

ARTICLE 15

Written by

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1 **EXT. PADDY FIELD - NIGHT**

OPENING CREDITS softly fade in and out.

FADE IN:

Somewhere in Rural India. It is raining. In the middle of a large expanse of a waist high crop, a yellow thirty seater school bus with one working headlight lazily crawls aimlessly by the crops. The bus is the only moving object within miles. TIGHT CLOSE UP on a fourteen year old girl. Bruised. Her face clenched tightly by a strong hand. Her eyes beg for mercy as she groans out of breath. Slowly, the face pulled almost out of the frame. Just the way the back of her head in the frame moves we know she is being kissed mercilessly as her muted scream pleads for help. AND THEN he lets go of the face. Her mouth bitten and wet. She wipes her face and SUDDENLY a hard slap across her face falls her down on the floor. She crawls away rapidly to the end of the bus. Another girl cowers in fear there. There is a third one lying on the seat. Her feet in PINK SLIPPERS hang out of the seat she lies on.

WIDE SHOT. This bus is a CAGE with no way out for them. CUT BACK OUTSIDE. The bus keeps moving aimlessly. A SCARECROW gets drenched out in the open.

FADE TO BLACK.

2 **FADE IN 'ARTICLE 15'**

Opening Credits Continue.

Chorus claps fade in. Night. It pours around a small improvised home school in a village with a hand painted text 'Rama Bai Primary School, Harimanpur'. Gaura, a 28 year old dusky and stunningly attractive young girl from the village leads a chorus at the Chaupal outside the school. Five other students with her sing a revolutionary folk about equality in a society. Elder ones sit around and clap and try to keep up with the chorus. Dr Ambedkar's Statue out in the rain. Fenced pigs huddled under an insufficient roof. And Faces around Gaura. Some innocent, some resolute and some just plain happy with the music.

FADE IN:

FINAL CREDIT

FADE OUT

3 **EXT. EXPRESS HIGHWAY - DAY**

After a few beats of silence and black screen guitar and a mouth organ fade in. It is Bob Dylan singing 'Blowin in the wind'

FADE IN:

Today's eight lane expressway. A Police staff car with a blue beacon changes lanes and exits in to a local highway. The car appears more significant now. After a while the car takes another turn and enters quintessential rural India. Fields on either side and an unpaved road through them. The car drives through the expanse leaving a dust trail behind.

CHANDRA BHAN (O.S.)

Sir, jab Ram Chandra ji Ayodhya laut rahey thay, toh raaste ke sab gaanv waalon ne unke swagat mein diye jalaaye thay. Parantu..ek gaanv mein andhera tha. Ram chandra ji bhagwaan ne isko notice kiya sir. Gaadi rukwaai, poochha ki bhai andhera kyun hai? Why darkness? Toh gaanv waalon ne kaha ki sir, diye toh humne bhi jalaaye thay..par ek Aandhi aayi aur sab diye bujh gaye. Lekin humne dekha ki humara andhera hone se aapka mehal ab aur bhi sundar chamak raha hai. Toh humne sir, diye bujhe hi rehne diye.

INSIDE Ayan in formals types a message on his phone as the local FM radio plays out Bob Dylan's 'Blowin' in the wind'. Ayan, with his boot fiddles with the A/C vent meant for the rear seats. A small battery operated fan fixed by the window barely manages to reach Ayan. CHANDRABHAN, 48, a uniformed driver drives the car and NIHAL SINGH, 34, a security guard is in the passenger seat poker faced.

4 **INT. CAR|RURAL HIGHWAY|DELHI - DAY**

Ayan looks at the landscape outside.

AYAN RANJAN (V.O.)

Countryside India is so beautiful Aditi. Delhi ki saari oxygen yahin aa gayi hai shayad.

IN A PLUSH APARTMENT IN DELHI, Aditi, 26 an elegant beautiful girl surrounded by several newspapers is reading one with her tea, while a maid sweeps the floor. She picks up her mobile and reads the message.

THE CAR DRIVES PAST A COCA COLA ADVERT ON A LARGE WALL, IN FRONT OF IT A MAN CARRIES TWO BUCKETS OF WATER.

Suddenly Ayan notices a small tea stall.

AYAN RANJAN

Hang on a sec.. Arey Chandra Bhan..
Rukna ek minute.. Zara ek bottle
bisleri le lo yahan se.

Chandrabhan, the driver, pulls over right in front of the stall a few meters down on the side. Nihal Singh, the gunner, is extra quiet.

CHANDRA BHAN

Sahab ye pasiyon ka gaaon hai.

AYAN RANJAN

Toh?

CHANDRA BHAN

Chhoti jaat hai Sir, Schedule
Caste. Soor palte hain. Hum log
paani bhi nahin peete yahan. Touch
bhi allowed nahin hai Sir. Parchaai
tak allowed nahin hai.. Shadow Sir.

Ayan steps out of the car and the Security guard Nihal Singh jumps out right behind him. Nihal is halfway between the car and the tea stall, unsure if he should still get the water. The people at the tea stall are overawed too looking at the visitors. Ayan gives Nihal a hundred rupee note.

AYAN RANJAN

Le aaiye.

And he types another message while Chandrabhan and Nihal go to get some water for him. Ayan notices the people at the stall look at him in complete awe.

AYAN RANJAN (V.O.)

Funny place. Mera driver bol raha
hai ki shadow bhi allowed nahi hai
inn logon ki. Scheduled caste gaon!

ADITI (TYPES V.O.)

Funny kya hai? Bartan toh hamaari
moms bhi alag hi rakhti thi maids
ke kuchh saal pehle tak.

She smiles at this.

AYAN RANJAN (V.O.)

And they are looking at me like
Britishers wapas aa gaye.

5 **EXT. CITY CENTER - EVENING-DAY**

Ayan in his car on the Highway reads her message.

ADITI (V.O.)

(smiles)

Thats right in a way! Welcome to
Page 7, India. Mister Mountbatten.

AYAN RANJAN (V.O.)

Haan haan Page 7 India bhi hoga
baba but utna nahin jitna lagta hai
tumhein...

ADITI (V.O.)

lo phir shuru ho gaye hum.

Just before entering Lalgaaon, they drive past an under-
construction site.

CHANDRABHAN

Yahan se right jayenge Sir toh
Ayodhya, seedhe Lucknow aur left pe
highway seedhe kalkatta.

AYAN RANJAN

Kafi construction chal raha hai
idhar. Koi mall vall ban raha hai
kya?

CHANDRA BHAN

Nahi sir, Mahant Ji ka ashram hai.

Ayan's car passes through the town square now. This is really
a small district. Small shops, mostly pedestrians, bicycles,
two wheelers and depravity subtly scattered all around.

6 **INT. AYAN RESIDENCE - EVENING-DAY**

The car pulls over inside the residence. It is a mid sized
colonial structure. As Ayan gets out of the car he is greeted
by roughly a dozen cops. Most stay away. Only four of them
are within conversational proximity. They salute and Ayan
salutes them back.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Circle Officer Brahmaddatt Singh
Sir.

Jatav, Sukkha and Brahmaddatt announce their names and ranks
and Brahmaddatt presents Ayan with a small bouquet on their
behalf. Meanwhile two orderlies have started to carry his
baggage from the boot in to the house. A young fourteen year
old girl appears through the door

BRAHMADATT SINGH (CONT'D)

Sir ye Nihal Singh ki younger
sishter hai if you don't mind.
Bahut badhiya khana banati hai.
Aapki sewa ke liye laga diya hai in
fact.

Nihal Singh is still quiet as if he wasn't mentioned at all.
By now Ayan has taken off his jacket. He hands it over to
Amla who rushes into the house.

BRAHMADATT SINGH (CONT'D)

Are Amali beta, chay bana sahab ke
liye, teri special wali. Aap fresh
ho lijiye Sir. Aapke Swagat mein SP
sahab ne ayojan rakha hai in fact
ki unke jaane se pehle aap sabse
mil bhi lenge.

ANSHU NAHARIA, 29, a lean boy followed by four workers comes
around the house from the rear. If not for his floral shirt
Anshu would be a completely nondescript boy. He stops a few
meters away from Ayan with folded hands. The workers even
further away from him.

ANSHU NAHARIA

Namaskar sir! Welcome to Lalgaaon!

Ayan turns to him. Anshu quickly moves forward to touch
Ayan's feet, the workers still with their folded hands look
at him in reverence.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Ye Anshu Naharia Sir. Sammanit
contractor hain. Idhar ke kaafi
sarkari contract sambhalte hain in
fact. Roadways, Railway.

ANSHU NAHARIA

Toilet ka repairing ka kuchh kaam
tha toh humne kaha ki naya hi bana
dete hain.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Bade achche achche shauchalay
banaaye hain Anshu bhaiya ne
pichhle saal bhar mein.

There is something about this boy and Ayan notices that. He
is irreverent yet respectful.

7

INT. AYAN'S CAR/AYAN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Tight close up on a small town ghazal singer. Almost in tune
but the Urdu pronunciations are all over the place. Some cops
are seated in the plastic chairs in front of an improvised
stage with their families. Some children play around.

They have no interest in anything but the Coca Cola and the food. Ayan's car drives into the office behind Brahmatt's jeep. Ayan has freshened up. He is in a suit and a tie now. As Ayan gets out the car, MAYANK, 27, his PA, greets him.

MAYANK

Hello sir, I am Mayank. Your PA.

Ayan shakes his hand.

AYAN RANJAN

Hi Mayank..

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Sir aapki Singal Molt ka information inhone hi diya tha aapka facebook dekh ke..

MAYANK

Instagram Sir.

Ayan amused at the unequal digital education as he walks towards the people mostly in uniform, they approach Ayan to welcome him. SP SUBODH LAL appears at his office door.

SUBODH LAL

Aao bhai Ayan. So good to see you before I leave.

AYAN RANJAN

Same here sir.

Brahmadatt pours single malt for Ayan.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Welcome welcome welcome Sir..

In a corner, two drunk men are watching the stage performance oblivious of everything else. One of them is savoring the ghazal while the other looks at his friend baffled because he doesn't understand Urdu.

GHAZAL SINGER (O.S.)

(recites)

Wo na aayein toh sataati hai
khalish si dil ko..Wo jo aayein toh
khalish aur jawaa'n hoti hai..

MAN 1

(overwhelmed)

Aaye haaye haaye..

(translates again)

And when she comes, when she
comes....pain becomes younger!

The second man is more confused now. Meanwhile:

SP SUBODH LAL

(to Ayan)

Tumhare dad ko main follow karta hoon. I am a fan of his book.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Writer hain sir aapke pitaji?

SP SUBODH LAL

Are very senior IFS officer. Abhi retire hue to Kitab likhi ek. Kamaal. Bade vidwaan aadmi ke bete ke saath baithe hain hum log Brahmaddatt ji.

(to Ayan)

Mera khayaal aapki saari education toh bahar hi hui hogi?

AYAN RANJAN

Ji but Graduation Delhi se ki hai. St Stephans. Dad ne ek din bas bol diya ki ho gaya tera Europe, ab wapas chal India.

SP SUBODH LAL

Aur first posting Lalgaon?

AYAN RANJAN

(Leans over to whisper jokingly)

Punishment mila hai sir.

SP SUBODH LAL

Kyun? Kisi se jhagda ho gaya tha?

AYAN RANJAN

Nahi sir, pyaar mohabbat mein hi ho gaya. Shastri sir ko COOL SIR bol diya tha.

SP can't hold his laughter.

SP SUBODH LAL

Shastri ji ko?

Ayan nods as SP continues to laugh uncontrollably. Brahmaddatt doesn't get the joke completely but he laughs too.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

(to a junior officer)

Madan Mohan Shastri. Secretary sahab.

SP SUBODH LAL

Tumne Shastri ji ko COOL SIR bola?

AYAN RANJAN

Passing out party thi Sir, unhone kuchh bola toh maine bol diya, COOL SIR..

SP SUBODH LAL

Phir kya bole wo?

AYAN RANJAN

Chup rahe 2 second..phir bole..COOL!

SP SUBODH LAL

Phir toh bhai 7-8 mahine to ab tumko rehna hi padega idhar.

Ayan notices a man in another corner drinking with other officers. He is surprised.

AYAN RANJAN

Ye Satyendra..

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Satyendra Rai hain. Aap jaante hain inhe?

AYAN RANJAN

Dost tha mera Dilli mein. Prelims ki taiyyari saath ki thi humne.

Ayan walks towards him excited. Brahmadatt follows him.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Achha ye IAS bhi diye thay? Yahaan pollution control board mein zonal officer hain.

Satyendra is drunk. Ayan pats his shoulder. Satyendra turns and it takes him a moment to acknowledge that he recognizes Ayan. Satyendra is expressionless. Ayan was expecting a much more enthusiastic response.

BRAHMADATT SINGH (CONT'D)

Pehchan rahe hain na inko? Inhi ki party ki madira pee rahe hain aap.

SATYENDRA RAI

Pehchaana na yaar. Badhaai ho.
Additional sahab.
(a beat)
Main milta hoon.

He suddenly turns to leave. Ayan keeps looking at him surprised.

AYAN RANJAN

Achcha dost tha mera.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

JNU mein the na ye toh?

A loud voice interrupts them. Somebody is shouting outside the office.

OFFICER 1(O.C.)

Maine uthayi hai kya? Maine uthayi hain?

Brahmadatt walks away to check.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Arey yaar phir aa gaye!

A small group of people is sitting in front of the office. Some 5-6 villagers squatting with folded hands. SP Subodh Lal appears again.

SP SUBODH LAL

Main nikalta hoon bhai Ayan. Subah 5 baje ki flight hai. Ab sab tumhara. Welcome to Lalgaon.

AYAN RANJAN

Sir.

SP leaves. The only woman among the villagers is GAURA, 26. She is half hidden but stares at Ayan from a distance. She is not folding hands like others. Ayan is intrigued by her as he types a message for Aditi.

AYAN RANJAN (TYPES V.O.) (CONT'D)

Shastri ji se koi jugaad lagana padega Aditi. Ye jagah toh Bollywood ki 70s ki film hai.

Brahmadatt returns.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Kya hua?

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Arey sir..aap enjoy kijiye sir.

AYAN RANJAN

Kaun hain ye log?

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Sir paas ke ek gaanv se hain. Janwaron ka chamda nikal ke bhai Sahab ki factory mein bechte hain.

AYAN RANJAN

Problem kya hai?

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Sir inka roz ka hai sir. In fact do din se bol rahe hain ki teen ladkiyan gayab hain gaaon se.

AYAN RANJAN

FIR ho gayi?

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Sir poochh taachh chal rahi hai in fact..

SI JATAV

Inki ladkiyan bhaag jaati hain Sir, phir wapas aa jaati hain. Inke yahan aisa sab hi hota hai sir.

A sepoy brings a plate of bhajiyas and places next to Jatav.

AYAN RANJAN

Thana kaun sa padta hai?

SI JATAV

Yahi hai Sir.

Ayan picks up a bhajiya from Jatav's plate.

SI JATAV (CONT'D)

(instantly)

Nahi nahi sir..nahi, rakh deejiye.Hamari plate se mat leejiye.

Ayan is taken aback.

SI JATAV (CONT'D)

Aapke liye doosra mangwaate hain sir.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

(calls out)

Arey sir ke liye mungauri laaiye na kuchh.

Suddenly Ayan notices an inebriated Satyendra Rai struggling with his motorcycle. He is trying to kickstart it and he will lose his balance any moment. Ayan bites in to the mungauri and rushes towards him trying to take the bike from him.

AYAN RANJAN

Chal main chhod deta hun Satyendra.

Satyendra looks at him in disbelief.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Bike bhi nahin chalayi kabse!

Satyendra resists. Seeing this development Ayan's staff runs helter-skelter to handle this potential situation where the boss might leave on a motorbike.

8 **EXT. LALGAON ROAD - NIGHT**

Ayan drives through the deserted road as Satyendra barely manages to sit and keep his eyes open.

SATYENDRA RAI

(Slurs)

Mehnat toh bahut ki yaar humne
bhi..par tera badhiya ho gaya yaar.
Hum jaante thay ki tum toh beta
clear kar hi loge.

SUDDENLY A man comes running out of nowhere and runs right past them. Ayan screeches to a stop. The car behind them pulls over too. Nihal jumps out when another chasing man comes running in with a knife in hand. Seeing the car and the bike he gets a sense of the situation and begins to run back. Nihal gives him a chase and grabs him by his neck at a little distance. Satyendra is mighty amused.

SATYENDRA

Jyada ho gayi iski...

At a distance Nihal finishes slapping the guy and comes back with the knife.

NIHAL

Sir wo halwai ka ladka tha, sabzi
kaatne ka chaaku hai.

Ayan lets the evening sink in incredulously.

9 **EXT. SATYENDRA'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Ayan pulls over followed by his car at a little distance. Satyendra is in better control now.

SATYENDRA

Humko toh laga tha ki tum
pehchaanoge ki nahin.

AYAN RANJAN

(Pulls the bike over the
stand)

Arre kyon nahin pehchanunga?

