

"OCTOBER"

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FADE IN.

TITLES BEGIN.

2A.INT. HOTEL ROOM. MORNING. 10 AM

Close up of a hand in a yellow rubber glove, pushing the shiny steel flush button of a commode. A strong gush of water fills up inside the commode. Commode is sparkling clean. Same hand empties the tissues from the bin into a basket. Gloves get chucked onto the cover of the basket. New tissue roll is placed in the steel holder.

Camera moves along the marble bathroom counter. Next to the washbasin, few toiletries kept haphazardly. Same hand picks them up and arranges them in order. A tad hesitant, hand picks up an expensive perfume bottle from inside a cosmetic bag, close up of the nose taking a whiff and then close up of the neck, just below the ear where it gets sprayed.

Quick cuts of the shower curtains, perfectly placed shampoo, conditioner, body wash bottles, white towels on stand, one on the floor, white robe on a hanger behind the door, empty dustbin, etc.

A young boy, perhaps of 21 years, dressed well in a white collared shirt and black trousers and black blazer, walks out of the bathroom. It's him who is humming the songs that are playing on the television. He picks up the remote and keeps changing the channels on the TV till he finds what he wants to see. Room is well appointed too.

He draws open the heavy curtains and suddenly the room has morning light in. The lamps are still on.

Indifferently, he picks up an apple from a fruit bowl kept on a small table and sits down on a plush couch, next to the bed and begins to eat it.

He then takes a white fluffy pillow from the bed and puts it behind his neck and makes himself more comfortable. Sound of footsteps from outside the room disturbs his peace and not wanting to be seen eating hotel fruit, he gets up with a jolt...chucks the half eaten apple in the bin and in an instant begins to make the messed up bed by folding the white quilt. He's Danish, aka Dan.

2B. contd.INT. HOTEL ROOM. MORNING. 10.30 AM

A young girl, dusky complexion, approximately the same age, walks in the room...hair neatly tucked behind her ears in a bun. She has big penetrating eyes. Dressed in a white shirt and black trousers, they are evidently the housekeeping staff of a hotel. She has a fruit basket in one hand, which she replaces with the one that is kept on the table and she keeps the set of fresh sheets on the bed. Very casually, she too picks up banana from the fruit bowl of the previous day and stands near the window, looking at the green lawns and the trees in the hotel compound, while eating the banana. Boy's eyes go on his half eaten apple dumped in the bin, as if regretting. He gets up to continue with the work. She is Shiuli.

Another girl walks in. She is Ishani. And seems a bit surprised and sarcy...

SHIULI

Hi Dan

ISHANI

Hey Dan...! tu aaj bhi yahin hai?...
teri toh saari training na safaaiyon mein nikalne waali hai...

2C. EXT. HOTEL CORRIDOR. MORNING. 10:30AM

Dan then walks away, keeping the used laundry etc. next to the housekeeping trolley parked in the corridor, outside the room. Dan shuts the door and follows, stepping on the laundry.

CUT TO

3.INT. HOTEL HOUSE KEEPING STAFF ROOM. DAY. 3

Inside a small room, kind of a storeroom, a group of 8-10 young interns are standing in a semi circle with their hands folded. In front of them is a relatively older guy, authoritative in his demeanor, fiddling with some stuff kept on the table. While looking for what he is, he keeps talking. He is Asthana, their Supervisor. Dan, Shiuli, Manjeet, Adi...all are part of this session.

ASTHANA

Training ki shuruaat mein aap logon se ek bond sign karvaya gaya tha...uss bond mein likha tha ki kisi bhi wajah se agar wo bond todna padey...to...aap logon ka diploma to cancel ho hi jayega...aapke mummy papa ko bhi 3 laakh rupai bharney padengey...to ye jo pichle 4 mahine se hotel ki tauliyon ke ooper tum mein se jo jana bhi pair rakh ke chal raha hai zara sambhal jaaye kyunki poorey hotel ke saarey corridors pe lagey hain camerey ...

ASTHANA contd.

accha ek general knowledge ka sawwal poochta hoon, Ammonia and bleach are excellent cleaning agents phir bhi inn dono ko mix karke kabhi use nahin jaata...kyon...?...

SHIULI

Sir... they make Chloromine...and that's...dangerous...

ASTHANA

So Mr. Dan...samajh mein aaya ki ye junior ladki aapkey batch mein kyun hai

DAN

sir itni hi intelligent hai to scientist ban jaati...desh ka bhala ho jata...hotel to mein aur Manjeet sambhaal lete

ASTHANA

training पूरी kar lo to bahut samajhna... tomorrow 9 o'clock reporting time

Trainees disperse.

CUT TO

5.INT. HOTEL LOBBY. MID NIGHT. 12.30 AM

It's a wide shot of the hotel lobby...at way past midnight. Though there aren't as many guests but the glitter and glamour is just as much as the day hours. Dan and another intern are behind the front desk tonight. They do have a few seniors around them who are greeting, smiling, saying good nights to guests. There is an occasional interruption from phone calls. A well-dressed middle aged walks up to the reception and inquires about his booking. Dan attends him.

GUEST

Sarin...Akaash Sarin...room booked hai...

DAN

Right Sir...

GUEST

...room booked hai...

He has a bit of arrogance in his tone. Dan quickly begins to check...

DAN

'Twin bed'...room 9014
...aapka ID card please...

He notices the lady accompanying the guest, who is being extra cozy for his comfort. He makes a bit of coughing sound. The other intern is sharp enough to catch the signal.

GUEST

twin bed...matlab...?

DAN

...uh..there are two separate beds sir...alag alag...

GUEST

nahi nahi
aap logon nein ye galat booking li hai ...
meine double bed pe click kiya tha...

DAN

Ho sakta hai sir...
but aapne third party booking ki hogi...so
rooms are subject to availability...

GUEST

ab sunn meri baat, mein kuch nahin jaanta..
meine double bed pe click kiya tha..
mujhe double bed chahiye..

DAN

sure sir, par mein aapko keh chukka hoon
room nahin hai, otherwise

Guest repeats himself, this time more irritated than before.

GUEST

What otherwise...? huh?
what otherwise, mein apni wife ke saath hoon..
And I come here so often...bloody idiot..

While the woman gets cozy all over again, sure that the matter will get sorted, Dan loses his manners!

DAN

Of course sir...I think last time..
meine hi aapki check in karayi thi sir..
I think aap apni ex wife ke saath they..

DAN

aapka luggage andar rakhwa dein...sir...?

GUEST

Tu subeh mil mujhe

Guest is red in his face. The sudden change of expression on the woman's face is priceless too. Dan and his friend have a great control on their laughter.

Dan continues, sincerely.

DAN

Right sir

CUT TO.

6.EXT. POOL SIDE. MORNING. 11 AM

It's a pleasant hour by the poolside. The airline staff that had checked in the previous night is soaking in the water and the sun. A few other guests and their kids are also enjoying the pool waters. Shiuli is on the Pool duty.

She is politely serving the ordered drinks...towels...doing her job...fully aware that Manjeet and Dan are standing near the pool bar...pretty idle...and staring at the guests though pretending to work. Just then Asthana walks up to them. Livid.

ASTHANA

Guest ke saath uski wife ho... ya uski girlfriend ho...koi ho...vo kisi ko bhi saath lekar aaye... usey character certificate dena tumhara kaam nahin hein...

DAN

Yes Sir par hum sabko pata hai..that lady, she is

ASTHANA

koi bhi ho

Manjeet feels he must come to his friend's rescue. He speaks on Dan's behalf.

MANJEET

Lekin sir...us Sarin ne bhi to...
isko 'idiot' kaha...

Shiuli walks in there to keep the empty tray and pick up the towels. She can hear the conversation.

ASTHANA

ekdam correct kaha...hai ye idiot...
(now to Dan) aur yahan pool side kya kar rahe ho...?
Garden wing mein duty thi na...get back...

Saying this Asthana starts walking...perhaps towards the reception...Dan follows him.

DAN

sir, aapne phirse mujhe third floor ki vacuuming de di, pichley hafte bhi maine hi kit hi, aap please kisi aur ko bhi de sakte hai na..

ASTHANA

Mein na chhamat maaroonga duty ke baad...tum jis laayak ho wahi karogey so get back to work

DAN

sir..sir..sir...sir, mujhe kitchen mien daaldo sir,
I am very good at chopping sir...sir otherwise the
bar is also fine.

Asthana stops.

ASTHANA

achcha, the bar is fine?

DAN

sir mere ghar pe, mere father ke liye mein hi
cocktails banata hoon and they're very nice

ASTHANA

Yaar tum ghar hi jaao

Dan looks at the spoon that he had been carrying in his
hands from the pool side...he chucks it on a planter.

DAN

(from a distance...mumbbling while walking away)
issey achcha LSR ke saamne andey parathey ka thela laga lo...
paise ke saath respect bhi milegi...

CUT TO

**8 + 14A.EXT. DAN & MANJEET'S HOME. MORNING. 8 AM (SCENE
CLUBBED WITH 14A)**

Inside Dan and Manjeet's shared accommodation in the posh
Safdarjung residential area of South Delhi, Dan is lazying
on his bed. Their househelp is wiping the floor. He has
held a pillow on his face, covering his eyes and ears.
Manjeet is in the bathroom. The apartment doesn't have much
furniture other than a small cane shoe rack, an odd looking
lamp on the floor...couple of chairs, and a badly upholstered
couch. Maajda goes out to the small terrace, now rinsing
the just washed clothes. Ishani walks in. Dan points his
back towards her.

DAN

Ek minute ...please idhar khuja de na...

ISHANI

kya..kahan..shirt upar kar..yahan, theek hai..

DAN

thoda right pe aaja

ISHANI

theek hai?

DAN

neechey neechey..aur right aur right, thoda aur right..

MAAJDA (MAID)

(From outside)

bhaiyaaaa...ye blue wala 'panty' kiska hai...aapka...?

DAN

Pant hai vo Maaajda...PANT...panty nahin hai, mein..

We cut to outside where she is holding a blue pant in her hand and calling it a panty. She gets it and puts it on the clothes rack. Ishani gets comfortable on a side stool.

ISHANI

hamari restaurant waali baat tu ainwai
hawa mein to nahin karta na...?

DAN

mein to ye training aaj chorh doon...
tum aur manjeet mein hai lya itni himmat...?

Maaajda now picks up a black pant...and interrupts yet again
while Manjeet walks out of the bathroom.

MAAJDA

Bhaiya ye black panty bhi Dan ka hai

MANJEET

Dan ka hai...(to Dan) aise kaisey beech mein chorh saktey
hein hum...

DAN

To fir baar baar poochney ka kya point hai...?

ISHANI

Arrey...mummy papa ko hold pe rakha hua hai shaadi ke liye...

DAN

ye restaurant aur teri shaadi ka kya connection hai?

ISHANI

Obviously connection hai...kal ko if you guys say ki
ji humein food van chalani hai...
ya phir counter kholna hai smoothie ka...
issey to shaadi hi better hai na...

MANJEET

Toh kar le...shaadi...

ISHANI

Haan...kar loongi...

DAN

To fir iski shaadi ki catering hum hi karlengey
at least kuch kaam toh mil jaayega...

ISHANI

Aise kaise...? 50 % tera..25-25 hum dono ka...

MANJEET

Waah shaadi bhi kar le aur profit bhi...

ISHANI

mein shaadi hi nahin karoongi...phir dekhtey
hein tum dono ka catering ka business kaise chlata hai...

FADE .**7A.EXT. HOTEL BUILDING. NIGHT.**

From the outside, the Hotel building at this late hour has a sense of calm. The lights are switched on in most of the rooms. Some curtains are drawn...some not.

CUT TO**7B.INT. GARDEN WING. NIGHT.**

Inside one of the lamp lit rooms, Dan is busy finishing his duty. He folds a Jeans and a woman's top that had been carelessly left on the bed. He puts them in the wardrobe. He then folds the bed cover and keeps it in the console. The neatly tucked in crisp white sheets underneath are too inviting...he keeps a small little flower and message note for the guest on the bed. He adjusts the pillow. The room is appointed for the night.

9A INT. HOTEL CORRIDORS. MORNING. 11.30 AM

Camera follows Dan as he walks past the early morning guests at the Buffet breakfast. He crosses the lobby. He walks through a long corridor. With him we see the entire canvas of the hotel.

9D. INT. HOTEL-LIFT. MORNING. 11 AM

He gets to the end of the corridor, where a really big family of 4 kids of various ages and their middle aged parents with their various little kiddie bags and the nanny are stepping out of the lift. They seem over decked up for the early hours of the day. Dan has to wait, hold the Lift till they are all out. The couple seems to be in an argument...and the sound of it just doesn't match their rich clothes.

HUSBAND

saarey functions jab Ghaziabad mein hain...to
Dilli mein booking toh koi bewakoof hi
karaayega...

WIFE

achcha, 5 star mein rehney ki demand toh aapki thi...
aur mere Papa ko bewakoof bol rahe ho!

HUSBAND

haan, theek hai chalo... Rohit kahan hai,
rohit...rohit kahan hai?
(to kids)
Ab niklo...uncle kab tak pakdenge...

Dan realizes it's he who is being referred to as Uncle. Before dan can get in, Lift gets called up. Husband has another realization...

HUSBAND

Arrey Rohit kahan hai?

Camera focuses on all the kids who look equally confused. Maid speaks up

MAID

Aapki godi mein hi to tha bhaiyyaji...

WIFE

Kamrey mein reh gaya kya...?

Dan, caught in the middle of a domestic squabble, and not yet realizing that it's the child that's gone missing, is in for a shock...

HUSBAND

Tch...arrey is waiter ko kamre ki chaabi do na...

Dan is being called a Waiter! Wife, panicking, blabbering...gives him the room key... Lift comes down. Dan gets in without wasting a second.

CUT TO

9E.INT. HOTEL ROOM. MORNING. 11.30 AM

Inside the fighting couple's room, or rather, bathroom, we see a cute little toddler, Rohit, looking amused as he is standing holding the commode from one hand and the other hand...well its almost...inside it. He is gurgling. His diapers are peeping out of his shorts. Dan hops and sits on the bathroom counter. Rohit's from inside the commode, picks out a lipstick, which seems he had chucked in while he got left behind. Not just that, there are many other things thrown in there. A towel, hair dryer, shampoo bottle, comb, tissue roll, razor...etc. Dan, snarling, waits till the little kid takes it all out.

CUT TO

9F.INT. HOTEL CORRIDOR. MORNING.

Dan is walking towards the Lift with little Rohit in his arms. All of a sudden he notices a housekeeping cart parked outside a room. Dan looks at the boy and smiles. Clearly he has some something planned.

CUT TO

10.INT. HOTEL SECURITY ROOM. DAY. 2.30 PM

Full screen BXW view of the CC TV camera. It's a replay of Dan's action, caught on camera! Dan is walking out of the room, with little boy in his hands. On seeing the cart, he stops. He tip toes to the cart...looks left and right. He leaves the toddler there and runs away. Shiuli walks out of the room. She is startled looking at the little boy there. She lifts him up looking confused, wondering who has done

this

Recording ends. Asthana is staring at Dan, who is standing guilty but not sorry.

Asthana observes his unapologetic demeanour. He must pull the strings a bit tight.

ASTHANA

Ab ya to iss evidence ke saath mein tumhari
official complaint kar doon... ya fir tum...tum
LAUNDRY karogey...

DAN

sir...sorry sir, please sir..Sir... laundry nahin

ASTHANA

naa, ek haftey tak tum laundry
karogey

DAN

Sir, I'm sorry ye waapis repeat
nahin hoga sir mujhse

ASTHANA

Lobby, restaurant, front office pe
mujhe shakal naa dikhey tumhari abhi
iskey baad

CUT TO

12.INT. HOTEL LAUNDRY ROOM. DAY. 12 PM

Far away from sunlight, inside a rather morose, tube-light lit, damp looking, big sized room, there is a long row of washing machines and a few giant sized dryers. A few clothesline, many hangers with expensive clothes hung separately, a section that has iron racks where guest's ready laundry is neatly stacked up...dumped stack of dirty linen, yes, this is the hotel's laundry room. A white color door at the far rear end of the room opens and a sullen faced Dan walks in. Camera follows him as he crosses through the corridor of the wrought iron racks and reaches the area where 2-3 pot-bellied, uniformed guys are ironing the freshly washed and dried clothes. A woman staff is sewing a button of a shirt. Dan dumps a big basket of cloth laundry bags that have room tags on it. He sits down like a slob himself and watches the almost motor like movements of the men while they iron the clothes.

They are mechanically counting, putting the clothes back in respective bags and then dumping the ready stock on the shelves. Other than the disturbing sound of the washing machines and dryers, there isn't much music in this room. These guys take no notice of Dan, well...why should they, he is just another intern. After a few minutes,

DAN

Start up ka matlab pata hai...? aajkal sab ko wahi
karna hai...own a small business...waisey bhi ye
naukri mein kya rakha hai haan...
agar mein tum log ki jagah pe hota naa...toh ab tak
khud ki laundry khol li hoti maine..just keh raha
hoon main...main toh abhi restaurant kho loonga
apna, mujhe naa sadna idhar...

No one bothers replying. They have enough to do. Dan keeps observing them...or rather, irritating them. He keeps walking around, fiddling with packets.

DAN (CONTD)

Ye jo taangey hein na...din bhar inpe khadey rehne
se na gaanthey pad jaati hein...varicose
veins...nerves mein chale jaata hai...phir bahut hi
ganda lagta hai...yahaan pe kisi ko bhi ho sakta hai
varicose veins...garam paani mein sek liya karo
namak daal ke

Just then phone rings...Dan receives it.

