

MASAAN

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ON BLACK

Text appears on screen:

*Zindagi kya hai, anaasir mein zahur-e-tarteeb,
Maut kya hai, ini aza ka pareshaan hona.*

*"What is life? A delicate arrangement of the five elements.
What is death? A slight disturbance of this arrangement."*

- Pandit Brij Narayan 'Chakbast'

1 INT. DEVI'S HOUSE - DAY

DEVI PATHAK, 24, is looking at her desktop (off screen) with excitement. Slow saxophone music is playing on the computer, Devi's phone rings. We see 'Piyush Coaching' on her phone. We don't hear what's being said from the other side.

DEVI

Theek hai, hum nikal rahe hain.

She hangs up and is in a sudden hurry. She opens the curtains and lets the light in. She looks in to the mirror. Adjusts her hair and *dupatta*. Picks up her shoulder-bag (overly filled) and prepares to leave. A sense of urgency in her actions. She looks at the tea by the table. It's cold, she gulps it all in one go.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. DEVI'S HOUSE - DAY

Devi locking the outside gate of her old LIG (Low Income Group) flat in a quieter part of the town, almost on the fringes of the city.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. ROAD - DAY

Devi is in a shared auto-rickshaw. She covers herself with *dupatta*.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. ANOTHER ROAD - DAY

Devi in a mini-bus, a town-to-town shuttle service. The front of the bus has a destination board 'Varanasi - Chandauli - Varanasi'.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. CHANDAULI RAILWAY STATION - DAY

Devi gets off the bus, looks across the road. PIYUSH, 20, scrawny with an adolescent moustache, slightly nerdy, wearing full-sleeved shirt and trousers, standing across the road. She looks at him.

From a distance we see both of them talking. Their talk drowned by the chaotic traffic and market commotion around. They split in opposite directions.

CUT TO:

6 EXT/INT. SULABH SHAUCHALAYA - DAY

She sees a sign that shows Rs. 2 to use the washroom. A fat woman sitting at the table collecting the money. Devi just leaves a 5 rupee coin and dashes in.

Inside the small, dirty washroom, Devi changing into a *saari*. The door is broken and she cant lock herself. Puts on vermillion, red bangles, like a newly wed woman (Some graffiti of dicks and boobs and cuss words can be seen on the wall behind.)

She exits with her bag. Looks at the fat woman out front. Woman keeps the 3 rupees balance on the table, they exchange a brief glance. Devi walks away without picking the coins.

I/C

6 A EXT. CHANDAULI STATION MARKET - DAY

Piyush is buying a large cheap travel bag. The seller takes off the paper balls (used to inflate the bag). Piyush puts them back in.

Piyush buys a fluffy jacket and wears it.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. CHANDAULI RAILWAY STATION - DAY

Devi and Piyush meet at the same point they dispersed from. He is waiting with a travel bag. They exchange a faint gesture of amusement. They talk. (INDISTINCT) Piyush looks slightly hesitant. Devi walks ahead to cross the road, Piyush follows. They cross the road in heavy traffic.

CUT TO:

8 EXT./INT. SUNRISE LODGE CHANDAULI - DAY

Devi and Piyush at the reception counter. Travel bag on Piyush's shoulder. They talk to the man at the counter. (INDISTINCT.)The receptionist looks at them suspiciously.

CUT TO:

9 INT. SUNRISE LODGE CHANDAULI/ROOM - DAY

Devi and Piyush in the small, shady room.

Devi and Piyush standing next to each other. They come close and are about to kiss. Piyush steps back a bit, goes to the windows and draws some of the curtains that are still open. He turns on the TV and puts on the news channel. He comes back and gives her a gift (a rectangular box packed in kite-paper of a sober color) he had hidden inside his jacket. Devi giggles, looks at him lovingly, and keeps the gift in her bag without opening.

(**Note:** Establishing shot of gift being placed in the bag.)

CUT TO:

10 INT. SUNRISE LODGE CHANDAULI/ROOM - DAY

Both are nervous. Devi takes his hand and puts it under her blouse. He gasps. Piyush moves forward to kiss her, Devi is slightly hesitant. Devi moves forward. They start kissing awkwardly. Then stop, look at each other, and control their giggle.

PIYUSH

Kya hua?

DEVI

Ajab sa laga na zara?

Piyush shakes his head in a no and comes forward to kiss again.

CUT TO:

11 INT. SUNRISE LODGE CHANDAULI/ROOM - DAY

They are fully naked now, under the sheets. Devi is looking at her reflection in the dirty, broken mirror on the side of the bed.

The door is knocked.

Devi keeps moaning, Piyush stops, and the door is knocked again. This time vigorously.

Devi sits up, Piyush turns pale.

Door knocked again, this time pounded.

VOICE

Kya panchait ho rahi hai andar?

Devi tries to find her undergarments, Piyush panics trying to find his. The door is being banged now with much force, somebody trying to break in. Devi wears her undergarments.

PIYUSH

Mere kapde?

They are looking for Piyush's clothes when the door is broken open. 3 cops (Inspector MISHRA (38) and three hawaldaars) come running in, a couple of hotel employees peep in from behind. As soon as they enter, One of the hawaldaar starts shooting them on his mobile phone.

MISHRA

(charging in)

Kya bhasad macha rakhi hai? Baajaar bana diya yahaan...

Directs his assistants. Two of them drag Piyush by his hair and place him by a wall. The assistants hold piyush's hands and pull him either sides with his face to the wall. He is only wearing an underwear. One of the assistants (female) belts him on his buttocks. Piyush starts screaming in pain.

MISHRA (CONT'D)

Naam?

PIYUSH

Piyush Aggarwal! Chhod do sir!!!

The assistants keeps belting him on his buttocks.

MISHRA

Kya karte ho?

PIYUSH

Student hun sir..

Piyush is screaming. Devi is shouting too.

MISHRA

Kahan se aaye ho?

PIYUSH

Aaa.. Allahabad se. Sir, please sir!! Kuch settlement kar lo sir.. Please!!

The assistants increase the blows and leave him there. Piyush squats down unable to sit on the floor. He is sobbing.

Mishra turns to Devi who hides her face with her hands. Mishra nods at his assistant with mobile camera who hands the camera to him. He takes it close to Devi's face.

MISHRA
Naam?

DEVI
Devi.

MISHRA
(matter of factly)
Tumra life toh kandam ho gaya.

Piyush makes a run to the bathroom howling. The two *hawaldaars* are in his way, but he manages to get in the bathroom and bolts the door from inside.

MISHRA (CONT'D)
(amused)
Bahin-chod isey kya hua?

The *hawaldaars* start banging on the bathroom door. Mishra looks at Devi with a question-mark on his face. Devi is crying.

CUT TO:

12 INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Piyush is sobbing and shaking inside. He can hear the voices of *Hawaldaars* knocking on the door.

HAWALDAAR 1 (V.O.)
Kya Rajkumar...?

PIYUSH
Sir sorry sir...sir maaf kar do
sir...galti ho gayi...sir main
student hoon sir...

HAWALDAAR 2 (V.O.)
Settlement karne wale they na.. Kya
hua!!

PIYUSH
Sir sorry sir... please sir...
sir...main college mein padhta hoon
sir...sir hum log 1st time aaye
sir...

He cries while looking for an escape route.

CUT TO:

13 INT. SUNRISE LODGE CHANDAULI/ROOM - DAY

Devi is looking at his shadow trickling out from below the bathroom door. He is fidgeting. The cops are a bit confused.

Mishra finds Piyush's trousers. He takes out his wallet. Takes out identity cards. He goes near the bathroom.

MISHRA

Pita ka naam: Ramdhari Aggarwal.
Phone number 9817483932. GT
Professional University, Allahabad
Road. Du minit mein baahir aao
nahin toh bhanabhan phone laga
denge gharey.

Piyush panics and starts screaming.

PIYUSH

(crying loudly)

Nahin sir! nahin nahin nahin..
Please sir...main aata hoon sir...
bathroom lag gaya.. sir.. aata hoon
sir

The assistants laugh. Mishra is emotionless.

CUT TO:

14 INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Piyush is trying to open the jammed window. Fails. Then spots a towel and a glass with dry flowers in it, floating in dirty water. A used *Medimix* soap is by the glass.

He picks up the towel, stuffs it in his mouth. Picks up the glass, breaks it and contemplates.

Closes his face as he grimaces with blood shot red eyes. Opens the tap and water starts swirling in the basin.

CUT TO:

15 INT. SUNRISE LODGE CHANDAULI/ROOM - DAY

Mishra looks at Devi hiding her face and crying. He signals the female assistant. Mishra pulls up a chair and sits close to her.

The female assistant slaps Devi across her face twice. Devi screams. The assistant holds Devi's hair. Devi screams in pain.

MISHRA

Kahaan se ho? Maduvadeeh?

DEVI
Nahin.

MISHRA
Nepal se?

Devi looks up at him, with hurt in her eyes.

DEVI
Aap galat samajh rahe hain.

MISHRA
(turns his attention
towards the door)
Abe kop-bhavan hai kya? Todo sasur.

The hawaldaars start banging the bathroom door. No response. They break it open. Piyush is lying dead in blood. His wrists are slashed with glass. Panic in the ranks. We stay on Devi's face.

CUT TO:

16 INT. SUNRISE LODGE CHANDAULI/ROOM - DAY

From Devi's POV, we see Piyush's (probably dead) body being taken out. Blood dripping from his hand, mouth open wide, lodge employees looking at Devi and the dead body with voyeuristic glee.

MISHRA
(mumbles)
Hadd hai saala!

More hotel employees are peeping now.

CUT TO:

17 EXT. SUNRISE LODGE CHANDAULI - DAY

Devi has her face covered in Dupatta. Her bag is on her shoulder. She is being taken into a jeep. Some boy is shooting this on his phone. The jeep moves.

Close of Devi's face - a crestfallen, shocked, impossible expression.

DISSOLVE TO:

18 EXT. GANGES MIRZAPUR - DAY

A stone is thrown on water and it glides on water almost jumping three times. We move ahead to see some boys by a ghat.

DEEPAK, 24, a wiry, dark-skinned boy has thrown the stone from the deserted ghaat. He is standing with 4 friends (RUPPAN, KK, PUSHPI, and NAVEEN, all 20-23 years of age). KK has bleached hair and is the only 'stylish', overconfident boy in the group. A natural leader.

Naveen is clicking a group selfie ~~pictures~~ on his cheap mobile phone. Ruppan, Pushpi, and KK standing shoulder-to-shoulder, smiling. Deepak is standing a bit away, throwing stones in the river.

NAVEEN

Hanso saalon!

They smile and he clicks a photo. Then they all huddle to see the click.

KK

Kya yaar meri aankh bandh hai.

PUSHPI

Haan...aankh bandh hai aur daant
baahar...aisa lag raha hai blonde
saala sadka maar raha hai...

They all laugh. Deepak joins them too. Bends over to look at the photo.

While flipping through his pictures, they see a young Priyanka Gandhi photo.

PUSHPI (CONT'D)

Kuchh bhi bolo...Piri-yanka Gandhi
hai mast cheej!

RUPPAN

Saala congressi...phone mein
Priyanka Gandhi ki photo rakha
hai??

KK

Tab toh ee Deepakwa saala Mayawati
ka photo rakha hoga...

All laugh, Deepak smiles.

DEEPAK

(urgently)

Aa gaye wo...

KK and Ruppan run towards an oncoming motorbike. Two boys are riding on it.

They intercept the bike, Deepak is standing a bit behind, not getting involved directly.

KK
 (to the boy on the pillion
 seat)
 Kya be RINKU...kahaan chaley?

RINKU
 Bhaad jaa rahe hain...chalna hai?
 Kaun ho?

KK
 Poora parichay chitthii mein likh
 ke bhejenge baad mein...abhi bas
 yahi kahna hai ki Pooja Chauhan ko
 miss call kaahe de rahe ho?

RINKU
 (to his friend, the rider)
 Ae chal na...

They start the bike to leave but KK and Ruppan start slapping Rinku while holding the bike. Naveen and Pushpi break the indicator lights with a brick.

RINKU (CONT'D)
 Ae haath nahi lagaana...hum...

KK is about to hit the brick on Rinku's head when Deepak intervenes and holds KK back.

DEEPAK
 (holds his hand up,
 gesturing his friends to
 stop)
 Pyaar se bolenge, bahan maan ke
 chalo Pooja Chauhan ko...bahut miss-
 call aa rahi hai dimaag mein toh
 humko diya karo...

The bike finally gets away and Rinku and friend escape.

KK
 (shouting after them,
 throwing a stone at the
 bike)
 Kal ladki ke janamdin pe koi harkat
 ki toh tod ke rakh denge...samjhe!

He turns back and smiles at Deepak.

CUT TO:

19

EXT. HARISHCHANDRA GHAAT ROAD - DAY

Deepak gets off from the auto. Starts walking. The lanes get narrower. He enters a small lane. Piles of woods on both sides can be seen. Dense smoke coming from other side. A small shop selling colorful, gold-bordered shrouds.

The Ganges can now be seen only a few feet away. The ghaat, crowded, with mostly men in whites. Deepak climbs a flight of earthen stairs just before the river and reaches a small house - an ancient duplex of sorts.

CUT TO:

20 INT. DEEPAK'S HOUSE - DAY

A lady, SHAANTI (52), weaving a carpet with some more ladies (including Deepak's bhabhi RANI (28)), sitting on the floor of a huge hall.

SHAANTI
(getting up)
Aa gaya beta...rukaa ho, paani dete hain..

DEEPAK
Nahin tu kaam kar...leta hoon main.

He's undoing the laces of his rugged sport-shoes. She still gets up and gives him a glass of water.

SHAANTI
Aur choolhe ka time hua...aag laa de baahar se.

Deepak finishes his glass of water in one gulp and gets up.

SHAANTI (CONT'D)
Aur Sikandar ko bhi utha de..uska time ho gaya...

CUT TO:

21 INT. DEEPAK'S HOUSE/ROOM - DAY

Deepak climbs up the stairs. A small little room with a pile of mattresses in a corner. He's shaking up SIKANDAR, 32, who is sleeping there.

DEEPAK
Bhaai...uth ja...Bhaai.

Sikandar opens his eyes and looks blankly at Deepak. A wide-eyed, getting-back-into-the-world look. (Sikandar looks perennially tired, scruffy unkempt beard and cold)

CUT TO:

22 EXT. HARISHCHANDRA GHAAT - AFTERNOON

Deepak walking down the flight of stairs. Enters the ghaat area. Lots of funeral pyres burning.

An old man, DOCTOR, 58, waves at him. Deepak waves back. A couple of other workers greet him with respect. He nods at them.

Deepak takes a small wooden twig, goes to a burning pyre and lights it up.

CUT TO:

23 INT. DEEPAK'S HOUSE - DAY

Deepak is lighting the gas stoves on each of the 3 floors of his house with the flame from the twig.

CUT TO:

24 INT. GANGES - DAY
UNDERWATER VIEW

A coin is falling through muddy waters, a hand comes and grabs it. We see JHONTA, 9, a thin kid with long hair, swimming like a pro and collecting coins from under-water and putting them in his mouth.

CUT TO:

25 EXT. PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - DAY

Jhonta comes over-water, coins in his mouth. Mostly deserted ghaat. Doesn't look touristy. The highway can be seen in the distance.

A 7 feet by 4 feet shop facing Ganges. PATHAK, 48, is sitting with a bunch of neighboring shopkeepers and two students on the steps outside his shop. Jhonta comes from behind and hides mischievously.

Pathak's shop is filled with *pooja saamagri*, books, etc.

Students are ready to take notes. One student places a recorder in front.

PATHAK
Recording bhi hoga?

STUDENT 1
Haan.

Another shopkeeper walks in.

PATHAK
Arre aaiye Seth ji...yeh log Vishwa-
vidyalaya se aaye hain...har ghaat
ke itihaas pe koi...

STUDENT 2

...project hai.

SETH JI

Hum kya bataayenge...iss ghaat ke
viraajmaan gyaani toh aap hi hain.

PATHAK winks at the boatman VIKRAM MALLAH, 32 playfully.

PATHAK

Haan guru...aapko toh galiyon ka
itihaas pata hai...shaam ke baad
waali!

Everybody laughs. Jhonta appears from behind the shop. He slowly walks towards the sweets box lying open behind PATHAK.

PATHAK (CONT'D)

(addressing the students)

Itihaas toh ye hai ki jaisa itihaas
mein hota hai - Pahle kuchh nahin
tha! Jungle tha...aur Ganga maiyya
thi. Log Ganga maiyya ke chalte
antim-sanskaar ko aane lage toh har
raajya ke Raja ne apne-apne ghaat
banwaaye...

VIKRAM MALLAH, chuckles a bit looking at Jhonta stealing sweets.

PATHAK (CONT'D)

Apne pandit bhi bhejne lage...toh
aise har ghaat alag-alag raajya ka
ho gaya. Usmein bhi

(PATHAK catches Jhonta in
one quick snatch and
starts tickling him while
talking)

...alag-alag Raajya ki alag-alag
jaati ke liye alag pandit.

Jhonta is laughing uncontrollably while PATHAK narrating the history in all seriousness.

JHONTA

(laughing)

Aah...chhodo...mar
jaaounga...chhodo...ahhahah...

PATHAK

Ab yeh ghaat jo hai...iska dispute
hai. Kashmir ki tarah. Marathi log
kahte hain ye unka hai...aur
Gujarati kahte hain unka...

Jhonta is now getting doubled-up by tickling.

PATHAK (CONT'D)
 (now to Jhonta)
 Subah se 3 jajmaan pakad ke laaya
 nahin...aur mithaayi khoob khaana
 hai.

PATHAK's phone rings. He lets Jhonta go.