SATYENDRA

Aditi kaisi hai? Abhi bhi firangi
bulati hai tumko?

AYAN RANJAN

Ha ha ha.. bulaati nahin hai par maanti hai..Achchi hai. Achcha kaam kar rahi hai. Human rights, gender equality. Articles bhi chhapne lage hain ab toh uske. Baat hoti rehti hai.

SATYENDRA

(Surprised)

Baat hoti rehti hai???? Matlab??

AYAN RANJAN

Kuchh nahin yaar...aajkal behes zyada karte hain hum! usko lagta hai main aaj bhi wahi college waala boyfriend hi hun..

SATYENDRA

Suno Aditi ko jaane mat dena beta, Waisi ladki ek hi milti hai life mein...

Suddenly Satyendra's wife Archana, 34, fully pregnant, opens the door.

AYAN RANJAN

(Respectfully folds his hands)

Namaste Bhabhi, main Ayan

SATYENDRA

Arey Archana jaan rahi hai.. Tumko aa gaya aawaz..?

AYAN RANJAN

Chalta hun.. Kal milte hain..

He begins to leave and Satyendra calls him out.

SATYENDRA

Arey suno beta..

Ayan turns to look at him.. Satyendra walks towards him to hug him.

SATYENDRA (CONT'D)

Abey gale to mile hi nahin bey hum log.

They hug.

AYAN RANJAN

(In the hug)

Apni krantikaari kavitaayein likh rahe ho ki nahin?

SATYENDRA

Kavitaon se kranti hui nahin toh ab
daaru peete hain. Andar jal ke
khatam ho jaata hai saala sab.

They keep looking at each other.

10

EXT. MANGO TREE, HARIMANPUR - DAY

An unpaved path through the paddy fields. Like the one we saw in the prologue. Twenty scantily clothed children run behind something. IT IS AYAN'S CAR. The car takes a right turn and a large group of people stand there looking at something ominous. Some Police jeeps and a lot of cops. Brahmaddatt tears through the crowd towards the car that has just come to a halt. Ayan gets out of the car and is immediately received by Brahmaddatt. What Ayan sees is something he hasn't seen before and hopes to never see again. He is transfixed as Brahmaddatt says things that don't matter to him in this moment.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Sorry Sir Subah Subah...Raat ko bhi
late soye honge aap.

What Ayan sees ten meters away is TWO FIFTEEN YEAR OLD GIRLS HANGING FROM A Mango TREE. We have seen them before in the bus. The tree is surrounded by close to a hundred people. There are women wailing in one corner. Men in different groups talk, argue. There is utter confusion as Three cops try to climb the tree to lower the bodies. There are some who do not want the body lowered for reasons of their own. As Ayan moves closer to the bodies, things quieten down.

BRAHMADATT SINGH (CONT'D)

Photos le li hain Sir in fact.

AYAN RANJAN

Ye wahi ladkiyan hain jinke log
aaye hue the kal..

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Ji sir..12 taareekh se.

One of the cops has made it to the trunk that the girls hang from. He carefully begins to untie the rope. A little noise begins again. Mostly Cops instructing each other.

BRAHMADATT SINGH (CONT'D)

Cousin thin dono. Teesri bhi inki
friend thi..isi gaanv ki. Gaon wale
bol rahe hain in fact ki inn dono
ka relationship tha.

Ayan looks at him.

BRAHMADATT SINGH (CONT'D)

Samlaingik. Donon ke baap ne mil ke latka diya.

AYAN RANJAN

(to Brahmadatt)

Accept..confess kiya unhone ?

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Miley naheen hain sir abhi, dhoondh rahey hain.

AYAN RANJAN

Bayan kisne diya ?

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Abhi nahin Sir, de denge..

AYAN RANJAN

Aur teesri bachchi?

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Abhi kuchh pata nahi sir..

There are clearly two sets of people there. The Police and the villagers. Both intrigued by each other. Ayan certainly doesn't belong here and keeps looking at them until he spots Gaura again who is tightly holding a wailing woman, probably the mother of one of the dead bodies being lowered. Ayan and Gaura's look exchange. The cops are a bunch of untrained mob. They try to lower the bodies as if a sofa set was being lowered from the fifth floor of a building in Bombay. Utter chaos. No respect for the dead or the evidence. Everyone barking instructions with no one following any. Jatav is sitting on the trunk struggling with the knot, they are wondering if the knot at the tree trunk should be opened or the one around their necks.

COP

Arey Jatav ji gaanth hi nahin khul raha hai aapse.

JATAV

Body oopar kheench ke gardan waala kholne ka try karte hain

COP

Bey.. Oopar kheenchiyega to kholiyega kaise?

JATAV

Toh kaat dein kya rassi?

COP

Phir giregi bhadd se neeche...Physics nahin samajhte hain kya?

Ayan incredulously looks at both of them while the chaos by the tree continues.

11 **I/E. AYAN'S CAR/ROAD - DAY - MINUTES LATER**

Ayan is a bit disturbed as he talks to Aditi on the phone. The car has to stop at a railway crossing. Ayan steps out of the car. Nihal follows suit but Ayan gestures him to stay. He is now surrounded by life he has never experienced before. The other side of the road is being constructed. Labourers - mostly women and underage boys and girls - are working with half-naked kids roaming and playing around. Nobody is worried about their safety. Cars, trucks and the world can hit them any moment. It looks like all of them stay and sleep there itself. Two fully clothed girls taking a bath by a hand pump. A woman carries a big basket on her head with an infant tied around her chest. Idling engines et al. Everyone at peace with who and where they are.

IN DELHI, Aditi is in her car at a traffic light. There is another world around her. Very different, but similar.

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AYAN RANJAN

Fuck man. Bachchiyan hain. Fucking fifteen. Ek abhi bhi missing hai. Wild wild west.

Suddenly Aditi goes quiet.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Hello??? You there???

ADITI

Haan..wo last week Rajasthan mein bhi ek ladki ki body mili thi. Sikar.

(MORE)

ADITI (CONT'D)

Rape hi lag raha tha par kuchh log
honour killing bol rahe thay. Ye
bhi dalit hain?

AYAN RANJAN

Hmmm.. haan..

ADITI

Ye news upar kyon nahin chhapti GDP
headline ke sath?

AYAN RANJAN

Chhapti toh hai Aditi. Remember the
Nirbhaya outrage?

ADITI

Haan but lalgaon ki kyun nahi
chhapti, sikar ki kyun nahi chhapti
front page pe?

AYAN RANJAN

But why should you decide about
lalgaon? Investigation hoga tab
pata chalega na? Sab logon ke lagne
se rape publish kar denge kya?
There is a book of law.

ADITI

Does it care about justice?

AYAN RANJAN

Aditi, ye PhD nahi kar sakta na
main ispe. Main tumse kuchh aur bol
raha hoon.

ADITI

Haan..Tum system ki bhasha bol rahe
ho Ayan.

AYAN RANJAN

(annoyed)

Toh honour killing nahi hoti kya?
And I am just doing my job.

(sighs)

Mujhe laga ki I can share with
you..but tumhe moderation mein kuch
chahiye hi nahi..tumhe activist bhi
chahiye, law bhi chahhiye, tumhe
hero chahiye Aditi.

ADITI

Hero nahi chahiye Ayan. Bas aise
log chahiye jo Hero ka wait na
karein.

The train is crossing now. Bigger than them all. LOUD. Ayan
is deeply disturbed.

FLASH CUTS to the close-ups of the hanging girls. Their faces. Their feet. Blank faces of the onlookers and some amused kids at a distance.

13 **EXT. MANGO TREE, HARIMANPUR - MINUTES LATER - DAY**

Brahmadatt under another tree talks to some villagers. The rest of the village has been pushed back by a few meters. The two dead bodies have been brought down. An ambulance backs up closer to the bodies. The 'reverse gear music' plays on, absolutely unmindful of the situation.

14 **I/E. AYAN'S OFFICE - DAY**

Ayan's car stops in the drive in. Ayan gets out almost in a trance. Behind Ayan, SI Jatav steps out of his jeep. SI Jatav joins him. Amidst salutes aplenty Ayan is led in to his cabin. Mayank too breezes in.

SI JATAV

Sir residence se phone tha, ghar se
khana aayega kya? Waise aaj hum
logon ne aap ke liye canteen se
litti chokha bhi mangwaya hai sir.

Ayan almost doesn't hear the question. He is probably still there in that moment by the mango tree.

AYAN RANJAN

Theek hai.

Jatav doesn't understand which option he wants. Ayan enters the office. Jatav is a step behind him.

MAYANK

(whispers to SI Jatav)
Dono manga lijiye Jatav ji, phir
dekhte hain.

Jatav enters behind Ayan. Mayank stays out. Ayan looks around the room and slumps in his chair.

SI JATAV

(hesitating)
Sir Pramod aur Mishra ko bhej dun
Briefing ke liye?

Ayan doesn't respond. The ceiling fan is making a squeaking sound. Suddenly:

AYAN RANJAN

(loud)
Mayank! Mayank!

Mayank rushes in.

MAYANK

Yes sir.

AYAN RANJAN

(angry)

Ye pankha itni aawaz kyun kar raha hai?

AAKASH

Main karaata hoon sir, karaata hoon.

Mayank stops for a moment contemplating if Ayan has something more to say and then leaves.

AYAN RANJAN

(to SI Jatav)

FIR kyun nahi likhi thi?

SI JATAV

Sir wo itna serious laga nahi tha sir..

AYAN RANJAN

(cuts in)

Kab lagta hai itna serious?

SI JATAV

Sir inn logon ke jhoothe case bhi bahut aate hain sir. Janwari mein ek ladka bhaag gaya tha ghar se. Inke kehne pe kidnapping ki FIR likhi li thi humne. Poore mahine inn logon ne..

AYAN RANJAN

Kin logon ne?

He stares at Jatav sharply. Jatav looks down and doesn't say anything. A beat. Ayan takes a deep breath.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

(restless)

Teesri ladki ka FIR karwaao. ABHI.

SI JATAV

Sir

Mayank has returned.

AYAN RANJAN

Aur Pramod ko..aur wo kya naam hai..

SI JATAV

Mishra.

AYAN RANJAN

Bhejo dono ko.

SI JATAV

Sir..

He rushes out. A beat. We stay on Ayan's face. He looks disturbed and earnest.

15 **I/E. GOVT HOSPITAL LALGAON - DAY**

The Ambulance is parked in front of a dilapidated Government Hospital. Ward boys carry the bodies inside.

Ward boys carry the body inside the mortuary. Four cops oversee this. Among them is SUKKHA SINGH whose phone rings as DR MALTI, 32, supervises the proceedings in the background.

16 **EXT. AYAN'S OFFICE | HOSPITAL EXTERIOR - DAY**

Brahmadatt gets out of his jeep as it reaches the office. He is talking to Sukkha Singh on the phone. Some dogs come running to Brahmadatt.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Doctor Sahab hain samne? Baat karwao.

SUKKHA SINGH

Awdhesh Babu ko to Malaria hua hai.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Toh post mortem tum karoge?

Brahmadatt digs out a packet of biscuits from his pocket and feeds the dogs and saves the last one for himself.

SUKKHA SINGH

Wo unki Assistant hain, Dr Malti Ram.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

(disgusted, sarcastic)
Bhim Rao Ambedkar ki jai ho!

An assistant comes and whispers to him.

ASSISTANT

Prabhat Samachar waale Navin Ji baithe hain.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

(to his junior, angry)
Saala ped pe latka ke poster bana diye media ke liye..!!

His biscuits have finished. He moves to his office and changes his demeanor completely on the way.

BRAHMADATT SINGH (CONT'D)

(Absolutely doesn't
believe what he says)
Honor killing hai.

Brahmadatt is actually sitting with the journalist in his cabin.

BRAHMADATT SINGH (CONT'D)

Dono cousin ladkiyan thin, ab
bachpane mein ho gaya hoga kuchh
sanbandh. Aajkal sunny levni
wagaira ghar ghar mein ghus gaya
hai. Baapon ko pata chal gaya,
bardasht hua nahin, latkay diye! Ye
bayaan nahin de rahe hain.. Sootron
se pooch ke bata rahe hain...
samajh rahe hain na?

17 **I/E. AYAN'S OFFICE | AYAN'S CAR - EVENING**

Ayan is leaving for the day. Brahmatt, Mishra and Mayank walk him to his car.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Sir, gaon mein toh shanti hai ab in
fact. Subah paper mein bhi aa
jayega Honor killing bata ke.

AYAN RANJAN

Paper waalon se baat ki aapne?

BRAHMADATT SINGH

NAHI sir!

AYAN RANJAN

Post mortem report kab tak aayegi?

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Aa jayegi Sir in fact. Par wo clear
hai, usmein naya kuchh aana nahin
hai.

(a beat)

Hum khud jaldi chahte hain sir. Der
karenge to Shanti Prasad ji ko aap
jaante nahin. Wo aake dharne pe
baith jaayenge. Sarkar mein rahte
hain tab toh apna moorti pe moorti
banwate hain.. aur vipaksh mein
rahte hain to dalit ho jaate hain..

Ayan gives him a look.

AYAN RANJAN

(to Brahmatt)
Postmortem report aate hi mujhe
phone kariye.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Sir

Brahmadatt Salutes as Ayan is about to get in the car.
Something occurs to Ayan. He stops and turns to Brahmatt.

AYAN RANJAN

Wo ladki kuchh bhi karke dhundhni
hai mujhe.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Kaun ladki sir?
(a beat)
Ohh..haan haan haan sir, of of
course sir.Sorry sir..aapko..

Ayan stares at him in disbelief. Brahmatt knows that he
just made a faux pas. Ayan sits in the car.

AYAN RANJAN

Harimanpur ke alawa aur kaun se
gaanv hain us ped ke aas paas ?

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Do aur hain Sir. Apaara aur
Chhatni.

AYAN RANJAN

Teeno gaanv mein aadmi bhejiye. Ek
ek aadmi se baat karo. Kisi ne
kuchh dekha ho..
(to Mayank)
Tum aur Jatav residence pe aake
milo.

This makes Brahmatt more uncomfortable. Mayank nods. The
car drives away.

LATER in the car right outside the office compound.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Nihal, Satyendra Rai ka phone nahi
lag raha hai. Unke ghar jaake bolo
ki mujhe phone karein.

Chandraban pulls over. Nihal gets down.

18 **EXT. AYAN'S RESIDENCE - MINUTES LATER**

Ayan's car drives in to the house but not without Ayan noticing some villagers at the gate - 4 men and Gaura, the girl who was at the Police Headquarters last night. Ayan gets off the car. His eyes meet Gaura's.

19 **EXT. AYAN RESIDENCE | LAWNS - MOMENTS LATER**

Ayan sits in the lawn chair as the villagers stand in front of him with folded hands. Two middle aged, two young ones and Gaura. She is not folding hands.

NANKU RAM

Sahab jo badi ladki thi Shanu wo
meri thi, Chhoti wali Mamta
(Points at the other man)
Iski thi, Mahendar. Hamaari betiyon
ka hatya hua hai aur hamin pe case
bana rahe hain.

AYAN RANJAN

Arey hath mat jodiye aap log, arey
pani pilao inn logon ko.

The orderly rushes in to get water.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

(low)
Mujhe bahut afsos hai..

GAURA

Hona bhi chahiye sir!

AYAN RANJAN

(more intrigued)
Aapka naam kya hai?

GAURA

Gaura..

GUY 1

Pooja iski behan hai sir..

GUY 2

Pooja ko dhoondh dijiye sir. Hum
haath jodte hain aapke saamne.

The orderly comes back with the water in a jug. Mahendar refuses. Nanku drinks some with his hands cupped at his mouth. Ayan is intrigued to see this.

AYAN RANJAN

(Softly)
Glass Nahin hai?

ORDERLY

Sahab Gilas se piyenge nahin ye log
apke samne.

They finish drinking water.

NANKU RAM

Humari beti ka..
(cries)
raat bhar rakh ke chhod dete toh
bhi..
(chokes)
Par latka diye ped se sahab.

This makes Ayan uncomfortable.

MAHENDAR

2 din se humaari koi sun leta na
sahab..toh bach jaati humari
bachchi.

Ayan can feel for them but doesn't have much to say.

AYAN RANJAN

Postmortem report aane do. Main
dekhta hoon phir.

GAURA

(cuts in)
Anshu Naharia ne thappad maara tha
Pooja ko.. Isiliye Brahmadatt ne
FIR nahin likhne diya...

GUY 2

Shanu aur Pooja sadak banaane mein
kaam kar rahi thi.

AYAN RANJAN

Kab maara?

GUY 2

Ek hafta pehle.

AYAN RANJAN

kyun?

GAURA

Unhone dihadi mein 3 rupaye
badhaane ko bola tha.

AYAN RANJAN

(can't believe)
Kitne?

GAURA

3 rupaye.. 25 tha ek din ka. 28
maang rahi thi.
(MORE)

GAURA (CONT'D)

Gaanv ke sab bachchon ne tay kiya tha ki atthais se kam mein kaam nahin karenge.

