

The Claustrophobia

WHERE FEAR LEARNS TO BREATHE

HARSHIT S

ANJALI KESWANI



BlueRoseONE^{.com}
S t o r i e s M a t t e r

New Delhi • London

BLUEROSE PUBLISHERS

India | U.K.

Copyright © Harshit S, Anjali Keswani 2026

All rights reserved by author. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the author. Although every precaution has been taken to verify the accuracy of the information contained herein, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors or omissions. No liability is assumed for damages that may result from the use of information contained within.

BlueRose Publishers takes no responsibility for any damages, losses, or liabilities that may arise from the use or misuse of the information, products, or services provided in this publication.



For permissions requests or inquiries regarding this publication,
please contact:

BLUEROSE PUBLISHERS

www.BlueRoseONE.com

info@bluerosepublishers.com

+91 8882 898 898

+4407342408967

ISBN: 978-81-69822-03-9

Cover design: Anuj

Typesetting: Tanya Raj Upadhyay

First Edition: August 2026

Acknowledgement:



Some books are written in silence. This one was written against the noise, and it would not exist without the people who stood beside me through it.

To my parents, who come from a place where passion is a luxury and art is a risk, thank you for choosing me over convention, every single day. You never had to. That makes it everything.

To my brother, who understood without being explained to. That kind of quiet support is rarer than people know.

To Anjali, this book found its shape because of you. You worked hard on it when I couldn't see it clearly, and your fingerprints are on every page that breathes. Thank you.

To the films and stories that left something unfinished in me, that made me need to write, I think this book is my answer to you.

This book is, in its simplest truth, about how some people find their way out and how the ones who can't, suffer for it quietly. I come from a world where the system bends for those with means, and breaks those without. I have seen both sides. I wrote this so the vulnerable side is not forgotten.

— Harshit S.

Chapter 1: -

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step."

Laozi



A concoction of sweat and blood dripping from him with a pus-filled blister just popping under his feet to add to his agony. Pacing as fast as he could, he bumps into the nearby wall his eyes drenched in the pool of his blood and sweat flowing from his forehead rendering him completely blind-sighted, with all the empty courage and will he tried to get up but his limping legs refused to cooperate just like his luck always did. A sharp pull from the back and suddenly he neither needed his non-cooperating legs nor his very sour destiny to seal his fate.

A muscular hand filled with an equal amount of fat groped him by his shoulder his limping knees took a small flight. Shredding more of the concoction of his blood and sweat and the last shred of his hope. A sharp punch after completing its due course of the flight in air landed on his face, his body followed ordeal of a 5'7 paper and it fell on the door a last drip fell from his long floppy eyelashes.

He tried with all his will to get up, a loud shrieking sound rang in his ear, the phone was ringing on full volume after seconds of waking up in the chaos he gathered all his might, and got up rubbing his fluttery lashes that could easily make 5-6 girls envious of him.

He reached for his phone and saw the time his eyes gawked at phone screen the time flashing in front of his phone screen he panicked seeing. The mandatory first day jitters ran through him for the whole night restless and making him wake up late as well he sprung from his bed and ran to brush his teeth while brushing he calculated the estimate time it might take him to take shower and, then decided it's better to rely on the superpower a deodorant holds, better to be on time rather than risk being late by having shower.

Consumed in his thoughts for a second, he realised he needs to hurry as he is indeed getting late. He gargled and hurried towards his neatly ironed clothes spread on the chair he thanked God to give him enough brains to iron his clothes a night before itself. He quickly changed and was hurriedly buttoning his shirt when he realised he has mismatched the buttons, cursing himself he quickly unbuttoned it to correctly button up the shirt.

He ran towards his cloudy uncleaned mirror to comb his messy hair out, scared and jittering at the same time with butterflies pouncing in his stomach he got ready. Suddenly, a sound irks his ear and he notices his phone is ringing at his bedside he rushes to get it, with the name "baba" flashing on his phone screen. He picked up the call sandwiching it between his shoulder and ear while running to grab his shoes. His father called him to know about his whereabouts and to wish him best of luck for his first job. He stood outside his barber shop to get better network he took support of the clay

wall to feel cool from the raging heat, meanwhile customers were flocking in as it was the only barber shop in the whole lot of vicinity and his father got busy attending and directing them to wait, Veer got agitated as he was already running late already and his baba wasn't talking to him as well, he irritated asked him to talk later, he was about to cut the call when he heard his mother's sound from the other side of the phone. His mother ran leaving her plastic jewellery making in between of the process from their adjoining house to talk to her son and wish him luck. Although irritated Veer calmly asked them to call, later in the night as he was running late.