PATHAK (CONT'D)
 Hello.. Haan.. Ji bol rahe hain.
 Haan...Chandauli?

PATHAK is suddenly tensed.

26 INT. COP STATION - CHANDAU LI - EVENING

Devi is looking at the setting sun through the window. Her face is swollen but expressionless. The tiredness of a long day is showing.

PATHAK (48) is sitting next to her.

MISHRA
 Ladke ka poora naam tak nahin pata
 tha isko...kah rahi hai coaching
 mein aaya tha kuchh...project type
 karwaane...! Bas 2 baar mile aur
 nikal pade yeh log. Aur dimaag
 dekhiye inn log ka...ee madam saari-
 soori pahan ke, launda apna moochh-
 oochh uгаа ke, yahaan aayis,
 Chandauli...
 (asks Devi pointedly)
 kya karne?

Devi is silent.

MISHRA (CONT'D)
 (asks again)
 Arre kaho na...abhi kya kahi thi?
 (Seeing no response from
 Devi)
 'Jigyaasa mitaane!'

PATHAK looks at Devi but she is looking away, blank.

MISHRA (CONT'D)
 Abhi hum kisi patraakaar ko bula
 lein toh front page ho jaayega! Lag
 nahin raha hai ladka bachega!

Devi looks up a bit, coming out of her stoned state. PATHAK folds his hand and shakes his head.

MISHRA (CONT'D)
 Kya naam likhte hain?

PATHAK

Ji PATHAK. Panchkoshi ghaat pe karmkaand karte hain. Waise Sanskrit Vidyapeeth mein adhyaapak they...abhi kitaab ka anuvaad wagairah karte hain. Ghaat pe baith ke hi...

PATHAK starts choking a bit. Mishra cuts in.

MISHRA

Teen din baad phir bulaayenge. Wahan pe zamaanat bhar dijiye aur beti ko abhi ke liye le jaaiye.

PATHAK

Abhi ke liye?

MISHRA

Ladka bacha nahin toh abetment of suicide case hai. Adaalat media lund-fund sab baki hai abhi.

Pathak stands there helpless.

MISHRA (CONT'D)

Jaaiye.

PATHAK nods and goes to the other officer.

CUT TO:

27 EXT. DEVI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Devi and PATHAK walking in the street towards their home. PATHAK walks ahead and Devi walks behind.

PATHAK looks for the key, can't find it in his pocket. Devi digs through her bag and finds her key. She opens the lock.

CUT TO:

28 INT. DEVI'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

PATHAK slumps on the mattress lying on the floor in the drawing room. Devi goes and washes her face in the wash-basin at the corner of the drawing room.

CUT TO:

29 INT. DEVI'S HOUSE/KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Devi is in the kitchen, putting rice in the cooker. PATHAK is sitting in the drawing room and mindlessly flicking channels on TV.

CUT TO:

30 INT. DEVI'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Devi is flicking channels on TV while PATHAK is eating rice and *ghee*, it's hot and he still eats it by blowing at every morsel. He eats a couple of spoons then stops. Gets up and throws the rice in the trash-bin.

Devi doesn't respond. He comes in the room and starts hitting Devi - relentlessly and without words. She doesn't protect herself, doesn't avoid the blows. TV remote falls down from her hands.

PATHAK stops after 8-9 blows and walks away inside. (The TV keeps playing all this while.)

We stay on Devi's expressionless face.

31 INT. SETH KINARAM AGARWAL POLYTECHNIC MIRZAPUR/CLASSROOM - DAY

Civil Engineering class is going on. Roughly 50 students. PROF. KARKI is teaching Reinforced Concrete Design.

Deepak is making notes attentively. Pushpi and Naveen are outside the class, waving at them to come out.

KK and Ruppan escape as Karki turns towards the board. Slight murmur.

CUT TO:

32 INT. SETH KINARAM AGARWAL POLYTECHNIC MIRZAPUR/CLASSROOM - DAY

Class is over and Deepak packing his bag quickly. Karki calls him as he is on his way out.

KARKI

Deepak...

DEEPAK

Ji sir.

KARKI

Ye placement ka form bhara?

Shows a multi-page form.

DEEPAK

Nahi sir...main...
 (his attention goes to his
 friends waiting outside)
 Main bhar doonga.

KARKI

Abhi bharo. Agle hafte last date
 hai. Kahaan jaana hai?

DEEPAK

Nahin...kahin nahin.

He takes the form and starts filling it in hurriedly. The friends are doing 'go fuck yourself gesture' from outside and leave.

33 EXT. MIRZAPUR GIRL'S COLLEGE - DAY

Outside the college it's all quiet. Some boys are hanging around. KK is holding a huge gift, which can be only one thing - a Teddy Bear. The 'message card' on the packing is empty.

NAVEEN

Kuchh likhna nahin hai ispar?

KK

Abe wahi toh trick hai. Hum bolenge
 - 'Jab tum saamne hoti ho toh sab
 bhool jaate hain. Likhna bhi bhool
 gaye.'

PUSHPI

Chappal maaregi dekhna!

The college gates open and girls rush out. Deepak joins his friends just then. Tempowallahs screaming 'Cantt Cantt' for *sawaaris*.

Sudden commotion around the food stalls. Pooja is seen with 3 of her friends.

The girls are proceeding to a *chaat-thela*. Friends are now pushing KK to go ahead. KK is a bit nervous.

KK

Deepakwa...aa na!

Deepak is hesitant but KK grabs him by his arm and takes him along.

RUPPAN

Hum bike start kar rahe
 hain...donon pitne lage toh...

KK just shows his hand (sign for 'lauda') and goes ahead.

CUT TO:

34 EXT. MIRZAPUR GIRL'S COLLEGE/CHAAT THELA - DAY

KK and Deepak are standing behind Pooja. Pooja's friend, SHAALU, 21, a beautiful, confident young girl, alerts her. The girls are giggling.

KK stretches his arm to hand over a huge gift (obviously a teddy bear) to Pooja.

KK
Yeh...happy budday!

POOJA
(takes it)
Aur ghar pe kya kahenge?

Shaaluu is feeding some dry golgappas to a street dog. KK is just standing there, smiling goofily at Pooja.

POOJA (CONT'D)
(to KK)
Boley nahin? Ghar pe kya kahenge?

KK
(fumbles for an answer)
Ab ghar pe toh...matlab...

DEEPAK
Kah dena inhone diya hai...
(points to Shaalu)

Shaaluu now looks up at KK and Deepak. Her eyes meet with Deepak for the first time.

SHAALU
Aur gharwaale toh dhakkan hain
na...yeh bolegi aur wo maan lenge?
Koi ladki kisi ladki ko teddy bear
deti hai kya?

KK agrees with her and looks at Deepak for an answer. Deepak is slightly dazzled by Shaalu's instant response.

DEEPAK
Ab koi ladki kutton ko batasha bhi
toh nahin khilaati.

Pooja realizes Shaalu is feeding *golgappas* to the dog.

POOJA
(to Shaalu)
Kuttey ko batasha kaahe de rahi
hai?

SHAALU
 Muft ke hain na! Teri treat hai!
 Inko bhi khila?

POOJA
 (now she fumbles for a
 response)
 Yahaan...road pe...sab...dekh rahe
 hain..

But Deepak is riveted by Shaalu's confidence now. She takes one plate of *golagappas* and offers it to Deepak and KK.

SHAALU
 Lijiye aap bhi!

Friends watching from a distance are surprised. Deepak and KK don't know how to react.

KK
 Nahin...hum chalte hain.

They both turn back and KK smiles at his friends. Pooja gives a scolding look to Shaalu who bursts out laughing.

Deepak keeps looking at Shaalu as they climb on the bikes and ride away.

CUT TO:

35 EXT. HARISHCHANDRA GHAAT - NIGHT

Sikandar is sitting on a boat tied on the ghaat. 3-4 *mallah* boys are sitting there, playing cards (or a number-betting game popular in small towns).

SIKANDAR
 Bata na...kaise phansti hai ye
 angrejan sab?

VIKRAM, looks at Sikandar with piercing eyes.

VIKRAM
 Kaa be... bhaujaai de nahin rahi
 kaa aajkal?

Another *mallah* smiles inwardly.

SIKANDAR
 Jitna poochh rahe hain wo bataao
 na? Thoda bahut angreji bol lete
 hain...

VIKRAM
 Angreji se nahin hota. 'Attract'
 hona chaahiye. Kundan yaad hai?
 (MORE)

VIKRAM (CONT'D)

Wo jo peepa-pul mein naav ghusaaya
tha chootiya..abhi Sweden...ki
Switzerland...kaun jaane...ghoom ke
aaya apni memsab ke saath.

MALLAH 2

Aaya kya waapas? Humne suna tha rah
gaya udhar hi!

VIKRAM

Arre kanjoos saala naav bechne
waapas aaya hai. Phir jaayega.

MALLAH 2

Humko bhi videsh jaana hai.

VIKRAM

(irritated)

Sab bhainchod langot pakad lo
humaara...hum ud ke jaa rahe hain
turantey! Patta phenko!

VIKRAM throws the card.

CUT TO:

36 INT./EXT. DEVI'S HOUSE - DAY

Devi is working on a Sanskrit-text book-to-computer typing
when the door bell rings.

She is startled to see Mishra at the door. He is in
plainclothes. She doesn't know what to say.

MISHRA

Pita ji kahaan hain?

DEVI

Woh toh abhi nikle hain..ghaat.

MISHRA

Bulaaoo.

Mishra comes inside with probing eyes around the house. He
sits and turns on the TV. Some irrelevant documentary is
playing on TV.

Devi makes a call to her father. She comes back with a glass
of water for Mishra. She sits a little away from Mishra.

Mishra intently watches TV and turns to look at Devi. He
stares at her for long without looking away. Devi can feel
his eyes on her and becomes uncomfortable. After a long
stare.

MISHRA (CONT'D)

Ladka mar gaya.

Devi looks at him. Looks away. Goes inside the kitchen.

After some time, Pathak enters the house in a hurry.

PATHAK
Adhik der toh nahin huyi?

MISHRA
Baithiye...

Pathak is waiting anxiously for Mishra to tell him something. He shuts the TV off.

MISHRA (CONT'D)
Ladka mar gaya hai. Kaanch andar
ghus gaya tha nass mein. Body abhi
post-mortem mein hai. Ye court ke
kaagaz hain..bhariye.

Pathak is shocked. He gestures to Devi to go inside. She doesn't move.

PATHAK
Par court...

MISHRA
Abetment of suicide ka case hai.

PATHAK
Par ladka toh aap sab ke saamne
mara tha...aapse darr ke...

MISHRA
Apni vidvaani jajmaan ko chootiya
banaane tak hi rakhiye. Ye kaand
hai kaand. Aasaani se jaayega
nahin. Lamba phansegi ladki.
(waits for PATHAK to say
something but he doesn't)
Mahiney ka kitna kamaate hain?

PATHAK
Bas ghar chal jaata hai...8-10...

MISHRA
Ladki padhaati hai?

PATHAK
Haan...coaching mein. Computer.

Awkward silence

MISHRA
Dekhiye...Seedhi baat karenge.
Abetment aur media dono se naam hat
sakta hai ladki ka.... Par vyavstha
karni hogi. Teen lakh...teen mahine
ka samay de rahe hain.

PATHAK is a little offended.

PATHAK
(in a hushed tone)
Hum seedhe-saade log hain...

Silence. Mishra stares at Pathak for some time. Stares at Devi.

MISHRA
Achha? Theek hai.

Mishra starts to leave.

PATHAK
Nahin rukiye. Saahab rukiye.

Mishra doesn't say a thing. Pathak becomes nervous. Mishra wears his shoes and doesn't even look at him.

PATHAK (CONT'D)
Ghaat pe chhoti si gumti hai
humaari...Itney paise kaahan se
layenege.

Mishra walks towards his bike.

PATHAK (CONT'D)
Aap gussaiye nahin pleej.. baith ke
baaat karte hain sir.
(he starts crying)
Ek hi beti hai. Aapse bas daya ki
ummeed hai...

Mishra kicks the bike to start. Pathak has tears in his eyes. In desperation he turns off his bike and takes the key in his hand.

Neighbors are watching all this. Mishra looks at them so that Pathak notices them too. Mishra goes back in the house and Pathak follows.

CUT TO:

37 INT. DEVI'S HOUSE - DAY

Pathak sits closer to Mishra. Devi is sitting on a chair afar. Mishra looks into Pathak's eyes while he avoids eye contact

MISHRA
Aaj ke baad... kabhi bhi... kabhi
hi hamse mol bhaav nahin kijiyege.
Saabun nahin bechne aaye hain
yahaan. 3 lakh, teen mahine.

Pathak nods.

MISHRA (CONT'D)
 Phone mein video hai raid ka. Agar
 koi phantom-pana dikhaaye, toh
 poore shahar mein ghuma denge
 video.

Pathak looks at him helplessly

MISHRA (CONT'D)
 Parson tak 50 hazaar ka jugaad
 baithaaiye.

Pathak nods.

MISHRA (CONT'D)
 Sar naahin jhulaaiye ghode ki
 tarah. Kya karenge?

PATHAK
 Parson 50 haajar.

MISHRA
 Aur...Teen mahine mein?

PATHAK
 3 lakh

Mishra leaves without looking at anyone of them. Both Pathak and Devi are still at their positions sitting helplessly. Mishra is wearing his shoes.

MISHRA
 (leaving the door open)
 Darwaza sataa lijiye.

CUT TO:

38 EXT. HARISHCHANDRA GHAAT - DAY

The lane leading up to the cremation ghaat is over-crowded. Some *arthi* has got stuck at the sharp curve. Devi struggling to get into the lane. Her face is fully covered with dupatta.

A shopkeeper selling *pooja saamagri* on the side taps on Devi's shoulder.

SHOPKEEPER
 Kidhar?

DEVI
 Wo...ghaat...

SHOPKEEPER

Ladeej log nahin ja sakti hai.
 (Looks at Devi's sad face)
 Wahaan oopar se dekh sakti hain.

CUT TO:

39 EXT. HARISHCHANDRA GHAAT/ROOFTOP - DAY

Devi is standing at a roof-top and watching the cremation ghaats.

Stream of *arthis* coming in. Her eyes searching for Piyush's. She finally sees what looks like his body. An old man, probably his father, walking beside it. He looks absolutely shattered.

Devi seeing the pyre on fire.

39 A EXT. HARISHCHANDRA GHAAT - DAY

Piyush's father is holding a danda and limply hitting it on dead body's skull.

DEEPAK

Thoda zor se maariye...aatma mukt
 hogi.

Father still can't do it so Deepak takes his hand and helps him. They hit the skull with force and a mini-blast occurs.

CUT TO:

40 INT. DEEPAK'S HOUSE - DAY

Deepak, Doctor and Sikandar are sitting down and having lunch. Mother and Rani are sitting opposite to the men. Sikandar is a little away from all three. We stay with Sikandar most of the time.

DOCTOR

Abhi kitna din aur hai kaalej?

DEEPAK

Du mahina aur hai. Phir pareeksha.
 Aur saath mein placement shuru
 hoga.

DOCTOR

Kya shuru hoga?

DEEPAK

Matlab naukri..

Mother serves a roti to Deepak. Sikandar looks at them munching his morsel.

SHAANTI

Naukri ke liya toh paisa bhi dena padta hai na?

DEEPAK

Sarkari naukri...Railway mein, ya bijli board mein...aur paisa nahin maangta, interview leta hai ijjat se.

DOCTOR

Pagaar kitna?
(suddenly cuts the conversation and yells at Sikandar)
Oo baahar raakh dhul raha hai aur tum yahaan baith ke pagura raha hai? Sab chaandi maar lega ladka log.

Sikandar is stunned.

SIKANDAR

Shambhu Chacha hai udhar...bol ke aaye hain.

DOCTOR

(back to Deepak)
Pagaar kitna deta hai?

DEEPAK

Wo interview ke baad bataayega...

DOCTOR

Achha hai. Nikal jao yahaan se. Jitna jaldi niklo...utna achha. Aur jab baney...toh humko bhi...

Sikandar chucks his plate across to Rani. It makes a screeching noise. Everybody is silent.

SIKANDAR

Roti.

Shaanti puts a Roti and gives it to him. Awkward silence. They all continue to eat, pretending nothing happened. Sikandar has few bites and leaves angrily.

CUT TO:

41 EXT. DEEPAK'S HOUSE- TERRACE - DAY

Sikandar is standing and looking at ashes being washed by dom workers. (Shambhu Chacha is standing closer to workers.) One worker waves a small chunk of molten metal to Sikandar. Sikandar doesn't react.

Deepak comes to the terrace. He stands by his side. Sikandar waits for a moment and leaves.

CUT TO:

42 INT. DEVI'S HOUSE - DAY

Pathak is counting bundles of cash and putting them in paper bags.

Devi is packing food for him. The lunch box won't shut. She tries hard but is unable to shut it.

Pathak watching her. He steps forward and closes the box.

He takes the box, looks at her. She avoids eye contact at first. Then meets his eye. PATHAK shakes his head.

PATHAK

Kuchh bolegi ki sab khud-hi maan
lein?

DEVI

Kya sun-na chaahte hain?

PATHAK

Tumhaari aawaaj.
(after a pause)
Kaun tha...kyon gayi thi...

DEVI

Coaching mein tha. Hum uska project
type karte they. Wahin dosti ho
gayi...
(she wants to add more but
keeps silent)

PATHAK

Bas itna hi?

DEVI

Haan. Achha laga humein us-se baat
kar ke...

PATHAK

Socha nahin ek baar bhi? Ye sab
karne se pahle...

DEVI

Pata nahin.