DAN

ok elastic... mein dekhta hoon sir hmm..yes sir

He puts down the phone. His eyes are bright...he has a smirk on his face.

DAN

Ye 602 ke bundle mein...underwear press karke
kisne bheja hai? elastic samajh mein aata hai aap
logon ko, dheeli hojaati hai underwear, sab
phasogey yahan pe, main bol raha hoon...complaint
aayi hai

Just as he says this, sufficiently irritated, one of the laundry guys catches him by his collar. Dan is taken aback...

LAUNDRY STAFF

Oye, kya hai be...? huh...!
yaar bahut der se teri bakwaas sun raha hoon
main,
trainee hai na tu,

Dan

a...yes...sir

LAUNDRY STAFF

Senior hain na yahaan pe sab tere..
jis kaam ke liye tereko Asthana ne yahan bheja
hai na, chup chaap vo kaam kar samajh aayi,
ab ek word mat aur boliyo...main tereko

DAN

Par main

LAUNDRY STAFF

Ab agar tu bola na toh mein kasam se utha ke
tereke machine mein daal doonga, bahut der hogayi
yaar teri bakwaas sunte hue, sar dard ho gaya hai
mera

Listening to this squabble, a senior staff person
interrupts

SUPERVISOR

Kya hua?

DAN

Nahin...aggressive ho rahe hain

SUPERVISOR

Tum kaam karo mein baat karta hoon

Dan, like a kid, leaves no scope in complaining

DAN

602 ke bundle ka complaint aaya tha...

SUPERVISOR

602

DAN

Haan voh underwear press galat ki inhoney

SUPERVISOR

Chalo mein dekhta hoon...

Dan adjusts his shirt and in a rather meek manner, gets back to his work.

CUT TO**16B.INT. HOTEL INTERNS ROOMS. DAY 11.45 AM**

Shiuli walks in hurriedly into the room where these interns usually hang out, where she notices Shiuli flowers, the ones she had picked up, have fallen on the floor, instead of being on the desk where she had probably left them. A small little bowl is on the floor as well. And what irks her even more is that Dan is sitting with his feet up on the table, almost snoozing.

SHIULI

Dan...Daaan...

Dan doesn't bother opening his eyes. He knows what she is talking about...

DAN

Kya hogaya

SHIULI

Kya hai ye

DAN

Pcch...Meine nahin giraaye...

SHIULI

uthaa to saktey the na...?

She starts picking them up. Dan gets up and casually retorts...

DAN

To...complaint kar do

As he sees her picking up the flowers, something comes to his mind and almost mockingly,

DAN

Hm...vo..vo...peeche...vo wala bhi...hmmm...

She keeps picking up. Then he picks up one,

DAN

hello!...meine bhi utha
liya...sookhey hue phool hain...

Shiuli keeps the flowers back on the table. She thinks for a second, looks around the room but can't spot a single a corner where flowers can be safe, so she puts them and then puts them inside the drawer and walks away.

CUT TO

17.INT. HOTEL BANQUETS. NIGHT. 7.30 PM

In side a large glamorous banquet hall of the hotel, it appears that a big fancy dinner is about take place.Maybe 20 round tables or more have been made ready for the evening. Each table has flower-decorated vases in the center. Candles, cutlery, plates, ribbon tied chairs...everything is in its right place. A stout man in mid 40s, Banquets Manager perhaps, is going around checking the set up. We see a couple of young inters, and Dan, walking along with him...two steps behind.

BANQUETS MANAGER

500 ml waali laga sari ki saari tables
pe...aur champagnes dekhlena bar pe, barah se
zyaada naa lagi hon...theek hai

One of the enthusiastic interns runs to get to bottles.

DAN

Excuse me Sir, sir client ne sirf 15 bottle=
order kiye thei...to ye baaki teen ka kya karein...?

BANQUETS MANAGER

(irritated)

Baaki Mein apne ghar lekar jaoonga, piyoonga...

DAN

sir...

BANQUETS MANAGER

Duty kahaan hai tumhari?

Dan, disinterested, goes and stands near one of the snack counter.

CUT TO**17A1.EXT. HOTEL FACADE. TERRACE. NIGHT. 10.30 PM**

A few interns can be seen on the hotel refuge terrace from down below. They seem to be enjoying the night too. It seems like their regular hangout place whenever there is a party in the banquets. Understandably, snacks and drinks are smuggled from the party hall. For obvious reasons friends are waiting for Dan to join them

ADI

..aa gaya aa gaya

MANJEET

Yaar Dan tu late ho gaya

Dan taking a bottle out from inside his blazer

DAN

Arrey neechey kanjaron ki party chal rahi hai na

ADI

Arey Daal na daal na

DAN

Your nimboo pani, le lo naa!

Dan offers a glass of lemonade to Shiuli, she seems miffed, perhaps from Dan's behavior from the previous evening. However, she reluctantly accepts it.

DAN

Accha mein neechey jaa raha hoon

ISHA

Oye kebab le aaiyo

CUT TO

INT. RESTAURANT. DAY

Shiuli and Ishani along with other interns are in Asthana's office. Asthana is grilling them. They stand there with their heads down.

ASTHANA

Kal raat ko kaun kaun tha? Kal raat ko kaun kaun tha? Dan ko cover up karney mein lagey ho na tum saarey, tum sab ko mein usi ke saath laga doonga

Ishani musters up courage to speak,

ISHANI

Sir thodey se gappien maar rahe the...

Asthana is in no mood to listen

ASTHANA

Inventory se poori do boltalein gayab hain, gappe maar rahe thei...

Interns stand there guilty, without having much to say

CUT TO**20.INT. HOTEL LOBBY RECEPTION. DAY. 11 AM**

Close up of two big brass lamps with many cotton rolled wicks immersed in ghee. The light that flickers from them is making the surroundings pious. Marigold flowers decorated around the diyas only add to their beauty.

Shiuli and Ishani are dressed in Sarees. They look pretty. This is for the first time we see them together on a travel desk duty. An elderly American couple is standing right in front of them, inquiring about the city perhaps. We catch them mid conversation.

Shiuli however seems to be distracted as she keeps looking away at the main entrance

SHIULI

Namashkar sir, namashkar maám, how may I help you today?

TOURIST

Could you guide us on what to see in your city

SHIULI

Yes! We have CP, we have Lal Qila, and our driver
can take you there without a problem...just here
and here. have a good day sir, bye maám

Just as the couple leave, we realise that it is Dan
distracting Shiuli as he catches flies with a battery
operated fly squatter right on the door step of the hotel
lobby. Smuggling liquor etc. from the banquets has got him
here.

CUT TO**EXT. ROADSIDE. O/S HOTEL. DAY. 10.30 AM**

Shiuli's car tyre is punctured. It's parked on the roadside
in front of the hotel. Ishani and Shiuli are sitting on the
pavement, eating an icecream perhaps while Dan is sincerely
fixing the puncture. His back is towards them. They both
keep observing his brooding mannerisms, until Ishani quips,
nudging him further

ISHANI

Teri pata hai problem kya hai Dan, tu har time
irritated rehta hai, itni kabaad nahi hai teri
life theek hai

DAN

Mein irritated rehta hun?!

ISHANI

Aur nahin toh kya, banquet, front desk,
kitchen...har jagah

Dan stops, to take on this argument

DAN

Maina pata hai kab irritated hota hoon, kab?

ISHANI

Kab?

DAN

Jab mein tum dono ke saath rehta hun

ISHANI

Haan toh wahi toh practice kar humre saath reh
par irritate naa ho,

Disinterested in taking this argument any further,
which has already irritated him, Dan walks away,

ISHANI (*from a distance*)

irritate hokey toh nahi jaa raha phirse

DAN

Haan jaa raha hoon

Shiuli, who has been quiet so far, speaks

SHIULI

Thanks Dan!

23.INT. HOTEL BASEMENT. DAY. 10.30 AM

Dan is walking hurriedly along behind his senior manager.
He is a slightly stout slouchy balding fellow. He seems to
be Asthana's superior, And Dan has decided that today he is
going to vent out all his grievances against Asthana, we
catch them mid-conversation

DAN

Sir lekin...Mein makkhi macchar maarney to nahin
aaya hoon na...sir laundry karva rahe hain mujhse,
saare corridors maine saaf kiye hain sir, sir
please sir, sir voh Asthana na game khel raha
hai..politics laga raha hai humrey beech mein

Manager is in no mood for Dan's nonsense...

SENIOR MANAGER

Oh common politics! Banquets se drinks chori
karna, politics nahin hota hai

As he walks away, Dan chases him and shamelessly,
tries his luck

DAN

Sir sir sir...sir vo...30th ko
mere parents ka anniversary hai...chutti chahiye

SENIOR MANAGER

(losing it) 30-31st...you should know better, hotel runs on full occupancy and what are you doing here, Jao go get yourself a haircut!

DAN

(persistant)
Sir...silver...jubilee hai...

SENIOR MANAGER

No!

CUT TO**29A1.EXT. HOTEL REFUGE. NIGHT. 11 PM TO 12 AM**

Back on the same refuge terrace, in one corner, Manjeet is sitting in the middle a tad too drunk for the evening. They've had too many a drinks for the night. Adi seemingly sober, sitting a little away from him, on the ledge. However Manjeets drunkard state does irritate him, Crackers go up in the air. Its 12! Every one starts wishing happy new year. Few other interns have joined them. Shiuli is standing near Adi. There isn't much visibility due to the fog.

Ishani is in her elements, nudges Manjeet...

ISHANI

Zameen pe kyun baitha hai, uth na

MANJEET

Yaar Ishani ye saal bhi nikalgaya yaar

ISHANI

Haan toh har saal hi nikal jaatey hain yaar, oye snacks yar zameen pe kaun rakh raha hai

ADI

Khane layak bache kahaan hain..rehney de

ISHANI

Party shuru hoti nahi hain, tully pehley ho jaatey hain sab ke sab,

FRIEND (*from a distance*)

Common guy's, lets have a selfie...

ALL

HAPPY NEW YEAR...cheers

ISHANI

Banao tere liye ek aur, kuch khana hai?

MANJEET

(*still drunk*)

Nahin yaar main aur nahin piyoonga yaar, main aur
nahin piyoonga,
ghar kaisey jaoonga, Dan bhi nahin hai...

Shiuli, picks up a snack from the table and joins in
the conversation...

SHIULI

Ya...kal se I haven't seen him..
Where is Dan...?

Saying this and without giving much thought Shiuli walks
hops on to the ledge, to sit...but since it's a winter night
and by now the due had settled on the ledge, her hand slips
off...

BEAT

Within a second, Adi realizes that Shiuli isn't there; he
looks down and screams, Manjeet and Ishani rush towards the
ledge.

Shiuli has fallen down four floors...

FADE OUT. BLACK SCREEN.

FADE IN.

29B1.EXT. HOTEL DRIVE WAY. NIGHT 12.15 AM

There's commotion in the hotel drive way...hotel security
guards and the parking guy are trying to keep the party
guests away...an ambulance with paramedics is parked
there...the light flickering.

Shiuli's face, hair...her back...everything is drenched in blood...her white shirt...now red...her head...as if split open...her blood dripping body is put on a stretcher and wheeled inside the ambulance.

29C . INT . AMBULANCE . NIGHT

Emergency doctor in charge is on phone...queries of the doctor on the other side can be heard...

EMERGENCY DOC

Sambhalke sambhalke...haath sambhalke Vinod

EMERGENCY DOC

We may have to intubate - check the pulse...very shallow breath...

NURSE

The pulse is rapid and too weak...

Parellely, somewhere in the same space,

POLICE OFFICER

Kitney bajey giri?

ASTHANA

Ji...sawa barah...

Back to the doctor,

EMERGENCY DOC

Left pupil is dilated, right is sluggish, I think we should intubate her

Back to police,

Police officer

Kaunse floor se?

ASTHANA

3rd floor, swimming pool, wahaan waisey koi jaata nahin hai abhi

POLICE OFFICER

Naam kya hai?

ASTHANA

Shiuli

Ishani is crying unconsolably. Manjeet, Adi are shivering...extremely shocked...Asthana rushes to them...panicked.

Back to doctor,

EMERGENCY DOC

One..two..three..aap gaadi pe jaiye

Along with the ambulance doctor and his junior, hotel manager rushes in too. The door shuts and they drive out...there is a lot of B/G chatter

As the ambulance rushes across the city streets, on the foggy night, we continue to hear the desperate efforts of the paramedics,

EMERGENCY DOC

Pulse 110;

HOSPITAL DOC (OVER PHONE)

Pupils are dilated?

EMERGENCY DOC

Left is dilated, right is very sluggish

HOSP DOC

Any responses?

EMERGENCY DOC

No, none at all

HOSP DOC

Any reaction?

EMERGENCY DOC

NO - pump pump pump - none at all

29D.EXT.DELHI ROADS.NIGHT

Ambulance zips past delhi roads

HOSP. DOC

Pulse hai?...

DOC

Weak...

HOSP. DOC

Is she breathing...?

DOC:

Shallow...

HOSP. DOC

Is she awake...?

DOCTOR

HOSP. DOC

Aankh nahin band honey do...jagaa ke rakho...

In deep of the night, Ambulance reaches the hospital

30A.EXT.HOSPITAL EMERGENCY AREA.NIGHT

Shiuli is moved from the ambulance to the hospital
stretcher.

30A2.INT.HOSPITAL CORRIDOR.NIGHT

A senior surgeon dressed in a blue uniform, is prepping up
for the operation. He wears his gloves. He wears his cap.
As He walks towards the operation room, Another doctor is
briefing updating him about the case...

ASST. DOCTOR

20 yr old female, case of TBI...she fell from the
third floor, about 30 feet

DR.DEB

How did she fall?

ASST. DOCTOR

We don't really know

30C.INT. HOSPITAL OPERATION THEATER. NIGHT 1.30 AM

Under the blue light of a metal lamp, camera is absolutely close on Shiuli. Not really focusing on her face but following the hands of various doctors as they get going with the procedure.

DR.DEB

Suction dena, bipolar and monopolar 25, 25H...inka
oxygen saturation thoda sa kam rakhna and PCO2
low and atleast 90% oxygen saturation

CUT TO**30E.INT. NEUROSUGERY WING O.T WAITING ROOM 1STTH FLOOR.
NIGHT 2.30 AM**

A middle aged woman, dressed in a saree and an oversized pullover, evidently distraught, is standing next to nurse counter in conversation with the local police cop. She is Vidya Iyer, Shiuli's mother, who, in the urgency of the situation, hasn't even got a moment to tie her long greying hair. Along with her we see Kaveri - Shiuli's younger sister, they seem troubled as they answer the ruthless queries by the cop
She is trying her best to cover her nervousness, fear, sorrow and shock while somehow answering all the inquiries of a senior looking Police officer in her broken Hindi/English with a mild South Indian accent. She is soft...

VIDYA

Shiuli drink nahin karti...kabhi...
Aap Chahiye to blood reports check kar saktey
hain

POLICE GUY

Accident case hai madam...
Sabse pooch taach hogi...gir gayi...
kisi ne dhakka maara...

VIDYA

dhakka kyon marega?
Uskey sab friends achchey family se hain

POLICE GUY

Acchca theek hai, inquiry toh karoonga na

KAVERI

toh aap apni inquiry kijiye naa uncle, hum yahin pe hain,
amma..

(PARALLELY)**VIDYA**

You think usko koi push kar sakta hai

KAVERI

No...

The way Kaveri responds to her mother's fear is comforting.
All of 16, Kaveri certainly comes across as a much wiser
person than most her age.

CUT TO**30C cont.INT. NEUROSURGEORY WING OT. NIGHT. 3 AM**

Extreme Close up following surgeon's hand as it drills a
section in what looks like shiuli's skull with a tool that
is similar to what the dentists use while drilling. It's
that sharp, piercing sound. Various cracked lines on her
shaved skull from where the blood is oozing out
continuously. While operating, the surgeon is discussing
the process with his team of doctors, under his breath.

SURGEON O.S *(while operating)*

That's a large hematoma...
side se make an incision...blood drain out karo...
jaldi...

Surgeon carefully removes the part of the skull that has
been just drilled and we see Shiuli's brain...all soaked in
blood...a big big gooey clot is picked up.

CLOSE UP

Syringe. Sutures. Machines.

Team of doctors still surrounding Shiuli, almost finishing
up.

CUT TO

30F.INT. NEUROSUGEORY WING O.T WAITING ROOM 1STTH FLOOR.
EARLY MORNING 5.30 AM

Anxious, scared, clueless, Iyer's are seated in the waiting room, Adi, Ishani and Asthana are all there as well.

We stay on Vidya's silent face...her eyes, her thoughts...a tear trickles down her face...

CUT TO

32D.EXT. DELHI CITY ROADS. MORNING

Maneuvering the traffic, Dan is driving the bike, there seems to be a slight urgency in his riding, perhaps he knows...

CUT TO

33B.EXT. HOSPITAL GATE. EVENING 5.15 PM

A small tea vendor right across the gate of the hospital. Junior doctors hanging around for a smoke and tea break, discussing hospital politics. (B/G chatter)
Adi, Manjeet, Ishani are there...drinking tea in tiny use and throw glasses. Looking at them its evident none of them slept through the night - swollen eyes, heavy voices. Standing guilty.
From here one can see the patients, attendants, doctors, nurses, etc. walking in and out of the hospital that seems so larger than life. Gloom sort of hovers in the air.

Dan walks in, rather awkward...

FRIEND

hmm..Critical hai, okay...bye...phew

DAN

Yaar bata toh deta..

