

BULBBUL
(Draft 12)

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Produced By
Clean Slate Filmz Pvt. Ltd.

A Netflix India Original

1 EXT. BULBBUL'S MATERNAL HOME ORCHARD - DAY 1
Little feet swing from a branch. The girl they belong to hidden in the leaves.

2 EXT. BULBBUL'S MATERNAL HOME ORCHARD - DAY 2
Through the window of the carriage a 12 year old boy peers out with a big smile; LITTLE SATYA. The sun and trees make dappled afternoon shadows on his face.

3 INT. BULBBUL'S MATERNAL HOME COURTYARD - DAY 3
The house is dressed for a wedding. A woman blows the conch.
BULBBUL'S FATHER a man in his early 40s garlands him with a smile.
Satya looks back and up and smiles at INDRANIL THAKUR. From behind him an identical man steps forward and stands next to him this is MAHENDRA THAKUR.
Tilak is put on him. Arti is done.
Mahendra smiles. Strange really. He looks just like Indranil but you almost instantly know there is something not right about him. His face seems shapeless almost. Like something in him was not fully-formed. He's slack-mouthed. His arms hang loosely by his side.
And next to him BINODINI. A banarsi wrapped petulant young woman.
Little Satya goes past the men. Through the courtyard.
A PUNDIT is putting final touches to a mandap in one part of the courtyard.
Little Satya moves through the predominantly male crowd to

4 INT. BULBBUL'S MATERNAL HOME INNER ROOM - CONTINUOUS 4
The cooler inner room where the women from the groom's party are settling in. All of them lounging. Fanning themselves. Making pan. Drinking sherbet etc. Lazy and languid with pampering.
Little Satya move through them to Binodini. And from her to more exploration.
Till.

PISHIMA O.S.
Bulbbul...

5 INT. BULBBUL'S MATERNAL HOME VARIOUS - DAY 5

Little Satya follows Pishima's voice and then Pishima herself.

He sees her search the various corners of the house calling out or cursing under her breath.

6 INT. BULBBUL'S MATERNAL HOME BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 6

An agitated Pishima looks under a bed.

PISHIMA
Kidhar marr gayi...

7 EXT. BULBBUL'S MATERNAL HOME ORCHARD - DAY 7

Little feet run on a branch. Jump from one branch to another.

Pishima extends her arm through the foliage. Towards us. Rustle. Giggle. Grab. Yank. And in Pishima's hand the dusty little foot we saw earlier.

A squeal. A dusty messy muslin-wrapped bundle of 9 year old arms legs feet elbows and curls; LITTLE BULBBUL comes crashing through the leaves and into Pishima's arms.

Little Satya stands by Pishima. Little Bulbbul gets awkward and shy and tries to hide behind Pishima. Little Satya gives her a once over.

Little Satya walks around little Bulbbul. Inspecting her to the amusement of Pishima.

LITTLE SATYA
Thodi maili hai... par kaam chala
leingey...

Little Bulbbul gives him a push.

Pishima picks her up.

PISHIMA
Theek hi to keh raha hai... phir se
taiyyaar karna padhega...

Pishima takes her away. Little Bulbbul looks back at Little Satya as he pockets the fallen raw mango.

8

INT. BULBBUL'S MATERNAL HOME BEDROOM - NIGHT

8

Little Bulbbul's little feet are lifted. They drip red red alta.

A silver toe-ring is pushed on to a little toe.

LITTLE BULBBUL

Pishima... bichhua kyun pehente
hain?

Pishima grabs Little Bulbbul's toe and squeezes it. Little Bulbbul squeals.

PISHIMA

Yahan ek nass hoti hai... dabao
nahin to ladki udh jaati hai...

Big eyes in tiny face.

LITTLE BULBBUL

Chidiya ke jaisey?

Pishima covers Little Bulbbul's face with the ghonghat

PISHIMA

(almost resigned)

Nahin... vash mein karney ke liye
hotey hain bichhuey....

Pishima lifts Ghonghat covered Little Bulbbul in her arms.
As she bounces in her lap.

LITTLE BULBBUL

(sleepy)

Vash? Voh kya hota hai?

9

INT. BULBBUL'S MATERNAL HOME COURTYARD - NIGHT

9

The entire flower bedecked house is lit by lamps. Everyone is around the mandap.

The women stand by the verandah and yodel.

Binodini watches as Pishima carries Little Bulbbul out.
Managing to look bored and miffed all at once.

Through the ghonghat Little Bulbbul sees Little Satya
standing by the mandap.

Little Bulbbul, all decked up to be a bride, bounces in a
tokri. Sleepy eyes blink. Sleepy eyes droop.

Hands prop her up. Hands hold her wrists. Hands close around her tiny hands keeping two betel leaves in place in front of her face.

Little Bulbbul falls asleep. The lights blur. The women yodel. Everything darkens.

10 I/E. PALANQUIN/FOREST - NIGHT

10

In the coffin-like darkness of the palanquin, the sleeping little Bulbbul bounces.

PALKI BEARER (V.O.)
hunhuna... hunhuna....

Palki lurches. Little Bulbbul wakes up. Her eyes widen and gleam in the darkness.

She gets frantic.

Stumbles and slides and thrashes her arms about.

LITTLE BULBBUL
Pishima! Baba!

A rustle of silk and a gleam of gold around her.

BINODINI
(snaps)
Kya kar rahi hai paagal?

SATYA
Ghabra gayi hogi bhabhi...

As the palanquin moves through the forest a little alta-laden hand moves the velvet curtain aside. And Little Bulbbul peers out. Frightened. She looks at the dark forest. At the trees running away from her. Her eyes fill with tears.

Little Satya comes to the window. The vermillion dot and dash on both their respective foreheads gleams purple.

LITTLE SATYA
Kahaani sunogi?

She looks at him. Considers the offer.

LITTLE BULBBUL
Darraavni kahaani hai?

He nods. She wipes her tears and nods. The tree-shadows move on their faces like spiders.

LITTLE SATYA
Bahut samay pehley ki baat hai...
ek churail thi...

11 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

11

The fairy tale unfolds. A giant moon. A tiny churail. A tarpaulin of trees.

LITTLE SATYA (V.O.)
Pedhon pe rehti hai

On a tree, draped like a panther at rest, a female form. She gleams like the moonlight. Her face, framed/hidden by a cloud of curls. Her feet turned the wrong way around.

LITTLE SATYA (V.O.)
ultey pair thhe usskey...

The Churail crouches. Leaps.

LITTLE SATYA (V.O.)
Khoon ki pyaasi... Aur voh taak
mein baithi rehti...

12 INT. BADI HAVELI PORCH - NIGHT

12

Through opening doors we see lit lamps almost as if it is diwali.

Binodini stands blowing the conch.

On the threshold there is rangoli and a pot rice and a thaal of alta. Little Bulbbul enters.

LITTLE SATYA O.S.
Ke kab rajkumaari ghar aaye aur voh
ussey kha jaaye...

Indranil's mother does Little Bulbbul's arti. Little Bulbbul steps out of the alta and on to the floor.

Blood red foot prints on the floor.

13 INT. BADI HAVELI BULBBUL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

13

Little Bulbbul sits on the seij. Such a large world. Such a little girl.

Mahendra walks in.

MAHENDRA

Gudiya!

He giggles and picks her up in his arms

MAHENDRA (CONT'D)

Khelo

INDRANIL (O.S.)

Mahendra!

Indranil has entered the room. Mahendra keeps Little Bulbbul down. She looks confused.

Binodini comes running in from behind Indranil. She leads Mahendra away.

MAHENDRA (O.S.)

(sulks)

Gudiya...

Binodini rushes into the room.

INDRANIL

(reprimands)

Binodini! Pati hai aapka... nazar nahin rakh sakti?

BINODINI

Maaf kijiye badey thakur

As she drags a reluctant Mahendra away.

Indranil sits besides Bulbbul

INDRANIL

Bachcha hai...

LITTLE BULBBUL

Voh kahan hai?

INDRANIL

Kaun?

LITTLE BULBBUL

Jis se meri shaadi huyi...

INDRANIL

Voh to hum hain...

Her eyes widen. She shakes her head.

LITTLE BULBBUL
 Nahin... voh to merey jitna tha...
 palki mein mujhey kahaani sunaayi
 thi... ussaka naam... satya hai

Indranil looks at her indulgently.

INDRANIL
 Jab badi ho jaogi to pati aur devar
 ka fark samajh jaogi...

14

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

14

SUPER: 20 years later

A phaeton hurtles through a red-lit forest. Dispelling the mist into swirls which come together the moment the gaadi moves ahead.

The moon a bloodstain on the sky. The moonlight intermittently old dried blood or wet clotting depending on the shadows that the forest throws.

The GAADIWAN drives the horses hard. Suddenly the carriage goes into a pothole and lurches precariously.

The passenger; 28 year old SATYA, grabs the side so as not to topple.

SATYA
 Dheerey chalao!

GAADIWAN
 Maaf kijiye Satya thakur... Yeh jagah theek nahin hai... yahan khatra hai... yahan...
 (his voice dropping in dread)
 Yahan voh hai...

SATYA
 Kaun?

GAADIWAN
 Churail...

Satya looks at the gaadiwan wide-eyed and then bursts out laughing.

The wind sighs through the trees.

The gaadiwan drives huddled.

He suddenly stops the gaadi. There. Blocking the path. A rotten branch. The gaadiwan looks up at the trees and swallows. He looks back at Satya. But he's fast asleep.

The gaadiwan, mortified, looks at the big branch blocking the path. At the trees above. At the impenetrable mist around.

The pale gaadiwan hurries to the branch.

Satya is fast asleep. We can see the gaadiwan in the distance as he begins to struggle and drag the branch away from the path.

Satya sleeps.

WHOOOOOSH HHH SHE DROPS DOWN. Upside down. Over Satya.