PATHAK

Ek ladka marr gaya hai...hum 3 lakh
ke karje mein hain...yeh...FD tod
ke 50 hazaar nikaale hain...tum
jail ki chaukhat pe...aur jawaab
hai "pata nahin"! Kya bolein...sab
naas kar diya. Sab.

Devi turns around and goes inside, angry. PATHAK walks out.

CUT TO:

44 EXT. ROAD - DAY

Pathak is handing over the packet to Mishra at a deserted point on the highway.

CUT TO:

SCENE 43 DELETED

45 EXT. PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - DAY

PATHAK parks his bike at the end of the road. Stairs to the ghaat start after this. He climbs down while folding down his *dhoti* which had to be folded up for riding the bike.

Stops in front of his *gumti*-type shop. Peeps through the wooden-panels on the *gumti* and sees Jhonta sleeping inside. Knocks on the panel.

PATHAK

Jhonta! JHONTA!

The panel is opened from inside. Jhonta, half-sleepy, touches PATHAK's feet. He is wearing only shorts that are torn from behind. He folds his mattress.

JHONTA

3 din se nahin aaye?

PATHAK doesn't respond. Starts unloading his books from the bag onto his seat inside *gumti*. Jhonta is cleaning the *gumti*.

PATHAK finds a beedi near his cushion.

PATHAK

Bola tha na yahaan beedi mat laana?
Kitaabein hain.

JHONTA

Hum nahin..Netwa laaya tha...

PATHAK gives him a stare.

JHONTA (CONT'D)
 Didi bhi nahin aayi itne din se...

PATHAK
 Abhi bhagg yahaan se..

Jhonta is surprised and offended. He goes out and dives straight into *Ganga*.

CUT TO:

46 EXT. PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - DAY

Pathak working on a book. Jhonta shows the coins to him excitedly.

JHONTA
 26 rupaya mila ek-ay gotey mein!
 Aur ek-saans bhi bahut lambi chali.

PATHAK
 Toh?

JHONTA
 Humko bhi khelne do na...

PATHAK
 Kya khelne do?

JHONTA
 Wahi shaam mein jo sab boli lagta
 hai gotey pe...achha paisa milta
 hai!

PATHAK
 (irritated)
 Yahi bacha hai...juua khelne dein
 tumko?

JHONTA
 Jua nahin hai...aur hum ab bahut
 sahi ho gaye hain! Aaj toh
 khelenge!

PATHAK looks at him, stares angrily to cut him short.

JHONTA (CONT'D)
 (walking away)
 Lagta hai saand se marwa ke aaye ho
 aaj!

CUT TO:

47 INT. INTERNET CAFE - MIRZAPUR - DAY

All friends huddled together on a computer screen in a seedy internet cafe. Facebook webpage is open. KK is leading the demonstration.

KK

(opens Pooja's page)
Yeh dekho...Pooja Chauhan. Naya photo lagaayi hai birthday ka! Chauchak ekdum!

Clicks open her birthday album and leaves a comment under one photo. "Luking gud!"

DEEPAK

Tum naam nahin poochh sakte...Pooja se.

KK

Kya poochhein? "Tumhaari paani-bataasa waali saheli humaare dost ko bhaa gayi hai...aur usko line maarna hai. Pleej naam bata do!"

NAVEEN

Deepakwa saala sentiya gaya be...

RUPPAN

Hilaate hilaate thak gaya...aamwa gira, samjho pak gaya!

PUSHPI

Waah waah waah...

KK

Shakal yaad hai na?

DEEPAK

Haan.

KK

Toh dekho...ee Mirjapur Girl's College ka community hai...ismein sab ladki honi chaahiye...

Keeps clicking on each of the profiles and keeps asking 'Ee hai?', Deepak keeps saying 'no' to each of them. One profile pic has some foreign model.

NAVEEN

Ae...yeh Mirjapur ki hai?

KK

Haan...yahin rahti hai Geru-mahaal ke saamne...ab mooh mein le ke naacho!

Most of them have Katrina or Anushka Sharma as profile pics.

KK (CONT'D)

Ek toh aajkal ladki log sab Katrina ka photo lagaati hai...saala ismein kaise milega?

DEEPAK

Uske...Pooja ke album mein nahin hai photo?

KK

Arre sahi..uske friend mein hogi naa...pyaar mein saala dimaag tej chalta hai.

He goes to Pooja's profile again and starts looking at her friends' list. They browse some more photos.

DEEPAK

Yeh hai!

He spots the girl. Name - SHAALU Gupta.

Everybody looks at the picture. It's a simple but beautiful picture of her standing at her rooftop, with a clear blue sky in the background. Deepak looks closely at her smile which is effortless.

KK

Ab apna account banaao lalla! Aur aage badho.

CUT TO:

48 EXT. HARISHCHANDRA GHAAT - DAY

Deepak clicking a selfie with Ganga in the background. Not happy with the result. Sees Sikandar going in the distance.

DEEPAK

Bhaai...bhaai...idhar aa!

Sikandar comes close. Deepak hands him the phone.

SIKANDAR

Bol...

DEEPAK

Yeh...ek selfie kheench de na!

SIKANDAR

Kya?

DEEPAK

Photo...photo kheench.

Sikandar clicks. The pyres are in frame. Sikandar spots a foreigner girl with an Indian guide walking away and his eyes rest on her.

DEEPAK (CONT'D)
 (checking the pic)
 Arre ee chita nahin aana
 chaahiye...udhar se le na.

Sikandar looks pissed and in a hurry to leave. The foreigner girl is going away.

DEEPAK (CONT'D)
 Jaldi se kheench de na bhaai ek
 aur.

48 A INT. INTERNET CAFE - DAY

Deepak's profile is ready with photo uploaded. He goes to Shaalu's profile, sends a friend request and writes in private message: "Bahut din se soch rahe hain. Aaj likh dete hain. My name is Deepak. Hello."

48 B INT. DEEPAK'S HOUSE/ROOM - NIGHT

- Deepak looking at the printout late at night at home.

CUT TO:

49 INT. DEVI'S HOUSE - DAY

Devi's phone rings. The name flashing is 'Yadav Coaching'. She doesn't take the call.

It rings again. She cuts it. Rings again - she finally takes it.

DEVI
 (after a pause)
 Hello?

YADAV (V.O.)
 Hello...Devi?

DEVI
 (hesitatingly)
 Haan.

YADAV
 Saali Randi...phone kyon bandh tha
 itne din se? Kahaan se chudwa ke aa
 gayi...? Sab pata kar liya
 humne...tujhe kya lagta tha..

She cuts the phone. Switches it off. Shaken for a moment.

CUT TO:

50 INT. DEVI'S HOUSE - DAY

She is wearing her *dupatta* and picking her bag, wallet and leaving. (She carries men's wallet.)

CUT TO:

51 EXT./INT. YADAV COMPUTER COACHING - DAY

Devi enters the coaching which is at the ground floor of a residential complex. 'Leave your shoes at the gate' signboard outside. She looks at it and instinctively about to remove her shoes. But then doesn't, and goes inside.

It looks like a spacious net-cafe inside. Everybody a bit taken aback to see Devi storming in. She goes to an empty desk, takes out her keys, and starts unlocking the cabinet.

Yadav, sitting in a glass-partition sees her and comes out, equally taken aback.

YADAV

Ae...kya ho raha hai? Kisne kaha
yahaan aane...

DEVI

(cutting him short)
Apna samaan lene aayi hoon. Aur yeh
aisa gandi baaton waala phone
dobara mat karna...sadak pe dauda
ke maareng!

The whole office is looking at Devi and Yadav now. A couple of people who were on phone now get up and see what's happening.

YADAV

Topper ladka tha apna...sharam
nahin aayi?

He charges forward but she says calmly.

DEVI

Jo bhi kiya donon ne kiya.

Picks up her stuff in a plastic bag and leaves.

YADAV

(shouts after her)
Mara toh wo akela na!

CUT TO:

52 INT. DEVI'S HOUSE - DAY

Devi is watching TV mindlessly. Some match the face show/contest is on. A gift hamper graphic is shown on TV. Devi gets up and empties contents of her bag on the bed. She finds Piyush's project file. Flips it open and sees his picture on the front page. Closes it. Searches further in the bag.

Gets up and takes out another bag. This is the same bag she had carried to the hotel in Chandauli. She finds the gift Piyush gave her from inside it. She wants to unpack it but then doesn't. Leaves it packed.

CUT TO:

53 EXT. PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - DAY

PATHAK is sitting in his *gumti*, translating a book. A man, VERMA JI, in his mid-40s is sitting next to him, waiting.

VERMA JI

Aapne kaha tha aaj mil jaayega.
Printing waala khaali baitha hai...

PATHAK

Bas 3 din aur...Devi thoda beemaar thi.

Verma ji looks at PATHAK, probing. PATHAK adds hurriedly.

PATHAK (CONT'D)

Thoda advance milega toh achha rahega.

VERMA JI

Ek toh latkaaye huye hain
chamgaadad-jaisa humein...
(takes out his wallet and
4 notes of 500 rupees
each)
Par pahli baar ho raha hai
isliye...
(hands over the money)
Ghar par sab theek na?

PATHAK gives his best fake smile.

CUT TO:

54 EXT. PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - DAY

A small crowd has gathered on the Panchkoshi ghaat steps. VIKRAM Mallah and 4 other kids are surrounded by a few locals. PATHAK is watching the entire thing from his seat in *gumti*.

VIKRAM

Ye...nishaan laga hua...Ye tokra
bhar sikka hum paani mein phekenge.
Yeh bachha log gota maarega. Dedh
minute ka samay hai. Kaun sabse
adhik sikka laayega, uspar aap 10
se lekar 100 rupaya, kuchh bhi laga
sakte hain.

He starts accepting bets from people. A few tourists also
shell out money.

PATHAK gets up from his seat and comes forward to watch this.
Though not a part of the crowd, he watches it from a safe
distance.

Kids (BABU, MUNWA, Netwa, LOKU) line up on the small
platform, ready to jump. Jhonta looks at Pathak with pleading
eyes. Pathak shakes his head in a 'no'.

NETWA

Aaj jo-jo haara wo beedi pilaayega!

MUNWA

Lauda!

VIKRAM throws the coins, blows the whistle and they jump.

CUT TO:

55 EXT./INT. GANGES/PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - DAY
UNDERWATER VIEW

Kids dive in to look for coins.

Netwa finds 5. Munwa finds one 3. Then they both come up for
breath.

Then dive in again.

PATHAK is watching as Netwa wins it. VIKRAM distributes the
money and gives a 50 Rupees note to Netwa.

CUT TO:

56 EXT. HARISHCHANDRA GHAAT - NIGHT

Doctor is sitting in the open on the ghaat - fully drunk. The
small covered area where the holy-fire is burning is just
behind him. Deepak and Sikandar are working on the pyres.

An older, rich, upper-caste man in a silk kurta, DUBEY, is
sitting next to Doctor, drinking whiskey in a plastic cup.
Offers the cup to Doctor to get it refilled.

DUBEY

Ek aur banaaiye Dom Raja...

DOCTOR

(filling the cup)

Arre hum kaahe ke Raja?

DUBEY

Arre Banaras mein do hi Raja
hain..ek Kaasi Naresh...ek Dom
Raja.

DOCTOR

Ghanta! Yeh Shambhu Chaudhary ko
dekho...

(To Shambhu)

Saal mein kitni baar paari aati hai
teri?

SHAMBHU CHAUDHARY, 65, lean, bearded, is sitting at a distance, drinking. Doesn't respond at once. Another man, of Doctor's age, LALA, joins them.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

(asks loudly)

Ae Shambhu chacha...saal mein kitni
baar paari aati hai? Bataao saab
ko...

SHAMBHU

(servile, telling Dubey)

Ji saahab...10 saal mein ek din.

DOCTOR

10 saal mein ek din paari aati hai
Shambhu ki. Matlab uss ek din poore
ghaat ki kamaai inki. Shambhu ke
baap ki saal mein 1 paari aati thi.
10 bachhey ho gaye...sabki 10 saal
mein ek aane lagi! Baaki bakhat
Shambhu chacha lakdi uthaata hai.
Suna hai aisa chootiya Raja? Agli
paari kab hai Shambhu Chacha?

SHAMBHU

Ab nahin hai. Paari bech di Lala
ko. 1 Lakh rupaya mila. Ab baaki
umar bhikhaari.

Deepak enters, trying to talk to Doctor.

DEEPAK

Babu...mujhe...

DOCTOR

(ignoring Deepak)

Hum bhi paari bech dein toh 10 Lakh
milega...haan Lala?

Lala smiles at Doctor wryly.

LALA
Hum kah diye aur tum bech diye!

DOCTOR
(asks Deepak)
Bech dein?

LALA
Arre ee chootiya kaa bataayega!
Isko ghaat se kya lena dena? Padhe
likhe babu log...

DOCTOR
Ladke ko gaali de di...ab toh kabhi
nahin bechenge!

LALA
Waise toh tum taiyyaar baithe they
na...

DEEPAK
(interjects)
Babu...thode paise do...Durga puja
jaana hai doston ke saath agle
hafte.

DOCTOR
(eyes closed, pointing
towards the wall in the
distance)
Udhar kurta hai...

DEEPAK
300 rupaye le lein?

DOCTOR
Sab le le! Tu hi toh hai.

Sikandar is pushing a burning body inside pyre.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
(to Sikandar)
Taang mod na uski bhosdi ke...

Deepak leaves.

SONG MONTAGE BEGINS

57 EXT. DURGA PUJA PARK - NIGHT

DAY 1:

Durga Pooja celebrations at the local park. Durga idol in a
corner, remains least attended.

Almost incidental to this party of food stalls, orchestra and play performances, and socializing. The crowd, mostly youngsters, are here to check each other out.

A melodramatic Bengali play is being staged in the background.

CUT TO:

57 A INT. INTERNET CAFE - MIRZAPUR - DAY

Deepak writing a message on Shaalu's Facebook wall. "Aaj Durga puja mein aap aayengi naa?"

I/C

57 B INT. BUS-HIGHWAY - DAY

Devi is in a bus on the highway. Sitting on the window seat. Looking at the dusty, October landscape going past her. She has Piyush's project report in her lap.

She's flipping through Piyush's project file. His full name is PIYUSH AGARWAL It has his passport-sized photo on the first page.

She looks at the name of the college.

I/C

57 C EXT. PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - DAY

PATHAK is watching the coin-finding competition at the ghaat. He joins the crowd. Jhonta is standing in the distance, sipping tea. Pathak calls him with a wave of hand. Jhonta runs to him expectantly.

PATHAK

Aaj kitna nikaale they subah?

JHONTA

Inn sabke baap se zyada!

PATHAK

Dekhte hain.

Jhonta runs and joins the group. Vikram Mallah looks at Pathak inquisitively and Pathak nods.

VIKRAM

Udhar jaa...anth mein!

JHONTA

Hum pe lagaiye...hum
jeetenge....hum jeetenge!

(MORE)

JHONTA (CONT'D)
 (spots a foreigner couple)
 I win...madam...I win.

Pathak looks on as Vikram throws the coins and kids jump.

Pathak watching anxiously as they appear over water after a few seconds. Jhonta is clearly doing well and wins the competition. Some people applaud and Pathak manages a weak smile as Jhonta waves at him.

Song Continues.

CUT TO:

57 D EXT. DURGA PUJA PARK - NIGHT

Deepak and his friends are out in the open. KK has spotted Pooja and is already gesturing to her that she is looking good. Deepak's eyes are scanning the girls around Pooja. He breaks into a smile as he sees Shaalu.

Shaalu also looks at him and this time stifles a smile, indicating that she now recognizes him.

CUT TO:

57 E EXT. DURGA PUJA PARK - NIGHT

LATER: As the crowd is returning.

RUPPAN
 Chal na dekhte hain kahaan rahti
 hai..

DEEPAK
 Nahin.

RUPPAN
 KK...bol na isko!

NAVEEN
 KK kya bolega...khud chhata hua
 pada hai gaand mein!

Shaalu and girls leaving. Deepak smiles at her as she looks towards him but she doesn't acknowledge.

RUPPAN
 Chal na.

DEEPAK
 (now mood upset)
 Nahin bola na.

PUSHPI
 Sab Phattendra ji Maharaj hain
 yahaan!

CUT TO:

57 F EXT. G T PROFESSIONAL COLLEGE - DAY

Devi is walking towards the college from inside a gate, roughly half a kilometer away on an unpaved road, Lovely Professional University can be seen. It's a badly-designed concrete structure with a huge, tacky notice board with University name.

CUT TO:

57 G INT. G T PROFESSIONAL COLLEGE - DAY

Devi inside the university building. It's clean and empty. Almost ghost-campus. A lone table fan in the corridor, going left and right automatically.

She heads to a notice board which has the newspaper clipping of Piyush's death. She takes it off with shaking hands. Puts it in her bag.

I/C

57 H EXT. PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - DAY

PATHAK takes out a 50 Rupee note and gives it to Jhonta. Jhonta bets the money on himself. The contest begins.

I/C

57 I INT. G T PROFESSIONAL COLLEGE - DAY

Devi is inside the administrative office. Again, huge room but only 3 people occupying 3 tables. 4-5 tables are lying covered in plastic with new, untouched computer and stationery.

Devi is sitting opposite a clerk. He finds the name and picture in his database. Goes cold on seeing it. Turns the computer screen towards Devi.

CLERK

Yeh?

Devi struggles with her emotions, controls her voice and nods. Then looks away instantly. He turns the screen back to himself.

CLERK (CONT'D)

Yeh toh guzar gaya. Haadsa ho gaya ek.

DEVI

(shows him the project file)

Iski ye file hai humaare paas. Kuch paise baaki hain, ek do books bhi hain uski jo lautani hain. Aap pata de sakte hain?

Clerk thinks over it for a moment...