AYAN RANJAN

Ye bachchon ne tay kiya?

GAURA

Nahi, maine ikattha kar ke bataya tha. Phir ek do aur gaanwon ke bachchon se baat hui thi. Chamda factory wala de raha tha atthais.

AYAN RANJAN

Phir?

GAURA

Usne maara. Uske baad unhone kaam chhod diya. Chamda factory mein shuru kar diya. 28 rupaye roz.

AYAN RANJAN

Uske baad? Baaki bachche 25 rupaye pe karte rahe?

GAURA

Do chaar aur bachchon ne bhi chhod diya tha..

Ayan is beginning to get it.

20

I/E. AYAN'S RESIDENCE - LATER

As the villagers are leaving, Mayank and Jatav enter. Ayan sees from distance that Gaura speaks to them both animatedly. Mayank hugs Gaura. Gaura and villagers leave. Mayank and Jatav approach Ayan.

AYAN RANJAN

Kya hua?

MAYANK

Kuchh nahi sir wo..ye ladki Gaura..mere school mein hi padhti thi..harimanpur mein hi padha hoon na sir main 9th class tak..

AYAN RANJAN

Oh..

JATAV

Humare pitaji bhi wahin karyarat the Sir.. is kaaran se jaante hain.

AYAN RANJAN

(surprised)

Aur aap logon ne phir bhi FIR nahi likhi?

They don't have any answer. A glimpse of shame on their faces. Jatav tries to justify.

JATAV

(fumbles)

Wo sir.. humko Kanpur case se time nahi mil raha tha aur phir Brahamadatt ji ne..

AYAN RANJAN

(cuts in)

Abhi likhi FIR?

SI JATAV

Haan sir, abhi to likhi hai.

AYAN RANJAN

(cuts in)

Ab is ladki ko dhundhna hai. Gaura se ek ek detail lo..phone tha to phone record nikaalo. Mama chacha padosi dost har ek ka bayaan lo. Chamda Factory Ja ke supervisor se baat karo. Kaun kaun dost thay. Kinke saath ghar jaati thin. 12 taareekh ko kitne baje niklin. Kaun kaun tha saath mein. Aur Anshu Naharia kahan tha 12-13 taareekh ko. Sab.

MAYANK

Main bhi sir?

AYAN RANJAN

(rude)

Kyon? Tumse nahin hoga?

MAYANK

Nahi sir..kiya nahi hai sir..par kar loonga..

SI JATAV

Waise sir, kuchh ladka ladki wapas aa jaate hain sir. Aur sach bataaun sir, hum aur aap inn logon ka kitna bhi kar lein..

AYAN RANJAN

(cuts in, angry)

Saala ye kaun log hain? Jupiter se aaye hain ye? Inka aisa hai, inka waisa hai.

(MORE)

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Kaun hain ye log jo jaate hain toh lagta hai wapas aa jayenge, aur phir khud jaake ped pe latak jaate hain.

This is a different Ayan.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Get the fuck out of here now..

Jatav and Mayank are astounded. Jatav doesn't understand. Mayank holds his hand and pulls him out.

SI JATAV

Kya bole?

MAYANK

(with spaces between words)

Get the fuck out of here.

SI JATAV

Humko laga Gaali diye..

MAYANK

Nahi, bole jao yahan se.

SI JATAV

(To himself)
get phuck out.

21 **INT. AYAN'S RESIDENCE - LATER**

Ayan has just taken off his shirt when Amali, the cook, enters with a cup of tea. She quickly steps back.

AYAN RANJAN

Aa ja beta! Rakh de.

He makes her comfortable. She comes again and places the cup on a table.

AMALI

Bhaiya, raat ke liye bhindi banaayein ya parwal?

Ayan wears a t-shirt.

AYAN RANJAN

Jo achcha banati ho, wahi bana do.

AMALI

Hum to sab achcha banaate hain.

This brings a smile on Ayan's face.

AYAN RANJAN

Nihal tumhara saga bhai hai?

AMALI

Ji.

AYAN RANJAN

Padhaai nahi ki?

AMALI

8 tak padhi hoon bhaiya. Abhi
Englis bhi seekh rahi hoon.

AYAN RANJAN

Englis nahi, English bolte hain.

AMALI

Samajh mein aana chahiye bhaiya,
bol toh kaise bhi sakte hain.

Ayan nods smiling, types a message. She goes out, then turns.

AMALI (CONT'D)

Bhaiya, wo Anshu Naharia ke ghar se
mutton bhi aaya hai aapke liye.

This disconcerts him, suddenly his phone rings.

AYAN RANJAN

Haan Nihal.

22

EXT. SATYENDRA'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

Nihal stands at the door with a full term pregnant Archana.

NIHAL SINGH

Sir Satyendra ji toh nahi hain.
Madam se baat kar lijiye.

He gives the phone to Archana.

INTERCUT - PHONE CONVERSATION

AYAN RANJAN

Hello bhabhi, kahan hai Satyendra?

ARCHANA

Wo subah ke nikle hue hain bhaiya.
Tab se phone bhi nahi mil raha hai
unka.

AYAN RANJAN

Kya bol ke gaya?

ARCHANA

Kuchh nahi. Bas 4 baje uthe aur
gaadi leke nikal gaye.

AYAN RANJAN

4 baje? 12 baje to maine chhoda tha use.

ARCHANA

Bas thodi der soye, phir phone aya tha kisi ka. Kuchh bataya bhi nahi.

Ayan stands intrigued and concerned.

23

I/E. GOVT HOSPITAL KANPUR DEHAT - NIGHT

As the town sleeps in peace, Brahmatt in his jeep reaches the hospital. He gets off the jeep. Sukkha Singh who was talking to somebody runs to him and so does a stray dog. Brahmatt takes out a biscuit packet and feeds the dog as he notices Nihal Singh was the person Sukkha was talking to.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Tum yahan kya kar rahe ho be?

NIHAL SINGH

Sahab Satender ke ghar bheje thay.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Toh?

NIHAL SINGH

Suba 4 baje se lauta nahin hai wo...

Brahmadatt and Nihal keep looking at each other. There is something more between them than we know.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

(To Sukkha)

Kitna time bhai post mortem report mein. Additional Sahab ko report chahiye.

SUKKHA SINGH

Bas abhi ho jayega Sahab.

24

INT. GOVT HOSPITAL KANPUR DEHAT | MORTUARY- NIGHT

MALTI RAM, 32, a scheduled caste doctor who has been through several post mortem as an assistant has just finished two of her first independent ones. She takes off her surgical gloves and washes her hands as the two dead bodies are being wound up behind her. She dries her hands with a towel and picks a clip pad.

25 **INT. GOVT HOSPITAL KANPUR DEHAT | CORRIDOR } OFFICE - NIGHT**

Brahmadatt with Sukkha walk down the corridor and into a humble office where Dr Malti is taking a print out.

SUKKHA SINGH

Doc Sahab, CO Sir Shriman
Brahmadatt Singh

Malti is a brave girl but she knows what she is dealing with.

MALTI RAM

Provisional report bana rahi hoon.
Detail report kal sham tak banegi.

She is still punching in data looking at her note pad.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Kya Likhi hain?

MALTI RAM

Rape hai. Gang Rape hai. Kai din
tak kiya gaya hai. Do teen din.
Phir zinda latka diya gaya hai.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

(stunned by her rebellion)
Awdhesh Babu se baat hui hai aapki?

MALTI RAM

Hui thi.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Tab?

MALTI RAM

Hum nahin kar sakte jo wo kah rahe
thay.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Aap bhavuk ho rahi hain Malti ji.
Aap kya kijiye ki facebook par koi
kavita wavita likh daliye, nikal
jaayega. Par yahan writing mat
kijiye.

MALTI RAM

Main apna kaam kar rahi hoon
Brahmadatt ji..

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Kamaal kar rahi hain aap.
(To Sukkha)
Awdhesh Babu se baat karao bhai.

Sukkha Gets through to Awdhesh.

BRAHMADATT SINGH (CONT'D)

Doctor Sahab, yahan to nari shakti andolan ho raha hai. Ab ye time aa gaya hai ki aap log Post Mortem report apne mann se likhenge? Jila kaise chalega Awdhesh Babu? Madam jo report bana rahi hain, wo additional saahab ke paas chala gaya, to abhi hua hai malariya, phir typhoid hoga aur marenge aap kisi agyaat kaaran se.

IN THE CORRIDOR, Brahmatt walks furiously and Sukkha tries to keep pace with him.

BRAHMADATT SINGH (CONT'D)

Ye iska quota prem hai Sukkha Singh. Victim bhi quote ka victim hai aur doctor bhi quote ki doctor. Inko doctory padhate hain hum. Humaare tax ke paise se.

On their way out, they cross Nanku and Mahendar who are waiting for the bodies of their girls. They get up with folded hands. Brahmatt stops there for just a bit and folds his hands.

BRAHMADATT SINGH (CONT'D)

Tum logon ko samajh mein nahin aata ?

(beat, folds hands with hatred)

Bhai saahab, ho jao faraar.

BEAT- As the two fathers with folded hands keep looking at him.

BRAHMADATT SINGH (CONT'D)

Mann nahi kar raha ?

Beat. Their emotionless faces.

BRAHMADATT SINGH (CONT'D)

(Threateningly)
Theek hai phir.

They keep looking at him blankly.

26

EXT. NARROW ROAD - NIGHT

Jatav drives Mayank. It is pitch dark but for the weak headlight that barely manages to see the road ahead.

SI JATAV

Ye SC ST logon ka kya samasya hai, maloom hai Mayank? Hum to insider hain. 40 saal se dekh rahe hain.

Mayank looks at him intently.

SI JATAV (CONT'D)

Jaise hum jaise kisi ne naukri paaya na toh baaki sab ko lagta hai ki ye humara Ajay devgan ho gaya. Ye karega ab humari rachchha.

MAYANK

Aap par toh chadh hi gayi thi Gaura.

SI JATAV

Saala aisi basti mein rahoge..jahan hugoge, wahin khaaoge, wahin jaanwar chhile pade hain. Aisi jaghon pe ladkiyan surachhit rahengi kya? Itihaas uthaake dekh lo. Kabhi rahi hain? Tum apna jeewan sudhaaroge nahi. Aur hum bann jaayein Raja Ram Mohan Rai. Sab kuchh daanv pe laga ke.

(a beat)

Mayank, tumne dekha hai humne kitni mushkil se apni position banayi hai samaaj mein..jhaadu lagaate thay hum logon ke saamne..

SUDDENLY- A fireball hits the wind screen. The jeep screeches to a halt. There is silence between them as the fireball burns on the hood of the jeep. Suddenly there is another one that lands on the roof. Soon it will burn through the canvas. And then there are more from all sides. Mayank and Jatav jump out of the jeep as the jeep catches fire behind them.

Five youngsters sneak out of the bushes around the jeep. As Jatav pulls out his gun he realizes he is surrounded by four men. Jatav address the man facing him with his face covered.

JATAV

Ae Nokhai... Tum log saala police pe hamla karega ab?

NOKHAI

Bada police ho gaye hain aap? Jatav rahi nahin gaye hain. Dikh nahin raha aapko? Hatya hui hai.

JATAV

To hatya hi karoge?

NOKHAI

Hatya nahin karte hum log. Bندوق neeche kar lijiye. Bichhiya gaon hoke nikal jaiye, chhota padega. Pul chalu ho gaya hai.

They keep looking at each other.

27 **INT. AYAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

IN THE VERANDAH- Chandrabhan comes following the orderly and stands before Ayan. Ayan gestures the orderly to leave and he goes.

AYAN RANJAN

Anshu Naharia ki kis kis se dosti
hai department mein?

Chandrabhan stays quiet

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

(To Chandrabhan)

Pata toh main kar hi lunga
Chandrabhan. Tum nahin bataaoge toh
isi bahaane tumhein bhi jaan jaunga
thoda.

CHANDRABHAN

WO baat nahin hai Sir. Paise wala
hai, MLA ka khaas hai toh sabhi
dost hain uske. Pitaji bhi bade
aadmi thay.

Ayan keeps looking at him. He wants more.

CHANDRABHAN (CONT'D)

Taqatwar aadmi hai Sir. Aapke pehle
Subodh lal ji ka bhi khaas hi tha.

AYAN RANJAN

Brahmadatt?

Chandrabhaan nods in Yes.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Aur Jatav?

CHANDRABHAN

Wo toh shoonya hai sir. Zero.
Nishkriya rahta hai. Sahi kaam
nahin bhi kiya toh galat nahin
karega.

His phone beeps

ADITI (V.O.)

I am Sorry...

AYAN RANJAN (TYPES V.O.)

No I am sorry... shayad tum hi sahi
kah rahi thi.. I will do my best.

28 **EXT. BURIAL SITE - EARLY MORNING**

It is a beautiful early morning by the river. Everything is wonderful but a heart wrenching sound of two women wailing. By the river the family and the villagers prepare to bury the two bodies. The women sit a few meters away, The bodies still wrapped in the white cloth from the mortuary with the red seal. Just their faces peep through the sheet. The bodies are lowered in to the graves as the mothers wail. The graves are filled, JUST THEN Sukkha arrives in a jeep and stops at a distance. The graves are still being filled when Sukkha Singh walks up to Nanku and Mahendar. Both are escorted to the jeep by Sukha and the jeep drives off.

29 **EXT. ROAD | BURNT JEEP - MORNING**

At a hundred meters there is thick black smoke emanating from the burnt jeep. Jatav is dictating his witness to a cop who is promptly noting it down on a register.

JATAV

Hum log Chamda factory se gumshuda ladki ke baare mein tafteesh kar ke laut rahe thay. Achanak ek joot ka aag ka gola jeep par aa ke... nahin nahin likhiye sadak ke dono taraf se aag ke gole gire aur jeep ne aag pakad liya.

At a distance by the burnt jeep, Brahmatt supervises the dousing process. Ayan's car arrives next to Jatav. Ayan gets off his car. Mayank walks up to him.

AYAN RANJAN

Theek ho tum?

Ayan reaches the place where Jatav was recording his witness. Ayan takes the register and begins to read. Brahmatt notices Ayan and begins to walk but not before taking a file out of his jeep nearby. Ayan talks to Jatav and Mayank while Brahmatt walks to them.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Jatav ji Joot ka gola agar jala ke phenka gaya toh wo log dus foot se zyada door nahin thay, phir aap logon ne dekha kaise nahin kisi ko?

Jatav is caught, he is scared to contradict what he has recorded already.

JATAV

Sir moonh pe phaata baandhe hue thay sab.

Brahmadatt keeps walking to them.

AYAN RANJAN

Phir? Bندوق hai tumhare paas?

MAYANK

Unke paas bhi thi Sir.

AYAN RANJAN

Phir? Goli chalai kisi ne?

JATAV

Nahin Sir. Goli Nahin chali.

AYAN RANJAN

Kyon? kisi ne bhi goli kyon nahin
chalayi? Jatav Ji, galat bayan
likhaya hai aap ne. Sign kijiye.

Ayan extends the register to him. They are quiet, Mayank
wants Jatav to speak who doesn't right away but then he does.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

(Louder)

Sign Kijiye.. Karenge?

JATAV

Nishad ke log the. BSS.

Ayan doesn't understand.

AYAN RANJAN

Kaun Nishad?

JATAV

Bhim Sangharsh Sena sir. Keh rahe
thay ki gaanv ke logon se Nanku aur
Mahendar ke khilaaf gawaahi dilaane
ki koshish ho rahi hai.

Ayan looks at Brahmatt close in and he knows he has to
quickly end the conversation. He looks at them intently.

AYAN RANJAN

Uss koshish mein tum log kahan
khade ho, ye mujhe clearly bata do.

JATAV

Jahan aap kahenge, wahin khade hain
sir.

Brahmadatt arrives with a file.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

BSS hai sir. Nishad ke ladke hain.
Local neta hai Sir. Daliton ka
Bhagat Singh banta hai.

(MORE)

BRAHMADATT SINGH (CONT'D)

Pichhle saal jail mein bhi raha
tha, In fact National security act
laga tha sir uspe. Jamanat par hai
par underground rahta hai.

He gives the file to Ayan. Ayan opens it and begins to walk toward the burnt jeep after giving Jatav and Mayank a deep look. Brahmatt walks along. Nihal walks behind them keeping a safe distance. Chandrabhan follows behind in Ayan's car.

BRAHMADATT SINGH (CONT'D)

File close kar sakte hain Sir.
Ladkiyon ke baapon ki remand mil
gayi hai saat din. Poochhtachh
karenge. Gaanv ke chaar logon ki
Gavahi hai iss mein sir ki dono
baap peetatey thay inn ladkiyon ko
isi karan se. Case solved hai Sir
in fact.

Ayan gives him a weird look and goes through the file.

AYAN RANJAN

Postmortem report kahaan hai?

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Aa jayegi Sir. Body bhi in fact
dafan ho gayi hai Sir. Report shaam
ko aapko deta hoon. File close kar
sakte hain Sir in fact.