The Churail hangs from the trees. Her crooked twisted feet on the branches overhead. Her bare legs entangled in a creeper. Her hair floats around her like coal black smoke. Hiding her face.

Satya opens his eyes. And sits up with a snap. Hands clutching the sides.

No one is there.

The gaadiwan comes to the gaadi. Sees that Satya is awake. Frozen eyes turned tree-wards.

GAADIWAN (CONT'D)

Jag gaye?

Satya nods.

GAADIWAN (CONT'D)

(driving)

So jao so jao... Badi haveli aayegi
to jaga deingey...

Satya sits rigid and upright. The gaadi moves.

From above the trees we see Satya's phaeton break free of the forest and run towards the badi haveli.

15 INT. BADI HAVELI ENTRANCE - NIGHT

15

28 year old Satya walks through the entrance to the big courtyard.

A sleepy old man follows; RAMAKANT

Satya gives a tired smile.

SATYA
Kaisey hain ramakant babu?

He looks at the majestic steps leading to The Thakur Dalan.
All is dark and moonlit.

SATYA (CONT'D)
Sab so gaye?

RAMAKANT
Ji...

Satya turns and walks to the opposite side of the steps.

RAMAKANT (CONT'D)
Pata hota aap aa rahey hain... to
kuch tayyaari... aapka kamra bhi...

16 INT. SATYA'S ROOM - NIGHT 16

A bed shrouded in a dust cover. 28 year old Satya takes off his jacket. Ramakant is looking at the bed. He clears his throat.

RAMAKANT
Khaana lagwa dein?

SATYA
Nahin... theek hain...

17 INT. BADI HAVELI - NIGHT 17

The moonlight throws up strange shadows on the haveli. One of them looks like a wild haired woman.

The shadow moves. And flits across the haveli. Sometimes large and looming. Sometimes stunted. All times grotesque.

18 INT. BADI HAVELI SATYA'S ROOM - NIGHT 18

The door opens an inch letting in the moonlight. And the wild haired woman's shadow.

On the bed 28 year old Satya sleeps. His face lit by the moonlight.

Like an eclipse. The moonlight slowly disappears from his face. A shadow blocks it out.

19

INT. BADI HAVELI BULBBUL'S VERANDAH - DAY

19

It's morning. The birds sing. The temple bell tolls.

And 28 year old Satya climbs the steps leading to the verandah.

A beautiful jhoola has a pride of place on the verandah. And swinging gently on it, with her back to us, sits 25 YEAR OLD BULBBUL.

In front of her. On the floor. Sits the old gaadiwan who was driving Satya the night before. Next to him a 17 year old boy; GAADIWAN'S SON. And two women. One in her 50s; GAADIWAN'S WIFE #1. One in her 20s; GAADIWAN'S WIFE # 2.

GAADIWAN

Naaraz mat hoyiye ma

BULBBUL

Naaraaz to main ho chuki... sharm
aani chahiye tumhey... tumhaari
pehli biwi kya karegi ab?

GAADIWAN

Dono behenon ki tarah saath
raheingi...

Gaadiwan's wife # 1 looks at the Gaadiwan. Really now?

Bulbbul makes a gesture of dismissal

BULBBUL

Dafaa ho...

The gaadiwan and family bow obsequiously and walk away.

BULBBUL (CONT'D)

Issey zara bhi tagleef di...
tumhari khair nahin...

SATYA (O.S.)

Thakur thakur khel rahi ho bhabhi?

She looks back at Satya. At us. And we see her. As does he. BULBBUL. She's beautiful. Black hair tied in a bun. Generous sindoor in her maang. A big red bindi. kohl-lined big eyes. Soft pan-stained pretty lips. Gold ornaments adorn her but pale in front of her beauty. She is draped in a banarsi saree. Every inch the thakurani.

Satya almost involuntarily takes an intake of breath.

A slow sardonic smile on her face.

LITTLE SATYA O.S.

Ek do...

20 EXT. THE TREES - DAY

20

It is Little Satya and Little Bulbbul. Little Satya stands against a tree. Hands cupped around his face. Little Bulbbul backs away from him with a grin.

LITTLE SATYA (O.S.)

teen chaar...

LITTLE BULBBUL

Paanch chhe

As she hides and peeps.

LITTLE BULBBUL (CONT'D)

Saath aath

As she climbs a tree with grace and expertise.

LITTLE SATYA O.S.

Nau dus

LITTLE SATYA O.S. (CONT'D)

Main aa raha hoon...

21 EXT. BADI HAVELI BULBBUL'S VERANDAH - DAY

21

Satya sits by Bulbbul's side.

BULBBUL

Kaisey aana hua?

He's taken aback.

BULBBUL (CONT'D)

Apni jaydaad ka moaayena karna tha?

SATYA

Bhabhi!

BULBBUL

Paanch saal se koyi khabar nahin...
ek dum se meri yaad to nahin aayi
hogi...

He flushes

SATYA

Thakur dada ko chithhiyaan likhi
thi... aapkey baarey mein poochhthey
thhe... par koyi jawaab nahin
aaya...
Hum to teen saal pehley aana
chahtey they... Mahendra dada ki...
(chokes)
Unnke... Maarey jaaney ke baad...

BULBBUL

Kehtey hain Churail ne maara
unhey...

SATYA

Aap bhi aisi baaton ko maan ne
lagi?

BULBBUL

Nahin... main kahaan... voh to
binodini didi kehti hain

His face clouds.

SATYA

Bhabhi... inn paanch saalon mein
kya kya ho gaya? Thakur dada bhi...
ghar chhorr ke chaley gaye...

Bulbbul has a faraway look in her eyes. Satya looks at her
searchingly.

She looks at him for a beat.

BULBBUL

Binodini didi se miloge?

He looks at her quietly. And then honours her deflection by
nodding.

22

INT. BINODINI WIDOW HOUSE COURTYARD - CONTINUOUS

22

A house that is bereft of all colour. The house of a widow. A
widowed house. And in this drab setting a dull widowed
Binodini. Once a gaudy jewel reduced to monochrome.

28 year old Satya stops in his tracks. A look of pity on his
face.

Binodini sits in the courtyard on a diwan, as yet unaware of
her guests.

She sits there telling a rosary. Listless. Almost lifeless. Her pallu slips from her head. She adjusts it but not before we have seen her shorn head.

SATYA O.S.
Binodini Bhabhi...

The widowed Binodini looks up startled and sees Satya. Her face crumples and she starts crying. Satya runs up to her and sits at her feet.

SATYA
Bus bhabhi... bus...

BINODINI
(weeping)
Choto dada... Choto dada...

Bulbbul walks up to Binodini. She puts her hand on the weeping binodini's shoulder. Binodini clutches at Bulbbul's hand.

BINODINI (CONT'D)
Devi ma ne achha nahin kiya
humaarey saath...

BULBBUL
Kya didi... haath mein jap mala...
aur bhagwan ko kose rahi ho?

BINODINI
Jap karke bhi shaanti kahaan...
saari umar puja paath mein laga
di...
Phir bhi dekho kya phal mila...
pujo ke din hi kha gayi churail
Mahendra ko...

A conch blows in the background. A dhak beats. Getting louder and louder and LOUDER.

23

INT. BADI HAVELI KALI TEMPLE - NIGHT

23

Two pairs of hands. Clutched together. Bulbbul and the much married Binodini move the arti in big flaming circles.

A Kali idol rises ominously above them.

The dhaki beats the dhak in a frenzy.

We see different faces, eyes closed, hands folded in prayer. Dancing. Celebrating. A moonlit lamplit dhuni infused frenzy.

Kali's mouth is open in a happy silent scream.

24 INT. BADI HAVELI SATYA'S BEDROOM- NIGHT 24

A scream. Binodini stands turned to stone by Mahendra's very bloody very dead body. Bulbbul runs in and stops short of Binodini.

25 INT. BINODINI WIDOW HOUSE COURTYARD- DAY 25

Tears come into Binodini eyes. Her hair is held by a widow. Binodini is in all white. A wreck in grief. A shaving knife is held over her head.

The knife shaves off binodini's hair revealing her baldness. Her widow status.

26 INT. BINODINI WIDOW HOUSE COURTYARD - DAY 26

28 year old Satya looks sympathetically at Binodini.

Bulbbul smiles.

BULBBUL

(amused)

Ab to koyi bhi marrrta hai...
bukhaar se ya pedh se gir ke bhi...
to log churail ke naam kar detey
hain maut....

BINODINI

Bukhar tha mahendra ko? Haan? Khoon
se lathpath padhey they... dekha
tha aapney...

SATYA

Yeh to kissi jaanwar ka kaam lagta
hai... yaad hai Indranil dada
bataatey they... kayi saal pehley
ek sher aadamkhor ho gaya tha...
ghar mein ghus ke le jaata tha
gaonwalon ko...

Binodini shakes her head

BINODINI

(firm)

Ultey pairon ke nishaan they...
khoon waley... Churail hi thi

SATYA

Phir vohi churail... aaj tak nahin
thi... ek dum se kahaan se aa
gayi...

BINODINI

(matter of fact)

Pedhon se...

This evokes a burst of girlish laughter of pure delight from Bulbbul.

27 EXT. CHANDERNAGORE FOREST - DAY

27

Bulbbul and 28 year old Satya ride in the phaeton.

The phaeton moves through the trees.

Bulbbul looks at the passing sun-dappled trees.

LITTLE BULBBUL O.S.

Phir kya hua?

28 INT. SATYA'S ROOM - NIGHT

28

The warm glow lights up Little Bulbbul as she clutches a pillow to herself only her wide eyes can be seen. Little Satya holds the candle a little low throwing up scary shadows on his face.

LITTLE SATYA

Phir... churail ne rajkumari ke
kamrey ki saari mombattiyaan bhuja
di...