CLERK

Number hai ghar ka. Ye addresss hai unka Allahabad mein. Note karo. Par bolna mat kahin ki maine diya hai.

... and turns the screen again towards her. Devi looks at the screen and Piyush's smiling face.

CUT TO:

57 J INT. BUS - DAY

Devi is in an almost empty bus for her return journey. Sun is setting in the background.

She looks at the number on her phone. (Name saved on phone as PIYUSH FATHER RAMDHARI AGARWAL) Calls. Somebody picks it up at the other end. A faint sound of 'Hello' is heard. She can't find the courage to respond. Cuts the call.

CUT TO:

57 K EXT. DURGA PUJA PARK - NIGHT

DAY 3:

It's early for the evening rush at Durga Pooja park. Deepak and friends are smoking in the open area. Shaalu, Pooja and two other girls arrive. Shaalu looks at Deepak smoking. Deepak feels awkward.

CUT TO:

57 L INT. INTERNET CAFE - MIRZAPUR - DAY

Deepak is writing a message to Shaalu on Facebook. The 'Friend Request PENDING' message can be seen on the screen.

Deepak writes: "Hum dobara kabhi cigarette nahin piyenge. Kal doston ne jabari mein pilaaya."

I/C

57 M EXT. PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - DAY

Jhonta wins the competition with maximum coins. PATHAK applauds. Jhonta gives PATHAK the winning sum of his money. PATHAK finally smiles.

CUT TO:

57 N EXT. DURGA PUJA PARK - NIGHT

A magic show is going on. A Bengali magician, MADAN KUNDU, is taking unlimited paper out of his mouth. Too crowded and noisy. Deepak and friends are watching the magic show, while Deepak is also looking around to spot Shaalu.

A brush of hand past him, and he turns to see it was Shaalu indeed. Did she do it deliberately? The Bengali magician has made a dog disappear and is now telling everyone to look around as the dog may appear among the crowd. Some commotion. Deepak moves towards Shaalu, and she looks at him. But the dog appears between them and spotlights turn to Deepak. Everybody applauds as Deepak is told to pick and return the dog back on stage.

Shaalu laughs at Deepak's startled expression and Deepak feels good. Manages a smile himself.

CUT TO:

57 O INT. INTERNET CAFE - MIRZAPUR - DAY

DAY 6:

Deepak checking Facebook. Still "Friend Request Pending".

CUT TO:

57 P EXT. DURGA PUJA PARK - NIGHT

The orchestra is playing "Bas ik sanam chaahiye, aashiqui ke liye..." as Deepak and Shaalu are eyeing each other.

Crowds leaving. Shaalu and friends are buying a gas balloon on their way out. Deepak also goes there and buys a gas balloon. Deepak and Shaalu look at each other.

Shaalu goes ahead with her friends. Deepak waits for his gang.

Shaaluu reaches the end of road, turns back, trying to find Deepak, but there's too much crowd. She then spots a balloon going up - the same color Deepak had bought. She smiles looking at the balloon.

From Deepak's POV - He is looking at his own balloon going up and also trying to spot Shaalu in the crowd. Then he spots a balloon going up - the same one Shaalu had bought.

He breaks into a huge smile.

Both the balloons are flying up in air. Shaalu is smiling, sitting in an auto. Deepak is smiling walking on the road.

CUT TO:

57 Q INT. INTERNET CAFE - MIRZAPUR - DAY

Deepak logs in to his Facebook and finds 'Shaaluu Gupta accepted your friend request' message pop up. He applauds in joy. The netcafe worker peeps in to see what's happening.

DEEPAK
Pepsi laao guru...

WORKER
Pepsi nahi hai..

DEEPAK
Arre jo hai laao! Badi bottle.

He looks at Shaalu's smiling face in her profile picture.

CUT TO:

58 EXT. PIZZERIA VATIKA CAFE - NIGHT

Deepak and Shaalu, and KK and Pooja are sitting at two tables.

KK is trying to click a picture of Pooja on his phone but she is hiding her face with a bag.

Awkward silence between Deepak and Shaalu.

DEEPAK
Kya lengi aap?

SHAALU
Kuchh nahin.

DEEPAK
Wo bhaga dega. Coffee?

SHAALU
Chaii.

WAITER

Chaaai nahin hai. Pasta hai. Pizza hai.

SHAALU

Pizza?

WAITER

Haan. Margerita. Mushroom.

DEEPAK

1 laaiye pahle.

KK and Pooja get up.

KK

Hum udhar hain...ghaat pe.

They go towards the ghaat. Shaalu looks at Deepak accusingly.

DEEPAK

Humne nahin bola usko jaane ko. Khud se gaye hain.

Awkward silence.

SHAALU

Toh aap Polytechnic mein padhte hain.

DEEPAK

Haan. Civil Engineering. Final year. Beech mein ek saal strike ho gayi nahi toh ab tak...naukri-ookri lag gaya hota.

SHAALU

Main 2nd year mein hoon. B.Sc.

Awkward silence.

DEEPAK

Aapki hobbies kya hain?

SHAALU

Music.

DEEPAK

Aap gaati hain?

SHAALU

Nahin. Sunti hoon. FM pe bhi aur CD laa ke bhi.

DEEPAK

Bas music?

SHAALU
Aur shaayari pasand hai!

DEEPAK
Shaayari?

SHAALU
Haan...Bashir Badr...Akbar
Allahabadi...Mirza Ghalib...Ghalib
ka naam toh suna hoga aapne?

Deepak is pretending to have heard the name. Just nodding.
The Pizza arrives.

DEEPAK
Lijiye.
(to the waiter)
Bhai wo thoda...sauce laaiye.
Schezwan milega?

Waiter shakes his head. Deepak and Shaalu look into each other's eyes for a couple of seconds.

Waiter puts sauce on the table.

DEEPAK (CONT'D)
Toh hum log ab...friend ho gaye na?

SHAALU
Haan. Bilkul.

DEEPAK
Koi bhi dikkat ho...kabhi
bhi...humein bataaiyega.

SHAALU
(now amused)
Aap kya karenge?

DEEPAK
Hum sahi kar denge. Koi chhedta
hai...ya pareshaan karta hai...ya
rulaata hai...bahut sab haraami
ladka log hai yahaan...humein bas
ek baar bataaiyega.

SHAALU
(now with a mischievous
glint in her eyes)
Achha?

DEEPAK
(serious)
Haan.

SHAALU
Aur maan lijiye aapne hi rulaaya
toh?

DEEPAK
 (now getting the joke)
 Aap...

Shaaluu bursts out laughing. Deepak, embarrassed, picks up the soup bowl and gulps down the rest of it.

59 EXT. ROAD MIRZAPUR - DAY

Shaaluu and Pooja are in an auto-rickshaw ~~in a cycle rickshaw~~. Deepak and KK on a bike behind them at some distance. Shaaluu keeps on turning and looking at him. He also keeps on checking himself in the bike mirror. They stop at a distance and check where she lives. KK pinches Deepak on his arm and whoops.

KK
 Ae beta kaabil ke fachaak!

DEEPAK
 (feeling the pinch)
 Gandu...Itna jor se? Aahhh!

60 EXT./INT. LAKHOTIA COMPUTER COACHING - DAY

PATHAK and Devi outside the coaching building. This is a bigger coaching than Yadav's. A 2-storied building with neat exterior and more professional looking notice board.

They are talking while entering.

PATHAK
 Adhik bolne ki jarurat nahin hai.
 Tirpathi ji ka beta manager hai.

DEVI
 Lekin paise ki baat toh karni hogi na!

A peon spots them.

PATHAK
 Sanjay Tripathi ji se milna tha...kaho Vidyacharan PATHAK aaye hain...

Peon takes them inside a waiting chamber. They now talk in whispers.

PATHAK (CONT'D)
 Do mahine ka samay diya hai. Us-se pahile Mishra ko sab chukana hai. Jo mile chupchaap le lena.

DEVI
 Bhikhaari hain kya hum?

PATHAK
 (losing his temper)
 Bhikhaari nahin kukur hain...

They hear SANJAY TRIPATHI entering. He is a pot-bellied, balding, but smartly dressed 28-year old. He has a file folder in his hands.

SANJAY TRIPATHI
 (touching PATHAK's feet)
 Pranaam Acharya ji.

He takes the seat opposite them.

PATHAK
 Kaise ho beta?

SANJAY TRIPATHI
 Bas Acharya ji...chal raha hai. Tum
 Devi ho...right?

Devi nods but doesn't smile.

SANJAY TRIPATHI (CONT'D)
 Acharya ji ne humein 10-vi tak
 Sanskrit padhaaya.
 (to peon)
 Chai laao bhai!

PATHAK
 Nahin chai nahin...bas...thoda
 jaldi mein hain. Kitaab ka kaam
 atka pada hai...

He flips open the file-folder.

SANJAY TRIPATHI
 Pakka?
 (to the peon)
 Achha beta paani le aao...matke ka
 laana!
 (to Devi)
 Haan maine CV dekha...achha padh
 likh gayi ho! Yahaan bas filhaal
 vacancy nahin hai instructor ki.
 Par reception pe join kar sakti ho.
 Naye students jo aate hain...unki
 counselling bhi karni hogi aur
 chhota-mota data-entry job bhi.
 Uska extra milega. Baaki monthly
 five and a half K.

Devi is mulling over it but PATHAK gets up.

PATHAK
 Theek hai ekdum. Kal se aa jaayegi
 subah. Dhanyawaad bahut!

Devi gets up too and so does Sanjay Tripathi.

SANJAY TRIPATHI
Arre nahin Acharya ji...aapne itna
kiya hai humaare liye.

His phone starts ringing.

SANJAY TRIPATHI (CONT'D)
Sorry yeh call...aap paani pee ke
jaaiyega. Naya matka laaye hain hum
log...bahut meetha hai!

He walks away with his phone. Peon brings the water.

CUT TO:

61 EXT. HARISHCHANDRA GHAAT - EVENING

Deepak is on the phone, looking down at the *ghaats*. His father and brother are working the pyres.

I/C

61 A E/I. SHAALU'S TERRACE/HOUSE - EVENING

Shaaluu is on her terrace, seeing kites flying.

SHAALU
Suniye:
(reads from a Bashir Badr
Shayari book in her hand)
Sitaaron ko aankhon mein mehfuz
rakhna, badi der tak raat hi raat
hogi; Musaafir hain hum bhi, musafir
ho tum bhi, kisi mod par phir
mulaaquat hogi.

DEEPAK
Samjha nahin.

SHAALU
Aap bahut budhhu hain.
(then in a low tone)
Aur pyaare bhi.

DEEPAK
(excited)
Kya kya kya?

SHAALU
(shy and giggling)
Kuch nahin kuchh nahin.

DEEPAK
Humne sun liya!

SHAALU

Aapko Chakbast suna denge toh
behosh hi ho jaayenge!

DEEPAK

Aapka Happy Birthday aane waala
hai. Humne...Facebook pe dekha.

SHAALU

Lekin Facebook ne ek cheez nahi
bataayi aapko.

DEEPAK

Kya?

SHAALU

Picnic!

A faint call for Shaalu is heard.

SHAALU (CONT'D)

Lagta hai Maa bula rahi hai...

DEEPAK

Theek hai jaaie...aur
pleej...'aap' mat boliye. Tum
boliye.

SHAALU

(now climbing down the
stairs, talking in
whispers)

Pahle 2 sher yaad kar ke
sunaaiye...

(Spots mother)

Achha bye.

Hangs up.

DEEPAK

Hello?

Looks at his phone. Stops the record button. Plays again. The
conversation starts playing from the top.

SHAALU (V.O.)

Suniye: Tu kisi rail si guzarti
hai, main kisi pull sa thartharaata
hoon, ek jungle hai teri aankhon
mein, main jismein raah bhool jaata
hoon...

Shaalu's recorded voice-over plays on Sikandar talking to a
foreigner girl on the ghaat. Foreigner walks away.

CUT TO:

62 EXT. PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - DAY

Naau (Barber) is shaving a kid's head. PATHAK is doing the basic rituals of *mundan sanskaar* with the kid's parents. A small fire is burning in an iron-*havankund*.

PATHAK
(mumbling the mantra)
Ab aap hawan saamagri daalein...

The parents pour a couple of small packets in the fire.

PATHAK (CONT'D)
Ab ghee daaliye.

FATHER
Ghee? Liya tha kya?

MOTHER
Naa.

PATHAK
(looks for Jhonta)
Koi baat nahin. Humara ladka le aayega turant.

Looks around, doesn't spot him.

I/C

62 A EXT. KABIR CHAURAHA - DAY

Jhonta is fascinated by the same Durga Puja Park magician (MADAN KUNDU) showing a trick to the people. He is watching from the roof of a shop. Kundu is taking unlimited amount of paper out of his mouth. Jhonta applauds. Throws a one-rupee coin on the magician.

Magician looks up and Jhonta waves at him.

I/C

62 (i) EXT. PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - DAY

The evening crowd is gathering for the competition. PATHAK is part of the crowd. Jhonta is still missing. The kids are lining up for the dive.

VIKRAM
Kaa pandijji? Jhonta kahaan hai?

PATHAK
Nahin pata.

VIKRAM
 (announcing)
 4 bachhey...gota lagaayenge...aur
 ye sikkey nikaalenge. Kaun
 jeetega...aap lagaaiye boli. 50 se
 lekar 200 tak...
 (tells the kids)
 Jaao beta..ek sample dikhaao sabko.

The kids dive in. PATHAK takes out the money. Still waiting for Jhonta.

I/C

62 A(i) EXT. KABIR CHAURAHA - DAY

Madan Kundu is now doing his dog trick. He takes a street puppy-dog and makes it disappear.

Jhonta's eyes are scanning the space to find the dog.

I/C

62 (ii) EXT. PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - DAY

The coin-finding game is over. PATHAK has lost money.

VIKRAM
 Kitna haare gurudev?

PATHAK
 570 rupaya.

VIKRAM
 Par aap kaahe khelne lage ye sab?

PATHAK doesn't respond and walks away.

I/C

62 A(ii)EXT. KABIR CHAURAHA - DAY

MADAN KUNDU
 Ab kutta milna hi maangta hai.
 Nahin toh tum log bolega...eh
 shaala Madan Kundu fraud!

He turns his attention towards the crowd. Drum rolls. All silent, attentive and expectant. Jhonta's scream drowns the silence.

JHONTA

Mil gaya!
 (he picks up a dog, that
 looks very similar to
 magician's missing dog)
 MIL GAYA MUJHE!

Kundu looks at Jhonta, people are beginning to applaud, but Kundu raises his hand to stop them. Then points at a clueless man and twirls his fingers. The original dog walks out from between his legs. He is dumbfounded. Jhonta is disappointed. Crowd applauds wildly.

CUT TO:

63 EXT. PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - EVENING

Jhonta walks on to the ghaat with the puppy. Sits close to PATHAK's *gumti*.

PATHAK
 Kahaan they?

JHONTA
 Masti.

PATHAK
 Kaam ke time masti? Bahut gooda aa gaya!

JHONTA
 Apne paise se gaye they...aapki kaahe sulag rahi hai?

He starts walking with the puppy. PATHAK gets up and holds his arm, tight and hurting.

PATHAK
 Kal se gota maarne ke time yahaan rahoge. Aur tumhara paisa hum rakhenge!

JHONTA
 Kaahe?

PATHAK
 Kaahe ki tum shahanshah na bann jao...aur sab uda na do. Jab bade ho jaaoge, tab le lena. Hisaab se rakhenge!

JHONTA
 Hum didi se bol denge...

PATHAK
 Bolo jo bolna hai.

Lets go of his hand. Jhonta has tears in his eyes. PATHAK gets back to his work. Jhonta picks up flower-plates from the shop and goes off (for selling.)

CUT TO:

64 INT. LAKHOTIA COMPUTER COACHING - DAY

Devi is at the reception desk. Explaining the course modules to a father and his 14-year old son. A peon, BABLU (26), hangs about, leching at Devi.

Devi scribbles something on the form. Places her signature too. They leave. Devi sits back and realizes Bablu is eyeing her all this while.

BABLU
(fills her glass of water
from the jug)
Aap achha samjhaati hain!

Devi nods. She is still in the moment of the father-son conversation.

BABLU (CONT'D)
Pahli naukri hai?

DEVI
Nahin.

BABLU
Pichhli naukri kya huyi?

DEVI
Kaam achha nahin tha.

BABLU
(smiles)
Mujhe pata hai aap Yadav ke udhar
thi.

Devi avoids looking at him. Gets up and goes to the printer.

CUT TO:

65 EXT. DEVI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Devi is opening the door when some one jumps on her. She is startled but holds her scream on realizing it's Jhonta.

DEVI
Pagla gaye kya?

Jhonta is also surprised by Devi's reaction.

JHONTA

Aap itne din se aayi hi nahin.

Devi looks at his sad face and manages a faint smile. Opens the door.

CUT TO:

66 INT. DEVI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Devi is serving meal to Jhonta. She also sits alongside with her plate.

JHONTA

Pandijji aaj kal bauraaye rahte hain.

DEVI

Haan...thode pareshaan hain.

JHONTA

Aap bhi?

DEVI

Nahin main nahin.

JHONTA

Kaahe pareshaan hain, Pandijji?

DEVI

Pata nahin.

JHONTA

Paisa kam ho gaya hai?

(Silence from Devi)

Hum ek din nahin aaye gota lagaane toh bamak gaye!

DEVI

Tum gota lagaate ho? Paise ke liye?

JHONTA

Roj jeet-te hain. Aur kah dena unko...jyada haath waath chhoday humpe toh gaayab ho jaayenge.

DEVI

Kahaan gaayab ho jaaoge?

JHONTA

Kahin bhi. Badi jagah.

