

PAATAL LOK

Episode 4

Draft 5.0

'Sleepless in Seelampur'

Written by

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FADE IN:

4.1 EXT. OLD DELHI RAILWAY STATION - PLATFORM - DAY 4.1

The BUZZ of a waiting crowd. All heads turned in the direction from where -

A train announces its arrival with a screaming HORN.

Amidst the sea of people on the platform, stands a 12-year old street kid - dark as coal, with eyes cynical beyond his years. Let's call him the ROUGH KID.

The train halts. The Rough Kid jumps into the AC coach.

4.2 INT. OLD DELHI RAILWAY STATION - AC TRAIN COACH - DAY 4.2

The coach - near-vacant. The Rough Kid walks around searching for something, scanning the seats and the aisles.

SOMEWHERE IN THE COACH:

A FAT RICH KID engrossed in his Game Boy. His FAT MOTHER tries to heave out her heavy luggage from under a seat when -

She hears someone CRYING. She turns around.

It's a heartbreakingly pretty boy, 10, with North Eastern features. We'll call him the CUTE KID.

FAT LADY
Kya hua beta?

CUTE KID
(sobbing)
Mummy... Chala gaya... Papa...
Chala gaya...

Awww. Her soft heart melts. She digs into her handbag and offers a packet of biscuit to the boy - who continues to cry.

CUTE KID (CONT'D)
Mummy chaahiye... Papa Chaahiye...

Poor thing! The Fat Lady takes the boy's face in her hands.

FAT LADY
Ro mat beta. Mata Rani sab theek
karegi.

POV on the unattended handbag. Someone's eyeing it from the aisle. It's the Rough Kid from earlier.

He makes a SWIFT play to grab at it, and turns around to run.

But the lady's son senses something and SHOUTS - without looking up from his game, mind you.

FAT RICH KID
MUMMY BAG! MUMMY BAG!!

The Fat Lady realizes. And runs after the Rough Kid.

She manages to grab his shirt. But SUDDENLY -

The Rough Kid pulls out something from his shirt and shoves it in the Lady's face - a goddamned TWO-FACED SNAKE! Small but creepy enough to send the Lady shrieking away!

FAT LADY
SAANP! SAANP! CHOR! CHOR!

As she lets go of him - the Rough Kid manages to slip away.

The Fat Lady turns around. The Cute Kid is gone too.

4.3 EXT. LOHA BRIDGE - SLEEPING AREA UNDER THE BRIDGE - DAY 4.3 *

A radio plays a kitschy song: *Mujhe neend na aaye...*

We're on the roof of a dilapidated structure. A spread of railway lines and trains on either side.

The Cute Kid watches as the Rough Kid rummages through the stolen handbag. Out come - cash, bangles, cosmetics, lotions, and a fuck load of accessories - it's a ladies bag after all!

CUTE KID
(wide eyed)
Kitna hai andar?!

*

ROUGH KID
Ladies ka bag - Jaise unka pet.
Tere ko lagega ke pet mein se sirf
tatti nikalti hai, lekin ek din
puuut! Poora bachcha baahar
nikalta hai.

*

*

*

*

The Cute one's just mesmerized by the accessories. He picks something up. While -

The Rough Kid counts the money. Not much. He checks on the bangles. And then throws them away - disgusted.

ROUGH KID (CONT'D)
Naqli hai saala...!

*

He TURNS around. And stops as he notices -

The Cute Kid - wearing LIPSTICK and ROUGE. The Cute Kid looks at his older partner - Tentative. Awkward.

The Rough Kid takes a moment to react. Then comes close. And slowly touches his friend's face.

ROUGH KID (CONT'D)
Jachta hai tujh pe.

Their eyes meet. And the unsure Cute Kid lets out a smile.

And the MUSIC picks up. Anuradha Paudwal's cloying voice.
'Na Jaane Kahaan Dil Kho Gaya....'

FADE OUT:

TITLE appears: 'SLEEPLESS IN SEELAMPUR'

Along with - OPENING CREDITS.

FADE IN:

4.4 EXT. DELHI ROADS - MOVING AUTO - DAY 4.4

'Mujhe Neend Na Aaye, Mujhe Chain Na Aaye...'

Cheap speakers blare out the SAME SONG while Hathi Ram struggles to sleep in a rickety auto rickshaw.

His phone rings. He checks. It's Renu.

4.5 EXT. POLICE HQ - DAY 4.5

The imposing building of the headquarters of Delhi Police. The autorickshaw comes to a stop outside.

Hathi Ram gets down and pays up, while talking on the phone -

HATHI RAM
(on the phone)
Shaam ko aaunga ghar. Abhi toh
headquarter aaya hoon...

*
*

RENU (O.S.)
(excited)
Promotion mil gaya?

*
*
*

An angry Hathi Ram cuts the phone.

*

4.6 INT. POLICE HQ - MEETING ROOM - DAY 4.6

A semi-formal gathering of JOURNALISTS crowding around DCP Bhagat, who seems eager to wrap it up.

*

DCP BHAGAT

*

Dekhiye accused ki identity
disclose na karne ka decision
operational thha, taaki
investigation weak na ho. Thank
you.

*

*

Bhagat gets up. The journalists jostle to get that last
question in.

*

JOURNALIST ONE

Sir agar ye information sensitive
thhi toh fir Sanjeev Mehra ke saath
kyun share ki gayi?

Bhagat stops momentarily to answer that -

DCP BHAGAT

*

Jaisa maine bataaya, ye unka
judgement error hai. Unko ye
information sirf case victim ki
haisiyat se di gayi thhi. Hamaari
taraf se unko clear instructions
thhe case ke baare mein baat na
karne ke liye.

JOURNALISTS

Toh sir kya police Sanjeev Mehra ke
khilaaf koi action legi? Sir...
Sir... kya Hathoda Tyagi jaise
kukhyaat apraadhi ki custody ke
liye police koi khaas precaution le
rahi hai?

This time Bhagat makes his way towards the door without
answering them.

4.7 EXT. POLICE HQ - CORRIDOR - DAY

4.7

Officer Dahiya stands outside the door. His eyes follow Hathi
Ram who hurries down the corridor, lugging his bag.

OFFICER DAHIYA

Ye kya haalat bana rakhi hai,
Chaudhari? Ye headquarter hai...
media waale hain andar.

Hathi Ram - embarrassed - tries to straighten his shirt and
his hair. Too late - as just then DCP Bhagat emerges out,
followed by the media.

*

Bhagat spots Hathi Ram and cursorily gives him a once-over.

*

DCP BHAGAT

*

Tyagi ka naam hold back kar rakha
thha ki case pe unnecessary
attention na aaye. Aur ab dekho...

*

*

*

(MORE)

DCP BHAGAT (CONT'D)
Commissioner saab bhadke hue hain
kal se.

*
*

He starts to walk away. Hathi Ram follows awkwardly.

*

The journalists try to go after Bhagat but Dahiya expertly blocks them with the help of a couple of CONSTABLES.

DOWN THE CORRIDOR:

Lugging the damned bag, Hathi Ram somehow manages to catch up with DCP Bhagat.

*
*

HATHI RAM
I'm very sorry, Sir. Par maine toh
Mehra ko sirf identification ke
liye bulaaya -

DCP BHAGAT
Ye doosri baar hai, Chaudhari. Isse
pehle Mehra ka naam bhi aise hee
leak hua thha.

*

Hathi Ram distraught - not knowing what to say.

DCP BHAGAT (CONT'D)
Chitrakoot mein kya raha?

*

HATHI RAM
Sir Tyagi Chitrakoot ke kisi Gwala
Gujjar ke liye kaam karta hai...

Bhagat stops to look at him.

4.8 INT. POLICE HQ - DCP BHAGAT'S OFFICE - DAY

4.8 *

Bhagat leans on his desk - his eyes on Hathi Ram.

HATHI RAM
Gwala Gujjar wahaan ka businessman
hai... politically bhi connected
hai. Aur sabse khaas baat Sir... UP
ke most wanted daccait Donullia
Gujjar ka bhai hai.

We can see Bhagat's interested, and trying to wrap his head around this information.