And he blows out the candle. Little Bulbbul gives a little scream. Little Satya giggles. Little Bulbbul whacks him.

LITTLE BULBBUL

Budhu!

Then huddles a bit closer to him in the moonlight.

LITTLE BULBBUL (CONT'D)

Phir?

LITTLE SATYA

Dabey paon churail raajkumari ke
bistar ke paas aayi aur...

The room door bangs open. They both scream.

It's Binodini. A suspicious sour younger Binodini.

BINODINI

(angry)

Aap dono yahan andherey mein kya
kar rahey hain?

This makes Little Satya giggle even more. Little Bulbbul pouts.

LITTLE BULBBUL

Kya didi? Sab kharaab kar detey
ho...

A petulant Binodini makes a little sour moue.

BINODINI

Maaf karna Badi bahu... hum to
aapko bas yehi bataaney aayi
they... apko aapkey thakur bula
rahey hain...

LITTLE BULBBUL

Tch... kyun?

BINODINI

Vohi to... bulana to humey
chahiye... khayal to hum rakhtey
hain unka... pata nahin kyun unko
unki Bulbbul chahiye... unko ab
kaun samjhaaye ke Bulbbul ko to
bas... satya chahiye...

29

EXT. CHANDERNAGORE FOREST - DAY

29

Bulbbul turns to 28 year old Satya and sees he is looking at the branches overhead with a frown. She gets a little smile on her lips.

BULBBUL

(murmurs)

Din mein soti hai

He looks at her embarrassed. She grins.

BULBBUL (CONT'D)

Shikar to voh raat ko karti hai

He laughs.

SATYA

To hum bhi raat ko hi nikleingey
shikaar karney...

Bulbbul looks at him amused.

BULBBUL

Binodini didi to tab hi khush honghi
jab churail ka sarr thoos ke diwaar
pe latka dogey tum... sher...
hiraan... churail...

Satya shakes his head at her in wonder

SATYA

Voh jo choti si badi bahu thi...
kahan gayi? kya kiya aapney unkey
saath?

BULBBUL

Kha gayi...

He looks at her askance. She chuckles.

The phaeton hurtles through the trees as they laugh.

30 EXT. BADI HAVELI - NIGHT 30

The night cradles the haveli.

31 INT. BADI HAVELI SATYA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 31

28 year old Satya wears his English togs. Picks up a rifle
and exits the room.

32 INT. BADI HAVELI - NIGHT 32

28 year old Satya walks through the courtyard to Bulbbul's
room. He sees a serving woman waving dhuni smoke around.

SATYA

Badi bahu ko dekha hai?

SERVING WOMAN

Voh to taalaab ke paas hain...

Satya smiles and rushes past.

33 INT. BADI HAVELI POND - NIGHT 33

28 year old Satya walks up to the pond and sees Bulbbul
sitting with a handsome man in his 30s; SUDIP. He sits at her
feet. Her foot rests on his knee. He is tying her laces.

BULBBUL
Merey pairon ke ilaava kuch dikhta
bhi hai tumko?

Sudip chuckles.

SUDIP
Achha sawaal hai...

Satya's is trapped between incomprehension and instinctive disapproval.

The two notice him.

BULBBUL
Doctor Sudip se miley ho?

SATYA
Doctor? Sab theek hai?

BULBBUL
Haan... yeh to bas yunhi milney
aaye they...

Satya looks at Bulbbul taken aback.

SUDIP
Mujhey chalna chahiye...
ja ke uska haal bhi dekhna hai

BULBBUL
Kab baaz aayega voh master...

SATYA
Kaun? Kaun master?

They both look at him almost as if they'd forgotten his presence.

SUDIP
Master dinkar...

SATYA
Badey bhaley aadmi hain voh to

BULBBUL
Usski patni ki tooti haddiyon se
poocho kitna bhala admi hai...

SUDIP
Pooch ke kya fayda... voh to har
baar yehi bolti hai... ke seedhiyon
se gir gayi...

Bulbbul and Sudip exchange a loaded glance. There is history here. And Satya can sense it. But can't make sense of it.

SATYA

To shayad sach bolti hogi...

BULBBUL

Chota sa makaan hai unn logon ka...
ek bhi seedi nahin hai... iss gaon
mein sirf ek ghar hai... jahaan
seedhiyaan hai...

Satya looks blank. Bulbbul sighs.

Sudip gets up to leave. Folds his hands

SUDIP

Badi bahu...

BULBBUL

Kitni baar kaha hai tumsey...
mujhey badi bahu mat bulao...

SUDIP

Theek hai
(grins)
badi bahu...

BULBBUL

Choto thakur ke saath shikar pe
jaayeingey?

SUDIP

Jaan bachaaney ka kaam hai mera...
lena nahin aata...

Bulbbul smiles.

Sudip looks at Satya with a polite nod.

SUDIP (CONT'D)

Choto thakur...

Satya ignores him. Bulbbul notices. Sudip leaves.

BULBBUL

Itni chidh kyun ho rahi hai tumhey?

SATYA

Parda bhi nahin kiya hua aapney...

BULBBUL
 (enjoying herself)
 Jao... shikar ke liye deir ho rahi
 hogi na...

SATYA
 Nahin... haan... voh master dinkar
 gaonwalon ko ikkathha kar rahey
 hain...

34 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

34

Beating of drum. Mashaals. Mist.

The villagers are frightened. Jumping at shadows. Huddling together. Shivering. Startled by every twig that snaps. Owl that calls. Unseen animal that shuffles.

28 year old Satya is of course all heroic and striding.

SATYA
 Master Dinkar... itney kam log

MASTER DINKAR
 voh... churail ke darr se...

Satya, irritated, walks away.

SATYA
 Bakwas band kariye... chaliye...

Satya and Master Dinkar move boldly through the mist.

Master Dinkar sees a shadow in the trees. He follows the shadow with his mashaal.

35 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

35

The leaves shiver and rustle. Master Dinkar walks through the mist.

HE WALKS INTO HER.

He almost falls back in shock. He gasps and gags.

She just stands there. Half in shadow half in moonlight. Her hair floats around her. She opens her arms wide almost as if asking him to embrace her.

Something in him snaps. Reason and panic override paralysis.

He breaks into a run. He
 runs and runs and runs falling his feet tripping his breath erratic.
 Further and further away from that shadowy death.

Till there is no other sound in the night. Only his gasping
 breathing. He gets a catch on his side. His breath coming in
 laboured gasps. He risks a look behind. His hand clutching
 his side.

He slows down.

He stops. Still holding his side. In obvious pain. He tries
 to control his breathing. His breath slows down.

SHE JUMPS ON HIM. FROM ABOVE.

Her arms and legs clutching at him, wrapped around him in a
 skin-tight embrace.

He screams.

36 EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS 36

Satya hears the scream.

He whirls around in the mist and runs in that direction.

37 INT. SUDIP'S HOUSE VERANDAH - NIGHT 37

Sudip's bidi smoke merges with the mist. He reacts to the
 dying scream.

He throws down his bidi and runs in that direction.

38 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT 38

Satya runs through the mist.

He crosses the frightened huddled villagers who are clutching
 at each other in terror.

39 EXT. POND - NIGHT 39

Sudip comes upon a pond and stops short. Mist lies low on the
 Lily pads and a woman steps out of the pond.

It is her. We can tell. We have seen her before. At least
 enough of her to know it is the Churail.

He rushes towards the Churail. The mist tantalizingly hiding and revealing her. He comes to the edge of the pond and she is nowhere to be seen.

And behind him. The Churail.

A crashing is heard through the woods.

Sudip whirls. And the Churail seems to have disappeared in the mist.

Satya comes crashing through the foliage.

SATYA

Tum?

Before Sudip can reply there are yells and screams from the trees. They react and run.

40

EXT. FOREST - MOMENTS LATER

40

Satya and Sudip stop shocked.

Master Dinkar hangs upside down from a tree. Throat ripped out. The blood has flowed from the neck, over the face on to the ground.

VILLAGER

Ab to maantey ho choto thakur... ke
churail hai...

Satya looks irritated

SATYA

Khooni hai... insaan... koyi
aadmi...

Satya looks at Sudip. He's by the dead body. Sudip moves his bloodstained hands away from the ripped out throat.

SATYA (CONT'D)

Kotwal babu ko khabar bhijwao...

41

EXT. POND - NIGHT

41

Villagers carry dinkar's body. Sudip and Satya lead the way.

SUDIP O.S.

Mera ghar paas mein hi hai... issko
subah tak wahaan rakhwa dijiye...

42 EXT. SUDIP'S HOUSE - NIGHT

42

Satya stops short at the house.

SATYA

Yeh ghar...

SUDI

Mera hai...

The body is placed on the verandah.

Every one looks tired. Worn out by the night.

Everyone trails off.

Sudip offers a bidi to Satya. He shakes his head in refusal.
Sudip lights his bidi.

SATYA

Jungle ke itney paas rehtey ho...
kuch suna? Kissi ko dekha?

Sudip looks at Satya and looks away and shakes his head.

SUDIP

Nahin... kuch nahin... na
jaanwar... na insaan...

43 INT. BADI HAVELI - DAY

43

Bulbbul is lounging in the courtyard. Open-haired and lazy cat-like in the early morning sun. A serving woman dries her hair with lobaan.

28 year old Satya walks in. Tired from the hunt. He stops short. Bulbbul smiles up at him.

BULBBUL

Shikaar kaisa raha?

SATYA

Master dinkar maarey gaye

BULBBUL

tch tch

SATYA

Aur jaanwar nahin... kisi aadmi ka
kaam tha...

BULBBUL

Kyun? Aurat bhi to ho sakti hai...

SATYA

Kaun si aurat aisey kissi ki jaan
le sakti hai?

BINODINI O.S.