MANJEET

Phone uthaya tuneey...kam se kam pandhraah missed
calls honghi

DAN

Manjeet mujhey laga tuney pi kar phone kiya hoga

MANJEET

Yaar tully hokey mein pandraah baar phone karoonga

Asthana, carrying a hospital pass in his hands, joins them.
Dan avoids making eye contact (with him).

ASHTHANA

ye ek extra pass, hotel staff ke liye ban gaya
hai, kaun rakhega isko

Ishani takes the responsibility. It's a moment of truth
between the students and their mentor, they are aware that
they have been reckless

MANJEET

Sorry sir

ASTHANA

ye jo itni badi bewakoofi kari hai tum logo ne
kal raat ko, sorry bolke kya ho jaayega mujhe
batao, jab tak GM sir ki official statement nahin
aati hai aur jab tak ye police ki inquiry khatam
nahin hoti hai kisi ke saamney kuch oot patang
mat bolna okay

Dan, gathers courage but speaks completely out of place...

DAN

Good evening sir

Asthana doesn't responding and walks away

ISHANI

Dan, dekh aa..

DAN

Tum log dekh aaye

Ishani

Bag aur helmet chorh jaa, allow nahin
kartey..rakh de yahan pe, 3rd floor pe hai, neuro
ICU, bed no.28...jootey bhi kholney padengey theek
hai

34A.INT. HOSPITAL LOBBY/LIFT. EVENING 5.45 PM

Dan walks through the main door...into the lobby...and just the way Hotel lobbies have an unapproachable feel about them, so do these high-end super-specialty hospitals make you feel...kind of overwhelming... Dan is a little lost...looking for directions...all sorts of people...patients are walking in and out...its that sight that makes one hold on to his ground almost desperately. He finds his way to the various Lifts that have a sea of visitors getting in and out. The Liftmen look more like the bouncers of a nightclub. Huge, arrogant, unfriendly. The passes and the handbags are getting checked extremely strictly. And the ones without it are just not being allowed in the lift.

No matter what. Dan walks in. lift door shuts.

CUT TO**34B.INT. NICU WAITING 6TH FLOOR. EVE 6 PM**

Lift door opens. First thing that one sees is "NEURO INTENSIVE CARE UNIT" written in bold letters on the wall right opposite the lift. Dan looks around. Outside a glass door, he spots a man on duty. On his table he has a register where he keeps an account of the visitors. Dan walks up to him and waits for his turn while he is talking to another visitor.

MAN ON DUTY O.S

Jootey wahaan utariye, sanitizer se haath saaf kijiye,

34C.INT. NICU BED 5. HOSPITAL. EVENING 6.30 PM

A yellow curtain is drawn open. Camera shows a Blood pouch hanging from a hook...and drop by drop going through a tube...an ECG machine that is recording the heart activity and all other parameters...another very complicated looking machine on the left side of the bed, ...the Ventilator, which has numerous tubes attached to it at one end and on the other they are all in a very very complicated manner, going inside Shiuli. From Dan's expressions it's clear that his heartbeat has perhaps skipped a beat or two...or more. This is just not how he has ever seen anyone before, nor this is like what he would have imagined her to be.

Shiuli's head is all covered with bandages. Evidently she has undergone a brain surgery. Her face, eyes...very swollen and very white. Her lips dry. A tube attached from her nose, a hole just below her throat that has one of the ventilator tubes, her neck held together with some support. Her hair...they of course must have been shaved off. Her arms all pricked by tubes for saline and plasma...fingers swollen too...her legs, fractured. In a blue coloured hospital gown, Shiuli sleeps unaware of DAN, unaware of the world and perhaps, unaware of her herself also. There is no sign of any pain on her face. She is unconscious. The only sign of her being alive is that there is an oxygen mask attached to her face that blows in and out. And the shrill piercing sound of the ECG machine that beeps every second...almost following the same rhythm as the oxygen mask.

Dan stands there like a statue. Not knowing what to look at. Shiuli or the various machines attached to her. It's cold here. and for some, well...he just keeps his eyes on the floor and hurriedly walks out.

CUT TO

34E.EXT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY EXIT. EVENING 7.15 PM

Dan is silently standing outside the hospital. It's evident from his face that he has never probably been to visit anyone in the hospital. If someone were to check his heartbeat at that moment, definitely it'd be galloping. He can't possibly comprehend this scale of suffering that this half an hour trip to the hospital has thrown at him. He wasn't prepared for it. And seeing Shiuli in the condition that he has seen...certainly has shook him. He needs a few minutes to get over. Sea of patients...attendants keep walking in and out. It's a busy hour. Winter sky turns dark quite early.

CUT TO

35A.INT. MANJEET & DAN'S HOME. NIGHT 10 PM

The television is on. Nothing much interesting seems to be there. Manjeet is lying on the mattress...gazing at the ceiling. A thick quilt is kept on the side. Room heater is on. Dan walks in from the kitchen with a pressure cooker in his one hand and plates and cutlery on another.

Manjeet jumps up and quickly spreads an old paper on the floor. Dan keeps the hot cooker and the plates. This is their makeshift dining table. A close up of Dan's hands as he digs a serving spoon into the steamy hot Pullao he has just made. Manjeet is using his hands to eat the Rice. Dan digs out pickle and keeps the empty bottle away. After staying silent for sometime...

DAN

Face dekha, itna sooja hua tha, nineteen pipes
lagey hue thei...

MANJEET

count kiye, shit ya...tu believe nahi karega,
jaisey wo giri thi na, agar tu usey dekh leta na,
tu 100% faint ho jata

DAN

meri to hawa khisak gayi thi aaj usey dekh ke
yaar...
tujhe pata hai, ek vo galey waali pipe hai na jo
yahaan lagi hui hai...jo nose mein jaa rahi thi...
vo... theek se fit nahi hui thi, kyunki blood uskey
aamney saamney

MANJEET

Nai nai aise hi hota hai...

DAN

nahi...aisey kaisey

MANJEET

kal to operation hua hai...saaf kartey hein par aa
jaata hai...normal hai...

DAN

ye normal kaisey hai

MANJEET

Mein bol raha hoon tujhe...

DAN

tujhey kaisey pata

MANJEET

tu kabhi ICU gaya hai? Nahin na?

DAN nods innocently

MANJEET

Mein gaya hoon...do baar...

DAN

Tu do baar gaya hai?

MANJEET

Haan... aaj aur kal...
that's why I know better...

DAN

Aur machine bhi na Badey awaazien kar rahi thi...

MANJEET

o hoti hai, vo breath wali pipe, vo hai...

DAN

Tch...vo vaali nahi ...ECG waali na, jo...
'toon...toon'...vo awaaz...

MANJEET

Abbey haan...
abhi tak kaano mein baj rahi hai mere toh

Once again they go back to eating and decide not to
talk about it. But Dan has lost his appetite...

DAN

yaar ye khaana sahi nahi hai mujhey lagta hai

Dan pushes the plate away and sits back quietly - the
sight of Shiuli has not left him

MANJEET

Arey sahi hai, achar ke sath kha...khale

38A.INT. HOSPITAL NICU. MORN 10 AM

Tight close up of Shiuli's eye as a hand opens it to
investigate.

CUT TO WIDE.

A very senior looking doctor is going through Shiuli's reports. He is in his 50s. Shiuli can be seen in the background. Surgeon and another doctor, slightly younger, they are discussing her case. All O.S

TEAM DOCTOR O.S.

Sir patient no.31 ko ward mein shift kar saktein hain, aur patient no.28 ke fresh scans aagaye hain ...would you like to see them now?

DR.GHOSH

Sure

TEAM DOCTOR

okay...
she fell from 30 ft...

DR GHOSH

quite a height...what does CT saY...?

TEAM DOCTOR (OS)

right side SDH...
and no positive signs...

DR GHOSH

any other injury...?

TEAM DOCTOR

spine is affected sir...

DR.GHOSH

what's her name?

TEAM DOCTOR

Shiuli, sir

Dr.Ghosh looks at Shiuli, and very purposely begins conversing with her, as he examines her

DR.GHOSH

Shiuli...can you hear me?
Shiuli, can you feel the pain?

TEAM DOCTOR O.S.

waist downwards sir...seems like permanent damage...

CUT TO

38C. INT. DOCTOR'S CHAMBER. NICU 6TH FLOOR. DAT 12.30PM

The senior doctor has a calm and gentle demeanour. His team of other specialist doctors is around him. It seems that they've had an intensive discussion amongst themselves and now is the time to explain it to the family. Dr.Ghosh sits down to explain them the situation. He even has a soft, comforting voice.

SENIOR DOCTOR

Mrs.Iyer hosh ya consciousness, Neurological level pe is defined by two conditions...patient must be awake...jaga hua ho..aur doosra, patient must be aware...aur ye dono necessary conditions are missing in Shiuli...She is in deep Coma...

BEAT.

Vidya wipes her tears silently. Doctor waits for a second or two...he must explain...but Jairam pre-empts... out of turn

JAIRAM

Is she brain dead...?

DR GHOSH

No... brain dead means absolute end...clinically speaking she has not reached that stage as yet, white matter kitna damaged hai, it all depends on that

There is silence in the room, Vidya is holding back her tears and trying to make sense of the fate of events. It is commendable to see a mother not crumbling under such absolute testing time.

CUT TO

39A.INT. NICU. HOSPITAL. DAY.

Shiuli is lying the same, swelling still there on the face, tubes, ventilator, machines, drip - she has shown no improvement, Vidya is next to her; she hasn't slept ever since the fall.

We see a helpless Kaveri watching her sister as well, in the BG there is chatter of the nurses, Kaveri keeps weeping, as she calls her sister

KAVERI

akka..shiuli akka..shiuli akka..

CUT TO

39A.INT. MRI ROOM. HOSPITAL. DAY.

4 more days have passed and today Shiuli is being wheeled in for an MRI. Vidya is with her. Shiuli lies inside the machine. Still. Unmoved.

CUT TO

39B.EXT. TEA STALL. EVENING. 6.30 PM

Ishani is crossing the road, coming from inside the hospital after visiting Shiuli. Dan and Manjeet are standing there...eating toast butter. It's become their usual hang out ever since Shiuli is here. Ishani gives Dan the pass

ISHANI

Dan, jaana hai tujhe?

DAN

Nahin yaar mein kal hi dekh ke aaya tha...waisey
bhi vo unka family matter hai

ISHANI

nikalti hun phir mein

MANJEET

chal theek hai, dhyaan se jaiyo...hum bhi nikal
rahe hain bas..

DAN

Bhaiya kitna ho gaya

Chaiwala

Bees rupaye

Dan kick starts his bike. Manjeet gets on behind. Ishani calls for an auto. Dan is in thoughts as he's driving.

OCTOBER

39C.EXT.ROAD

After some distance, he stops the bike on the side,

MANJEET

Kya hogaya bhai

DAN

Paas dede

MANJEET

Paas...

DAN

mein dekh hi aata hoon...

Even though he is unsure if he should be going back to the hospital or not; Dan decides to listen to his inner voice - and go back to his hospital; leaving Manjeet a bit confused with his indecisiveness

MANJEET

Pehley dekhle ta yaar, ye le

MANJEET

Aayega kaisey?

DAN

Main aa jaoonga...tu jaa

CUT TO**39D1.INT. NICU BED 5. HOSPITAL. EVENING. 7.30 PM**

Dan is standing quietly and seeing Shiuli. There hasn't been much difference in her condition except that her face swelling is little less. Her bandages change everyday. He notices her nose...her ears...her eyes...her tracheostomy hole...various tubes...her arms...nails...nurse, whom we've seen before walks in. She checks the drip. Dan nervously observes...perhaps that's how little he and we all know about the brain.

Nurse, however has made a note over his presence over the last few days. Today she has decided to find out about him...And she keeps throwing questions at him,

NURSE

Family hai...?

DAN

Nai..

NURSE

Boyfriend hai...?

DAN

Nai...

NURSE

vo doosra boy aaya tha...vo hai boyfriend..?

DAN

Nai

Dan very innocently and honestly answers each one of her questions, until...

NURSE

To phir aise hi...?

DAN

Hmm...

NURSE

Baahar jaa...jao...

Nurse gets back to her job. Dan walks out but today takes one more look at Shiuli.

45B.INT. HOTEL COFFEE SHOP KITCHEN. DAY. 11 AM

Inside the hotel, it's all normal. There is no discussion, no conversation about Shiuli. It's like something that has happened to someone somewhere else...not to anyone in this hotel. Life here is uninterrupted. A few staff members do nod showing their sympathy about the accident. Shiuli was their batchmate after all. Dan is on coffee shop duty. Inside the kitchen, a senior chef, while putting together a dish, does his formality bit,

FELLOW COOK IN THE KITCHEN. O.S

Table no. 9 ka order fatavat laga do...
aur Kaisi hai friend tumhari...?

OCTOBER

Laden with cynicism, Dan retorts back,

DAN

Aap na 4th floor se kood ke dekh lo...
apney aap hi Feeling aajaayegi kaise hai vo

Throwing the pan aside, the chef walks out.

CUT TO

INT. NICU. NIGHT

A tight close up of a hand waving across Shiuli's face.
We see it is Dan swinging his hand across her,
Ishani doesn't get this,

ISHANI

Tu...tu kya kar raha hai?

Dan, does not want to be disturbed when he is checking
Shiuli's breath, or a possible eye movement in his own way,
however the courteous fellow that he is, he responds rather
genuinely

DAN

Check kar raha hoon...

Ishani gets it but clearly does not approve of this

ISHANI

Tu kyon check kar raha hai, baahar jaa

Much to Ishani's disapproval, Dan argues back in a very
childlike way,

DAN

Main pehley aaya tha, you go!

Ishani flustered, walks out. Dan must continue until he is
satisfied with his investigation

40A.INT. NICU CORRIDOR. DAY. 10 AM

Next to the nurses counter, in the corridor, Dr GHOSH and
Dr Mohanty, the surgeon and another doctor are looking at
the MRI results. They are discussing the extent of damage
while a few medical interns/ junior doctors are taking
notes. Shiuli's case is a study.

DR MOHANTY

Hippocampus...Cerebral cortex...basal
ganglia...thalamus...saare hi almost compromised hain
sir...

Dr Ghosh is also perplexed by this report.

DR GHOSH

so much of acceleration and deceleration in the
brain...it's an unbelievable damage...

ANOTHER DOCTOR

family wait kar rahi hai sir...should we...

Doctors walk towards the chamber where Jairam and vidya are
sitting...nervously waiting to know the further course of
action based on the findings.

CUT TO

40C.INT. DOCTORS CHAMBER. NICU. DAY 11.30 AM

Dan stands quietly walks inside the chamber, wanting to be
a part of this crucial conversation. Vidya, Kaveri, Kunal,
Jairam...they have no clue what they are looking at.

DR GHOSH

This white-grey area...ye aisa nahin hona
chahiye...we are not 100% sure but normally ye sab
recover hona mushkil hai...

TEAM DOCTOR

sir we feel the damage is irreversible, not
immediately but eventually we will have to take a
decision

Tears well up in vidya's eyes. No parent can ever be
prepared to go through such misery and its visible in her
eyes, how Vidya is trying to listen to it all. Kaveri and
Kunal burst into crying.

DR GHOSH

I feel we can stretch this period little
more...Shiuli ko thoda time aur de saktey hein...

OCTOBER

Both Jairam and Vidya get the point that the intention of these carefully worded conversations are somewhere suggesting plugging Shiuli off the life support. Dan walks out before Jairam notices him.

CUT TO**INT. NICU. NIGHT**

Normally attendants are not allowed this late at night and especially the entire family but Kunal, Kaveri and Vidya, they all are by Shiuli's side. Dan is there too. Clearly the nursing staff, the NICU guard, they all have made an exception, as chances of Shiuli's recovery are bleak. Caressing Shiuli's hand lovingly, Vidya is making desperate attempts hoping Shiuli will open her eyes if she listen's to her mother's voice.

VIDYA

Shiuli, Shiuli, Shiuli, Shiuli...

44A.EXT. CITY ROADS. NIGHT.

It's that time of the night when the fog is slowly spreading its sheet over all that had been warmed by the sun. And once Dan is driving through the empty roads. Trucks drive on full beams. His jacket is flying in the wind, his chest, taking it all in.

44B.DAN AT ROOM - UNABLE TO SLEEP

Even though he is sleepy but it seems the hospital, the conversation with doctor, the sound of NICU, Shiuli, a mish mash of his last few days is keeping him awake. He is tossing and turning. Pillow on his ears. Quilt on his ears. He is trying.

44C. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR. NIGHT.

Vidya is sitting in the visiting area. One can't say who's going through a bigger torture...Shiuli...who is injected with numerous needles and tubes or is it the mother...who is seeing her daughter like this...everyday.

CUT TO

46.INT. HOSPITAL NICU. WAITING AREA. EARLY MORNING

Vidya is still in the visiting area. Dozing off.
Kaveri and kunal walk in. They will be here on duty for
rest of the night. Vidya gathers her things, before
leaving...

VIDYA

Accha suno...padhai ke liye use that corner...koi
disturb nahin karega tumko...and haan canteen ke
coupons lekar rakhe hain, khana kha lena time pe,
payment karne ki zaroorat nahin hai...hmmm

She hands over the duty to her children, who have overnight
become responsible.

74B.INT.IIT LECTURE HALL. DAY

Inside a classroom, students are in full strength. Whatever
may happen in her personal life, none of it must show on
Vidya's face, in front of her class. Her students can't be
at the receiving end of her personal crisis. She calmly
carries on with her teaching.

VIDYA

So as you can see, the Isometric View as compared
to the Orthographic projection gives a more three
dimensional view...and so what we have here is...

