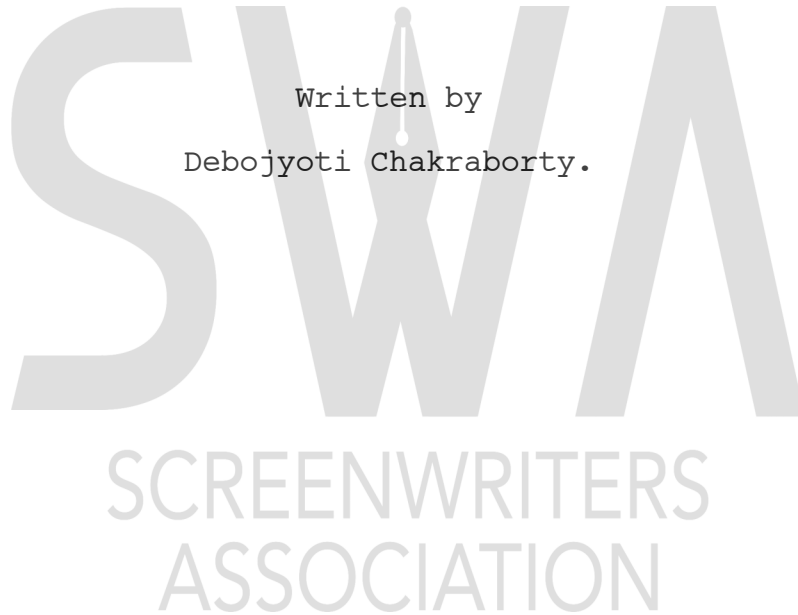


WHEN IT RAINS.

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" THINGS DON'T COME OUT FROM HELL, THEY ACTUALLY COME DOWN FROM THE SKY WHEN IT RAINS."

FADE IN:

EXT. A VILLAGE MUD HOUSE - DAY

It's raining.

A frog hops across the front yard of the house and stops at the base of the porch stairs.

It croaks.

INT. MUD HOUSE - STUDY ROOM - DAY

The room is small and semi- dark. The window is shut.

An old bald man, wearing a pair of high-powered glasses, sits at a study table typing away hastily on a typewriter in the light of a kerosene table lamp.

The old man is sweating.

There is a stack of typed out papers on the table beside the typewriter.

A little girl, TITLY(10)- she doesn't appear to be a village girl- comes up to the table, carrying water in a copper glass.

TITLY
Grandpa, water.

He ignores her.

TITLY (CONT'D)
Grandpa.

No response from the old man.

Titly sighs as her eyes land on the stack of typed out papers.

TITLY (CONT'D)
Can I read them?

Still nothing.

TITLY (CONT'D)

Can I?

Old man has definitely turned a deaf ear to her.

Titly pouts and storms off the room.

He keeps on typing...

INT. MUD HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Fire woods in an earthen hearth are burning.

There is a small open window in the wall above the hearth. Smoke from the hearth is billowing out the window.

An old woman places an iron wok over the hearth.

Titly strides in, fuming.

The old woman looks at Titly.

TITLY

I will never talk to him again,
grandma.

She slams down the copper glass of water on the floor and sits down on a mini wooden stool by the hearth.

Grandma, the old woman, smiles.

GRANDMA

I told you he would not talk to
you. He never does when he writes.
He seems to get lost in the world
of the story he is writing.

TITLY

What does he write?

GRANDMA

Why, stories.

TITLY

I know that.

Grandma pours some oil into the hot wok.

TITLY (CONT'D)

What kind of stories does he write?
I mean there are two books by him
we have in our house. I saw maa
read them a few times. But she
warned me never to touch them. Why
is that?

Grandma looks at her.

GRANDMA

They are not for children to read.

TITLY

What do you mean?

Grandma thinks a bit then-

GRANDMA

Children will find them boring.

Grandma gets up and crosses over to a kitchen rack.

TITLY

That's what I assumed. He is a
boring writer. That's why nobody
reads his stories.

Grandma doesn't seem to like what Titly has just said. She
takes down a small container and turns back to Titly.

GRANDMA

That's not true.

TITLY

Baba said it.

GRANDMA

Oh! He is an idiot. Your Grandpa is
not a bad writer. It's just that
people find his stories a bit...
well, too much weird.

Grandma comes back to the hearth and squats in front of it.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

I personally like his stories
though.

TITLY

Really?!

Grandma nods, smiling.

TITLY (CONT'D)

Will you tell me one of his stories?

GRANDMA

No.

TITLY

Please.

Grandma puts *paanch phoron* into hot oil, shaking her head.

It sizzles in the oil.

TITLY (CONT'D)

Please... please.

Grandma looks at Titly.

Titly looks at Grandma with beady eyes.

TITLY (CONT'D)

Only one story. I will tell you to stop if I don't like it. Please.

Grandma sighs, relenting.

GRANDMA

Fine.

TITLY

Yay!

GRANDMA

But you have to promise me that you won't tell your parents about it.

TITLY

I promise.

Grandma nods.

GRANDMA

OK then, let me think which one to tell.

Grandma adds chopped up onions and peeled garlic cloves into the sizzling oil.

She looks out the open window at the falling rain.

A beat

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

Yes! I think you will like this one.

Titly settles well on the mini stool- simmering with keenness to hear the story.

Grandma clears her throat and--

GRAANDMA

So, it the story about a boy...

FADE OUT:

TITLE: RUMBLE

FADE IN:

INT. FLAT - KITCHEN - TIME UNKNOWN

Clouds rumble outside.

It's not possible to say if it's day or night since the window of the kitchen is completely boarded up with a plywood

A woman bent over before a fridge looking for something inside it.

Under the kitchen table on the floor lies MIMO, an eleven year old boy, on his stomach holding a GUN, just like a soldier who is about to ambush.

After a moment, the woman stands upright, closes the fridge door and walks out of the kitchen.

Mimo remains under the table, silent.

A beat, then--

CLOUDS RUMBLE and--

Mimo rolls out from under the table and fires his TOY GUN aiming it up at the ceiling...

TRRRRRRR!

INT. FLAT - HALL - TIME UNKNOWN.

The windows of the hall are also completely boarded up with plywoods.

ANUSH, a forty year old bearded man, sits on a sofa cradling a baby.

The woman comes over.

THE WOMAN

Honey.

Anush looks up .

She is Supria, a mid-thirties beautiful plumpy woman.

SUPRIA

We are out of ration. I have nothing to cook for dinner.

ANUSH

Nothing in the fridge?

SUPRIA

Nothing except for a half finished jelly jar and one egg.

ANUSH

(Thoughtfully)

OK.

He gets up.

ANUSH (CONT'D)

Take her.

Supria takes the sleeping baby from Anush.

ANUSH (CONT'D)

You make the list. I am getting ready.

He turns to leave, but--

SUPRIA

Wait a second!

Anush stops and turns back to Supria.

SUPRIA (CONT'D)

Getting ready for what?

ANUSH

I have to go to the store to get things, haven't I?

SUPRIA

Are you out of your mind?

ANUSH

Why, What happened?

Supria gives him a " are you for real!?" look.

It dawns upon him

ANUSH (CONT'D)

Oh that.

He looks down at his BANDAGED foot.

ANUSH (CONT'D)

It's almost healed. I no longer feel any pain when I walk.

SUPRIA

But if it gets wet again in the rain before it's totally cured you know what doctor said would happen to it. Also, your boots are torn. You can't even imagine going outside without wearing a pair of rain boots.

Anush sighs.

ANUSH

I know, but it won't stop raining until at least one more week. We can't stay without food for that long. Even if we manage somehow, What about the children?

SUPRIA

I wish I could go outside in the rain.

ANUSH

That's not even an option.

SUPRIA

What should we do then?

She sits down on the sofa with the baby in her arms. Anush stands there seems to be mulling over something.

After a moment or two.

ANUSH

There is only one way we can get
out of this muddle.

Supria looks up at him.

SUPRIA

What is it?

Anush doesn't tell anything only stares at her. She tries to
read his face and then--

SUPRIA (CONT'D)

You mean?

Anush nods slowly. Supria shakes her head.

SUPRIA (CONT'D)

No.

ANUSH

Do we have any other option?

A silence falls.

INT. FLAT - KITCHEN - TIME UNKNOWN.

Mimo sits at the kitchen table with his toy gun, looking
right and left.

SUPRIA (O.S.)

We are very sorry honey.

Mimo looks to his left: Supria sits there at the table.

SUPRIA (CONT'D)

But if you don't want to go, you
don't have to.

ANUSH (O.S.)

Of course he wants to go.

Mimo now turns to his right :Anush sits there at the table.
He has a pad and pen in front of him on the table.

ANUSH (CONT'D)

He is no longer a little boy. He
has grown- up enough to explore
outside in the rain. Am I right,
buddy?

Mimo nods, smiling.

SUPRIA
Are you sure, honey?

Mimo turns to Supria and nods again, still smiling.

ANUSH
That's my boy!

Anush pats Mimo's shoulder.

ANUSH (CONT'D)
Let's talk about the rules then.

Anush opens the pad to a blank page, uncaps the pen and hands them to Mimo.

ANUSH (CONT'D)
What are the rules?

Mimo begins to write something on the page.

Anush and Supria exchange a look. She appears to be a bit worried, but he assures her with a gesture.

Mimo finishes writing and holds out the pad to Anush. Anush takes the pad and reads out aloud

ANUSH (CONT'D)
Rule no 1: Always wear a rain coat.

Anush looks up from the pad

ANUSH (CONT'D)
Good.

Mimo smiles. Anush resumes reading

ANUSH (CONT'D)
Rule no 2: never step into any puddles.

SUPRIA
Very good.

Mimo looks at Supria and smiles.

ANUSH
Rule no 3: Go Straight to the store, get the groceries and come straight back home. Never wander about.

Supria strokes Mimo's head. Mimo beams.

ANUSH (CONT'D)
Is that all?

Mimo turns to Anush

ANUSH (CONT'D)
There is one more rule. Don't you remember that?

Mimo thinks a bit, but then shakes his head.

ANUSH (CONT'D)
Then you don't know the most important rule of these all. Rule no 4: once outside you must never look up. You must always keep your head down.

SUPRIA
You must always remember that rule: never look upside once you are outside.

Mimo nods.

ANUSH
Do you know how to walk with head down.

Mimo nods his head vehemently.

ANUSH (CONT'D)
Show us.

Mimo gets up from the chair, hangs his head and takes a few steps.

SUPRIA
Well done!

Mimo turns around and looks at his parents, smiling.

ANUSH
OK.

He stands up and looks at Supria

ANUSH (CONT'D)
Would you please turn on the water heater?

SUPRIA

Sure.

Anush turns to Mimo.

ANUSH

You come with me, buddy. I have to
make you ready for outside.

Mimo smiles as the clouds rumble...

INT. FLAT - BATHROOM - TIME UNKNOWN

The bathroom window is also boarded up.

Supria turns off the water heater and looks out the open
bathroom door into the corridor

SUPRIA

(loudly)
It's ready!

Anush replies from the hall

ANUSH (O.S.)

Coming!

After a few seconds, Anush comes into the bathroom .

ANUSH

Look who is here.

Anush steps aside to reveal:

Mimo is standing in the bathroom's doorway. He wears a full
sleeved RAIN COAT which covers him from head to knees . A
HEADGEAR with a look through hard plastic FACE SHIELD. On a
side of the face shield is a small AIR FILTER so that Mimo
can easily breath in and out. He also wears a pair of RAIN
BOOTS up to knees and a pair of GLOVES.

Supria's eyes get moist. She strides up to Mimo and embraces
him.

SUPRIA

My baby.

She kisses on the face shield.

ANUSH

OK. Lets do the test.

Anush takes Mimo over to the shower

ANUSH (CONT'D)

Stand here.

Mimo takes a step forward and stands right under the shower head.

ANUSH (CONT'D)

Are you ready?

Mimo nods.

Supria shuts her eyes, mumbling some prayer.

Anush turns the shower knob and--

Hot water comes running down all over Mimo.

Anush quickly backs away and then watches his son under the shower of scalding water.

Supria continues to pray with her eyes shut.

Moments later, Anush carefully takes a few steps forward and turns off the shower.

ANUSH (CONT'D)

Are you alright, buddy?

Supria opens her eyes.

Mimo nods.

Supria smiles. Anush smiles.

INT. FLAT - HALL - TIME UNKNOWN

Mimo stands while Anush, down on one knee, wears Mimo a wrist band.

ANUSH

Do you know what this is?

Mimo shakes his head.

ANUSH (CONT'D)

It's a troubleshooter. It will send me a signal if you are in any kind of trouble. So that I can come over to help you. In that way even though I won't be out there with you physically, I will always be with you technically.

Anush taps on the dialer of a wrist watch like device that he is wearing around his wrist.

Mimo nods. Anush gets up.

Supria comes up to them with a small pouch in her hand.

SUPRIA

Here.

She hands Mimo the pouch.

SUPRIA (CONT'D)

Don't lose it.

Mimo nods. Supria takes Mimo's hands.

SUPRIA (CONT'D)

Sweetie, You don't have to go if you don't want to .

ANUSH

Don't make him nervous. Look here, buddy.

Mimo turns to Anush.

ANUSH (CONT'D)

There's nothing to be afraid of as long as you follow the rules.

SUPRIA

You remember all the rules now, don't you?

Mimo nods rapidly.

ANUSH

Well, then just go outside and enjoy the rain.

INT. HALLWAY - TIME UNKNOWN

Mimo and Anush waits for Elevator.

Behind them, Supria stands in the door way of their flat, watching Mimo.

DING! Elevator arrives.

The elevator door slides open and one of two men both wearing a rain suits and boots, just like Mimo, steps out of the elevator. He is carrying a large box in his hands - the box is wrapped well with a plastic.

Anush and Mimo step aside. The elevator doors close again and the elevator ascends.

Mimo watches the man walk straight over to the flat across from their flat.

The man presses a door bell. Someone opens the door and the man gets inside.

The doors shut.

Ding!

The elevator doors open.

Anush takes a glimpse into the empty elevator and looks down at Mimo.

ANUSH
Are you ready for this?

Mimo nods quickly.

ANUSH (CONT'D)
OK. Buddy...

He puts his hands on Mimo's shoulders.

ANUSH (CONT'D)
... Just remember the four rules
and you will be fine out there.

Mimo nods. Anush smiles, squeezing Mimo's shoulder gently.

SUPRIA
Take care, sweetie!

Mimo looks over at her. She waves at him. He waves back.

ANUSH
Now get in there.

Anush nods towards the elevator. Mimo gets into the elevator.

He looks over at Anush. Anush nods with a smile.

Mimo nods and presses the button for the ground floor.

The elevator doors shut and the elevator descends.

Anush let out a heavy sigh. For the first time he looks genuinely concerned...

INT. ELEVATOR - TIME UNKNOWN

Mimo stands looking at the elevator door as the elevator continues moving down.

A beat, then--

DING!

The Elevator halts.

Mimo's eyes get widen... he catches his breath - what is lurking for him outside the elevator?

The Elevator doors begin to open.

Mimo quickly downs his head.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDINGS COMPOUND - DAY

It's drizzling...

Mimo comes out of a building, head down, and stops in the middle of the compound.

He beholds the rain drops hitting the concrete compound floor.

The clouds rumble.

Mimo begins to raise his head slowly, but he controls the urge and brings his head back down.

He walks across the compound.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - DAY.

Still drizzling.

All the doors and windows of the buildings on either side of the alley way are boarded up with plywoods.

Lights on the exterior walls of the buildings are on.

A man in rain coat and boots drags two large wood planks behind him.

Suddenly, he stops, dropping the planks.

As--

Mimo comes walking with his head down. He stops in front of a small puddle and gazes down at it for a moment and then cautiously steps over it.

A smile spreads across his face.

He resumes walking down the long alleyway.

The man with his head down watches Mimo go for a moment and then quickly lifts the planks and begins to drag them behind him again.

INT. FLAT - KITCHEN- DAY(AS WE KNOW IT NOW)

Supria is cradling the baby, standing by the kitchen table as the baby cries.

Anush shakes a open box of Cerelac over an empty bowl, but, nothing comes out of the box.

Anush with a sigh sets the box down on the table with two other apparently empty Cerelac boxes.

Supria looks at Anush

SUPRIA
Not even a little bit?

Anush looks at her and shakes his head.

The baby keeps on bawling.

SUPRIA (CONT'D)
Mimo must have reached the store by now, hasn't he?

Anush nods slowly. Supria looks back down at the baby.

SUPRIA (CONT'D)
I know baby... Wait just a bit.
Your big brother will be back with your food.

Baby continues crying.

EXT. ALLEY WAY - DAY

Mimo steps over a puddle on the road, smiling.

It's still drizzling.

A hanging head pedestrian in rain coat and boots with a box in his hands passes by Mimo.

Mimo steps over another puddle. He is enjoying it.

After a few more steps ahead, Mimo suddenly halts.

There is a LARGE PUDDLE this time which he can't possibly step over.

Mimo stands there staring down at the puddle: The reflections of lights and drizzles of rain making it look kind of ... UNEARTHLY.

A beat, then--

He takes a few steps backward...

Takes a long breath and--

Runs towards the puddle and as soon as he reaches the edge of it--

He leaps, raising his head and squeezing shut his eyes to avoid looking at the sky.

THUD! He lands onto the other side of the large puddle.

He downs his head instantly and opens his eyes.

He bends over and looks behind through the gap between his legs to find:

The heels of his boots are almost touching the puddle.

He promptly moves away from the puddle and heaves a sigh of relief.

INT. FLAT - KITCHEN - DAY

Anush is putting the empty cereal boxes into a trash bag when he notices Mimo's toy gun on the table.

He picks up the gun and looks at it as a smile blooms on his face.

Clouds rumble.

And--

A sudden fear wipes out the smile.

INT. FLAT - HALL - DAY.

Supria sits on the sofa, breast feeding the baby.

Anush comes in, the toy gun in a hand, and strides across the hall into the bedroom.

He doesn't even take a glimpse at Supria.

Supria looks concerned.

INT. FLAT - BEDROOM - DAY

Anush, down on his knees on the floor, lifts up the bedskirt and--

Drags out a LONG METAL CASE from under the bed.

He unlocks the case by turning the dial and lifts up it's hinged - lid.

AS he stares into the case, Supria enters the bedroom with the baby.

Supria sees the case.

SUPRIA
Is everything all right?

Anush looks up

ANUSH
Yea... everything is fine.

SUPRIA
Then what are you doing with that thing?

ANUSH
Nothing. Just... checking it.

He looks back down at the object inside the case(which we can't see)

Supria gazes at Anush - something is not right.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - DAY

Drizzling continues.

Mimo carries on walking through the alleyway for a few moments and then--

He stops as he sees:

Reflections of neon sign lights on a wet street in front of him

Mimo has reached the end of the alleyway which leads out to the street.

Mimo steps onto the street.

EXT. STREET - DAY

The street is mostly deserted except for a few rain coated and booted people carrying boxes in their hands and of course they all have held their heads down.

Also, on a side of the road parked a van. On a side of the van has a word painted which reads: AUTHORITY.

Mimo continues walking along the wet street watching the neon reflections on it.

After a bit, he sees a long and wide ARROW painted on the street pointing to a side of the street. In the middle of the arrow has the words: GROCERY SHOP NUMBER: 68.

Mimo walks on until he reaches another same painted arrow on the street. In the middle of this arrow has the words: GROCERY SHOP NUMBER: 69.

Mimo follows the arrow and steps onto a sidewalk. On the sidewalk has one more painted arrow which is pointing off the sidewalk.