DEVI

Badi jagah kyon?

JHONTA

Badi jagah mein koi humein khoj
nahin sakta.

(points towards *daal*
haandi)

Daal aur milega?

Devi gives him some *daal*. Thinks about what Jhonta just said about 'badi jagah'.

CUT TO:

67 EXT. CHAI SHOP - MIRZAPUR - DAY

Deepak plays the CD. All friends listen attentively.

SHAALU (V.O.)

Tu kisi rail si guzarti hai, main
kisi pull sa thartharaata hoon...

DEEPAK (V.O.)

Humne kabhi dhyaan hi nahin diya.
Sab pasand hai.

SHAALU (V.O.)

Sab kaise pasand ho sakta hai?
Humein barsaat pasand hai.

The voice stops and music starts. A song 'Aaj mausam, bada be-imaan hai...' plays.

KK

Tuney uski aawaaz record ki?

DEEPAK

Haan. Phone mein. Phir uski baaton
se gaane jodey.

Friends are a bit surprised at how emotional Deepak is about the gift. They steal glances at each other curiously.

PUSHPI

(encouraging)
Badhiya hai!

RUPPAN

Ladki upper-caste hai bhaai...zyada
senti-venti mat ho jaana. Usey pata
hai na tere baare mein?

Deepak fumbles for an answer.

DEEPAK

Pata nahin.

RUPPAN

Amaa bata do pahle, phir aage
badho. Sab samajhdaar hi milein iss
shahar mein zaroori nahin...

DEEPAK

Haan socha toh hai...par...

Naveen sees Deepak's discomfort and cuts in.

NAVEEN

Abe ye sab baad ki baat
hai...naukri lag gayi toh launda
bawaal hai apna. Aur Rupan
bhai...bike ki chaabi do ladke ko!
Abhi isko ek aur surprise dena hai.

RUPPAN

Kya? Kahin ghumaane le jaa raha
hai?

Naveen looks at Deepak and smiles.

68

E/I. VARANASI-ALLAHABAD HIGHWAY/ALLAHABAD/BUS - DAY

Shaaluu and other girls in a mini-bus on the highway. They are singing Hindi film songs, playing Antakshari.

Pooja Chauhan taps Shaaluu's shoulder and points towards the window. Shaaluu spots Deepak riding a bike, coming towards them. She looks excited and nervous. The old teacher in their van is sleeping.

There is some traffic ahead and their bus slows down. Deepak catches up with them but Shaaluu and Pooja gesture him to 'shushh' as the teacher may notice him. He gestures her to get out of the bus and sit with him.

Pooja takes Shaaluu's scarf and throws it out of the window. And the girls start screaming 'Bus roko bus roko..'

TEACHER

(half sleepy)

Kya hua?

POOJA

Madam..wo scarf ud gaya. Hum laa
rahe hain!

The bus stops and 3 girls get out, giggling. Pooja and another girl come back while Shaaluu waits for the bus to leave. She sits on the bike with Deepak and he starts.

CUT TO:

69

EXT. VARANASI-ALLAHABAD HIGHWAY - DAY

They are riding a small distance behind the bus.

DEEPAK

Pata hai hum ladke log aisi bus ko
kya bolte hain?

SHAALU

Kya?

DEEPAK

Maal gaadi!

She hits him on the shoulder.

SHAALU

Achha aapne bataaya nahin...kahaan
rahte ho?

Deepak's face tightens a bit.

DEEPAK

Udhar hi...Bhelupur ke aagey.

SHAALU

Achha? Wo Prerna bhi Bhelupur mein
rahti hai. Tab toh hum uske ghar ka
bahaana kar ke aa sakte hain!

Deepak stays silent, thinking.

DEEPAK

(fumbling)

Ghar aaogi humaare? Maa-baap...wo
kya kahenge...

SHAALU

Aap kahte hain toh nahin aayenge.

Deepak takes out the DJMan from his bag and hands it over to her.

DEEPAK

Yeh suno! Tumhara budday gift.

Shaaluu puts the speakers on and her faint voice from the phone conversation is heard.

She smiles widely. A song starts as her voice fades. "Pyaar ka dard hai, meetha meetha...pyaara pyaara..."

The song takes over as the bike rides on.

CUT TO:

70 EXT. ALLAHABAD/CHINESE STALL - DAY

Song ("Pyaar ka dard hai") continues playing.

- Shaalu and Deepak in Allahabad. Having Chinese food at Civil Lines road-side stall.

CUT TO:

70 A INT. STATIONARY STORE/BOOK SHOP - DAY

- Shaalu and Deepak in a book shop cum stationery. Shaalu selecting books, Deepak checking out funky key-chains and erasers. Buys one heart-shaped eraser and gifts to Shaalu.

CUT TO:

70 B EXT. ALLAHABAD GHATS - DAY

- Shaalu and Deepak walking on the ghaats - holding hands.

CUT TO:

70 C EXT. SANGAM ALLAHABAD - DAY

- Shaalu and Deepak in a boat. Going towards Sangam.

SHAALU
(looking away, at the
river)
Pahle Sangam aaye ho kabhi?

DEEPAK
(looking at Shaalu)
Naa.

SHAALU
Hum toh bahut baar aaye hain. Abhi
thode din baad Badrinath-Kedarnath
jaa rahe hain...bus se. Saare
log...mama-chacha...dadi-nani...

Their boat reaches the ghaat. Deepak gets down first and as Shaalu is about to jump, the boat hits another boat and gets a jerk. Shaalu is about to fall but Deepak gives her a hand.

CUT TO:

70 D EXT. ALLAHABAD GHATS - DAY

They are at the ghaat, in a lonely corner with water around them on all sides. Sitting peacefully by the river.

DEEPAK

Tum ghar mein sabse chhoti ho, hai na?

SHAALU

Haan. Kaise pata?

DEEPAK

Ghar mein sabse chhote hi aise kood-kood ke baat karte hain!
(laughs)

She slaps on his shoulder.

SHAALU

Chhoti hoon isiliye sab itna pyaar karte hain.

(shows the gold and diamond ring on her finger)

Bachpan mein pehnaayi thi Chachu ne...aur ye ab atak hi gayi hai. Ungli badi ho gayi...angoothi utni hi rah gayi.

Their eyes meet. Deepak is looking at her with an intense gaze.

SHAALU (CONT'D)

Aise kyon dekh rahe ho?

DEEPAK

Pata nahin.

He bends forward and kisses her lightly on lips. She is uncomfortable for a moment. Also in disbelief.

DEEPAK (CONT'D)

Chhoti ho na sabse...isliye pyaar aa gaya.

At this she breaks into a smile and he smiles too. But smile vanishes as he bends forward again. This time she is ready. The kiss goes from gentle to hot to the best Sangam has ever witnessed.

CUT TO:

70 E EXT. VARANASI-ALLAHABAD HIGHWAY - DAY

Song continues.

Deepak is licking his lips and riding in a daze. They are on their way back now. Riding a bit behind the bus.

DEEPAK

Shaalu...shaadi karogi humse?

SHAALU

Pata nahin.

DEEPAK

Ghar waale maanenge tumhaare?

SHAALU

Pata nahin. Milna hai?

DEEPAK

Milwaaogi?

SHAALU

Apne ghar ka pata toh bataaya nahin...humaare ghar aane ki badi jaldi hai!

Deepak goes silent for a bit. Song fades out.

DEEPAK

(mildly irritated)

Bataaye toh...Bhelupur ke paas rahte hain.

SHAALU

Kahaan?

DEEPAK

(fake bravado)

Chalna hai? Abhi le ke chalein?

SHAALU

(sensing it)

Haan haan...chalo.

Deepak doesn't like it.

70 F EXT. ROAD - LATER

Shaaluu is off the bike and Deepak is clearly pissed, uncomfortable.

DEEPAK

Ab yahaan se rickshaw mil jaayega.

SHAALU

(still in teasing mode)

Aapka ghar kahin Sarnath-varnath toh nahin hai.

DEEPAK

(now losing it)

Kaahe? Kya karna hai? Ek baar bole na yahin hai Bhelupur ke paas...tab se lekin yahi laga hua hai...aur koi baat nahin hai kya?

Shaalu is thrown off by this sudden anger. She tries to calm him.

SHAALU
Arre hum mazaak kar rahe...

DEEPAK
Mazaak hai yeh? Bataayein kahaan
rahte hain? Sun-na hai?

Shaalu doesn't say anything.

DEEPAK (CONT'D)
Ghaat pe rahte hain. Harish-chandra
ghaat pe. Wahin paida huye they.
Lakdi uthaana...murda
jalaana...yahi sab kaam hai
humaara. Hum, humaare baap-chacha-
bhai...sab yahi karte hain. Samajh
gayi kahaan rahte hain? Chalna hai?
(starts the bike)
Chalo? Aao...baitho. Le ke chalein.

She just keeps looking at him with hurt as he rides away.

CUT TO:

71 INT. LAKHOTIA COMPUTER COACHING - DAY

Devi is in the corridor, making a call. The phone rings and she starts pacing faster.

DEVI
Hello?

FEMALE VOICE
Hello?

DEVI
Uh...Mister Ramdhari Agarwal...se
baat ho sakti hai?

FEMALE VOICE
Kaun?

She is silent. Composes herself.

DEVI
Main...Airtel se bol rahi hoon.
Gurgaon.

FEMALE VOICE
(before hanging up)
Sorry. Nahin chaahiye.

Devi shakes her head in frustration. Turns around to see Bablu standing there.

BABLU
Seedhe seedhe poochhte hain.

Devi is confused about what he is talking.

BABLU (CONT'D)
Degi kya? Bol na.

Devi looks at him disoriented.

BABLU (CONT'D)
Kisi ko nahin bolenge. Usko bhi toh
diya tha. Shaam ko rukna 8 baje ke
baad.

Devi stares at him angrily.

CUT TO:

72 EXT. PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - DAY

Devi walks up to PATHAK's *gumti*. She is conscious of the gaze around. At the *gumti* PATHAK is setting up books. He gets uncomfortable with Devi coming there.

DEVI
Naukri chhorh di.

PATHAK
(controlling anger)
Tumhe yahan aane ke liye kisne kaha
tha. Jaao yahan se.

Devi just walks away in anger. Jhonta holds her hand and drags her towards the ghaat.

JHONTA
Kitna time ho gaya. Aap aayi nahin
didi. Ek naya kartab dikhate hain..
Aao.. Aao..

Jhonta stands by the ghaat. Does a reverse summersault into the river. He comes out with mouthful of coins. Devi is gone already.

CUT TO:

73 INT. DEVI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Devi is looking at her desktop screen. Allahabad university wikipedia page is open. PATHAK is just back from work, the *jhola* of books is still on his shoulders. (Devi is mindlessly clicking on 'refresh desktop' while talking.)

PATHAK
Naukri chhorh di matlab?

Silence from Devi. PATHAK sighs and drops his bag to get a glass of water. Comes back and slumps in the chair.

PATHAK (CONT'D)

Kyon aisi ho gayi tu? Kya chaahati hai?

DEVI

Kuchh nahin.

PATHAK

Humne kab kuchh karne se roka? Kya galti ki jo itna bada kaand kar aayi? Ladkon jitni chooot diye bachpan se...

DEVI

Koi kaand nahin kiya maine.

PATHAK

(takes out day's collections from his bag)
Toh yeh kya hai? Kaand nahin hai toh kya hai yeh?
(throws money on the floor)

Ye mar mar ke paisa juta rahe hain...yeh kya hai? Mohalle mein ghaat pe koi rok ke poochh na le ki Devi aajkal dikhti nahin yahi sochte rahte hain...wo kya hai?

DEVI

Aapka darr hai! Isiliye maine soch liya hai...yahaan rehna hi nahin. Jitni chhoti jagah...utni chhoti soch.

PATHAK

Humaari soch chhoti hai? Iss sab ke baad bhi tum ghar mein ho sammaan se...soch chhoti hai?

DEVI

Jatana pad raha hai na! Aur sach ye hai ki aapko kuchh pata hi nahin mere baare mein...

PATHAK

Kaahe ka badla le rahi hai?

DEVI

Maa ka!

PATHAK

Maa ki shakal bhi yaad hai tujhe? 6 saal ki thi tu...

DEVI

6 saal ke bachhey andhey hote hain
kya?

PATHAK

Tumko lagta hai Maa ko humne maara?

DEVI

Toh aapko lagta hai uss ladke ko
maine maara? Boliye? Maine maara
kya usey?

(clicks on a few folders
on desktop)

Khud mar gaya.

PATHAK

Kahaan ki baat kahaan le jaa rahi
ho?

DEVI

Kahin nahin. Aap chinta na karein.
Jail nahin jaaoungi.

PATHAK

Sab kuchh khud hi maan liya hai
tumne.

DEVI

Paise juta loongi.

PATHAK is about to respond to this when Devi absentmindedly clicks on a folder and some instrumental, light music starts playing. She lets it play, PATHAK doesn't say a word, and keeps on observing Devi with a defeated look.

CUT TO:

73 A EXT. ROAD - DAY

Pathak is riding his CD100 bike on an empty stretch of the highway. He spots Mishra standing ahead by the road.

Pathak is handing a packet with cash to him.

MISHRA

Kitna hai?

PATHAK

(meekly)

Filhaal toh 30 hai.

Mishra gives him a stare.

MISHRA

Aage Pappu ki dukaan hai scooter
ki...udhar bech do jaa ke. 10-15
iska bhi mil jaayega.

PATHAK

Nahin ab hum kama rahe hain...ek
jugaad baitha hai...pakka ab paisa
ho jaayega. Bike bech denge toh...

MISHRA

Yeh footkar nahin chalega.
(returns the packet to
Pathak)
Aapko kitna baar bolna padega?

Pathak looks down, hands folded.

PATHAK

Agle hafte tak nahin hua iss mahine
ka hissa toh bech denge. Le
lijiye...

Mishra takes the money.

MISHRA

20 laaiyega agle hafte.

Starts his bike.

74 EXT. HARISHCHANDRA GHAAT - DAY

A French lady, MARION (36), is taking pictures of the burning
pyres. Sikandar appears in her frame.

SIKANDAR

Permission?

MARION

What? Désolée.

SIKANDAR

You permission? Photo not allowed.
Holy fire. Holy dead body.

MARION

(instantly apologetic)
Je suis désolée. Really. I am
sorry. I will delete.

SIKANDAR

(sensing her weakness,
emphatically)
Yes. Please. Not allowed. Bad.

MARION

(checking the photos
again)
Oh this is a beautiful shot!
(showing it to Sikandar)
Can I keep this? S'il vous plaît!
Please!

SIKANDAR

Ok.

MARION

Aww merci!

SIKANDAR

You which country?

MARION

Oh...I am French.

(assesses Sikandar)

You work here? Stay here?

SIKANDAR

Yes yes. You want guide? I know

Banaras. I show you. Banaras.

She looks at him with a slight mischief in eyes then goes 'Naah' and walks away. Sikandar follows her.

CUT TO:

75

EXT. HARISHCHANDRA GHAAT ROAD - DAY

Sikander following Marion in the background while Deepak trying to make a phone call to Shaalu. She doesn't take his call. Deepak is distressed.

Two guys come on a bike and stop in front of Deepak.

GUY 1

Ae...Deepak...?

DEEPAK

Haan...?

GUY 2

Bahut miss call jaa raha hai Shaalu ko?

DEEPAK

(fumbles)

Kaun? Kaun Shaalu?

GUY 1

Du chamaat maareng na sab yaad aa jaayega. Ab suno...

Deepak feels slightly threatened so starts fidgeting and looking for help.

DEEPAK

(calling out)

Sikandar...

GUY 1
 (starting the bike)
 Ladki ko call karna bandh
 karo...agli baar katta le ke
 aayenge seedhe.

They race away.

CUT TO:

76 INT. SHAALU'S HOUSE - DAY

Shaalu is studying and crying at the same time. Deepak's call is ringing on her phone but she doesn't take it.

CUT TO:

77 INT. SHAALU'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Family having dinner. Shaalu's father and her elder brother (Guy 2 on the bike) sitting on the sofa, mother sitting on a chair, and Shaalu on the floor. The TV is playing a music reality show. One kid is singing a Bhajan on the show ("Sukh ke sab saathi, dukh mein na koye...")

SHAALU'S FATHER
 Yeh nahin jeetega launda...

SHAALU'S MOTHER
 Kaahe? Achha toh gaa raha hai.

SHAALU'S FATHER
 Yeh bhajan-wajan aajkal kaun sunta hai. Koi vote nahin bhejega isko.

SHAALU'S BROTHER
 SMS waise bhi 7 rupaya kaat-ta hai yeh sab show mein.

SHAALU'S FATHER
 Wahi hai...pyaar mohabbat ka hi geet sunta hai sab aaj...yahi log toh mahaul kharaab kiye hain.

Shaalu listening carefully now. Her brother looking at her with a 'shall I spill your secret' gaze. Shaalu avoids him.

SHAALU'S MOTHER
 Arre wo Sonal nahin hai, Vibha ki bitiya...khud se ladka khoj laayi kaalej ka. Saath mein MBA kar raha tha...

SHAALU'S FATHER
 Achha? MBA kar rahi thi wo?

SHAALU'S MOTHER

Arre bataaye toh they...itna kood-
kood ke phone ki thi Vibha. Indore
mein ki jaane kahaan koi bada
kaalej hai MBA ka..

SHAALU

IIM Indore.

SHAALU'S MOTHER

Aur ladka Bangali hai..pata nahin
kaun jaat ka...

The bhajan ends on TV.

SHAALU'S FATHER

Ab yahi hai...aadhunikta ke naam pe
desh bigaad diya hai cinema waalon
ne.

Shaalun sips water uncomfortably in the middle of eating.