Vidya sees a missed call from Kaveri and understandably
excuses herself out of the room.

74A.INT. HOSPITAL FINANCE ROOM. DAY 12.30 PM

Inside a tubelight lit cramped room, Kaveri is sitting with
the hospital accountant going through a long bill in front
of her. Obviously the expense of the treatment is mounting.
It's evident on Kaveri's face.

KAVERI

Amma...I was just checking the bill...one lakh
seventy four thousand...should I use your card?

VIDYA (phone)

unko request karo, agle haftey payment kardengey
okay.

Accountant is accommodating.

HOSPITAL - VIDYA MINI MONTAGE:

1. Deep night. Waiting room is fairly empty. A few attendants are still sleeping on the chairs, in extremely uncomfortable positions though. **2. DAY.** Wide shot of the garden area. A few patients are here with their attendants and some are with their therapists. Someone is trying to walk...a few just getting the sun. **3. EVENING.** Pharmacy is crowded. **4. NIGHT.** Inside a dark, cold Dorm made for the attendants of the ICU patients that has bunk beds, a few are snoring, some are struggling to get any sleep.

VIDYA' MINI MONTAGE

1. **INT. HOSPITAL. NIGHT.** Vidya being asked for medicines.
2. **EXT. IIT HALL. DAY.** Vidya leaving the IIT lecture hall.
3. **INT. HOSPITAL. NIGHT.** Vidya falls asleep in the waiting room.

43.INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR. NIGHT. 10 PM

Once again Jairam and Vidya and Dan are in the hospital. The conversations obviously revolve around Shiuli's treatment expenses and the plugging off. Jairam is at his pessimistic best.

JAIRAM

(mumbling) do mahiney... (*rund masau*) ...utney mein to kisi ka bhi haalat tight ho jaata hai treatment ka paise uthatey uthatey...pichley mahiney ka bill dekha hai, itna zyaada... don't forget you're the only earning member...

Vidya tries to be collected and assured.

VIDYA

Mera savings hai kuch...insurance bhi hai...

Jairam rubbishes her.

JAIRAM

hmm.. kya hoga ussey? Agar do mahiney baad bhi aisa hi raha toh... aisa cases mein aisey hi hota hai...himmat illey paisa illey, result zero, Anna zinda hota toh engineering karat, hotel management nahi karata

He is being extremely harsh. Vidya has no option but to listen. Dan doesn't. he retorts back rather hopefully.

DAN

mujhe to...do mahiney bhi bahut kam hi lagtey
hein...only 21years ki hai...aur aap itni jaldi give
up karney ko keh rahe hein...

Jairam has never liked his presence and now he is just irritable like never before.

JAIRAM

tumko poocha kisiney, poocha abhi?
po..po..decision lena padega, lena pdega
decision, its been a long time

Dan walks away. Clearly His suggestions are not welcomed. He is aware he's not being understood. But he gets Vidya's dilemma for sure. He is by her side.

CUT TO

49A.EXT. HOTEL ROOM. DAY. 4.30 PM

It's late afternoon. Guests would have checked out at this hour so usually rooms need over all cleaning. Ishani and Dan are making the rooms.
Sheets...pillow...bedcover...fruits...minibar check...we've seen them do this before.

ISHANI

waisey vishwas nahin hota, as a person she is so
careful,
phir kyon upar jaake baithi

DAN

Tum log ne na dimaag mein pata nahin kya image
bana rakhi hai uski...mein to kehta hoon na
bewakoof hai vo ek number ki...common sense zero
hai...

ISHANI

tch...baton baaton mein nahin dhyaan rehta hai
yaar...we were all enjoying ourselves, phir vo bhi
aayi...usney poocha 'where is Dan' and then bas,
opar baithi, os thi, phisal gayi, so much blood...

He walks out with the sheet. And thinks for a second...not sure if he's heard her right. He walks in again.

DAN

Kya kaha usney?

ISHANI

kuch nahi vo toh gir gayi thi naa

DAN

Nahi nahi tumney kaha na...ki...usney vo...pehley bola

ISHANI

vo kya bolegi, tere baarey mein kuch poocha
usney, 'where is Dan' ki...yaar nahi baat karni
yaar, mood off hota hai

Dan is clueless. In fact this is for the first time he gets to know that Shiuli had mentioned him. He goes blank. He leaves the work and walks out.

CUT TO

49B.INT. HOTEL FIRE EXIT STAIRS. EVE. 5.30 PM

Dan is hurriedly walking up the stairs. He gets to the refuge area and stands there silently. Looking at the ledge. Same place from where she has fallen down. This is the first time he's come here since the fall. Evening sky is grey. Birds returning home. It's all still...but a storm is waiting to erupt inside Dan. Dan needs to be here to process what Ishani has just told him.

CUT TO

50A.EXT. DAN AND MANJEET'S HOME. EVENING. 6.30 PM

Dan parks his bike outside his gate. He doesn't even bother shutting the gate and walks up.

50B.INT. DAN AND MANJEET'S HOME.EVENING.

Manjeet and Adi are off duty, and enjoying some free time, on the terrace. Dan walks in agitated; he is no mood to interact with them.

Adi, unaware, casually asks,

ADI

Kya hua yaar?

DAN

"Where is Dan"...matlab usney mere baarey mein poocha... She said this...she said this right? aur tum logon ne itni badi baat mujhey batai nahin

This comes totally out of the blue. No one knows Dan's state of mind. They are rather casual for the intense conversation that awaits them

MANJEET

Haan poocha to tha...par what's the big deal...

DAN

Big deal ye hai ki vo uska last sentence tha...
"where is Dan"...yaani ki mein Manjeet ...!

Saying this, he walks inside chucking his bag on the side, and sits down...he looks extremely troubled

ADI

bhai mein bhi wahin pe tha, aur aisi koi feeling nahin aayi ki specially tujhe pooch rahi ho,
haina

MANJEET

Haan

Dan yet again charges at them, because this is for him an absolute breach of trust

DAN

Kyonki tum log na apne mein hi busy thei... warna koi usey rokta wahaan ooper baithne se...(pause/regret) aur vo mere baarey mein poochtey poochtey wahaan se gir gayi...aur tune mujhe nahin bataya

MANJEET

ki hoya tenu..itna loud kyon ...

DAN

Ab ussey kaisey bataon ki main kahan tha...bolo,
bol na Adi

Dan is unconvincible, he is completely helpless in being able to explain what he is going through.

ADI

Kya boloon yaar main

Without offering any explanation, Dan picks up his bag and leaves

ADI...

Oye sunn

MANJEET

Dan!

ADI

Ye tera pizaa kaun khayega

Dan has already left, and this isn't the Dan they know; or what is going on in his mind. Or heart. Perhaps, Nor does he. But something is changing. Or has changed. Unknowingly.

CUT TO

51.EXT. HOSPITAL. NIGHT. 9.45 PM

It's late at night. Dan gets to the hospital. But his day of arguments hasn't ended yet. On the 24 hours emergency exit, the door that is used for getting in the Lobby at night, the watchman on duty is not letting him in.

NIGHT WATCHMAN

arrey, ye toh day pass hai, night pass ke bina entry naa hogi andar...

DAN

bhaiyya mujhe patient se bahut zaroori baat karni hai, bas bolkey waapis aana hai, baithna nahin hai..

Watchman is adamant.

NIGHT WATCHMAN

Bhai Night pass ke bina entry naa hogi...tu jaa side ho jaa...

DAN

mein samajhta hoon, mein kal bhi aaya tha aisey..

NIGHT WATCHMAN

Arrey kal toh galti se hogayi hogi entry, par aaj
entry naa hogi night paas ke bina

Dan is desperate, he tries his best

DAN

Aap samajh hi nahin rahe hain..important baat
karni hai, aap chalo, aap mere saath chalo, bol
ke waapis aana hai

Nightwatch man is very stern this time. He can even
push Dan away.

NIGHT WATCHMAN

Arrey bhai tu samajhna meri baat mujhe nahin
samajhnaa kuch bhi, tu chall yahaan se

And saying this he pushes him away

DAN

Arrey aap dhakka mat dijiye naa,

He still continues pushing his way in.

NIGHT WATCHMAN

Bhai ye hospital hai yo samajh gaya

...Dan irritated...still tries to walk in but then gets pushed
aside by the watchman. This time he finally pushes him away

DAN

Arrey toh dhakaa matt dijiye

Watchman has lost it

NIGHT WATCHMAN

...ye shopping mall naa hai, tu jaa yahaan se...

NIGHT WATCHMAN

Dhakka naa dijiye dhakka naa dijiye,

DAN

Dhakka kaisey de rahein hain aap?!

NIGHT WATCHMAN

bahut aatey hain tere jaisey chal..

Dan gets up. Clearly the hospital rules and discipline cannot be broken no matter what, Dan, in an absolute helpless position gets up and walks away.

52. EXT. HOSPITAL - EMERGENCY AREA. NIGHT.

Dan is sitting by the parking area. Another man who was hovering around, a little more aware of hospital rules, tries being sympathetic towards Dan...he has witnessed the whole argument, he is the kinds who thinks it's his business to interfere in everyone's matter.

MAN

Bahut khadoos hai ye Chaudhari ... bina paas ke andar nahin jaaney dega...

Dan doesn't reply...

MAN

Waise baat kya karni thi...?

DAN

aapko kyon bataaon main...?

MAN

mere paas pass hai nightwala, mein andar jaake bata doonga

DAN

main apni baat khud bataaonga
aap apni baat bataao...

MAN

theek hai...main apni baat bataa doonga...

Dan is totally taken confused with the way this conversation is proceeding without making much sense, but he is in it now

DAN

kya bataaogey aap ...?

MAN

yahi jo aap yahaan pe kya kar rahe thei..

DAN

kya kar raha tha?

MAN

Guard ke saath mein

However insipid this maybe, Dan feels threatened,

DAN

aap kuch nahin bataaogey..

Man, buffoon of sorts, continues to irritate him

MAN

ab toh pucca bataaonga, main tab se madad kar raha tha
aapki, ab toh pucca bataaoga main

Picking up his tiffin box he walks straight into the
emergency exit, leaving Dan flabbergasted.

52F.INT. NICU MAN ON DUTY DESK. NIGHT. 11.30 AM

Dan walks in discreetly, he has perhaps managed to bluff
his way in. We have seen this man on duty on previous
occasions, he is the person-in-charge of the NICU security
seated there with his entry register.

MAN ON DUTY

Night pass?

DAN

Nahi hai

MAN ON DUTY

nahi hai?

DAN

Matlab hai, par abhi nahi hai..

MAN ON DUTY

Nahin nahin allowed nahin hai raat ko, allowed
nahi hai

DAN

Bhaiya sirf do minute, nurse se baat karna hai

MAN ON DUTY

Arre yaar tum meri naukri khaogey pucca..

DAN

Nahi nahi nahi

MAN ON DUTY

Imaandari se do minute mein waapis aajana

DAN

haan...aap best...hospital ke best watchman ho..

MAN ON DUTY

Haan...theek hai

DAN

aapka naam kya hai

MAN ON DUTY

Arrey jaaao yaar

Dan, grateful walks in

52G.INT. NICU BED 5.NIGHT.

Dan is standing close to Shiuli...looking at her face. He stands there quiet. She is still...just as every day. Her hair have grown a bit...a centimeter perhaps. Her eyes still shut. She is still on the ventilator. Dan is hesitant. As if talking to someone who can hear him, see him...face to face.

DAN

Hi... uss din...you wanted to know...
Ki where is Dan...toh...actually uss din pata hai kya
hua? mein na... us din tha nahin...

Just as he says this, we witness a huge sense of relief on his face. As if from his side, he has completed his responsibility of letting her know his whereabouts, that fatal night. Somewhere one can sense the conflicting emotions he is grappling with in his mind.

He takes a step back and a deep breath, looking relaxed.
Camera stays on Shiuli.

EXT. OUTSIDE EMERGENCY AREA. NIGHT

It is late in the night, an extremely exhausted Dan is sleeping on a stretcher, the world of hotel, home, friends, slowly getting distant. But obviously this is not the place where he can find comfort,

NIGHT WATCHMAN

Bhaiya, oh bhaiya...

DAN

hmm

NIGHT WATCHMAN

yahaan nahin, aap baahar jaiye...wahaan

Slowly the sky turns from the deep night to a really early morning. When the day is just about breaking and the hospital lights are still not switched off. Few people can be seen going in and out.

CUT TO

EXT. TEA VENDOR OUTSIDE HOSPITAL. MORNING.

Dan has been sleeping curled up here the whole night on the tea vendor's cart that's parked in this temporary shed. He realizes its morning as the tea vendor keeps a cup of tea in front of him. Dan splashes his face with cold water. It's unbearable. He finishes his tea. Brushing his hair with his hands and adjusting his jacket, he runs across towards the lobby.

52E.INT. HOSPITAL RECEPTION. DAY. 10 AM

Phones are ringing continuously. Reception staff is busy answering patients queries. Directing the phones to the respective departments. Or helping the ones who are there with their medical needs. Dan is standing there too...for no apparent reason. He makes some enquiries nonetheless. He sounds genuine though.

DAN

agar vo pet mein dard ho to kis doctor ke paas
jaana chahiye...?

STAFF

gastro hai... liver hai ya phir pregnanacy?

DAN

Gastro...gastro...

STAFF

Dr RP Singh...T. T. S.

DAN

TTS?

STAFF

Tuesday Thursday Saturday

DAN

Tuesday..Thursday..satur....Vitamin D, Vitamin D
ki kami ho to

STAFF

Ortho hain Dr. S.N Dutta, bones ke liye..

DAN

M W F?

STAFF

Vo bhi T T S...

DAN

Heart specialist aur cardiologist same hai...?

The staff attending earnestly to him till now, isn't sure anymore if his queries are worth answering. She questions him back, losing a bit of her patience.

STAFF

symptom kya hai... patient aap hain...?

DAN

Nai...mein to aise hi...matlab apney
general knowledge ke liye pooch raha tha... aap
apna kaam kariye...sorry... Bol toh diya maine..

Staff is at loss of any words. She gets back to her work.
Occasionally observing him. He keeps hanging around there.

OCTOBER

INT. NICU. DAY

A nurse comes and pricks a pencil on Shiuli's nails. She presses against her feet with a pointer, using a hammer knocks on her elbows. All the time inquiring,

LADY DOCTOR

Shiuli....Shiuli can you feel this...Shiuli. Shiuli,
can you feel this?

Shiuli doesn't respond. Nurse notes down something in a file.

CUT TO**54B.EXT. HOTEL BACK GATE.MORNING**

A wide shot of the hotel exterior. It's really early in the morning...its still cold and silent outside.

CUT TO

Dan is sitting on perched on one of the bikes in the parking lot, he looks up on the terrace, at the spot from where Shiuli had fallen. He stays there for a few seconds...perhaps still trying to comprehend how did it all happen.

Ishani walks out from the back entry of the hotel kitchen, she has had a long night shift, she looks drained and unsure of Dan's sudden appearance.

ISHANI

Kya hai...?

DAN

Yaar, usney college mein kabhi ya ...ussey pehley
kabhi mere baarey mein poocha tha tumse...I
mean...kuch bhi?

His inquisitiveness is completely dismissed by Ishani

ISHANI

tera dimaag kharaab hai, tu subah subah ye
poochne aaya hai mujhsey...?

DAN

Tch...please...Ishani

ISHANI

Nai yaar...humne tere baarey mein kya baat karni
hai...?

There is an adolescent desperation in Dan's queries, as if trying to solve a mystery in his own head, trying to understand, whether he was ever important to Shiuli, a part that he may have overlooked.

DAN

To fir usne kyon poocha tha mere liye...vo bhi
marney ke just pehley... mari nahin vo...par, insaan
ka last sentence to important hota hai na...

ISHANI

Dan I really don't think she was interested in
you...aur khud hi soch...tu aur vo...koi chance hi
nahin hai yaar...

DAN

To mere liye kyon poocha usney...

Perhaps, Ishani does not have the sensitivity to gauge this absolute personal crisis Dan Is going through

ISHANI

Yaar jhila mat ab...waise hi neend aa rahi...aadhey
ghantey mein shift khatam ho rahi hai... drop
kardega?

DAN

Kardoonga but bataa dena kuch pata hai toh, main
imagine kar raha hoon ye...

Ishani walks away, disinterested. Dan gets off the bike and notices Shiuli's car. He stands there...thinking.

DAN

(to the night parking guy)
Dost iski chabhi hai?

PARKING GUY

Haan par ye madam ki gaadi hai na...

DAN

Haan

CUT TO

Dan is sitting inside Shiuli's car. His hands firmly on the steering wheel. He is still. Maybe it's his need to know her a little better that makes him open the dashboard.

A few odd receipts, phone charger, transparent pouch that has a couple of hairbrush, toothbrush. Dan shuts the dashboard.

54F.EXT.IIT CAMPUS.MORNING.

Dan drives inside the IIT campus gate. Ishani is with him.

55A.EXT.SHIULI'S HOUSE.MORNING.

Dan drives through the colony and stops the car in front of Shiuli's apartment, Ishani opens the gate and gives directions

ISHANI

Seehey lekar aa, kaat idhar se, seedhey..bas

55B.EXT/INT. SHIULI'S HOME. EARLY MORNING.

Vidya opens the door. It's Ishani and Dan standing on their doorstep. It's still very early in the morning. She lets them in. Ishani hugs Vidya. Dan keeps the Car key and the newspaper on the dining table.

Vidya walks into the kitchen. There is an awkward silence. Dan is looking around. The photographs on the wall. The paintings. Brass lamps. Kaveri is studying. Vidya walks back with a cup of coffee and gives it to Dan. He keeps his small cloth bag on the table and notices Dan. He's probably coming from the hospital. The look on his face says that Dan was obviously not expected here. Dan realizes.