Ayan has understood the game by now.

AYAN RANJAN

(sighs)

Anshu Naharia kaun hai?

This alerts Brahmatt but he stays normal.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Anshu se toh aap miley thay sir,
jab bathroom jo..

AYAN RANJAN

Usey leke aaiye office mein. Mujhe
baat karni hai.

Brahmadatt doesn't respond to this. Brahmatt takes a moment before asking:

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Anshu ka kis matter mein poochh
rahe hain sir?

Ayan gives him a stern look. A beat. Brahmatt knows that he will have to talk directly now.

BRAHMADATT SINGH (CONT'D)

(firm)

Jaane dijiye sir. Aap kyon utar rahey hain iss sab mein. Daldal hai sir. Anshu ka naam aaya toh seedhe Ramlal Naharia ka naam aayega. Sarkar unhi ki hai sir. Aapse nivedan hai sir. Santulan mat bigadiye.

AYAN RANJAN

Jab tak post mortem report nahin aayegi, sign to main nahi karunga.

There is a coldness and terror in his voice. Ayan keeps looking at him, Chandrabhan has pulled over right after them. Brahmatt still has his hands folded. From a distance two boys with their faces covered close in on a motor bike. Ayan and Brahmatt both unmindful. For some unknown reasons they look ominous but they just ride past them. Ayan sits in his car. Brahmatt stands at the window.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Well wisher hain sir aapke. Isliye nivedan karte hain. Daldal hai sir. Mat ghusiye sir. Ek baar ghus gaye toh nikal nahi paayenge. Hum haath jod rahey hain aapke saamne. Ghus ke nikal nahi paayenge sir. Ek baar ghus gaye toh nikalna naheen aayega.

Ayan's car leaves. Brahmatt turns around looks at a distance at Jatav. Brahmatt starts walking fast towards Jatav. He picks up speed. His men around him a little intrigued and they get dramatically surprised when Brahmatt starts running finally he reaches Jatav, grabs his shirt and drags him behind a jeep. Just the two of them. Brahmatt out of his senses.

BRAHMADATT SINGH (CONT'D)

Dimag kharab ho gaya hai tumhara. Bahut taftesh ki ichchha ho rahi hai tumhari? Poochhne ki zarurat nahi lagi tumko?

(even louder)

Poochha kyon nahin humse? Wo chale jayenge char mahine mein, tum ko hum ko Jeevit rehna hai yahan! Samajh rahe ho na ki Anshu ka naam aaya toh kya hoga? Samajh rahe ho ki nahin?

JATAV

Sir, wo kahenge toh jawab dena padega na? Lal sahab se baat kiye kya hum kabhi? Aapke peechhe rahe hain jeewan bhar.

(MORE)

JATAV (CONT'D)

Par wo bolenge toh unko hum kaise
mana karein? Aap kar
deejiye..humari taraf se.

30 **I/E. ROAD | AYAN'S CAR - MOMENTS LATER**

Lone car through the unpaved roads drives off from the crime scene. Ayan in the car. Silent flipping through the file.

AYAN RANJAN

Harimanpur ki taraf mod lo.

Nihal and Chandrabhan are surprised but don't say anything. Chandrabhan turns the radio on. The car takes a turn on to a narrower path.

CHANDRA BHAN

Maai bolti thi sir..samaaj ka
vidhaan hai..raja hota hai, praja
hoti hai, sevak hota hai, daas hota
hai, bandhak hota hai. Iss sab ka
santulan hai sir ek. Brahma ne
banaaya hai. Sanskrit mein. Hum
logon ko adhikaar nahi hai ye
santulan bigaadne ka.

Ayan is looking out the window. Two happy kids with the school bags joking about something walk past them.

CHANDRA BHAN (CONT'D)

Aur sir..sab barabar ho jayenge to
raja kaun banega?

AYAN RANJAN (TYPES V.O.)

Sab barabar ho jayenge to raja kaun
banega.

ADITI (V.O.)

Lekin Raja banaana hi kyun hai?

31 **EXT. LALGAON - LATER**

Ayan is among Dalit villagers - Gaura and others.

AYAN RANJAN

Kaun kaun jaanta hai Nishad ko?

No reaction. Even Gaura is silent. She is staring at Ayan. Anger in her eyes. Reads out four names from the file

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Maatadeen, Shishupaal, Lachcha aur
Deenu Daama... Gawahi di hai in
logon ne. Kahan hain ye log?

No one responds. Ayan waits. Silence.

ONE OLD MAN

Kal se dikhe nahin hain chaaron.

Ayan keeps looking at them.

JUST A LITTLE DISTANCE AWAY- Ayan's car drives away. Ayan looking out lost in his thoughts, notices that Gaura is racing on a bicycle trying to intercept them. She just might miss them.

AYAN RANJAN

Roko roko..Chandrabhan.

Chandrabhan hits the brakes. After some moments, Gaura catches up. She is gasping for breath. Ayan walks up to her.

GAURA

Main jaanti hoon Nishad ko.

AYAN RANJAN

Mayank aur Jatav ki jaan ja sakti thi kal.

GAURA

Maarne ke liye hamla nahi kiya hoga usne.

AYAN RANJAN

Tum bhi uske saath kaam karti ho?

GAURA

Shadi karne waale thay hum..

This is a revelation for Ayan.

AYAN RANJAN

Maarne ke liye nahi kiya toh kyun kiya?

GAURA

Behron ko sunaane ke liye dhamaake ki zarurat hoti hai sir. 1929 mein Bhagat Singh ne kaha tha. Nagrik shastra humne bhi padha hai kaksha 9 tak. Nishad ne thoda zyada padh liya.

She seems to have a lot to say but she controls herself. Ayan doesn't have any answer. A beat. Ayan takes a deep breath. He wants to assure her but he knows this place now so his voice is a bit short of necessary conviction.

AYAN RANJAN

Pooja ko dhundhna shuru kar diya hai humne.

GAURA

(painful smile)

Uska photo tak toh hai nahi Police
ke paas..

Ayan is embarrassed. He looks at the photo - 15-years-old
cute girl. This has been ripped from a bigger photo.

32 **EXT. AYAN'S OFFICE - DAY**

Ayan's car drives in. He gets off the car and before he heads
to his room he notices a manhole overflowing a bit. Mayank
speaks immediately.

MAYANK

Sir kal subah aa rahe hain ladke
theek karne. Satyendra ji ki wife
aa gayi hain Sir.

33 **INT. AYAN'S OFFICE - DAY**

Archana sits in a chair in Ayan's office looking straight at
him. Ayan in his chair as Mayank stands behind Archana.

AYAN RANJAN

Pahle kabhi kiya aisa?

ARCHANA

Nahin. Ghabrahat ho rahi hai ab.

AYAN RANJAN

Aas pas koi relatives.. dost?

ARCHANA

Wo to zyada milte hi nahin kisi se.

AYAN RANJAN

Anshu Nahariya se?

ARCHANA

Uthna baithna toh hai. Kuch kaam ka
silsile mein bhi aana jaana chalta
rehta hai.

AYAN RANJAN

Mayank, Bhabhi ji ka Number note
kijiye, pata kijiye kal subah 4
baje kiska call aya tha usko. Aur
uske baad koi phone aaya gaya kya?
Phone ki location trace karwao.

(To Archana)

Aap ghar Jaiye. Main phone karta
hoon aapko.

Ayan observes Archana as she leaves the room.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Inka phone bhi track karo. Aur 12 taareekh ki raat se mujhe Anshu Naharia ka call record chahiye. Kisko kisko phone kiya. Kiska phone aaya. Sab.

34 **EXT. MARKET SQUARE - DAY**

CHAOS. NOISE. Two bare bodied boys are tied behind a vehicle and three boys take turns mercilessly thrashing them on their backs with a thick stick. People shoot videos in glee as the victims wail in pain.

35 **EXT. LALGAON - DAY**

Ayan's car cruises through the narrow streets.

CHANDRA BHAN

Sahab ye dono Mahant ji ke ashram pe kaam karte thay. Aisa bol rahe hain ki mandir ke prangan mein baith ke khana khaaye.. Isliye maara.

(beat)

Ye toh roz ki kahaani hai sir. Brahmhatt ji gaye hain aspataal. wey sambhaal lete.

AYAN RANJAN

Isi bahaane aspataal bhi dekh loonga aur wahaan ke doctors bhi.

36 **I/E. HOSPITAL - DAY**

Ayan followed by Nihal walks down a corridor briskly as he crosses Dr Malti's room. Ayan stops and looks at Nihal who leaves. Ayan walks in to her cabin. Malti gets up to receive her.

AYAN RANJAN

Post-mortem aapne kiya?

MALTI

Ji. Par report Dr. Awdhesh baanayenge Sir. Main Chhutti par ja rahi hoon.

(sighs, sarcastic)

Actually aaj pata chala hai ki chhutti par hi thi kal.

AYAN RANJAN

Rape tha?

MALTI

Gang Rape tha Sir. Par Kya farq padta hai Sir?

AYAN RANJAN

Aapke chhutti jaane se farq padta hai.

(beat)

Rukne ki himmat hai? Main dunga aapka saath.

She keeps looking at him.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Aap apni report bana kar mujhe dijiye. Ladkiyon ke samples apne paas rakhiye. Kuchh aur logon ke test karne padenge. Mera ek aadmi chaubees ghante aapke peechhe rahega. Kuchh nahin hoga aapko.

They keep looking at each other.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

(reassuring)

Kuch nahi hoga.

IN THE OPD -

The two boys leaning against a wall cry bitterly as they give their witness to Jatav and Brahmadvatt standing behind them. A Ward boy applies some ointment on their backs that makes them scream louder. Ayan enters the room.

BOY1

Hum log mandir mein khana nahin khaye hain sir. Hum sachchi bol rahe hain.

Ayan walks out. Mayank and Jatav follow him. There are 3 more cops outside - Nihal Singh, Mishra and one other.

AYAN RANJAN

Iss mandir ka kya issue hai? Ki Dalit ja nahi sakta?

SI JATAV

Ji sir..

Ayan and Jatav's look exchange. He knows this already.

AYAN RANJAN

Kisne maara hai? identify hua koi?

SI JATAV

Mahant ji ke ashram ke ladke hain sir..

AYAN RANJAN

Mahant ji kaun hain?

MAYANK

Mahant ji..Mahant ji hain sir.

AYAN RANJAN

Oonchi jaat ke hain?

MAYANK

Brahman hain sir.

AYAN RANJAN

Aur inn ladkon ki kya jaat hai?

MAYANK

Schedule Cast hain sir.

AYAN RANJAN

Brahmadatt ki?

MAYANK

Thakur hain sir.

AYAN RANJAN

Thakur kya hote hain? Brahman,
Kshatriya, vaishya kya?

NIHAL SINGH

Kshatriya hote hain sir.

AYAN RANJAN

Aur tum kaun ho?

NIHAL SINGH

Main Jat hoon sir. Pehle normal
tha, ab OBC hoon.

CHANDRABHAN

OBC ho gaya tumhara? Phir aandolan
kaahe kar rahe ho?

NIHAL SINGH

Wo Haryana waale kar rahe hain,
Haryana ka jat abhi bhi normal hai.

AYAN RANJAN

Aur aap to dalit hain na Jatav ji?

SI JATAV

Ji sir.

AYAN RANJAN

Same jaati, in ladkon ki jo hai?

SI JATAV

Nahi sir, main Chamar hoon, ye Pasi
hain.

(MORE)

SI JATAV (CONT'D)

Hum inse kaafi oopar aate hain.
Humara koi sambandh nahi hota inse,
na inka chhua khaate hain.

AYAN RANJAN

Aur main aapka chhua nahi khaata?

SI JATAV

Ji sir.

AYAN RANJAN

(to Mayank)
Aur tum kya ho?

MAYANK

Main Kayasth hoon sir.

AYAN RANJAN

Kayasth kya hote hain?

MAYANK

Kayasth 4 varnon mein nahi aate
sir, different hain sir hum log.

AYAN RANJAN

Main kaun hoon?

MAYANK

Aap brahman hain sir.

AYAN RANJAN

Matlab main aur Mahant barabar
hain?

MAYANK

Nahi nahi sir..wo Kaanyakubj hain,
wo sabse top waale brahman hain.
Aap Saryuparin hain.

Now Ayan blasts.

AYAN RANJAN

What the fuck is going on here?

SI JATAV

(immediately)
Okay sir.

And he rushes off.

AYAN RANJAN

Inko kya ho gaya?

MAYANK

Sir main dekhta hoon.

Mayank rushes behind Jatav.

MAYANK (CONT'D)

Kya hua? Chale kyun aaye?

SI JATAV

Wo bole na..jaao yahan se.

MAYANK

Ye kab bola?

SI JATAV

Bole na fuck. Fuck matlab jaana nahi hota?

They notice that Ayan has already gotten into his car.

37

EXT. MANGO TREE - LATE EVENING

This place is absolutely deserted. Ayan keeps staring at the branch that the two girls were hung from he holds the post mortem report in his hand. Nihal and Chandrabhan wait by the car. His walk around seems aimless sometimes and absolutely focussed at some. And then he asks them from a distance.

AYAN RANJAN

Harimanpur kitni door hai yahan se?

CHANDRA BHAN

(Points to his right
closeby)

Kareeb do kilometer... udhar sir...

AYAN RANJAN

Chamda Factory kis taraf hai?

NIHAL SINGH

(Points in another
Direction)

Sir udhar, Chhatni gaaon se aage,
kareeb 5 kilometer hoga Sir.

Beat. Mayank and Jatav arrive in another jeep. Ayaan sees a shed nearby and he begins to move in that direction. Mayank and Jatav rush behind him.

AYAN RANJAN

Ye kya hai...?

MAYANK

Wo jaane dijiye Sir..

By then Ayan has reached the shed. If Mayank and Jatav had their way they would physically stop him.

MAYANK (CONT'D)

Sir wahan Jaanwaro ka khaal nikalte hain Harimanpur waale.

By then Ayan has opened the jute curtain. What he sees there is horrifying. Carcasses piled over each other.

MAYANK (CONT'D)

Sir Area mein jitne bhi janwar mar jaate hain unko ye log yaha laake uski khaal nikaal ke tannery mein bechte hain.

Ayan can't bear the sight.

JATAV

Aaj wo ladkon ko maara toh..Nishad ne sab SC ST ko kaam karne se mana kiya hai sir. Whatsapp par uska ek message chal raha hai.

Mayank takes out his phone and plays an audio message.

38 **I/E. FIELDS/ ROAD/ SWAMP - NIGHT**

Ayan's car drives through the fields. Mayank sits next to Ayan holding his phone forward. The car drives away from the tree in to the fields.

NISHAD (V.O.)

Main aur tum inhe dikhaai nahi dete, lekin inki zindagiyan humaare upar hi tiki hain. Jin kheton mein inka anaaj ugta hai wahaan mazdoori tum karte ho, inka maila tum uthaate ho. Inke bachche tum paida karte ho, inki laashein tum jalaate ho.

Finally the car pulls over. Ayaan gets off the car and walks in to the fields, Mayank follows suit.

NISHAD (V.O.)

Insaaf ki bheekh mat maango. Bahut maang chuke. Bas jo bhi kaam tum karte ho, band kar do.

They keep walking as the two vehicles crawl slowly following them alongside.

MAYANK

Sir wo udhar hai Tannery. Ladkiya wahan se niklati thi roz aur is raste se ghar jaati theen.

AYAN RANJAN

Aur wo ped kahan hai?

MAYANK

(Points in a completely
new direction)
Udhar hai Sir.

They look around for some time. Then, look into the fields in torch light. After some time, look tired. Now Ayan, Chandrabhan and Jatav are standing on the road, look at the fields, hopelessly.

CHANDRABHAN

Kheto'n mein nahi milegi sir. 3 din ho gaye. Ye dekhne mein badaa lagta hai par kisaan apni zameen ka ek ek foot jaanta hai. Nazar rakhta hai.

AYAN RANJAN

Par kaheen bhi..milegi kya ? Kya lagta hai aap logon ko ?

JATAV

Dhoondhna toh chahiye sir.

They are in the car again.

AYAN RANJAN

(thinking out loud)
Agar maarna tha to do ko hi kyun maara?

FAST CUT TO- FROM THE PAST, THE THREE GIRLS RUN FOR THEIR LIVES THROUGH THE FIELDS.

Silence. They have reached at the edge of a large forest-cum-swamp that the two are walking around. Jatav rushes back to the car to get a torch.

FAST CUT TO- POOJA DECIDES TO CHANGE COURSE. THE OTHER TWO STOP UNDECIDED CALL FOR HER ALOUD. "POOJA"

As Mayank speaks Jatav keeps pointing in those directions with the torch from a distance.

MAYANK

Bahut ganda hai sir ye.. Soartaal bolte hain, kisi time pe soor pade rehte the isme. Koi jaata nahin ismein. Pasi log hi kabhi kabhar jaate hain.