He ran towards the stairs swung the door open and ran as fast as he could towards the main road. In a quick second he decided to take rickshaw today as walking towards the bus station would have taken hours and well running won't have sufficed.

After fighting with 3 auto-drivers he finally managed to get a sharing auto which agreed to drop him at his office but after dropping the other passengers, though agitated Veer agreed. After dropping the other girl and a middle-aged bald man it was just Veer and the auto-driver present. The auto driver out of his boredom started reminiscing about his home town, Purvanchal and how he has been here for nearly 30 years and has seen people come and go with each passing day of his 30 years. Although irritated and anxious Veer decided to bluntly listen to him to avoid the risk of the auto driver getting angry and drive slowly.

Nervously he enters the building with his sweaty shivering palms he grabbed the door bar to open it, he gathered himself and hurried towards the elevator. As soon as the gates were about to be closed a man ran towards the gates and placed his hand in between to stop the door from closing. A man with

medium height and weirdly patchy unkept beard and a wide grin entered the elevator. He asked Veer if he is joining the office seeing his formal clothes and laptop bag. The man introduced himself as AJ he told Veer about his role in the company and went on to explain that he got late as he comes all the way from Mira-Bhayandar.

The entry gate had a small alley running behind it where Bhavya was standing and smoking his cigarette AJ went there without even looking at the office once and snatched the cigarette, Bhavya looked at AJ and his big grin and adjusted his specs while taking his cigarette back from AJ.

Veer noticed them but decided to pay no heed and move, he entered the office still anxious, waiting for someone to guide him, as he anxiously awaited while pretending to look patient. Meanwhile his new colleagues were looking at him in anger, Bhavya and AJ crossed him smiling to him in pity as they knew here comes yet another goat to be slaughtered.

A girl with half opened buttons and messy hair entered from the boss's cabin she hurried towards the washroom while fixing her buttons. AJ pointed to Bhavya

“Here comes are very own sex symbol.” He chuckled

While Bhavya commented “She decided to get her buttons break, after getting her heart broken.”

“Do you know how our boss likes to fuck her, full lights off, he sits on the sofa while she sucks him or fucks him while he listens to... Ah what was the name? Something Pink right?” Quipped AJ.

“Pink Floyd: The Great Gig in The Sky” Bhavya corrects him.

And they laugh it off.

Chapter 2: -

“The only way to know people is to live with them.”

– Ernest Hemingway



After fixing her buttons and hair the girl sits at her desk across Bhavya and AJ and takes out her hand mirror

AJ cheekily says: “Shruti....”

But is interrupted in between with shruti gesturing him with her hand to stop as she is busy re applying her lipstick

“Zorawar sir expects me to look perfect all the time” shruti cunningly says with a big grin.

AJ and Bhavya try to mask their laugh

“To look presentable in the office” shruti mockingly scolds both

“Wait a minute who is this guy”

Shruti asks Bhavya while pointing at Veer. Bhavya and AJ look in his direction Bhavya whistles and snaps at Veer to call him.

First confused but then Veer goes towards them with his biggest smile hoping to be best if friends with them.

“Introduce yourself you have 60 seconds and do it in the craziest way possible” AJ jokingly said.

Though hesitant at first Veer took it seriously and started blabbering about his education and qualifications, something which all 3 didn't expected.

For a second, they all stared at Veer in amusement trying to muffle their laughs but shruti gave in bursting into laughter followed by both Bhavya and AJ.

“I'll die laughing” shruti says in middle of laughing.

“Or sucking...” AJ says trying to be sarcastic

In a second shruti's face sees a sudden shift from laughing to a growth of several frown lines.

Bhavya looks both in astonishment signalling AJ to go away asap.

“What... is the truth too salty for you shruti.” chuckles AJ

Shruti intensifies her glare at AJ and decides it's better not to interact further, she purses her 2 fingers at her lips, signalling Bhavya for a smoke, he rapidly agrees to avoid the situation furthermore.