DCP BHAGAT
Hmmm. Par is Gwala Gujjar ki Mehra
se kya dushmani ho sakti hai?

*

HATHI RAM
Sir ho sakta hai wo ya Donullia
kisi politician ke liye ye kar rahe
hon.

(MORE)

HATHI RAM (CONT'D)
Dashrath Kumar ki constituency
Allahabad hai Sir... wahaan se
zyaada door nahi.

Bhagat looks at him.

DCP BHAGAT
Interesting lead hai. Follow karo,
par sambhaal ke. Bada aadmi hai.
(beat)
Aur haan, jaa ke Sanjeev Mehra ko
mat bata dena.

*

Ouch! Hathi Ram looks down - embarrassed.

DCP BHAGAT (CONT'D)
Warning do chutiye ko.

*

HATHI RAM
Jee Sir.

DCP BHAGAT
Pehli baar high profile case handle
kar rahe ho, Chaudhari. Don't let
these kind of mistakes ruin your
good work.

*

Hathi Ram nods grimly. And salutes.

Bhagat's eyes follow him as he exits.

4.9 EXT. / INT. JAMUNA PAAR POLICE STATION - DAY

4.9

CLOSE ON a mobile screen - *'Calling Sanjeev Mehra...'*

The phone rings out as Hathi Ram enters the police station.
Annoyed, he's about to dial again when -

Head Constable Tokas hurries up to him.

CONSTABLE TOKAS
Sir good morning. Wo Forensic
waalon ka phone aaya tha. Keh rahe
thhe phone ka data kal tak ready ho
jaayega.

Hathi Ram nods.

CONSTABLE TOKAS (CONT'D)
Natthu Sweets se Milk cake aayi hai
thaane mein. Laaun?

HATHI RAM
Kis khushi mein?

CONSTABLE TOKAS

Arey, aapko pata nahi? Ansari sir
ka IAS ka exam clear ho gaya. Toh
SHO saab ne party di hai sabko.

Hathi Ram is surprised to hear that. And turns to look -

SHO Virk having an animated conversation with Ansari. Smiles
and laughter!

Hathi Ram looks hurt, looks left out.

Ansari turns. Their eyes meet. Ansari excuses himself from
Virk and walks over to Hathi Ram in excitement.

ANSARI

Hello sir. Aap ko ek news -

HATHI RAM

(cold)

Mubarak ho, bhai.

Ansari looks disappointed.

ANSARI

Arey sir aap ko pata chal gaya?

HATHI RAM

Pata toh chalna hee thha. Tere se
naa sahi, kisi aur se...

Ansari - taken aback at the coldness. Tries to explain -

ANSARI

Sir kal sabse pehle aap hee ko
phone lagaaya thha. Par lagaa nahi.
Toh fir socha face to face
bataaunga...

Hathi Ram nods with disinterest, and dials up Sanjeev Mehra
again. Ringing. As he waits -

ANSARI (CONT'D)

Aur sir us Tope Singh ke baare mein
ek nayi lead mili hai...

Hathi Ram doesn't look too interested, even as Ansari goes on-

ANSARI (CONT'D)

Ek girlfriend hai uski - Chanda.
Dono ne saath mil kar Shauki ke
business mein gadbad ki thhi.
Shayad is Chanda ko pata ho Tope
Singh ke baare mein... ki ab kiske
liye kaam karta hai.

Hathi Ram's phone rings out. Annoyed he cuts it and turns to
Ansari.

HATHI RAM
 Hmm... dhoondho fir. Shaayad ye
 bhi mil jaayegi, us Tariq ki tarah.

Ouch! Ansari looks at Hathi Ram - hurt. Hathi Ram turns away.

His eyes go to a figure suspiciously looking around. It's the Dark Man we saw earlier in Episode 2.

HATHI RAM (CONT'D)
 Haan bhai... tu kaun hai?

The Dark Man awkwardly shows the glasses of tea he is serving.

DARK MAN
 Wo saab... main Bhotu chaiwala ke
 yehaan se... wo beemar hai aaj.

Before Hathi Ram can ask more, the Dark Man scurries away.

4.10 INT. NEWS NOW OFFICE - ELEVATOR - DAY 4.10

Sanjeev in an elevator. Glued to his mobile screen.

He's checking his Twitter feed.

INSERT TEXT:

@Trollonaroll - What a killer story this is turning out to be. Waiting for more #SanjeevMehraKaKiller

@TwitterTyrant - Sanjeev Mehra 'hammered' it home last night #HathodaTyagi

The elevator stops. The door opens.

4.11 INT. NEWS NOW OFFICE - RECEPTION - DAY 4.11

Sanjeev walks towards his office instructing the RECEPTIONIST-

SANJEEV
 If anyone calls from Delhi Police,
 I'm busy.

He stops when he sees the look on the Receptionist's face. He follows her gaze to see -

Hathi Ram sitting there - staring at him. He gets up.

HATHI RAM
 Toh aapne identification mein
 jhooth kahaa ki aapne Tyagi ko nahi
 pehchaana?

SANJEEV
(awkward)
Chaliye mere office mein baat karte
hain...

Hathi Ram remains where he was.

HATHI RAM
Maine aapse kahaa tha case se
related koi bhi information ho toh
pehle mujhse baat baarein... Chhote
bachche ho aap ki itni si baat
aapko samajh nahi aayi?

Sanjeev looks at him sharply and raises an angry finger.

SANJEEV
Ek minute, Inspector. Tum bhool
rahe ho, media ko kisi se
permission lene ki zaroorat nahi.

HATHI RAM
Bhool aap rahe ho. Case police
solve karti hai, media nahi.

The two stare at each other with hostility. Until - Sanjeev
turns to his receptionist.

SANJEEV
(stern)
No more visitors without
appointment.

He turns and walks away. A fuming Hathi Ram watches him go.

4.12A INT. NEWS NOW OFFICE - FLOOR - DAY

4.12A

Sanjeev walks in. Jai notices him and comes towards him.

JAI
Hey. Singh saab wants to meet.

Sanjeev doesn't respond and continues to walk. An awkward Jai
follows -

JAI (CONT'D)
Look, he's obviously not very happy
that you did the show last night.

Sanjeev walks into -

4.12B INT. NEWS NOW OFFICE - SANJEEV'S CABIN - DAY

4.12B

His cabin. Flowers and bouquets kept on the table.

SANJEEV

But seems like the rest of the world is.

He turns to Jai.

SANJEEV (CONT'D)

I'd think it's not the right time to fire me. Public sympathies are a dangerous thing to go against, you know...

(beat)

You should tell him... since you have his ear.

Jai's about to say something in protest but stops, for just then -

Sara knocks and walks in.

Jai gives her a dirty look, and walks out.

SARA

(referring Jai)

What was that?

SANJEEV

Compliments for the show last night.

Sara lets out a smile.

SARA

It was good, wasn't it?

Sanjeev smiles and walks up to her. And leans in.

The two kiss each other passionately for a bit, before Sara pulls herself back with some effort.

SARA (CONT'D)

No... not in the office, Sanjeev.

Smiling, she turns to walk away. But then remembers something-

SARA (CONT'D)

You going for the Awards Night by any chance?

Sanjeev shrugs with disinterest.

SANJEEV

What's the point?

SARA

Free booze, for one. And the chance to hear Vikram Kapoor speak about the responsibilities of Media.

Sanjeev's surprised to hear that.

SANJEEV

What??

SARA

Yeah, he is one of the guest speakers. Can you even believe it???

*

She shakes her head and walks out.

But it has left Sanjeev thinking.

4.13 INT. HATHI RAM'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

4.13

Evening. Funky LED lights glow all over Jitu's soda machine as it HISSES and spits out red liquid.

*

4.13INS INT. STUDIO - DAY

4.13INS

*

ON THE TV: A Chinese infomercial CD plays. The dubbed OVER ENTHUSIASTIC HOST sounds like she's selling the cure for cancer.

A few of RENU'S FRIENDS watch the infomercial with disinterest while Renu serves them the bubbly drink.

Renu looks at them with anticipation as they sip their drink.

RENU

Kaisa laga?