Mimo steps off the sidewalk and moves straight ahead a little and--

He reaches up to a closed SHUTTER DOOR.

Mimo raises his head to see:

G 69 written with neon lights over the Shutter door.

Clouds rumble...

Mimo quickly drops his head and bangs onto the shutter door.

A beat, then--

The shutter door half opens and Mimo gets inside the store.

The shutter door rolls down again.

INT. G 69 - ENTRANCE AREA - DAY

A pipe and drape separates the entrance area from the main shop.

A doorman sprays some vapor all over Mimo.

Then he helps Mimo open his headgear-Cum- face shield.

DOORMAN

I am putting it here

The doorman sets Mimo's headgear on a shelf behind him.

The doorman turns back to Mimo, smiling.

DOORMAN (CONT'D)

Welcome to G 69.

And pulls back the drape. Mimo smiles back and steps into the shop.

INT. G 69 - DAY

Mimo looks around the shop. It's a relatively large grocery store.

It is lit in a way which makes it look more like a dance club.

An INDIAN MUSICAL INSTRUMENT(TABLA) is playing softly on a gramophone on the counter top.

Mimo comes up to the counter. There is no one behind it.

Mimo looks to his one side and sees at the far end of the shop a man putting away some grocery stuff on the shelves.

Mimo claps his hands to draw the men's attention, but he doesn't seem to hear it.

Mimo claps louder this time and--

A GIRL (O.S.)

Yes!

Mimo gets startled and turns back to the counter to find:

LOLO - a girl in her early twenties, has tatoos on her arms and neck. Her Lips are pierced and hair is dyed blue. She is also wearing a pair of glasses - stands behind the counter.

She narrows her eyes and leans over the counter to have a better look at Mimo.

LOLO

Mimo?

Mimo nods.

She looks towards the pole and drape divider.

LOLO (CONT'D)

Where is your father?

She turns back to Mimo as he shakes his head.

Lolo widens her eyes.

LOLO (CONT'D)

You came alone!

Mimo nods.

LOLO (CONT'D)

Cool man!

Mimo beams. Lolo turns to her side and calls out to the man at the far end of the shop

LOLO (CONT'D)

Hey, MOJO!

The man, MOJO, hears and looks over at Lolo.

LOLO (CONT'D)

(Pointing to Mimo)

Mimo came alone!

The man looks at Mimo and gives a thumbs up. Mimo beams more.

Lolo turns back to Mimo.

LOLO (CONT'D)

So, you are dude now, huh?

Mimo's beaming won't cease today.

LOLO (CONT'D)

You know what, if you are looking for a girlfriend, I am available.

Mimo lowers his head, blushing. Lolo laughs.

LOLO (CONT'D)

You are very cute.

She reaches over the counter and pinches Mimo's cheek fondly.

LOLO (CONT'D)
OK. Where is the list?

Mimo looks up shyly and hands her the small pouch.

Lolo opens the pouch and removes a shopping list and a small squire plastic card from it.

She looks over the list and then calls out to Mojo.

LOLO (CONT'D)
Hey, take the list.

Mojo comes over- he also has tatoos on his arms and neck as well as a Mohawk hair do- Mojo takes the list from Lolo's hand. He wiggles his eyebrows at Mimo, going back to the shelves.

Mimo smiles.

LOLO (CONT'D)
Have to wait a bit.

Mimo turns to Lolo and nods his head sideways - "OK".

Lolo smiles and looks at the gramophone and then back to Mimo

LOLO (CONT'D)
Like music?

Mimo nods.

LOLO (CONT'D)
Great... Oh yea. I and Mojo have composed a fusion of Guitar and Sitar recently. Would you like to listen to it?

Mimo nods vehemently.

LOLO (CONT'D)
Superb!

She ducks down behind the counter.

Mimo looks at the gramophone.

Clouds rumble.

EXT. G 69 - DAY

It's still drizzling.

Two boys - TABLU(12) and DABBU(12), Tablu is thin and Dabbu is chubby - in rain coats and on boots come and stand at the closed shutter door of the shop. Both of them have their heads down.

TABLU
Give me that.

DABBU
Are you sure about it?

TABLU
Of course, I am. She knows me.
Also, I know how to woo her. You
just remember to do your part.

DABBU
OK.

Dabbu hands a small pouch to Tablu.

TABLU
Now let's go inside.

Tablu bangs on the shutter door.

INT. G 69 - DAY

Lolo puts the needle of the gramophone on a record as Mimo looks on.

The music starts playing: it's a sort of weird fusion of guitar and sitar.

LOLO
You like it?

Mimo nods, smiling.

LOLO (CONT'D)
Oh, it's so vibrating!

Lolo starts grooving.

Mimo starts moving his head and tapping his boots to the music.

A moment later, The drape is pulled back as Tablu and Dabbu enter - they have taken off their head gears.

They watch Lolo grooving.

DABBU
Is that her?

TABLU
Yes?

DABBU
Then I highly doubt she will fall
for it.

TABLU
You just wait and see. And yea,
don't forget to play along.

DABBU
Sure.

They walk up to the counter and stand beside Mimo.

Mimo, moving his head to the music, turns to them with a
smile . They glare at him. He instantly stops his little
dance move and looks away.

Tablu turns to Lolo who is still grooving with her eyes shut.

TABLU
(loudly)
Hey, Lolo!

Lolo snaps out of her musical riverine and sees Tablu and
Dabbu.

LOLO
Hey.

TABLU
Nice music.

Lolo nods.

TABLU (CONT'D)
How's everything?

LOLO
Awesome... But what are you doing
here? Your father came only
yesterday.

TABLU
That's right. But he forgot a few
things. So, he has sent me to get
those.

Lolo, skeptical, stares at Tablu for a bit then nods and holds out her palm.

TABLU (CONT'D)
Yes... here.

He hands her the pouch. Lolo takes out the grocery list from the pouch and looks over it.

Tablu and Dabbu exchange a look.

Lolo's brow creases as she reads out the list.

LOLO
Chocolates, chips, coke. Your father forgot these?

She looks at Tablu.

Tablu nods, grinning.

Lolo shakes her head in disbelief and removes a card from the pouch. Looks at it and--

LOLO (CONT'D)
I knew it! This is not the card for our shop.

TABLU
What are you saying?

LOLO
Have you taken me for an Idiot?

TABLU
What? No.

LOLO
Listen, dude, If you don't want me to call the authority, get out of here right away.

She puts the card back into the pouch and slides it across the counter top to Tablu. Tablu picks up the pouch.

Dabbu looks scared.

DABBU
(To Tablu)
Lets go.

He starts to leave but Tablu grabs his arm.

TABLU

Hang on.

Dabbu stops. Tablu looks back at Lolo and laughs.

Mimo. Confused, looks at Tablu.

Lolo frowns at Tablu.

LOLO

What's so funny?

TABLU

I am sorry. I know the card is not for this shop. I was just pulling your legs.

LOLO

Oh, Really?

Tablu nods, ceasing his laughter.

TABLU

Sorry again. Even my parents don't know I am here. I snuck out, you know. Anyway, I actually came here for my friend...

He turns to Dabbu.

TABLU (CONT'D)

... Dabbu.
(To Dabbu)
Say hi to her.

DABBU

(nervously)

Hi.

LOLO

Hey.

TABLU

I told him the other day about your encounter with the Rain Man. But he didn't believe me. That's why I have brought him here so that you can tell him what I said was true.

Lolo looks at Dabbu.

LOLO

Yea, he(re: Tablu) is right.

TABLU

Why don't you show him the proof?

Lolo nods and lifts up her shirt to reveal:

A HANDPRINT like SCAR just above her waist.

Dabbu sees it. Tablu sees it. Mimo takes a glance at it and looks away instantly.

Lolo puts her shirt back down.

TABLU (CONT'D)

(To Dabbu)

Now you believe me, don't you?

DABBU

Without any doubt.

TABLU

She is the only girl I know who fought off the rain man.

Tablu turns back to Lolo.

TABLU (CONT'D)

You are the bravest girl on the earth.

LOLO

Thank you. Now go home. Your parents must be worried.

TABLU

Nay. This is not the first time. We always do it. We can't stay home all the time until the rainy season is over.

LOLO

But you should not venture out in the rain. If it's not necessary. It's not safe out there.

TABLU

Nothing will happen to us. We know the rules well.

He turns to Dabbu.

TABLU (CONT'D)

Right Dabbu?

DABBU

Right.

LOLO

Whatever. You guys should leave now.

TABLU

OK. Um... I also told Dabbu that you are very generous girl, that you always give a child who comes to your shop something to eat... for free.

Tablu glances at the chocolate dispenser on the counter top.

Lolo stares at the two boys for a moment and then--

LOLO

Sorry. That's a plain rumor.

Mimo smiles - cautious not to be seen by the boys.

Tablu goes to say something to Lolo but seems to find no words.

He sighs - defeated.

TABLU

(To Lolo)

See you, then.

Lolo nods. As Tablu turns to leave he sees Mimo, looking at him.

TABLU (CONT'D)

Dumbass!

Mimo looks down . Tablu and Dabbu head towards the room divider. Mimo looks up and watches the boys go.

DABBU

I told you.

TABLU

Shut up.

They stop at the divider; yanks back the drape and step behind it, going into the entrance/exit area.

The drape is drawn back.

LOLO
(looking towards the
divider)
Brats!

Mimo turns back to Lolo. Lolo looks at Mimo.

LOLO (CONT'D)
Never make friends with those boys.

Mimo nods.

Mojo comes up to the counter pushing a shopping cart with a waterproof grocery box in it.

LOLO (CONT'D)
And here comes your grocery!

Mimo looks at the box in the cart.

MOJO
Here.

Mojo hands Lolo the list. Lolo takes the list and ducks behind the counter.

Mojo looks at Mimo and flashes a smile, wiggling his eyebrows. Mimo smiles back. Mojo goes back to work at the shelves.

Lolo comes back up with a file and a pen in her hand. She opens the file and writes something from the card Mimo has given her.

LOLO
It's done.

She closes the file and puts it away under the desk. She puts the card back into the pouch and holds it out with a smile.

LOLO (CONT'D)
Here you are.

Mimo takes it.

LOLO (CONT'D)
So, Gonna meet you again after
rain.

Mimo nods.

LOLO (CONT'D)

Be careful when out there. Remember the rules?

Mimo nods.

LOLO (CONT'D)

Good. See you then, dude.

She smiles. Mimo smiles back and starts pushing the cart with the box towards the room divider.

Clouds rumble.

LOLO (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Wait!

Mimo stops and turns around. Lolo comes up to Mimo with a hand hiding behind her back.

LOLO (CONT'D)

I want to give you something.

She brings her hand out from behind her back.

Mimo looks at her hand to find:

A large chocolate bar.

Mimo looks up to her.

LOLO (CONT'D)

Take it.

Mimo shakes his head.

LOLO (CONT'D)

Come on. I insist.

She takes Mimo's hand and places the bar in it.

LOLO (CONT'D)

I don't give such free gift to everyone, but to only those I like.

She Smiles and ruffles Mimo's hair.

Mimo blushes.

She looks past Mimo as another customer in rain coat and on rain boots enter.

LOLO (CONT'D)

Hey, MR. Dutta.

MR. DUTTA (O.S.)
Hello, Lolo!

Mimo looks down at the chocolate bar in his hand.
His eyes glint.

INT. FLAT - HALL - DAY

On a wall clock: it's five minutes to six.
Anush glances at the time and then starts pacing.
Supria enters from the bedroom.

SUPRIA
Why is he not back yet?

Anush stops pacing.

ANUSH
Oh, don't worry. He will be back in
any minute. Is the baby sleeping?

Supria nods.

SUPRIA
She is very hungry though.

ANUSH
I know.

SUPRIA
I feel so pathetic. One child is
hungry and the other one is out
there in the rain and in spite of
that as a mother I can't do
anything about it. I am--

She breaks off, stifling a sob.

ANUSH
Stop beating yourself up. It's not
your fault. Come here.

He takes Supria in his arms.

ANUSH (CONT'D)
Mimo is a smart boy. He will never
break the rules. And you know that
when one follows the rules they
don't need to be afraid of anything
else. He will be just fine.

SUPRIA

But what's taking him so long?

ANUSH

He may be listening to some freakish
music composed by Lolo.

Supria chuckles. Anush smiles and kisses Supria's head.

EXT. STREET - DUSK.

It's drizzling as usual.

There are a few people in the street. All out for urgent
shopping, not for an evening stroll.

Mimo pushes the shopping cart with the shopping box along the
neon lit wet street. His head is down.

On top of the box lay the chocolate bar. Written on the
packet of the bar: DARK BITE. Rain proof packet.

Mimo continues to walk pushing the cart down the street until-

-
Tablu and Dabbu block his way.

Mimo stops and looks at them from the top of his eyes.

He recognizes them.

Mimo looks away, gulping.

TABLU

Have you got anything to eat?

Mimo shakes his head.

TABLU (CONT'D)

Then what's in that box?

Mimo only shakes his head again.

TABLU (CONT'D)

Why shaking your head. Tell me
What's you have in that box?

Mimo just stands there staring down to the neon lights'
reflection on the street.

DABBU (O.S.)

He can't speak?

TABLU (O.S.)
Do you know him?

MIMO (O.S.)
Kind of. I mean, We used to go to
the same School.

TABLU (O.S.)
Hmm. So that means he is actually
a dumbass.

They both burst out laughing.

Mimo squeezes shut his eyes, as if the dart of humiliation
penetrating his face shield.

Then--

TABLU (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Wait a minute! What's that atop the
box?

Mimo snaps open his eyes and looks at them to see:

They are gazing at the box in the cart.

DABBU
It's a chocolate bar!

TABLU
(To Dabbu)
Take it!

Dabbu takes a step towards the Cart and--

Mimo DASHES along with the cart down the street as Tablu and
Dabbu jump away from his way - surprised.

TABLU (CONT'D)
Hey! You can't get away from us.

Just as they begin to chase after Mimo---

BEEEEEEEP! A whistle is blown behind them. They freeze in
their tracks.

TABLU (CONT'D)
(Almost whispering).
Rats!

EXT. ALLEYWAY - DUSK

Mimo keeps on running while pushing the cart down the lit alleyway.

It's still drizzling.

After a moment, Mimo abruptly stops as--

There is the LARGE PUDDLE inches away from the cart wheels.

Mimo turns around and looks down the alleyway, as far as he can possibly see.

There is no one else. No one is after him.

A little relieved, he turns back and gazes down at the puddle... How to cross it?

INT. FLAT - BATHROOM - DUSK (AS WE KNOW IT)

The big toe of a foot twirls gently in a small puddle of water on the floor.

It's Supria who sits in the toilet staring down at the puddle, absentmindedly.

An ANT trails up to the puddle and halts.

Supria sees the ant and stops moving her big toe.

The ant remains at the edge of the puddle for a moment and then gets into it. The ant starts doggy paddling through the puddle

A smile of pity appears on Supria's face. She bends further down and gingerly pinches the ant out of the water and places it down onto the dry floor on the other side of the puddle.

The ant stays there for a bit, as if confused about what has just happened, before crawling away.

Supria sits up, smiling a bit, but then the smile disappears, just like that, as if she has realized something...

FRIGHTFUL!

INT. FLAT - HALL - DAY.

Anush sits on the floor by the front door looking at a pair of super worn out boots in his hands.

Supria burgess in, yelling

SUPRIA

Hon! Hon!

Anush looks up.

ANUSH

What's wrong?

Supria comes over to Anush as he stands up, putting the boots aside.

SUPRIA

How will he cross a large puddle with the cart?

Anush holds her shoulders.

ANUSH

Calm down... Mimo will easily cross a puddle no matter how large it is.

SUPRIA

How can you be so sure?

Anush nods.

ANUSH

Come with me.

He takes Supria's hand and leads her to the couch.

ANUSH (CONT'D)

Sit.

Supria sits down on the couch. Anush sits beside her.

ANUSH (CONT'D)

I am so sure about it because Authorities always have a couple of large wooden planks laid across all the large puddles so that people can easily cross them without any problem.

SUPRIA

Really?

Anush nods smiling. Supria breaths a sigh of relief and touches her forehead with her clasped hands in a prayer.

SUPRIA (CONT'D)

Thank God.

Clouds rumble...

Anush sighs looking up at the ceiling.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - DUSK

Mimo sighs heavily, Gripping onto the handle and as he is about to push the curt wheel across the puddle--

TABLU (O.S.)
We got you, dumbass!

Mimo spins around, head down, to find:

Tablu and Dabbu standing a few feet away from him. They also have their head down.

TABLU (CONT'D)
You thought you could get away from us? Didn't you?

They chuckles.

TABLU (CONT'D)
We would have caught you on the street itself if that pighead cop had not stopped us.

DABBU
That's true.

TABLU
Now, You hand over the chocolate to us so that we can leave without hurting you.

Mimo shakes his head.

TABLU (CONT'D)
OK. You know we told the cop that you were our friend and we were playing tug. So, let's play it now for real. You run we will catch you.

Mimo shakes his head.

TABLU (CONT'D)
You don't wanna play? Why?

Dabbu looks past Mimo and sees the large puddle behind him.

DABBU
Because he is trapped.

TABLU
What do you mean, trapped?

DABBU
Look behind him.

Tablu looks past Mimo as well and sees the Puddle.

TABLU
Aha!

He looks back at Mimo and makes a clicking noise with his tongue.

TABLU (CONT'D)
Too bad. But since we told the cop we were playing tug with you then we have to play. I don't dare to lie to the Authority... are you ready?

Mimo quickly grabs the chocolate bar and hides it behind his back.

TABLU (CONT'D)
Here we come!

They run up to Mimo.

TABLU (CONT'D)
(To Dabbu)
Hold him tight.

Dabbu does so as Mimo wriggles to set himself free, but to no avail.

TABLU (CONT'D)
(To Mimo)
What's so special about this chocolate? Huh?

DABBU
I think the Shop girl gave it to him.

TABLU
(To Mimo)
Is that so?

Mimo doesn't shake or nod his head, only struggles to free himself from Dabbu's strong grasp.

TABLU (CONT'D)

Well, If that is the case. I want it even more. Give it to me.

Tablu pulls Mimo's hand in which he is holding the chocolate bar out from behind his back.

Mimo resists with all his might, but fails as Tablu seizes the chocolate bar from his hand.

TABLU (CONT'D)

Gotcha!

Mimo jiggles and wiggles - like a chicken in the grip of a butcher's hand.

Tablu holds the chocolate bar up to his face shield.

TABLU (CONT'D)

It looks so delicious. I can't wait to cut my teeth into it.

DABBU

Shall I let him go.

Tablu looks at Dabbu and Mimo.

TABLU

Um...

Tablu's eyes fall upon the shopping box in the cart.

TABLU (CONT'D)

I think I should help the poor boy a little.

DABBU

Help? I don't get it.

Tablu puts the chocolate bar down on the ground.

DABBU (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

Tablu moves closer to the cart and lifts the grocery box out of the cart.

TABLU

It's quite heavy. What have you got in it.

DABBU

You are taking the box too?

Mimo struggles more desperately to get free, but can't.

TABLU

(To Mimo)

Don't fret. I am not taking the box. I just want to help you getting across the puddle. That's all.

DABBU

But why you wanna help him?

TABLU

Shut up!

He takes a long breath and--

SPLASH! Drops the box into the puddle.

TABLU (CONT'D)

Oops!

Mimo freezes as the box drowns into the puddle.

TABLU (CONT'D)

Sorry. It slipped from my hands.

Dabbu, still holding back Mimo, giggles. Tablu looks at Dabbu.