“Yess lessgo” AJ quips.

Shruti just goes now practically exhausted to argue with AJ.

Bhavya and AJ follow her lead, after 2-3 steps Bhavya turns around and asks Veer if he would want to join them.

Veer denies saying that he doesn't smoke.

AJ goes to him laying an arm on his shoulder and says, "The sooner you start to smoke, the sooner you will learn to survive here."

And then again starts to follow Shruti and Bhavya's lead leaving Veer startled with the interaction.

"The meeting is about to start" says Bhavya

"Will the boss be there" asks AJ as he mouth fags on shruti's face thinking it will look too cool.

Disgusted shruti says, "yes he was saying that he will join to kick all of your asses". Followed by a smirk.

"Then who are we waiting for, let's go and let's take that new guy, ummm what was his name again... yes Veer." Bhavya says

"So that this threesome becomes an orgy" laughs AJ

Shruti makes an irritated face and sarcastically says, "hahaha AJ made a PJ"

They all smash the buds and leave for the conference.

In the office Bhavya signals Veer to join in the conference room

Veer hurriedly follows them excited to meet the boss

In the conference room Veer sat in the corner chair away from the desk

The rest of the three were chatting as usual when the door swung open with a fairly tall man with a paunch hanging

around his belly a kept beard and neatly brushed hair fluffed to the perfection grinning entered beside him was a shorter and skinnier man with clean shave and combed greasy hair with a receding hairline. Seeing him Veer instantly remembered his class monitor.

As they both enter Shruti tells Bhavya here comes the tommy

AJ slyly joked, “you must have tough competition with him”.

Shruti scoffed saying, “oh please I am way better at work than him.”

AJ smirked and said, “no I meant he sucks his ass and you suck hisss....”

Shruti clearly annoyed decided to pay no heed this time

The man with a paunch proceeded to sit on the boss’s chair and called Veer.

He introduced himself as Zorawar the CEO of Agora and introduced everyone formally, His over sweetness made everyone stunned but no one dared to question or react at it.

The smile on Zorawar’s chair agitated the skinny man standing beside him, with clear irritated look on his face.

Seeing his face AJ and Bhavya smirked at each other.

After everyone’s introduction Zorawar paused and then turned his chair around and said, “AHHH yes this is Gaurav he is always standing beside me so I kind of forget him sometimes.”

At this point all were trying to control their laughter while Gaurav simply tried his best to maintain a smile.

The meeting winded as usual.

After the meeting Zorawar stood and seeing him everyone else stood from their respective chairs, He was about to leave but then he stopped turned around and said to Veer, “it is nice having you around if you need any help feel free to reach out to me.”

Hearing this Veer smiled and felt a sense of relief that he might have joined the right company, but the others were too stunned as they couldn't believe a single word that they heard.

Zorawar left, Veer went to AJ and praised Zorawar, AJ laughed and almost cried agreeing sarcastically which made Veer confused.

Chapter 3: -

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work."

– Thomas Edison



From the very first day Veer grew accustomed to the daily hustle of the office there were times he was among the first ones to enter the office and the last one to leave it. The Indian ideology of grinding more to reach success was deeply imprinted in his mind. But apart from the rigorous discipline he was one of the most talented employees of the company. Zorawar grew fond of him, took interest in his work, how he is doing it, gave him insights, he even appreciated him for his work which no one in their right mind had seen him doing it. His behaviour towards Veer made Gaurav weary, and the rest of the office astonished.

Gaurav used to keep a watchful eye on Veer as his envy grew day by day.

His last shred of patience tore when Zorawar went towards Veer's desk his eyeballs ogled and ears punched in to see what

Zorawar says next, and then a in split second a sense of fury and disdain came across his face when Zorawar asked Veer to accompany him at a high-profile client meeting happening at the Marriott, Veer came on cloud 9 as he was beyond happy that he could attend such a high-profile meeting.

Post office Veer along with Gaurav waited for Zorawar's driver to get his fancy new Audi from the parking when the Audi climbed from the basement slope to come towards Veer, and Gaurav. Veer looked at the car and became awestruck at its slender body and neon lights.