Badi bahu...

Bulbbul turns surprised as Binodini walks in

BINODINI

Aisa lagta hai kuch bhi nahin
badla... aap dono ek saath...
baaton mein guum...

Bulbbul gives a sweet smile

BULBBUL

Kaisey aana hua didi?

BINODINI

Oh satya ne bataya nahin? Inhone hi
to humey bulvaya hai... keh rahey
they... ke aap yahaan akeli hain...
din... raat... koyi bhi aa ja sakta
hai... fayda utha sakta hai...

Bulbbul looks at satya. Satya flushes

SATYA

Nahin voh... humney socha Mahendra
dada ki barsi bhi hai... to hum sab
ek saath... puja bhi to karni
hogi...

Bulbbul nods. Of course.

SERVING WOMAN (O.S.)

Kotwal babu aaye hain ma

Bulbbul starts to get up.

SATYA

Aa rahey hain...

He gets up.

She pauses.

SATYA O.S.

Ab hum aa gaye hain bhabhi... aap
aaraam kijiye...

Bulbbul watches him with narrowed eyes. Neither shocked. Nor
surprised. Just interested.

And not one to miss an opportunity; Binodini.

BINODINI
Jiska kaam ussi ko saaje...
thakurani ho thakur nahin...

Bulbbul turns to her.

BINODINI (CONT'D)
mera matlab kab tak sab kuch
karogey aap... akeley kitna kuch
sambhaal rahi ho... har samay thaki
thaki lagti ho... yeh rang... rang
hi aisa pehna hai... shayad...
saleti rang achha nahin lagta aap-
pe...

BULBBUL
Ab sab ki tumhaari jaisi kismat
kahaan didi... jo aisey berangi
saadey mein bhi achhi lagti ho...

Takes a moment. But it registers.

BINODINI O.S.
(sings)
Kolonkini radha

44 INT. BADI HAVELI BINODINI'S CORRIDOR - DAY

44

Binodini sits in the corridor looking at boxes of jewellery spread out. Binodini as she looks into her hand mirror. A serving woman oils her long beautiful hair.

Mahendra sits at her feet making a doll with a gondharaaj lime and a scrap of cloth. A creepy dehumanised doll in the hands of a creepy man. Binodini sings an old baul song about radha's indiscretions.

BINODINI
(sings)
Maayi hey... Kolonkini radha...
kothom gaasey uthiya aasey

And we see that she's actually looking beyond the mirror at 20 year old Bulbbul, who is peeping down.

BINODINI (CONT'D)
(sings)
kaanho haraamzaada

At Satya by the fountain.

BINODINI (CONT'D)
 (sings)
 maaye tohey zol na zaayo

Bulbbul turns to go.

BINODINI (CONT'D)
 (calling out)
 Oh badi bahu...

Bulbbul stops impatiently and looks at Binodini. Mahendra smiles at Bulbbul and is about to get up. But Binodini just presses down on his head keeping him in place.

BULBBUL
 Kya hai didi?

BINODINI
 Aao na... baitho... tumharey baalon
 mein jabba kusum ka teil lagatey
 hain...

BULBBUL
 Baad mein didi

And she turns to go away

BINODINI
 Naye gehney aaye hain... kuch chunn
 lo... ghar se bhi to itney kam
 laayi thi ke tayyaar ho kar bhi
 baasi baasi lagti ho... kahin log
 yeh na sochein ke badi bahu hum
 hain tum nahin...

BULBBUL
 Sochney do...

BINODINI
 Haan... aapko to fark hi nahin
 padhta ke log kya sochtey hain...

Bulbbul looks at her confused.

BINODINI (CONT'D)
 Humari maano... naye bichhuey to le
 hi lo... aapkey dheoley se ho gaye
 hain...

BULBBUL
 Baad mein?

She turns to go.

Binodini turns back to her mirror and goes back to preening.

BINODINI

Tch!

(starts singing again)

Kolonkini radha...

45 EXT. DINKAR'S BACKYARD - DAY

45

A group of women huddled in the corner. All of them being rudaalis.

Except this one woman, in the centre, with yellowing bruises, a bandage on her arm. Who is completely dry eyed.

Master Dinkar's Arthi is lifted.

MEN

Bol hari... hari bol... bol hari

28 year old Satya stands next to the KOTWAL.

SATYA

Shubashish... Kotwal honei ka kya fayda? Aaj tak itney khoon huey... aapko kissi pe shaq bhi nahin hua?

KOTWAL

Shaq se kuch nahin hota Choto Thakur... humara firangi kanoon saboot ko maanta hai...

46 EXT. FOREST - DAY

46

The sun sets over Satya's carriage as it stops at the crime scene.

Satya and Kotwal stand by the hangman tree. The cut vine. Dried blood on the ground.

They walk around. Sees dried blood splatters everywhere. On leaves. On grass. They follow the trail of blood. Each in another direction.

Satya, following the trail, comes into a clearing. With a pond. The blood trail leads right up to the pond. The pond where we saw Sudip last night.

Ah! Elementary!

47

INT. BADI HAVELI BINODINI'S ROOM VERANDAH - DAY

47

Binodini strokes her paan dabba.

BINODINI

Paan banaun?

Sudip ignores the offer.

SATYA

Bhabhi... Yeh doctor kab se hai
yahaan?

BINODINI

Badey thakur ke ghar chhorrney se
pehley hi aaye they...

SATYA

Bahut... bahut aana jaana hai?

BINODINI

Hum yahaan rehtey kahaan hai... jo
khabar hogi humein...

SATYA

Pehley jab aap sab they yahaan...
tab bhi aata tha doctor?

Binodini looks shifty-eyed. Satya reads it.

Bulbbul walks in with a covered thaali.

BINODINI

Aapki hi baat ho rahi thi...

Bulbbul raises her brows.

SATYA

Hum chaltey hain...

Bulbbul smiles. Satya walks away

BINODINI

Sudip ke baarey mein pooch rahey
they choto thakur...

Bulbbul looks at binodini

BINODINI (CONT'D)

Unko shaq hai doctor pe... par
aisey kaisey ho sakta hai... doctor
sudip to gaayein hain... gaayein...
choto thakur shayad aisey hi pooch
rahey they...

BULBBUL
 Aur tum apni do kaudi jodh rahi
 thi...

BINODINI
 Hum? Hum kahan? aap to jaanti ho...
 hum kabhie kissi ka bura na kehtey
 hain na sochtey hain na chahtey
 hain...

Bulbbul looks at binodini. Truly seeing her. Amused by her.

48

EXT. THE ORCHARD - DAY

48

20 year old Bulbbul at the swing with Mahendra.

Indranil is on the durrie with Binodini and Satya. A royal
 lazy sunlit picnic.

He watches his wife with a smile.

INDRANIL
 Bulbbul!

She smiles and gets off the swing. But Mahendra grabs her
 braid

MAHENDRA
 Khelo!

She extracts her hair from his hands

BULBBUL
 (gentle)
 Dada... na!

INDRANIL O.S.
 Mahen!

Mahendra lets go of the braid and then refuses to come with
 Bulbbul. She runs off towards Indranil and joins him.

INDRANIL
 Rooth gaya?

She nods

INDRANIL (CONT'D)
 Satya!

Satya gets up and runs towards mahendra.

Indranil smiles at Bulbbul

INDRANIL (CONT'D)

Khush?

She nods.

INDRANIL (CONT'D)

Maali se aapkey liye kachchey aam
tudwaaye hain...

She smiles.

INDRANIL (CONT'D)

Humarey liye chutney banana...
saarey khud namak mirch laga kar
mat kha jaana...

And all through this binodini watches this warm exchange with
growing discomfort. She interrupts them.

BINODINI

Paan?

He takes it and offers it to Bulbbul. This doesn't go down
well with Binodini

INDRANIL

(to Bulbbul)

Achha ek baat batao...

BINODINI

Rishtey ke baarey mein socha
aapney?

Indranil looks at her with a sigh

INDRANIL

Rishta?

BINODINI

Voh satya ke liye... bataya tha
na...

INDRANIL

Haan... Rishta to achha lagta hai

He turns again to Bulbbul

BINODINI

Choti bahu... aapko kya lagta hai?

Bulbbul looks confused. Indranil frowns.

INDRANIL

Choti bahu?

Binodini bites her tongue. Then titters.

BINODINI

Oh ho! Choti bahu to choto thakur
ki biwi ko kaheingey na...

She titters again

BINODINI (CONT'D)

Lagta hai paan mein kathaa zyada ho
gaya... zubaan phisal gayi... mera
matlab badi bahu tha... Batao badi
bahu... kar dein choto thakur ki
shaadi?

Indranil looks at her eyes narrowed.

INDRANIL

Inn se kya poochna hai?

Binodini titters again

BINODINI

Choto dada pe pehla haq to inka hai
na... doosri koyi layeingey... uss
sey pehley pooch letey hain
innse...

She laughs like it's all a big joke.

But not to Indranil.

49 INT. BADI HAVELI VERANDAH - DAY

49

20 year old Bulbbul brings tea up for Indranil. As he sits
pensive and lost.

BULBBUL

Ek baar satya se pooch letey

INDRANIL

Kya?

BULBBUL

Voh... binodini didi... rishtey ki
baat kar rahi thi...

INDRANIL

Aap khush nahin ho...

It's a statement. Not a question. She looks confused.

Suspicion rears its ugly head in his eyes. She looks at him too lost in her own loss to wonder what that look was.

50 INT. SUDIP'S HOUSE - DAY

50

Across the pond we see what we now know as Sudip's house.

SATYA O.S.

Hum seedhi saadi kahaani likhtey
hain aap ussey darraavni bana deti
ho...

20 year old Bulbbul is lost in her reverie.

SATYA O.S. (CONT'D)

Ab yeh pedh pe ladki ka bhoot
kahaan se aa gaya?