Mother gets up and takes Shaalun's plate.

SHAALU'S MOTHER

Chalo bhai..baithne ka wakhat nahin
hai...kal subah subah nikalna hai.
Packing ho gayi tumhaari?

Shaalun nods and goes up to her room.

CUT TO:

78 INT. SHAALU'S HOUSE - DAY

Packing being done for the 4-dhaam yaatra. Shaalun listening
to Deepak's CD and her own voice.

SHAALU (V.O.)

(from the CD)

Pata hai aap baaki ladkon jaise
nahin hain!

DEEPAK (V.O.)

(from the CD)

Nahin pata. Kaise?

CUT TO:

78 A EXT. SHAALU'S HOUSE - DAY

Shaalun and family loading their luggage in a tourist bus.

SHAALU (V.O.)
 Aapke andar ek imaandaari hai.
 Jaisi Nida Fazli ki ghazalon mein
 hoti hai.

DEEPAK (V.O.)
 Haha. Ab yeh Nida Fazli kaun hai?

CUT TO:

78 B I/E. BUS/ROAD - DAY

Shaalu and family in the bus full of other similar families,
 with a banner of Badrinath-Kedarnath on the side.

SHAALU (V.O.)
 Yahi toh aapki imaandaari hai!

CUT TO:

79 EXT. DHAABA - DAY

Shaalu and family at a road-side dhaaba. The tourist bus is
 waiting in the distance. She finishes her meal quickly and
 steps out with her phone. Holding the phone awkwardly with
 greasy, unwashed hands, she makes a call.

I/C

79 A EXT. CHAI SHOP - MIRZAPUR - DAY

Deepak is at the Mirzapur Ghaat, with his friends when he
 takes the call.

DEEPAK
 Aa gayi yaad?

SHAALU
 Uss din gussa aap huye they aur ab
 humein taana de rahe hain?

A moment's silence.

DEEPAK
 Sorry.

SHAALU
 Humne toh nahin maanga sorry.

DEEPAK
 Muft mil raha hai...le lo.

SHAALU
 (smiles)
 Le liya.

DEEPAK
Hum gadhey hain.

SHAALU
Wo toh hain.

DEEPAK
Humko baat karne ki tameez nahin hai.

SHAALU
(realizing her parents are calling her from the distance)
Achha suniye...abhi humko jaana hoga. Bas aawaaz sun-ne ke liye phone kiya tha.

DEEPAK
Kahaan pahunche?

SHAALU
Abhi toh UP hi cross nahin hua. Saharanpur. Achha suniye na...humaare mummy-papa aapko kabhi accept nahin karenge. Bahut...wahi...ghisi-piti puraani soch hai.

Deepak's smile fades. He just listens without responding.

SHAALU (CONT'D)
Lekin hum aapke saath hain. Aur humne suna hai...baad mein sab maan jaate hain. Bas aap wahaan se nikal jaaiye...uss ghaat se...uss zindagi se...

DEEPAK
Haan...main koshish kar raha hoon..abhi placement season aa raha hai...poori jaan laga denge.

SHAALU
Bas, yahi! Baaki hum dekh lenge...bhaag ke jaana hoga toh bhaagenge.

Shaaluu's brother is approaching her now. She hangs up.

Deepak looks at the phone and lets what she just said sink in. He then kisses the phone screen and starts running away.

KK
Kaa hua ji? Kahaan jaa raha hai?

DEEPAK
 Abe padhna hai...ghar jaa rahe
 hain.

The friends share a look. Deepak disappears around the bend.

CUT TO:

80 INT. DEEPAK'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Deepak is in the kitchen, studying. The print-out of Shaalu's Facebook profile, with her small photo at the top is in Deepak's lap. Noisy celebrations going on in the hall and courtyard. Loud music plays while Deepak is trying to concentrate on his books.

I/C

80 A EXT. DEEPAK'S HOUSE/TERRACE - NIGHT

Outside: Around 10-12 male members of Dom community eating-drinking, dancing, and chatting. Lala, Shambhu, and (upper-caste man) Dubey ji, among them.

DOCTOR
 (making another drink)
 Abhi aadha din hi hua hai aur 60
 hazaar aa chuka hai...

SIKANDAR
 Aur ee Shambhu chacha apni paari
 bech diya gadhau! Kaahe chacha?
 Murgi ekey baar mein kaat diye?

LALA
 Tum bhi bech do...5 lakh mil
 jaayega!

SIKANDAR
 Kaahe sabka paari lootne mein lage
 ho Lala? Ghaat pe hotel-ootel
 banaaoge?

SHAMBHU
 (tipsy, screams)
 Murda log ka hotel...hahahaha...

Everybody laughs except Lala.

CUT TO:

SCENE 80 B DELETED

80C MONTAGE - VARIOUS PLACES - VARANASI/MIRZAPUR - VARIOUS TIMES

- 81 INT. SETH KINARAM AGARWAL POLYTECHNIC MIRZAPUR/CLASSROOM - DAY
- Deepak appearing for exams.
CUT TO:
- 81 A INT. INTERNET CAFE - MIRZAPUR - DAY
- Deepak checking Shaalu's photos on Facebook. She is in Kedarnath/Badrinath.
CUT TO:
- 81 B INT. DEEPAK'S HOUSE/ROOM - DAY
- Deepak getting dressed for interview.
CUT TO:
- 81 C EXT. HARISHCHANDRA GHAAT ROAD - DAY
- Deepak walking out of his gully, fully dressed in formals, while dead bodies are being taken inside.
CUT TO:
- 81 D INT. DEVI'S HOUSE - DAY
- Devi is packing her clothes in a bag. Looks at a framed photo of her childhood with her father. Doesn't pick that one. Picks the wrapped gift Piyush had given her.
CUT TO:
- 81 E EXT. CITY - DAY
Sikandar is showing Banaras to Marion and her two friends (one male and one female foreigners).
CUT TO:
- 81 F INT. SETH KINARAM AGARWAL POLYTECHNIC MIRZAPUR/CLASSROOM - DAY
Deepak giving the interview. Smiling and shaking hands before leaving.
CUT TO:

81 G INT. RAILWAY STATION - DAY

Devi is sitting at a small railway station - bags packed. Waiting for the train. The train arrives. She doesn't board it.

CUT TO:

81 H EXT. CHAI SHOP - MIRZAPUR - DAY

- Deepak, KK, Pushpi, Naveen, and Ruppan sipping tea late at night. Deepak looking tense.

CUT TO:

81 I INT. BUS - DAY

Shalu sends Deepak a text message. It reads - "Badrinath se waapas chal pade hain."

81 I(a) I/C INT. DEEPAK'S ROOM - DAY

Deepak types - "Humara job lagne waala hai. Jaldi se aa jao."

CUT TO:

81 J EXT. DEVI'S HOUSE - DAY

- Devi is opening the lock at her house's door. Comes inside.

CUT TO:

81 K EXT. SETH KINARAM AGARWAL POLYTECHNIC/ROAD - NIGHT

Very late night, they are riding back to the Polytechnic campus.

CUT TO:

81 L INT. SETH KINARAM AGARWAL POLYTECHNIC - NIGHT

Checking the results on the notice board. Deepak's name is not on the list.

CUT TO:

82 INT./EXT. DEVI'S HOUSE - DAY

The doorbell rings. Devi finds the postman at the gate.

POSTMAN
 (not letting the letter
 go)
 Pahle bakshish laaiye!

DEVI
 Uhh?

POSTMAN
 Arre sarkaari naukri ki chithhi
 hai. Aise sookhe sookhe nahi
 milegi.

CUT TO:

83 INT. DEVI'S HOUSE - DAY

Devi is opening the letter and reading. It says 'RAILWAY BOARD' at the top. She sighs.

CUT TO:

84 EXT. PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - NIGHT

Jhonta is sleeping. PATHAK puts a sheet over him and starts to leave. Then he stops, picks up the saving box from under Jhonta, and takes out money from it. He takes Jhonta's coins too. He does it silently so as not to wake Jhonta up.

CUT TO:

85 INT. DEEPAK'S HOUSE - LATE NIGHT/EARLY MORNING

Deepak is sleeping while sitting. A book is in his lap.

Somebody shakes his body to wake him up. He opens his eyes to see it's Sikandar.

SIKANDAR
 Deepak...Deepak?

DEEPAK
 Kya hua?

SIKANDAR
 Kaam adhik hai. Babu so gaya daaru
 pee ke..

Deepak sleeps again so Sikandar pokes him with his foot.

CUT TO:

86

EXT. HARISHCHANDRA GHAAT - LATE NIGHT/EARLY MORNING

Outside:

Deepak sees there are many bodies laid on ground. (More than 25.) Cops are also there. The ghaat is buzzing with people, cops, and workers.

SHAMBHU

(in a conspiratorial tone)

Koi bada accident hua hai...

Deepak starts helping his workers arrange for pyres. Baba comes with a grieving man. The man is dressed ready for the funeral ritual. Naked top, shaved head, and a white *dhoti* below.

BABA

Deepak beta...jao agni laa ke do
inhein...

DEEPAK

Haan Baba...

Deepak goes to the holy fire and gets fire on a bundle of hay.

SIKANDAR

(ordering his men)

Arre idhar lagao na...idhar hai
toh jagah!

DOM WORKER 2

Bhaiyya idhar kahaan jalaate hain?

SIKANDAR

Arre jalao na...apna ghaat hai ki!

Men throw wood at Sikandar's specified location which has much less lighting as compared to the rest.

SIKANDAR (CONT'D)

Ae Deepak...idhar chita banwao...4
aa jaayegi idhar.

Deepak is looking at the cops, the largeness of it all, fighting his sleep and fatigue too when his eyes fall on the body being laid on the pyre in front of him.

He stops in his tracks as he sees the hand, hanging out of the pyre, has a gold ring. He goes numb, all sound drowned in a buzz inside his head, as he walks up to the body and looks at the hand closely. The face of the dead body is covered in shroud but portion of it is visible.

Deepak doesn't need to see the rest as he looks around and pieces the information together. This has to be Shaalu and her family. He hears snatches of voices floating around him.

The grieving man he gave the holy fire to is saying to Baba...

GRIEVING MAN

Teerath pe gaye they sab....poori
 Bus ganga ji mein gir gayi...
 Sanstha wale sab body yahin laye
 hain.

Deepak touches Shaalu's hand, holds it tight in his hand, and just sits down silently. Shambhu shakes him and says something which he doesn't have the faculties to listen right now. He just steps aside as the grieving man sets the pyre on fire.

Deepak does the ritual of burning for Shaalu's dead body. He is cold and not showing any emotion on his face. He keeps poking the pyre with the bamboo. He gives a hard blow into the skull, a bursting sound is heard.

CUT TO:

87 EXT. HARISHCHANDRA GHAAT - EARLY MORNING

The night of burning is over. Lots of fully-burnt pyres around. Doctor is back in action and is supervising the washing of ashes. Deepak is sitting silently, stoned.

Doms have found some metal in ashes. Deepak looking at the process blankly. He is fiddling with Shaalu's gold ring in his hand. It's slightly molten.

CUT TO:

88 EXT. ROAD- DAY

It's an uncharacteristically windy day. Dust flying all around. Deepak, riding pillion on Naveen's bike, is staring straight into the dust-storm.

CUT TO:

89 EXT. CHAI SHOP - MIRZAPUR - DAY

Ruppan, KK, and Pushpi waiting at the chaai shop. Naveen is parking the bike. Deepak comes forward. KK hugs him tightly and mumbles condolences. Ruppan hugs next. He just pats his back. Pushpi hugs him and breaks down. Deepak just stays silent.

CUT TO:

SCENE 90, 91 & 92 DELETED

CUT TO:

93 EXT./INT. BHADOHI RAILWAY STATION/TICKET OFFICE - DAY

Devi enters the ticket counter office. It's a new building-block, made next to the British-era old-building of the station. The railway platform (no. 1) is one side and the other side is the reception area of the station. A small hand-written paper pasted on the door says 'RESERVATION COUNTER'.

A peon is cleaning the floor and she's the first in the office. Devi looks at the desktop computers covered in packaging-plastic and bubble-wraps.

PEON

Aap aaj se join ki hain?

He sees Devi is a bit confused. The room is being used as a store-room of sorts it seems. Abandoned lamps, old registers, two railway-station benches, and sign-boards lying in the room.

PEON (CONT'D)

(pointing to the left
chair)Aap idhar baith jaiye...wo toh
Sadhya ji ka hai!

She sits down and takes out a half-litre water bottle from her bag. The bottle is empty except for the last few drops.

DEVI

(pointing to the packaging
on computer)

Yeh....abhi Khula nahin hai?

PEON

Kainchiya kho gaya...

DEVI

(looks around)

Paani?

PEON

(pointing to the hand-pump
across the tracks on
another platform)

Oo raha!

Devi goes towards the overhead-bridge.

PEON (CONT'D)

(shouts)

Arre patariya se jaiye...abhi
koiyo gaadi nahin hai....

She crosses the tracks. Gets on the other side. Uses the hand-pump alone, by placing the bottle below the tap and pumping it.

Devi comes back to see a few people are already at the closed gate now. The gate opens into a hall where ticket counters are.

She enters the office and finds another man, SADHYA JI (36) in the seat next to her. Sadhya ji is flipping through Devi's ticketing manual.

SADHYA JI

Aaiye aaiye...aap 2 minute baad
jaati toh hum apni botal bhi de
dete.

(places the book back)

Badi achhi chhapwaayi hai yeh
kitaab railway ne...hum log toh
bina kitaab ke seekhe hain...ghis
ghis ke!

Devi just nods in greeting and takes the seat. Takes out a paper-cutter knife from her bag and starts unwrapping the desktop and connecting the wires.

SADHYA JI (CONT'D)

Humaare 8 saal ke saathi Mukherjee
Babu ko jaana pada computer ke
chalte.

Devi is not responding to his talks beyond a nod of head. He takes out his mobile phone and browses.

SADHYA JI (CONT'D)

Ye dekhiye!

(shows a picture of an
older man than himself,
clicked while sipping
tea)

Mukherjee babu. Computer seekhne se
saaf mana kar diye...toh Dungarpur
transfer ho gaya unka. Rajasthan
mein. Ab passenger train ka ticket
kaatenge.

Devi is looking for a power-point. Finds a point close-by where Sadhya's mobile is being charged.

DEVI

Yahaan laga doon?

SADHYA JI

Haan haan...

(takes off his charger)

Aapne toh khoob computer padha
hoga?

Devi nods. The customers are now banging on the glass window suggesting the time for issuing tickets has started.

SADHYA JI (CONT'D)
Aap ka chaalu hua system?

Devi nods. Sadhya gestures the peon to open the door. The noise and energy of crowd fills the room.

CUT TO:

94 INT. SETH KINARAM AGARWAL POLYTECHNIC MIRZAPUR/CLASSROOM - DAY

Deepak is sitting in the queue for interview. Looking shabby and unprepared, lost in his thoughts.

Another guy comes out of the interview room. The peon calls Deepak's name. Deepak doesn't respond. The peon comes to Deepak and gestures him to go inside.

Deepak inside the room. All students sitting in chairs forming an arc. The jury on the extreme opposite. A 'group discussion' topic is announced and the room suddenly turns cacophonous. Each one is trying to out do the other, questions and answers at the same time, the jury yelling at them to be quite. Deepak is gazing in one direction, silent. He gets up and walks out of the room.

CUT TO:

95 EXT. GANGA PAAR - NIGHT

Sikandar, Marion, and her 3 white friends in a shack on the sands of Ganga Paar island. They are smoking up, other drugs (LSD) are also going around. Music is playing in the background.

MARION
Sikandar.... tell Them about
ghosts! Spirits.

SIKANDAR
(with improved English-
speaking skills now)
Spirits are common. My father once
touched a dead body and he became
alive!

FOREIGN TOURIST 1
No dude!

SIKANDAR
Yes. My father is called Doctor
that is why.
(MORE)

SIKANDAR (CONT'D)

When he was kid...he touch dead bodies and they alive. So they call him Doctor.

FOREIGN TOURIST 2

You kidding me fucker!

MARION

No he is not.

SIKANDAR

And there is this thing - Ghaat Madness... where we hear sounds... people who work on funeral ghaat all their life...hear sounds...

MARION

What sounds?

SIKANDAR

Ram Naam Satya hai...or the sound of fire burning...when there is no fire...no people around.

CUT TO:

96 EXT. GANGA PAAR - NIGHT

LATER:

Sikandar and Marion sitting on the sand. They are high. Others have passed out. Marion takes out her camera and clicks Sikandar. Sikandar smiles awkwardly.

SIKANDAR

I click you?

Marion hands the camera to him. Then gestures 'stop', comes and sits next to him, turns the camera towards themselves, and tries to find a frame.

MARION

Together!

They click without the aid of viewfinder screen and check the photo. Both are smiling but Sikandar's half head is out of frame.

SIKANDAR

Tell about your country.

MARION

My country? Well, it is not this hot. Sky is more blue. But the water tastes the same, life feels the same.

(MORE)

MARION (CONT'D)
 (she looks into his eyes)
 But yes, the men are not this nice.

Both smile at each other.

SIKANDAR
 Please take me with you.

Marion looks at him. And mildly regains alertness out of her stupor.

SIKANDAR (CONT'D)
 Please.

CUT TO:

SCENE 97 DELETED

98 EXT. HARISHCHANDRA GHAAT - DAY

Deepak is carrying wood and dumping on the funeral area. His father spots him from the top. He calls out Deepak by name. Deepak doesn't respond. Father comes down and faces him.

DOCTOR
 Pagla gaye kaa?

Silence from Deepak.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
 Ae....

Deepak just looks at him with anger but doesn't say anything.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
 Padho jaa ke! Bahut log hai yahaan
 kaam karne waala...