Gaurav smirked as he was quite used to go to bars with Zorawar and acted as if it's an everyday thing for him. He went on and said:

“You go sit along with the driver”

Veer obliged and went ahead to go and open the front door of the car but then Zorawar came from the office and in the mid-way he almost shouted.

“Veer you come sit with me in the back I need to discuss few things with you about the meeting strategy.... Gaurav go and sit in the front.”

Gaurav now completely embarrassed decided to quietly sit in front like a vengeful ex.

Not sure how to react Veer without giving any look went and sat at the back of the car with Zorawar.

The driver revved the machine; Gaurav's eyes were stuck at the rear-view mirror in the front keeping a watchful eye on them with occasionally tilting back to add his 2 cents in the conversations.

They reached the location Gaurav walked side by side trying to match their pace.

While Zorawar and Veer walked together discussing the details completely ignoring Gaurav.

Seeing a luxury hotel and that too JW Marriott Veer was completely awe struck but then Zorawar turned and started walking towards Dragonfly club, Veer confused asked Zorawar:

“Aren’t we supposed to attend a meeting sir then why are we going towards the club?”

Zorawar smirked at Veer’s innocence and patiently replied, “the investors are staying in Marriott so we decided it’s better to have the meeting at dragonfly over few drinks and if the meeting goes well, we can extend it to a party as well”

Veer confused looked at Gaurav who was just happy that he will get to try expensive scotch rather than his cheap whiskey or rum.

They entered the club Zorawar with his grin met with the investors he didn’t bother to introduce Veer or Gaurav to them.

The meeting started with Veer presenting the pitch he acted confident and composed which somehow made Gaurav anxious he tried to pitch in his views every now and then interrupting Veer. A moment occurred when he overshared unnecessary details and Zorawar glared him to shut up; Gaurav took it as a cue to zip his mouth for now. Veer concluded the meeting with the investors quite satisfied and decided to see and review all the numbers officially then.

Zorawar visibly pleased with Veer said;

“Now since it was a good success let’s have some drinks and yesss Veer we’ll have alcohol and you are not backing out.”

Veer couldn't react fast enough and just meekly said, “No-no sir I’ve never drank alcohol, ummmm Gaurav sir tell him na.”

Before Gaurav could even say Zorawar almost growled, “Areee what will this Gaurav say he is also going to get sloshed, just shut the fuck up and come this is my order or you are fired, Veer.”

Veer obliged almost pulled by Zorawar.

Zorawar ordered 3 single malts on the rocks, hearing this Gaurav eyes gleamed but then Zorawar paused and said, “wait no, you both won’t be able to savour whiskey neat tequila shot for Veer so that you can get drunk easily... hahaha if you know what I mean, and for Gaurav I don’t think you will be able to digest anything above vodka with what was it that you guys drink it with ahhh yes that fake cranberry juice, yes that one for Gaurav.”

Gaurav now feeling completely embarrassed with the situation just nodded with yes, the drinks came Gaurav eagerly picked up the glass first, Zorawar gave a weird look to him indicating to slow down and don’t come off as too eager as he calmly picked up the glass, Veer still confused and hesitant slowly picked up the small shot glass.

Gaurav then raised his pink girly drink “cosmopolitan” in the air to do a toast Zorawar gave him a side eye and didn't

even bother to raise his glass Veer confused raised a glass to not make Gaurav awkward.

After clinking his small shots glass with Gaurav's cocktail, Veer again kept his glass at the side bar. Zorawar turned to Veer and said, "You know the drinking rule, right?"

"What rule?" Veer quipped

"If you toast then you need to take a sip and if you don't you need to chug the whole drink. So, Veer chug the shot."

"Yeah, and anyways it's a shot you need to gulp it Veer. Right sir." Gaurav intervened trying to have a conversation with Zorawar.

Zorawar gave him a side eye and ignored him still clearly pissed with how he almost sabotaged the meeting today just to get his 2 minutes of fame.

Sensing the atmosphere Gaurav thought it is best not to say now anymore. Veer picked up the glass thought for a second and looked at the drink.

"Veeeerrrrr gulp it straight away that's my order." Zorawar exclaimed

Veer thought for a second and then gulped it straight away.

"That's my boy", Zorawar said almost proud

Veer's eyes closed with the bitter taste of the alcohol that his tongue has tasted for the first time, Zorawar laughed and Gaurav followed by a smile clearly now fed up of the evening.