Satya comes to Bulbbul with the red notebook.

SATYA

Aapne likha hai... aap hi batao...

But she doesn't respond. He notices.

SATYA (CONT'D)

Aapkey maaikay ka jo ghar tha...
usska rang neela tha na?

Bulbbul nods, absentminded. He smiles.

SATYA (CONT'D)

To iss jagah ko neela rangwa detey
hain... waisey bhi purana lagnay
laga hai... aur issey dekh ke
maaikay ki yaad bhi nahin aayegi
aapko...

BULBBUL

(listless)

Kyun rangwana hai... theek to
hai...

SATYA

Yahaan baith ke likhtey hain...
sunder nahin lagna chahiye?

BULBBUL

Shaadi ke baad likhney ka samay
milega tumhey?

Satya looks blankly at Bulbbul.

BULBBUL (CONT'D)
Binodini didi rishta laayi hain
tumhaarey liye...

SATYA
Kaisa rishta?

BULBBUL
Shaadi ka... aur kiska...

He laughs

SATYA
Hum shaadi nahin karney waaley...

Bulbbul smiles

BULBBUL
Sab kartey hain

SATYA
Nahin... sadhu nahin kartey... baul
nahin kartey... ullu nahin
kartey...

He starts laughing. She giggles.

51 INT. TEMPLE - DAY

51

Indranil stands like a rock on which Binodini drips vitriol.
Drop by drop.

BINODINI
Choto dada ki galati nahin hai...
iss umar mein... hota hai... itna
samay saath bitaayeingey... hota
hai...

It works. Of course it does. And of course, she is delighted.
Almost crowing with victory.

52 INT. BADI HAVEL STUDY - DAY

52

20 year old Bulbbul and Satya sit in front of Indranil much
like two errant schoolchildren in front of the headmaster.

Indranil looks at her dusty feet.

INDRANIL
Jootey kyun nahin pehenti?

Bulbbul flushes.

Her feet, like tiny dusty scared mice, withdraw under her saree.

INDRANIL (CONT'D)
Sikha sikha ke thak gaye...

She looks down chastised.

Indranil looks at Satya.

INDRANIL (CONT'D)
Tumhaarey Landan jaaney ki taiyyari
kar rahey hain hum...

Bulbbul's eyes fly to Indranil in shock. This is news to her obviously

INDRANIL (CONT'D)
Khush?

Satya nods

INDRANIL (CONT'D)
kalkatta se garam kapedey banwa
deingein... wahaan barf padhti
hai...

BULBBUL
Landan?

INDRANIL
Aapko yaad nahin? Humney kaha tha
na Satya Landan jayega... vakaalat
padhney...
(to satya)
Sirf padhaayi hi nahin... khoob
ghoomna... sab dekhna... aur humey
likh ke sab bataana...

BULBBUL
Haan par abhi? abhi ja rahey
hain...

INDRANIL
Abhi kahan... pujo ke baad
bhejeingey...

SATYA
Aap bhi chalo na dada...

INDRANIL
Abhi kahaan... baad mein aayeingey
hum...

BULBBUL

Par Thakurmoshai... Pujo mein to
sirf teen maheeney hain... itni
taiyyari... aur sab kuch... kaisey
hoga itni jaldi...

INDRANIL

Kaunsa aapney samaan baandhna hai
inka...

BULBBUL

(to herself)

Bas teen maheeney...

53

EXT. BADI HAVELI COURTYARD - DAY

53

Satya holds out a red notebook to 20 year old Bulbbul.

SATYA

(murmurs)

Apna hissa likh diya bhabhi... ab
aapki baari hai... poora kar do...

She looks at the red notebook in his hands. She takes it from
his unresisting fingers.

BULBBUL

Kaisey poori hogi kahaani...

SATYA

(almost trying to convince
himself)

Abhi to samay hai...

She shakes her head

BULBBUL

voh taalaab ke paas wala ghar...
uska kya hoga... voh to tum
rangwaaney waaley they na...

SATYA

Jaaney se pehley... jaaney se
pehley taiyyaar kar doonga... phir
aap wahaan baith ke likhna...

BULBBUL

Mujhey wahaan akeley darr lagta
hai...

(softly)

Mujhey yahaan akeley darr lagta
hai... Mujhsey kaun baat karega...
main kis se...

She can't go on

SATYA
Roz chithhi likheingey aapko...
jaldi aa jaayeingey...

BULBBUL
Nahin aaye to? To?

She gets tears in her eyes.

They stand in front of each other. Not touching. Not saying anything. But the loss and the heartbreak is palpable.

And that moment. That moment is seen by Indranil. His face washed with the taint of the bitter taste in his mouth.

54 INT. BULBBUL'S ROOM - NIGHT

54

20 year old Bulbbul enters the moonlit room. She looks at the notebook in her hands. Lost and sad. She opens it and leafs through it. The pages a dull white in the moonlight.

INDRANIL (O.S.)
Batti to jalaa do...

She jumps and hides the notebook behind her

INDRANIL (CONT'D)
Kya hai voh?

She pushes the notebook further into her pallu.

BULBBUL
Kuch nahin...

INDRANIL
Mann mein chor hai Bulbbul?

She shakes her head.

BULBBUL
Nahin... yeh to aisey hi... kuch...
mera niji...

His jaw clenches.

INDRANIL
Niji? Ek patni ka usskey pati ke
ilava aur kya niji hota hai?

She flushes. To hide her confusion she lights the lamp. To illuminate Indranil and his packed bag.

INDRANIL (CONT'D)
Hum Kalkatta ja rahey hain...

But it is obvious that it is not of any import to her. Till

INDRANIL (CONT'D)
Satya ke saath

And now. There it is. The reaction.

BULBBUL
Kyun? Satya ke saath kyun?

INDRANIL
(calm)
Usskey port ke kaagaz banwaaney
hain...

He picks up his bag and walks out. With each step his face darkening.

And she stands there looking bereft. Foolish child.

55 INT. BADI HAVELI BULBBUL'S ROOM - DAY 55

20 year old Bulbbul looks out of the window. Sad. Still. Almost as if she has been paused. She is frozen in that moment of waiting as day turns to night to day again.

And then she hears the clip clop of a carriage arriving.

She unfreezes. She runs from the window.

56 INT. BADI HAVELI ENTRANCE - DAY6 56

20 year old Bulbbul runs out as Indranil walks up the steps. Sans satya. She looks confused. Indranil walks up and past her without breaking step.

BULBBUL
Satya?

INDRANIL
Ussey humney landan bhej diya...

She shakes her head in denial. Not able to hide her loss and grief anymore.

57

INT. BULBBUL'S ROOM - NIGHT

57

Indranil stands by the red notebook. Wrestling with the possibility of betrayal. But doesn't have it in him to have it confirmed.

He walks away from it. Towards a sleeping 20 year old Bulbbul. His child bride.

He turns away from her as well.

Bulbbul opens her eyes. She looks like a part of her is missing.

With an effort of will she sits up.

Bulbbul walks around like she doesn't know what to do with herself. She sees the red notebook. She picks it up. Clutches at it like it is a lifeline and she the drowning one.

Bulbbul lets out a moan and collapses on the floor. She rocks in her grief. She looks at the notebook in her hands and starts to tear its pages out. Till in a frenzy it is all but destroyed. She flings it into the unlit fireplace.

Shaking hands light a flint.

She burns the notebook. And as it begins to burn she shakes her head

BULBBUL

(sobs)

Nahin

And tries to save the burning notebook.

Too hot. Too hot.

She withdraws her red ash covered hands. And gives in to her grief.

58

INT. BINODINI'S ROOM - NIGHT

58

We enter Binodini's room.

Indranil/Mahendra on the bed.

Binodini. Her hair open. Her walk languid. As she brings him a drink.

She sits next to him.

BINODINI
Badi bahu ka kya haal hai?

He looks at Binodini. Ah. Indranil. It is Indranil.
Undeniably Indranil.

BINODINI (CONT'D)
Poochney ki zaroorat nahin
waisey... kope bhavan mein hi
honghi... shoke manaa rahi hogi...

A hit. A veritable hit. Indranil brushes her aside, gets up abruptly and leaves.

Binodini looks pleased with herself. The little bitch.

59 INT. BULBBUL'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS 59
Smears of ash. Stains of tears. Bulbbul slips into the water.

60 INT. BADI HAVELI BULBBUL'S ROOM - NIGHT 60
Indranil walks in. He sees the empty room and frowns. He sniffs. Looks around. And then towards the fireplace.
He strides towards the fireplace. There is sweat on his brow as he leans in towards the fireplace. It is still smoking slightly.
He stirs the ashes with the poker. Bits of writing smoulder. Their names written in ink. Burning. Burning.
He gets up. Turns. A marionette to his righteous betrayal. He follows the trail from the fireplace to the door of the bathroom, first with his eyes. Then with the poker.

61 INT. BULBBUL'S BATHROOM - NIGHT 61
Eyes closed, Bulbbul's face is bathed in moonlight. Her body cupped and held by a claw-footed tub.
Indranil enters.
He stands over her. Looming large. His face wrecked with grief betrayal regret.
There is almost a sense of tenderness as he reaches out to her.
He grabs her hair. Her eyes open. Confused and lost.

He yanks her out. She cries out in pain.

Her feet. Wrapped in silver. Struggle for purchase. To no avail. Splashing slipping sliding in the marble-held water.

He throws her on the floor like a useless rag.

She lands. Wet. Vulnerable.

Breathless with rage he looks down at her. Doesn't say a word. Thunder growls instead.

She looks up at him. Eyes widened in shock. Like a child who doesn't know why it is being punished.

He raises the poker. Face twisted like a mythic bestial being.

It looks like the poker will take a lifetime to go up. The poker sings as it cuts the air. As it goes up. Up. Up. And then it comes DOWN. Rise and fall AGAIN.