The women nod and make polite noises - clearly not super-thrilled by it.

And just then - TING TONG! The doorbell rings.

Renu's eyes go to the clock. Shit!

Her mind races as she makes her way to the door. Then stops and turns back. Switches off the infomercial on the TV while smiling politely at the guests.

RENU (CONT'D)

Lo naa... main abhi aayi.

AT THE DOOR:

Renu opens the door. It's Hathi Ram there.

RENU (CONT'D)

Jaldi aa gaye? Matlab... mujhe laga late hogey roz ki tarah...

Hathi Ram looks at her - Tired. Sleepy. Grumpy. Without answering, he makes his way in. Only to be surprised by -
The kitty party.

HATHI RAM
(awkward)
Hello jee, hello!

The Women acknowledge with 'hellos' and 'namastes'.

Awkward silence. Renu salvages it by turning to Hathi Ram -

RENU
Aap andar aaraam kar lo...
(to her gang)
Out of station gaye thhe na...

*

4.14 INT. HATHI RAM'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

4.14

Hathi Ram drags himself in. Stumbles as his leg hits something.

Hathi Ram switches on the light and looks in irritation. It's a stack of 'Fusion Fizz' cartons.

Renu walks in with a glass of water. Notices - Hathi Ram staring at the cartons.

HATHI RAM
Tune toh kaha Jitu chala gaya?

RENU
(evasive)
Ek do din ki baat hai... saamaan
bhi le jaayega...

She scurries away, muttering -

RENU (CONT'D)
Pata nahi Sid kahaan reh gaya...

Hathi Ram shakes his head as he watches her go.

4.15 EXT. RAJU'S BHAIYYA'S HOUSE - STAIRS + TERRACE + RAJU'S ~~MA~~ 15-DAY

Sid, along with his friends, follows Raju Bhaiyya up a staircase. He is on a call.

RAJU BHAIYYA
(speaking on phone)
Lagaa do sir, lagaa do... Pichhle
dono match mein hundred per cent
result aaya hai...
(MORE)

RAJU BHAIYYA (CONT'D)
Aur aaj toh Bangladesh hee le ke
jaayega, pakki baat...

*

They cross the terrace to reach a 'barsaati' (terrace room).

Sid notices - Raju Bhaiyya picks up the room key from the ledge and unlocks the door.

RAJU BHAIYYA (CONT'D)
(on phone)
Opar tak setting hai Sir ji. Baat
maano chhotey bhai ki, lagaa do...

4.16 INT. RAJU BHAIYYA'S HOUSE - RAJU'S PAD - DAY

4.16

The door opens. They enter the bachelor pad.

Raju ends the conversation and throws the phone on the bed.

RAJU BHAIYYA
Aur randiyo...kya piyogi? Beer?

*

Sid has spotted something on the window ledge.

SID
Woh...

Raju Bhaiyya follows his gaze and sees - Rolling paper.

RAJU BHAIYYA
Rehen de bhai English Medium.
Danger cheez hai ye... bam bam
bhonsada ho jaayega...

SID
Maine school picnic mein kiya
hai...

RAJU BHAIYYA
Je baat? Toh jaa almaari mein se
maal le ke aa. Pehla drawer.

Sid walks up to the cupboard. Opens the drawer.

There's the 'maal' (hashish). And then he spots something else - A pistol.

Sid is transfixed. He touches it tentatively.

Somewhere behind in the room - a phone rings O.S. And then a voice -

SID'S FRIEND (O.S.)
Teri mummy ka phone hai, Siddhu...

It startles Sid - who hurriedly takes out the 'maal' and walks away.

The gun remains lying there - looking rather ominous.

4.17 INT. JAMUNA PAAR POLICE STATION - MALE LOCK UP - NIGHT 4.17

The stark and ugly lock up room. It's quiet - except for Kabir sobbing in a corner.

Chaaku lies on the floor - staring at the tattoo on his arm. He touches the tattoo gently with his other hand, tracing the shape of the moon.

A tear drop appears in his eye. A rare moment of vulnerability.

He feels something. And looks up to realize -

Tyagi's looking at him.

Chaaku quickly and discretely wipes off his tear. And the hardness returns to his face.

Chaaku jumps to his feet. He walks up to Kabir and with his eyes on Tyagi - kicks Kabir hard.

CHAAKU

Rona bandh kar bhenchod.

Kabir whimpers.

CHAAKU (CONT'D)

Chupp... ekdum chupp!

Kabir muffles his sobs.

Chaaku grins at Tyagi - who just continues to stare at him with the same dead cold eyes.

4.18 INT. JAMUNA PAAR POLICE STATION - FEMALE LOCK UP - NIGHT 4.18

Cheeni sleeps on a tattered blanket. She's the only one in the female lock up. Until -

The door swings open. Manju Verma shoves in a loud mouthed woman, possibly a STREETWALKER. *

MANJU VERMA *

Chal! Raand saali...

STREETWALKER

Randi boliyo apni maa ko...

Manju raps the Woman's feet with her stick. The Woman SHRIEKS. *

As Manju locks the door, the Streetwalker shouts out to no one in particular - *

STREETWALKER (CONT'D)
 Bhenchod aaj aakhiri din thha
 dhandha karne ka... kal se maheena
 chaalu hai mera.

She turns and notices Cheeni.

STREETWALKER (CONT'D)
 Tujhe kahaan se uthaaya? Shalimar
 Bridge?

Cheeni doesn't reply. The Streetwalker walks up to Cheeni -

STREETWALKER (CONT'D)
 Tum Nepalanon ka area toh wahi
 hai...

And tries to pull the blanket from under her.

Cheeni resists, taking the Streetwalker by surprise. In response, the woman applies more force. But Cheeni holds on to the blanket.

Annoyed, the woman kicks at Cheeni - once, twice. The third time, Cheeni manages to grab her leg and bites into it.

The Streetwalker shrieks. Her face hardens as she stares at Cheeni with venom. And then she pounces upon Cheeni - grabbing her throat by one hand and her other hand goes to Cheeni's crotch.

STREETWALKER (CONT'D)
 BHEN KI LAU -

She stops. And almost recoils back in shock.

With shocked eyes, she looks at Cheeni. And then at her crotch.

4.19 INT. HATHI RAM'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

4.19

A bucket under a flowing tap, overflowing.

In front of it, Hathi Ram sits on a footstool - nodding off.

He 'drops forward'. His forehead hits the tap.

Hathi Ram comes to with a YELP, rubbing his forehead.

He shuts the tap. Then picks the bucket and POURS it over himself - All of it.

Yeah, that feels better!

As he wipes himself clean with a towel, he overhears -

RENU (O.S.)

Teen sau rupaye ke cylinder mein
dedh sau glass bante hain. Matlab
ek glass bas two rupees ka...

*

Something odd about it. He strains to listen.

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

Aur agar mahina khatam hone se
pehle book kiya toh 20% discount
bhi hai..

It sounds like a sales pitch. *What's going on here?*

4.20 INT. HATHI RAM'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

4.20

Renu walks into the bedroom with a glass of sparkling water.

RENU

Sorry, inko teen baje bulaaya thha,
ab jaa ke aayin -

*

Hathi Ram stands there staring at her. Somewhere on the bed,
his phone's loudly ringing but Hathi Ram's not even looking
at it.

HATHI RAM

Jitu ka saamaan hai toh tu kyun
bech rahi hai?

Renu - caught off guard. But tries to dodge it -

RENU

Kya...? Nahi aise hee. Achcha chai
chhodo, aaj ye piyo... Crazy
Cranberry flavour -

*

*

*

HATHI RAM

Phir se topi pehna gaya na tera
bhai tujhe? Ab ki baar kitne ka
fatka maara?

She looks at his stern face. And realizes - that he knows.

RENU

Aisa nahi hai. Ye waali scheme
bahot sahi hai.

*

*

HATHI RAM

Bante ka thela pakda gaya tujhe...

Renu makes a face.

RENU

Itne negative ho na tum Hathi Ram
Chaudhari. Ditto Daddyji ki copy...

*

Renu walks away in a huff even as Hathi Ram snaps at her -

HATHI RAM
Unko beech mein mat laaya kar...