TABLU (CONT'D)

Let go of him.

DABBU

Are you sure?

TABLU

Yes, I am.

DABBU

OK.

Dabbu releases Mimo. Mimo stands motionless.

TABLU

Now, I want you to never forget one thing, dumbass: whenever we ask for something you give that to us right away without any trouble. Get it?

Mimo remains motionless.

TABLU (CONT'D)

Good. Now go home and cry to your mother.

Dabbu laughs.

Tablu steps up to the Chocolate bar laying on the ground and just as he picks it up--

Mimo, suddenly, lunges at him and shoves him hard.

TABLU (CONT'D)

Whoa!

Tablu tumbles backwards and SPLASH!--

Falls into the puddle with the chocolate bar in a hand and--

Instantly drowns.

Mimo breaths heavily, looking down at the rippling puddle water.

Mimo hears heavy footsteps behind him. He spins around to discover: Dabbu is fleeing.

Mimo turns back to the puddle: No sign of Tablu.

He gets down on his knees at the edge of the puddle.

He haltingly extends his hand and holds it inches over the puddle.

His breathing quickens... and--

He dips his hand into the puddle...

Clouds rumble... louder than usual and--

Mimo swiftly pulls his hand back out of the water.

He gets up to his feet. Then--

He notices on a small area of the water surface of the puddle AIR BUBBLES rising.

Mimo watches them...

A beat--

THE CHOCOLATE BAR RESURFACES!

Mimo gets back down on his knees ... Reaches for the chocolate bar, but--

It won't come out of the puddle - as if it is glued to the water surface.

Mimo pulls at it... it won't budge. Finally, Mimo yanks on it with all his strength and--

He succeeds pulling the chocolate out of the puddle. However, Alas!--

He loses his balance and falls backwards on to the ground with face up towards the sky.

Mimo's eyes bulge at something up there as--

Clouds rumble the loudest so far.

INT. FLAT - KITCHEN - DUSK

Over a few ice cubes in a coffee mug some hot black coffee is poured.

Anush brings the coffee mug over to the kitchen table where Supria is seated.

ANUSH
Here.

He sets the coffee mug down on the table in front of Supria. Supria looks at the coffee mug and then up at Anush

SUPRIA
You didn't have to.

ANUSH
Drink it. It will sooth your nerve.
It might taste a little bitter
because there was not any sugar
left.

Supria picks up the mug and takes a sip as Anush grimaces.

Supria looks at Anush.

SUPRIA
It's nice.

ANUSH
Really?

SUPRIA
Mm-hmm

Anush smiles as Supria takes another sip.

SUPRIA (CONT'D)

It doesn't feel right.

ANUSH

I know. Don't drink it.

SUPRIA

No. It's not that. What I mean is that I am drinking coffee and you are not.

ANUSH

Oh come on. Do I drink coffee? Just enjoy the coffee. And I guarantee you this time that Mimo will be back before you finish your coffee.

Supria smiles and takes one more sip... When--

BEEP! BEEP! Goes off Anush's watch like device on his wrist.

Anush looks down at the device, which beeping while blinking a red light.

Supria looks at Anush.

They exchange a look of TERROR!

Then, without any word, Anush bolts out of the kitchen.

Supria remains seated at the table, staring into the space - shocked and terrified.

The hand in which she is holding the coffee mug trembles.

INT. FLAT - BEDROOM- DUSK.

Anush bursts into the bedroom, runs over to the bed - The baby is sleeping on it- and drags out the long mettle CASE from under it.

Beeping and blinking of his wrist watch continues.

Anush opens the case hastily and removes from it--

A SHOT GUN.

The baby wakes up, wailing.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Anush, head down, wearing a rain coat, but no boots with the shot gun in one hand is moving fast down the alleyway through the persistent drizzling with limping steps.

Anush walks past a pedestrian carrying a shopping box. The pedestrian stops and murmurs to himself.

PEDESTRAIN

God save him!

Anush steps over a small puddle as the bandage of his foot falls off on it's own - having been tattered in the rain water.

His feet have turned pretty red and got blisters.

Anush stops and moans squeezing his eyes shut - his feet are killing him; the pain is unbearable.

Despite that, being determined to find out his son, he opens his eyes and resumes walking.

The watch continues to blink red and beep

A LITTLE LATER.

Anush arrives at the large puddle and stops. He sees the Shopping carton on the other side of the puddle.

The beeping of the device on Anush's wrist intensifies.

Anush backs up a few steps and then runs towards the large puddle and leaps... and--

Lands on the other side of the puddle safely.

Beeping of the device has gone extreme.

Anush Looks around hastily, with his head down.

There is no sign of Mimo.

Anush sees something on the ground. He reaches down and picks it up:

It's the chocolate bar.

Suddenly, THE BEEPING AND BLINKING OF THE DEVICE STOPS.

Anush gets alarmed.

Clouds rumble...

Anush drops the chocolate bar to the ground and grips the shot gun properly with both hands

Clouds rumble louder...

Anush puts his finger on the trigger of the shot gun...

Clouds rumble more louder...

Anush takes a very deep breath...

Clouds rumble all the more louder... and--

Anush jerks up his head, pointing the shot gun up toward the sky and yells.

ANUSH

(To the sky)

LET HIM GO!

And pulls the trigger as--

Screen goes black with an earsplitting CRACK OF THUNDER.

FADE IN:

INT. MUD HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Some curry in the wok over the hearth is boiling.

Grandma is smiling looking at Titly.

TITLY

What was it up in the sky?

Grandma shrugs

GRANDMA

Ask your grandpa.

TITLY

Never.

Grandma Chuckles and stirs the curry with a ladle.

TITLY (CONT'D)

Tell me another story.

Grandma shakes her head.

TITLY (CONT'D)

Why not? The story you just told me was not that bad. In fact, I think all children would like the story if they were allowed to read it.

Grandma looks at Titly.

TITLY (CONT'D)

I really want to hear another such a weird tale.
So, are you telling me another one?

Grandma doesn't say anything. She picks up a copper bowl from the floor and with the ladle scoops out a little of the curry from the wok and pours it into the bowl.

She holds the bowl out for Titly.

GRANDMA

Taste it.

Titly takes the bowl and lifts a BUTTON MUSHROOM from it. She blows on it to cool it down and then pops it into her mouth, chewing.

TITLY

It tastes really good.

Grandma smiles.

TITLY (CONT'D)

Now, tell me another story.
Please.

GRANDMA

Your parents will kill me.

TITLY

They will never know it. I've already promised you. Don't you trust me, grandma?

GRANDMA

OK. Don't need to be so dramatic.
Let me think.

Titly smiles and puts another mushroom into her mouth.

Grandma lifts the wok off the hearth with a kitchen tong and pours all the curry from it into a copper pot.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

The story I am going to tell you
now is about a bird.

TITLY

(excited)

Bird? I love birds.

Grandma looks at Titly, setting the wok down on the floor.

GRAANDMA

Well, you might not end up loving
this bird of the story so much.

TITLY

Why?

Grandma clears her throat...

FADE OUT:

TITLE: NEST

FADE IN:

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

A paved country road with vast fields sprawling out on either
side.

On one side of the road on a parked scooter sits a girl. She
is looking across the field through an monocular.

A beat, then-

She brings down the monocular from her eye with a sigh.

She is MIMI, a nineteen years old tomboy with short hair.

Mimi looks down at a news paper clip which lay on her thigh.

In the distant sky dark rain clouds are gathering as we
hear...

BOY (V.O.)

If you had seen that dazzling
silvery long hair cascading down
her back, you too would be in love
with her.

GIRL (V.O.)
I highly doubt that.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY - FLASHBACK.

The sky is overcast.

Along the same country road moves a scooter with two persons on it.

A boy and a girl. The girl is riding the scooter while the boy is seated behind her.

BOY
You are saying that because you didn't see her hair. It was glittering so bright in the sun.

GIRL
Well, if that's the case then I don't think her hair will glitter today.

BOY
You are a pessimist! Why won't it glitter today?

GIRL
Look up at the sky.

CUT TO:

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - SCOOTER - DAY

The boy looks up at the cloudy sky. He is BABLU, 18 years old boy with high powered spectacles. He is also holding a stick umbrella in one hand.

BABLU
It doesn't matter. Sun, without Sun her hair will always glitter.

GIRL
Now, you sound overoptimistic

BABLU
True is true.

The girl shakes her head - no point in arguing anymore.

The girl is Mimi.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

In the field on a side of the country road some goats are grazing.

One of them looks up at the sky, chewing on the grass.

Behind the grazing goats in some distant on the country road we see Mimi along with Bablu rides past on the scooty.

The goat which is looking up at the sky bleats...

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - SCOOTER - DAY

Mimi rides the scooter through a small pot hole in the road, causing the scooty to bump a little.

MIMI

Anyway, do you remember exactly where you saw her yesterday?

BABLU

Absolutely! I can never forget it.

He turns to one side of the road, looking over the vast field passing by.

BABLU (CONT'D)

The moment I spot the place I will recognize it. So you just keep on riding the scooter until I say we are there.

MIMI

I have no problem doing that as long as you don't forget to pay me for burning the gas for your this stupid fantasy journey.

BABLU

Hey, Stop being a stingy!

MIMI

I am not . I have to refill the gas tank or papa will kill me.

Bablu laughs.

BABLU

Don't lie. Uncle will never say a single word to you if you tell him went on a long ride with Me. You know why that is, right?

MIMI

NO. I don't know why.

BABLU

I know you know. But still let me tell you again.

MIMI

Don't.

BABLU

Because Uncle sees in me your future husband.

He touches Mimi's neck with his fingers.

MIMI

(Yells)

Keep your fucking paws off me!

BABLU

Alright, Alright. Don't be mad. I was kidding.

MIMI

Stop irritating me or I will throw you off the scooter and ride back home.

BABLU

OK. Cool down... Cool down.

He looks up at the cloudy sky

BABLU (CONT'D)

Rain, rain come down and cool off my friend's crown.

MIMI

I am warning you if I get wet I will kick the potty out of you.

BABLU

Don't worry about that. I will hold the umbrella over your head if it starts raining.

MIMI

You had better remember that.

BABLU

I will babe!

MIMI

Don't call me that.

Bablu laughs.

As they moves on down the country road.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - TEA STALL - DAY

On a side of the road is a makeshift tea stall.

Under the tarp roof of the stall on a PUMP STOVE a KETTLE Of water is boiling as the steam coming out of the kettle's spout.

A man, JITU, in his fifties, sits in a wooden chair in front of the stall. A dog lies flat on it's belly at the feet of Jitu.

JITU

(To the dog)

How can you be so lazy ass? You son of a bitch! We have been sitting here since the early morning despite that we have managed to sell only eighteen glasses of tea. Look at the sky...

He looks up to the sky:

Nimbus clouds have obliterated the sky.

JITU (O.S.) (CONT'D)

It's going to rain soon.

He looks back down at the idle dog.

JITU (CONT'D)

If we don't get any more customer today, you won't get anything to eat tonight.

The dog suddenly jerks up it's head as if it has seen something ahead down the road. Then it springs up on it's limbs and runs onto the road.

JITU (CONT'D)

What's wrong idiot?

The dog stands in the middle of the road and starts barking looking straight ahead down the road.

JITU (CONT'D)

Have you seen a cat or something?

The dog continues to bark...

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - SCOOTER - DAY

Mimi sees the dog barking down the road in some distance, looking towards them. Bablu sees the dog too.

BABLU

Is that barking at us?

Mimi nods

MIMI

It looks like so.

BABLU

Why is it barking at us standing in the middle of the road like that?

MIMI

It must be the brother of your long silvery hair girl. Don't worry. He is just welcoming you.

Mimi smiles, amused.

BABLU

It's not funny. Can you see it's tail?

Mimi squints her eyes. Still too far to be able to see that.

MIMI

I can't see it from here. But what do you want to do with it's tail?

BABLU

Don't you know it?

MIMI

Know what?

BABLU

If a dog's tail is carried downward and closer to it's hind legs it can mean the dog is crazy.

MIMI

What?

Mimi laughs.

MIMI (CONT'D)

Are you for real? Where do you collect such bullshit from?

BABLU

It's true. Everybody knows it.

MIMI

You are such an idiot. You know that, right?

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DA

Mimi and Bablu, on their scooter, are now only a very short distance away from the barking dog.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - SCOOTER - DAY

Bablu looks tensed - he is genuinely scared of the dog.

BABLU

Tell you what, you just run over that crazy beast.

MIMI

What! Have you lost your mind?

BABLU

No. I am very much sane. What if the dog bites me. I am on my to get a kiss from the silvery hair girl not a bite from that crazy dog.

MIMI

You have seen that girl only once and that too from a moving bus. I don't even sure if she really exists or not, and because of that fantasy girl of yours, you want me to kill such a sweet animal. You are pathetic!

BABLU

You still don't believe me. OK. Fine. But I am sure when you see her you will feel jealous of her.

Mimi snorts.

They are now just a few feet away from the dog.

BABLU (CONT'D)
Run it over!

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Mimi halts the scooter. The dog keeps on barking at them.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - SCOOTER - DAY

Bablu gets agitated.

BABLU
Don't stop. It will bite. Look at
it's baring teeth and blazing eyes.

MIMI
Are you even listening to you?!

JITU (O.S.)
Don't be scared of him. He won't
bite.

Mimi and Bablu turn to see Jitu standing on the side of the road, grinning at them.

Jitu turns to the barking dog and makes a clicking noise with his tongue.

The dog stops barking and looks at Jitu.

Jitu flings a biscuit over to the dog and it starts munching on the treat, wagging it's tail.

Jitu turns back to Mimi and Bablu.

JITU (CONT'D)
(Re: the dog)
He is a bit crazy, you know.

BABLU
(To Mimi)
Told you! Now lets go before it
finishes the biscuit.

Mimi nods.

MIMI
Alright.

As she is about to ride off.

JITU

Wait! He never bites, he only barks.

BABLU

Whatever. We have to go now.

(To Mimi)

What are you waiting for? Lets move!

JITU

Before you leave why don't you have a cup of tea.

Mimi thinks it for a bit than--

Turns off the scooter.

BABLU

What! No! We are getting late.

MIMI

Get off.

BABLU

No. I am not getting off.

MIMI

Stop whimpering like a baby and get down!

The dog looks up at Bablu. Bablu quickly steps off the scooter. The dog resumes eating the biscuit.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Now all the goats are bleating looking up to the sky...

EXT. TEA STALL - COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Jitu pours tea from the kettle into two small glasses. He looks at Mimi with a smile.

JITU

With milk?

Mimi nods. Jitu looks past Mimi.

MIMI

And he?

Mimi turns around to see Bablu stands behind her, staring down at the dog which is now scratching it's ear with a paw sitting on the side of the road.

Mimi shakes her head and turns back to Jitu.

MIMI (CONT'D)
Make two glasses with milk.

JITU
OK. You can sit there.

He nods to the wooden chair in front of the stall.

MIMI
Well, thanks, but I will rather stand. My butt is falling asleep.

Mimi rubs her hands along her butt cheeks.

Tea seller adds milk to the tea and carries the glasses to Mimi and Bablu. They take the glasses.

Mimi takes a sip and nods in appreciation.

MIMI (CONT'D)
It's nice.

Tea seller grins.

JITU
Thank you. You know one interesting fact about my tea is that whoever have my tea once they start coming here frequently. They say" Jitu what do you add in your tea? It tastes so exotic."

MIMI
Yea, it really tastes different.

BABLU
Don't you have any biscuit?

Jitu looks at Bablu, still standing behind Mimi.

JITU
Of course, I have biscuits.

BABLU
Then give me one.

JITU
Right away sir.
(To Mimi)
Do you want one?

Mimi shakes her head. Jitu goes back to the stall, brings back a biscuit and passes it to Bablu.

Bablu dunks the biscuit in the tea. Jitu's looks at the scooter.

JITU (CONT'D)
(To Bablu)
Going somewhere?

Bablu looks up but doesn't say anything.

MIMI
Nope. Just taking a ride.

JITU
Oh, OK. Um... If you don't mind can I tell you something?

MIMI
Sure?

JITU
It's not safe to be out on the country road when it rains. Last year a group of girls and boys of your age were having a picnic in the middle of a field on a side of the country road when it starts raining and then suddenly a lightning struck, killing all of them... In the spot.

Mimi takes another sip of her tea while Bablu puts the soggy half of his biscuit into his mouth and ducks the other half back into the tea.

MIMI
You saw them... After...?

Jitu sighs and then nods.

JITU
It was so horrific.

He shudders, just recalling it.

JITU (CONT'D)

They smelled like... fried chicken.

The soggy other half of the biscuit in Bablu's hand breaks off and drops back into the tea, leaving a tiny bit in his hand.

BABLU

Shoot!

MIMI

(To Jitu)

Well, thank you for informing us about that incident. We will get back home before it starts raining, Won't we?

Mimi turns to Bablu. Bablu doesn't say anything as he is busy trying to get the soggy biscuit out of the tea glass with his finger.

MIMI (CONT'D)

Bablu!

Bablu looks up.

BABLU

What?

MIMI

Won't we get back home before it starts raining?

BABLU

Yea. For sure.

Mimi nods and turns back to Jitu.

MIMI

How much?

JITU

Fifteen rupees.

The dog, having finished scratching, stands on its four limbs and barks.

Bablu starts up and looks at the dog. Scared, he gulps down the rest of the tea with dank biscuit in it.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - SCOOTER - DAY

Mimi and Bablu are back on their scooter ridding down the country road.

BABLU

A little further. We are almost there.

MIMI

You have been saying this for the last fifteen minutes or so.

BABLU

We are about to reach there. I can see the place now.

MIMI

You can see it or not. I will go for another half a kilometer and by then if we have not still arrived to the place, I will take a u turn ride back home. OK?

Bablu doesn't reply anything. He just keeps scanning across the expansive fields on sides of the country road.

MIMI (CONT'D)

You heard me? I will not--

Bablu sees something out there in the field as he shouts, interrupting Mimi.

BABLU

Stop! We are here!

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Mimi pulls over the scooter on a side of the road.

Bablu gets off the scooter quickly , umbrella in a hand and stands looking out across the field.

Putting the scooter onto it's stand, Mimi comes and stands beside Bablu.

MIMI

Is this where you saw your mystery girl.

Bablu nods, smiling

BABLU

Yep.

MIMI

How do you know this is the place?
To me this looks no different then
all the areas we have just rode
past.

BABLU

I am sure this is the place because
of that.

Bablu points his finger out at something. Mimi follows the
direction of his pointed finger to see:

In much distance across the field sits a small STILT HOUSE.

MIMI

Is that her house?

BABLU

Must be. I saw her outside it.

MIMI

Well, congrats then. You have found
her.

She pats Bablu's back. Bablu smiles at her.

MIMI (CONT'D)

What's your next strategy?

BABLU

Very simple. Let's go over to the
house, Knock on the front door, and
when She opens the door, ask for
two glasses of water?

MIMI

Why two glasses?

BABLU

One glass for me and the other
glass for you, simple. Isn't it?

MIMI

No.

BABLU

What do you mean?

MIMI

I am not coming with you.

BABLU

What?! Why?!

MIMI

I have to stay here watching over my scooter.

BABLU

Oh, come on, dude. Just lock the scooter and come with me.

Mimi shakes her head.

BABLU (CONT'D)

Please, you know how nervous I get around girls.

MIMI

I am also a girl.

Bablu smirks.

BABLU

Don't kid.

Mimi rolls her eyes and gets back onto the scooter to leave.