They are looking constantly, walking ahead near the swamp. Anything that can give them a clue. Suddenly Ayan notices a bright color at a distance. He carefully moves in that direction. Mayank Follows. Jatav too heads in that Direction. Finally they get there and realize it is a pink slipper.

Jatav takes out his handkerchief. Ayan picks up the slipper in it.

JATAV

Gulaabi chappal likhwaya tha FIR mein Sir.

AYAN RANJAN

Isko paidal paar kiya ja sakta hai..?

JATAV

Kahin Kahin gehra hai sir, kahin kahin nahin bhi hai. Ladki nahi ghusegi sir isme.

FLASH CUT- POOJA RUNS ACROSS THE SWAMP.

AYAN RANJAN

Uss paar kya hai?

JATAV

Idhar khet hain, uss taraf saara jangal hai sir.

AYAN RANJAN

Kitna bada hai?

JATAV

3-4 kilometer hoga sir!

AYAN RANJAN

Jungle mein kaise jayenge?

JATAV

Jungle mein kyun jaana sir?

AYAN RANJAN

Kaise jaate hain?

JATAV

Nahi jaate sir.

AYAN RANJAN

Aur koi raasta hai jungle mein jaane ka?

JATAV

Yahi paar karke jaana padega sir. Ghira hua hai chaaron taraf se daldal se.

A beat.

JATAV (CONT'D)

Hum bhi kabhi nahi gaye sir andar toh.

Ayan looks around, looks back at the jungle at distance.

39 **EXT. LALGAON STREET - MORNING**

A garbage truck turns in to the road that goes to Ayan's office. Two men at the rear open the rear shutter and the garbage starts getting scattered on the road as the truck drives off.

40 **EXT. LALGAON STREET - MORNING**

Ayan's car, just minutes behind turns in to that street. Chandrabhan notices this unusual amount of garbage scattered on this street.

CHANDRABHAN

Ye itna kooda kaise phaila hai
yahan?

Ayan also looks out of the window. There is something ominous about this. The car drives in to the office compound, there is an unusual number of cops by the gate. Ayan gets off where he normally does. The manhole has overflowed a bit more. Sukkha comes running.

SUKHA

Sir aaj aane wala tha jamadaar par
ye log hadtaal par chale gaye. Aur
toh aur, kooda bhi phenk rahe hain,
sarkari daftaron ke bahar.

Ayan keeps looking at this and then walks in to his room, quickly followed by Brahmatt on his phone.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Ji Sir, Ji aa gaye Sir.. Ek second
Sir.

(Extends the phone to
Ayan)

Ramlal Naharia ji...

(Ayan keeps looking at the
phone)

Ji swayam hain..

Ayan takes the phone and Brahmatt is relieved. Ayan keeps listening to what Mr Naharia has to say.

AYAN RANJAN

Sir..Ji..

Finally before disconnecting the phone Ayan says:

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Ji Sir. Zaroor.

Ayan sits in his chair and returns the phone to Brahmatt. Ayan still has the pink slipper in his hand. A BEAT later Brahmatt places the phone before him.

BRAHMATT SINGH

Toh sir, close kar dein file?

Ayan places the slipper next to the file and keeps looking at both. BEAT. Ayan gets up and leaves the room.

He walks up to the gate and stands there all alone. The garbage scattered all around. Ayan dials a number and begins to walk through the garbage.

ON THE OTHER SIDE, Aditi out for a jog in the streets receives Ayan's call and finally sits on the pavement. Early morning cleaning activity around her in the city too.

AYAN RANJAN

(Very dry, Tired)

Hi! Kaisi Ho?

ADITI

You Okay? Jaldi uth gaye?

AYAN RANJAN

Soya hi nahi.

ADITI

(Chuckles)

Mars pe chale gaye type feel ho raha hai phir se?

AYAN RANJAN

3 rupaye mein kya milta hai Aditi?

ADITI

Haan?

Ayan stops by a tea stall.

AYAN RANJAN

3 rupaye mein kuch milta bhi hai kya ab?

ADITI

Kya hua Ayan?

She stops.

AYAN RANJAN

3 rupaye ke liye inn ladkiyon ka rape kar diya, maar diya..

Aditi is stunned too.

ADITI

I am listening..

Ayan picks up a cup of tea from the stall and sits on the pavement, garbage all around him.

AYAN RANJAN

Main jab itni saari countries mein bada ho raha tha yaar..sab bolte thay India India..we would love to go there someday..Hum bolte thay you must. Benaras Khajuraho aise bechta tha jaise mere baap ka ho. I felt so proud of my country..

Aditi sits down on the pavement too.

ADITI

Are you not proud, abhi?

AYAN RANJAN

I am.. VERY PROUD for a lot of things...A LOT...But some things are so so fucked up. There is a war going on here..2 ladkiyan mar gayi hain..teesri gayab hai..aur kisi ko fark hi nahi pad raha. Jo log yahan reh rahe hain..wo sab ke sab aise behave kar rahe hain jaise ye sab kisi aur desh mein ho raha hai..TV pe, drawing rooms mein, is market mein, sab normal hai Aditi. Should I be proud of this too?

(deep breath, resolve)

Messed up hai..but I will unmess it.

ADITI

Is that a word..unmess?

AYAN RANJAN

Naye words dhundhne padenge Aditi.
Naye tareeke dhundhne padenge.
Kyunki ye Raayta bahut purana hai.

Ayan hangs up. Aditi looks around thoughtfully. Ayan walks back to the car as people look at him intrigued.

41 **I/E. AYAN'S CABIN - DAY**

A PRINTER PRINTS OUT COPIES OF A DOCUMENT.

Ayan takes the copies out, walks to the main office, pins it on the main notice board and leaves. This is the fifteenth Article of the Indian Constitution - In Hindi and English. He pins two more copies, one beside the TV and one on the door of his cabin. The staff members look at him curiously, they leave what they were doing one by one and gather around the documents to read them.

Dr Ambedkar's voice (recreated) from the Parliament on Jan 15, 1950 reads out the Article as Super FADES IN.

INTERVAL

42 **MONTAGE | VARIOUS LOCATIONS**

A 'MISSING' POSTER with Pooja's picture and details on it. The photo is the one given by Gaura to Ayan. ANOTHER PLACE, another man pastes the posters on the walls across the town. AND ONE MORE.

43 **I/E. A TEA STALL, HARIMANPUR - AFTERNOON**

Ayan is hunching over to talk to a 12 year old boy who works at the stall.

BOY

Teen ladki saath theen. Wo ras liya
tha humse..phir idhar se chali
gayeen.

AYAN RANJAN

Uske baad?

BOY

2 rupaye bach gaya tha unke ooper
hamara..hum Bhaag ke gaye peeche
par dikhe hi naheen. Humko laga bus
mein baith ke chale gaye.

AYAN RANJAN

Bus ? Bus ja rahi thi koi ?

BOY

Haan.

AYAN RANJAN

Kaisi thi ? Roadways, private kya ?

BOY

Pata nahi. Peele rang ki bus thi.

Ayan looks at Mayank with a question.

AYAN RANJAN

Udhar peeli bus kiski chalti hai ?

Mayank and Gaura look at each other.

MAYANK

Sir idhar kahan bus?

LOUD SPEAKER VOICE (O.S.)

Brahman-Dalit ekta rally naya
maidan mein.

(MORE)

LOUD SPEAKER VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Mahant ji aap sabse prem karte
hain. Mahant ji aapke liye
ladenge..

Ayan walks up to his car with Mayank. Mahant's caravan can be seen at distance with saffron flags on the cars and a loud speaker on a jeep.

LOUD SPEAKER VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Mahant ji aap sabse prem karte
hain. Mahant ji aapke liye
ladenge..

Ayan keeps looking at the vehicle decked up with flowers et al and a mnemonic photo of Mahant Ji.

MAYANK

Ye chunav Shanu, Mamta aur Pooja pe
hi lada jayega sir.

Mayank's phone rings. He listens for a while and hangs up.

MAYANK (CONT'D)

Sir Satyendra Rai ko last phone
Bachchu Rai ne kiya tha. Bike
repairing ka dukan chalata hai.

AYAN RANJAN

Bulwao. Fauran. Aur Anshu kyon
nahin aaya ab tak?

MAYANK

Dus minute mein pahunch raha hai
thane pe.

44 I/E. HARIMANPUR - DAY

MAHANT (50), a shirtless religious leader in Saffron dhoti, guarded by 2 men with guns gets out his Jaguar and enters the Dalit colony. A convoy of 5 cars and at least 50 people in saffron accompany him. Shanti Prasad, 52 a Dalit leader welcomes him there. They hug each other and the press goes berserk with their pictures. An excited but fumbling anchor records for his channel from there.

TV ANCHOR

Shuru ho gaya? Thums up dena..

(waits for the cameraman's
indication, then starts)

Ye hai naya Uttar Pradesh. Jahan
Brahman aur dalit ek thaali mein
khana khate hain.

(MORE)

TV ANCHOR (CONT'D)

Is gaanv ka dukh thoda kam hua jab Mahant ji dalit neta Shanti Prasad ke aamantran par Harimanpur mein aaye aur mrit ladkiyon ke ghar waalon ko hausla diya aur unke saath khana khaya.

JUMP CUT TO:45 **SAME - LATER**

Shanti Prasad is in front of cameras surrounded by his party supporters.

SHANTI PRASAD

Ashram wali ghatna mein dono taraf ke ladkon ki vyaktigat kaha suni hui thi. Usey jaatigat rang diya gaya hai. Taaki is gathbandhan ko badnaam kiya ja sake. Humare samaj ke hi kuchh naye yuva aur updravi neta hain jo whatsapp facebook par samaaj ke logon ko bhadka rahe hain. Unse bach ke rehna hai.

Mahant and Shanti Prasad eating food from the same plate. The Dalit family is sitting beside him with similar plates in front of them too. They look at the cameras blankly as they click them. Mahant addresses the press and Shanti Prasad sits next to him.

MAHANT

Balatkaar karne waale log Rajya sarkar ke aur Ramlal Nahariya ke sanrakshan mein pal rahe hain. Unhe giraftaar karne ki bajaay sarkar ne bachchiyon ke pitaaon par aise ghinaune aarop lagaaye hain. Ye dalit virodhi sarkaar hai. Hinduon ko bachna hai toh ek hona padega. Brahman aur daliton ko ek hona padega. Ye usi ki shuruaat hai.

46 **I/E. AYAN'S OFFICE - LATER**

Ayan's car pulls over in the premise. The manhole inside has overflowed. Three inches of Black mucky water in the compound. Some bricks have been laid out to walk in to the office. Ayan treads carefully as the place stinks horribly. Four or five cops, a bucket a broom and some with handkerchiefs around their noses. He takes a few steps towards them.

AYAN RANJAN

Jatav Ji Kitne log hain iss office mein?

JATAV

(Puzzled)
Abhi Sir?

AYAN RANJAN

Kitne log kaam karte hain iss
daftar mein?

JATAV

Sir lipik, safai karmchaari sab
milaa milu ke baaees hain.

AYAN RANJAN

Aur Haulpur thane mein?

JATAV

Barah terah honge sir

AYAN RANJAN

Chhatni?

JATAV

Wahan honge bees ke kareeb

AYAN RANJAN

Kal subah 6 baje mujhe Soartaal ke
paas milne chahiye sab log. Wo jo
daldal hai, jungle hai, usmein
jaana padega humein. Uske saath
Tannery se le ke Harimanpur tak,
aur idhar aam ke ped tak ek ek foot
chhanna hai.

They all look unsure. Ayan goes inside with Mayank behind him. A new presence is Anshu's Harley Davidson. Ayan feels a presence behind him. It is Brahmatt.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Anshu Naharia aa gaya hai Sir..

Ayan keeps walking.

BRAHMADATT SINGH (CONT'D)

Aap logon ka transfer hota hai Sir,
hum logon ki hatya ho jati hai.

Ayan stares at him.

BRAHMADATT SINGH (CONT'D)

Ek sign hi karna hai Sir. Sab
manage ho jaayega.. Delhi mein kya
sab file sahi hoti hain?

Ayan's phone rings. He turns the phone silent.

BRAHMADATT SINGH (CONT'D)

Abhi Ramlal Naharia ji ne aapka number liya hai. Wahi phone kar rahe honge.

The stare continues. Ayan turns and walks out to another room. Brahmadatt follows him. Anshu is sitting in a room he gets up and touches Ayan's feet. Ayan knows the importance of the call but ignores and sits across Anshu and places the phone on the table. Brahmadatt stands behind Ayan.

AYAN RANJAN

Kyon maara tha ladkiyon ko?

The phone continues to vibrate as they talk. It gets disconnected and starts vibrating again. Brahmadatt can't believe that Ayan is not picking up RAMLAL's phone. His body language is so anxious throughout that he would himself take the call if he could.

ANSHU

Tankhwaah badhane ko bol rahi theen.

AYAN RANJAN

Toh maara tumne.

ANSHU

Nahin, pahle mana kiye thay.

AYAN RANJAN

Toh maara kyun?

ANSHU

Kaam chhod ke ja rahi theen.

AYAN RANJAN

Toh maara?

ANSHU

Aise toh sab badhane ka bolenge Sir aur kaam chhod ke chale jayenge.. Shehar mein kuchh kaam hi nahi hoga..ghar mein doodh ka packet nahi aayega, nal khud theek karna padega, joota khud silna padega.

(a beat)

Aukaat mein nahin rakhenge toh kaam hi nahin kar sakte.

AYAN RANJAN

Aur aukaat kya hai?

ANSHU

Jo hum dete hain wohi aukaat hai Sir. Aur humko jo milta hai wo hamari aukaat hai. Aukaat toh sabki hoti hai na?

AYAN RANJAN

12 tareekh ki raat ko kahan thay?

ANSHU NAHARIA

Ghar pe hi thay. 12, 13, 14. Roz.
Ghar hi rahtebhainSir. Doston ka
aana jaana rehta hai. Dost bahut
hain hamaare. Har jagah.

The phone starts ringing again. Ayan leaves the room followed quickly by Brahmaddatt.

In the corridor, Dr. Malti is waiting for him with Mayank. She stands up.

AYAN RANJAN

Malti ji, iss ladke ka medical
karna hai..

Brahmaddatt is standing right behind.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Medical kara lete hain. Kal ko ja
ke Ramlal ji se bolega ki humne
maara peeta isko toh kya karoge
Brahmaddatt??? Santulan to humein
bhi banana hoga na?

Brahmaddatt stares at him for a moment, then leaves.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

(To Malti)

Aapko Lucknow jaana padega. DNA
check karna hai ladkiyon ke saath.
ek aadmi jayega aapke saath.
Jayengi?

MALTI RAM

Jee sir..

AYAN RANJAN

Sirf mujhe phone karna.
(To Mayank)
Jatav Ji ko Bhejo..

She nods and leaves with Mayank.

WASHROOM :

Ayan enters and washes his face. Jatav enters.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Kisi patraakaar ko jaante hain jo
Ramlal Nahariya ke khilaaf headline
likh sake?

JATAV

Ji...

AYAN RANJAN

Ek khabar leak kijiye ki humein Anshu par shaq hai. Headline mein aana chahiye ki Anshu Ramlal ji ka khaas aadmi hai. Kal subah.

Jatav is not sure about his intention but he nods as Ayan walks out typing a message.

AYAN (TYPES V.O.)

Aditi, ek news chhapegi kal local akhbar mein. Please try karo ki kahan-kahan chhap sakti hai. This deserves to be on the front page.

ADITI (V.O.)

Theek ho tum?

AYAN (TYPES V.O.)

Kya pata.. Smiley.

47 **INT. AYAN'S OFFICE - DAY - LATER**

As Ayan walks up to his cabin, he sees Mayank quietly waiting outside his cabin with BACHCHU RAI.

MAYANK

sir..Bachchu Rai.

Ayan gesture him to bring Bachchu in.

AYAN RANJAN

Kya bol raha hai?
(to Bachchu)
4 baje kyon call kiya tha?

BACHCHU

Paisa lena tha sir.

MAYANK

Bol raha hai ki gaadi theek karwane aata tha Satyendra. Iska kuchh paisa baaki tha uspe.

AYAN RANJAN

Toh subah 4 baje phone karega?

BACHCHU

Mujhe urgent chahiye tha sir. Biwi bachche ko 6 baje ki train se Lucknow jaana tha. Unhone raat ko dene ka wada kiya tha. Raat ko nahi diya to isliye maine subah kiya..par wo aaye hi nahi..

Ayan gazes him for a moment, then:

AYAN RANJAN

(to Mayank)

Chhod do.

Bachchu folds his hands and leaves.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Nazar rakho is pe.. Anshu ke ghar pe CCTV hoga?

MAYANK

Lalgaon mein kahan CCTV Sir.. Khali bankon mein hai.

AYAN RANJAN

Koi bank uske ghar ke aas paas.

MAYANK

(Thinks)

Dekhta hoon Sir.

AYAN RANJAN

Hai to mujhe footage chahiye.

48

I/E. AYAN RESIDENCE - LATER IN EVENING

Ayan comes out of his room rolling up the sleeves of his shirt. He has just changed.