Two more rounds of alcohol were ordered where Veer gulped each of it to avoid the taste of alcohol. While Zorawar

drink slowly savouring the flavour of his single malt, Gaurav trying match Zorawar's pace taking a sip only when Zorawar takes sip to show him that he also knows how to savour and respect alcohol.

Post the third drink Veer was clearly drunk struggling to even stand straight. After completing his third drink Zorawar sighed and stood up, he held Veer's arm firmly and almost dragged him, "You are coming with me to the loo."

Veer allowed himself to be dragged silently fully drunk to even walk by himself.

Meanwhile Gaurav stood there confused figuring out what a loo is he muttered himself, "What does loo means I thought it was the heatwave, rich people things I guess"

Zorawar turned to Veer and grinned to Veer and said, "Do you want to see some snow."

Veer clearly drunk and unaware of his surroundings imagined Zorawar to be some sort of powerful magician that will get snow in the neon lit washroom of a club in Mumbai. He turned facing his back at the wall mirror with his face tilted up at the wall waiting for the snowflake to fall on his face but after minute of realising it's not going to snow, he turned around seeing Zorawar taking out a small bag of white powder and his AmEx credit card, Veer confused and surprised asked, "Is this what I think it is?"

Zorawar busy making his lines turned and gave Veer a smirk and then snorted his line.

When he was busy rubbing his nose, Veer grew more fascinated by his boss and quipped, “You are so cool and so nice.”

Listening to this Zorawar giggled like a baby for the first time he felt like he wasn’t ass licked by someone, he went ahead to snort his second line and rubbed his nose, fully drugged, in his heavy voice he said, “Beta this is life and this is how you live it.”

Veer nodded his head and agreeing said, “I agree and I feel you live life king size Boss, Butttttt why does everyone says that you killed your own father? How can such a man of your stature kill his own father?”

Zorawar smiled and very sweetly asked, “Who told you that? I mean true what utter gossip is this.”

“I know right, but I don’t know probably someone from office, I mean anyways there are so few that you might also know LOL” Veer said now blabbering in his own mind.

Zorawar now sweaty and eager to rush out just muttered, “I am getting late I am going.” and just abruptly left drunk Veer in the washroom.

Seeing Zorawar leave in hurry from afar Gaurav grew concerned if he had to pay the bill, he urgently asked the bartender what the bill was and when he was assured it was taken care of, he sighed with a sense of relief and sat back completing his cocktail and the he suddenly realised that Veer wasn’t tagging along and this is the golden opportunity in a month-long time to finally have some alone time with Zorawar. He gulped his drink in a second making sure he doesn’t waste a single drop of alcohol even if it’s vodka.

Chapter 4: -

"In the city of blackout, there are few holding candlelight for others"



Veer on the other hand kept slipping off barely being able to stand up straight he reached to the nearby faucet and washed his face and eyes he threw water at himself a bazillion of times. After all this he finally thought that he was sober enough to go home.

But as soon as he left the washroom the psychedelic lights hit his eyes and started giving him hallucinations he asked for water the bartender seeing his condition knew that he won't be paying for the bottled water so he decided it is best to give him regular water from the nearby water cooler kept for the staff he got him water in a dirty cloudy glass but Veer paid no heed to it and gulped it down and then tried to gather all his strength and leave the club.

He took out his phone with only 10% battery left flashing on the screen he opened maps and hurriedly searched for his PG. The alcohol had made his nervous system stimulating in

panic he typed a wrong spelling of his PG but the autocorrect corrected the spelling. With his blurry vision he saw the map and his PG was exactly 10km from the club, he tried to calculate his average pace and then decided that if he starts walking right now, he might be able to catch a local.

A sudden rush came to his mind, and he started running out of nowhere just so that he can catch his daily local.

When he was running a few stray dogs got alarmed and started chasing him, he started running faster so that he could outrun the dogs, sweat started drenching him, his mouth got wide open to get more fresh oxygen his eyes were shutting with all the alcohol in his body, then he felt his body being thrown into the air as his foot tripped over the unkept broken road luckily he fell on the side where there were sand hills for construction he brought his hands forward to cover his face in order to avoid serious injuries. The dogs surrounded him barking at him and trying to bite him as their nails pierced his skin to save him-self he started pelting stones at the dogs creating enough chaos and distraction to frighten the dogs it was then he heard a sound,

“Are you not human why the fuck are you scaring these babies away.”