He stands there, fuming.

Behind - His phone begins to ring again. Annoyingly loud.
Ansari calling...

Finally, Hathi Ram picks it up and snaps -

HATHI RAM (CONT'D)
Haan kya hai?

What he hears first leaves him confused -

HATHI RAM (CONT'D)
Kya???

And then drains the colour off his face.

4.21 INT. JAMUNA PAAR POLICE STATION - MALE LOCK UP - NIGHT 4.21

The Streetwalker is going bonkers -

STREETWALKER (O.S.)
Case thokungi tum sab pe... Mujhe
kuchh ho jaata toh...? Auraton ki
safety bhi kuchh hoti hai ya nahi?

A NIGHT DUTY CONSTABLE pulls Cheeni out of the ladies lock up.

The door of the male lock up is flung open and Cheeni is thrown in there.

Chaaku, Hathoda and Kabir look at her with surprise. And she at them with fear.

Just then -

4.22 INT. JAMUNA PAAR POLICE STATION - NIGHT 4.22

Hathi Ram barges into the police station. Looks around.

He spots Manju Verma - Who is on the phone, worried. She cuts the call the moment she sees Hathi Ram. And rushes up to him with guilt in her eyes.

MANJU
Sir sorry sir... Maine toh total
check kiya thha sir...

Hathi Ram stares her down.

From the ladies' lock up, the drama continues -

STREETWALKER (O.S.)
First time nahi aayi main... Saara
kaanoon pata hai mujhe chutiyon...

*

HATHI RAM
ISE CHUP KARAAO KOI!

The lady constable rushes into the female lock up with a stick. Soon - SOUNDS of beating and shrieking reach us.

Hathi Ram himself charges towards the male lock up.

4.23 INT. JAMUNA PAAR POLICE STATION - MALE LOCK UP - NIGHT 4.23

Hathi Ram barges in. Looks around.

Cheeni stands up in fear - like admitting her guilt.

HATHI RAM
Pant utaar.

Cheeni looks at him. And begins to cry.

CHEENI
Sir please sir... please...

Hathi Ram rushes to her. Grabs her by the throat. Nails her against the wall.

HATHI RAM
Pant utaar.

The curious constables peep in from outside the lock up.

Cheeni coughs. Hathi Ram tightens the grip.

HATHI RAM (CONT'D)
(roars)
UTAAR PANT BHENCHOD!

She chokes. He still doesn't let go of her.

Struggling to breathe - she unbuttons herself from that awkward position. And pulls her pants down with desperation.

Finally - she stands naked from the waist down.

Hathi Ram lets go of her as he stands there staring at the lower half of her body.

Beat. A deathly silence.

And then - Chaaku begins to LAUGH. It's a mocking, uproarious laughter. And it cuts through Hathi Ram.

He loses it all. And pounces on to Cheeni, THRASHING the living daylights out of her. She SCREAMS out her apologies, but Hathi Ram is like a man possessed.

He barrages her with fists, slaps and kicks. Ansari winces at the nastiness of it all and tries to stop, but just can't.

So much so - that even Chaaku goes silent watching the brutality unfold.

The tiny Cheeni BLACKS OUT. And crumples to the floor.

Note: We shall continue to refer to Cheeni in the feminine gender in this episode so as to avoid confusion.

FADE TO BLACK.

ON BLACK - Sound of an 'aarti' (prayer) being sung.

FADE IN:

4.24 INT. JAMUNA PAAR POLICE STATION - DAY

4.24

Early morning. A small idol of Hindu goddess Durga near the window. Incense sticks burning. The constables and junior officers stand singing the aarti.

Bhati, without his shoes and his arm still in a sling, leads the aarti with ultra-devotion.

Ansari, sleeping at his desk, wakes up with the sound.

*

He notices - Bhati glancing at him.

*

Ansari - awkward, conscious. He drifts away from there -
Towards the lock up.

He peeps in. Stops at what he sees.

AT HATHI RAM'S DESK:

Hathi Ram - passed out on the desk awkwardly.

Ansari wakes him up.

ANSARI

Sir... usko hosh aaya hai...

A groggy Hathi Ram rubs his fiery red eyes. As he gets up massaging his stiff neck - Tokas appears with 'prasad'.

TOKAS

Sir, mata ka prasad.

He gives it to Hathi Ram and then looks at Ansari.

An awkward beat - before Ansari spreads his palm out.

4.25 INT. JAMUNA PAAR POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY 25

The bruises. The swollen lip. The shame in her eyes.

Cheeni looks fucked as she sits in front of Hathi Ram.

Hathi Ram leans in closer to her. She cowers in fear.

HATHI RAM

(softly)

Dekh. Aur maarunga, toh mar jaayega-

CHEENI

(blurts out)

Mukesh Talreja.

He looks at her with interest.

HATHI RAM

Kaun?

CHEENI

Builder hai... Vaishali mein.

HATHI RAM

Usne paise diye murder ke liye?

CHEENI

(quickly)

Murder nahi sir... Uske aadmi ka phone aaya thha. Bola do lakh denge... Bas gaadi ke saath mein rehna hai, teen chaar din...

HATHI RAM

Aur...?

CHEENI

Bas sir... iske alaawa mujhe kuchh nahi karna thha.

HATHI RAM

Sirf gaadi mein ghoomne ke do lac milte hain? Ye Talreja sasural waala hai tera?

Cheeni looks cornered. Fights back her tears.

CHEENI

Sir wo ladki saath ho toh log shaq nahi karte...

HATHI RAM

Isliye ladki ban ke ghoomta hai, chutiye?

She looks at Hathi Ram - with tears in her eyes.

CHEENI

Nahi sir... main...

HATHI RAM

Kaise jaanta hai is Talreja ko?

CHEENI

Sir pehle bhi kiya hai uske liye...

Hathi Ram stares at her some more and then storms out.

4.26 OMITTED

4.26 *

4.27 EXT. JAMUNA PAAR POLICE STATION - DAY

4.27

Virk's car comes to a stop there. Damn!

Virk jumps out. Stares at Hathi Ram for some time. And then -

SHO VIRK

Manju kahaan hai? Usey le ke mere
cabin mein aao...

HATHI RAM

Sir usey serious warning di hai...
bechaari se galti ho gayi...

Virk explodes.

SHO VIRK

Galti? Ye tum log investigation kar
rahe ho yaa makhaul? Bhenchod kal
ko enquiry hui toh sabse pehle yehi
poochhenge na ki SHO kaun thha?

Hathi Ram walks to him.

HATHI RAM

Sir... woh... sorry.

SHO VIRK

Mujhe mat bolo sorry, Bhagat Sir ko
bolna. Direct DCP ko report karna
thha na? Chalo aao, baat karwaata
hoon unse...

*

He takes a few steps towards the police station. Realises -
Hathi Ram hasn't followed.

Virk turns to glare at him.

SHO VIRK (CONT'D)

Ab chaloge bhi?

When Hathi Ram still doesn't move, Virk SHOUTS -

SHO VIRK (CONT'D)
Chaudhari! Aa rahe ho ki nahi???

Hathi Ram walks up to him. And then - to Virk's surprise - Hathi Ram takes Virk by the arm and takes him to a corner - away from Ansari.

Virk glares at him - enraged. Hathi Ram pleads with honesty -

HATHI RAM
Virk, please yaar. Dekh hum dost
toh nahi hain... par bees saal se
jaanta hoon tujhe. Ek mauka mila
hai life mein. Please meri maa mat
chod.

Virk stares at him. Hathi Ram looks rather vulnerable.

HATHI RAM (CONT'D)
Chaubees ghante de de. Ek solid
lead mili hai is ladki se...
(embarrassed; corrects
himself)
Matlab launde se. Usko follow kar
lene de. Shaayad kuchh Bhagat ko
bataane laayak mil jaaye. Usi ke
saath ye bhi bataa doonga.

Virk wrestles his arm free from Hathi Ram's grip.

SHO VIRK
Bahot mushkil se pahoncha hoon
yehaan. Meri reputation kharaab hui
na...

Hathi Rom nods.