AYAN RANJAN

(to orderly)

Aqli kahan hai?

ORDERLY

2-3 ghante ho gaye sir..kuchh saaman lene gayi thi..abhi aayi nahi..

AYAN RANJAN

(worried)

Phone karo..

ORDERLY

Phone bhi nahi mil raha hai sir..

AYAN RANJAN

(panics)

Toh mujhe bataya kyun nahi kisi ne..

ORDERLY

Wo sir peechhe wale market mein gayi hogi..aa hi jayegi..

AYAN RANJAN

(angry)

Aa jayegi!!

(MORE)

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

yahan pata hai kya ho raha hai iss shehar mein tumko? Nihal ko phone lagao uski baat hui hai kya..gaadi nikalo jaldi.

He is overreacting. The orderly looks at him in disbelief as he rushes out of the house.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

(loud)

Chandrabhan! Chandrabhan!

Chandrabhan is nowhere to be seen. The orderly has come out behind Ayan. Ayan doesn't wait, gets into the car and starts it himself. He turns the car as Nihal and Amla appear on the door with Nihal rolling his bicycle. This relieves Ayan who is out of breath by now. He rushes out.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Kahan gayi thi..

Her face shines in the beam light. Nihal answers for her.

NIHAL SINGH

Sir iska paper ka faaram bharwaya hai na open ka..uski last date thi aaj.. photo nikalwana tha..

They look at him bewildered why he is so concerned. They don't know what he went through in last few seconds. His phone beeps. Something occurs to him, he stops and doesn't reply. Puts the phone aside.

49

EXT. JUNGLE SWAMP - MORNING

There are handful of people at the Jungle-swamp: Ayan, Mayank, Jatav, Nihal are the only people there. Ayan looks at the watch.

AYAN RANJAN

Koi nahin aayega?

JATAV

Sir upper caste toh bilkul nahi taiyar hai sir ismein utarne ko..aur SC/ST waale Nishad ke kehne par hadtaal par hain..Humko laga tha ki gaanv waale aa jayenge...

Suddenly four cops appear on their bikes. They arrive and salute..

AYAN RANJAN

(to 4 other cops)

Aap sab scheduled caste ho?

COP 1

Main Yadav hoon sir..Hukum kijiye!

Ayan looks at them and smiles gratefully.

AYAN RANJAN

Hukum se nahin hoga. Madad chahiye humein. Bahut log chahiyein.

Ayan leaves towards his car as Mayank follows him.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Ye hadtaal tudwaani padegi yaar,
Nishad se milna hoga mujhe.

MAYANK

Wo toh underground hai sir.

Suddenly Ayan stops.

AYAN RANJAN

Kitna underground hai?

He means business. Mayank looks on.

MAYANK

Try karta hoon sir..

50 **I/E. CAR/ROAD - EVENING**

Poignant music starts. Ayan drives the car. Mayank and Jatav are with him.

51 **I/E. OLD SCHOOL BUILDING - HALF AN HOUR LATER**

Car stops. Gaura is waiting for them. Ayan, Jatav and Mayank step out.

JATAV

Bahut jhadu lagaya hai sir
idhar..das saal!

Mayank hugs Gaura. Jatav looks at Gaura affectionately but there is a some wall between him and Gaura.

MAYANK

Hum log 10-11 saal ke thay
sir..Jatav ji ka ek prem patra
Principal sahab tak ahunch gaya
tha.Inke pitaji inke peechhe santi
leke bhaag rahe the..school chal
raha tha..humko aaj bhi yaad hai
jyon ka tyon.

JATAV

(Evasively)

Wo shadyantra hua tha hamaare
saath.

MAYANK

Kya kheer banate hain sir inke
pitaji.

Three bikes enter the premises. Nishaad is riding the first bike. Everyone is watching him. He stops and gets down. One bikes stops at a distance. Another one stops in another corner, to keep an eye at everything.

Nishad goes near Gaura and both hug. He touches Jatav's feet. Ayan looks at them, intrigued. Nishad looks at Ayan.

52

LATER

They are now in a big classroom. Few broken chairs and benches.

NISHAD

Hamein jo padhaya gaya wo sab
jhooth tha sir.

(laughs)

Isiliye toot gaya school shayad.

Ayan looks at him carefully.

NISHAD (CONT'D)

Kya chahiye aapko ?

AYAN RANJAN

Logo'n ko kaam pe bhej do Nishad.
Pooja ko dhundhne ke liye log
chahiye.

NISHAD

Pooja ko kyon dhoondhna hai
sir..uska bhi koi baap dhundho aur
prove kar do ki..

He stops. Silence. Gaura breaks the silence awkwardly.

GAURA

Nishad, tumhare liye chachi halwa
bheji hain. Daal ka.

He gives it to him.

GAURA (CONT'D)

(to everyone)

Parso'n janmdin tha iska.

She looks into Nishad's eyes. An untimely and emotional moment.

MAYANK

Kya heera ladka tha sir. Matlab Nishad ke 100 mein se 90 aa jayein toh sabko lagta tha ki paper galat chaeck hua hai. Nishad ke kam number kaise aa sakte hain.

NISHAD

Heera ladka tha toh itna ladna kyon pad raha hai dost ?

MAYANK

Ye tumne hi toh chuna hai bhai. Kyonki tum bahut negative ho gaye ho.

NISHAD

(laughs at the irony)
Tum negative ho jaate toh tum pe bhi lagta kya National security act ?

MAYANK

Har cheez ka ek tareeka hota hai Nishad. Jatav ji ko dekh na. Safaai karte the iss school mein inke pitaji. Mere papa padhate thay. Aaj barabar hain hum dono'n. Same pay scale. Unhone bhi banayi na apni jagah. Tumhein lagta hai kuch nahi hua 70 saal mein.

NISHAD

Bahut kuch hua hai..par hum kabhi harijan ho jaate hain, kabhi bahun. Bas jan nahi rah paate ki jan mann gan mein hamari bhi ginti ho sakey.

MAYANK

Bhai tum na zyada padh likh gaye. Na humko itni baatein aati hain. Par sab communities ki apni apni problem hain Nishad.

Beat.

NISHAD

Gaura ki naukri lagi thi. Mid-day meal banaane mein. Pahle hi din bachhon ne iske haath ka khaana khaane se manaa kar diya. 150 bachhon ka khaana phenk diya gaya. Tere haath ka khaana phenka hai kabhi kisi ne ? Kabhi kisi ne haath dhoye hain Mayank, tujhse haath mila ke ?

Beat.

NISHAD (CONT'D)

Problem sab community ko
hain Mayank..par mandir
mein ghusne par teri
haddiyaan naheen todta
koi.

Silence. Ayan takes a deep breath. A beat.

GAURA

Shaanti prasad laaya tha mahant ko
gaanv waalo'n ke saath khana
khilaane. Mahant khaana bhi apna
laaya tha aur bartan bhi. TV par ye
naheen bataya.

AYAN RANJAN

Shaanti prasad ne bhi kuch nahi
kiya kabhi ?

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Karte they sir. Tabhi pairon mein
jaake baith gaya tha uske itne
saal. Phir dheere-dheere samajh
aaya ki power ki jaati alag hoti
hai. ye hamare kandhon pe khadey
hue hain toh inhone humko
joota..mitti jaisa kuch samajh liya
hai. Nikal aaya. Ladne laga.

(Lifts his shirt from
neck, showing a scar)

Pichle saal Shaanti prasad ke
ladkon ne hamla kiya tha sir. Guru
ka return gift hai. Iss rullu mein
hamare voto'n ki deal ho rahi hai
sir. Ye kaise hone dein ?

Ayan takes a deep breath. His phone rings. He takes the call.

53

EXT. LUCKNOW STREET - DAY

Malti followed by a policeman in plain clothes rushes towards
a rickshaw.

MALTI

Malti bol rahi hoon Sir. Anshu
Nehariya ka sample match ho gaya
hai. Main report le ke nikli hun
abhi. Subah tak pahunchti hun.

Back to the school-

AYAN RANJAN

Mujhe abhi ke abhi whatsapp kar do..Lalgaon pahunchte hi phone karo.!

He disconnects and looks at their curious faces.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Nishad, main wo sab kar raha hun jo mujhe karna chahiye, matlab jitna samajh pa raha hun main. Harunga ya jeetunga, pata nahi. Par tum madad nahi karoge toh..

NISHAD

(cuts in between)

Aapki ye chalne nahi denge sir. Arey ye uss kitaab ki nahi chalne dete jiski ye shapath lete hain.

AYAN RANJAN

Yahi toh ladai hai Nishaad. Hamein toh usi kitaab ki chalaani na ? Usi se chalega desh, yahi bol ke gaye thay na baba saahab ?

NISHAD

Aur ye bhi bol ke gaye thay sir, ki samvidhaan ka misuse hoga toh mai pahla aadmi hounga usey jalaane wala.

A beat.

AYAN RANJAN

Wahaan Pooja ki chappal mili hai Nishad..

Nishad can't ignore this. He looks at Gaura once.

NISHAD

Hadtaal toh nahi tootegi sir. Par aapke log kaam pe aa jayenge.

Everyone feels light. Ayan looks grateful.

54

I/E. POLICE HQ - HALF AN HOUR LATER

A worker immersed in mud comes out of a manhole in the office premises. They have started the work. Ayan's car pulls into the office. Ayan receives a message as he gets off. Mayank and Jatav are behind him. The Janitor with a bucket and a large broom stops to give way to Ayan. Ayan gives him a look.

AYAN RANJAN

(Announces)

Sukkha Singh, Force ikatthi karo.
(MORE)

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Hum Anshu Naharia ko arrest karne
ja rahe hain.

Through a flurry of activity Brahmatt appears in the Verandah. Ayan and Brahmatt keep looking at each other as cops prepare to leave. Brahmatt slowly walks up to Ayan.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Sir Lucknow se aisa samachar aa
raha hai ki ye case CBI ko saunp
diya gaya hai. Achcha hai Sir aap
ko bhi mukti hogi ab. Wo log manage
karenge sab in fact.

AYAN RANJAN

Thoda hum bhi manage kar lete hain
unke aane se pehle. Nahi?

55 **I/E. ANSHU'S FARMHOUSE - LATER**

Ayan's car pulls over at Anshu's house. Ayan gets out of the car. Jatav, Sukkha and other policeman come out of Anshu's house.

JATAV

Wo ghar pe nahi hai sir.

AYAN RANJAN

Ek-ek kamre ki talaashi lo.

JATAV

Yes sir.

Brahmadatt comes out of Anshu's house.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Wo toh nikal gaya sir.

SUDDENLY Ayan notices a building next door and a yellow bus in front.

AYAN RANJAN

Ye kya hai?

BRAHMADATT SINGH

School hai Sir. Vidyalaya. Chhutti
chal rahi hai. Pandrah din baad
khulega.

AYAN RANJAN

Kiska hai?

Brahmadatt hesitates but he knows it cant stay a secret anymore.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Anshu ka hai sir.

Ayan walks to the bus, followed by Brahmatt, carefully walks in. Gestures everyone to stay back. His team stays outside. Ayan looks carefully inside the bus. He comes out.

AYAN RANJAN

(To Mayank)

Ye bus seize karo. Seal karwao.
Forensic team ko inform kijiye.

Ayan walks in to the school corridor. He has an eye on Anshu's house too. Ayan walks down the corridor. Door after door is locked. A man who works in the school, unlocks the doors. From the windows everything seems normal. He starts walking outside. Then -

Mayank

Iss kamre ki chaabi ?

MAN

Wo Anshu bhaiya apne paas rakhte hain.

Ayan stops after listening to this.

AYAN RANJAN

Taala todo.

They break the door open. It is a small room. Broken furniture. In the back, there is a bottle of phinayl and a wiper under a table. There is a bedding on the floor and nothing else. AND a bottle of alcohol in a corner. Ayan looks at Mayank.

56

EXT. SWAMP - DAY

Several Police jeeps by the swamp. Fifty to sixty cops and civilians (all Dalits) in the swamp. Ayan reaches there too with Jatav and Mayank. Ayan instructs Jatav who in turn takes charge and starts making teams for different directions.

JATAV

Pandrah bees log sooartaal paar kar
ke seedhe jungle mein jaayenge,
Baaqi log chaaron taraf taal mein
thoda tasalli se dhoondhenge. Baki
log seedha kheton mein chalte
rahein aur phir jungle mein aayein
udhar se.

Gaura will also go in but before she does that she goes to Ayan. She awkwardly folds her hands. She tries hard to say something but she can't. She walks in to the swamp.

57

EXT. HIDEOUT - DAWN

A large expanse of wheat crops. A tube-well runs in all its glory. In the middle of it all just a lonely house. Bachchu is sitting on a *charpoy*. A *house-help* gives him a cup of tea. A woman can be seen cooking in the courtyard. Two cows and a buffalo have been tied in another corner and they are grazing happily. Anshu Naharia come out of the house and suddenly sees a jeep at a distance driving in. IT IS BRAHMADATT. Anshu sits on a chair waiting for Brahmatt to arrive. He comes and sits next to Anshu. He is carrying a newspaper and throws it at Anshu.

ANSHU NAHARIA

Dekhe hain. Ramlal ji bahut bhadbhadaye honge. Suspend pe nahin chhodenge. Arrest karwaenge saale ko.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Baat hui tumhari?

ANSHU NAHARIA

Phone band aa raha hai.

BACHCHU RAI

CBI aa gayi na ab toh?

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Aa jayegi, wo bhi aa jayegi.
(To Anshu)
Naashta kar liya?

ANSHU NAHARIA

Na, paraanthe ban rahe hain.

Anshu starts humming a song.

ANSHU NAHARIA (CONT'D)

(humming)
Gehun kamaal hua hai iss baar.

Brahmadatt looks at the crop, then looks back at Anshu.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Maarne ki kya zarurat thi Anshu?

ANSHU NAHARIA

Hain?

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Hafte das din rakh ke chhod deta haramzadiyon ko..

ANSHU NAHARIA

Bahut krantikaari ho rahi theen sir.

BACHCHU RAI

Uss din bhi na dekhi aapne? Kaise
pair phadphada rahi thi jab aap
utre thay uss pe.

Brahmadatt stares at Bachchu. Suddenly Brahmaddatt takes out his gun and shoots him. Bang! Anshu is startled. He gets up and pulls out his gun but just in time Brahmaddatt sticks his gun in Anshu's ribcage from behind him.

ANSHU NAHARIA

Pagal ho gaya kya Brahmaddatt?

The cattle get terrified and wriggle to untie themselves. The help runs to the back of the house. The woman stays at the *Choolha* and looks at them blankly while the paratha burns slowly.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

(Very coldly)

Suno Anshu bhaiyya, tum ko arrest
karenge toh hum mar jayenge. Tumko
maar denge to kahani khatam!

ANSHU NAHARIA

Ramlal ji chhodenge nahin saale
tumko.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Tumko toh chhod chuke hain saale
aur tumko samajh hi naheen aa raha
hai.

Anshu is trying to wriggle out. Brahmaddatt looks around a bit. In complete control.

BRAHMADATT SINGH (CONT'D)

Achchha Anshu bhaiya.

The revolver still stuck hard in Anshu's cage and HE FIRES.

58

I/E. LALGAON - DAY

Three official cars cruise through the streets. The number plate proudly announces 'Govt. of India'.

The cars drive in to Ayan's office. A senior CBI official Panicker alights the leading car followed by his subordinates in the following cars. He is escorted in to the office. Ayan stands at the window in his office. Panicker and Ayan look at each other.

AYAN'S CABIN- Sukkha comes running to him.

SUKKHA

Sir Mr Panicker ji hain CBI se.

Ayan looks at him smilingly

AYAN RANJAN

Chaay pilwaiye unhein.

59 **I/E. CONFERENCE ROOM/ OUTSIDE, POLICE HQ - MOMENTS LATER**

DR AWDHESH, 49, is being interrogated by 3 officers from CBI. PANICKER, 54, the main officer, has a hard time speaking Hindi but he insists on the language, hence broken and arrhythmic. ELISA, 34, a christian girl from Kerala, is the steno. She is typing the proceedings.

PANICKER

Malti Kitne time se aapki Assistant hai?

DR AWDHESH

Assistant Nahin hai Sir, She is not an Assistant.

PANICKER

Matlab?

DR AWDHESH

Matlab Assistant hai. She is an Assistant. But she is complete doctor. Par sab kuchh mai hi karta hun. I do everything.

PANICKER

Aap Hindi bhi bolte hain aur English bhi

(Points towards Elisa)

Usko double type karna padta hai.

OUTSIDE- Ayan walks out to the main office and crosses Brahmatt on the way.

BRAHMADATT SINGH

Anshu ko arrest karne gaye thay
Sir, farm house me chhupa hua tha..
Fire kar diya hamaare upar.

Ayan keeps looking at him, almost smilingly.

INSIDE :

Ayan enters and sits in front of the officers.

PANICKER

Kaise-Hain-Aap- Mister Ranjan?