BABLU (CONT'D)

Sorry sorry. What I actually mean is that I never feel nervous around you because you are not a girly girl. Plus, I know that you are not interested in me, you know... in that way.

Mimi nods with a slight smile

MIMI

Fair one.

BABLU

So, please join me on my mission.

He takes Mimi's hand and presses it gently while looking to her with beady eyes.

BABLU (CONT'D)

Pleaaaaase!

MIMI

OK. OK. I am coming. But we will come back before it starts raining.

BABLU
That's a deal!

Mimi nods and looks down at her hand which is still being held by Bablu. She sighs lightly and looks up.

MIMI
Let me lock the scooter first.

BABLU
Yea, sure.

Bablu let go of Mimi's hand and as she locks the scooter, Bablu looks back towards the stilt house across the field, smiling broadly.

The sky looks ominous with thick dark clouds.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

A little later, Mimi and Bablu walk alongside each other through the field.

Behind them the road can be seen in some distance, gradually receding further as they walk on.

MIMI
What if she is not at home.

BABLU
Of course, she will be. Look at the sky.

MIMI
Really?! Then what the fuck are we doing out here?

BABLU
Oh, come on. Be positive and let's assume that she is at home. Inside the house.

MIMI
Waiting for you.

BABLU
Exactly! Now you sound like a real macho girl. Way to go, dude!

He puts an arm around Mimi's shoulder. She instantly shakes it off.

MIMI

OK. Let's also assume that she answers the door when you knock. Then what? You gonna propose her?

Bablu laughs.

BABLU

No. I mean not today. We will first drink water and then ask for her mobile number.

Mimi stops walking and stares incredulously at Bablu

BABLU (CONT'D)

What are you looking at?

MIMI

A boy without brains.

BABLU

What?!

MIMI

What on earth made you believe that she will give her number to a freakish stranger?

BABLU

I won't ask for the number.

MIMI

Who else will then?

Bablu flashes a sheepish smile. Mimi gets it.

MIMI (CONT'D)

Never!

BABLU

Please. Try to understand. I am a boy. I can't ask for her number on our first meeting. But you can.

MIMI

Huh! And what does give me that liberty?

BABLU

Being a girl.

MIMI

Being a girl doesn't make any difference.

(MORE)

MIMI (CONT'D)

I will be as stranger as you to her. She won't give her number to me either.

BABLU

She will.

MIMI

How can you be so sure?

Bablu smiles wisely.

BABLU

You know she has long silvery hair.

MIMI

You have told me that a thousand times. But what's with that?

BABLU

You will tell her that you like her hair very much and then ask for her tips to grow your hair like her.

Mimi glares at Bablu

MIMI

Asshole!

And kicks his ass.

BABLU

I know... You look nice in your short hair.

Mimi runs her fingers gently through her short hair.

MIMI

You think so? You never said that before.

BABLU

Really? Didn't I ...Ever?

Mimi shakes her head.

BABLU (CONT'D)

Alright. I am saying it again. You look so pretty in that short hair.

Mimi nods, smiling just a little.

BABLU (CONT'D)

Anyway, You will only say that to her. You don't have to actually grow your hair.

MIMI

Why would I ask her that then?

BABLU

There is a reason for it. After asking for her tips, You will then ask for her mobile number so that she can share her valuable hair care tips with you over phone. I am sure she won't refuse. And late, I will take her number from you. The mission is accomplished!

MIMI

What if she doesn't have any phone?

BABLU

Of course she will have a mobile phone. Unless, she is from another planet.

Mimi shakes her head

MIMI

Still, I am not doing it.

BABLU

Yes, you are.

MIMI

Nuh - uh!

BABLU

Yuh - uh!

MIMI

Hey! You can't force me into doing it.

She crosses her arms over her chest.

BABLU

I am not forcing you. I am pleading you...

He folds his hands together.

BABLU (CONT'D)

Please do it for me. You are my
only friend. You are the only one
to whom I can turn whenever I am in
a pickle. Please help me getting my
girl. You know I am head over heels
for her. Please, please...

Mimi exhales

MIMI

Fine!

BABLU

Yay!

He hugs Mimi tightly.

BABLU (CONT'D)

You are awesome!

Mimi pushes Bablu away from her.

MIMI

Let's go.

BABLU

As you say boss!

They resume walking through the field towards the stilt
house.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Jitu pedals a cycle trailer down the road.

The trailer contains the wooden chair, stove and other stuff
of his makeshift tea stall.

The dog is also sitting in the trailer.

After a few moments, Jitu notices Mimi's scooter on the side
of the road.

He immediately halts his cycle.

JITU

(To the dog)

Can you recognize it?

The dog doesn't respond whatsoever.

JITU (CONT'D)

Where have they gone?

He looks around and then out across the field and sees:

Two human figures in the far distance, standing near the stilt house.

Jitu's brow creases.

JITU (CONT'D)

What the hell are they doing out there?

Then, shrugs and turns to the dog.

JITU (CONT'D)

Let them do whatever they want to do. We will wait here for them to come back and then sell another two glasses of tea and some biscuits.

He smiles

JITU (CONT'D)

Today is your lucky day. You Might end up getting a bone for dinner.

The dog barks - happy.

EXT. FIELD - STILT HOUSE - DAY

Mimi and Bablu stand alongside, gawking up at:

THE STILT HOUSE - it's quite a small house made of mud plastered bamboo mat walls and thatched roof. But strangely enough, A LARGE SILVERY ROPE is wrapped around the whole house.

BABLU

It looks kind of... kind of...

MIMI

Weird.

Bablu nods.

MIMI (CONT'D)

Don't you think the house is too small for a family to live?

BABLU

May be she lives alone.

His eyes twinkle at this prospect.

MIMI

And Why is the house tied with a rope?

BABLU

Hmm.

(thinks a bit, then)

A-ha! I got it!

Mimi turns to Bablu

MIMI

What is it?

Bablu turns to Mimi

BABLU

They tied the rope around the house so that it won't blow away during a storm.

Mimi nods.

MIMI

Yea, That might be it. So, what are you going to do now?

BABLU

What else? Of course, go up to the door and knock. Let's do it.

MIMI

Nope. You go first and knock the door and if she opens the door I will come.

BABLU

Okie dokie.

Bablu bounds up a bamboo ladder which leads up to the front door of the house.

Upon reaching the front door, he looks back at Mimi.

Mimi nods - "go ahead". Bablu nods back with a smile and turns back to the door. He takes a long deep breath and then--

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK.

He knocks on the door and waits.

Moments later, as no one answers the door he knocks again, a little hard this time and waits.

MIMI

May be she is not in right now.

BABLU

How could that be?

He looks down at the door:

There is no lock.

BABLU (CONT'D)

It's not locked from outside.

MIMI

Is that the only door?

Bablu considers it for a bit then,

BABLU

You have a point... Um... would you please go around and check out if there is a back door?

Mimi stares at Bablu for a bit and then walks around to the back of the house.

Bablu knocks on the door again, much harder than before.

EXT. STILT HOUSE - BACK - DAY

Mimi stands, looking up at the house.

There is no back-door, however, she notices:

The thick and long silvery rope seems to have come out from the top of the roof and descended onto the back wall before going around the whole house, tying it up.

Mimi keeps gazing at it... odd.

EXT. STILT HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

Bablu continues knocking hard on the door as Mimi comes back to the front of the house.

MIMI

Hey!

Bablu stops knocking and turns to Mimi

BABLU

Is there?

Mimi shakes her head.

MIMI

I think we should leave. I am having a bad feeling about this place.

BABLU

I am not leaving until I meet her.

Bablu turns back to the door and starts pounding on it while shouting.

BABLU (CONT'D)

Open the door! We just want a glass of water. Open the door!

MIMI

(looking up at the nimbus sky)

It's going to rain soon. We should get back home.

BABLU

Sorry, but I am not going back without meeting her?

Mimi can't help, but chuckles.

MIMI

Stop being childish. If she is not opening the door then how you gonna meet her? By breaking the door?

Bablu mulls over it for a moment and then--

BABLU

That's a good idea.

MIMI

What?! You gonna break the door?!

BABLU

No. I mean, I don't think I can break this door.

He pushes at the door with the side of his shoulder.

BABLU (CONT'D)

However, I can at least make a hole... in the wall.

MIMI

Don't even dare to imagine it.

Bablu flashes a shrewd smile and turns to the wall.

MIMI (CONT'D)

I warn you! Get back down here!

Bablu, kind of oblivious to Mimi's warnings, grips the umbrella with both hands, holding it like a spear with the pointy metal end point facing the wall beside the door.

MIMI (CONT'D)

Don't do anything stupid. Get you head out of the clouds and Get down here this instant!

But, Bablu ,Ignoring her totally, jabs the wall with the metal end point of the umbrella.

Some mud plaster crack and fall off to the ground.

MIMI (CONT'D)

You have lost it!

Mimi quickly climbs up the wooden ladder and grabs the umbrella by it's handle and pulls at it to seize it from Bablu's hand.

Bablu swiftly turns around to Mimi

BABLU

What are you doing?

MIMI

Give it to me.

BABLU

Why?

MIMI

I don't want to get wet.

Bablu looks up to the sky.

BABLU

But it's not raining yet?

MIMI

It's about to.

BABLU

OK. I will give it to you after punching a hole in the wall.

MIMI

No. I want it right now.

BABLU

Let me punch a hole, first.

MIMI

No.

A tug of war ensues...

BABLU

Stop acting like a girly - girl.

MIMI

I will when you starts behaving like a grown up.

BABLU

Stop talking gibberish and Take your hands off the umbrella.

Mimi shakes her head

MIMI

You do it.

BABLU

I said let go of it!

Bablu yanks at the umbrella with so much force that not only he wins the war by snatching the umbrella away from Mimi's grasp, but also causes her to tumble backwards and fall to the ground on her back.

BABLU (CONT'D)

Shit!

Bablu rushes down the ladder to Mimi.

BABLU (CONT'D)

Are you OK?

He reaches down to help her get up, but she slaps his hand away.

MIMI

Get away from me!

Mimi gets up.

MIMI (CONT'D)

Do whatever you wanna do, douchebag! I am out of it!

She turns around and starts striding away through the field towards the road in the distance.

BABLU
(Shouts after Mimi)
Hey, stop!

Mimi keeps on moving...

BABLU (CONT'D)
What's wrong with you?

Mimi flashes middle finger over her shoulder, without looking back at him.

BABLU (CONT'D)
That's fine!
(under his breath)
Fuck you, too!

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Jitu stands on the side of the road beside the scooter, looking out at the field. His dog sits next to him.

Jitu sees Mimi coming towards the road, still in quite far.

JITU
(To the dog)
Why is only she coming back, not her man?

The dog barks.

JITU (CONT'D)
Yea, you are right. That doesn't matter to me. I will just push her to buy as many glasses of tea as possible.

He looks up at the dark sky.

JITU (CONT'D)
You just hang it up there. Don't come down until I have sold a few more glasses of tea.

EXT. FIELD - STILT HOUSE - DAY

Bablu carries on jabbing the bamboo mat wall with the metal end point of the umbrella, splintering a small area of the wall.

More mud plaster come off and fall to the ground.

Bablu stops jabbing, panting a bit.

He looks back at the field to see Mimi striding away.

He turns back to the wall... grips the umbrella tight and rams the end point into the wall--

The wall gets penetrated.

BABLU
(yells)
Got you!

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Mimi is striding through the field while wiping tears off her eyes.

It starts drizzling.

Mimi stops walking and looks up at the sky.

MIMI
Damn it!

She covers her head with her hands and starts running towards the road which is still in some distance away.

EXT. FIELD - STILT HOUSE - DAY

Bablu pulls out the metal end point of the umbrella from the hole it has made into the wall.

Bablu stares at the hole, smiling.

Then, he leans in and peeks into the house through the hole and--

BABLU
Dang!

His eyes marvels at something he sees inside the house.

The silvery rope tying the house, moves on its own, tightening it's bind around the house.

The whole house creaks and--

EXT. FIELD - DAY

Mimi is running through the field shielding her head from the drizzles by her hands when, all of a sudden,--

THUNDER CLAPS! Super loudly.

Mimi stops in her tracks and swiftly turns around.

She looks across the field at the stilt house, which is in some distance now.

Bablu can't be seen there.

MIMI
Holy crap!

She dashes towards the stilt house.

It starts pouring now...

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Jitu squats by the road holding the tarp over him and his barking dog beside him while he stares out across the field with clear fright in his face...

EXT. FIELD - STILT HOUSE - DAY

A little later.

Mimi comes running up to the stilt house and stops in front of it. She is now drenched in the downpour. She looks up at the house.

Bablu is not there.

Mimi, anxious, looks around the vast field while shouting

MIMI
Hey! Where are you? Look at me. I am wet as hell. Come out wherever you are. Bablu, where the fuck are you?

Still no Sign of Bablu.

Mimi exhales and tentatively moves over to the base of the wooden ladder and climbs it up to the front door of the house.

She pulls and then pushes at the door but it won't open. Then--

She knocks on the door.

MIMI (CONT'D)

Are you in there? If so, open the door and let me in. I am soaked through. If I fall sick, I will make your life miserable too. You hear me?

She waits for some response but nothing... the door remains closed.

MIMI (CONT'D)

You had better open it. Stop crapping with me. Open the fucking door!

She pounds on the door . But still no one answers it.

Then--

Mimi's notices the hole in the wall.

She bends a little and slowly brings her eye close the hole to see:

In the house a girl squats on the floor in the middle of the room with her bare back to Mimi (us). Her long silvery braided hair is glowing as it runs straight up towards the ceiling.

Mimi watches the woman - being awestruck- when--

PLOP! The woman LAYS A SILVERY EGG!

Mimi yelps jerking her head away from the hole and Just then--

THUD! Behind her someone plummets to the ground from the sky.

Mimi gets startled and turns around quickly to find:

BABLU LIES ON HIS BACK ON THE FIELD, MOTIONLESS.

MIMI (CONT'D)

Bablu!

She jumps down from the ladder and races up to Bablu.

She kneels over him and starts shaking him by his shoulder.

MIMI (CONT'D)

Hey, what happened to you? Hey, Can you hear me?

He doesn't move. His eyes are clouded. Hair is standing on it's end, clothes are shredded and his flip -flops are melted.

MIMI (CONT'D)

I feared something like this might happen. Head over heels my ass! Get up!

Bablu remains still like a corpse. Mimi lowers her ear down to Bablu's chest and listens for his heart beats.

Terror strikes her.

She sits up and tears off Bablu's shredded t- shirt to discover:

LICHTENBERG FIGURES or the LIGHTNING SCARS which extend from his chest to all the way down under his pants.

She touches the scars.

MIMI (CONT'D)

What the...

Mimi turns towards the stilt house, glaring at it.

MIMI (CONT'D)

(screaming)

What have you done to him?! He was in love with you, fucking Witch!

She springs up to her feet and charges towards the stilt house - furious.

As she is only a couple of yards away from the house--

ZOOP! Something drops from the sky. She stops abruptly and looks down to find:

THE STICK UMBRELLA WITH BURNED CANOPY AND BROCKEN RIBS sticking up at her feet.

She looks up at the sky.

JITU (O.S.)

Hey!

Also barking of a dog comes from behind her.

Mimi spins around. Jitu with his dog is coming running down the field

Mimi rushes back to where Bablu is lying.

Jitu comes over and looks down at Bablu.

JITU (CONT'D)

Dear lord!

He looks at Mimi.

JITU (CONT'D)

We need to take him to a hospital as quickly as possible.

Mimi nods vehemently.

MIMI

Let's carry him up to the road first.

JITU

Right. You take the feet I am taking the hands.

MIMI

Sure.

They, as per plan, heave Bablu up and starts carrying him towards the road.

The dog stays put, snarling at the stilt house.

JITU

Hey come back, crazy!

The dog turns around and runs, catching up with them as they continue to lug Bablu through the downpour towards the road in the distance.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Later.

The rain's intensity has diminished much.

Mimi and Jitu put Bablu in the cycle trailer - all the tea stall things which were in the trailer have been pout out on the side of the road.

MIMI

You come with him while I go ahead
of you as fast as I can on my
scooter and send back an ambulance.

Jitu nods.

JITU

OK.

Mimi looks into the trailer at corpse like Bablu.

MIMI

You hang in their. I won't let
anything happen to you.

And she moves over to her scooter, kick starts it, and rides
off.

Jitu sighs and turns to the dog which is sitting calmly by
the tea stall appliances on the side of the road.

JITU

Today is anything, but a lucky day
for you.

He smiles with pity at the poor drenched dog.

JITU (CONT'D)

You stay here and look after the
things. And don't dare to go near
(looking across the field
to the stilt house) that
house.

The dog barks. Jitu looks back at the dog.

JITU (CONT'D)

Good.

With that he gets onto his cycle trailer and starts paddling
away in the direction that Mimi has just gone.

The dog watches him go silently.

Mimo lies still in the moving trailer staring off into the
sky with his cloudy ghost eyes...

DISSOLVE TO:

BACK TO THE PRESENT DAY

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Mimi still sits on the parked scooter on the side of the road, gazing down at the news paper clip on top of her thigh.

On the clip a headline reads: "A TEENAGE BOY DIES AFTER BEING STRUCK BY A LIGHTNING."

Mimi's eyes well up.

DING! DING! DING a cycle bell rings.

Mimi looks up. It's Jitu on his cycle trailer coming up the road.

Mimi wipes the tears off her eyes.

He comes and stops near Mimi's scooter.

JITU
Sorry, I am a little late.

MIMI
No worries. But have you got the things?

JITU
Absolutely.

He steps off the cycle and lifts out from the trailer two large gallons full of some liquid.

JITU (CONT'D)
Here.

Mimi sees them

JITU (CONT'D)
And...

He sets the gallons down on the side of the road and produces a handmade FIRE TORCH from the trailer

JITU (CONT'D)
... Here.

Mimi nods in appreciation.

JITU (CONT'D)
By the way...
(he looks across the field
to the stilt house)
Is she out yet?

This jogs Mimi's memory.

MIMI

Oh no!

JITU

What's wrong?

She quickly holds the monocular over an eye, pointing it over the expansive field before her.

THROUGH THE MONOCULAR: It's the stilt house without the silvery rope around it.

Mimi takes down the monocular from her eye and jumps off the scooter.

JITU (CONT'D)

Is she gone?

Mimi turns to him.

MIMI

Let's go.

EXT. FIELD - STILT HOUSE - DAY

Mimi and Jitu comes and stops in front of the stilt house, looking up at it.

The stilt house is not wrapped around by the silvery rope now.

Mimi has the torch in her hand. Jitu is holding both the gallons.

JITU

She is gone.

MIMI

Yes, but not for long.

Jitu puts the gallons down onto the field and turns to Mimi.

JITU

Should we do it now?

Mimi turns to Jitu.

MIMI

I am going inside. You cover the outside.

INT. STILT HOUSE - DAY

It's almost dark with only little daylight coming in through the hole in the ceiling.

The front door opens and Mimi steps in, carrying one of the gallons.

She looks around the empty small one room house. As she takes a few steps further into the house something comes under her foot.

She looks down to find--

It's an Animal skull- may be of a goat.

She quickly moves her sneaker off the skull.

She looks around at the wooden floor:

There are some animals' bones and skulls of different sizes strewn all over it.

Then, she, finally, sees it:

In the middle of the room on the floor, slightly off the daylight coming in through the hole in the ceiling, sits relatively large THE SILVERY EGG.

Mimi moves up to the egg and squats before it. Now she notices that the egg actually sits on top of an animal skin.

She watches the egg for a moment and then haltingly extends her hand and touches it--

The egg SPARKS.