VIDYA

Dan, baitho...vo hospital aur ghar ke kaam ke beech
itna busy ho gayi ke...car laaney ka chance hi
nahin mila, thanks

DAN

Jab mein chota tha na...toh mujhe left hand mein
fracture hua tha...3 weeks mein bone toh judh toh
jaani chahiye thi..par nahin hua, baad min ho
gayi thi.....judh gayi matlab vo, so I feel ke, same
way mein shiuli ko ab tak theek toh ho jaana
chahiye tha, nahin hui par...baad mein ho
jaayegi...theek...shiuli

Ishani looks at him as if thinking what weird connection is that but Perhaps Vidya is the only one who gets his innocence. Dan and Ishani get up to leave. He takes one more look at Shiuli's beautiful laughing picture.

CUT TO

48B.INT.HOSPITAL NICU BED NUMBER 3-028.MORNING.

Few days have passed. Dan is once again by Shiuli's side. Somewhere In his own mind he has started attaching importance to his presence in Shiuli's life, today in his own way, he is trying to be extremely responsible...

DAN

Sister aaj urine output zyada nahin hai...?

He is referring to the urine in the catheter. Nurse walks in to check. Perhaps it is more. She makes a note.

DAN

Aaj pani zyaada diya tha, iska matlab At least
the kidney is not affected by the brain...safe hai,
haan?

Nurse gives a look. his interference here is certainly not required

SISTER GRACE

Tum koi job nahin karta hai kya, haan?

Dan gets the hint, and leaves

DAN

Bye

CUT TO

93.INT. HOSPITAL NICU WAITING ROOM. DAY. 2.30 PM

It's early morning, the usual hustle bustle of doctors, patients walking in and out. Like any other day, Dan is there too, seated. A cleaning staff is on his routine duty of mopping. Instantly, Dan lifts his feet up and squats on the chair letting the cleaner clean. He looks around. Much to everyone's displeasure Dan ensures that the room is cleaned well, after all his hotel training hasn't gone wasted

DAN

madam zara pair ooper kardijiye...
poncha maar raha hai...uncleji zara pair oopar
kardijiye, unko bhi bol dijiye...madam! - geela
hai...

Dan makes every one in the room sit up on chair or lift up their legs.

DAN

chalo nahin abhi...side mein ruko... jootey ka
nishaan padega...

Cleaner is pleased with this.

CUT TO

INT. HOSPITAL NICU WAITING ROOM. DAY.

Another day, Dan is seated in the corridor...next to him is a little girl, perhaps an attendant of another patient, Dan has nothing better to do, he decides to chat up

DAN

Andar kaun hai?

GIRL

Mummy

DAN

kyon?

DAN

Baby hoga

DAN

Twins?

Girl shrugs her shoulders to indicate how would she know...Just then we hear the nurse call out,

SISTER

Bed no.28

Dan rushes to the counter

DAN

Yes

MONTAGE SHOTS OF DAN -

DAN AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS - BRUSHING - SHAVING - SITTING - SLEEPING.

INT. TEA VENDORS. NIGHT

We see him having his dinner at the dhaba. He and the vendor obviously have formed some relation, perhaps he is playing the role of a guardian, letting him keep his clothes, belongings, serving him the meals timely.

INT. HOSPITAL. DAY

Dan has slowly visibly become accustomed to the hospital environment so much so that his daily chore of brushing, bathing, shaving etc are now happening in the hospital washroom instead of his home.

It seems like there is no reason for him to go home or to his friends.

His mornings now begin in the hospital, with the hustle bustle of the rituals that takes place.

The commotion in the NICU, the way the night staff sponges the patients, makes their beds, inspite of the patients being immobile or being wrapped up in tubes...the way they keep the room tidy with all the files updated before handing over the charge to the day staff. This is the time when nurses will not have any time to chat with each other or with any one else.

Dan is witness to it all from a distance. He is slowly realizing how dedicated the nurses are. Living in this air of responsibility and surrender day in and out, unknowingly the rough sharp edges of Dan's personality are slowly being smoothened out.

He belongs here now.

INT./ EXT. HOSPITAL NICU. DAY

Dan notices a hospital cleaning staff, almost purposefully hovering around Shiuli. Dan is rather suspicious of his He follows him outside

DAN

Ye 3rd floor NICU pe kya kar rahe thei?

STAFF

Kaam kar raha tha

DAN

Toh wahan khadey kyon thei? tumko toh bahut kaam hoga naa...jaldi jaldi karo kaam, aur patient ko ko ghoorna zaroori hai kya? kaam kar rahe ho, toh kaam karo, ghooro mat aisey

This guy hasn't given him the right vibes, and rightfully so Dan lashes him out giving him a piece of his mind

INT. HOTEL BASEMENT. NIGHT

By now Dan has become careless towards his hotel duties, and the days that he decides to attend work are sporadic, he has been coming and going at his own whims, sometimes way before the shift actually finishes. This evening too he is rushing out, but to his luck Asthana catches him

ASTHANA

Hello hello, kahan chaley?

DAN

Sir, ker shift toh khatam ho gayi

ASTHANA

Nahin, tumney aaj duty roster nahin dekha kya?

DAN

Nahin..

ASTHANA

full occupancy hai hotel mein, double shift chal rahi hain, back to Banquets immediately...

DAN

mujhei..

ASTHANA

(walking away while speaking on the walky, talky...)
Ya, Banquet one...

Dan stands there, quiet... left with no choice but to return back to work.

INT. HOTEL BANQUET HALL. NIGHT

Banquet is being setup up for yet another fancy party, Candles, cutlery, plates, ribbon tied chairs...all being laid out to perfection. Manjeet can sense that while Dan is doing the work, his mind is elsewhere. His lack of interest in work, friends and life in general hasn't gone un-noticed by his friends

Dan is arranging some cutlery, when Manjeet comes upto him...

MANJEET

Bada hospital hospital kar raha hai tu aajkal...har
aaye din wahin chala aata hai tu..

Dan hears him patiently.

DAN

Bahut jaa raha hoon main?

MANJEET

AUR kya?

DAN

Haan theek hai, toh tujhey lag raha hai toh nahin
jaaooonga.

MANJEET

Mujhey nahin lag raha hai bhia, sabhi ko lag raha
hai..

DAN

Haan toh ab kam hi jaaooonga

Dan is adorably innocent. So pure. They get back to doing
their job.

42.INT. HOSPITAL CANTEEN. EVENING. 6.30 PM

If it wasn't located inside a hospital, this canteen would've
certainly been mistaken for being a fancy café. There are
various tables and chairs but still not enough to accommodate
the attendance, and friends and relatives of the patients for
whom this is also an interesting outing
On one of the tables, we see Shiuli's mother, sister and
uncle. Ishani is there as well, Dan joins them with a tray of
snack and tea in his hand.

Shiuli's uncle Jairam, seems to be in a dismissive mood,
almost doubting everything that is going on, his presence
always carries a certain negativity for everyone around him

JAIRAM

I have seen such cases, Agar aisa hi rehney wala
hai vo poora life ...like a vegetable... .. itna
torture...for what...?

Dan is beginning to realise the grimness of this all...Vidya's voice is shaky...she's also a bit angry listening to all this. Kaveri is sitting quiet...sipping some juice; a bit angry at Jairam's pessimism

VIDYA

Please Jairam...Tumhara negative conversation na start mat karo...

Ishani looks at Dan, they both can sense the family dynamics

JAIRAM

pcch, You heard na vo tumko pehchanega bhi nahin...is this what you want...?

Dan feels a need to interrupt now. He forgets it's not his prerogative to decide...but still something forces him to speak up.

DAN

vo aapko nahin pehchaanti ...na pehchaaney...aap log to pehchantey ho ussey?

BEAT.

This suddenly makes so much sense. Exactly what Vidya probably wanted to hear and she also expresses her agreement in a rather strong way...

VIDYA

plug nikalo...plug nikalo...itni kya jaldi hai, we have to give her time, I think hes absolutely right...mein accounts mein hokey aati hoon

JAIRAM

Mumbling

She gets up and leaves, Jairam, mumbling follows her as well...Kaveri is still there, Dan is inquisitive

DAN

Kaun hai ye?

KAVERI

Dad ke younger brother, he lives in Trichi

DAN

Aur dad ki death kab?

KAVERI

Dad passed away 10 yrs ago..

The decision to remove the ventilator or not, and if at all yes, then when, these are not easy decisions for anyone to make.

70A.HOSPITAL PHARMACY. NIGHT 10.30 AM

It's deep in the night, Dan is at the hospital pharmacy counter. He once again has time to kill. It's one of those hours at night when other than a few emergency cases, not much activity happens.

Pharmacy guy gives him a Parle G. Dan pays him and begins to eat.

Dan stands there bored. A man comes...he shows the prescription to the pharmacist.He is finding it difficult to comprehend the doctor's writing

CHEMIST

Aapka ye medication baaki de diya hai maine, ek
jo yahaan pe hai,
woh clear nahin ho pa raha hai, likha kya hai
doctor saab ne, ye baaki dawaai aapko de di hain

Patient's relative

Ye Yahin ke doctor ne likha hai,

CHEMIST

Sir, clarify nahin ho paa raha hai, clear nahin
ho paa raha hum logon ko..

Patient's relative

arrey toh main kissey padhwaaon phir

CHEMIST

Understanding nahin ho paa raha..

Relative

Aap toh chemist hain, aapko pata hona chahiye

Dan jumps in, looking at the attendant's desperation

DAN

Mujhey bata do

Man hesitantly gives him the prescription. Dan reads it as if he has the knowledge.

PHARMACY

Pateint kaun hai

Relative

Bhai

Chemist not really appreciating Dan's interference, tries to object to his eating here.

PHARMACY

Aap biscuit matt khaiye sir, baahar khaiye allowed nahin hai sir biscuit khana yahaan pe

Dan ignores

DAN

Pressure hai bhiya ko?

Relative

ji

DAN

Ye metosartin 25 hai, BP wali hai

PHARMACY

Metosartin 25?

DAN

Hai na?

PHARMACY

Haan

Relative

Thankyou bhai

Dan isn't trying to make a point that he knows medicine, but clearly there is a little chip on his shoulder. Ofcourse last few months of staying in a hospital, has definitely raised his awareness be it medical or emotional.

59A.EXT./INT. DAN MANJEET'S SAFDARJNG ENCLV RESIDENCE.

NIGHT. 10.30 PM

Dan parks his bike near the stairs and walks up to his flat.

59B.INT/EXT.DAN'S BARSATI.NIGHT

He searches for the key right above the door on a slab, where they perhaps hide it. Since it isn't there, he knocks at the door

DAN (knocking)

manjeet..

In couple of minutes, Ishani opens up the door. A bit embarrassed.

ISHANI (opens the door)

Hi...

Dan walks in, looking at Manjeet and Ishani's mannerisms, he knows that they have been intimate.

Dan looks at Manjeet

DAN

Bata to dete...

ISHANI

We're not hiding...

MANJEET

aajkal time hi kahaan hai tere paa, khana mangwa lein?

DAN

bhookh nahi hai yaar mujhei...

Saying this he walks in towards the other room, picking up his towel lying on a chair there...

ISHANI

kyon? hospital canteen ka taste chadh gaya hai
moohn pe...?

Ishani and Manjeet are showing their absolute displeasure to their friend's 'now you see me, now you don't' attitude. They feel he does owe them an explanation. Dan however is in no mood to confront.

DAN

Arrey yaar Ye kya baat hui...?

Ishani nudges further...

ISHANI

6 shifts teri manjeet ne cover ki...4 Adi ne aur 3 maine...

The growing affinity towards Shiuli and an apparent distance from Manjeet and Ishani cannot be ignored. With enough already going on and not wanting this argument to go further, he tries to be pragmatic

MANJEET

Aur waisey bhi wo teri best friend to thi nahin...

DAN

Whatever you guys are doing...
mein to nahin keh raha naa...ki ye karo ya vo karo...
mat karo meri shift cover...theek hai, ...leave it...

MANJEET

theek hai, toh tu ek kaam kar,
...vo subah shaam doctron ki baaraat aati hai
na...unsey pooch ley ke kitne chances hein bachney
ke...

As soon as he says this, Manjeet knows he has over said. Ishani also stares at Dan for his reaction. But Dan, without reacting, walks inside the wash room...switches on the geyser...keeps the towel on the hook and walks out...

DAN

Tum log har kaam chance ho to hi kartey ho kya...?

BEAT.

His eyes look straight into Manjeet's eye. He has never been this matured. Or evolved. Or ruined. Manjeet gulps. He realizes he's trying to be sensible when his friend Dan has way past that stage.

MANJEET

Sorry yaar...

Dan goes in the washroom. Ishani stares at Manjeet, accusing him of being so insensitive.

ISHANI

Tujhe bilkul sense nahin hai na... bolne se pehle
soch to liya kar yaar ...

MANJEET

Bola naa sorry yaar..

ISHANI

Bewakoof

Dan seems to be getting caught in a web of a deep personal crisis where nobody, however much they may want, is able to help him...and the distance only seems to be growing wider and wider. Strangely enough Dan couldn't be bothered at all. He is in his own zone, and doesn't seek anyone's sympathy or understanding. Other than Shiuli, he seems to be a little cold about everyone or everything else.

CUT TO**64.INT. HOSPITAL ADMIN DESK. EVENING.**

Today Dan needs to make a very purposeful conversation with the hospital Admin; he walks upto a pot bellied middle aged man who is busy in his work. Dan catches him unaware.

DAN

ek baat poochni thi ye
Dr GHOSH...kaisey doctor hain wo?...

MAN*(confused)*

Neuro waaley...? he's a genius...!

DAN

matlab sach mein genius hain wo...?

MAN

(smirk) sabse top doctor hein vo yahaan ke... anything happened...?

DAN

Nahin...pooch lena chahiye na...kaun ilaaj kar raha hai... agar aap keh rahein hain itna toh genius hi hongey ...vo...I guess

Admin observes him, getting irritated with Dan's purposeless queries, to him it seems that Dan is just here to kill time

MAN

Genius hongey matlab? mein keh raha hoon na ki genius hain, tu Mazey le raha hai mujhse ...

Unexpectedly, Dan shoots back...

DAN

mazey to doctor le rahe hein upar NICU mein...

And one realizes Dan's genuine concern about this prolonged treatment, which has gone on for a bit too long...

MAN

ek minute ek minute tu hotel wala attendant hai na...?...maine dekha hai tujhe kai baar...tuney ab koi gadbad kin aa toh security walon se teri entry ban karaa doonga

Dan not the one to get threatened

DAN

meine bhi dekha hai aapko... raat ko aath baje vo nurses van ke baahar...

Administrator is taken aback. He hadn't expected this.

MAN

Meri nurses se kya tuning hai, issey tera kya lena dena, kaam kar apna!

Dan takes a few steps and again stops, irritating the man further

MAN

Kya hai jaa kyon nahin raha

DAN

(completely out of context)
Vo aapney Santro kitne mein khareedi

Man is livid and totally gobsmack at Dan's bizarre guts.

EXT. HOTEL BACKSIDE. EVENING

Asthana is on his way out after a possibly long day, when Dan comes rushing to him... there is an urgency in his demeanour. Whatever it is, Asthana wants to finish it fast

DAN

Sir...sir aap jaa rahey ho?

MAN

Haan, kya hua?

DAN

nahi vo

ASTHANA

Bol jaldi yaar

DAN

Mujhey teen char din ki chutti chahiye sir..

ASTHANA

Chutti! toh tum waisey se hi red mein ho yaar abhi

DAN

Sir, papa bahut unwell hain

ASTHANA

Wo toh Kashmir mein posted thei yaar

Dan doesn't stop - he has guts

DAN

Sir, vo field mein gaye thie aur peth mein achanak dard ho gaya sir unko, vo gall bladder mein chaar stone nikley..badey hain vo

ASTHANA

Yaar mein soch ke bataaongey theek hai

Saying this Asthana walks away, Dan continues from behind.

DAN

Sir, dard bahut ho raha hai

Asthana doesn't bother, well atleast Dan tried his luck

60A.INT. HOSPITAL NICU. DAY. 6.45 AM

There is mayhem inside the NICU. A team of senior specialists come running into Shiuli's ward. We see a pale Shiuli lying there. Nurses on alert...adjusting drips...medicines...reports. Today Shiuli's condition has suddenly deteriorated.

ASSISTANT DOCTOR

I just go this call, seems to be some kind of a stroke I think..

SENIOR DOCTOR

Kab hua?

SISTER GRACE

3am body zor zor se shake kiya, phir ek ghantey baad phirse fit aaya

SENIOR DOCTOR

Pulse?

SISTER

30

SENIOR DOCTOR

Pressure?

SISTER GRACE

60 by 40

ASST. DOCTOR

We should inform Dr.Ghosh?

SENIOR DOCTOR (nodding)

I think so...

There is a sense of concern in her voice. The sound of the ventilator, the machines...everything heightens the palpable fear.

CUT TO

63.INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR. EVENING. 4.30 PM

Shiuli's family has found a quiet corner near one of the fire exits. Jairam, Vidya, Kaveri and kunal...all are here...This sudden deterioration in Shiuli's condition has thrown an unexpected challenge to deal with. It's almost as if they are being forced to re-look at their decision, whether all of this will be worth going forward or not.

Shocked...exhausted...saddened...they have to now make up their minds whether to keep the medication on or pull the plug.

Dan is here as well. For Jairam this is just the moment he needed to prove his case.