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|-------------|
| 4.28 | EXT. DELHI OUTSKIRTS - TALREJA HISTORICA - DAY | 4.28 | * |
| | A flashy advertisement promising a historical lifestyle in today's Delhi. Project name? The rather odd sounding - 'Talreja Historica'. | | *
*
* |
| | It's right outside a ready but unoccupied housing project. | | * |
| | A police car comes to a stop. Hathi Ram and Ansari get down and look around. | | |
| 4.29 | INT. TALREJA HISTORICA - RECEPTION - DAY | 4.29 | * |
| | The reception tries hard to live up to the promise of the advertisement. A gaudy-faux historical vibe. And a RECEPTIONIST dressed like she's dressed for a Greco-Roman themed play. | | *
*
* |

She greets Hathi Ram and Ansari with a chirpy -

RECEPTIONIST
Talreja Pranaam!

*

Her spirit dampens when Ansari shows her his ID.

ANSARI
Delhi Police. Mukesh Talreja hain?

RECEPTIONIST
(warily)
Kis baare mein, sir?

HATHI RAM
Aap Mukesh Talreja hain?

The Receptionist makes a face. Then picks up the phone.
Presses a few buttons.

RECEPTIONIST
(on the phone)
Good morning sir. Aap se Delhi
Police se koi milne aaye hain.

She passes the phone to Hathi Ram.

HATHI RAM
Talreja saab, Inspector Hathi Ram
Chaudhari bol raha hu, Jamuna Par
Thaana. Aapse zara milna thha.

TALREJA (O.S.)
(filtered)
Kis baare mein?

HATHI RAM
Ek investigation chal rahi hai.
Usme ek accused hai, Mary
Lyngdoh... Cheeni Cheeni bulaate
hain. Uske baare mein baat karni
thhi...

A long beat. And then -

MUKESH TALREJA (O.S.)
(filtered)
Dekho is waqt toh main bahar hoon
kaam se. Thodi der mein aaunga.
Uss ladki ko phone do.

Hathi Ram hands the phone back to the Receptionist. She takes
the instructions - glancing every now and then at Hathi Ram.

4.29A INT. TALREJA HISTORICA - CORRIDORS - DAY 4.29A *

The Receptionist leads Hathi Ram and Ansari through a
psychedelic gallery dotted by pantheons of Roman and Greek
history legends. *

4.30 INT. TALREJA HISTORICA - SAMPLE FLAT - DAY 4.30 *

They enter a sample flat. *

Upmarket accessories. Expensive sofas. A big ass flat TV. But
all rather kitsch. *

HATHI RAM
Kitni der kaha Mr. Talreja ne?

RECEPTIONIST
Thodi der.

She leaves. Hathi Ram looks around. As soon as he sits on the
soft sofa, he sinks in comfortably.

ON THE TV:

4.30INS1 INT. STUDIO - DAY 4.30INS1 *

An INFOMERCIAL plays in loop. An ideal advertising FAMILY OF
FOUR, acting like they're on MDMA.

INFOMERCIAL FATHER (T.V.)
Log vacation mein Egypt, Greece,
Rome jaane ki sochte hain. But at
Talreja Historica, history comes to
us. *

IN THE FLAT: A WAITER in a Greco-Roman dress serves them
mocktails with umbrellas. Hathi Ram takes an awkward sip. *

The snoozy background score in the infomercial. The
comfortable sofa. The mocktail. Hathi Ram feels drowsy.

ON THE TV:

4.30INS2 INT. STUDIO - DAY 4.30INS2 *

An annoyingly cute boy with a tackily composited swimming
pool image in the bg. *

INFOMERCIAL BOY (T.V.)
Daddy loves history. But I love
swimming. Talreja Historica has two
swimming pools and one wave pool. I
am toh spoilt for choices. *

Hathi Ram sinks deeper into the sofa. The eyes droop. And the TV visuals slowly turn into a -

BLUR. And the voices - DISTORTED.

When Hathi Ram's eyes and ears slowly gain focus again -

ON THE TV:

4.30INS3INT. STUDIO - DAY

4.30INS3 *

The Boy looks oddly different. He is now wearing a frock and talks effeminate. He walks CLOSER to the Camera -

INFOMERCIAL BOY
All my friends are so jealous of
me. They call me lucky boy!

Hathi Ram can't make sense of it. The Boy walks further close. And then some more. And then -

He is out of the TV. He walks right up to Hathi Ram - Who just stares at him with horror.

INFOMERCIAL BOY (CONT'D)
(in Cheeni's voice)
Mujhe maaf kar do sir, please...

Hathi Ram comes to with a start. He looks about - There's no boy, of course. A tired Ansari is passed out on the nearby sofa.

4.31 INT. TALREJA HISTORICA - CORRIDORS + RECEPTION - DAY 4.31 *

An angry Hathi Ram storms out of the flat. Ansari follows.

HATHI RAM
Chutiya bana raha hai yeh Talreja.
Ek kaam kar. Is project ke
investors ki list nikaal... Dekh
property purchase karne waalon mein
koi Gwala Gujjar hai kya... ya koi
party Chitrakoot se?

Ansari thinks.

ANSARI
Sir ye information warrant ke bina
milni mushkil hogi.

Hathi Ram stops to look at him.

ANSARI (CONT'D)
Aur fir investment benaami bhi toh
ho sakti hai?

HATHI RAM

Property dealers ko phone kar.
Registration office jaa. Jugaad
nikaal, pressure daal, bahaane mat
maar... IPS banna hai na tujhe?

Ansari looks at him - hurt.

HATHI RAM (CONT'D)

Aur jo wo tera dost Deepak hai
Vodatel mein, uske haath pair jod
Talreja ke phone record dene ke
liye. Bina warrant ke.

*

Angrily, Hathi Ram storms towards the reception desk.

RECEPTIONIST

Some more welcome drink for you,
sir?

HATHI RAM

Kal piunga. Jab warrant le ke
aaunga... Talreja ke naam ka.

4.32 EXT. DELHI OUTSKIRTS - TALREJA HISTORICA - DAY

4.32 *

Hathi Ram and Ansari walk out into the grime and dust reality
of Delhi.

HATHI RAM

Bada aadmi hai. Itne pyaar se
warrant nahi milega.
(thinks)
Woh Tariq ka kya ho raha hai?

ANSARI

Sir kal hee headquarter se check
kiya thha... ab tak toh koi lead...

Hathi Ram looks at him. Frowns.

JUST THEN - his phone rings. Its an unknown number. He
answers.

HATHI RAM

Hello?

MUKESH TALREJA (O.S.)

(filtered)
Mukesh Talreja.

Hathi Ram stops. He turns to look back at the building.

4.33 INT. TALREJA HISTORICA - TALREJA'S CABIN - DAY

4.33 *

A TV screen shows EIGHT CCTV camera feeds.

*

IN THEM:

*

4.33INS1INT. TALREJA HISTORICA - SAMPLE FLAT - DAY

4.33INS1

*

the Greco-Roman waiter picks up empty mocktail glasses from
the sample flat.

*

*

4.33INS2INT. TALREJA HISTORICA - RECEPTION - DAY

4.33INS2

*

The Receptionist answers a phone call.

*

4.33INS3INT. TALREJA HISTORICA - CORRIDORS - DAY

4.33INS3

*

A BUYER COUPLE walks past the Greco-Roman pantheon.

*

4.33INS4INT. TALREJA HISTORICA - TALREJA'S CABIN - DAY

4.33INS4

*

Hathi Ram and Ansari sit opposite to someone in a posh cabin.

And WE ARE in that cabin. In front of them sits TALREJA, 50s.
You wouldn't trust him with your money. Or your daughter.

Hathi Ram stares at the CCTVs with a quiet rage. The fat
bastard was in there watching them the whole time!

TALREJA

Kaam ki cheez hai hamaari line mein
ye CCTV. Buyer jis tarah sample
flat dekhta hai, usi se uska
intention samajh aa jaata hai.

He smiles at them.

TALREJA (CONT'D)

Jaise kal ek couple aaya thha.
Raghubir Bindra hain na... Wo union
minister...? Unke beti daamaad.
Dekh ke hee samajh aa gaya ki token
de ke jaayenge.
(smiles)
Of course, the discount helped.