MIMI

Whoa!

She flinches and pulls back her hand instantly. She presses her fingers, glaring at the egg.

Then, She gets up... opens the cap of the gallon... and--

Pours kerosine oil over the egg...

EXT. STILT HOUSE - BACK - DAY

Wall of the house is partially wet with kerosine oil.

EXT. STILT HOUSE - ONE SIDE - DAY

The side wall is splashed with kerosine oil

EXT. STILT HOUSE - OTHER SIDE - DAY

The wall of this side is also splattered with kerosine oil.

EXT. FIELD - STILT HOUSE - DAY

The front wall and the door, which is closed now, have also got fair share of kerosine oil.

The ladder steps are dripping.

Mimi and Jitu stand with their almost empty gallons, in front of the house.

Jitu turns to Mimi who is gazing at the house.

JITU
Perfect, isn't it?

Mimi looks at Jitu and nods. Then, she pulls out a small wad of banknote from her pant's pocket and holds it out.

MIMI
Five hundred.

Jitu takes it, grinning.

JITU
Thank you.

MIMI
No. Thank you for helping me.

JITU
My pleasure, Miss. So, what's next?

MIMI
I can do it now on my own. You may go now.

JITU

No. I will stay. She has given me a lot of nightmares, now it's my turn to give her some.

MIMI

But your tea stall?

JITU

Oh, don't worry about that. I have someone there looking after it.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - TEA STALL - DAY

A man pours some tea into a glass from a kettle. Then he adds some milk and sugar in it. He stirs the tea with a spoon and takes a sip.

MAN

Ah!

A dog barks behind him. The Man turns around.

It's Jitu's dog sitting on the wooden chair at the tea stall. He has a small can hanging from his neck.

The dog barks again at the man.

MAN (CONT'D)

Hang on.

The man pulls out two one rupee coins from his pants' pocket. Crosses over to the dog and drops the coins into the can.

The dog barks again.

MAN (CONT'D)

You are welcome.

EXT. FIELD - UNDER THE STILT HOUSE - DAY

Jitu pours the remaining little kerosine oil from the gallons onto the piece of cotton cloth wrapped around the top of the torch stick while Mimi sits hugging her knees watches Jitu do it.

After a moment, Jitu finishes dousing the wick of the torch.

JITU

It's ready to blaze.

He sticks the bottom end of the torch into the ground.

Mimi nods, smiling a bit.

JITU (CONT'D)

When will she be back? Do you have any Idea?

MIMI

As soon as she finds her food.

JITU

I wonder what she might eat.

Mimi doesn't say anything just looks out to the field.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - TEA STALL - DAY

BARK! BARK! BARK!

No more customer at the stall. The wooden chair is empty.

The can which was hanging from the dog's neck is now lying on the ground.

The dog's barking can be heard, but the dog can't be seen anywhere.

It sounds like it's barking coming from up and gradually moving further up towards the sky and away from the ground.

EXT. FIELD - UNDER THE STILT HOUSE - DAY

Mimi holds her one hand out under the dark cloudy sky as a few tiny droplets of rain fall upon her hand.

She retreats her hand under the stilt house.

MIMI

It's drizzling lightly.

JITU

If it starts raining heavily, then we won't be able to blaze the house.

Mimi nods, sighing.

MIMI

We will burn it now.

JITU

But what is the point in burning up the house without her inside it.

MIMI

I know. Still by burning up the house we will be able to inflict serious damage on her.

JITU

How?

MIMI

Have you forgotten the thing, which is the most precious to her.

JITU

You mean the egg?

Mimi nods. Jitu gets the picture now as his eyes widen.

JITU (CONT'D)

She will go bonkers!

MIMI

With pain... and that's exactly what I want for her.

JITU

That will be a scene to witness.

Jitu removes a lighter from his pants pocket and starts striking the sparkwheel... after a few strikes the flame comes out.

JITU (CONT'D)

Shall I?

Mimi looks out at the field.

EXT. STILT HOUSE - DAY

Random rain drops have already given way to the steady drizzling.

EXT. FIELD UNDER THE STILT HOUSE - DAY

Mimi turns back to Jitu.

MIMI

Go ahead.

JITU

OK.

But as he is about to ignite the torch--

Mimi hear something.

MIMI

Wait!

Jitu stops and looks at Mimi, puzzled.

MIMI (CONT'D)

Listen.

JITU

Listen to what?

MIMI

A sound.

JITU

Sound?

He listens for the sound... and hears it(so do we).

It's a faint sound of a dog barking.

JITU (CONT'D)

It's just some dog barking.

MIMI

Yea. but it's coming from up there.
(points a finger upward)
The sky.

JITU

Well, I guess, it's may be my
dog's cousin, coming to meet him by
air.

Jitu laughs.

The sound of barking is getting louder.

MIMI

Or Could it be your dog itself?

Jitu stops laughing - alarmed - and listens to the sound intently as it gets louder and louder, getting closer to the house.

After a moment--

JITU

Holy cobra!
(drops the lighter to the
ground) it's him!

MIMI
How can you be so sure?

JITU
No another dog barks like him.

Jitu moves to get out from under the stilt house, shouting.

JITU (CONT'D)
(To the dog)
What are you doing out here? Didn't
I tell you to look after the stall?

When--

Mimi grabs Jitu's forearm. Jitu stops and turns to Mimi.

JITU (CONT'D)
Yes?

MIMI
Don't.

JITU
What do you mean?

MIMI
Don't get out.

JITU
What, why?

Before Mimi can say anything--

THUD! Something or someone lands onto the ground right
outside the house.

Mimi and Juju look out to see:

Two bare legs of a woman visible only up to inches below the
knees. Her bare feet are adorned with *alta*, a kind of red
dye. Her super long silvery braided hair is lying on the
ground in a coil behind her.

Also, it sounds like either she is barking like a dog or is
holding a barking dog in her arms which Mimi and Jitu(and
we) can't see from under the stilt house.

Mimi and Jitu keep staring at her bare lags and long silvery
hair silently...

After a moment, She climbs up the small ladder and gets into the house as the wooden floor of the house creaks a bit.

Her long silvery hair snakes into the house behind her.

The dog's barking continues. Mimi turns to Jitu.

MIMI

Let's light the house.

Jitu shakes his head rapidly.

JITU

I have to first save my dog.

MIMI

Have you lost your mind?

JITU

I can't let that witch kill him.
Let me go.

Mimi tightens her grip around Jitu's forearm instead.

JITU (CONT'D)

Let go of my hand. I have to save him.

MIMI

No at all.

Jitu wriggles his arm to free it from her grasp when--

The dog SHRIEKS... and go completely silent -- no more barking.

Jitu and Mimi look at each other without uttering any word.

A beat, Then--

Something drips into Mimi's hair through a tiny gap between the floor planks.

Mimi touches her hair and brings forth her hand to discover:

BLOOD.

Jitu sees it too and---

JITU

I am gonna kill that bitch.

With that Jitu jerks his hand out from Mimi's grasp and rushes outside.

MIMI

Hey, wait! Don't!... Darn!

She looks down at the ground and sees the lighter... she swoops it up and strikes the sparkwheel...

Jitu can be heard pounding the door, yelling.

JITU (O.S.)

Give me back my dog. Or I will come inside breaking this door and kill you. You are messing up with the wrong person, Witch!

Mimi keeps on striking the sparkwheel, but the flame won't come out.

JITU (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Give me my dog back if you want to stay alive...

THUNDER STRIKES shaking the whole house.

The lighter slips from Mimi's hand as she covers her ears with hands.

After a bit, Mimi uncovers her ears to hear no more yelling from Jitu.

She knows what has happened to him.

MIMI

Why all men are so stupid?

She quickly picks up the lighter and begins trying to reignite it.

MIMI (CONT'D)

Come on... come on...

She continues striking the sparkwheel ... And--

Finally, the flame comes out. A smile creeps in on her face.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

BUT, ALAS!

It's raining heavily now.

Mimi's scooter and Jitu's cycle-trailer are getting wet.

We see the stilt house in the distance across the vast field - looking a little hazy due to the heavy rain.

A beat, then--

Jitu plummets from the dark sky to the ground near the stilt house. He lies motionless there.

However, No sign of Mimi. No sign of fire.

Only the heavy downpour...

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. MUD HOUSE - STUDY ROOM - DAY

Grandpa is typing away by the table lamp.

INT. MUD HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Titly sits on the floor on a small bamboo mat. Half eaten rice and curry on a copper dish is in front of her as she looks across at Grandma who is eating rice out from a copper bowl.

TITLY

Did she?

Grandma looks up

GRANDMA

How could she? It started raining heavily before she could.

TITLY

May be she will burn the house once the rain stops.

GRANDMA

I don't think so. The rain will wash out all the kerosene oil.

Titly nods sadly.

TITLY

I don't like a bird who eats dogs.

Grandma smiles.

GRANDMA

I told you that. Now finish eating.
Do you want some more mushrooms?

Titly nods.

EXT. MUD HOUSE - PORCH - DAY

A frog hops into a girl's shoe.

It's raining outside.

EXT. MUD HOUSE - BACK YARD - DAY

Raining has stopped.

Grandma squats on the ground washing utensils as Titly stands by her.

TITLY

I kind of liked both of grandpa's stories that you have just told me. But in both of these stories one thing was common.

GRANDMA

What is it?

Titly looks up at the still cloudy sky.

TITLY

Rain.

GRANDMA

Right. That's because both the stories were from the same book.

TITLY

Do you have the book? I want to read it.

GRANDMA

I don't think so. It will be like crossing the line with a leap.

TITLY

Why are you so afraid of Maa and Baba?

GRANDMA

Who said I am afraid of them?

TITLY

You are not?

Grandma looks up at Titly.

GRANDMA

No.

TITLY

Then give me the book.

Grandma stares at Titly as she grins, shrewdly.

INT. MUD HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Mimi sits on the bed, wearing a pair of glasses, looking out the open window by the bed.

It's not raining but the sky is cloudy .

Grandma comes into the room with a book and a lit lantern in her hands.

She goes over to the bed.

GRANDMA

Here.

Titly turns around and sees the book grandma is holding out. She takes it from Grandma's hand and looks at it's cover as Grandma sets the lantern down on the bed.

In a mixed light of the lantern and the overcast daylight which is coming in through the open window we see:

The title of the book(in Bengali): WHEN IT RAINS.

On the book's cover has an illustration of a man standing with a closed stick umbrella in his hand while looking up to the imposing leaden sky.

Mimi look up at Grandma, smiling.

TITLY

Looks very interesting.

GRANDMA

It is. But--

She stops.

TITLY

What?

GRANDMA

Nothing.

She turns to leave as--

TITLY

Don't worry I won't tell my Maa and
Baba about it.

GRANDMA

I don't care.

She leaves.

Titly giggles and then looks back down to the book.

She opens the book to it's contents' page and starts tracing
her finger down along the page looking over at the titles of
the stories, like, RUMBLE, NEST etc.

At the bottom of the page she stops tracing.

The title of the story reads:

THE UMBRELLA UNCLE.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. HUT - NIGHT

A small hut.

It's pouring. Lightning flashes. Thunder claps.

INT. HUT - NIGHT

It's a small one room hut.

Someone lies in a cot, curled up under a quilt, moaning as if
in pain.

A kerosene table lamp lit on a table which is scattered with
some umbrella parts: ribs, shafts, handles etc, and a few
instruments to fix an umbrella.

A few repaired umbrellas hang from rope loops tied to the low
ceiling of the hut.

On another table are a small kerosene stove and a few utensils

The man under the quilt continues to moan when--

Someone knocks at the door.

The person brings his head out from under the quilt and looks at the door. He is JATIN, in his early seventies.

JATIN
(to the person outside the door) it's not ready yet!

Knocking stops. Jatin pulls the quilt back over his head, moaning.

EXT. VILLAGE DIRT ROAD - DAY

It's drizzling.

A middle aged man, PRATIK and A woman, TRISHNA in her early twenties, in a saree, walk along a village dirt road.

Trishna is holding an old rugged, patched up stick umbrella over them as Pratik is reading out a post card in his one hand. In the other hand he is carrying a small jute carry bag with some vegetables inside it.

PRATIK
(reading the postcard)
...Did she like the mango pickle?...

Trishna nods, smiling.

PRATIK (CONT'D)
...You take care of her. Don't let her get wet in the rain. You don't either. Waiting for you two. Come as soon as possible. A lot of blessing and love from maa.

Pratik looks at Trisha.

PRATIK (CONT'D)
If she knew you were out in the rain she would get worried as hell.

TRISHNA
That's because she loves me so much. I am lucky to have such a caring and sweet mother- in- law.

PRATIK

That's so true.

He smiles, slipping the postcard into his shirt's pocket.

WHAM! A football hits him in the stomach. He yelps in pain.

Trishna looks ahead to find: Two boys(12) running up the dirt road towards them.

Pratik sees the boys and shouts at them.

PRATIK (CONT'D)

Don't you see where you are kicking
the ball at?

The boys come up to them and stop.

One of the boys has shaved up head with only a tiny lock of hair on the back of his head - He is BENU. The other one is wearing an eye patch over one eye - He is Chintoo.

CHINTOO

Sorry, uncle.

TRISHNA

It's OK. No worries.

The boys turn to her and smile.

TRISHNA (CONT'D)

How is it going, Chintoo?

CHINTOO

Good.

TRISHNA

And Benu.

BENU

Fine.

Trishna nods smiling.

CHINTOO

Miss, when will you come back to school. The new English teacher is so boring.

Pratik chuckles, rubbing his stomach.

TRISHNA

You should never talk about your teacher like that.

CHINTOO

Sorry, miss. But we miss you a lot in the class.

Trishna smiles warmly.

TRISHNA

I know.

TRISHNA (CONT'D)

I will be back soon.

Chintoo smiles.

TRISHNA (CONT'D)

By the way, why are you two playing in the rain? You might fall sick.

BENU

Don't worry miss. We are used to it. Come.

He tugs on Chintoo's arm.

CHINTU

Bye miss.

Trishna nods.

Benu kicks the football further down the dirt road and then the boys run towards it.

Trishna and Pratik watch them go.

PRATIK

How you handle those pirates?

Trishna smiles.

TRISHNA

Aren't they cute?

Pratik turns to Trishna with a sneer. She looks at him.

TRISHNA (CONT'D)

What?

Pratik shakes his head.

PRATIK

Nothing. Lets go home. Aren't you hungry? Don't forget we have to take care of our cutie pie.

He places his hand on her tummy. She smiles. And--

Suddenly, the umbrella shuts on it's own.

PRATIK (CONT'D)

How did it shut?

TRISHNA

I don't know.

She tries to open it, but it won't.

TRISHA

I think it's stuck.

PRATIK

Let me see.

He hands her the jute carry bag and takes the umbrella from her.

He tries to push open the old umbrella, but it won't budge. He gives up.

PRATIK (CONT'D)

I guess it's stuck for good.

He looks at Trishna.

PRATIK (CONT'D)

You go home. I will go and get our umbrella from the umbrella uncle.

TRISNA

OK.

PRATIK

Give me the bag.

TRISHNA

I can carry it. It's not that heavy.

PRATIK

Still.

Trishna knows there is no point in arguing any further. She hands Pratik the bag.

PRATIK (CONT'D)
Watch your step while you walk

TRISHNA
I will. Anything else.

Pratik gazes at her for a moment and then covers her head with her sarie's *achal*.

PRATIK
Now you go.

Trishna smiles, turns and resumes walking down the road.

Pratik looks down at the shut old umbrella in his hand and then walks away along the dirt road in the opposite direction of Trishna.

I/E. HUT - DAY

Jatin sits at the umbrella repairing desk, mending an umbrella under the light of the kerosene lamp.

Rain drops pattering on the tin roof.

Somebody knocks at the door.

JATIN
Coming!

Jatin gets up, wincing, holding his waist with a hand and crosses over to the door. He opens the door to find:

Pratik, lightly wet, standing with the shut old umbrella in his hands.

JATIN (CONT'D)
Oh, you. Come on in.

PRATIK
It's OK. Here is your umbrella...

He hands Jatin the umbrella.

PRATIK (CONT'D)
... It shut on it's own abruptly. I have tried to open it but...

Pratik shakes his head.

Jatin tries to open the umbrella, but to no avail.

JATIN

It has got jammed. I think it's beyond any repairment now. I have to throw it away.

PRATIK

Hmm... Any away, have you fixed my umbrella yet?

JATIN

Yes.

Jatin puts the closed old umbrella leaning against a wall and takes down an umbrella hanging from a rope loop - all the while moaning in waist pain.

He carries the umbrella back to the door.

JATIN (CONT'D)

Here you are.

Pratik takes the umbrella and opens it to checks one of it's rib.

PRATIK

It looks like you have fixed it well.

Jatin smiles.

PRATIK (CONT'D)

How much?

JATIN

You have already paid for it.

PRATIK

Have I?

Jatin nods, smiling. Pratik shrugs - can't remember.

PRATIK (CONT'D)

Well, then see you.

Jatin nods again, smiling.

Pratik turns around and walks away. Jatin watches him go for a bit and then shuts the door.

Jatin picks up the old umbrella with a moan and then tries to open it again and--

It won't open.

Jatin stares down at the umbrella...

EXT. TRISHNA AND PRATIK'S VILLAGE HOUSE - DAY

Raining has stopped.

A typical Indian moderate village house with a front yard.

INT. TRISHNA AND PRATIK'S VILLAGE HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Trishna sits at a small kitchen table. On the table a candle is lit.

The kitchen door, which leads onto outside, is open, showing the overcast evening.

PRATIK

Here you go.

He sets down a dish half full of *khitchdi* on the table in front of Trishna.

Trishna looks down at the steaming food.

TRISHNA

It looks delicious.

PRATIK

Yea, but it must taste good as well.

Trisha looks up at Pratik, who is standing by the table with another dish of *khitchdi* in his hands.

TRISHNA

It will. Why are you standing? Sit down.

PRATIK

Yes, Miss.

Trishna smiles shaking her head as Pratik sits down at the table across from her.

Trishna eats some of the *khitchdi*.

TRISHNA

Yummy!

PRATIK

Really?

TRISHNA

Mm-hmm!

Pratik have some and nods.

PRATIK

Not bad.

As Trishna brings another handful of *khitchdi* up to her mouth, she stops.

She has spotted something. With the other hand she picks out from inside the handful of *khitchdi* A DEAD BOILED COCKROACH.

She looks at Pratik who is busy eating his food.

TRISHNA

Have you added meat in the *khitchdi*?

PRATIK

No. Only vegetables. Where would I get the meat?

He looks up and sees the cockroach dangling from the pinch of Trishna's fingers.

PRATIK (CONT'D)

Yucky! Don't eat the *khitchdi*. I will make something else.

Pratik gets up.

TRISHNA

It's fine. Cockroaches are not toxic. People in some countries have them as a delicacy.

PRATIK

Are you sure?

TRISHNA

Of course.

She puts down the cockroach on the table and puts the handful of *khitchdi* into her mouth.

Pratik smiles.

PRATIK

Alright.

He sits back down and resumes eating.

EXT. HUT - NIGHT

Little light seeping out through the gaps in the walls of the hut. Lightning flashes in the distant sky.

INT. HUT - NIGHT

The kerosene lamp is on the chair by the cot. The flame of the lamp is dancing a little in the wind which is coming into the house through the gaps in it's walls.

Jatin comes and sits down on the edge of the cot, still moaning in pain.

He squeezes out some ointment from an almost empty tube, lifts his shirt and rubs the ointment all over his waist.

EXT. TRISHNA PRATIK'S VILLAGE AND HOUSE - NIGHT

Lightning flashes.