JAIRAM

Stroke ho gaya, epilepsy attack ho gaya, abhi bhi hope laga ke baitha hai...suna naa doctor ne kya kaha kal raat ko...ho gaya na final, paralysed for whole life! practical hona toh tumhara family ne kabhi seekha hi nahi...

KAVERI

Appa would've never rushed...vo wait karte...

JAIRAM

agar Shiuli apne aap saans bhi na le paaye...to ye koi life hai? aisey hi rakhengey usko zinda?

Family is contemplating to withdraw Shiuli's life support. Vidya closes her eyes. Jairam is a tad grumpy. Everybody stays quiet...Dan observes.

DAN

haan toh aisey hi rakhiye, maybe she wants to live...

BEAT.

DAN

May be kya...100%... Matlab... aur koi kyon decide karega uske liye...ussey toh koi poochey uska decision, vo kyon marna chahegi...mujhey nahin laga vo marna chahti hai

BEAT .

Dan's thinking surprises them. But makes them think too. Perhaps what he is saying is worth a try. Dan walks out towards the lift.

CUT TO**65C. NICU. NIGHT .**

Dan is standing next to Shiuli. He cleans his hands with the sanitizer kept next to her footrest. He arranges her quilt. With his hands he is tracking her ECG...in the air...making the same movement. He reads her pulse on the monitor. He checks his own. He even tries to hear his pulse by keeping his wrist on his ear. Obviously he can't. He walks till the small bin kept in one corner behind the machines. With his feet he opens and closes. He has nothing to throw though. On these visuals we just hear him talking to Shiuli. A complain of sorts.

DAN

tumharey uncle ko na jungle mein rakhna chahiye...
ekdum bandar hai vo, patience hai hi nahi...thodey
din agar body ko kaam nahin karna hai...koi baat
nahin...le lo machine ki help...kai baar meri bike
start nahi hoti...toh dauda ke mein dhakka dedeta
hoon, start ho jaati hai ventilator bhi toh
dhakka hi hai...khaalo thodey din...araam se to leti
ho...

He has vented out all his frustration that has built up in last few weeks thanks to Jairam. He whemently disagrees with his constant bickering about ventilator.

CUT TO**66A. INT / EXT. BARSAATI TERRACE. NIGHT**

It's deep in the night. Freezing cold but Dan is sleepless. He walks out of his room, covered head to toe, in hope of some distraction, some fresh air. Something catches his attention and he walks towards the terrace ledge as if recalling something. He looks down to see the Shiuli tree. Well it was always there which probably he never really took notice of but tonight the delicate fragrance of the flowers seems familiar...

66B.EXT.DAN'S BARSATI.STREET. NIGHT

Dan is now next to the tree...staring at the freshly fallen Shiuli flowers. He takes a deep whiff...and begins collecting them...one by one...gently... to say that Shiuli now exists in his consciousness unremittingly, that won't be an exaggeration at all.

66D.EXT.HOSPITAL.MID NIGHT.

Dan parks his bike outside the hospital and goes in. there is an urgency in his steps.

66E.INT.NICU. MIDNIGHT

Dan looks around for a suitable spot and then places the flowers next to Shiuli's pillow...carefully. He looks at her...and leaves. Be it a day or deep night, or any season...nothing matters to him anymore for he wants is to be around Shiuli.

66F. INT. HOTEL LOBBY. MID NIGHT

In this vast hotel reception area, Dan, alone is polishing the marble surface. There is a sense of calm in his appearance. He isn't perturbed anymore by such chores. Besides, this gives him a chance to be with himself...with his thoughts.

CUT TO

67AINS. INT. NICU. NIGHT

Sister grace is doing her regular rounds, checking the drip etc, next to Shiuli's bed, when something catches her eye

67A.INT. NICU CORRIDOR. MORNING. 8AM

Camera tracks Dr GHOSH with a couple of other doctors as they walk purposefully towards the NICU

67B cont.INT.NICU BED NUMBER 3-028.MORNING.8AM

Dr GHOSH is now standing in front of Shiuli. We see her face. He opens her eyes to check. They are as before. The nurse hands him the flowers. Nurse quickly hand him over a bowl which has 8/9 shiuli flowers. Family is standing around.

DR GHOSH

Mrs.Iyer coma patients kabhi kabhi aisey smell se react kartey rehtey hain, their olfactory senses at times respond to external stimuli, in this case inn flowers ke vajey se twitch hua ho ga, it's very common

Yes. Shiuli has shown a reaction...for first time...after three months! Nurse and Vidya both are staring at Shiuli's face, hoping for a reaction once again.

VIDYA

But doctor do - teen baar hua, that's a positive sign?

DOCTOR GHOSH

Yes...defitnitely it could be a hint, she's conscious, but we can't conclude, but we're on the right track lets continue with the treatment...hmmm...

TEAM DOCTOR

yes sir, (signs the papers, to the sister) okay...

Dr Ghosh is one of those doctors who at no point give false hopes to the attendants, yet there a sense of hope when he is around...that something is right, or will be. Team of doctors leave. Kaveri is has been looking at her sister hopefully

KAVERI

akka..Shiuli akka...

CUT TO.

68A.INT. HOTEL COFFEE SHOP. EVENING. 3.30 PM

Dan is arranging coffee kettle and mugs in a tray. He knows the regime. The sparkling cutlery, the strainer, the tea cozy on the kettle...He pops in a sugar cube in his mouth. Ishani looks at him. He's incorrigible.

ISHANI

Baat karni hai tere se...

Dan remains silent.

OCTOBER

CUT TO

95A.INT. HOTEL INVENTORY ROOM. DAY 9 AM

Asthana hands over this coat at the dry cleaners

ASTHANA

Yaar ye yahan rakhlo please, thankyou

On his way out he notices a tired Dan, sleeping in one of the corners. He thinks for a few seconds. He picks up a towel from a pile of fresh towels and puts under his head as a pillow. We have never seen him this considerate. Perhaps he realizes the emotions Dan is dealing with.

90.INT. NICU NURSES COUNTER. NIGHT. 12.30 AM

Sister Grace, couple of other night nurses who we have seen before are all hanging around at ths Nurses' little cabin. Tonight Dan is chatting up with Sister Grace. Dan and the nurse are talking in a whispery tone...without disturbing the patients.

DAN

Aap ye job kitne saal se kar rahi hein...

NURSE

20 years...

DAN

family... ..?

NURSE

...nurse logon ko koi shaadi nahi karta...curse hai humko...

DAN

Kyon?

NURSE

Hum log patients ka kaam karta hai...idhar udhar touch karta hai unko...to logon ko lagta hai pata nahin hamara character kaisa hai...

NURSE

tum karega shaadi..nurse se?

Dan is looking at her. Sister is being mischievious.

NURSE

Haan, kar sakta hoon mein..

NURSE

then apna shaadi mein, mujhey bhi invite karna, okay

DAN

Gift lekar aana aap

Nurse smiles. He is a charming innocent boy afterall.

CUT TO

69C.INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR. NIGHT 9.30 PM

Dan is next to Shiuli. Today again he has brought a few flowers for her.

DAN'S VO

Aaj itne hi miley...season khatam ho raha hai...
ab karo naak se... mijhey bhi dekhna hai...

He decorates the flowers around her head. Then he picks up a few and rotates them around her nose...for a reaction. He keeps them back. Nurse interrupts.

NURSE

Roz thodi twitch karega...us din ho gaya...

Dan keeps the flowers down on the pillow. Nurse keeps looking at his innocence and then purposely,

NURSE CONTD.

mila baahar tumko?

DAN

huh...?

NURSE

iska uncle...waapise aagaya hai, aaj uska hai duty

Dan is not very pleased.

DAN

kyon...?

NURSE

iska mother ko fever tha na...

Dan doesn't want to face Jairam. He doesn't want to be questioned as to why he's here or things like that. Also Jairam has always been a little annoying. Which makes him difficult to tolerate but Dan has no option now. he has something on his mind.

DAN

Ye Ventilator ka plug kidhar hai...?

Nurse points to the plug, at a corner near Shiuli's headboard.

DAN

To vo jab aayengey na...matlab...uncle...to unko idhar mat baithana, unko door baithana...aap na is plug se ...

He picks up the stool and keeps it on the opposite side of the bed

DAN CONTD.

matlab haan idhar baitho...sister plug se door bithana..

Clearly Dan doesn't trust the uncle. Given his visible pessimism on the treatment and chances of recovery, for Dan, Jairam should be last person left alone with the ventilator!

CUT TO

80A.INT. HOSPITAL NICU CORRIDOR. NIGHT.

While hanging around another night in the hospital, Dan is called by the nurse. Dan rushes.

DAN

Sister?

NURSE

Umm...ye medicines chahiye...umm...hospital pharmacy mein stock out hai...baahar milega, aur mummy bhi aaya nahin hai

Dan takes the prescription and leaves.

CUT TO

OCTOBER

80B.EXT. CITY ROADS. NIGHT. 7.30 PM

There is a loud noise of Local shaadi band on the road...a marriage procession is on its way and as a result the traffic is moving like a snail.

80C.EXT.DELHI - CHEMIST 1.NIGHT.

Dan is on his bike, braving the traffic and stopping at a couple of chemists.

80G.EXT.DELHI - CHEMIST 5.NIGHT.

He finally parks his bike outside one chemist. He is now on the counter. Hoping here he will get what he needs. There are a couple of other customers too. The owner is one old typical Sardar man...

DAN

Bhai saab ye aapke stock mein hai?

Chemist has an irritated look and a groggy tone...

CHEMIST

Chotey...

(Abusing the loud band he says...)

dilli mein Nau hazaar shaadiyaan hein aaj...

DAN

ek hi din mein?

CHEMIST

Haanji... mehraul ki or to paanch
ghantey se traffic ruki hai...

Sardar calculates the amount that Dan needs to pay.

CHEMIST

Sataarah hazaar do sau...

Dan is shocked. Unsure if he's heard it right.

DAN

Sataarah hazaar?

CHEMIST

card machine chal nahin rahi hai...

DAN

Mein cash lekar aata hoon thodey time mein...
(he repeats, little more loud)
thodey der mein cash leke aata hoon, aap khuley
ho na?

Chemist keeps the medicine aside. Dan kicks starts his bike, in a bit of a dazethough.

CUT TO

80H.EXT. OUTSIDE AN ATM. NIGHT. 7.30 PM

The noise on the roads is deafening. Dan goes in and comes out, poaaibly without getting much cash. Maneuvering through the crazy traffic caused by an unimaginable number of 9000 weddings in town isn't easy. But At this point, the nuisance, the noise, the chaos...nothing is bothering an otherwise low on patience Dan. All one can see is the sense of responsibility on his face and un urgency in his driving...

80I.DAN'S BARSATI.INT.NIGHT.

Dan enters home. Walks in straight to his room. Manjeet follows him and takes out the money.

MANJEET

(handing over the cash)
bees hazar hain

Dan keeps it in his jeans pocket and meets Ishani in the kitchen who is chopping a salad. He looks exhausted after a long drive. He splashes his face with water. Manjeet follows him there...

MANJEET

shakal dekhi hai tuney apni?

Ishani too can't resist...

ISHANI

badey chaud se keh raha tha na unka apna family matter hai...toh phir kyon ghusa usmein, kapdon mein se tak hospital ki smell aa rahi hai

Dan looks at her and chucks the money on the bed.

DAN

(keeping the money)
Nahi chahiye, tumlog rakhlo

Ishani is infuriated and her at his arrogance.

ISHANI

ek thappad padega Dan tereko,
(she gives him back the money)
itni chhoti thinking nahin hai humari

There is silence in the room. Dan can't argue much but he knows where he is going and he is sure about it.

DAN

Tum logon ko jo bolna hai, bol lo...ab aisa hi hai...

Saying this he leaves. Manjeet and Ishani know that is beyond all logics and reasoning.

CUT TO

83A.INT. HOSPITAL NICU BED 5. MORNING 9.30 AM

An extreme close up of Shiuli's face. Her eyes are open. Nurse gives him a torch and like any other routine day, he checks her eyes. Today a thought crosses his mind. He decides to talk to her...while observing her,

DR. GHOSH

Shiuli...aaj subah 5 bajey you opened your eyes...you are doing good... I want you to put little more effort...will you?

He moves his finger from left to right, to see if there is some movement.

DR GHOSH

Shiuli can you look to your left, this side...your left, this side...

Her eyeballs move to the left.

BEAT.

DR. GHOSH

good...can you look to your right, your right...Shiuli...very good!

Her eyeballs move to the right.

OCTOBER

BEAT .

DR. GHOSH

Very good...

This is different. After all these months, this is a huge improvement. Shiuli is following commands!

Dr Ghosh, now to the team doctors

Sr.GHOSH

I think this is a significant development

TEAM DR OS

Yes sir, I think she is trying to communicate

CUT TO

83B.EXT. HOSPITAL ENTRANCE. MORNING

Vidya, kaveri and Kunal are hurriedly entering the hospital, soon we see Dan also reaching there

83C.INT. NICU. MORNING

Close up of the Iyers as they hear Doctor talking to Shiuli. Nothing can distract them from the hope that is building up.

DR. GHOSH

Shiuli aaj subah tumney jo kiya, can you do that again, for your family...this is your left, and your right...can you look to your left...left...good...and your right...excellent!!

She does it!

Her eyes are following doctor's commands. The nurse and other doctors stand still. Taken aback. Family is frozen too. This is big. Vidya holds her hand. Can't control her emotions. Even Kaveri.

DR. GHOSH

Her understanding is faint, maybe little commands...language comprehension kitna hai...matlab words samajhkey, usko retain karkey, uspey act karna...memory retention that is...command follow kar paana, we will work on that now...GCS scale will determine all that...

Doctors leave. Vidya and Kaveri are by Shiuli's bedside. What Vidya has lived through in these last few months, is visible in her dark under eyes, on her swollen lids, on her dry parched skin. But today her clogged up emotions won't stop. Her quivering voice repeats...

VIDYA (in tears)

Shiuli... Shiuli...

KAVERI

Your hair is looking so nice...

VIDYA (in tears)

Shiuli...ab jaldi acchi ho jao, ghar jaana hai na,
bahut time ho chukka hai...(breaksdown...)

CUT TO

85INS.INT.BASEMENT PARKING. (NEW SCENE)

In the hospital parking, Dr Ghosh is on his home perhaps. Just when he is about to get in his car, Dan manages to catch him there. Rather unexpectedly. Dan, still huffing...

DAN

Dr.Ghosh...kya vo ab fully conscious hai?

Doctor observes him. His genuine concern is clear in his eyes.

DOCTOR

Thallamus...cortex...medulla oblongata...dorsal plexus
of the spine...ye sab scientific terms ke spiritual
mixture ek hi hai...soul...vo thodi coma mein jaata
hai...soul is always concious...

BEAT.

Clearly it has gone beyond Dan's limited understanding of science or universe.

DAN

Matlab...

DOCTOR

Matlab...vo kab chalegi, kab khayegi...

DAN

Haan...

DR. GHOSH (continuing..)

kab uthegi...for a perfect medical definition of
consciousness... have patience she's trying

BEAT.

Dan nods. Doctor drives out. Dan stands there. Thinking.

85.INT. HOSPITAL NICU BED 5. NIGHT 11.30 PM

Dan is alone with Shiuli...a tad serious than other days. He is making Shiuli do left right, snapping his finger in that direction. His comical mannerism is misleading his almost divine depth.

DAN

Left

She follows.

DAN

Right

DAN

left

She follows. Tears well up in Dan's eyes. He tries to control. With his moist eyes, he turns away and walks through the hospital corridors...looking for a secluded corner. He walks towards the stairs and next to a window he sits...tears keep rolling...he keeps wiping his eyes with his shirt and looks back. His nose is red. His hair grown too and his stubble.

CUT TO

77.INT. HOTEL ROOM. DAY 9.30 am

Ishani is on house keeping duty. As she pushes the cart across the basement corridor, she spots Dan. He is clearly on his way out. It's evident that they haven't spoken in days.

ISHANI

Dan...tu hospital jaa raha hai?

Dan stops. A little distant in his attitude.

ISHANI CONTD.

kuch zyada hi affected nai ho raha tu?

Dan questions her point black.

DAN

tum log itney unaffected kaise ho?

BEAT.

ISHANI

ye kya baat hui yaar? hum bhi jab mauka milta hai hospital visit karney jaatey hain ussey...lekin is tarah sab kuch chorh charh ke thodi naa baith jaayengey...

DAN

tumhari to best friend hai na ...?

ISHANI

Obviously hai...but personal life bhi hai...family bhi hai...aur... practical hona padta hai yaar...

Ishani has no further argument. Dan walks away for he has said what he needed to, rather harshly. But then truth does that always.

86.INT. HOSPITAL NICU BED 5. EVENING 4.30 PM

A lady specialist walks in. she has long list of questionnaire in her hand. She keeps asking one by one and ticking against them...in a tick mark or a cross.

LADY DR.

Is your name Shiuli?

She tracks eyes on right, to say yes.

LADY DR.

Do you play the piano Shiuli?

She tracks eyes on right, to say yes.

LADY DR.

Very good, Do you know Kaveri?

She tracks eyes on left, to say yes.

LADY DR.

yes...Do you know Kunal?

She tracks eyes on right, to say yes. She picks up a hand mirror and moves it from left to right in front of her face. Shiuli doesn't track the mirror. Lady doctor puts a cross. She pricks shiuli. Shiuli shows no reaction. She puts a cross. While the lady doctor asks questions from the COMA RECOVERY SCALE, Dan keeps observing her...looking at shiuli's response, if at all any. There is no sign of sleeplessness in him. He is eager to know if she recognises him.