Hathi Ram cuts to the chase.

HATHI RAM

Mary Lyngdoh ko jaante hain aap? Wo
Cheeni...

Talreja makes a jerking off gesture.

TALREJA

Wo Cheeni na? Bilkul.

HATHI RAM

Kaise?

Talreja leans back on his chair and stares at Hathi Ram.

TALREJA

Noida ke ek massage parlour mein
mila thha.

HATHI RAM

Fir?

TALREJA

Fir kya? Achcha lagaa jaan ke, ki
Thailand wala maal ab Noida mein
bhi milne lagaa. Touch mein rahe.
Kabhi kabhi kaam de deta thha
usko...

HATHI RAM

Kis type ka kaam...?

Talreja makes a jerking off motion.

TALREJA

Iss type ka... khud mehnat nahi
karni padti.

HATHI RAM

Yaa fir role dete thhe... gaadi ke
saath rehne waali ladki ka?

Talreja's laughter dies down.

HATHI RAM (CONT'D)

Cheeni ek Conspiracy to murder mein
pakda gaya hai, teen aur logon ke
saath. Usne bayaan diya hai ki aap
ne usey is kaam pe lagaaya thha.

Talreja stares at Hathi Ram. Intimidating.

TALREJA

Bahot bada ilzaam lagaa rahe ho,
Inspector. Woh bhi ek chhakke ke
bayaan pe.

Hathi Ram stares back at him.

TALREJA (CONT'D)

Aur kitna peeta bechaare ko... usse
ye sab bulwaane ke liye?

Ansari's phone begins to ring. He goes to a corner to answer.

TALREJA (CONT'D)

Jitna pata thha bata diya. Ab aur
kuchh poochhna hai toh warrant hee
le kar aao. Dekhte hain kaun sign
karta hai us par...

Just then - Ansari appears back to whisper something in Hathi Ram's ear.

Hathi Ram turns to look at him sharply. Ansari's face says it all - something's wrong.

Talreja watches them as they rush out.

He picks up the phone to make a call.

4.34 EXT. YAMUNA BANK - DAY

4.34

Late evening. A filthy river bank. Pigs rolling.

A LITTLE CROWD hangs around. A FEW POLICEMEN mill about, with handkerchieves tied around their noses.

Hathi Ram and Ansari stand looking at a dead body covered in sewage. It lies bent over - face not visible.

HATHI RAM

(to constables)

Seedha karo isko.

Two constables shove their stick under it. And turn it over.

Hathi Ram looks at Ansari. Ansari tentatively moves in closer - the handkerchief tight around his nose. Pours water on his face from a bottle.

*
*

As the face becomes clearer - Disappointment comes on Ansari's face. He slowly turns to look at Hathi Ram.

*
*

ANSARI

Wahi hai sir... Taariq.

A defeated Hathi Ram stands there - staring at the body.

ANSARI (CONT'D)

Sorry sir, usi din pakad lena
chahiye thha.

HATHI RAM

(sighs)

Post mortem ke liye bhejo isko.

Ansari walks away to give instructions to the local cops.

Hathi Ram takes out his phone. Searches his contact. Finds - 'DCP Bhagat Sir'.

*

His hand hovers over the call button, trying to gain the courage to press it. A long moment passes. And just when he is about to press it -

His phone rings. It's Tokas.

Hathi Ram answers it.

HATHI RAM (CONT'D)
Haan bol Tokas.

TOKAS (O.S.)
Sir Forensic waalon ne phone ka
data ready kar diya hai. Kal subah
jaa sakte hain...

Hathi Ram cuts the phone. Looks around.

His eyes go to - the dead body.

He gathers himself. Then slowly gets up and walks up to it.

He sits down right next to the body. Observes it.

Ansari notices him and walks up to Hathi Ram -

Who seems to have spotted something around the neck area of the body.

Hathi Ram pours some water from his bottle there to wash the filth off.

Strangulation marks become visible around the throat.

He turns to look at Ansari.

HATHI RAM
Gala dabaaya hai kisi ne.

*

Then he gets up, turns around and walks away with determination - making a phone call.

HATHI RAM (CONT'D)
Tokas, forensic ko bol data kal
subah nahi, aaj hee chahiye.

Behind on the body - A cockroach crawls over the filth and the faeces.

OVERLAY - The sound of a collective applause.

4.35 EXT. FIVE STAR HOTEL - LAWNS - NIGHT

4.35

A classy little table top standee - 'Delhi Journalism Awards, 2019'. A dainty wine glass sits next to it.

FORMALLY DRESSED GUESTS occupy the round tables spread all over the sprawling lawn.

It's all very elegant - including the understated stage where a PRETTY EMCEE GIRL announces -

PRETTY EMCEE GIRL
And to give out this last award,
we've with us the Chairman of
Zenith Limited - Mr Vikram Kapoor.

A subdued round of applause as a man in his 50s - the flamboyant KAPOOR - swaggers on to the stage.

AT A ROUND TABLE:

Sanjeev with Dolly, along with a few other guests.

Dolly looks at Kapoor with curiosity as the emcee ANNOUNCES the winner of the next award.

DOLLY
Where have I seen this guy?

SANJEEV
He's Kapoor. Wo defence
consultant...

DOLLY
(surprised)
The one you had exposed in that
Dashrath Kumar sting?

Sanjeev nods, and sighs.

SANJEEV
This town has a rather short
memory. It forgets its villains too
soon...
(beat)
And its heroes even sooner...

Dolly stares at Kapoor with unease as he hands over the trophy to the WINNING JOURNALIST and poses for pictures.

She leans in closer to Sanjeev and whispers anxiously -

DOLLY
You think it's him... the one
behind that attack on you?

Sanjeev too stares at Kapoor, then knocks back his drink and gets up -

SANJEEV
Good question. Let me go and ask
him.

Dolly tries to stop him -

DOLLY
No, Sanjeev. Don't!

But Sanjeev's gone.

4.36 EXT. FIVE STAR HOTEL - LAWNS - OPEN BAR - NIGHT 4.36

His eyes following Kapoor, Sanjeev walks past the GUESTS - shaking a hand here, saying a hello there.

Just then, a voice from behind -

SINGH SAAB (O.S.)
Congratulations on the show last night.

Sanjeev turns to see - Singh Saab and Singh Junior there.

SINGH SAAB (CONT'D)
It was good to see some of that old fire back.

Singh Saab turns to his son.

SINGH SAAB (CONT'D)
You know what is the most important quality of a television anchor?
(beat)
He always knows when it's time to pack up. Hai ki nahi Sanjeev beta?

Sanjeev keeps quiet.

SINGH SAAB (CONT'D)
The PR team is drafting an announcement for next week. Tumhaari taraf se aayega toh resignation lagega, aur hamaari taraf se aaya toh firing. Bekaar misunderstanding create hogi...

SANJEEV
Hmmm. Misunderstanding toh ho sakti hai sir. Aap ki company RC Holding ki ek shell company hai - Future Pride. Future Pride ke Board of Directors mein ek sleeping partner hai, jo Transport Minister Rameshwar Verma ka daamaad hai. Wahi Rameshwar Verma jisne kuchh maheene pehle RC Holding ko Delhi Sonipat Expressway ka three thousand crores ka contract diya thha.

(MORE)

SANJEEV (CONT'D)
 Ab agar ye news baahar aayi, toh
 kaafi misunderstanding ho sakti
 hai...

Singh stares at him with a quiet fury.

Sanjeev's eyes go to - somewhere behind Singh. It's Kapoor,
 headed into the hotel building.

SANJEEV (CONT'D)
 Enjoy the evening, sir.

He walks away from there, leaving Singh fuming.

4.37 EXT. FIVE STAR HOTEL - LAWNS - NIGHT

4.37

Dolly sits alone, looking rather anxious.

She dials Sanjeev's number, glancing all around. She can't
 see him anywhere.

And even the call goes unanswered.

Dolly notices - Her hand begins to shake. And the voices
 around start to fade out.

She gets up and walks in the direction Sanjeev went -

Looking around, walking past the guests...