DEEPAK
 Bahut padh liye.

He walks away and jumps in a boat that is going away. VIKRAM Mallah is riding the boat.

CUT TO:

99 INT. INTERNET CAFE - MIRZAPUR - DAY

Deepak is logging into Facebook. Checks Shaalu's page. Goes to her photo album and checks the photos. One photo has she posing with her gold ring.

Goes to her home page. It's full of obituaries by friends. Deepak reads them. Places cursor in the typing space. The cursor is blinking in anticipation.

CUT TO:

100 EXT. PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - DAY

PATHAK is in his *gumti*, translating a book. A shadow falls on him and he looks up to find cop Mishra, in plain clothes standing there.

PATHAK
(a bit thrown-off)
Aap? Uhh...

MISHRA
Haan...patni aur bachhi ke saath
aaye they... yahan aana jurm hai?

PATHAK
Nahin nahin..

PATHAK notices a lady in a sari standing with a 5-6 year old girl in the background. They are looking at the river.

PATHAK (CONT'D)
Hum toh jute huye hain...Devi ki ad-
hoc mein naukri bhi lagi hai...

MISHRA
Agle mahine ki 6 tarikh aakhri din
hai. Nahin toh YouTube pe.. Youtube
samajhte hain?

PATHAK nods. Mishra takes an empty water bottle being sold on PATHAK's shop.

MISHRA (CONT'D)
Bisleri botal mein Gangajal bharne
ko mann nahin maanta!

He leaves. Jhonta is watching this from the distance.

CUT TO:

101 INT. BHADOHI RAILWAY STATION/TICKET OFFICE - DAY

Ticket window queue is long. Sadhya ji and Devi working hastily. Sadhya is slow on the keyboard.

CUSTOMER
(checking his pockets)
Naa...chhutta nahin hai. Aapke paas
hoga na!

SADHYA JI
 (turns to Devi)
 Aapke paas hai chhutta? 7 rupaya.

Devi checks in her box and finds it. Gives it to Sadhya.

SADHYA JI (CONT'D)
 Aap fast hain bahut! Humko toh
 kabhi ispe G nahin milta kabhi H.
 Aur dekhiye toh...hain donon agal-
 bagal hi!

Devi doesn't respond. Sadhya ji observes her determined, detached face. She has her railway manual open on the side and keeps checking for instructions.

CUT TO:

102 INT. BHADOHI RAILWAY STATION - DAY

It's lunch time. Sadhya ji is opening his tiffin. He has a thin Hindi novel (*Deewar mein ek khidki rehti thi* by Vinod Kumar Shukla) on his lap. Devi is already eating a *paratha-roll* with *achaar* sitting at a distance.

SADHYA JI
 (opening his tiffin)
 Lijiye thoda?

DEVI
 Nahin.

SADHYA JI
 Arre apne haath se banaaya hai.
 Humein aur pita ji, dono ko khaana
 banaane ka bada shauk hai. Shauk
 kya...wo Sufi log kahte hain
 na...Junoon...junoon hai.

Devi is reading the ticket manual while eating too.

SADHYA JI (CONT'D)
 Arre bhojan ke time toh chhorh
 dijiye kitabiya...humse poochh
 lijiyega kahin ataki toh!

A train has pulled in. Devi looking at people getting on it. Sadhya noticing Devi.

SADHYA JI (CONT'D)
 Yahaan din mein Atthaais (28) train
 rukti hain...aur pata hai kitni
 nahin rukti?

Devi looks at him.

SADHYA JI (CONT'D)
 Chaunsath! (64) Matlab kya hua?
 (waits for her to respond,
 then proceeds anyway)
 Yahaan aana aasaan hai, yahaan se
 jaana mushkil. Hahahaha...

Devi is mildly amused by Sadhya.

CUT TO:

103 EXT. HARISHCHANDRA GHAAT - DAY

Deepak is on the ghaat. He spots Shambhu and Dubey ji walking up the steps to his house in a hurry. His father comes out in a while. Deepak senses something wrong. His father waves at him to accompany.

Deepak runs to catch up with them.

CUT TO:

104 EXT./INT. VARANASI CANTT RAILWAY STATION - DAY

Deepak is checking the trains. Looking for someone.

CUT TO:

105 EXT./INT. BUS STAND - DAY

Doctor and Dubey are at the bus stand, making inquiries.

CUT TO:

106 EXT. BHELUPUR COP STATION - DAY

Deepak and Shambhu are waiting outside. Doctor and Dubey come out. Doctor looks crestfallen.

DUBEY
 (to Deepak)
 Ladki ka naam pata hai tumhein?
 Kaun desh ki thi?

Deepak just shakes his head.

DOCTOR
 (on the verge of breaking
 down)
 Chootiya ladka...chootiya
 saala...maadarchod saala...

Dubey gestures Deepak to hold his father. Deepak just looks at Doctor expressionless.

CUT TO:

SCENE 107 DELETED

108 EXT. PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - NIGHT

Jhonta is sitting with other kids. Babu, Munwa, Netwa, and Loku. They are smoking beedis.

BABU

Ye ek haath idhar jebwa mein...ek
haath Katrina ki kamar mein...aur
aise naachta hai...jaise gaand mein
bijli ka taar laga ho...

Does a bit of dance action.

NETWA

(the eldest among them)
Hum bole apni girlfriend ko...hum
salman nahin hai toh tu kaun si
Katrina hai?

JHONTA

(realizing his beedi is
out)
Maachis de na?

Munwa lights a new one for him.

A slap hits Jhonta. The kids run away as PATHAK is standing over them.

NETWA

(shouting, while running
away)
Ae panditji bauraaaye....

PATHAK

Pichhli baar bhi bole the
naa...beedi nahin peena hai. Poora
saans chala jaata hai...gota kaise
lagaaoge? Aur lagaaoge toh haaroge!

JHONTA

Nahin lagaana humko.

PATHAK

Nahin lagaana toh bhaago yahaan se.
Shakal mat dikhaana.

JHONTA
Haan humko bhi nahin rehna aapke
saath. Paisa de do humara...

PATHAK
Kaudi bhi na milihe...bhagg yahaan
se...bhagg....

Jhonta throws the beedi at PATHAK's face.

JHONTA
Rakho...bhikhaari!

...and walks away.

CUT TO:

109 EXT./INT. DEVI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

PATHAK reaches home, knocks on the door, realizes it's open. Walks in inside and finds Devi asleep on the chair only. Her Indian Railways Ticketing Manual book is open right in front of her.

PATHAK wants to wake her up but then decides against it.

CUT TO:

110 INT. DEVI'S HOUSE - DAY

PATHAK wakes up to find Devi gone to work already.

CUT TO:

111 INT. BHADOHI RAILWAY STATION/TICKET OFFICE - DAY

Devi is by the counter. Relatively easy traffic day. A young posh-looking couple has come to the counter. They have backpacks on them.

GIRL
Fuck off. You're lying.

BOY
You were totally passed out.

GIRL
(to devi)
Ma'am is ticket ka status
batayengi?

Devi checks the status.

DEVI
Confirm nahin hua hai.

The boy and girl become a little worried.

BOY
Tatkal mein check kar sakte hain?

GIRL
Ek seat milega toh bhi chalega.

The boy whispers something in girl's ear. She starts smiling. Devi looks into her computer. She looks at them holding the hands.

The computer screen shows 32 available tickets for Delhi.

DEVI
Nahin hai.

The boy and girl look worried.

GIRL
Kisi aur train mein?

DEVI
(coldly)
Kisi mein nahin hai.

CUT TO:

112 INT. DEVI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Devi is sitting in front of the desktop, porn playing on it in low volume. Devi's face shows no expression.

CUT TO:

113 EXT. HARISHCHANDRA GHAAT - DAY

Deepak, Doctor, Lala, Shambhu, 2 cops, Dubey ji, and 2 really old men are gathered on the ghaat.

COP 1
Sanvidhaan ko beech mein kaahe laa rahe hain? Humne pahle bhi kaha - Aap log ka apna maamla hai...khud suljhaaiye.

~~Cop 2 is busy on his phone, downloading apps. Not even listening to what's going on.~~

LALA
3 Lakh de do...paari waapas le jao.

DOCTOR

Sikandar ko 1 bhi nahin diya hoga
tuney...

LALA

Sikandar ko laao...khojo...poochho
us-se...humne roka hai?

DOCTOR

Kahaan se laayenge 3 lakh...

LALA

Dubey ji shahar ke sammaanit vyakti
hain...inke saamne hum kah dete
hain, paisa aa gaya toh paari le
jaana. Jab bhi aa jaaye.

Deepak looks at the gold ring in his hand.

CUT TO:

114 EXT. BOAT- NIGHT

It's a deserted place. Almost in the woods. Deepak, KK, Pushpi, Naveen, and Ruppam having a drinking session by the side of a fire place. Plates of chicken tandoori, onions, and beer bottles lying in front.

KK

Sab chootiyapa hai saala!
Life...pyaar...sex...death. Sab!

Deepak is just listening and observing. And drinking.

PUSHPI

Toh tu kaahe pyaar karta hai be,
blondewa?

KK

Abe nahin karte hain...khaali
feeling chaahiye humko ki karte
hain...pyaar ka idea se pyaar karte
hain. Samajh rahe ho?

RUPPAN

(checking the bottles)
Ae sab khaali ho gaya be...

PUSHPI

Thairo hum late hain aur..

Pushpi leaves.

RUPPAN

Deepak ko bolne do re...kab se chup
baitha hai! Ae Deepak...kuch bol na
bhaai...

Deepak just stares.

KK
 (gesturing Rupan to not
 force him)
 Nahin tu time le bhaai...koi jaldi
 nahin...hum sab hain yahin...

More beer arrives. They are busy filling their glasses when Deepak starts talking.

DEEPAK
 Tum log science padhe ho?

They are all ears. Nobody responds to the rhetoric though.

DEEPAK (CONT'D)
 Hum saala padhe they...aadmi pahle
 bandar jaisa tha...poonchh hoti
 thi...jhuk ke chalta tha...phir
 dheere dheere...evolution ka theory
 ke chalte...poonchh gaayab ho
 gayi...kamar tan gayi. Kaahe ki jo
 jaroorat nahin tha, wo khud khatam
 ho gaya. Aise hi kaan chapte ho
 gaye...naak chhoti ho gayi...sab
 faaltu cheez dheere dheere khatam
 ho gayi.
 (he's hearing the chants
 of *raam-naam-satya-hai*
 now)
 Toh phir ye bhainchod...kisi ke
 marne ka dukh kaahe nahin khatam
 hua aadmi ka. Saala kisko chaahiye
 ye? Itna faaltu cheej evolution ke
 chalte kaahe nahin gaya? Bol Blonde
 bhainchod....kaahe nahin gaya be...

Friends wait for more but he's done.

CUT TO:

115 INT. DEVI'S HOUSE - DAY

PATHAK wakes up to find Devi is gone. Goes to the kitchen and finds a cup of tea ready, in a steel glass.

CUT TO:

116 EXT. PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - DAY

PATHAK reaches his *gumti*, opens the lock and sits inside. Jhonta is nowhere to be seen.

CUT TO:

117 EXT. PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - DAY

The coin-finding competition is going on, PATHAK standing on the side. Jhonta is not among the divers.

CUT TO:

118 INT. BHADOHI RAILWAY STATION/TICKET OFFICE - DAY

Devi and Sadhya ji printing tickets hurriedly. Sadhya checks time on the watch.

SADHYA JI
(to the customer)
Bas lunch time ho gaya...

CUSTOMER 2
Abhi kahaan...3 minute baaki hai.

Sadhya closes the window and looks at Devi who is still working.

SADHYA JI
Devi ji...aap bhi khidki
giraaiye...varna usi mein se ghuse
aayenge yeh log.

Gets up and shuts her window too. She looks at him with mild anger but he keeps on smiling. She can't stop herself from smiling too.

CUT TO:

119 INT. BHADOHI RAILWAY STATION - DAY

Lunch time. Sadhya eating while reading a novel. Devi eating while watching trains go by.

SADHYA JI
(opening another box)
Pita ji kahte hain jo kheer nahin
khaata usne manushya yoni mein
janam lene ka poora faayda nahin
uthaaya.

DEVI
Nahin aap lijiye...

SADHYA JI
Hum toh lenge hi...lekin pitaji ne
khud banaayi hai. Aaj unka janamdin
hai!

Devi slides her chair forward and takes a couple of spoonfuls from Sadhya's box.

DEVI
Aap akele rahte hain?

SADHYA JI
Nahin. Hum pita ji ke saath rahte
hain. Pita ji akele rahte hain.

Devi looks confused. He adds...

SADHYA JI (CONT'D)
Matlab din mein akele rahte hain...

Devi nods and finishes the food. People are knocking on the counter gesturing break-time is over.

SADHYA JI (CONT'D)
Devi nahi Asht-bhuja Devi hona tha
aapko...ek saath 4-4 ticket chhaap
sakti thi...

Devi smiles mildly at this.

CUT TO:

120 EXT. BHADOHI RAILWAY STATION - DAY

Devi is looking for a cycle-rickshaw outside the railway station. Sadhya ji comes with his Honda Activa scooter.

SADHYA JI
Aap bus stand jaati hain na?

DEVI
Haan. Par main...

SADHYA JI
Hum ussi taraf ja rahe hain...

DEVI
Nahin main...

SADHYA JI
Ek mahina se aap daily jaa rahi
hain khud se...kabhi humne poochha
bhi? Aaj humein sach mein udhar
kaam hai...baithiye. Petrol jal
raha hai...

She sits on the backseat and he rides on.

CUT TO:

121 EXT. WINE SHOP - BHADOHI/ROAD - DAY

Devi is waiting with the scooter while Sadhya is buying liquor from a wine shop across the road. Devi is wrapping *dupatta* across her face.

Sadhya crosses the road and comes back with a brown paper bag.

SADHYA JI

Pitaa ji ka janamdin hai na...woh
kabhi kabhi peete hain...isiliye
humne kaha, idhar aana hi tha.

Puts the paper bag in the dicky, starts the scooter.

SADHYA JI (CONT'D)

Kabhi kabhi sochte hain pita ji ke
jaane ke baad naukri chhorh denge
aur desh ghoomenge. Bas train mein
chadhenge aur jahaan mann kiya utar
jaayenge.

DEVI

Uske liye naukri chhorhne ki kya
zaroorat hai? Har saal ki 20 casual
leave milti toh hain...

SADHYA JI

Yeh bhi sahi kaha! Asal mein har
saal sochte hain...par chhutti ek
mithya hai. Garmiyon mein wo zameen
pe paani dikhta hai na door..mrig-
trishna...bas wahi. Chhutti hamesha
bas 2-haath door dikhti hai.

Stops the scooter at a *moongphali thela*. Bus stand can be seen across the road. Devi gets down.

DEVI

Main chali jaaoungi...saamne hi hai
ab.

SADHYA JI

Ji ji...waise bhi yahaan se aaage
bada khateek-type traffic hai.
(to the moongphali waala)
100 gram dijiye...khasta ekdum! Aur
namak-chutni extra.

Devi crosses the road.

CUT TO:

122 INT./EXT. BUS - HIGHWAY - EVENING

Devi is sitting in the bus, in a pensive mood.

CUT TO:

123 INT. DEVI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

PATHAK is sitting on the floor, eating, and flicking TV channels on mute.

Devi comes with a *pateela* full of *kheer*. PATHAK is surprised.

DEVI

Bahut dinon se *kheer* nahin
banaayi...

PATHAK takes the plate silently, switches the TV off. Devi waits for him to finish. Then serves more.

PATHAK

Bas...ho gaya..

DEVI

Khaa lijiye...itni pasand toh hai
aapko!

Then gets up and takes out an envelope from her bag. It's a cheque. Puts it next to PATHAK's plate.

DEVI (CONT'D)

1 mahina ho gaya aaj. 16 hazaar
mile hain.

PATHAK looks at the cheque and finishes the *kheer*. A moment of silence.

PATHAK

Tum ghar chhorh ke jaana chaahti
ho?

No response from Devi.

PATHAK (CONT'D)

Hai na?

DEVI

Haan.

PATHAK waits for more.

DEVI (CONT'D)

Ye case nahin hota toh ab tak...
Main shaayad akele rahne ke liye
bani hoon.

(MORE)

DEVI (CONT'D)
 Allahabad University mein ek course
 hai...wo karne ka mann hai. Wahin
 kisi coaching mein kaam dhoondh
 loongi.

PATHAK

Hmmmm.

He takes out his diary and starts doing some calculation on it.

PATHAK (CONT'D)
 Abhi 3 Lakh mein se 1 hi hua hai.
 Bank mein 50 hazaar ki FD
 hai...tudwa lenge. Baaki 1.5 ka
 dekhna padega kahin se. Uske baad
 jahaan jaana hai chali jaana...

..and he breaks down saying this. Cries like a baby, with his feet stretched out sitting on the floor. Devi gets up, washes her hands, and comes close to him. Puts a hand on his shoulder and then hugs him gently. He curls up a bit in her lap and weeps.

CUT TO:

124 EXT. PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - DAY

It's a cold morning. PATHAK walks on to the ghaat. Spots Jhonta sleeping in the distance, all curled up.

Goes up to him and wakes him up. Jhonta sees PATHAK and starts walking away.

PATHAK

Ruko tani...

Jhonta keeps on walking.

PATHAK (CONT'D)
 Jaada nahin lagta raat mein?

Jhonta keeps on walking.

PATHAK (CONT'D)
 Mooh-haath dhulo...Ganga ji ko
 parnaam karo...aur chalo budhiya ke
 naashta karte hain!

Jhonta jumps into the river.