AYAN RANJAN

I am okay sir.

PANICKER

Aapke- aate- hi-kaafi-chaos-ho gaya-
idhar?..

AYAN RANJAN

Yes sir.

PANICKER

Aur-aapko-to-aadat-bhi-nahin-Indian-
sabhyata-ki-vishamta-ka-

A beat. Ayan contemplates.

AYAN RANJAN

Mostly Bookish Sir. I am learning.

PANICKER

Bahut-puraana-hai-ye-sab.

AYAN RANJAN

Of course.

PANICKER

Aapka Hindi comfortable nahi?

AYAN RANJAN

Hain?

PANICKER

Naheen aap English prefer karte
hain. But that is okay, I follow
English. But in Hindi belt
sometimes achha hota hai agar local
language mein sahad ho toh... local
sabhyata..behtar samajh mein aati
hai.

A beat.

AYAN RANJAN

Wo ladki missing hai sir. Ek ek
minute important hai. Ek accused
already maara gaya hai.

He takes a file from his associate.

PANICKER

Aap dawaaiyon par hain?

AYAN RANJAN

Sir?

PANICKER

Aapka Hindi ka issue hai shayad.
Are you on any medicines?

AYAN RANJAN

No sir.

PANICKER

Aisa lagta hai. Aap kaafi restless lag rahe hain.

AYAN RANJAN

Sir do chhoti bachchiyon ka rape hua hai.

PANICKER

Rape hua aisa kyon lagta hai?

AYAN RANJAN

Sabse pehle toh post mortem Report Sir

PANICKER

But uss doctor ka first post mortem. Senior Doctor ki report mein rape nahin hai.

AYAN RANJAN

Sir I am not qualified to Judge her qualification. Unhone Post mortem kiya, unki report ne rape kaha. Phir Anshu Naharia ka DNA sample check karwaaya, wo match kiya hai sir..

Panicker scrolls through his file.

PANICKER

DNA sample meri report mein nahi hai.

AYAN RANJAN

Wo maine personally karwaaya sir. I shall submit the same to you. It is on my whatsapp right now.

Ayan shows him the *Whatsapp* image on his phone. Panicker doesn't seem convinced.

PANICKER

Whatsapp se lynching ho jaata hai, danga ho jaata hai, ye bhi maaloom hai aapko?

AYAN RANJAN

Ji sir.

PANICKER

Aisa aarop hai ki aap SC/ST ke liye poorvagrah rakhte hain..

AYAN RANJAN

Sorry sir?

PANICKER

You are prejudiced. Aapne aate hi apne office mein sabki jaati poochhi. Kya ye sach hai?

AYAN RANJAN

Sir I was trying to understand ki 2019 mein hum do hazaar saal purana system follow kar rahe hain.

PANICKER

Reasonable...but ye SC ST act ke antargat crime hai. Aap jaante hi honge?

AYAN RANJAN

Ji sir..yes sir.

PANICKER

Ashram se ya Mahant ji se aapka koi purana parichay? Dushmani?

AYAN RANJAN

No sir, mai to 2 din pehle tak iss sabke baare mein jaanta bhi nahi tha.

PANICKER

Aisa aarop hai Mister Ayan Ranjan ki aapka iss case ko lekar personal agenda hai. Aur aap local harmony ko bigaadne chaahte hain.

AYAN RANJAN

Main wahi kar raha hoon sir jo..

PANICKER

Brahman Dalit ekta Rally ke baare mein aap kya sochte hain? Upper caste aur lower caste ek sath, mil ke state government ke against khada ho raha hai. Kya sochte hain aap?

AYAN RANJAN

Kuchh bhi nahi sochta sir.

PANICKER

Aap chahenge ki ye successful ho?

AYAN RANJAN

I don't care sir. Iss rally ka unn logon se koi lena dena nahin hai. Kabhi nahin hota. Wo seedhe log hain, naaron ke peeche bheed ban ke khade ho jaate hain.

PANICKER

Coffee?

AYAN RANJAN

No Sir Thanks.

PANICKER

Ab aap is case par kaam band kar dein. Abhi se. Right now. Ham handle kar lenge. Aapko jo bhi humko batana hai kal bata sakte hain, apne defense mein.

60 **I/E. AYAN'S CAR | HIGHWAY - DAY**

Ayan stares outside the window as his car drives fast on a highway. He types a message.

AYAN RANJAN (TYPES V.O.)

Satyendra ki location mil gayi hai. Milne ja raha hoon. Uske baad kaam band.

ADITI (V.O.)

Chal jhoothe.

61 **EXT. MAITHA ROAD - EVENING**

It is a very sparsely populated area by the highway. Chandrabhan pulls over. At a small shop by the road Satyendra sits with his back to the road. Ayan softly steps out and begins walking towards him. Nihal follows him from a distance. Just when Ayan is about to call him out Satyendra turns and sees him. He also sees Nihal. Satyendra gets up with a start and begins to back off in the lane.

SATYENDRA

Tum saale arrest karne aaye ho?

AYAN RANJAN

Baat karne aaya hun Satyendra..

Satyendra begins backing off.

SATYENDRA

Jhooth mat bolo, arrest karne aaye ho.

Ayan gestures Nihal to fall back. Nihal complies. Ayan catches Satyendra before he runs away.

AYAN RANJAN

Sirf baat karni hai tujhse.

Satyendra sits down.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

12 taarekh ki raat ko Anshu ke ghar
kyon gaya tha tu ?

SATYENDRA

Isi pradesh mein IPS ko peet peet
ke maar diya gaya tha. Jaante ho
na?

AYAN RANJAN

Anshu ki gali ke bahar jo bank hai,
uska CCTV footage dekha hai maine.
Tu 12 ki raat gaya tha wahan.
Police ki ek jeep gayi thi. Kya ho
raha tha wahan?

SATYENDRA

Tum saale superman banna chaahte
ho?

AYAN RANJAN

Tum subah 4 baje uth ke kahan gaye
thay ? Bachchu ne kyon call kiya
tha tumhein ? Kyon bhaage hue ho?
Mujhe suspend kiya ja raha hai
Satyendra par uske pehle jo kar
sakunga karunga. Tumhein arrest
karna pada toh wo bhi. Goli maarni
padi toh wo bhi.

Satyendra keeps looking at him and begins to cry.

SAYENDRA RAI

Subah 4 baje call aaya tha mujhe.
Anshu ki gaadi kharab ho gayi thi.
Bola ki turant aa jaa jumper
leke. Jab main pahuncha to unhone
dono ladkiyan ped pe just latkaayi
thi. Mujhe bola bhaag ja kuchh din.

This is unsettling for Ayan but he tries to stay normal.

AYAN RANJAN

12 tarrekh ko kya hua tha ? Kaun
kaun tha wahan ?

Satyendra shakes head.

SATYENDRA RAI

Anshu ke ghar pe party thi. Main
bhi tha. Brahmatt bhi aaya tha.
Nihal bhi. Wahin theen ladkiyan.
Sab ek ek kar ke school mein ja
rahe the. Main nikal gaya tha wahan
se. Anshu ne kiya tha rape.
Brahmatt ne kiya tha Rape. Nihal
Singh ne bhi kiya tha.

Ayan is in shock. He turns to look at Nihal Singh who is intently looking at them.

AYAN RANJAN

Teesri ladki kahan hai?

SATYENDRA RAI

Mujhe nahin pata, uss raat shayad teenon bhaag nikli theen. Lekin main gawahi nahin dunga Ayan. Kisi aur ke saamne poochha toh mukar jaunga.

AYAN RANJAN

Kyon nahin dega gawahi.. Deni padegi.

SATYENDRA RAI

Tu toh chala jayega suspend ho ke. Mujhe jail mein maar daalenge. Aise hi chalta hai yahan. Aise hi chalega. Ja raha hun. Chahe to maar dena goli peechhe se. Khatam hoga saala.

Satyendra is vulnerable. He looks at Nihal one last time and leaves.

Ayan walks back to his car, to Nihal Singh. Chandrabhan gets in the car when Ayan comes close but Ayan doesn't get in. He approaches Nihal Singh. Nihal knows there is something wrong.

AYAN RANJAN

Pooja kahaan hai Nihal Singh?

Nihal's eyes well up.

NIHAL SINGH

Mujhe nahi pata sir.

Chandrabhan senses this is something big. Nihal starts crying.

AYAN RANJAN

Toone bhi kiya tha?

NIHAL SINGH

Wo zyada pila diye the sir uss din. Brahmatt ji ke saath thay.

This is another revelation.

NIHAL SINGH (CONT'D)

Par galti toh hui hai sir. Paap hua hai sir.

AYAN RANJAN

Brahmadatt ne bhi kiya rape?

NIHAL SINGH

Haan sir.

He cries more.

AYAN RANJAN

Pooja Kahan hai?

NIHAL SINGH

Mujhe nahi pata hai sir. Uss din 3
ladkiyan thi. Uske baad mujh ko
kuch nahi pata sir.

AYAN RANJAN

Pooja kahan hai, Nihal Singh?

NIHAL SINGH

Sach mein nahi pata hai sir.

He folds hands and turns to Chandrabhan too.

NIHAL SINGH (CONT'D)

Humko maaf kar do..maaf kar do
humko.

He cries desperately. His voice is trembling.

NIHAL SINGH (CONT'D)

Amali ko mat baataana sir. Mar
jayegi wo..mar jayegi wo...

In this fit of crying, he suddenly jumps onto the road, in
front of a truck which runs over him. Nihal dies.

FADE OUT.

62

FADE IN TO SAME - NIGHT

Ayan sits in his car with the door open, dazed. He was on the
phone that he calmly puts down. Police vehicles have arrived
at the venue. Chandrabhan stands by the door with a plate of
roadside snack and a glass of tea that Ayan has refused
already.

Nihal's body is being picked up and placed into an ambulance.
Chandrabhan looks the most affected as he sees this process
from some distance.

CHANDRABHAN

Khabar aati hai ki rape badayun,
bulandshahar mein hua hai. Hamse
kaheen duur hua hai. Lekin duur
kuch hota naheen hai. Nihal toh
humse dedh feet duur baithta tha 12
saal.

Jatav has just arrived. He rushes in to Ayan.

AYAN RANJAN

Brahmadatt ko arrest karna hai
Jatav ji. Lucknow se officers aa
gaye hain, ghar baithe hain
suspension order leke. Wo receive
kar liya toh uske baad kuchh nahi
ho payega. Uss se pehle..

JATAV

Sir hum Mayank se bolte hain ki
arrest order leke ghar ke bahar
milega. Aap sign kar dijiyega.
Baaki hum kar lenge.

Ayan nods.

63 **EXT. TANNERY EXTERIOR/JUNGLE SWAMP - NIGHT**

The cops are spread out now, deep in the jungle. One cop
calling out Pooja's name from time to time. Some in the swamp
with sticks in the mud dabbling through the knee deep swamp.

64 **EXT. AYAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Mayank waits outside the house. Ayan's car pulls in with Ayan
driving it and Jatav sitting beside him. Mayank offers him
the letter. Ayan signs it. Jatav gets down.

AYAN RANJAN

(To Mayank)

Brahmadatt kahan milega abhi?

MAYANK

Ghar pe hain sir.

AYAN RANJAN

Utha lo. Malti ko sath le jaana.
Sabse pehle blood sample lo uska.
Wahin, ghar pe. Phir office le
jaana.

Ayan drives into the house.

65 **I/E. AYAN'S RESIDENCE - SAME TIME**

Two uniformed men wait in the patio. Ayan drives in, the
orderly comes running in.

ORDERLY

Sir koi Aditi Madam aayi hain..

INSIDE :

AMLI

Hum aalu-parwal toh kaamaal banaate hain. Karela aisa banaate hain ki pata hi na chale. Aur aapko pata hai, Nihal bhaiya bolte hain ki jaisi kheer hum banaate hain na, waisi hamari maa bhi naheen banaati theen. ab aap bataiye ki aap khayengi kya ?

ADITI

Mujhe sach ein bhookh naheen hai.

AMLI

Arey, na bhaiya ko bhookh lagti hai, na aapko. Banaye kis ke liye ? Bhaiya toh sotey bhi naheen hain. Aap bhi naheen soteen kya ?

As Ayan enters, AmlI looks at him.

AMLI (CONT'D)

Bhaiya aa gaye.

The uniformed men rise to meet Ayan, behind them Aditi appears at the door. Ayan keeps looking at her. They smile feebly. The officers hand him an envelope and Ayan signs a paper that they offer. The uniformed men leave and Ayan walks into the house. He stands face to face with Aditi. They keep looking at each other.

ADITI

I've been reading up. Everything. Laga ki tumhein zaroorat hai meri.

AYAN RANJAN

Bahut hai. Ek min.. Baitho tum..

Ayan calls for Amali. As he flings the unopened envelope on the dining table.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Amali beta?

Amali walks in. Ayan holds her by her shoulders and makes her sit on the sofa. Aditi watches from a distance, intrigued. AmlI is very uncomfortable sitting on the sofa but she does. Ayan kneels before AmlI. Looks deep into her eyes.

AYAN

Rape samajhti ho beta?

AmlI is shocked. Aditi moves closer and sits next to AmlI. She looks at Ayan shocked. AmlI trembles like a thin leaf but manages a subtle nod.

AYAN (CONT'D)

Shanu aur Mamta ko jo abhi ped se
latka ke maar diya tha na?

BEAT. Amlı is crying now. Ayan is determined to go through
this. There's no easier way to do this. He doesn't even bat
an eyelid.

AYAN (CONT'D)

Nihal bhaiyya ne bhi kiya tha unka
rape. Usne khud bataya mujhe.

Amlı breaks down.

AYAN (CONT'D)

Ab nahin aayega Nihal Bhaiyya. Abhi
aapko.. Usne mana kiya tha tumhein
bataane ko, par beta pata to chalna
hi hai tumhein..

(a beat)

Pata nahin ki issey kuch fark padta
hai ya nahin..par usko ahsaas tha
beta..

Amlı is shattered. Ayan keeps holding her face as she cries
bitterly.

AYAN (CONT'D)

Hum hain tere saath beta.

Aditi hugs Amlı tight.

66 **EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT**

A bike on the highway. Gaura astride pillion. Her face fully
covered. The bike drives off the highway.

NISHAD (V.O.)

Rally ka virodh bardaasht nahin ho
raha inse. Kuch bhi kar sakte hain
ye log. Kuch din gaayab hona
padega. Jaane se pahle milne ka
mann hai tumse. Aa sakogi ?

67 **I/E. A HIDEOUT - NIGHT**

Gaura is dropped off a bike by Nishad's man. She sneaks in to
a lonely hut in the fields.

Nishad waits for her there. They hug.

NISHAD

Hum ko phir se jail mein daalne
waale hain Gaura.

GAURA

Ye thaka denge tum ko Nishad. Sab ko thaka dete hain.

NISHAD

Kabhi-kabhi ummeed hi nahi bachti Gaura..par kah bhi nahi sakte kyonki itne saare log..aapse ummeed laga ke baithe hain.

Beat.

GAURA

(With compassion)

Hum se kah sakte ho..

NISHAD

Kabhi-kabhi lagta hai ki kitna kuch karna tha. Kabhi hum bhi phool laate tumhare liye. Par itni saari buri khabarein theen har din Gaura ki..tum ko dekh ke muskuraate thay toh lagta tha ki..gunaah kar diye koi. Paap kar diye. Zindagi ka aisa naala bah raha hai neechे ki..ki kabhi paanch minute bhi nahin miley ki hum nadi mein paanv lakta ke baith paate tumhaare saath. 5 minute bhi chaand nahin dekhe kabhi. 5 minute ko bhi sukoon nahin aaya Gaura..

And he hugs her like a child and cries.

68 **INT. JAIL/ LOCK UP - NIGHT**

Maalti takes Brahmatt's blood sample. They take signature of Brahmatt on a paper. Few policemen take Brahmatt into the lock up. Suddenly, Brahmatt pushes Jatav hard.

BRAHMATT SINGH

Jaat dikha di na saale. Jhaadu lagwaana chahiye tha tere se, wardi pehna ke bitha diya daftar mein.

Jatav keeps looking at him and then SLAPS him hard.

JATAV

Kab tak jhaadu lagwaiyega Brahmatt ji ?

69 **INT. AYAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

Amla sleeps on the sofa. Cuddled up in a blanket. Ayan and Aditi stand leaning against a pillar. Ayan is constantly looking at her.

AYAN RANJAN

Pata hai jab bhi Gaura Nishad ke baare mein baat karti hai na toh ek ajeeb si chamak hoti hai uski aankhon mein. Phir mujhe samajh mein aaya ki kuchh to problem hai mujh mein ki tumne kabhi dekha hi nahi mujhe aise..

Both of them get emotional. Aditi walks up to him. She keeps looking at him.

ADITI

Can I hug you?

Even before he can take in the question she hugs him. Both stand there in the hug they have longed for months.

70

I/E. HIDEOUT - DAWN

Gaura, leaning against a wall sitting on the mud floor, has her eyes closed. She is asleep too probably. Her fingers in Nishad's hair who sleeps like a baby on the cot.