A side window of the house is open. Pratik sits in the window at a table by a lantern.

INT. TRISHNA PRATIK'S VILLAGE AND HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT.

Pratik sits at a study table rubbing his temples while reading some book very quietly in the glow of the lantern.

TRISHNA (O.S.)
Honey.

Pratik stops reading and looks back.

PRATIK
Do you want something?

Trisha lies in the bed under a quilt which is drawn up to her chin.

TRISHNA
Could you come over for a second.

Pratik gets up and moves up to the bed.

PRATIK
Yes. Tell me what you want?

She lightly moans.

TRISHNA

Would you please check If I got a fever?

PRATIK

Fever?

He touches Trishna's forehead with the back of his hand and then touches his own with the other hand.

Pratik slowly shakes his head.

PRATIK (CONT'D)

I don't know. May be.

He takes his hands off his and her foreheads.

TRISHNA

My whole body is aching. I am also feeling a little chill.

PRATIK

I have got a headache too.

TRISHNA

Really?

Pratik nods, rubbing his temples. Trishna sits up slowly.

TRISHNA (CONT'D)

Come closer.

Pratik leans down to her. She places the back of her hand over his forehead.

TRISHNA (CONT'D)

It feels a little hot than normal.

She retreats her hand - concerned.

TRISHNA (CONT'D)

It could be because we got wet in the rain this morning.

PRATIK

Maa will kill me if she got to know it.

TRISHNA

Go get the medicine box from the almirha.

Pratik nods and grabbing the lantern off the table, he heads over to the wooden wardrobe at one corner of the room.

He opens the wardrobe and shines the lantern light inside it: It's full of his and her clothes and a few other accessories. He takes out a small tin box.

He closes the wardrobe and heads back up to the bed and hands Trishna the box.

Trishna opens it.

TRISHNA (CONT'D)
Shine some light in here.

Pratik holds the lantern over the box to reveal:

Some strips of tablets and capsules inside it.

Trishna riffles through the strips in the box and brings out a strip of two tablets.

TRISHNA (CONT'D)
There it is.

She puts the box aside on the bed and rips the strip in the middle and holds out one tablet to Pratik.

TRISHNA (CONT'D)
Take it.

PRATIK
What's it for?

TRISHNA
Season fever. Take it and you will feel much better in the morning.

PRATIK
Is it safe? I mean have you checked it's expiry date?

TRISHNA
It should not be expired already as I bought it only a few months ago.

Pratik is not fully convinced. However, Trishna tears her tablet out of the strip.

TRISHNA (CONT'D)
Give me some water.

PRATIK
You sure it's safe?

TRISHNA
Of course I am.

Pratik nods and pours some water from a pitcher into a glass - which are kept on a stool by the bed.

He gives Trishna the glass of water. Trishna pops the tablet into her mouth and swallows it with the water.

Trishna looks at Pratik.

TRISHNA (CONT'D)

What are you waiting for? Take the tablet. Trust me it's safe.

PRATIK

OK.

He sets the lantern down on the floor, takes the tablet out from the strip and puts it into his mouth.

TRISHNA

Water.

She hands back the glass of water. Pratik washes down the tablet.

TRISHNA (CONT'D)

Good.

I/E. HUT - NIGHT

Pittar - patter... Pittar patter...

The lamp is lit. Jatin sits on the bed, still moaning in waist pain.

A beat, then--

Knock! Knock!... Somebody knocks on the door.

Jatin looks at the door and shouts.

JATIN

Coming!

He get's out of the bed with great strain, moaning, and moves over to the door. He unlatches the door and opens it.

It's pouring outside.

No one can be seen out there. Then--

Lightning flashes and Jatin sees someone outside (we don't as we stay on Jatin).

JATIN (CONT'D)
(to someone outside)
Wait!

Jatin goes up to the old stick umbrella (which Pratik returned him earlier) kept leaning against a wall. He stares down at the umbrella for a bit and then with a heavy sigh he picks it up and carries it back to the open door.

Jatin stands in the door way looking out and shouts.

JATIN (CONT'D)
Here!

Jatin hurls the umbrella out into the rainy darkness of the night.

And then quickly shuts the door.

INT. TRISHNA AND PRATIK'S VILLAGE HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Pittar - patter... pittar - patter...

Window is closed now. Lantern is still lit as Pratik is sleeping with head resting on the table. An academic book lays open next to his head.

TRISHNA (O.S.)
Hon!

Pratik doesn't wake up.

TRISHNA (CONT'D)
(much louder)
HONEY!

Pratik starts up and quickly looks back at Trishna

PRATIK
Oh, sorry. I dozed off. Do you want anything?

TRISHNA
Come here.

Pratik stands up and goes up to the bed.

Trishna lies on her back on the bed still covered up to her chin with the quilt.

PRATIK
What is it honey?

Trishna almost whispers something which drowns out in the sound of the rain drops falling onto the tin roof of the house.

PRATIK (CONT'D)
Sorry?

He leans down to Trishna.

PRATIK (CONT'D)
What did you say?

TRISHNA
(a little louder than a
whisper)
There is something under the quilt.

Pratik furrows his brow.

PRATIK
What do you mean?

TRISHNA
I can feel it.

Pratik turns and looks down along the quilt- It doesn't appear to have anything under it except for Trishna's physic.

But, even so he pulls the quilt off Trishna, revealing:
Nothing. Only her.

Pratik looks at Trishna, smiling.

PRATIK
There is nothing under it.

As Pratik is about to put the quilt back on Trishna--

TRISHNA
It's crawling up my legs now!

PRATIK
But I can't see anything.

TRISHNA
I can feel it!

PRATIK

Hang on.

Pratik moves over to the study table and comes back to the bed with the lantern.

PRATIK (CONT'D)

Let me see what's it?

He leans down and gingerly lifts Trishna's saree up to her knees to find: Nothing but two bare beautiful legs of her - They look even more beautifully textured in the hard lantern beam.

TRISHNA

Have you found it?

Pratik smiles still gazing down at her legs.

PRATIK

Yes.

TRISHNA

What is it?

PRATIK

The most vivacious things in the whole world.

TRISHNA

What?!

Pratik kisses her legs.

TRISHNA (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

Pratik stands up, looking at Trishna.

PRATIK

There is nothing on your legs. It's must be your delusion. It happens sometimes when you have a fever.

TRISHNA

No. It's real... wait! It's on my thighs now!

Pratik, a little annoyed, leans back down and lifts the saree further up, exposing her thighs... holds the lantern over them and--

Sees something HORRIFIC as Terror engulfs his face.

TRISHNA (CONT'D)

Have you found it now?

Pratik slowly stands up and looks at Trishna.

PRATIK

Nothing. There is nothing on your
thighs, honey.

TRISHNA

But I can still feel it.

She tries to get up, but can't. She starts crying and
twisting around in the bed.

TRISHNA (CONT'D)

It's there. It's there. Please make
it stop. Please...

Pratik begins to back away slowly, distancing himself from
the bed... from Trishna.

PRATIK

There is nothing.

TRISHNA

Please help me. It's... it's...
going inside me... stop it, please
stop it...

Trishna pleads, wailing, twisting. She Tries to get up but
fails again.

Suddenly, Pratik stops and looks down at his groin. He
swallows.

TRISHNA (CONT'D)

Why are you not helping me? Hon!

Pratik cautiously pulls down his trousers and shines the
lantern beam over his thighs and--

Sheer fear freezes him.

TRISHNA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(screams)

It's got inside me now! Help!

EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

Downpour continues in the dark slumbering village.

EXT. HUT - MORNING

The rain has stopped though the sky is still shrouded with clouds.

INT. HUT - MORNING.

Soft overcast daylight seeps into the hut through the gaps of it's walls.

Jatin sits on the edge of his cot, twisting his waist. He doesn't moan.

He stands up and does some stretching - no moan, no pain.

Jatin stops stretching and stands upright.

A smile spreads across his face, but, then, abruptly, it disappears.

EXT. TRISHNA AND PRATIK'S VILLAGE HOUSE - DAY

A crowd of villagers has gathered near Trishna and Pratik's house as ward boys carry two stretchers with two bodies covered under white sheets into an ambulance parked by the house.

The villagers whisper among themselves. Chintoo is also there - looking gloomy.

The villagers move aside giving way to the ambulance as it starts moving.

Jatin stands, much far from the crowd, holding a jute sack in a hand watches the ambulance drive away down the muddy dirt road.

EXT. VILLAGE ROAD CULVERT - DAY

Water rushing out of the culvert.

Jatin comes over and stands at the opening of the culvert. He looks around.

There is nobody around the culvert.

He puts down his jute sack on the ground - which has a couple of broken umbrellas inside- and then he steps into the culvert.

INT. VILLAGE ROAD CULVERT - CONTINUOUS

Jatin wades through the rushing water, which is just inches below his knees, ducking his head to avoid getting bumped against the low ceiling of the culvert.

Upon reaching the middle of the culvert, Jatin stops. Then, he reaches down into the water and starts fishing around with both hands -- looking for something.

Moments later, Jatin ceases groping around and pulls out an STICK UMBRELLA from underwater.

Jatin eyeballs the umbrella: IT IS THE SAME OLD PATCHED UP UMBRELLA THAT HE GAVE TO SOMEBODY LAST NIGHT.

EXT. VILLAGE DIRT ROAD - DAY

Jatin walks along the village dirt road, holding the old wet patched up umbrella in one hand and the jute sack in the other.

A villager, in his 40's, stands on the side of the road, responding to a nature's call. He sees Jatin.

VILLAGER
Hey, umbrella chacha.

Jatin stops and looks over at the villager.

VILLAGER
Wait a second.

He zips up his pants and comes up to Jatin.

VILLAGER
Have you fixed my umbrella?

JATIN
Your umbrella...

Jatin tries to remember for a moment

JATIN (CONT'D)
Oh, yes. No. It's not fixed yet.

VILLAGER
Then do it chacha. I need the umbrella.

Jatin nods.

VILLAGER (CONT'D)

Getting wet in the rain is very dangerous. I thought it would not happen this year but I was so wrong. It started by taking two lives this year. I don't know how many more it will claim by the end of the season.

Jatin sighs heavily.

VILLAGER (CONT'D)

OK. I gotta go now. Please do fix my umbrella at the earliest.

JATIN

Sure.

VILLAGER

I don't want to die so young like them.

Jatin doesn't reply anything. The villager flashes a quick smile and leaves walking down the muddy dirt road.

Jatin stands there tightening his grip around the old umbrella.

He looks kind of vulnerable under the large cloudy sky.

INT. HUT - DAY

Pittar ... Patter... Pittar... Patter...

It's raining outside.

Jatin sits at his work desk, wearing a pair of glasses, fixing the bottom spring of an umbrella with an instrument in the light from the oil lamp.

After a moment, he puts down the instrument and opens the umbrella all the way and then closes it- the bottom spring is working.

He ties the tie wrap around the umbrella, gets up and hooks the crooked handle of the umbrella into a rope loop, hanging the fixed umbrella.

Then, as he looks down his eyes fall on the old patched up umbrella which stands leaning against a wall in a front corner of the hut.

Along the wooden straight handle of the umbrella crawls an insect.

Jatin stares at it.

A beat then--

The insect flies straight into the flame of the oil lamp and gets engulfed by the flame instantly.

Now dead and ablaze insect drops on to the desk.

Jatin stares down at the burning insect.

Pittar... patter... pittar... patter...

EXT. A VILLAGE HOUSE - DAY

Jatin stands on the courtyard of a village house, checking an umbrella.

A village wife looks on, standing near him.

The umbrella has got a broken stretcher.

Jatin closes the umbrella.

VILLAGE WIFE

When will I get it back?

JATIN

In about two days. I have a few more umbrellas to fix first.

VILLAGE WIFE

OK... You know, I have hardly ever used any umbrella since my childhood, but now I guess I always have to use one whenever it rains.

Jatin nods putting the umbrella hastily inside his jute sack which already has a few umbrellas in.

EXT. VILLAGE DIRT ROAD - DAY

Dark rain clouds have obliterated the sky, threatening a downpour at any moment.

Jatin walks down the road carrying the jute sack of umbrellas over his shoulder.

Suddenly, he stops and rubs his eyes. Then, he looks around frantically.

HIS EYE SIGHT HAS GOT HAZY.

JATIN
No! Not again!

EXT. VILLAGE DIRT ROAD - DAY

By the dirt road under a tree sits Chintoo on the ground on top of his pair of flip - flops with his back turned towards the road while Benu stands across from him bouncing a football off the ground.

CHINTOO
I don't think I will be able to go to school anymore.
Benu doesn't say anything only keeps bouncing the ball.

CHINTOO (CONT'D)
What's the point of going to school when she won't be there .

BENU
What about the history teacher? She is not that bad either. In fact, she came in my dreams a few times.

Chintoo glares at Benu.

CHINTOO
Do you think it's funny?
Benu stops bouncing the ball and looks at Chintoo.

BENU
Not at all. I know how you are feeling. But what we can do about it. If any one is to blame for this it has to be rain.

Benu looks up at the sky and spits.

CHINTOO
Do you really think they died because the got wet in the rain?

BENU
Well, that's what everyone is saying.

CHINTOO

I find one thing very strange
though?

BENU

What's it?

CHINTOO

If one really dies when he or she
gets wet in the rain, then how come
we are still alive?

BENU

Hmm... you have a point. May be
children are immune to it.

Chintoo shrugs.

Benu sees something ahead.

BENU (CONT'D)

Hey look over there.

CHINTOO

What?

Chintoo looks back towards the dirt road to find:

Jatin walking down the road with an outstretched arm while
carrying the sack of umbrellas over his shoulder.

Benu giggles.

CHINTOO (CONT'D)

Why is he walking like that?

BENU

I have no clue.

They watch Jatin as he walks past them.

CHINTOO

Oh! I almost forgot.

Chintoo gets up.

BENU

What?

Chintoo calls out to Jatin.

CHINTOO

Hey, umbrella chacha!

Jatin stops, bringing his outstretched arm down at his side.

JATIN
Who is it?

BENU
(To Chintoo)
Why did you call him?

Chintoo runs onto the dirt road and stands in front of Jatin.

BENU (CONT'D)
What's the matter?

Benu goes over and stands beside Chintoo.

Jatin squints his eyes to see the boys. His vision has got hazier.

JATIN
Who are you?

CHINTOO
It's us Chintoo and Benu.

JATIN
OK. What you boys want?

CHINTOO
My grandpa told me to get his umbrella. You have fixed it, haven't you?

JATIN
Your grandpa's umbrella?...

Jatin tries to recall for a moment and then--

JATIN (CONT'D)
Yes. I think have fixed it. You want it now?

Chintoo nods, but Jatin doesn't see it.

JATIN (CONT'D)
Do you want it now?

BENU
Yes, he wants it now. Didn't you see him nod his head.

JATIN
Um... I can't see quite clearly... at night.

BENU

(To Chintoo)

That explains why he was walking so awkwardly.

JATIN.

Did you say anything?

BENU

Yea. It's not night yet.

JATIN.

Well, it is about to.

BENU

But you said--

Chintoo cuts in.

CHINTOO

Umbrella chacha let's head off to your place and get the umbrella before it starts raining.

JATIN

You are right, boy. Lets go.

They start to walk when--

JATIN (CONT'D)

Wait.

CHINTOO

What happened?

JATIN

Um... Can you hold my hand . I having quite a trouble with my sight.

CHINTOO

Sure.

Chintoo holds Jatin's hand and they begin to walk down the dirt road. Benu tags along, tucking the football under his armpit.

By the look of the sky it can be said with quite certainty that it's going to rain shortly.

INT. HUT - DAY

It's quite dark inside the hut.

A beat, then, the door opens and Jatin along with Chintoo enter.

Chintoo helps Jatin sit down on the cot as Benu comes and stands in the doorway.

JATIN

Thank you. Thank you so much.

Chintoo looks around the shadowy hut.

CHINTOO

Would you want me to light something for you? It's getting dark in here.

Benu exhales through his mouth, exasperated.

JATIN

It would be a great help. Match and lamp is on the desk over there.

He points his finger to the workshop desk.

Clouds rumble loudly. Benu turns around and looks up to the dark sky.

BENU

We should get going now?

JATIN

Yes, yes. Go home before it starts raining.

Chintoo, now standing by the workshop desk, lights a match stick and then with it he lights the oil lamp.

The warm light of the lamp partially fill the small hut. However, it doesn't make much difference to Jatin's vision.

But Jatin smiles slightly in appreciation.

Benu turns around and looks at Chintoo.

BENU

Are we leaving now or you have some more chores to do for Chacha?

CHINTOO

Shut up!

Jatin seems to stare at Benu even though he is almost blind now.

CHINTOO (CONT'D)

(To Jatin)

Chacha, where is my umbrella?

Jatin turns towards Chintoo.

CHINTOO (CONT'D)

It must be up there.

He nods up towards the ceiling. Chintoo looks up and sees some umbrellas hanging from the rope loops.

Benu gets antsy.

BENU

Quick. Quick.

CHINTOO

Wait a minute.

Chintoo looks at the umbrellas deliberately to identify his grandpa's umbrella.

Jatin is back to staring at Benu.

A beat, and--

CHINTOO (O.S.) (CONT'D)

There it is!

BENU

Excellent! Now let's go home.

Chintoo takes down the umbrella from the loop. Jatin turns towards Chintoo.

JATIN

Have you got the right one? Are you sure it's not somebody else's?

CHINTOO

Don't worry uncle I know very well how my grandpa's umbrella looks.

Chintoo steps up to the door.

CHINTOO.

How is your eyesight now?

JATIN

Much better.

Actually, No it's not. Instead, it has got worse. Now his vision has become pretty much DARK.

CHINTOO

OK. See you then.

Jatin nods.

Benu and Chintoo leaves.

Jatin heaves a sigh of relief- WHY?

And then--

Pittar... patter... Pittar ... patter...

It starts raining.

Jatin gets alarmed.

Benu runs back into the hut.

BENU

I need an umbrella.

JATIN

Chintoo has one.

BENU

That's not big enough to cover us both. You have brought us here, so you have to give me an umbrella now.

Before Jatin can say anything, Benu reaches up and takes down an umbrella from a rope loop.

BENU (CONT'D)

I will return this tomorrow.

Benu starts to head out of the hut when--

JATIN

Wait!

Benu stops and turns back to Jatin.

BENU

What?

Jatin sighs.

JATIN.

Don't take my customer's umbrella.
Take mine.

BENU

Whatever. Where is it?

Jatin haltingly raises a hand and points slightly off to a side of his workshop desk.

Benu looks in the direction of Jatin's finger to find:

An umbrella on the workshop desk.

BENU (CONT'D)

That one on the desk?

Jatin shakes his head.

JATIN

No. Not on the desk. Can't you see
the umbrella in that corner?

BENU shifts his eyes from the table to the front corner of the hut to see:

The old patched up umbrella.

BENU

Yea.

Benu strides over to the corner and grabs the umbrella. He looks at the worn out umbrella.

BENU (CONT'D)

Are you sure this one doesn't leak.

JATIN

Sure as hell.

BENU

Alright.

Benu puts down the other umbrella on the desk and comes back to the door. It's raining quite heavily outside.

Benu standing in the doorway. Sets the foot ball down on the floor and starts opening the old patched up umbrella by pushing the runner up along the rusty shaft.

Clicks! The runner gets above the top spring, opening the umbrella.

Jatin swallows.

Benu looks back at Jatin.

BENU (CONT'D)
I will return it tomorrow.

Jatin nods slightly.

Benu picks up the ball and steps out into the rain, holding the umbrella over his head and strides away.