CUT TO:

125 EXT. BUDHIYA KI DUKAAN - DAY

PATHAK and Jhonta having *kachori-jalebi* naashta at Budhiya ki Dukaan.

PATHAK gesturing the shopkeeper to give one more *kachori* to Jhonta.

CUT TO:

126 INT. JEWELLER SHOP - VARANASI - DAY

Deepak is unwrapping the gold ring. It's wrapped in the Facebook Profile page of Shaalu.

Jeweler takes the ring inside for inspection. Deepak waits.

Jeweler comes out and gives him a figure on a piece of paper. Deepak thinks for a while and picks up the ring.

CUT TO:

SCENE 127 DELETED

128 EXT. HARISHCHANDRA GHAAT - NIGHT

Doctor is drinking with Dubey and VIKRAM Mallah. Deepak is sitting in the distance.

DOCTOR

Shambhu chacha pata kiye
hain...Lala sirf 90 hazaar diya
Sikandar ko...

DUBEY

Theek hai Doctor...sabka din firta
hai...tumhara bhi firega.

DOCTOR

Jhaant ukhaadne se murde ka wajan
kam nahin hotaa Dubey saab...ab kya
din firega, umar nikal gayi.
(looks at Deepak in the
distance, screams)
Ae Deepakwa...tumhaari bhi nikal
jaayegi yahin agni dete-dete...

Deepak is lost in his thoughts. He looks up at the house where his mother and *bhabhi* are sitting outside, looking at the ganges.

The ghat is quiet. Couple of workers in the distance laying some wood. Dubey leaves.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

(heavily drunk)

Tumhare Sanjay mama ek baar ek nabbe saal ki budhiya ka shav jala rahe they. Budhiya ke paas sone ka daant tha. Parivar walon ne bola nikalo isey. To Sanjay mama gaye, hathoda pel diye mooh mein. Jhatke se budhiya uth gayi. Saala daant nahin nikla. 6 mahine baad budhiya phir mari...phir uska laash aaya...Sanjay bola - nikaalein daant? Aur ghar waale boley - nahin bhai..mat nikaalo...amma ko aur na jhel paayenge!

Everybody laughs. Deepak is silent.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Aisa tamasha roj-roj jhel paoge tum bhosdi wale?

He starts belching and feeling dizzy. Deepak makes him sit upright. Deepak looks into his welling eyes.

He breaks down. Deepak holds him. He makes him lie down on the ghaat.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Kya kiye tum padh likh ke? Aur kya kiya Sikandar ghaat pe rah ke?

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Sikandar ki umar ke they...tab hum bhi sochte they bhaag jaayein... thoda jee lein.. kabhi nahin bhaag paaye. Aur tumko padhaaye..ki bhaag sako...aur tum yahin mara rahe ho...kaahe? Bhaago bhosdiwale, jaao... jaao yahan se.. Jaao, yahan kuch nahin hai murdon ke beech mein, jaao madarchod..

He starts crying and slapping Deepak. Deepak just takes it, without resisting. Doctor gets up and walks away. Deepak comes to the edge of the ghat. The sound of 'Raam naam satya hai' starts ringing in his ears. He takes a look at the ring, wrapped in Facebook page, looks at Shaalu's picture, becomes overwhelmed, and throws the ring and the paper in the river.

But instantly realizes what he has done and jumps in to try and find it.

Struggles for a bit in the dark and then keeps on swimming. Reaches the other end of the river, the small island in the middle of *Ganga*, and looks back at the *ghaats* he jumped from.

Everything looks distant, small, less intimidating from here. He could spot his father, the burning pyres, the faint light coming out of his house, but nothing is affecting him. He sits down there, staring at the river and the life at the other end.

DISSOLVE TO:

129 EXT. ACROSS HARISHCHANDRA GHAAT - EARLY MORNING

He is still looking at the river as the Sun rises behind him.

CUT TO:

130 EXT. GANGES - DAY

Deepak is crossing the river back in a boat. He looks calmer and sorted.

CUT TO:

131 INT. SETH KINARAM AGARWAL POLYTECHNIC MIRZAPUR/CLASSROOM - DAY

Deepak is at the placement office with Professor Karki who is helping him fill out a form.

CUT TO:

132 INT. DEEPAK'S HOUSE/ROOM- DAY

Deepak studying. Doctor and Shaanti pleased to see him get back to studying.

CUT TO:

133 INT. SETH KINARAM AGARWAL POLYTECHNIC MIRZAPUR/CLASSROOM - DAY

Deepak being interviewed by two sarkaari engineers. They put some papers in front of him to sign. One of them says 'Bas paan khila do achha sa ab!'

CUT TO:

134 EXT. RAILWAY TRACKS (ALLAHABAD) - DAY

Deepak working on track laying, holding a theodolite and giving instructions to manual laborers.

A train passes by and the small bridge shakes. Deepak looks at it and thinks of Shaalu. ("Tu kisi rail si guzarti hai" waali memory may be.)

CUT TO:

135 INT. DEEPAK'S ROOM (ALLAHABAD) - DAY

Deepak looking out of his small window on the 1st/2nd floor and talking on the phone.

DEEPAK
Haan...Babu...paise mil gaye they
na?

I/C

135 A EXT. HARISHCHANDRA GHAAT - DAY

DOCTOR
Haan...abhi itne ki jaroorat nahin
thi.

I/C

135 B INT. DEEPAK'S ROOM (ALLAHABAD) - DAY

DEEPAK
Humko bhi jaroorat nahin hai. Abhi
rehna khaana sab daftar se mil raha
hai.

I/C

135 C EXT. HARISHCHANDRA GHAAT - DAY

Doctor looks happy and contented.

DOCTOR
Mann lag raha hai na wahaan?

Deepak nods.

CUT TO:

136 EXT. PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - DAY

Huge crowd at the *ghaat*. Some cops are there too. The kids are lined up for diving. VIKRAM Mallah is collecting money while announcing.

VIKRAM
Aaj Faagun Purnima ka mauka
hai...aaj bada muqaabla hai...sabke
liye nahin hai...
(MORE)

VIKRAM (CONT'D)

Ye saara sikka paani mein pekhenge
aur Kam se kam 10 hazaar ka daav
lagaana rahega...aap akele nahi
laga sakte toh 3-4 log mil ke
lagaaiye...par 10 hazaar...10
hazaar...kam se kam. Aur chaar
minute ka samay hoga.

PATHAK is unsure whether to play or not. He goes up to
Jhonta.

PATHAK

Kya kahte ho?

Jhonta just nods assuring.

PATHAK hands over the money to VIKRAM. VIKRAM throws the
marked coins and blows the whistle. The kids dive.

The kids come up for breath every 30-40 seconds. Every time
Jhonta comes with his mouth filled with coins and drops them
on the ghaat, PATHAK pushes him back on. Jhonta is irritated
by PATHAK's desperation. People screaming names of kids.
Inside kids are working harder and faster than ever before.

The ghaat comes alive with loud noises like a boxing match as
the time gets over. VIKRAM blows a loud whistle and all the
boys come out one by one.

VIKRAM starts calling Jhonta's name but no response. VIKRAM
dives in and finds him unconscious. Brings him out and there
is commotion. They try to revive him but he doesn't come
back.

PATHAK panics and carries Jhonta on his back, running the
steps up, through the lanes, to the doctor's clinic.

CUT TO:

137 INT. DOCTOR'S CLINIC - DAY

PATHAK is sitting next to a lying Jhonta. Jhonta opens his
eyes and looks at PATHAK. PATHAK is looking very sad and
sorry.

JHONTA

Pandijji...aapke paise duba diye
maine.

PATHAK bends forward and hugs him. Jhonta is slightly
surprised by this show of emotion.

JHONTA (CONT'D)

(opens his mouth and takes
out a gold ring hidden
under his cheek)

Ye mila nadi mein.

PATHAK looks at the ring, curious.

CUT TO:

137A MONTAGE - VARIOUS PLACES - VARIOUS TIMES

138 INT. JEWELLRY SHOP 2 - DAY

- PATHAK at the jeweler shop.

CUT TO:

138 A INT. DEVI'S HOUSE/ROOM - DAY

- Devi looking at herself in the mirror, combing her hair.

CUT TO:

138 B EXT. ROAD - DAY

- PATHAK paying off the cop Mishra.

CUT TO:

138 C EXT. PANCHKOSHI GHAAT - DAY

- PATHAK reading *mantras*, as Jhonta's head is being shaved at the ghaat. Devi is taking his picture through her mobile phone.

CUT TO:

138 D INT. SADHYA JI'S HOUSE - DAY

- Sadhya ji cleaning his house.

CUT TO:

138 E EXT. BHADOHI GOVT. QUARTERS - DAY

- Devi getting off a rickshaw in Bhadohi and walking into a lane. Stopping outside a govt. quarter type house. It has an unkempt lawn outside with some fruit trees and lots of snake-gourd vines.

CUT TO:

138 F INT. SADHYA JI'S HOUSE - DAY

- Sadhya opening the door for Devi.

CUT TO:

138 G INT. SADHYA JI'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

- Sadhya's father cooking in the kitchen. Devi saying hello to him.

CUT TO:

138 H INT. SADHYA JI'S HOUSE - DAY

- Devi, Sadhya, and his father having *kheer* together at home.

CUT TO:

138 I EXT. BHADOHI SOUTH INDIAN RESTAURANT - DAY

- Devi sitting pillion on Sadhya's scooter and they stop in front of a restaurant.

CUT TO:

138 J INT. BHADOHI SOUTH INDIAN RESTAURANT - DAY

Devi and Sadhya having coffee at a small restaurant.

SADHYA JI

Toh aapne faisla kar liya hai?

Devi is checking the menu.

DEVI

Haan. Uttapam.

Sadhya smiles. Calls the waiter with a wave.

SADHYA JI

Ek Uttapam aur ek rava dosa.

(then to Devi)

Hum dosey ka faisla nahi poochh rahe they.

DEVI

(realizing)

Oh. Haan...faisla kar liya hai.

She sips on the coffee. Looks at a group of college kids at the table across the room. They are celebrating a birthday.

She looks at one of the guys, whose birthday is being celebrated, who looks mildly like Piyush. She turns her gaze back to Sadhya. Slight discomfort on Devi's face.

SADHYA JI

Sab mitron ke circle mein ek dost
aisa hota hai naa jise sab gyaani
maante hain...intellectual...

DEVI

Hmmm.

SADHYA JI

Humaare circle mein...college ke
dinon mein...wo gyaani hum they.
Aur sab humse apni samasya ka hal
maangte they.

DEVI

Achha? Main toh Sarita mein
'Paathakon ki Samasya' waala panna
padh padh ke hi apne hal dhoondhti
rahi.

SADHYA JI

Aur hum sabko yahi kahte they...jo
dil mein hai, wo bata do. Chhupa ke
rakhne se anda milega anda.

Now he looks straight into Devi's eyes. Devi is also not avoiding the gaze.

SADHYA JI (CONT'D)

Toh ab jab aap jaa rahi hain...toh
hum apne andar ke intellectual ki
baat maan kar aapko kah hi dete
hain jo mann mein hai.

Devi suddenly feeling unsure of herself. She looks at the group of college kids giving birthday bumps to Piyush-look-alike. The boy is screaming in pain. Friends holding his hands and legs and kicking him ruthlessly. Devi is watching all this and becomes very uncomfortable.

DEVI

(Panting and pretending to
be calm)

Mujhe jaana hai.

Sadhya looks at her with a cold sigh. Offers her a glass of water. She shakes her head.

SADHYA JI

Sahi hai. Ramdev ji bhi kahte hain
khaane ke turant baad paani nahi
peena chaahiye.

DEVI
 (about to go, turns back
 and says with genuine
 empathy)
 Sorry.

CUT TO:

139 INT. DEVI'S HOUSE - DAY

Devi is packing her bags at home. She picks up the still wrapped gift from Piyush and puts it safely in her bag. PATHAK is watching her from the kitchen.

He comes with tea and sooji ka halwa. Devi eats it silently.

CUT TO:

140 INT. BHADOHI RAILWAY STATION/TICKET OFFICE - DAY

Sadhya ji is issuing tickets. The adjacent seat is occupied by a new person, a man of around 32-years of age.

A train arrives and Sadhya ji looks at it.

CUT TO:

141 INT. VARANASI CANTT RAILWAY STATION/TRAIN - DAY

Devi is in the train. PATHAK carrying Jhonta in his arms - both waving bye to her as the train moves.

CUT TO:

142 INT. ALLAHABAD UNIVERSITY CLASSROOM- DAY

Devi is sitting in a lecture. Taking notes diligently.

CUT TO:

143 INT. PG ACCOMMODATION IN ALLAHABAD - DAY

Devi is in her small room. Looking out of the window at the traffic in the distance. She opens her bag and finds Piyush's file. Puts Piyush's files in a polythene bag.

CUT TO:

144 EXT. ALLAHABAD UNIVERSITY - DAY

Devi is at a bus stop right across the university. She attempts calling Ramdhari Agarwal.

But cuts the call even before he picks. Still uncomfortable about dealing with the truth.

She thinks for a bit and calls another number.

I/C

144 A INT. TRAIN - DAY

Sadhya ji, inside a moving long-distance train, 2nd sleeper compartment picks the call.

DEVI

Sadhya ji? Devi...

SADHYA JI

Arre Devi ji...aho-bhaagya...aapne ekdum sahi samay par yaad kiya!

DEVI

Achha? Kaise?

SADHYA JI

Wo ab baad mein bataayenge...pahle ye bataaiye aap settle ho gayin Allahabad mein?

DEVI

Haan...isliye socha aapko khabar kar doon. Ab bataaiye kyon sahi samay par phone kiya maine?

SADHYA JI

Arre itne saalon se khud ko kah rahe they ki ek din train mein chadh jaayenge aur kahin door ghoom ke aayenge...lekin jab yeh baat aapko kah diye tabse lagne laga ab kar lena chaahiye. Toh aaj humne mrig-trishna ko pakad hi liya...ab jis chhutanke station par achhi chaai milegi wahin utar jaayenge!

Sadhya's joy is infectious and Devi is very happy to hear this.

DEVI

Arre waah...sach mein! Kitna achha lag raha hoga na?

SADHYA JI

Arre bas param-anand bemisaal mil raha hai. Aap bhi kabhi kijiye...jo bahut din se socha ho. Aise lagta hai ki naya janam mila ho.

Devi goes in her thoughts as Sadhya's train goes through a beautiful jungle.

CUT TO:

145 EXT. HOUSING LANE/RAMDHARI AGARWAL HOUSE - DAY

Devi standing in a middle-class housing lane, looking at a house. The name plate reads Ramdhari Agarwal. Lonely street, eerily silent except for the odd bird sound.

With shaking hands, she opens the door. Walks through the lawn and reaches the door. Presses the door bell. Waits for a million seconds before it opens. A lady (Piyush's mother) opens the door. We see Devi's face, trying to introduce herself.

In an extreme long shot, we see Devi being slapped repeatedly by the mother. The father comes to the door bewildered, and then she is dragged inside sympathetically by the father and angrily by the mother.

CUT TO:

SCENE 145 A DELETED

146 EXT. HOUSING LANE/RAMDHARI AGARWAL HOUSE - DAY

Devi comes out of the house, her hair dishevelled and face full of dried up tears. She looks relieved and unburdened.

CUT TO:

147 EXT. SANGAM ALLAHABAD - DAY

Deepak is sitting on the ghaat. Sunset is about to happen.

Devi walks in and sits a few steps behind Deepak.

Deepak throws a stone in water and it jumps twice.

Both are looking at the Sunset. A boatman, with his boat parked right in front, calls out.

BOATMAN

Raja Ghaat...Raja
Ghaat...boating...?
Haan...madam...Raja Ghaat?

DEVI

Kitna logey?

BOATMAN
 50 rupaya...
 (he then looks at Deepak)
 Haan bhai...Raja Ghat? 50
 rupaya...aao...

Devi looks at Deepak for the first time.

DEEPAK
 30 theek hai...

BOATMAN
 Chalo 70 mein donon
 ka...aao...baitho.

Deepak looks at Devi and she shrugs. Both get in the boat.

CUT TO:

148 EXT. GANGES/ALLAHABAD/BOAT - EVENING

Devi is sitting at the edge of the boat. Deepak is looking away.

The boatman is rowing and both are looking at the sunset.

DEEPAK
 Aapko bhi...suryaast dekhna pasand
 hai?

DEVI
 Haan.

DEEPAK
 Parson bhi dekha tha aapko isi
 ghaat pe. Shaam ko.

Devi doesn't respond, just nods lightly. Takes out the wrapped gift and lets it float into Ganga. As it goes away, she stifles a sob. She is crying and avoids being seen by Deepak and the boatman. Deepak takes a water bottle from the boat and fills it with water from the river. He gives it to her. She washes her face and composes herself. She thanks him in a nod.

DEEPAK (CONT'D)
 Aap fansi-fansi si lag rahi hain.

Devi sighs. Shakes her head in denial.

DEEPAK (CONT'D)
 Thode din pahle hum bhi aise hi
 they...

DEVI
 Phir kya kiya?

DEEPAK
Ganga ji mein kood gaye...! Sab
dhul gaya.

This makes her smile a bit. Deepak looks at Devi's face in
transient light.

DEEPAK (CONT'D)
Allahabad pahli baar aayi hain?

DEVI
Haan. Aur aap?

DEEPAK
Doosri baar. Waise kisi ne kaha hai
Sangam 2 baar aana chaahiye..ek
baar akele, ek baar kisi ke saath.

She thinks about it and smiles. Both look towards the
approaching ghaat. Devi jumps out first, and as Deepak is
about to jump off, the boat hits a rock and gives a strong
jerk. Deepak is about to lose his balance but Devi gives him
a hand.

CUT TO: BLACK
SCREEN