And then. All we see is her face. All we see is the pain. All we see is incomprehension.

Lightening billows. As drops of rubies fly. Fall. Slowly. Sparkling.

Her face pale. Her cry trapped. She jerks like a puppet. The string of iron. Pulled by her unseen puppeteer.

Her eyes. They ask us why this is happening. Eyes that start looking beyond us. Faraway now.

Her eyes. Her eyes.

The light leaves her. Only the merciful darkness remains. In her eyes. On the screen.

62

INT. BADI HAVELI BULBBUL'S ROOM - DAY

62

A bowl of bloodied water. A twisted piece of a silver wire, covered in blood, is held in the jaws of the plier. It drops with a dull clink into a ceramic bowl. It looks like it could have been a toe ring.

Sudip wipes his brow with his sleeve. He is looking grim. His mouth tight. He holds the plier firmly. Adjusting his grip.

He takes a calming breath and gets a look of extreme concentration on his face.

And PLINK the other toe ring.

And then just his capable hands and needle and a progressively bloody thread and swathes of white bandages and bamboo splints.

He stands up. A nerve jumps in his temple.

63 EXT. BADI HAVELI - DAY

63

The rain that had been threatening to come, has arrived.

A man covered in a tarpaulin, runs with a trunk to the entrance of the haveli.

64 EXT. BADI HAVELI BULBBUL'S VERANDAH - CONTINUOUS

64

Indranil stands and watches the rain. He holds an umbrella in his hand, like a walking stick. There is an air of impatience about him. Looks like he wants to be off.

BINODINI O.S.

Jaana zaroori hai?

Indranil doesn't look at her. A faraway look in his eyes.

INDRANIL

(Murmurs)

Yahaan kuch nahin hai humarey
liye...

Yes. She's nothing. And that realisation is there on her face.

BINODINI

Laut ke kab aayeingey?

Indranil is silent for a beat

INDRANIL

(Softly)

Chinta mat karo... Hum paisey
bhejtey raheingey...

Just then Sudip comes up to them.

SUDIP

Abhi tak hosh nahin aaya hai...
Mainey patti kar di hai... Par...

He takes a deep breath

SUDIP (CONT'D)

Par Unkey pair... Pata nahin...

He can't seem to go on.

INDRANIL
Seedhiyon se girr gayi thi...

SUDIP
(Softly)
Seedhiyon se girr gayi thi?

Without looking at sudip, Indranil turns to go

INDRANIL
Doctor babu ko unkey kaam ke paisey
de dena... Saath mein thodi
baksheesh...

Sudip's eyes flicker at that. Indranil walks off down the steps, his umbrella unfurled.

Binodini watches him leave.

65 INT. BADI HAVELI VARIOUS 65

20 year old Bulbbul crawls. Forming unforming like a nightmare.

She drags herself on the floor. Towards us. Towards consolation. But she doesn't get it. We keep distancing ourselves from this, don't we?

66 INT. BADI HAVELI BULBBUL'S ROOM - NIGHT 66

Bulbbul's eyes fly open and she SCREAMS.

Her body twisting in pain.

And that's when we see her feet.

Suspended shapeless. But that could be the bandages.

Blood and bruises blossom on her body.

67 INT. BADI HAVELI - NIGHT 67

Bulbbul's cry echoes through the moonlit haveli. The scream dies in a hiccuping sob.

68 INT. BADI HAVELI SATYA'S ROOM - NIGHT 68

Satya wakes up as there is banging on the front door.

Satya strides to the door.

69 INT. BADI HAVELI - NIGHT

69

Satya steps out. The kotwal strides to him in urgency.

KOTWAL

Maaf kijiye choto thakur... par...
ek aur khoon hua hai...

70 EXT. GOWRINATH'S BOWER - NIGHT

70

The dead body of a man in his 60s; GOWRINATH floats in a bathtub. The water post-massacre bloody.

KOTWAL (O.S.)

Ek gawah bhi hai...

28 year old Satya can't seem to pull his eyes away from the bloody bathtub.

KOTWAL (CONT'D)

Ek choti ladki hai... Bechaari...
keh rahi thi ke...

He stops. Now satya looks at him.

SATYA

(impatient)

Kya?

KOTWAL

Kali ma ne maara...

Satya looks annoyed

SATYA

Baat karao humari uss se...

KOTWAL

Abhi to hosh nahin hai... doctor ne
ussey neend ki dawaayi di hai...

SATYA

Doctor? Kaun doctor?

KOTWAL

Doctor sudip... kismat se voh yahin
kissi mareez ko dekhney aaye
they...

Satya's face becomes set. He looks down at the tub again. And Gowrinath's floating body.

71 INT. BADI HAVELI STUDY - DAY 71

A roll of vellum is unrolled in front of Satya. With the bloodied tub illustrated on it. A crime report.

Another illustration. Another report.

Of Satya's bed with Mahendra's body on it.

Satya looks at a signature at the bottom of the page.

SATYA
Yeh hastakshar...

KOTWAL
Doctor Sudip ke hain... vohi aaye
they... moyena karney...

Satya nods. He keeps the next report in front of himself.

An illustration of a tree. With a creeper hanging. And on it. Hangman-like. Only upside down. Master Dinkar's body.

72 INT. SUDIP'S HOUSE - NIGHT 72

Bulbbul is standing on the veranda. Sudip walks in. He stops short.

She takes a drag from a bidi.

SUDIP
Chor!

She smiles.

BULBBUL
Jurmaana hai... Pichhley kuch dinon
se milney nahin aaye...

SUDIP
Nahin... Mainey socha... satya
thakur aaye huey hain... aap vyast
honghi...

BULBBUL
Kahaan... vyast to voh hain... naya
shauk chadha hai unhey... voh...
voh kaun si kahaani sunaatey they
tum mujhey... jasoosi...

SUDIP
Sherlock...

BULBBUL
To aaj kal satya thakur sherlock
hain...

Sudip looks amused

BULBBUL (CONT'D)
Mazaak nahin hai... unko to aap pe
bhi shaq hai... Waisey tinkey jitna
sach nahin jismein... uss shaq se
kya darrna...

SUDIP
Kis baat ka shaq hai usspe nirbhar
karta hai...

Bulbbul looks at him

SUDIP (CONT'D)
Koyi ummeed nahin kar raha... voh
kya hai na pahunch ke bahut baahar
ho... isliye lakeerein kheinchta
rehta hoon... khud ko thoda sa
bachaaney ke liye...

BULBBUL
Darrpoke

SUDIP
Bahut...

A moment. The look. An unsaid understanding.

73 EXT. SUDIP'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

73

From across the pond. The house lit like a warm cocoon and in
it Bulbbul and Sudip.

28 year old Satya watches.

Even from this distance you can sense the moment.

74 INT. BADI HAVELI STUDY - NIGHT

74

28 year old Satya stands over the crime reports. Looking
blindly at them.

BULBBUL (O.S.)
Kya hain yeh kaagaz?

He looks up. Bulbbul stands by the door.

He picks up his box of cheroots and walks up to her.

SATYA

Kahaani hai... darraavni kahaani...
sunogi?

He flips open the box and offers it to Bulbbul. Ah!

Bulbbul looks at him. She takes a cheroot and lights it for her.

She sits down. Ready for storytelling.

SATYA (CONT'D)

Ek admi... sheher se gaon aata
hai... aur achhaanak gaon mein logon
ki hatya honey lagti hai... par yeh
darraavna modh nahin hai kahaani
ka... Ek ladki usskey jaal mein
phass jaati hai... aisa phassti hai
ke ussey na apni sudh budh rehti
hai na sahi galat ki... na sharm ki
na maryaada ki... na apney pati
ki... aur phir Uss ladki ka pati
ussey chhorr deta hai...

BULBBUL

Kaafi achhi kahaani hai

Satya's tough act breaks. He looks at her entreatingly

SATYA

Bas bhabhi... bahut ho gaya...
galati ho gayi aapsey... maan
leingey... aap akeli thi... samajh
nahin thi... aur uss sudip ne aapka
fayda uthaya...

Bulbbul looks at him wide-eyed and bursts into helpless laughter.

Satya looks at her shocked

BULBBUL

saaf saaf yeh kyun nahin kehtey
sudip se jaltey ho...

SATYA

Usska naam mat lo bhabhi...

BULBBUL
(murmurs)
Sudip....

SATYA
Bhabhi

BULBBUL
Sudip...

SATYA
Bas

BULBBUL
Sudip....

He stands up. Hands clenched. Rage fighting torment.

She doesn't flinch.

He sighs. Unclenches his hands.

SATYA
Kitni badal gayi ho...

Bulbbul doesn't say anything.

SATYA (CONT'D)
Humney indranil dada ko chithhi
likhi hai... poochhney ke liye...
ke aapkey saath kya kiya jaaye...
voh shaayad aapko waapas na lein...
to aapko aapkey maaikay bhej dena
hi theek hoga... jo bhi ho... ab
aapka faisla vohi kareingey...

Beyond anger lies a world of disappointment. And we see it in her eyes.

BULBBUL
Tum sab ek jaisey ho...

And she walks away.

75

INT. BADI HAVELI BULBBUL'S BATHROOM/CORRIDOR/BEDROOM

75

From one tragedy to the next. From one crime scene to the next. From the bathroom where Indranil still stands to Bulbbul who bears witness to him and then to Mahendra standing over her.

76

INT. BADI HAVELI BULBBUL'S ROOM - NIGHT

76

20 year old Bulbbul moans. Her face grey with pain. Damp tendrils of hair on her temple.

Mahendra keeps a doll next to her.

Bandaged and broken, Bulbul seems to be in a fevered delirium.

He pats her unresponsive face.

MAHENDRA
(Softly)
Gudiya...