Jatin sits staring out the open door with his dark sight.

Pittar - patter ... Pittar - patter ...

EXT. A VILLAGE HOUSE - DUSK

It's pouring.

An old man lies back in an old deck chair on the porch of the village house, listening to a radio - the sound of the radio fluctuates due to bad weather.

Chintoo and Benu arrive and stop at the bamboo gate of the house.

BENU
... So you are really not coming to
the school tomorrow?

Chintoo nods.

BENU (CONT'D)
Well, as you wish.

The old man sees them and calls out.

THE OLD MAN
Hey, what are you doing out in the
rain. Come in.

They turn to the old man.

CHINTOO
Coming grandpa.

Chintoo turn to Benu.

BENU
See you after school tomorrow,
then.

Chintu nods. Benu turns around and walks away.

Chintoo opens the gate and heads towards his house.

CHINTOO

Look grandpa! I have brought your umbrella.

GRANDPA

Good. Let me see how that old hog has fixed it.

EXT. VILLAGE DIRT ROAD - DUSK

The sounds of conch shells being blown and ululation reverberate around the whole village as Benu walks on through the rain holding the old patched up umbrella over his head.

A light wind blows and--

THE OLD UMBRELLA SHUTS.

BENU

What the hell!

He drops the foot ball and tries to reopen it but it won't.

BENU (CONT'D)

A piece of junk!

Benu, half drenched, clenches his teeth putting all his might to open the umbrella, yet--

It seems the umbrella is not going to budge...

INT. HUT - DUSK

Jatin is still seated on the edge of his cot, staring out the open door.

The light wind is bringing some rain into the hut through the door

The flame of the oil lamp is swaying.

In the dancing light of the lamp with some drops of rain on his face Jatin appears particularly MENACE.

Then--

The wind put out the lamp, plunging the hut into darkness.

Pittar - patter ... Pittar - patter...

EXT. HUT - DUSK

The downpour continues in the faintest dusklight.

The only thing that is visible inside the hut through the open door is darkness... sheer darkness...

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. MUD HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Titly has finished reading the story and closes the book.

The story seems to have impacted her to some degree as she sits there looking out the window.

It's raining again.

EXT. MUD HOUSE - PORCH - DAY

It's raining.

Grandma sits on a mini wooden stool on the porch, combing her grey-black hair.

Titly comes out onto the porch with the book in a hand. She goes over to Grandma and squats beside her.

Grandma looks at Titly and smiles.

GRANDMA

Have you finished reading the story.

Titly nods.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

So, how was it?

TITLY

You know, grandma I think grandpa is a brilliant writer. It's just grown-ups don't understand his stories.

Titly sighs looking down at the book in her hand.

Grandma stops combing and frowns at Titly.

TITLY (CONT'D)

When I go back home I will tell these stories to all my friends. I know they will like the stories too.

GRANDMA

Hey! Are you out of your mind? Have you forgot about your promise?

Titly looks up.

TITLY

Don't worry. My parents will never know about it. I think grandpa deserves right readers for his stories.

Grandma stares at Titly incredulously.

Titly looks back down at the book.

INT. MUD HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

No one is in the room.

The window is closed now. The lantern is lit on the bed.

The book, "WHEN IT RAINS", is open lying face down beside the lantern.

A beat.

Titly comes into the room carrying a glass of milk and a puffed rice ball.

She climbs onto the bed. Sets the glass of milk carefully down next to her and turns over the book, revealing a new story title: AFTER A HAIL STORM.

Titly takes a bite out of the puffed rice ball as she begins reading the story.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

It's a cloudy day.

Among the trees of myriad sizes is parked an ambassador car. The trunk/ dickey of the car is open.

EXT. SOMEWHERE ELSE IN THE SAME FOREST - DAY

A woman, JALANJALI, in her mid twenties wearing only a T-shirt- the hem of which hangs inches above her knees - stands under a tree staring down at the ground.

On the ground under the cover of leaves and twigs lies a CORPSE - only socked feet of the body is sticking out of the foliage cover.

Jalanjali sighs heavily and then bends over and starts swiftly uncovering the body...

After a few moments, she is done, revealing:

THE DEAD BODY OF A HALF NAKED OLD BALD MAN - on a cheek of the old man has a big WART.

Jalanjali grabs the dead old man's legs and starts dragging him along the forest floor...

EXT. FOREST - AMBASSADOR - DAY

The corpse of the old man lies curled up in the open trunk of the ambassador.

After a bit, some formal clothing: Shirts and pants for men and also a pair of leather formal shoes are thrown over the dead body by--

Jalanjali who stands at the open trunk looking down at the body with disgust.

She slams shut the trunk.

EXT. FOREST - AMBASSADOR - DAY.

A little later.

Jalanjali stands, wearing a pajama now, by the open driver's side door, smoking a cigarette.

She take a long draw on the cigarette. Hold it in for a moment then blows out the smoke.

A slight smile cracks on her smoky lips .

She takes another long drag, looking up at the trees and the cloudy sky.

She blows out the smoke again...

EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY

The lid of the trunk of the ambassador is not locked as--

The ambassador drives down the desolate forest road.

The sky is now shrouded with dark rain clouds which is about to burst.

INT. AMBASSADOR - DAY

Jalanjali is at the wheel looking straight ahead down the forest road through the windscreen.

On the passenger seat beside her there is a large square shaped box inside a white plastic bag.

A beat, then--

Something hard like a tiny pebble hit the windscreen.

Jalanjali flinches.

And--

A shower of white tiny pebbles begins, hitting the windshield, windows and roof top of the car.

JALANJAI
Jeez!

EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY

The ambassador pulls over on the side of the road.

INT. AMBASSADOR- DAY

Jalanjali swiftly rolls up the driver's side window, other windows being already rolled up.

Jalanjali reaches down and picks up something from the car floor. She opens her hand: in her palm sit a few small HAILSTONES.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - DAY

It's a hailstorm.

INT. AMBASSADOR - DAY

Jalanjali looks up at the windshield. It's getting blurred. She pushes the wipers stalk down but the wipers don't turn on.

JALANJALI
(as if realizing)
Oh, of course!

She with a sigh looks down at the melting hailstones in her hand for a moment and then rubs them all over her face.

Cold hailstones seem to have made Jalanjali feel relaxed a bit.

She reaches out and turns on the Radio, but it doesn't turn on.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
(To the radio)
What's wrong with you now?

She turns it off and on again, yet nothing happens.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
Sweet!

She leans back in the seat, resting her head on the headrest.

She closes her eyes.

Hailstorm continues outside...

A beat, then---

THE AMBASSADOR CAR SHAKES VIOLENTLY, causing Jalanjali to jolt forward.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
What the fuck!

She turns around to look at the rear windshield of the car.

Nothing can be seen clearly out through the hazy rear windshield.

She turns and opens her side door and attempts to get out, but she can't due to merciless hailstones.

She shuts back the door.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

Damn it!

She stares back to the rear windshield for a bit and then climbs over her seat, getting into the back seat.

She sits on her knees in the back seat looking out the blurry windshield, which has obscured the outside view.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

Is anyone out there?

No response.

She reaches over and knocks on the rear windshield.

Silence - Only the persistent sound of hailstones striking the car from all directions.

She leans forward - her nose is almost touching against the rear windshield.

She tries to see if there is anybody outside, but still she can't make out anything.

She holds her gaze there for a moment and--

Suddenly, the radio blares out a song.

Jalanjali gets startled.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

Holy Crap!

She quickly gets back to the driver's seat and turns off the radio.

She sits back down behind the wheel.

She looks at the front windshield, which has gone completely hazy.

She opens the glove compartment and brings out a cigarette packet. She removes a cigarette, holds it between her lips and lights it with a lighter.

She takes a long drag and then turns to look back at the blurry rear windshield - she still suspects something is out there.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - AMBASSADOR - DAY

Hail stones pelting on the lid of the car's trunk which is slightly open.

Nobody is out there though.

Jalanjali's car is parked alone on the side of the deserted road.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - THE AMBASSADOR CAR - DAY

After sometimes.

The hailstorm has stopped. However, The sky is still shrouded with clouds as the day seems to be giving way to the dusk.

Jalanjali's car is still there on the side of the road.

The driver's side door opens and Jalanjali gets out with a rug in her hand.

Jalanjali walks around to the rear of the car. She looks around:

There is nothing only the trees and shrubs of forest flanking the relatively narrow road... And a truck which is moving down the road towards her.

She turns around and looks down at the trunk of the ambassador.

She notices something and bends over to discover that the trunk is not locked. The lid is very slightly open.

JALANJALI

What the hell!

She goes to lift up the lid but stops and looks back at the approaching truck.

She let go of the lid and rushes to the front of the car. She comes back quickly to the rear of the car and--

Locks the trunk.

HONK! HONK! The truck honks behind her on the road.

She turns around to see the truck as it slowly comes to a halt on the road alongside her. Engine of the truck remains on.

Jalanjali looks up at the driver's side window of the truck.

IN THE TRUCK

Behind the stirring wheel sits a man in his 40's eyeing down at Jalanjali.

Jalanjali turns away and strides around to the front of the car and starts wiping the windshield with the rug.

The truck slowly moves forward along the road and again stops beside Jalanjali.

HONK! HONK!

She stops wiping and looks up at the truck driver.

He smiles.

Jalanjali looks down to the ground.

Finds a stone.

She picks it up and then positions herself to throw it at the truck driver.

The truck driver, spooked, pulls away the truck.

Jalanjali hurls the stone at the rear of the truck.

The stone hits the bumper and bounces off.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

Fucker!

The truck speeds away down the road.

The clouds rumble. Jalanjali looks up at the sky and gets back to wiping the windshield- with a bit of urgency this time.

INT. AMBASSADOR - DUSK.

Jalanjali is driving the car down the deserted forest road.

After a few moments, Jalanjali halts the car. She rolls down her side window and looks into the wing mirror: the stretch of road behind her is empty.

She then looks straight ahead down the road through the windshield: the road ahead is also empty.

EXT. FOREST ROAD - DUSK.

The ambassador car turns off the road and drives into the forest.

INT. AMBASSADOR - DUSK

Jalanjali is wheeling the car through the forest.

After a little while, through the windshield A CAMPING TENT pitched in a small clearing among the tall trees come into view.

Jalanjali stops the car at the edge of the clearing and turns off the ignition.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DUSK.

Jalanjali gets out of the car and walks round to the front passenger side door, calling out to...

JALANJALI
Hey, Hunk... come on out buddy...

Jalanjali opens the front passenger side door.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
Hunk, come out and take your things.

She grabs the white plastic bag with the large box out of the car.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
Hunk! Come here.

No one does.

Creases of concern appears on Jalanjali's brow. She puts the bag back into the car and starts creeping towards the tents.

Jalanjali stops a few feet away from the tent. She picks up a twig from the ground and resumes stepping towards the tent.

Upon reaching at the flap door of the tent, she hastily draws back the flap and looks inside:

Nobody is in there. On the camping mattress lying open a drawing book with a half finished drawing on a page of it and a few sketch pens scattered around.

We also notice that some weird hand drawn pictures of color full figures are taped all over the tent walls.

A wave of fear sweeps across Jalanjali's face when--

LITTLE BOY (O.S.)

Mama!

Jalanjali spins around to: A boy, HUNK(10), with hair cascading down his shoulder, stands by the car.

Jalanjali runs down to him and embraces him.

JALANJALI

Where have you been?

HUNK

I was just roaming around.

Jalanjali pulls away and looks sternly at Hunk's innocence oozing face.

JALANJALI

Didn't I tell you not to wander around alone.

HUNK

But, I was not alone.

Jalanjali gets alerted immediately.

JALANJALI

What?! Who was with you?

HUNK

Juju.

The name relieves Jalanjali.

JALANJAI

OK. Wait. Isn't he a little boy like you?

Hunk nods - like his not totally sure about it.

JALANJALI

Well, in that case you mustn't wonder around even along with him.

HUNK

But, Juju says the forest is his home and as long as I am with him no bad animals will dare to come near me let alone eating me.

JALANJALI

He is lying.

HUNK

No, he is not.

Jalanjali snaps at Hunk.

JALANJALI

That's enough. I don't want anymore discussion on this topic.

Hunk hangs his head. Jalanjali feels bad.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

I am so sorry.

She takes Hunk's hand and kisses it.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

It just worries me when you wonder around like that.

Hunk looks up.

HUNK

I Know, Mama.

Jalanjali gives a warm smile.

HUNK (CONT'D)

Have you got it?

JALANJALI

Of course. It's in the front seat.

Hunk goes up to the open front passenger side door and takes out the white plastic bag with the large square box from the car.

Hunk looks into the bag.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

I got everything you told me.

Hunk looks up, grinning.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

Now you go and get ready for the party.

HUNK

Yippee!

He runs towards the tent with the bag. Jalanjali laughs as she watches him get into the tent.

Jalanjali turns and sees the trunk of the car and all merriness from her face disappears.

She moves over to the rear of the car and stands gazing down at the trunk.

She leans over and sniffs around the trunk. Then stands up and ponders something for a moment and then nods to herself convincingly and heads for the tent.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - NIGHT

Hunk blows out some colored candles on a red velvet cake. Jalanjali claps.

They sit across from each other on a picnic mat. The cake is kept between them on a tray.

Only a camp lantern is lit beside them in the darkness of the forest.

JALANJALI

Make a wish.

Hunk looks up towards the dark sky, closing her eyes. After a second he open his eyes.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

What wish have you made?

Hunk looks at Jalanjali.

HUNK

I've wished for a house, with one room for you and one room for me, plus a kitchen and a bathroom with a shower, just like the hotel we stayed in last month.

Jalanjali looks like she was not expecting to hear anything like that from Hunk.

JALANJALI

Well, the superhero to whom you have just made the wish will see to that and meanwhile, you cut the cake.

HUNK

Oh, yea!

He grabs the knife and cuts the cake down the middle as Jalanjali sings...

JALANJALI

Happy Birthday to you, cha, cha,
cha.
Happy Birthday to you, cha, cha,
cha.
Happy Birthday dear, Hunk.
Happy Birthday to you, cha, cha,
cha.

She ends it.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

OK. Let me feed the birthday boy first.

She cuts out a small piece of the cake. Picks it up.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

Here.

Hunk opens his mouth and she shoves the whole piece into his mouth.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

Does it taste good?

Hunk nods. Jalanjali cuts out a slice for herself and takes a bite.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

Mm... It's delicious.

She puts the piece into her mouth and then starts slicing up the rest of the cake.

HUNK

Mama, I am eleven year old now, right?

JALANJALI

Right. You are no longer a kiddo. You are a big boy now.

HUNK

That means a mustache will grow on my face.

Jalanjali giggles.

JALANJALI

No. For that you have to wait at least five more years.

HUNK

Five more years?

JALANJALI

Mm hmm.

HUNK

But Juju has mustache and beard.

Jalanjali stops slicing the cake and looks up.

JALANJALI

Juju has mustache and beard?

Hunk nods vehemently.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

How old is he?

HUNK

Eleven.

JALANJALI

That's strange. Speaking of Juju, did you invite him?

Hunk shakes his head.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

Why not?

HUNK

He is very upset

JALANJALI

Upset? Did you two have a fight?

HUNK

No. We never fight.

JALANJALI

Then what made him upset?

HUNK

His father.

JALANJALI

Father? He has a father?

Hunk nods, sadly. Jalanjali gets the subtext of it.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

(Promptly)

It's too bad. You know, it's not healthy to have a father.

Hunk looks at her - agree to disagree. Jalanjali takes a slice of cake and have a bite.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

(with cake in the mouth)

Anyway, how did your friend's father disappoint him?

HUNK

His father didn't come today. He was supposed to come. He even sent a message through cicadas that he would come.

JALANJALI

Doesn't Juju live with his family?

HUNK

No. He lives alone out here.

JALANJALI

Really?

Hunk nods and takes a slice of the cake.

Jalanjali gobbles up her slice of the cake.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

(chomping)

Where do they live?

HUNK

He doesn't know where his mother is and his father lives somewhere in a tree by the forest road. He comes to visit Juju only after a hailstorm.

JALANJALI

Why is that?

Hunk shrugs.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

Poor boy. Alright. Enough talking about Juju. Now lets concentrate on What else we have to relish tonight?

HUNK

Pizza!

JALANJALI

Bring it on!

Hunk removes the pizza box from the white plastic bag. Jalanjali puts the tray with the cake aside as Hunk sets the pizza box down in it's place.

Jalanjali opens the pizza box. Hunk takes out a slice of the pizza. Jalanjali follows suit.

They both take a large bite out of their respective slice.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

(chewing)

Mm... It tastes better than veg
ones

HUNK

(chewing)

Yummy!

He brings out a bottle of soft drink from the white bag, unscrews it's cap and have a swig. Then he holds out the bottle to Jalanjali.

JALANJALI

Thanks, but that's for you to
drink. I have my own.

She produces a bottle of red wine from behind her.

HUNK

Grape juice?

Jalanjali nods, smiling and pulls out the cork of the wine bottle.

JALANJALI

Time for a toast.

Hunk nods.

They get up and raise their bottles of drink.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

To my bravest, cutest and sweetest
son's eleventh birthday.

With that they both take a large swig from their bottles.

Oblivious to mother and son, the rear of the ambassador car, parked on the edge of the clearing, SHAKES!

INT. CAMPING TENT - NIGHT

Jalanjali, inebriated, kisses Hunk's brow as he lies on his back on the camping mattress.

JALANJALI

Good night. Sleep tight. Don't let the bed bugs bite.

HUNK

You too, mama.

She nods smiling and then when turns to leave she notices the pizza box in which one more slice of pizza and a piece of cake are left.

JALANJALI

(nods towards the box)
Are those for Juju?

Hunk turns onto his side to see the pizza box.

HUNK

Nope. Juju won't eat them.

JALANJALI

Oh. I see. He is a vegan.

Hunk looks up at Jalanjali

HUNK

No. He only eats meat.

JALANJALI

Well, in that case he can at least eat the slice of pizza. It has chunks of meat on it.

HUNK

You don't get it.

Hunk sits up.

HUNK (CONT'D)

Juju eats meat but only raw meat.

JALANJALI

What?!

Hunk nods. Jalanjali grimaces.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
Eew! He is a very dirty boy.

Hunk giggles.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
He is not only a weirdo, but also a creep.

Jalanjali shakes her head in disbelief.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
OK. Now you go to sleep.

Hunk lies back down on the mattress.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
I am coming back in a minute.

HUNK
Where are you going?

Jalanjali shows her little finger.

HUNK (CONT'D)
Oh.

Jalanjali grabs the camp lantern by its handle and crawls out of the tent.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - AMBASSADOR - NIGHT

The camping lantern is on the trunk of the car.

Some jackals howl somewhere, not far, in the forest.

Jalanjali staggers out from the darkness into the light of the lantern, pulling up her shorts.

She comes up to the rear of the car. She bends over and sniffs all over the trunk.

JALANJALI
You are not smelling dead yet, but still...

She pulls out the car key from her shorts pockets. As she proceeds to open the lock of the trunk, she fumbles and the key drops to the ground.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
Ass!

She starts groping around the ground to find the key.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
(mumbling to herself)
This fucking car is so unlucky for me. I should have taken his crappy small flat instead of this piece of shit.

She finds the key and as she puts the key into the keyhole of the trunk to unlock it--

The car shakes violently, dropping the lantern onto the ground.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
I guess, I have drunk too much.
She reaches down and picks up the lantern.
The car has stopped shaking, but--
Now, the bulb inside the lantern begins to flicker.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
Great! Now you want to fuck me?
She sighs heavily and looks down at the car trunk.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
I will have to take care of you tomorrow.
The jackals howl again.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
I have just one last request for you... please don't smell dead or else...