Barely being able to open his eyes he saw a blur silhouette of a skinny girl with a sweet sound of her earrings jingling coming to his ears the ghunghroo's made him remember his mom who used to make jewellery back at his house with the sweet melody of the ghunghroos filling the house every day.

He was lost in memories of his mom and house and suddenly he felt a splash of water on his face, he suddenly

remembered that he is laying drunk on an empty road in Mumbai, and not at his wooden bed on his parent's terrace.

He fully opened his eyes to see a girl standing beside the sand hill trying to figure out how to wake this drunk man.

Veer was so drunk that he could not configure the girl's facial features, the girl tried to stand him up but he slipped down every now and not being able to stand straight for a second.

The girl with all her might grabbed his arms to pull him it was this moment he howled in agony the girl confused unbuttoned his cuffs and rolled his sleeves up to see his arms if something has happened in the darkness, she felt his arms were wet meanwhile Veer moaned and howled in pain.

Upon rolling up she saw deep scratches probably caused by the dog's nails that caused bleeding.

The girl got worried and scared seeing this amount of blood she held Veer from both of his arms jerking him so that he comes in his senses but Veer was too drunk to realise what was happening the jingling of her earrings grew louder making Veer miss home more, in a split second he started crying tears rolling down his cheeks he started howling,

"I miss amma, I miss baba, I don't want to live here take me back home, you are God's angel take me back home I don't have anyone here."

The girl shocked with all of Veer's tantrums paused for a split second and then screamed,

"Yes, tell me where your home is, I'll take you home."

Veer at this point laughed and said, "Home, home is where amma is, baba is."

The girl now clearly agitated decided it's best to leave a drunkard on the streets but when she was about to turn, she noticed his injuries and melted the thought to drop him at a nearby municipal clinic so at least he can get a tetanus shot.

She sweetly replied, "Yes I am God's angel sent from above to get you home, come if you hold my hand tight you will be safe."

Veer hallucinated a glimmer of light shining from her back. She reached out her hand and he held it tightly.

She used all her might to get him up and make him sit on her scooter behind her, she wrapped her dupatta around his waist and then tied it to herself he got confused and cried, "but why am I being tied, it was Zorawar sir who did a crime not me, why am I being tied."

The girl paid no attention to him and drove her scooter to the nearby hospital.

On the way she asked Veer multiple time, "Should I call someone and where do you live."

Veer just screamed, "I have no one and no one is me; I live with God don't you know angel, And... And"

He puked on the girl with puke on her back and her braid, she stopped midway and yelled,

"What the hell did you do, you asshole, why the hell do I need to help everyone ugghhhh."

"But I ...I..I couldn't control." Veer scared tried to defend himself.

"You know what turn," The girl commanded.

Veer did as he was told, scared and in that split second and then he heard the racing of the scooter and the girl fled, leaving him alone.

"Angel don't leave me please don't leave me angel", he cried standing at the deserted road alone. He started walking in the same direction the girl had left him but then he saw a headlight flashing in his eyes, it was the girl's scooter headlight, she stopped near Veer and said, "Why do I always need to help people, sit behind but don't puke and if you have to puke do it on the side not on me. CLEAR"

Veer nodded his head and agreed to of her.

He opened his eyes, his vision was blurry, he was hearing some faint screaming, and shouting noises which grew more clearer and louder with every second,

"Why do you always do this, why do you need to be this, Jagat Sevak."

"But see his injuries papa, how can someone leave such a gravely, injured person out on the streets."

"Radhika you can't go out and help every drunkard on the streets and then stay with them in the hospital, this is borderline unsafe."

"I know papa, I won't do this from now on promise."

Veer tried to get up from his bed, flashbacks from yesterday night came in front of his eyes, his arms were

swollen and paining, it was then he noticed bandages wrapped around his arms. He intervened,

"Excuse me I am deeply sorry for the trouble, my boss forced me to drink and it was the first time I drank alcohol so I couldn't handle it well, I am so sorry for all the nuisance I created and I am very thankful to you for saving my life, Miss?"