Her lids flutter open. From her point of view we see a blurred, hazy image of the man.

BULBBUL
Thakurmoshai...

Her eyes flutter close.

Mahendra leans to her.

MAHENDRA
Khelo....

She seems to be slipping back into her unconscious state.

His hand moves from her brow to her face. He strokes both sides of her face clumsily.

MAHENDRA (CONT'D)
Khelo...

She is clammy and unconscious. Her breathing shallow. Her lips dry.

He giggles.

He climbs on top of her.

With a gasp she opens her eyes. For a split second there is incomprehension.

He still wants to play. She still tries to entreat. Like she is talking to her favourite child.

BULBBUL
Dada... na...

But the child of the mind is overridden by the man in the body.

He enters her.

Her eyes widen in fear, shock, hate, pain. She opens her mouth to scream.

He covers her mouth.

She struggles. She twists. She fights.

We see her bandaged twisted feet useless against his legs that are pinning her down.

We can hear the silent scream in her eyes. In her wide feverish gaze.

Her eyes turn glassy.

Her eyes open. Her body moves, like a rag doll, with his thrusts.

Blood blossoms on her feet. And then drips off them. Her splints broken. Her feet distorted and dangling.

Her eyes seem to lose their light.

And then he's done. He collapses on her with his full weight. He lies there spent. Sweaty.

He looks at her face. She is grey. Her eyes are open. Marble-like. He slowly loosens his hand around her mouth. No sound comes from her. He lifts his hand. She is silent and lifeless.

MAHENDRA

Utho!

He looks at her pale form, a little scared.

MAHENDRA (CONT'D)

Utho!

He shakes her like a doll that won't play anymore. But to no avail.

He whimpers. The toy has broken.

With a moan he steps back from the bed. She lies there open-eyed. He runs out of the room stumbling.

77 EXT. BADI HAVELI KALI TEMPLE - NIGHT 77
The temple. The moon. Quiet like Bulbbul.

78 INT. BADI HAVELI BULBBUL'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS 78
Bulbbul's pale frail dead body lies there. Thrown carelessly after play.

79 INT. BADI HAVELI CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS 79
Mahendra runs. Stumbling. Slipping. Falling.

80 EXT. BADI HAVELI KALI TEMPLE - NIGHT 80
And the moon goes into eclipse. Darkness falls. The blood moon rises.

81 INT. BADI HAVELI BULBBUL'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS 81
The bloodied moonlight washes over Bulbbul's face.

82 INT. BADI HAVELI BULBBUL'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS 82
It crawls over the doll that mahendra dropped on the floor. A creepy lifeless thing.

83 INT. BADI HAVELI CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS 83
It catches up with a frightened Mahendra.

84 INT. BADI HAVELI KALI TEMPLE - CONTINUOUS 84
The Kali idol stands in the shadows. Her face lit rage-red. A wind. A breath. Escapes from the temple.

85 INT. BADI HAVELI BULBBUL'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS 85
The wind ripples over Bulbbul's body.
She seems to suck in the wind into her lungs till her body arches.
And then she screams. Not with pain. But in rage.

86

INT. BADI HAVELI BINODINI'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

86

Binodini jackknives up from her bed. The bloodcurdling scream continues. She looks to her side. The bed is empty. She goes pale.

Mahendra stumbles in through the door

BINODINI

(silent)

Kahaan they

He gets a scared sly look

MAHENDRA

(silent)

toot gayi

BINODINI

(silent)

kaun? Kya?

He gets into bed with his back to Binodini.

Binodini clutches at his shoulder.

BINODINI (CONT'D)

(silent)

Mahendra! Main kuch poochh rahi
hoon...

MAHENDRA

(silent)

Toot gayi...

He scrunches his eyes tight.

She looks at him pale and scared. And another SCREAM.

87

INT. BADI HAVELI BULBBUL'S ROOM - NIGHT

87

Binodini walks in. And with her. The morning.

She walks up to Bulbbul's bed.

She takes the washcloth from the bowl of water. And first
wipes Bulbbul's stained face.

BINODINI

(murmurs)

Thakuron ke yahaan rishta hua
hai... kaisa rona dhona... chup
rehna...

As she talks. She keeps cleaning Bulbbul. Her face. Her legs. Her bruises. Her blood. She cleans her and dresses her as she speaks.

BINODINI (CONT'D)

Thoda paagal hai... par shaadi ke
baad theek ho jayega... thoda
paagal hai... par thakur hai...
thoda paagal hai... par gehney
mileingey... resham milega... izzat
milegi... thoda paagal hai...
par... uss se nahin to usskey bhai
se... sab milega... chup rehna...

Bulbbul looks at Binodini. Slowly cold assessment is replaced by understanding. By empathy.

Binodini puts the finishing touches. She pinches Bulbbul's cheeks to bring some colour to them. She opens a pan from her paan box and dabs Bulbbul's split lip with some kathhaa.

Binodini has her all ready. She can't do anything about the feet. So she just throws a sheet over them. Now Bulbbul is all cleaned up. All visible signs of the night removed. And only then Binodini looks at Bulbbul directly.

BINODINI (CONT'D)

Badi haveliyon mein badey raaz
hotay hain... aur hum auraton ka
kaam hai... khud ke saath saath in
raaz ko bhi pardon mein dhaank ke
rakhna... Chup rehna

88 INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

88

Binodini bumps into Sudip.

SUDIP

Kaisi tabiyat hai?

BINODINI

Hosh aa gaya...

She rushes away.

He looks relieved.

89 INT. BULBBUL'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

89

Sudip enters.

He sees the empty slings and runs to the foot of the bed.

The bandages are almost undone and completely bloody.

Sudip turns to Bulbbul and looks at her with compassion.

SUDIP

Kya hua... kaisey...

She doesn't say anything. He turns to his bag.

SUDIP (CONT'D)

kitni baar kahaa hai sabse... koyi
haath na lagaye...

His voice trails off. As he sees fresh dark clotting blood trail down her inner thigh.

SUDIP (CONT'D)

Yeh...

The state of her and now this red evidence.

SUDIP (CONT'D)

Yeh kissney kiya...

She doesn't say a word.

He moves to her bedside. A gentle reassuring move.

SUDIP (CONT'D)

Main aapka doctor hoon... aap
mujhey bataa saktey hain...

BULBBUL

Pattiyaan baandho... aur jao...

And she closes her eyes. Leaving him looking powerless.

90

INT. BADI HAVELI BULBBUL'S ROOM - NIGHT

90

Bulbbul looks out of her window at the moonlit kali temple with a peaceful look on her face.

BINODINI O.S.

Puja ki tayyaari ho gayi

Bulbbul turns. Binodini stands by the door.

BULBBUL

(blank)

Puja?

BINODINI

Mahendra ki barsi ki puja...

BULBBUL

Oh... kaisey bhool sakti hoon...
yeh din hum dono ke liye kitna
khaas hai...

And Binodini, in that moment, recognises the truth of that statement.

91 EXT. SUDIP'S HOUSE - NIGHT

91

Sudip looks up. Satya stands there pointing a rifle at him.

Sudip looks at satya wooden

SATYA

Pehli baar jab tumsey miley they...
tab hi goli maar deney ka mann kiya
tha... ab samajh aaya kyun...

Sudip almost looks amused. Not a good idea. Satya's finger curls around the trigger. Sudip raises his brows. Satya relaxes his finger.

SATYA (CONT'D)

Fikr mat karo... hum kuch nahin
kareingey... aapka faisla kalkathey
ki kachehri mein hoga ab...

92 INT. BADI HAVELI KALI TEMPLE - NIGHT

92

The entire temple is lit up for the pooja. People have gathered to take part in the rituals. Bulbbul and Binodini enter the temple. And for the first time they look in synch. Connected. Even if it is by a common twisted history.

As they walk in Bulbbul sees Gaadiwan's Son. He looks grief stricken.

She frowns. Goes up to him

GAADIWAAN'S SON

(all he can manage)

Ma...

And he bursts into tears.

93 EXT. BADI HAVELI WELL - NIGHT

93

Gaadiwan's older wife floats in a well. Bulbbul's silhouette pinned to the circle of light above her.

BULBBUL
Kahaan hai tumhara pita...

GAADIWAN'S SON
Voh Satya thakur ko le kar gaye
hain...

BULBBUL
Kahaan?

94 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

94

The gaadiwaan whips the horses. Satya's closed carriage moves through the mist-infected woods.

95 INT. CARRIAGE - NIGHT

95

Inside the cart. Satya sits with the rifle across his knees. Sudip sits calmly. Satya watches him hawk-eyed.

Sudip leans his head back and closes his eyes. Relaxed.

SATYA
Darr nahin lagta...

Sudip opens his eyes and looks at him

SUDIP
Kis se?

SATYA
Gunah kartey ho... parinaam se...

Sudip deigns not to answer.

SATYA (CONT'D)
Sochtey ho bach jaogey...

SUDIP
Agar kanoon pe nirbhar karta hai..
To haan...

SATYA
To hum bina matlab ke tumharey
saath aisa kar rahey hain? Humey
Shaq hai...

SUDIP
Shaq aapko kissi aur cheez ka
hai... Sazaa aap kissi aur cheez ki
dena chahtey hain...

SATYA
Saza to milegi...
(chuckles)
Ab to bas tum tab hi bach paogey
agar humaarey saamney churail aa
khadi ho...

A thump on top of the carriage. Satya looks up surprised.
Sudip's eyes fly open. He sits up.
Satya looks at Sudip. Sudip looks worried.
The horses leap forward catching speed.
Satya and Sudip jerk with the sudden speed of the carriage.
Satya looks irritated. Sudip worried.
Satya bangs on the carriage roof.

SATYA (CONT'D)
(Calling out)
Araam se chalao!!

Almost instantly the gaadi seems to slow down. Satya looks satisfied and settles back.