DAN

Doctor...Dan...

LADY DR.

Shiuli do you know Dan?

Shiuli shows no response,

LADY DR. (to Dan)

Sorry...no response

LADY DR. (continuing)

Shiuli I am going to press your shoulder now

Kunal and Kaveri almost bite their laughter. Dan feels embarrassed. A bit.

86INS1.EXT. HOSPITAL EMERGENCY AREA. DAY

Kunal is munching some snack. Kaveri is there too. Dan is simmering in some mild form of humiliation. That Shiuli hasn't recognized Dan amuses the siblings enough to pull his leg

KUNAL (as if mocking)

She didn't even recognize you Dan...

But Dan has a valid argument.

DAN

Ya...so...tumhari poori family history pooch li ussey...thak gayi
hai obviously ...subah se lekar shyam tak saath mein kaam
kartey hain humlog..

KUNAL

Still she didn't recognize you

Dan is irked. In a much childlike way he feels insulted.
Kaveri smirks.

CUT TO

**86INS2.INT. HOSPITAL NICU BED 5. DAY 9.30 PM(SLATE GIVEN AS
92C) shot on 31st october**

Dan is sitting next to Shiuli. Her eyes half open. Dan
needs some clarifications

DAN

tum mujhe nahin pehchanti? Do you know Dan?

Shiuli does not respond. Dan won't let this go this easy.
He must get the answer.

DAN

Agar tum mujhey pehchanti ho to left dekho

Shiuli moves eyes to say yes. Dan is relieved. A bit. But
he must get full explanation!

DAN

fir subah sabke saamne kyon nahin bataya..?

Shiuli doesn't move her eye. Dan is like a child, who wants
to be acknowledged. He pauses for a moment. In his mind, he
interprets Shiuli's silence rather metaphysically...

DAN

Actually correct kiya tumne nahin bataya. Mein
samajh gaya tumney kyon nahin pehchana...

Not that Shiuli has replied to him. But he has found his answers. Like all this while this is all that he needed to hear. He is blushing.

DAN

jaaon? Achha, agar kal doctor phirse poochey na,
Do you know Dan...tum NO hi bolna

He look's at Shiuli one more time and shyly and off he goes with a spring in his heart!

EXT. HOTEL. DAY

Dan has parked his bike outside the gate. Ishani, on duty, walks upto him. She is on duty. There's an awkward undercurrent between them. But Dan needs no courage to ask what he has to.

DAN

kuch paisey hain?

ISHANI

kitney?

DAN

Kuch bhi chalega, bas tank full kara do

Dan is habitual. But that is also a statement of a deep friendship they have shared in the past.

ISHANI (*giving some money*)

Dhaai hain...

Dan takes them and leaves. Ishani watches him go. It's like when a family member decides to go his own way and one just lets him.

94A.INT. HOSPITAL NICU BED 5. NIGHT 9.45 PM

Close up of hands carefully threading eyebrows. Pull out. A seemingly parlor girl is making Shiuli's eyebrows. That too in NICU! Dan is supervising it.

PARLOR GIRL

Theek hai?

DAN

yes...listen...thoda aur idhar ho sakta hai?

PARLOR GIRL

Theek hai

DAN

thoda...hmmm

He gets one or two hair removed too. Shiuli's eyebrows now look neat. Just then Sister Grace draws open the curtain. Dan of coarse has gone a bit to far!

SISTER GRACE

Ye kya kar rahe ho?

DAN

Kuch nahin kar rahe

SISTER GRACE

Chalo out!!! mera job jaayega...

DAN (mumbling)

Aapko karana hai...?

SISTER GRACE

tch...mera job jaayega, Chalo out!!!

DAN

Goodnight

Parlor girl walks out. Dan behind her. Sister Grace is astonished at his guts but one can't hold things much against him.

CUT TO

68C.EXT.STAFF CANTEEN. EVENING. 7 PM

Hotel staff usually eats here in this big but dingy low ceiling hall. Amongst many employees on an evening break, we see Manjeet and Ishani picking up their snacks. They seem to have come prepared to have to have some conversation. As they walk to a table,

MANJEET (to Ishani)

Tu kuch mat boliyo...

Dan joins them. he looks extremely tired. A complete misfit here now. Manjeet gets started. This issue must be resolved.

MANJEET

Landlord aaya tha...
is mahiney ka rent bhi de diya hai meine...

DAN

sorry yaar...paise khatam ho gaye the...

Dan, hesitant, realises he's not being responsible. But Manjeet won't bite his sarcasm.

MANJEET

tere stipend se zyada hai maid ki salary

Dan gulps...falling short of words, he still tries to explain...

DAN

cut kar ke de rahe hein...isliye...

Ishani is caustic.

ISHANI

Aayega nahin hotel to cut to hoga na...
aur apna restaurant...vo to ab khulney se raha...

DAN

ghar pe baat karlen...?

MANJEET

Adi shift ho raha hamarey saath...
mein akele ghar nahi chala sakta...

BEAT.

Dan feels a bit cornered. He has no option but to agree. He nods in a yes and leaves. Within seconds it's made clear to him that he is being replaced. But monetary pressures that Manjeet is going through are understandable. They have run out of patience.

CUT TO

91.INT. NICU BED 5. EARLY MORNING. 6 AM

A close up of Shiuli's face, as Vidya is feeding her some soup. Shiuli's hair grown fairly decent. It's yet again the same early morning ritual when the night staff sponges the patients, makes their beds, keep the room tidy with all the files updated before handing over the charge to the day staff.

CUT TO

95C. EXT. TRANSITION.

TRANSITION TO DIWALI. Season. CITY ROADS. There is a bit of a foggy feel...Delhi is yet again almost welcoming the winters. Dan is driving his bike. Building decorated with ferry lights. It's a season of celebrations.

CUT TO

96A.INT. NICU PRIVATE WARD. DAY. 11 AM

From a distance we see Shiuli is being wheeled out. All machines. Reports. Nurses. Ward boys. All around her.

DAN

Aaram se

Quick dissovles of various visitors that are now flooding in because Shiuli is in a room and it's easier to visit her here than in the ICU. We see...

MANJEET. ISHANI. ADI. ASTHANA. PARKING GUY. KAVERI. KUNAL. SCHOOL FRIENDS. INTERNS. LAUNDRY GUY.

Some we see in the room. Some we see in the lobby. Some we see in the canteen. But we do see a lot of known faces visiting her.

96B.INT. NICU PRIVATE WARD. DAY

Kaveri and Kunal have decorated the room with photographs and cards and little sweet things for Shiuli to see. The room looks so much more personal.

96C.INT. NICU PRIVATE WARD. NIGHT

Dan walks in and notices his while the walls of pictures of Ishani and manjeet and everyone else, only his photo is missing from amongst the photos put up on the wall. Of coarse he takes it as an offence. He returns with his own freshly printed photo, not just one but four and puts them right in front of Shiuli's gaze.

CUT TO

88A.INT. HOTEL. NIGHT. 9.30 PM

It's a serious mood in GM's room. This time to discuss Dan's continuous disappearance from his work and a reminder of the amount that would he would need to pay if his ways are not corrected. Asthana, being the immediate boss, is present there too.

GM

Tumhien pehle bhi warning di ja chuki hai..

Dan stands there like showpiece. Unaffected.

GM

March se leke september tak sirf 55 days on duty

ASHTANA

Sir actually its 58 days

GM

whatever

GM CONTD.

Aur ye jo tumharey aay din ke temperamental issues hein co-workers ke saath...guests ke saath...
be prepared for the consequences Dan...aur kisi hotel mein hotey abhi tak nikal diye gaye hotey;
now get out of here..

Dan walks out. He shows no remorse.

CUT TO

Asthana catches up with Dan as he is about to exit...he is being considerate and genuine in his suggestion.

ASTHANA

Dan...dekh yaar sirf do mahiney ki baat aur hai,
tu kisi tarah se kheechley...tu yahaan se terminate
ho gaya to tujhey kisi bhi 5 star mein naukri
nahin milegi...apney career pe dhyaan do, and from
tomorrow you will report on time...okay

DAN

Okay sir

ASTHANA

chal...

DAN

Thankyou sir

No one can help Dan anymore. Not even he himself. The zone that he lives in is way too beyond the trappings of job, behavior, money, rent, friends...

89.INT. HOTEL STAFF CANTEEN. DAY. 1 PM

Tucked away somewhere in the basement or in some backend corner of the hotel property, the staff canteen seems to be a slightly run down hall, just about complying with legal requirements. This is that place where the hotel staff, including the peons and watchmen, they have their subsidised lunches and snacks. This place too needs a few servers. Dan seems to be the chosen one for the duty! One by one employees pick up the plates and stand in a que, waiting for their turn to be served food which is kept in a buffet style. Just then one of the staff person, perhaps from the finance department, objects.

STAFF

Arrey vo gloves kahan hein tumhare... polythene waley? Bhai
hygeine ka kuch dhyaan toh do...

Dan doesn't pay much attention. He continues.

DAN

chahiye ya rehne doon...?

STAFF

Aisey kaise baat kar rahe ho yaar..
free mein nahin kha rahe, Salary se kataatey hein
samjhe...

Dan leaves the spoon.

DAN

chalo aap khud lelo..lelo aap

Staff man is egoistic.

STAFF

mein kyon loon...tum do...tumhara kaam hai, gloves
pehenkey

Dan ignores and looks at the fellow behind that man.

DAN

mein kar raha hoon apna kaam, aap aagey badhiye...

Staff man is pissed. He pushes the man behind him.

STAFF

ek second, ek second...

DAN

bhaiya aap aaiye..aap

STAFF

mera number hai mujhey do... meri baari hai, mujhey
do!!

Dan has had enough. He loses it. He leaves the spoon and
grabs him by the collar.

STAFF

Oye

DAN

Kya bola haan..

Plate is thrown aside. Loud.

CROWD

Dan! Dan...arrey

MANJEET and others

kya kar raha hai yaar...leave him yaar

But Manjeet's effort is futile. He also gets pushed. That man is livid...he too catches Dan and pushes him back. Asthana walks in. He looks at Dan. He doesn't know what to say anymore. Dan has crossed all limits. Perhaps the frustration of living in two different worlds had been pulling him apart but the deep cracks are now clear.

CUT TO

97B.EXT. HOSPITAL DHABA. EARLY EVENING

Dressed gracefully in a silk salwar kameez, we see a middle aged woman sitting somewhat hesitantly in this surrounding. She is Dan's mother, Smita, who is here, all the way from Agra, looking for Dan. Smita is typical Army wife, with a generous poise and purpose in her demeanor. Dan, aware of her visit, walks up to her. There is silence...Smita is observing Dan...like any mother who's see her son after months. His appearance doesn't look comforting. Dhaba man serves tea. She has many questions and rightfully so.

SMITA

Dus mahine mein...do din nahin miley tumhein...
ghar aaney ke liye...?

Dan looks down. Smita continues...

SMITA

Achcha hua yahan mil gaye...
andar kahaan dhoondhti tumhein hospital mein...

She takes out a letter on the hotel letterhead.

SMITA

nikaal diya hai tumhein... 3 laakh bharney hein...

BEAT.

SMITA

...aur teen saal...barbaad?

Dan not wanting further confrontation,

DAN

mom...mein figure kar loonga...

SMITA

Faaltu ke fandey mat jhaado Dan... ghar bana ke baitho ho
yahaan par; gadhdhey aa gaye hain tumhari aankhon ke
neechey..kya, hua kya hai Dan?

SMITA

Girlfriend hai tumhari?

BEAT.

Dan is silent. Smita notices Dan's shirt hanging in the
Dhaba. She recognizes it. She takes a deep sigh.

SMITA

Kya mein ussey mil sakti hoon?

Dan nods...doesn't know what to say.

CUT TO

98C.INT. HOSPITAL PRIVATE ROOM. EVENING. 5.30 PM

Vidya is sitting on the couch. Next to Shiuli, on a chair
is SMITA. Finally seeing her. Her eyes. Her hands. Her
feet. Shiuli is in half sitting posture. Of course
supported by the bed rest that's on an incline. Smita, like
a mother...with pure warmth...observing her.

VIDYA

Aaj bahut der aankh khula rakha tha...
thak gayi hogi shayad that's why she is...not uhhh

SMITA

That's okay...let her rest

There is an awkward silence. SMITA notices the collage of
pictures on the wall. Mnajeet, adi, ishani, asthana, rayn
gosling, leonardo di caprio, hotel, kaveri, kunal, some
family pictures, shiuli flowers, red car, etc. But at her
footrest is a picture of Dan!

SMITA

aasaan nahin hai jo aap kar rahi hain...mein aapki
jagah hoti...to shaayad...I don't think...mujhse ho
paata

VIDYA

Kabhi kabhi toot jaati hoon main.. fir lagta hai
aisey kaisey chalega chalega agar mein hi kamzor
ho gayi to...Dan has been like a pillar...

Vidya's tears roll out as she speaks her heart out, for the first time. Smita can understand every word of it with all its truth and depth. She knows the sadness that Vidya is grappling with. Somewhere she is on the same boat.

SMITA

bacchey apney maa baap ke liye pillar hi hotay
hain...phir jab badey ho jaatey hain toh apni mann
maani kartay hain...aur hamaari zindagi ye sochtey
sochtey nikal jaati hein ki kahin unhein kho toh
nahin dengey...

Just then Dan walks in. He looks concerned. Being indifferent to his mom's presence there,

DAN

Aunty...Dr.Ghosh OT mein hain,
sister bol rahi hai file nahin hai wahan

VIDYA

files wahin honey chahiye meine rakhe thei...

DAN

Nahin hai..mere paas ye ek hai..vo doosri wali
nahi hain

VIDYA

arrey but she...tch...meine usko hi diya tha,
how can it not be there

DAN

Its not there aunty, it's not there...

Perturbed by the missing file, both Dan and Vidya walk out of the room. We stay on Smita. Who is left there alone. Almost like a visitor. Perhaps in her mind she thinks that Dan came and left without even saying anything to her. As if Vidya Dan are a family, and she, an outsider.

CUT TO

OCTOBER

98E.INT. HOSPITAL PRIVATE ROOM. EVENING.

Vidya walks back into the room and notices Smita is gone. She sits down next to Shiuli. But something feels amiss. Mature mind of a mother can perhaps sense what is not right.

CUT TO

98F.EXT. HOSPITAL PORCH. EVENING.

Dan sits at the porch, wiping his tears...his mother has left without meeting him

CUT TO

98G.INT. HOSPITAL PRIVATE ROOM LOBBY. NIGHT. 10 PM

Vidya is standing silently...looking out of the window...in a deep...introspecting...somber mood...as if reliving the events of last 10 months in her mind...Dan stands quietly...a bit emotionally tested...

VIDYA

you...You go Dan...

VIDYA

tumhara job hai, tumhara life hai...tumharey parents they have expectations...tumhari maa bahut acchi hai...aaj bahut selfish feeling hua...you please go, yahaan sab kuch manage ho jaayega, don't worry...please Dan...

Dan is shattered...but he can't say no...even though his heart is not willing to go away...how can he go. With all these thoughts, he stands there...looking at Shiuli...distraught.

102A.EXT. MOUNTAIN ROADS. DAY.

Top wide shot of a long winding road in the mountains.

102B.EXT.MANALI ROAD.DAY.

A river is flowing along side the road. It's the Beas. From a distance, a car is driving along the banks of the river.

102C.EXT.MANALI ROAD.DAY

Car drops him off in the middle of nowhere. He looks around. His backpack is with him. He spots a tiny lane behind him.

102D.EXT.MANALI ROAD.DAY.

He begins his uphill climb on this pebbled road. Huffing and panting he climbs quite a height and from there the mountains, the greens, the river...its all just too beautiful.

102E.EXT.LA RISA.DAY.

He reaches a big open space...that has trees...flowers...more like a private part of a hill...there is a small quaint Resort. LA RI SA. He walks around the pool...some beautiful cottages around it...it's a lovely open space. A smart woman, dressed in formals, welcomes her.

PRIYA

Danish Walia?

DAN

Hello maam

PRIYA

Hi I am Priya...Welcome to La RiSa,
hope you had a good journey?

DAN

Yes maam, Maam my recommendation

PRIYA

Not required...Asthana ka phone aagaya tha, he spoke very fondly of you...

Asthana has, afterall, been a wonderful mentor to Dan. In Dan's hours of absolute crisis, Asthana has done what any thoughtful man would do. He has got him a job. For he knows that the only way Dan can perhaps gather himself back is if he is occupied well.

For Dan, his obedience to Vidya in a way is his absolute surrender to Shiuli.

OCTOBER

EXT. LA RISA. GARDEN AREA. DAY

Priya introduces Dan To the rest of the staff and shows him around

PRIYA

Hi guys..ye aapke naye manager hain, Danish Walia, Danish
this will be your team..

DAN

Namastey

ALL

Namastey..

PRIYA

Toh yahaan pe 22 rooms hain total, we have two categories
of rooms..

CUT TO

103.INT. HOTEL ROOM. DAY

Dan has taken over the duties. He is showing some guests
the room

DAN

This is the room.. there is in built heating over here, on
this side.. you can put the temperature to your liking..

GUEST

Right...thank you

103.EXT. RECEPTION. EVENING.

Dan attends hitchhickers

DAN

you had asked me about the off road trails that you guys
wanted to do, so this is what we figured out..

GUEST

Oh...sure..

CUT TO

OCTOBER

103.EXT. LARISA PORCH. MORNING

Dan has just returned from the market picking up the daily groceries

DAN

chalo...ye bhi store room me in rakhwadena

EMPLOYEE

Okay

CUT TO

108A2.EXT. BUFFET BREAKFAST. MORNING.