PRATIMA, one of Sanjeev's colleagues, spots her.

PRATIMA
 Hi, Dolly!

Dolly looks at her - blank. Pratima's surprised.

PRATIMA (CONT'D)
 Remember me? Pratima... from
 Sanjeev's office?

DOLLY
 Oh! Hi!

Pratima introduces the person she was talking to. It's Sara.

PRATIMA
 That's Sara. And that's Dolly,
 Sanjeev's wife.

An awkward Sara smiles politely at Dolly.

DOLLY
 I...I'm looking for my husband.

PRATIMA

They're always difficult to hold on
to, aren't they?

But the joke's lost on Dolly as she continues to look around.

Pratima makes a 'weird' face at Sara, and waves at someone
and excuses herself from there.

Sara looks at Dolly - who's all lost.

Sara touches her gently.

SARA

Are you all right, Mrs Mehra?

Dolly looks at her.

4.38 INT. FIVE STAR HOTEL - WASHROOM - NIGHT

4.38

ANGLE ON a sparkling clean urinal. A stream of pale yellow
liquid hits it.

It's Kapoor taking a piss. He notices - someone comes up in
the urinal adjacent to him. Sanjeev.

KAPOOR

Kaise ho Mehra?

Sanjeev turns. And pretends to be surprised to see him there.

SANJEEV

Oh hello, Vikram.

Kapoor stares at him with an understated hostility.

KAPOOR

Camera wagairah toh nahi hai na
saath mein? Fir se koi sting
operation toh nahi karne waale?

SANJEEV

I was only doing my job, Vikram.
Nothing personal.

He looks at Kapoor, and lets out a friendly smile.

SANJEEV (CONT'D)

Waise bhi, ab aap kahaan sting
operation se darne waale ho? I hear
you're planning to enter the media
industry yourself...

KAPOOR

News travels fast around here.

SANJEEV

Not that hard to guess, you know.
The dynamics of the game have
changed. Kuchh saal pehle tak, it
was all about staying under the
radar for someone like you.

Sanjeev finishes up and walks to the wash basin. Washes his hands.

Kapoor follows suit - suspiciously eyeing him in the giant mirror.

KAPOOR

And now?

SANJEEV

Well, now it's about owning the
radar.

Kapoor finally lets out a smirk.

KAPOOR

I do have plans. Tumhaare Singh
Saab ko bhi offer diya thha, but it
didn't work out.

They walk towards the door. Sanjeev holds it open for Kapoor.

SANJEEV

Maybe I can help open a few doors
for you.

Kapoor looks at him with a sudden interest.

Then steps out of the door. Sanjeev follows.

4.39 INT. FIVE STAR HOTEL - LOBBY - NIGHT

4.39

Kapoor hands over his business card to Sanjeev.

KAPOOR

Then maybe we should get together
and have a chat...
(winks)
Off camera, of course.

The two share a parting laugh. Just then, Sanjeev's eyes go to -

Sara - who stares at the sight of him hobnobbing with Kapoor.

And then he notices - Dolly's with her.

Sanjeev's quite taken aback as Dolly and Sara walk up to him.

DOLLY

Sanjeev! I was so worried...

Sanjeev tries to hide his irritation.

SANJEEV

Relax, Dolly. It's all good.

Awkward silence. Sara looks at him with a hint of an accusation -

SARA

Hey! I thought you weren't coming tonight.

SANJEEV

And God knows why I did!
(to Dolly)
Chalein?

He turns around and starts to walk away. Dolly follows, while waving a goodbye to Sara -

DOLLY

You should come home sometime!

Sara smiles, her eyes following Dolly.

4.40 INT. DELHI POLICE FORENSICS LAB - NIGHT

4.40

A CLOSE UP of Sanjeev. It looks like he's sitting in his car.
It's a PICTURE on a large iMac screen.

Hathi Ram and Ansari peer in from behind as a grumpy FORENSIC EXPERT shows it to them in his cubicle.

The office looks like a dull graphic design studio. Not too many employees around, given the hour.

GRUMPY FORENSIC EXPERT

Kuchh photos ki quality kharaab
hai, specially jo zoom kiye gaye
hain...

He clicks forward.

MORE PHOTOS - Entry and exit to Sanjeev's office. The guards outside. The lane to his house.

GRUMPY FORENSIC EXPERT (CONT'D)

Ye ek video bhi thha.

He PLAYS it.

IN THE POV VIDEO:

4.40INS EXT. SANJEEV'S HOUSE - PORCH + DRIVEWAY - DAY

4.40INS

Sanjeev, dressed for work, walks out of his house, smoking a cigarette, while the car reverses out of the house.

VOICES can be heard in the video as well.

CHAAKU'S VOICE (O.S.)

Yehi hai?

TYAGI'S VOICE (O.S.)

Haan.

CHAAKU'S VOICE (O.S.)

Abhi karna hai? Koi nahi hai...

But just then - Dolly walks out of the house, with a dog bowl.

She calls out the stray dog 'Savitri'. And it quickly makes its way to Dolly, wagging its tail.

The dog goes to Sanjeev - who's about to get into the car.

Dolly takes Sanjeev's hand and makes him pat the dog. The dog licks Sanjeev's hand all over - which grosses him out a bit.

Dolly laughs, as finally Sanjeev gets into the car. And drives away.

The Video stays on Dolly for a little while, on her playing with the dog. And as it ENDS -

There's excitement on Ansari's face.

ANSARI

Sir yeh photos Conspiracy to murder
ka case prove karne mein bahot kaam
aayengi.

Hathi Ram nods - just as excited. His mind racing - He turns to the Forensic Expert.

HATHI RAM

Ye dono voice ka verification karna
hoga.

The man glances at his watch, making a subtle point.

GRUMPY FORENSIC EXPERT

Request daal do aap... office hours
mein. Voice sample bhi chahiye
honge... jinse match karni hai.

ANSARI

SIM card ki koi information?

GRUMPY FORENSIC EXPERT
Burner SIM.

Hathi Ram looks at him - unsure. The man lets out a tired sigh and explains with a hint of condescension -

GRUMPY FORENSIC EXPERT (CONT'D)
Matlab sirf kaam ke liye liya thha.
Teen hafte pehle hee activate hua
tha. Aur ek hee number se calls
receive hue hain aur usi pe dial
kiye hain. Aur wo doosra number bhi-

HATHI RAM
(cuts him)
Burner SIM.

The expert gives him a look.

GRUMPY FORENSIC EXPERT
Dono UP ke registered SIM hain -
(checks his papers)
Location...?

HATHI RAM
Chitrakoot...?

The expert nods in confirmation and hands Hathi Ram a printout.

ANSARI
Sir local police ko request karte
hain address check karne ke liye.
Par agar itna socha hai saalon ne
toh address bhi fake hee hoga...

Hathi Ram looks at the sheet in his hands. Something catches his eye.

HATHI RAM
Aapne kaha ek number pe call kiya
thha. Ye doosra number kya hai?

GRUMPY FORENSIC EXPERT
(peeps in)
Handset ke record mein ek aur
number pe dial kiya gaya thha, par
call register hone se pehle hee
kaat diya, jaise yaad aa gaya ho ki
phone nahi karna. Ye wo number aur
address hai...

Hathi Ram passes the sheet to Ansari. Something bothers Ansari as he looks at the address, but he's not sure what.

GRUMPY FORENSIC EXPERT (CONT'D)

Ek cheez aur. Phone mein ek memory
card bhi thha jisme kuchh puraane
photos thhe.

(mumbles)

Personal lag rahe hain...

He opens another folder on his desktop.

PHOTOS of a WOMAN. Unclear. Low light.

She's making playful faces in them. And we can't really make
out her face clearly.

Hathi Ram and Ansari start to lose interest. The Expert looks
at his watch again with impatience. And just then -

A selfie. Where the girl's trying to hide behind someone. Her
face is still not fully visible, but that someone is Chaaku.

It strikes Ansari.

ANSARI

Sir Tope Singh ke saath ye ladki...

Hathi Ram looks at him.

*

HATHI RAM

Kya bataya tha tune iske baare
mein?