Sudip is tense.

The gaadi slows down further. Then it draws to a halt.

Satya frowns. He bangs on the carriage front.

SATYA (CONT'D)
(Calling out)
Gaadiwan! Kya hua?

There is no answer from outside. Satya bangs on the front again.

Sudip looks at him very worried.

Satya looks really irritated. He moves to open the door.

Sudip grabs his arm.

SUDIP
Choto Thakur... Mat jayiye baahar.

He opens the carriage door. Looks at Sudip warningly.

SATYA
Hillna mat... Nahin to goli maar
Deingey...

He bangs the door shut on sudip's tense face

SATYA O.S.
Gaadiwan!

96 EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

96

Satya moves to the front of the carriage.

The gaadiwan sits stock still. Looking down.

Satya pokes him angrily with the rifle.

SATYA
So Gaya Kya?

The gaadiwan just slides off his perch. And falls lifeless at Satya's feet.

Satya gasps and moves back.

The light of the carriage lamp falls on him. He is covered in blood. And very dead.

Satya looks at him in incomprehension. Then shock. He looks at the closed carriage door and then down to the dead body.

The wind rustles through the trees up ahead. Satya looks ahead. The blood drains from his face.

She is standing there.

In shadows. In mist.

Satya raises the rifle in his shaking hands.

He fires.

She laughs throatily. Mockingly. And then the mist cloaks her.

He runs towards her.

97 INT. CARRIAGE - CONTINUOUS

97

Sudip reacts to the gunshot.

He jumps out.

98

EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS

98

Sudip can't see Satya. He can only hear gunshots in the mist.

And then. He feels something or someone perhaps.

He turns.

It is Bulbbul. Blood soaked. Feet twisted Bulbbul.

And in a flash we see.

The broken twisted feet as Sudip ties the bandages.

The feet after binodini leaves the room.

The scarred healing feet twisting as Sudip holds them.

SUDIP (O.S.)

Dhyaan nahin dogi to mudhtey
raheingey... phir theek kaisey
hogi?

99

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

99

Mist swirls around Bulbbul. She clutches at her side. Where she is bleeding from a gunshot wound. Sudip's shock is overridden by concern. He makes a move as if to go to her.

Running footsteps approach the two of them. They both look in that direction.

Satya comes running back through the mist.

Sudip looks to where Bulbbul was. But she's no longer there.

Satya looks at Sudip blankly.

SATYA

Voh... Voh thi....

Satya shakes his head. Dealing with this.

SATYA (CONT'D)

Churail hai...

Sudip doesn't say anything.

SATYA (CONT'D)

Humey ussey dhoondna padhega

SUDIP

Haveli wapas jayiye choto Thakur

SATYA
(Shocked)
Kya??

SUDIP
(Calmly)
Haveli wapas jayiye...

SATYA
Kyun? Hum darrtey nahin hain...
tumhey darr lagta hai to tum ja
saktey ho... waisey bhi nirdosh
ho... ja saktey ho...

Sudip looks sadly at Satya.

Satya unhooks the burning torch from the carriage.

Sudip looks at him worried.

SUDIP
Kya kar rahey ho?

SATYA
Uska shikar...

Sudip turns pale.

Sudip runs behind him and tries to wrest the rifle away from him.

Sudip hits Satya unafraid. He twists his arm. The flames dangerously close to his face.

As an ember falls from the torch to the ground. Lighting the kindling like dry winter undergrowth.

SATYA (CONT'D)
Kyun bachaaney ki koshish kar rahey
ho?
(Angrily)
Kya lagti hai voh tumhari?

SUDIP
(Quietly)
Meri to achhi dost hai
Par aapki... Aapki to sab kuch thi
aapki bhabhi...

And in a split second Satya punches Sudip. Hard. The thrown punch drowns out the last word that sudip says.

Sudip falls to the ground.

Satya runs with the mashaal.

100 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT 100

Up in the trees ahead. Bulbbul clutches at a branch. She is making her way ahead. But there is none of her former grace. She is clumsy. Slow.

Flames ignite the undergrowth.

The fire snakes through the forest.

101 EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS 101

Sudip catches up with Satya.

Satya hits him again. But this time Sudip hits back.

Satya swings the burning mashaal at Sudip. Singes him.

They fall to the ground. The fire spreads all over the ground.

SATYA

Ek raakshas se itna lagaav?

SUDIP

Rakshas nahin hai voh... devi
hai...

As he knocks out satya and extinguishes the torch.

102 EXT. FOREST ELSEWHERE - CONTINUOUS 102

Bulbbul moves laboriously through the trees. The fire spreading and roaring.

103 I/E. SATYA'S ROOM/ GOWRINATH'S BOWER/FOREST - NIGHT 103

Bulbbul dips down snarling, down on Mahendra's throat.

Blood pumps out of the deadly gash.

Gowrinath shushes the little girl.

Gowrinath strokes her face. He shushes her again.

Behind him Bulbbul the churail puts a finger on her lips. Then snarls and attacks gowrinath.

Blood sprays up. The girl screams.

Bulbbul takes the little blood-covered girl in her arms and rocks her and kisses her.

The girl clutches on to Bulbbul like a lifeline. As blood falls on them in a fine mist. Both Bulbbul and the girl cry.

Bulbbul drags bleeding dinkar through the forest floor to the hangman tree.

104 EXT. FOREST ELSEWHERE - CONTINUOUS 104

On the trees. Bulbbul pauses. Her head jerks around. Her eyes widen in shock.

The flames are racing towards her.

Bulbbul runs.

105 EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS 105

Sudip runs.

The flames run. Spread. Roar.

106 EXT. FOREST ELSEWHERE - CONTINUOUS 106

Bulbbul is weak. She is gasping. She is trying to get to the edge of the forest.

She misses her footing.

Goes crashing through the branches.

Lets out a cry. Like a bird. A small sound of pain.

107 EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS 107

Sudip reacts. It's coming from ahead. No behind.

SUDIP

BADI BAHU

108 EXT. FOREST ELSEWHERE - CONTINUOUS 108

The trees around Bulbbul begin to burn. She gets up and runs. Trying to outrun the fire. She climbs a cool dark tree. The fire chases her on the tree.

She runs.

She crawls.

She crouches.

She leaps.

109 EXT. FOREST EDGE - NIGHT 109

Sudip breaks through a dense patch of trees only to come out into the open. The forest has ended.

Satya follows.

Sudip looks at trees made of fire.

SUDIP
Yeh Kya Kiya...

110 EXT. FOREST - CONTINUOUS 110

Sudip looks at the wall of flame in front of him in horror

Satya smiles, victorious.

Sudip runs towards the burning forest.

111 EXT. FOREST EDGE - CONTINUOUS 111

Satya smiles and turns away from the burning forest. His job is done.

And then. From the flames. Sudip's voice.

SUDIP O.S.
BADI BAHU!!!!

Satya stops. He freezes.

Satya shakes his head. His eyes register shock. Disbelief. He whips around to the inferno.

The two children. Run, carefree and golden, through the past through the trees.

LITTLE BULBBUL O.S.
ek do... teen chaar.... Paanch
chhe...

Horror. Grief. Tears. In satya's eyes.

Satya screams and runs towards the burning forest.

He is not able to even enter the wall of fire.

Silence on satya's scream.

Fire. Smoke. Ash. Ash floats and falls on Satya's face like teardrops.

112 EXT. FOREST- NIGHT 112

Bulbbul, surrounded by flames, crouches on a tree. Like a child, holding her knees to her chest.

113 I/E. VARIOUS 113

Little Bulbbul is carried to Indranil at the mandap.

Little Bulbbul sees little satya through the paan leaves.

Little Bulbbul looks up at the big big house.

114 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT 114

The flames dance. Each whirl taking it closer to Bulbbul. Enveloping her in the last embrace.

115 EXT. FOREST - DAY 115

Morning comes to the forest. We wonder why. There is nothing to see. It's a dead Blackened burnt forest.

116 EXT. BADI HAVELI COURTYARD - DAY 116

Surrounding a dead house. The walls faded and forgotten.

The gardens overgrown.

The fountain empty.

SATYA (V.O.)

Thakur dada... humesha sochtey
thhey badey ho kar aap se
baneingey... par aaj yeh ghar
chhorh ke ja rahey hain...

Indranil. Hair is almost completely grey. The last few years don't seem to have agreed with the bastard.

He walks in.

SATYA (V.O.)

Issi darr se... kahin aap se na
bann jayein... iss darr se... ke
kahin aap se... bann hi gaye
hain... ab koyi fark nahin hum sab
mein... ab sach mein khoon ka
rishta hai hum sab ka... vohi khoon
jis se hum sab ke haath rangey
hain...

As he walks the light gets leached out of the world.

117 EXT. BADI HAVELI - DAY/NIGHT 117

The sun sets on the haveli as indranil enters it. As the door shuts the moon rises.

The wind sighs.

118 INT. BADI HAVELI BULBBUL'S ROOM - NIGHT 118

Indranil sleeps in Bulbbul's bed.

Outside the wind is really making the leaves rustle. The only thing is, there are no trees. And yet, they rustle.

Indranil sleeps. Oblivious.

The wind stops sighing. The leaves stop rustling. There is silence.

BULBBUL (V.O.)

(whisper)

Thakur moshai

Indranil's eyes open.

INDRANIL

(Disoriented)

Kaun hai?

A chuckle. Her chuckle. Pleased. Girlish. Maybe even a little coy.

Another breath of wind, swirling ash around, taking the shape of her body. White hot ash body. With a heart of burning ember.

A terrified Indranil can barely wrap his brain around what he is seeing.

And she forms. Living breathing glowing beautiful powerful Bulbbul. With fire in her veins. And a smile on her lips.

A yodel to welcome the bride home.

FADE TO BLACK.