It's a beautiful sunny day. Breakfast has been laid outside. Dan is ensuring the guests are happy.

Cut to

109A.INT. DAN'S COTTAGE. NIGHT

Dan sits on his bed...silent. It's so quiet here that even the sound of insects and leaves can also be heard. He has been trying his best to adhere to the expectations of his new job and to a large extent, is successfully doing so. But some thoughts are going on in his mind.

109B.EXT. LARISA ENTRANCE. DAY

Dan says good bye to some guests

GUESTS

Namastey

DAN

Namastey..

109C.EXT. LARISA ENTRANCE. DAY

Dan is guiding some bikers as they are on their way out

DAN

So...this is the route...if you follow this I think you'll be fine..okay... just go there and Shane will guide you...thankyou guys..bye

104A.EXT.RESORT.EVE

Dan is busy with the Christmas preparations. All these days he has somehow controlled his temptations to contact Vidya...but today he can't resist. He calls her up.

DAN

Hello aunty aapka phone nahin aaya kuch din se,
so I just thought I'll...

104B.INT.HOSPITAL PRIVATE ROOM.NIGHT.

VIDYA

last teen chaar din bahut tension mein gaya
Dan...pehley ek do din toh phir se koi response
nahin diya Shiuli ne, phir sotey sotey she had a
seizure Dan, waapis ICU mein le jaana padha...

INTERCUT

INT. HOSPITAL PRIVATE ROOM. NIGHT

Shiuli has a seizure.

CUT BACK TO

VIDYA

doctor says its common lekin baar baar aisey hua
toh sever cardiac problem ho sakta hai

CUT BACK TO

INT. PHYSIOTHERAPY ROOM. NIGHT

The physio is making Shiuli do exercises, but Shiuli is
just not co-operating

PHYSIO

Let's show amma that you can do it...shiuli
shiuli...shiuli...that's okay that's okay...shiuli
shiuli,

CUT BACK TO

VIDYA

physio lady wanted her to do something...lekin Shiuli violent
ho gayi...apney aap ko scratch kar liya...

OCTOBER

104A. EXT. RESORT. EVE

Dan on the phone

VIDYA

...haath baandhna padha, kal bahut restless
thi...injection diya toh phir jaakey soyi, lekin
ye sab to ab chalta hi rahega Dan...tum kaam mein
dhyaan do...take care Dan

CUT BACK TO

INT. HOSPITAL PRIVATE ROOM. NIGHT

Shiuli restlessly pulling at her tied hands...

INT. DARS ROOM. NIGHT

Dan is totally taken aback. This is an unexpected turn of events. He is tormented. Restless. Tossing and turning. But he just can't get sleep. He checks his phone. Its 12:30 am. He removes the quilt. Then he snuggles in again. Then he gets up to shut the room heater. He doesn't know if he's feeling hot or cold or just disturbed. Clearly his heart is not here anymore.

FADE.

110C. INT. HOSPITAL WAITING AREA..

Vidya, just woken up, walking till the nurses counter, suddenly stops. She notices Dan sitting on a couch, his head resting against the wall. They look at each other silently. Nothing needs to be said anymore. Vidya can read his eyes...his dedication is unbelievable.

111A. INT. HOSPITAL REHAB WARD 9TH FLOOR 9 AM.

Shiuli is on a wheel chair. Physio therapist is trying to make Shiuli do some exercise with plastic dumbles. She isn't doing. One of her hand is tied because she tried to scratch herself. Dan is watching...not wanting to interfere...trying to comprehend her behavior. He observes her. He can hear Physio's flat voice but we stay on Shiuli's face.

PHYSIO. OS

Is leg ko uthao...chalo try karo, Shiuli...Shiuli

Shiuli is not in a mood at all.

DAN

doctor...doctor...

Shiuli just shrugs her hand. Vidya looks at Dan as if saying this is how difficult it's getting. Mother is evidently exhausted. Finally,

DAN

main isey do minute bahar leke jaa sakta hoon...?

Physio looks at Vidya and realizing that she seems okay with it, she lets him.

CUT TO

111B.INT.HOSPITAL REHAB CORRIDOR.DAY

A long corridor. Dan is pushing Shiuli's wheel chair. He comes till the far end on the corridor near a window. He stands right in front of her. Shiuli is seeing him after a long gap. He is consoling her as if she's a child. Tears silently keep rolling. As if complaining to him about what all is happening to her, about her exhaustion, about his absence. Dan keeps looking in her eyes. He can sense it all.

DAN

I know tum gussa ho, ab nahin jaaonga,
theek hona hai na...sorry

Shiuli pauses for a second...just staring him and within a second, a tear rolls down her cheek.

She's vulnerable. Dan is filled with love for her. He wants to hold her tight. Perhaps let her cry and cry with her too. But he controls.

CUT TO

112.INT. HOSPITAL PRIVATE ROOM. NIGHT. 11.30 PM

Vidya is sleeping on the couch. Dan is sitting on a chair next to Shiuli's bed. It's midnight. He's just looking at Shiuli, who isn't sleeping. In fact, just looking at Dan.

DAN

So ja meri ma... doctor bhagaa dega mujhey...
She doesn't blink...He chuckles. She smiles. Maybe.
It's like two lovers romancing in the deep of the night.

CUT TO

111INS.EXT.HOTEL GATE.DAY.

Dan is waiting outside the hotel. He looks a bit dishelved. Manjeet walks out of the gate. Crosses the road to meet Dan. He demands an explanation.

MANJEET -

Do din hogaye tujhey aaye hue, aur aaj phone kya
hai

Dan stands silent. Manjeet observes Dan's condition. A bit of awkwardness between them, but deep friendships always overcome. He takes out the home keys.

MANJEET -

ye le...ghar ja sur samaan rakh...aur naha liyo...

Dan leaves. No questions asked any further. Dan is back!

113.INT. REHAB CENTRE. 10 AM

Shiuli with rehab therapists. Working on her legs. On her vision. On her spine. On her hand muscles. Sometimes with equipment. Sometimes just with hands.

Dr Ghosh, along with his team is on the rounds. He comes to Shiuli's room. Vidya is in the room too. We catch the conversation midway.

DR GHOSH (pointing at Vidya)

Do you know sho she is?

SHIULI (with a slur)

Amma..

DR GHOSH

Louder Shiuli

SHIULI

Aaaamma..

DR GHOSH

Good..

It's been almost a year since Vidya would have heard these magical words from her. Months of suffereing, pain, sleepless nights, worriful days..today all looks like a thing of past. Vidya is unable to hold back her tears.

CUT TO

117A.EXT. SHIULI'S IIT HOME. DAY. 2.30 PM

Dan and a small time carpenter are trying to put a wooden slope on the verandah stairs. Clearly it's preparation for Shiuli to be back home. Even though its just two steps but the slope is a must.

DAN

Jhatka nahin padhna chahiye dada...

CARPENTER

achcha achcha

DAN

(standing on another step to test it)

ye wala bhi...ye laga nahin hai

Kaveri is watching Dan's thoughtful gesture.

KAVERI

Ye idea toh hamarey dimaag mein hi nahi aaya,
this is really nice Dan

Dan isn't fishing for compliments. This is what he has become.

DAN

Baad mein na cement laga dengey ispe...it'll become...
solid ho jaayega phir...

She smiles.

CUT TO

118A.EXT. SHIULI'S IIT HOME. DAY. 4.30 PM

Ambulance is standing on the side. Dan's eyes are on the slope. More worried if the incline will work or not. Kunal is busy taking the video. Dan carefully pushes Shiuli's wheel chair up the slope. A few colleagues from the neighbourhood are seeing her from a distance.

118B.INT. SHIULI'S ROOM. DAY

Rearrangement of Shiuli's room. Dan, Kaveri, Vidya, Kunal, Ishani...all are doing their bit. There is a nurse holding a small machine.

NURSE

Ye table pe rakhey?

VIDYA

Nebulizer...? Vo...us cupboard mein...ye hospital room
nahin hai...ghar ka aadat daalna hoga ab uska...

KAVERI

Soup taiyaar hai

VIDYA

Xrays...draw mein rakh do...

DAN

hmm..

VIDYA

Aur heater on karke hi rakhno...bahut cold hai...

WINTERS ARE SETTING IN. YES, IT'S ALMOST DECEMBER!

CUT TO

120.INT. SHIULI'S HOME. NIGHT

Inside Shiuli's bedroom, we see the Vidya is trying to feed dinner to Shiuli with a small spoon. Just as she would have had when she was a kid. Most of the soup is trickling out of her mouth though. She coughs a bit as well...slight gagging in her tone. BP instrument, oxygen cylinder, nebulizer...Shiuli's room, inspite of all the warmth, it still is a make shift hospital room. Vidya wipes her mouth. Kaveri and Kunal unroll a mattress on the floor. Vidya puts the sheet. It's evident that Vidya sleeps in this room these days, with Shiuli.

CUT TO

121B.EXT. SHIULI'S HOUSE.DAY

Dan Carefully brings Shiuli and the wheelchair down the slope. Taking her around the campus.

After a while, they return. Mom quickly takes out the sheet and Dan carefully puts her on the bed. But this moment when he is holding her, only he knows what this closeness means to him. Only she can feel the security in his arms. They don't look at each other. They don't need to. It's not physical closeness. It's another connection. Another level. Room light is dimmed. Shiuli dozes off.

121A.INT. SHIULI'S HOME. NIGHT. 10 AM

Shiuli is on her bed. Dan is there too. Shiuli has a pencil and paper in hand. Vidya is making her write.

VIDYA

write C

Shiuli writes an C. Dan butts in.

DAN

Aunty mein keh raha hoon, badey easy waley de rahey hain aap issey, tough waala do...issey bolo 'Q' likhey..

VIDYA

write 'Q'

Shiuli pauses. She thinks. Thinks...and then scribbles on the whole page with a child like anger.

DAN

Dekha...nahin aata issey aunty...lazy ho gayi hai,
aap tough waley dete raho issey

Vidya smiles at the innocent love filled banter between them.

CUT TO

INT. SHIULI'S HOME. NIGHT.

Shiuli is on her bed. The home nurse is doing the final chores. Pointing to the drip

NURSE

Maine ye bandh kar diya hai

VIDYA

Tum jaa sakti ho soney

123.EXT. IIT CAMPUS PARK. DAY 5 PM

Shiuli on her wheel chair and Dan walk a little near her home...then under a tree, he parks the chair. Dan silently watches her. She looks too pure...too pretty. She flings her muffler. Dan puts it back. She loosens it...needs some breathing space perhaps. Dan keeps looking in the distance. He is thinking about her. About himself. About the last few months. So many thoughts cris crossing his mind. And yet nothing seems conflicting.

DAN

Kabhi kahin door jaaney ka man kiya?
Agar ja pati to kahan jaati...? Coma mein jaaogi...
ye to kabhi nahin socha hoga na?

Shiuli doesn't react. She is just looking at him. But for him, something hasn't yet gotten resolved. His heart yearns to know,

DAN

Ek baat poochoon mein...? Us raat ko na...jab tum
chatt se giri thi ...to ye kyon poocha tha ki
'where is dan...?'

OCTOBER

Shiuli gives a very very tiny smile...

BEAT.

SHIULI (in her own way)

DAAAN...DAAN...

Her big eyes looking him...innocently...wanting to perhaps answer him. Dan doesn't say anything. He understands. They both looking at each other... we stay...stay...stay...Could there ever be a moment as pure as this...Dan starts wheeling her back to their flat. it's getting cold.

124.INT. SHIULI'S ROOM. NIGHT. 7.30 pm

Dan brings her in the room. Dan has picked her up in his arms. Shiuli keeps looking at him. He puts her down. She just doesn't stop looking at him. Her eyes say she's sad. Very sad. He removes the cushion from behind her so that she can sleep. She doesn't close her eyes...just tracking him...

DAN

Aaj thand bahut hai na...

She doesn't close her eyes...she's just tracking him...

VIDYA

tum jaao Dan, aaj fog bhi bahut honey wala hai

DAN

Theek hai..chalo mein kal aata hoon...bye aunty

Dan leaves. Shiuli's gaze keeps following him.

CUT TO

125B. INT.DAN'S BARSATI.NIGHT

Dan opens his eyes, groggy - on his verandah is Shiuli, in a wheelchair. Dan wakes up with a jolt. TV is still on. He looks at the time. It's 4.30 in the morning. He switches off the TV and his cell rings. It's Kaveri. Dan, fearing the worst, answers her call rather reluctantly. He remains silent. **SHIULI IS GONE.**

OCTOBER

After a suffereing of one year and two month...she is finally no more.

Dan sits there silently. Blank. No reaction. No panic.

CUT TO

126B.EXT.SHIULI'S HOUSE.MORNING. 7AM

An ambulance is standing. Some neighbours have gathered. Ishani is there too. Dan walks in.

126C.INT. SHIULI'S HOUSE. MORNING 7 am

Vidya sobs profusely. And so does kunal.

126A.INT. SHIULI'S ROOM. MORNING 7 am

Dan enters her room. Shiuli lies still. No tubes. No ventilator. No drip. She looks serene. A beautiful garland of orange stem shiuli flowers around her head. There is no sign of brain trauma...no sign of fall...no sign of suffering.

Dan stands quiet. Watching her.

KAVERI

Around 2 seziure hua, lung sbhi collapse ho gaye, aadhe ghanthey mein akka was gone...

27B.INT. CREMATORIUM OFFICE. DAY. 5.30 pm

Dan is with the crematorium clerk.

CLERK

Shiuli Iyer...na? check kar lijiye form...time...date...sab

Dan goes through the details.

CLERK

Aap family se hain?

Dan nods

CLERK

Sign kar dijiye...yahan...

Dan signs...wiping his tears...his nose red...

128. INT. SHIULI'S HOME. EVENING

Kunal and Dan are on the Dining table. Vidya is sitting quiet. Kaveri brings in coffee for everyone. Vidya is in her thoughts. They all have cried enough in last few months. The emotional turmoil and this Shiuli's going waya...there is a visible emptiness. Their eyes swollen.

KAVERI

Akka was a fighter, hain na amma...?

Vidya nod. Her lips quiver as she speaks. In weak voice. Ensuring her tears stay put.

VIDYA

Tumney poocha tha na Shiuli naam kyon rakha,
Bengali hai...vo...Harshingar Iyer bhi to ajeeb lagta
na? Shiuli har saal October ka wait karti thi, ye
flowers issi mahiney se start hota hai na...raat
bhar girtey they, Shiuli pedh ke neechey chaadar
bichaa kar collect karti thi, apney grandfather
ke saath, mountain of flowers...inka bahut short
life hota hai

DAN

(to himself) Isiliye Shiuli bhi gir gayi...

That just sums it all. Shiuli's falling. Shiul's going away...so untimely. But it was time for her. For she was that flower who would bloom only for short while. Kunal has a practical question,

KUNAL

Maa aaj tuition hai, main jaaon ya bunk karoon?

Vidya, like a true teacher and an epitopme of strength and reasoning,

VIDYA

No, you should go

FADE TO BLACK.

Ambient sounds of a busy kitchen

FADE IN

131.INT. RESTAURANT/SALAD BAR.DAY. 12.30 PM

We are inside the kitchen of the same old Hotel where is once worked. It's been three years almost since Shiuli. Dan is now a sous chef. He looks matured. A thick beard and long hair make him look a lot more older than he is. He is tossing pasta...seasoning salads etc rather like a pro. He steps out to notice a few missed calls. It's Vidya. After years.

132.EXT. SHIULI'S HOME. EVENING 4.30 PM

It's a winter evening, just before the sunset, when the sun becomes the brightest. The harshingar tree is no more a small shrub. It's almost 4/5 feet tall. Many flowers have fallen on the grass. Dan is sitting with Vidya, on the same slope that he had constructed for Shiuli.

Few cartons can be seen in the b/g. Vidya gets him Coffee. She sits next to him. Watching him intently. Admiring his purity...his innocence that has still not left him.

VIDYA

Kya kar rahe ho aaj kal...?

DAN

Shiuli ke baad...hotel waalon ne waapis allow kar diya... cheh mahine aur lagake...diploma mil gaya...then bas...tabse wahin chef hoon...

Vidya is genuinely happy for him.

DAN

Aapne kaha tha na ki kaam mein man lagao...to... aap ki baat maan raha tha...

As he says that, Vidya's eyes go moist. She shares her grief...the years, the way they have been after shiuli.

VIDYA

kisi kisi din uska baat karney ka man karta hai
bohot...par kissey karey...sab disturb hoga...

DAN

itne saalon mein, meine bhi uski kisi se baat
nahin kari...

VIDYA

planning to shift to Trichi...udhar apna ghar
hai...log hein...do weeks hai abhi packing honey
mein...

DAN

Aap jaa rahi hien...?

She wipes her tears. How can a guy be so so devoted to
Shiuli...? How can he be so surrendered to her that he
doesn't even wait for a day and at once comes here at
the request of her mother. How can his love be
defined?

VIDYA

Voh Shiuli ka pedh mein yahaan pe akela nahin
chorhna chahti...

DAN

Mein le jaaonga, don't worry

Vidya is relieved. Somewhere she knew that only he could
take care of Shiuli. Of this plant.

CUT TO

133.EXT.SHIULI'S HOUSE. MORNING

A mini pickup van is parked in the lane outside Shiuli's
house. Shiuli tree is being placed in it carefully. Dan
hops in as the auto leaves. He's holding it constantly.
Finally, Shiuli is where she was destined to be. With Dan.
Forever the fragrance of Shiuli or harshringar or paarijat
will linger in his life.

CREDITS ROLL IN.