ANSARI

Chanda naam hai... Tope Singh se
pehle us Shauki ki rakhail thhi.

He looks at the sheet of paper in his hand.

ANSARI (CONT'D)

Yaad aaya, Sir. Ye doosra address
Shauki ka hai.

4.41 EXT. SHAUKI MAMA'S HOUSE - COURTYARD - NIGHT

4.41 *

Shauki's mentally-challenged Teenage Son tries to brush his
teeth clumsily while -

*

*

Shauki sits in front of Hathi Ram and Ansari.

*

SHAUKI MAMA

Sir ji dekho jitna pata thha sab
bata chuka hoon. Ab us bandey se
mera koi -

ANSARI

Chanda ke baare mein toh nahi
bataaya thha...

Shauki panics. Glances at the kitchen - Where the Wife is.

SHAUKI MAMA

Sir haath jodta hoon aapke...

HATHI RAM

Kyun kahaa tha Tope Singh se koi
contact nahi?

Shauki puts a hand on his son's head - who shrugs it away.

SHAUKI MAMA

Sir apne bachche ki kasam khaa ke
kehta hoon... maheenon hue, na
maine usse baat ki na usne mere se.

HATHI RAM

Kaam ke beech mein se usne ek hee
number dial kiya thha. Wo bhi
tumhaara...

Shauki looks confused. Ansari takes out a paper.

ANSARI

Six five four five -

SHAUKI

(realises; completes it)
Two one two, two one two.

Ansari glances at the paper - that's the number.

SHAUKI (CONT'D)

Us gashti ka hai. Maine hee dilaaya
thha. Recharge bhi main hee karwata
thha... Par baat usse hoti.

Ansari and Hathi Ram look at each other.

*

HATHI RAM

Uska koi photo ya address wagairah?

SHAUKI MAMA

Marwaaoge sir...? Photo dikha ke
hee toh haraamjaadi ne blackmail
kiya thha...

(beat)

Last news suni thhi ki dono saath
koi business karne waale hain...

He stops as the wife approaches them. She wipes the boy's
mouth and takes him away.

*

*

SHAUKI'S WIFE

(to the boy)

Chal, neeni ka time ho gaya!

She pulls the boy up by the hand and takes him away as -

SHAUKI'S SON
(defective speech)
Chanda! Gashti! Gashti!

SHAUKI'S WIFE
Kya bolta rehta hai ant shant!

Shauki watches them go with his heart in his mouth. Then turns back to Hathi Ram - pleading.

4.42 EXT. SHAUKI MAMA'S HOUSE - LANE OUTSIDE - NIGHT 4.42

Hathi Ram and Ansari walk up to the parked vehicle. Ansari has got his phone next to his ear.

A faint AUTOMATED VOICE can be heard coming out of the phone.

ANSARI
Disconnected hai.

Hathi Ram frowns - thinking.

HATHI RAM
Tyagi Chitrakoot se. Chaaku ka
phone Chitrakoot ka. Ho na ho ye
Talreja ka bhi koi connection hoga
wahaan ka.

He looks at Ansari - grim.

HATHI RAM (CONT'D)
Kal subah headquarter jaana hoga...
Bhagat sir ko update dene.

Ansari tries to cheer him up.

ANSARI
Sir do lead hain hamaare paas...
Talreja. Aur ye Chanda. Chaaku ki
bandi thhi, saath business karne
waale thhe... Kuchh toh pata hoga
ise...

Hathi Ram's phone rings. He checks. It's Virk.

HATHI RAM
(answering the phone)
Haan Sir.

He listens on. It's a very short conversation.

Hathi Ram cuts the phone and looks at Ansari - a little confused.

HATHI RAM (CONT'D)
Ye Virk is waqt thaane kyun bula
raha hai?

4.43 EXT. JAMUNA PAAR POLICE STATION - LANE OUTSIDE + MOVING VEHICLE - NIGHT 4.43

Ansari drives. The police Sumo takes a turn in the lane.

HATHI RAM'S POV:

The police station - just a few hundred meters away. And then he notices something else -

An OB Van outside it.

And then - another one, trying to find a spot to pull over.

ON THE ROAD:

Commotion. REPORTERS. CAMERAMEN - some already talking to their camera, some scrambling to take positions.

Hathi Ram's heart is in his mouth as Ansari pulls over outside the police station.

Hathi Ram gets down. Looks around - *what's going on here?*

His eyes go to - A HINDI JOURNALIST speaking to the camera.

HINDI JOURNALIST

Aapne ye suna hoga ki jise aaropi
samajh ke pakda gaya wo beqasoor
nikla. Par kya aapne kabhi ye suna
hai ki jise aurat samajh ke pakda
wo mard nikla. Jee haan, ye
sansanikhej kaarnaama Dilli police
ke Outer Jamuna Paar thaane mein...

From the corner of his hawk-like eyes, the Journalist spots Hathi Ram. Dropping his piece mid-way, he makes a dash towards Hathi Ram protruding his microphone -

HINDI JOURNALIST (CONT'D)

Hamaare saath is waqt maujood hain
case ke Investigating Officer -

Hathi Ram turns around and rushes inside, while Ansari quickly steps forward and blocks the journalist's path.

4.44 INT. JAMUNA PAAR POLICE STATION - NIGHT

4.44

A TV plays:

4.44INS EXT. JAMUNA PAAR POLICE STATION - NIGHT

4.44INS

Visuals of the circus outside.

In a corner - Constable Manju Verma sobs - but her eyes are on the television.

Hathi Ram rushes in. All heads turn to him - Manju, the other constables. Everyone.

Hathi Ram straight away rushes towards -

4.45 INT. JAMUNA PAAR POLICE STATION - SHO'S CABIN - NIGHT 4.45

A sullen DCP Bhagat stands with Virk. *

Hathi Ram just about remembers to salute Bhagat. And then throws a quick angry glance at Virk.

HATHI RAM
Sir kisi ne jaan boojh ke yeh
khabar leak ki hai media ko...

Bhagat just stares at him.

HATHI RAM (CONT'D)
Koi try kar raha hai case ko...
leads bandh ho rahe hain...
Seelampur mein aaj dead body mili
hai us Tariq ki...

Bhagat shakes his head in disappointment. Then turns to look at - the other end of the room.

Hathi Ram follows his gaze to see -

THREE OFFICERS in smart civvies, including the lady boss DWIVEDI and SUNIL GAUTAM are talking to Officer Dahiya. *

DCP BHAGAT
CBI humse ye case take over kar
raha hai, Chaudhari.
(beat)
Thanks to your fuck up. *

The men fix Hathi Ram with a gaze.

Hathi Ram doesn't know what to say. Blabbers -

HATHI RAM
Par sir... ye jo bhi hai... sir
isse investigation mein koi bhi
gadbad nahi hui -

DCP BHAGAT
Aur haan, Commissioner saab ka
order hai. You're suspended. *

And he storms out of there - followed by the CBI officers.

Hathi Ram stands there - looking like someone punched him in the gut.

Virk puts a sympathetic hand on his shoulder.

Anger rises on Hathi Ram's face. All of a sudden - he grabs Virk by the collar.

HATHI RAM

Ek din maanga thha tere se,
maadarchod...

*
*

Virk takes a moment to recover. Then pushes him back hard.

SHO VIRK

(pissed)
Toh tere chutiyaapon ke liye main
apni naukri gawaaun?

Hathi Ram stares at him for a few moments. Then turns around and walks out. Like a zombie.

4.46 INT/EXT. JAMUNA PAAR POLICE STATION - NIGHT

4.46

The police station. All eyes are on him.

Ansari tries to come forward but then stops himself.

Hathi Ram walks up to the 'MOHRAR' desk in a daze.

He removes his gun from the holster. Then puts down the Police-car keys. Their jangling sound is loud and enhanced.

As he drags himself out of the station - journalists start throwing QUESTIONS at him. Their voices have a disturbing, hollow echo about them.

Hathi Ram just stands there, staring at everyone and no one in particular.

From far a camera flash BURNS his eyesight.

And everything goes WHITE...

FADE OUT

ROLL IN END CREDITS