OUTSIDE- DAWN**NISHAD (V.O.)**

Main writer banna chahta tha. Aur scientist bhi. Phir socha ki shayad science ka writer ban jaaunga.

Three cops in plain clothes appear at the door. They briskly walk to the hut, jump inside/push the door open, wake them up and take Nishad away, leaving a flustered Gaura behind.

NISHAD (V.O.)

Kuchh bhi na hua saala. Kyunki paida jahan hua tha, wahan paida hona hi ek bhayanak accident jaisa tha.

Gaura runs behind them.

71

EXT. RALLY - AN HOUR LATER

The Brahman-Dalit Rally has started. Mahant is addressing the crowd. Shanti Prasad is on stage too.

MAHANT

Saathiyon, jaati koi bhi ho, ye har Hindu ke ek hone ka waqt hai. Sahi dushman pehchaanne ka waqt hai.

72 **EXT. LALGAON STREET - DAY****NISHAD (V.O.)**

Kabhi harijan ho jaate hain hum,
 kabhi bahun ho jaate hain. Bas
 jan nahin ban pa rahey ki jan mann
 gan mein hamari ginti ho jaaye.
 Jitne log border pe shahid hote
 hain, uss se zyada gutter saaf
 karte hue ho jaate hain. Aur unke
 liye to koi maun tak nahi rakhta.

Four different bikes with blue flags. Boys get off with paint and Brush, paint The Mahant's banners black.

73 **I/E. POLICE STATION - DAY**

Nanku and Mahendar make a confession before a video camera. Two other CBI officer record his confession. Panicker watches on.

NANKU RAM

(emotionless)

Hum se bahut badi galti ho gayi.
 Dono ladkiyan galat raste par
 thi..pariwaar ka naam kharab ho
 raha tha. Samjhane se nahi samjhi
 toh humne maar diya. Bahut badi
 galti ho gayi humse.

MAHENDAR

Bahut badi galti ho gayi humse.

74 **INT. UNMARKED JEEP/ ROAD - DAY**

Nishad sits in the rear of the jeep. Blank. Fait Accompli. His voice over continues.

NISHAD (V.O.)

Kabhi mujhe kuchh ho gaya toh aap
 logon ko gussa aayega. Usi gusse ko
 hathiyar banaana hai lekin uske
 alawa koi hathiyar beech mein nahi
 aana chahiye doston. Kyunki jis din
 hum log hinsa ke raste par
 chale..inke liye humein maarna aur
 bhi aasan ho jayega.

The jeep pulls over in the middle of a somewhat deserted road. Some vehicles pass by and a few other cops in plain clothes wait with a motorbike and a man. This is Nokhai, the man that came to the school with Nishad and attacked Jatav's jeep. Everything now happens in a rush. A gunner faces the road and makes sure that the traffic keeps moving, while one escorts Nishad to the waiting man by the bike. They look at each other with a great deal of compassion.

NISHAD (V.O.)

Waise bhi jo bhi aawaz uthaata hai,
usey desh ki suraksha ke liye
khatra bata diya jaata hai aur phir
khatm kar diya jaata hai. Paash ne
kaha tha na.. ki darasal hum sab ko
desh ki aisi suraksha se khatra
hai..

THEN they are left alone and SUDDENLY all the cops begin to pull out their service revolvers while the gunner keeps the traffic flowing. Nishad and his friend know what is coming. One final biker and it will be done. The gunner violently gesture him to pass by quickly. Nokhai starts sobbing.

NISHAD

Hum aakhiri thodi thay Nokhai. Aur
bahut aayenge.

We hear nine gun shots and the biker sees over his shoulder as he continues to drive away.

75 **EXT. RALLY - SAME TIME**

Twenty Five angry men with blue flags enter the crowd. They chant the slogans of Jai Bheem. A few of them starts pulling down some flags and banners. Some people from the rally rush to resist. One of them throws a *mazel tov cocktail* over the crowd. Pandemonium. Some violence breaks out until a man shatters the glass on a showcase nearby.

76 **I/E. POLICE HQ - LATER**

Tear gas shots and faint slogans can be heard from a distance. As Ayan's car drives in, he sees smoke in the air. Police jeeps are rushing off, one after another. Ayan gets off. Mayank is waiting for them. Ayan has a file in his hand.

At a distance, crestfallen Gaura reaches on her bicycle and stops next to Jatav at the gate. They keep looking at each other. Jatav hugs her tight and both break down in the embrace like children.

MAYANK

Hum maafi maangenge Gaura. Baar-
baar maangenge. Par tum maaf mat
karna hamein.

Ayan sees this from a distance and walks away.

77 **INT. CBI ROOM - MOMENTS LATER**

Everyone is in his seat.

PANICKER

Ye violence nahi karna chahiye tha Daliton ko. Violence hone laga toh sabse zyada nuksan unka hi hoga.

AYAN RANJAN

Kaun kar raha hai sir ye?

There is a slowness in their conversation. Both of them speak with a disturbing calmness which is in complete contrast to what is happening outside.

PANICKER

Naare toh aapne bhi suney honge. Jai Bheem.

AYAN RANJAN

Kabhi kabhi bahar dikhne waale violence ke peeche aisa violence hota hai sir, jiski koi baat nahi karta, jo itna normal ho jaata hai ki sabhyata ka hissa ban jaata hai. Usey to hum hinsa bhi nahi kehte. Saamajik vyavastha kehte hain. Ya phir law and order.

PANICKER

Aap neutral nahi reh paate na?

AYAN RANJAN

Aag lagi ho toh neutral rehne ka matlab hai ki aap aag lagaane waalon ke saath khade hain.

PANICKER

Kaun laga raha hai aag ?

AYAN RANJAN

(intently)
Sir pichhle 12 ghante me aapke phone pe sabse zyada call jis number se aaye hain, wahi laga raha hai.

Panicker stares at him. Ayan is ready to take him on.

PANICKER

Aapko kuch kahna hai ? Otherwise open and shut case hai. Iske baad hum soch rahey hain ki file band kar denge. Clear cut honour killing .

AYAN RANJAN

Sar ye ladkiyaan apne mehnataane mein 3 ruapye extra maang rahi theen.

(MORE)

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

(Panicker drinks some water)

3 rupaye sir. Jo mineral water mai aur aap roz peete hain sir, uske 2 ya 3 ghoont. Bas itna aur maang rahi theen wo. Unki dekha dekhi kuch aur bachchon ne kaam chhod diya. Iss gunaah ke liye unn 3 ladkiyon ko kidnap karke ek bus mein unhein molest kiya gaya. Molest sir, kaamuk utpeedan. Jaise ek school mein unhein bhejne ki hamari zimmedaari thi sar, waise hi ek school mein, ek khaali kamre mein unke haath pair baandh ke phenk diya gaya. Wey sambhog ke liye bhi pariapkwa nahi theen sar. Unka saamuhik balatkaar kiya gaya takai unko unki aukaat dikhayi ja sakey. Unhein maar ke bus mein bhi chhoda ja sakta tha, kheto'n mein bhi phenka ja sakta tha. Lekin unko ped pe latkaaya gaya taaki poori jaat ko apni aukaat yaad rahey. Unke pairo'n mein baandhi gayi rassi, moonh pe baandhi gayi patti, chadar ke daag Anshu Nahariya ke school ke ek kamre se baramad hue hain. Uss raat Anshu, Brahmadatt aur Nihal singh ne unke saath balatkaar kiya. Anshu ka blood sample ladkiyo'n ke swab se match ho chuka hai sar. Baaki logo'n ke tests bhi mai ek independent lab se karwa raha hoon sir. Phone unko bhi aaye hain. Isliye kit khatm ho gayi hai. But I shall submit them as evidence in times to come.

(imitates Panicker's style of speaking)

Aane waale samay mein sabhi pramaan ek atirikt anulagnak mein prastut karunga. Ye sab mere thaane ke dwara roka ja sakta tha sir. Nahin roka gaya. Kyonki inn logo'n ka aisa hi hai sir. Inn logo'n ke yahaan aisa hota rahta hai. Ye log anpadh hain sir. Inn logo'n ka chhua bhi nahi khaaya ja sakta sir, in fact inn logo'n ki parchhayi tak padna allowed nahi hai sir. Na jaane kitin jaatiyon ke naam gaali ki tarah istemaal kiye jaate hain, mazaak ki tarah istemaal kiye jaate hain. Sir ye OBC, SC aur ST hamaare samaaj ka 70 percent hain sir aur inhein kone mein dhakel ke humne minority bana diya hai.

(MORE)

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Hazaaron saalon se. Aur hum 30 percent log inhein humse neecha, bahut neecha maan kar apni sabhi unn zaruraton ke liye istemaal karte hain jo hum khud nahi kar sakte. Hamare commodes mein ab jet spray lag gaye hain sir par ye aaj bhi manhole mein safaai ke liye nange utarte hain. Madarzaat nange. Hum jaante hain ye sab, bas yaad nahin rakhte.

(Gives him file)

Yahi sab meri file mein hai. 98 pages hain including your call records. Aap dustbin mein phenk denge, so I have already sent one copy to the CM, to home secretary Mister Shastri, including your call records sir. Ho sakta hai ki wo bhi dustbin mein phenk dein. Par aap sab apna kaam itni mehnat se kar rahey hain sir. Toh mujhe bhi apna kaam toh karna hi chahiye na ?

(a beat)

Sir mai toh IPS officer bana tha sirf apne pitaji ki khushi ke liye. 2 exam hi thay mere liye bas aur ek interview. Pass kar liye. Par aap toh hindi se itna pyar karte hain. Lagta hai ki desh se itna pyar karte hain. Aapko nahin pata chala ye sab jo mujhe kuch dino'n mein pata chal gaya.

(a beat)

Ya aapke desh ki paribhasha mein ye log shaamil nahin hain ?

PANICKER

You will regret this Mister Ranjan.

AYAN RANJAN

Delhi mein kabhi-kabhi yes sir ki jagah no sir bol denge toh zyada se zyada kya ho jayega sir ?

Panicker stares at him.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Hatya ho jayegi na aapki ?

(a beat)

Wo toh ho gayi hai already. Bas aapko pata nahin hai.

He gets up to leave.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Baahar ke dangey aur apni ye file aap handle kar lijiye.

(MORE)

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Mujhe jaana hai sir. Wo teesri
ladki mujhe toh dhoondhni hai sir.
Wo wait kar rahi hogi hamara.

PANICKER

I hope aapko yaad hai ki aap
suspended hain.

AYAN RANJAN

Yahaan kisi ko kuch yaad nahi hai
sir, siwaay apni apni power ke.

(sighs)

Pooja ke liye jo zaroori hoga, wo
karunga sir. Aapko illegal lagey
toh arrest kar lijiye kabhi bhi.

Officers are shocked. Not able to react.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Life mein haan ya na ki probability
50-50 hoti hai sir. Aur mujhe lagta
hai ki haan waala 50 bahut hota
hai. Jai hind.

He leaves.

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EXT. JUNGLE SWAMP - DAY

Just near the swamp. Ayan reaches there with Chandrabhan.
Jatav comes out of the swamp. His pant is wet and dirty with
mud. Few policemen are entering the swamp, few are coming out
for break.

JATAV

Sir kheton mein toh hai nahin.
Jungle mein bhi sab ummed haar rahe
hain.

Behind them, a policeman supports another to bring him out of
the swamp as he feels sick. He vomits in a corner. Ayan and
others, watch him. Ayan looks around and decides to get in
the swamp. He moves ahead, everyone is shocked.

CHANDRABHAN

(shocked)

Aap jayenge sir ?

AYAN RANJAN

Kabhi oth brahmano'n ko bhi utarna
padega na ?

CHANDRABHAN

Baat toh sahi hai sir par ye..

(hesitates)

Kapde gande ho jayenge..

Ayan smiles and takes the conversation forward, may be to lift the spirits up.

AYAN RANJAN

Kapdon ke liye bhi kuch kahti thi
aapki maai ?

CHANDRABHAN

Maai toh kuch nahi kahti thi sir
par TV kahta hai..ki daag achchhe
hain.

This lightens the mood of everyone. He gets into the swamp. Chandrabhan, Jatav and few other policemen are around him - mostly dalits.

They keep walking ahead. Ayan is now waist deep in the swamp.

AYAN RANJAN

Chandrabhan ji, aap to Rajpoot hain
na?

CHANDRA BHAN

Sir Rajpoot jaisa kaam to nahi kiye
hain koi..Kaam se to hum Aheer
hain, Yadav!

AYAN RANJAN

Doodh ka bhi kaam hai aapka?

CHANDRA BHAN

Shri Krishn Ji waala kaam hai na
Sir. Driving.

AYAN RANJAN

Toh vote kisko dete hain aap? Cycle
ko?

CHANDRA BHAN

Nahi Sir, vote to maai keh ke gayi
thi ki phool ko hi dena hamesha.

AYAN RANJAN

Jatav ji, aap?

SI JATAV

Waise toh haathi ko Sir..par ek
baar phool aur haathi mil gaye
thay.

AYAN RANJAN

Toh aapne kisko diya?

SI JATAV

Cycle ko Sir..

COP 1

Kabhi kabhi cycle waale SC ko ticket de dete hain aur haathi waale musalman ko..toh confusion ho jaata hai sir, samajh nahi aata.

AYAN RANJAN

Toh phir kya karte hain?

MAYANK

Toh mai toh deta nahi Sir phir..

AYAN RANJAN

(to another cop)

Aur aap kisko dete hain?

MAN 2

Mera toh bhashan pe depend karta hai Sir..jiska bhashan achcha hota hai, usko de deta hoon..

MAN 3

Hum toh panje ko hi vote dete the Sir..humaare kurmi candidate ko ticket dete the ve..iss baar diya nahi toh humara nirdaleey ho gaya..toh mombatti ko diya uske liye..

Suddenly Ayan's phone rings in the shirt-pocket. He picks up.

SHASTRI

Ayan. Shastri Here...You are a brave boy Ayan.

Ayan is almost in the center of the swamp, surrounded by fellow cops.

AYAN RANJAN

Shastri Sir, Main suspended chal raha hoon, if you don't know sir.

SHASTRI

I am doing something Ayan. Wapas kaam pe jao aur investigation continue karo.

AYAN RANJAN

Continue hi hai sir.

SHASTRI

Keechad zyada hai?

Ayan glances at the people around him.

AYAN RANJAN

Log bhi kaafi hain sir.

SUDDENLY- A cop comes running out of the jungle. He has found a pink slipper in the mud just beside a small cabin.

COP

(loud)
Chappal.. doosri chappal mili hai
sir.

AYAN RANJAN

I'll call you back sir please?

This charges everybody. Gaura runs along the swamp to get closer to Jatav. She knows this Chappal.

SHASTRI

Cool.

A faint smile appears briefly on Ayan's face as he hangs up. Ayan begins to run followed by everyone. They run out of the swamp and then in to the Jungle.

They reach the spot where the other slipper was found.

JATAV

Aage pump house hai ek. Bahut pehle
bana tha.

All the cops head in to the jungle to that point. Ayan, Jatav and Gaura are behind everyone. SUDDENLY they hear someone's groans. They try to recognize the direction the voice is coming from and move towards it. Ayan stops and sees a big broken water pipe. Voice is coming from the pipe. Ayan carefully walks close to the pipe. He tiptoes to the pipe carefully and peeps inside where lies a near dead Pooja. Shivering like a dead animal. The only sign of life is a very faint groan.

AYAN RANJAN

Jatav Ji mujhe Ambulance chaahiye
yahan paanch minute ke andar.

Ayan very carefully lifts her in his arms and starts walking towards the road. Crestfallen Gaura walks with them giving her the support.

SUPER on the last shot or with respective pictures/shots:

"Pooja ke bayaan aur forensic report ke baad Brahmadatt ko doshi paaya gaya aur 14 saal ki sazaa sunayi gayi."

"Nanku aur Mahender riha ho gaye."

"Mahant ne agla election bade aaram se jeeta. Mantrimandal ke bantwaare ko lekar brahman-dalit ekta khatre mein paayi gayi."

BACK TO SAME :

The Ambulance leaves with Pooja, Gaura and two cops leaving the rest of them behind. All tired slump to sit down at various spots. Across the narrow road sits a woman on the ground at a small shop.

AYAN RANJAN (CONT'D)

Amma kya banayi ho?

OLD WOMAN

Sabzi Roti.

AYAN RANJAN

Sabhi ko de do. Bahut tez bhookh lagi hai.

OLD WOMAN

Abhi leo.

(to a small kid)

Leo munna. De aao.

Everyone lights up. A brief montage of hands passing on the bread rolls doesn't matter whose hand passes on food to whom. Ayan keeps looking at them amused and he asks the old lady.

AYAN RANJAN

Kaun jaat ho, amma ?

BEAT. Everyone stops as they want to hear her.

OLD WOMAN

Hum to.....

Her voice drowns under the ear piercing horn of a passing truck. Cops laugh. Freeze.