Jalanjali looks into the darkness in the direction the jackals are howling.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
... They will come over.

She turns back to the trunk and puts her palms together.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
Please remember that.

The lantern light keeps on flickering.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
(to the lantern)
And you don't dare to die until I
get back into the tent.

With that she goes teetering up to the tent and goes inside it.

Everything falls into blackness again.

A moment later, as the howling stops another sound can be heard:

The sound of breaking a bundle of twigs or... a large BONE.

INT. TENT - EARLY MORNING

A little bit of early morning light is seeping through the fabric walls of the tent.

Both Hunk and Jalanjali are asleep.

Some cicadas start chirping right outside the tent.

Hunk wakes up to the noise. He sits up, rubbing his eyes. He looks at his mother sleeping beside him.

He gingerly crawls up to the flap door of the tent, cautiously unzips it and pokes his head out.

HUNK
(whispers to someone
outside)
Make them stop. Mama is sleeping.

The chirping of cicadas ceases.

HUNK (CONT'D)
(still whispering)
What's the matter?

A pause as if he is listening to someone outside, whom we can't see or hear though.

HUNK (CONT'D)
(whispers)
What!?! Really!?!?

A pause again.

HUNK (CONT'D)
(whispers)
OK.

Hunk brings his head inside and gingerly crawls up to Jalanjali, who is sleeping on her back.

Hunk begins looking for something by carefully patting over Jalanjali's shorts' pockets, but finds nothing in them.

He lifts his pillow to see if the thing is under it, but it's not there either.

He looks around her hastily.

Jalanjali moans and turns to her side, still asleep, and--

Hunk finds the thing: it's the car key.

Hunk picks up the key and quietly gets out of the tent.

Jalanjali is sleeping like a log.

EXT. FOREST - THE SKY - DAY

The dark rain clouds have gathered in the sky over the forest.

INT. TENT - DAY

Jalanjali is up. She stretches her arms, yawning. She looks beside her.

Hunk is sleeping on his side with his hands tucked between his legs.

Jalanjali smiles and leans over Hunk. She fondly brushes off his long locks of hair from over his face and finds a RED STAIN on his cheek.

Jalanjali frowns at it and then gently scratches off the dry red mark from his face.

JALANJALI
(Murmurs to herself)
Bloody Blood sucking bugs!

As Jalanjali sits up, her eyes catches: The car key lying in the gap between her and Hunk's pillows.

It reminds her of something urgent as she grabs the key and rushes out of the tent.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - TENT - DAY

Jalanjali lifts a corner of the tarp next to the tent and removes a spade from under it.

She grips the handle of the spade, turns around and strides over to the rear of the car.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - AMBASSADOR - DAY

Jalanjali stands gazing down at the trunk of the ambassador car.

Something catches her eye.

She squishes her eyebrows together and bands over to find : Some LONG RED STREAKS on the bumper of the car. They seem to have come out from inside the trunk.

JALANJALI
Shit! You are leaking.

She removes the key from her shorts' pocket and insert it into the keyhole of the trunk and turns it.

She pulls out the key from the key hole and slips it back into her shorts' pocket.

She lifts the trunk lid and looks inside the trunk as her eyes bulge.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
What the...!

She hurriedly takes out the old man's clothes and shoes from the trunk - The white shirt of the old man has turned almost red.

Then, she takes a better look inside the trunk:

THE DEAD OLD MAN IS NOT IN THE TRUNK. IT'S EMPTY AND COVERED WITH BLOOD.

Jalanjali stands there in a state of bafflement. She has got some blood on her hands and T- shirt.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
Oh my shit!

She looks up at the dark sky," Where has the body gone?"

She looks back down into the empty bloodied trunk.

She runs a bloody hand of hers through her hair absentmindedly, squeezing her eyes shut - she appears to be raking her brains to solve the mystery.

A beat, then--

HUNK (O.S.)
He is not in there.

Jalanjali snaps open her eyes and turns.

Hunk stands by the tent looking straight over at her.

JALANJALI
What?!

Hunk nods. Jalanjali dashes over to him.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
Did you see him?

HUNK
Yes, Mama.

JALANJALI
Was he alive?

HUNK
Of course he was alive, why?

JALANJALI
(To herself)
How's that possible?

HUNK
Isn't it funny how he got stuck inside the trunk?

JALANJALI
Are you sure there was nobody else.

HUNK
There was only him Inside the trunk. All covered in blood from...

JALANJALI
How did he open the trunk?

HUNK
I did it.

JALANJALI
You opened it?!

Hunk nods.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
But how did you know he was there?

HUNK
Juju told me.

Jalanjali shakes her head - pissed off.

JALANJALI
Not now. Did you see where he went?

HUNK
There.

He points towards the forest off behind the tent. Jalanjali stares towards the forest.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Dark clouds in the sky are ready to come down.

JALANJALI (O.S.)
Hey, where are you?

Jalanjali is walking through the forest, looking around and calling out to...

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
Why are you hiding? You don't need to be afraid of me. I won't hurt you. I have seen so much blood in the trunk of the car. I am worried about you. Please come out so that I can take you to a hospital.

No one does.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
You know it very well that I didn't do anything to you. Your heart suddenly stopped working while we were doing it. I thought you were dead. You didn't have any address on you that I could have informed your family. Thus, I put you in the truck to give you a proper burial later. If I were a bad woman I would have left your body in the jungle for some wild animal to feast upon you.
(MORE)

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

So, come out, I will drop you to
your house or a hospital and don't
worry I won't tell anyone about us.

Still no response.

Jalanjali stops walking and blows out a gust of air.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

Alright! I am giving you an offer:
If you come out by the count of
five, we will do it right here,
right now. So, here I am counting,
One... Two...

She looks around, but nobody can be seen.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

Three...

Still nobody emerges. Jalanjali slowly takes off her t-
shirt, exposing her bra.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

Four...

Yet, nobody comes out from nowhere.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

Five!

She waits for a moment, but no one can be sighted.

She is standing alone among the trees.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

Alright then. As you wish, old
ass! Die bleeding out alone here.

She puts back on her T-shirt, turns around and starts walking
away.

However, as she has gone only a few feet--

SOME BIRDS SHRIEK.

She stops and spins around to find: A flock of birds is
flying away from a tree as it's swaying. Strangely enough,
not any other trees in the forest are moving.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

Gotcha!

She sprints over to the swaying tree and stands under it, looking upward.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
Get down old man. I will take you straight to your family.

The swaying of the tree ceases.

Jalanjali waits, gazing up at the leafy tree branches (we can't see anyone, but there could be one hiding behind the thick leaves).

A few seconds later, she yells.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
Hey, what happened? Why are you not getting down? Stop being a pain in my ass. Climb down this instant or I will really kill you this time.

She looks down to the ground and finds a stone. She picks it up and looks back up at the tree branches.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
I am not kidding.

She waits a bit, but when no one appears from behind the leaves.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
You have left me with no choice.

She hurls the stone up into the leafy branches and quickly backs up, moving out from under the tree.

Seconds later, the stone falls back to the ground.

Nobody else does though.

Jalanjali shakes her head and goes back under the tree with quick wide steps.

She glares up.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
So, you are coming down or not?

No response of any sorts from up there.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
Well, I am not leaving until I make you fall from the tree.

She picks up the stone again.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
You know what, I have learned a
valuable lesson today that I must
never ever do it with an old freak.

She throws the stone up towards the leafy branches again and quickly runs out from under the tree.

A beat, then it falls to the ground--

No, not the stone this time, but--

A WHITE BAG with something inside it.

Jalanjali walks briskly to the bag and picks it up.

She looks at the bag.

It's the WHITE BAG in which Jalanjali brought cake and other things for Hunk yesterday evening. It's splattered with blood now.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
Did you steal this from my son?
What's in it?

She puts her hand into the bag and brings out--

A PIECE OF FLASH.

She looks up at the tree.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
Where did you get this?

Jalanjali looks back down at the piece of flash in her hand and turns it over to find--

SKIN and on the skin a big WART!

A wave of terror sweeps over her. She haltingly looks back up at the tree.

Still nothing up there, but could be something very dreadful right behind the thick leaves...

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Behind a bush Hunk is responding to a nature's call, while eating the remaining slice of the pizza.

A beat, then--

JALANJALI (O.S.)
(shouting)
Hunk! Hunk! Where are you?

Hunk shouts back.

HUNK
Coming!

He shoves the rest of the slice into his mouth.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

By the look of the clouds in the sky, it's going to rain any moment.

Hunk comes out to the clearing to see--

Nobody is here.

HUNK
Mama.

No response.

He starts walking towards the tent... When he reaches at the entrance of the tent he stops as he hears something moving inside the tent.

HUNK (CONT'D)
Mama.

No answer. He reaches for the flap door of the tent when--

Jalanjali emerges out of the tent. Hunk yelps, jumping away from her.

HUNK (CONT'D)
You scared me!

Jalanjali carrying two duffel bags in her hands strides up to Hunk and leans over him. She looks frightened and serious as never before.

JALANJALI
Who was inside the trunk?

HUNK

Didn't I tell you? It was Juju's father who else it would be? By the way, have you met him?

JALANJALI

Get into the car.

HUNK

Why? Are we moving already?

Jalanjali going towards the ambassador car,

JALANJALI

Yes.

HUNK

But why. We came here only a week ago. I like it here. I don't want to go.

Jalanjali opens a back passenger side door and throws the bags into the backseats . She shuts the door and opens the front passenger door and looks over at Hunk.

JALANJALI

Come on. Get in.

Hunk shakes his head.

HUNK

No. I am not going anywhere.

JALANJALI

(furious)
I said fucking get in!

Hunk's eyes water up as he slowly starts moving towards the car.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)

Fast!

Hunk runs up to the car, yanks open the back side door instead and climbs into the backseat, slamming the door shut.

Jalanjali shuts the front passenger side door that she has been holding open for hunk and strides around to the other side of the car and yanks open the driver's side door. She gets in and shuts the door.

INT. AMBASSADOR - DAY

Jalanjali buckles up.

HUNK

I don't wanna go. I wanna stay here.

Tears trickling down his cheeks. Jalanjali pulls out the car key from her shorts' pocket.

JALANJALI

Put on your seat belt.

She puts the key into the ignition.

HUNK

No. I wanna stay here with Juju.

Jalanjali glares back at Hunk and as is about to say something...

CLANK! CLANK! CLANK!

She turns to the windshield to see:

IT'S HAILSTORM AGAIN.

Hunk smiles.

HUNK (CONT'D)

We can't go now!

JALANJALI

We are going. Wear your seat belt.

HUNK

But how can you drive the car in the rain. The windshield wipers don't work.

Jalanjali turns back and snaps at him.

JALANJALI

Just do as I said!

Hunk's face gets glum again. He puts on his seat belt.

Jalanjali turns on the engine.

Hunk looks back out the rear windshield at the tent as Jalanjali starts turning the car.

And--

He sees something out there as his face lights up.

HUNK
They are coming!

JALANJALI
Who?!

Hunk beams.

HUNK
Juju and his father.

Terror strikes Jalanjali.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - DAY

The ambassador car drives off into the forest through the hailstorm.

INT. AMBASSADOR - DAY

Jalanjali is racing the car through the forest . The windshield has almost got blurry as hail stones, along with rain, continue to bounce off it.

Hunk is protesting.

HUNK
... We could have offered him a lift and dropped him off at his tree. You didn't even let me say good bye to Juju. I will never find a friend like him.

JALANJALI
Look if they are still after us.

Hunk looks back outside through the blurry rear windshield.

After a couple of seconds.

HUNK
No. I don't think they are.

JALANJALI
Are you sure?

HUNK
Yes.

This calms down Jalanjali a bit. Hunk turns around and sits tucking his chin - distraught.

Jalanjali takes a glance at Hunk in the rearview mirror.

JALANJALI

You know the place we are going to is far better than this forest.

HUNK

That doesn't matter. Juju won't be there.

JALANJALI

Well, You will make new friends there... I mean real friends this time.

HUNK

All my friends were real. Besides, No one can ever be like Juju.

Jalanjali sighs.

As she shifts her sight back to the blurry windshield, she somehow makes out--

A TREE only a few feet down from the car.

They are going to CRASH!

JALANJALI

Fuck!

She promptly stamps on the brake pedal.

She and Hunk jerk forward as--

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The car comes to an abrupt halt just inches away from the tree.

The engine is running.

INT. AMBASSADOR - DAY

Jalanjali sits still, gripping the steering wheel. Her eyes wide open staring at the windshield, unblinkingly.

HUNK (O.S.)

Mama...

This snaps her out from the shock. She swiftly turns back to Hunk.

Hunk doesn't seem to be hurt physically.

JALANJALI

Honey, are you OK?... I am sorry...
are you hurt?

She reaches over, unbuckles Hunk and pulls him into her arms.

HUNK

I am fine mama.

JALANJALI

I am so sorry sweetie.

She breaks down and starts crying.

HUNK

It's OK. Don't cry.

He wipes the tears off her face.

HUNK (CONT'D)

Let's just wait until it stops.

She nods and kisses him on the cheek.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The car engine stops running.

INT. AMBASSADOR - DAY.

A little later.

Hunk sits in the front passenger seat, hugging his knees, while looking out at the ceaseless dance of rain and hail through the hazy window of his side.

Jalanjali removes a cigarette from a cigarette box and puts it between her lips.

JALANJALI

(re: hailstorm)

It has been going on for too long
than usual.

Hunk doesn't respond.

JALANJALI (CONT'D)
Are you hungry, buddy?

Hunk turns to her.

HUNK
A little.

Jalanjali nods emphatically.

JALANJALI
Me too. As soon as it stops, We
will drive straight to a nice
eatery and have some delicious
food. We will keep on eating until
our stomachs burst... BOOM!

She makes an impression of explosion with her hands. Hunk
smiles.

She lights the cigarette and takes a drag.

HUNK
Mama, I am sorry.

JALANJALI
Sorry? Why?

HUNK
Um... I forgot to wash my hands
with soap after--

She gets it as she grimaces.

JALANJALI
Ewe! You are a dirty boy!

Hunk giggles. Jalanjali laughs.

And--

The car JOLTS UP.

Jalanjali gets alarmed.

Hunk looks back towards the rear windshield.

Jalanjali watches Hunk dreadfully, anticipating something....

Hunk tries to look out through the blurry rear windshield.

After a few moments--

A smile spreads across Hunk's face.

Jalanjali swallows.

Ash from the cigarette held between her fingers falls.

EXT. FOREST - DAY.

The trunk lid of the Ambassador car, which is up now, drops.

The hailstorm continues...

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. MUD HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

By a lantern Grandma sits on a mini wooden stool peeling boiled potatoes on a copper dish.

Titly comes running into the kitchen and sits near Grandma. Grandma looks at her.

GRANDMA

Hungry?

Titly shakes her head rapidly.

TITLY

Grandma I think maa and baba were right.

GRANDMA

What are you talking about?

TITLY

The grandpa's stories are not for children.

GRANDMA

Really? But just a few hours ago you said his stories were wonderful.

TITLY

Yes, they are. But not for children.

GRANDMA

So, you are not going to tell the stories to your friends, are you?

TITLY

Not now. But for sure once we grow up.

Grandma nods and gets back to peeling boiled potatoes. Titly picks up one potato from the dish and starts peeling.

TITLY (CONT'D)

Grandma.

GRANDMA

Yes?

TITLY

Um... you don't worry I won't tell maa and baba about it.

Grandma nods, smiling.

GRANDMA

It will stay between you and me for ever.

Titly smiles - relived.

INT. MUD HOUSE - STUDY ROOM - NIGHT

Grandpa is typing away. The stack of typed papers has grown much thicker than before.

He is too engrossed in writing.

INT. MUD HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT.

Grandma is mashing the peeled boiled potatoes on the copper dish as Titly looking for something in a bamboo basket of vegetables.

TITLY

I can't find any.

GRANDMA

Mashed potatoes without green chilli will taste very blend. I will get some.

Grandma gets up. Titly stops searching and looks at Grandma.

TITLY

It's not right to pluck fruits or flowers from a plant or a tree at night.

GRANDMA

It's OK to break such rules
sometimes.

Grandma starts for the kitchen door when--

TITLY (O.S.)

Can I go get it?

Grandma turns around to Titly and nods.

EXT. MUD HOUSE - NIGHT.

The rain has stopped. However, the sky is still covered with dark clouds.

Titly gets out onto the porch.

THE PORCH

She has a flash light in a hand.

Titly puts on one shoe of her pair of slip-on shoes and then as she puts on the other one--

She yelps! Hurriedly pulling the shoe out of her feet.

She aims the beam of the flashlight down at the shoe.

A frog hops out of it.

Titly pulls a face at the frog and kicks it out of the porch.

She picks up the shoe and shakes it well to see if anymore uncouth creatures come out of it. To her relief, none does.

She puts the shoe back on and gets back into the house.

EXT. MUD HOUSE - BACK YARD - NIGHT.

The beam of a flashlight illuminates a chilli plant.

Titly comes up to the plant and stares at the green chillies hanging from the stems of the plant.

TITLY

(To the chilli plant)

Grandma says it's OK...
sometimes... I want only a few.

With a bit of hesitation Titly begins to pluck chillies.

After a little while, She has plucked a fistful of chillies.

TITLY (CONT'D)
(To the chilli plant)
Sorry and thank you.

She gives a warm smile to the plant and turns around to head back into the house when--

She discovers in the luminance of the flashlight a number of FROGS have gathered on the yard in front of her.

TITLY (CONT'D)
Where have they come from?

She grimaces, panning the beam of the flashlight around her.

The frogs are all around her. They have surrounded her.

TITLY (CONT'D)
Shoo! Shoo!

She stomps her feet on the ground to scare the frogs away.

INT. MUD HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Grandma sits on the mini stool by the lantern with the copper dish of mashed potatoes in front of her- waiting for Titly.

She sighs.

EXT. MUD HOUSE - BACK YARD - NIGHT.

Grandma steps out of the house through the back door holding the lantern in a hand.

She calls out.

GRANDMA
Titly!

No answers.

Grandma takes a few steps forward and turns to see:

The flashlight. It is on and lying on the ground near the chilli plant.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)
Titly!

She quickly moves over to the chilli plant and as she bends down to pick up the flashlight, she notices some chillies are scattered on the ground.

She stands up, looking around.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

Titly!

The croaking of a number of frogs in unison sets in, quite dominating over all the other sounds of a dark night.

INT. MUD HOUSE - STUDY ROOM- NIGHT.

INSERT: THE END is typed on a paper.

Grandpa places the paper on top of the stack.

He exhales, wiping the sweat off his face and stretches his fingers, arms and back. Then, he looks down at his stomach and rubs it.

INT. MUD HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Grandpa comes in, carrying the table lamp in a hand.

Strangely, the kitchen doesn't look the same. It now looks very messy and a bit ramshackle.

Neither Grandma nor Titly is in here.

Grandpa saunters up to the wooden kitchen rack and takes down a dull aluminium dish and then crosses over to the earthen hearth. There on the hearth sits a dented, burnt aluminium pot.

He sets the table lamp down on the floor and with his hand scoops out some *khitchdi* from the pot and put onto the dish.

He sits cross-legged on the floor and starts having his meal by the table lamp.

EXT. MUD HOUSE - NIGHT.

It's a summer night lit with moonlight.

There are some fluffy white clouds in the sky, but no dark rain clouds.

FADE OUT.

THE END.



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