"Radhika", the girl answered.

Her dad sighed with relief thanking God that his daughter hasn't saved a criminal and no criminal and police involvement will happen.

"I am going home Radhika, do the formalities and come home quickly, you are literally smelling of puke you need a shower." Her father scolded her and went

Veer apologised to Radhika and even offered to pay dry cleaning bill.

"No No its fine just don't drink from now on and since you were blabbering yesterday that you don't have anyone in Mumbai, I am planning to build an animal shelter here you can come and help me if you want, take here is my number".

"I would love to and once again I am extremely sorry and thankful to you." Veer exclaimed

"Nahhhh it's fine." Radhika smiled

Veer cleared all his medical bills and went to his PG to rest thanking God that he was in safe hands and that she took him to a municipal hospital and not a private one or else he won't be able to pay the bills.

He entered his PG took a shower and ate some food his head was still throbbing in pain with the hangover, he sighed with relief since it was weekend and he would be able to sleep the rest of the day.

Next day he woke up early leaving all the hangover past behind him he got ready and left for office when he entered the office there was a lot of commotion and chaos, he went to AJ's desk and asked what happened.

"Ramesh Kaka was found dead in the office nobody knows why and his family is denying suicide allegations, let's see what happens the police is doing the necessary investigation, they might ask some things from you too."

Veer froze as he grew close to Ramesh kaka and he blurted, "How can Ramesh kaka do suicide his daughter's marriage is next month, he was so happy."

Chapter 5: -

"One moment, the world was an open door. The next, it was a wall."



Confused and astonished with the recent mysterious behaviours and a death at the office Veer got agitated and could not focus on his work feeling particularly drowsy with all the painkillers his body had to indulge he decided to meet Radhika later in the evening.

In his lunch break he messaged Radhika to ask if she wants to meet him in the evening since he desperately needs to talk to someone who are not his parents or colleagues. Radhika agreed and sent him the location pin it was a park nearby to his office.

As usual Veer got slammed in work and was rushing to meet Radhika on time. Post completing his work he ran to the washroom to check himself to see if he was looking presentable enough, he stood in front of the mirror fixing his hair with his own hands, AJ who was washing his hands beside him look surprised he turned back and said, "Why are you

getting so dressed I've never seen you trying to get ready or worry about your looks."

Veer shrugged it off by saying that he just looked at himself in the mirror nothing much.

He then ran straight towards the exit AJ was a bit confused and surprised because he has never seen Veer so eager to leave.

But he didn't pay much attention to him, and moved on trying to click some apparent thirst traps for his dating app or that's what he thought he did by clicking some mirror selfies with his shirt buttons opened till his naval.

Meanwhile Veer rushed to meet Radhika at the place she asked to meet. She had worn a kurta tightly cinched at her waist with small jhumkas jingling at her ears. Seeing her his heart did a mini somersault, he was in awe of how pretty and cute she looks while being an ultimate baddie in front of her parents. He went ahead and shook her hand, she smiled and said, "so you need a friend, but my friendship comes with an expense," she chuckled.

Without thinking Veer replied, "All accepted if I am getting a decent company of a human being who is actually being human if you know you know," Veer nervously chuckled hoping that his lame joke landed right.

Radhika paused for a second and then burst into laughter and said, "that was pretty lame you do need lots of work on your humour if you want to survive here."

Veer nodded while blushing. For the next few hours, they spent time walking and talking about their lives, Veer told her

about his parent's struggles and how he managed to complete his education, meanwhile Radhika told Veer all about her now strained relationship with her parents due to her conflicting nature and the urge to be very outspoken in front of pesky relatives.

Their walk lasted for hours, they talked, giggled, and walked around as the time flew by, they didn't pay any heed to the darkening sky or the scattering public only realising how late they have been when the park watchman chased them to kick them out of the park. Radhika looked at her phone screen and exclaimed, "Oh fuck I had a night curfew I'll be so dead if I don't reach home on time."

Veer chuckled. Radhika looked amused and asked, "Why are you laughing."

To this Veer justified, "No it's that one day I find you feeding dogs in the middle of the night and spending an entire night with me at the hospital and the very next day you have a curfew."

Radhika smiled and replied sarcastically, "And this is the reason I now have a curfew because I spent an entire night tending you in the hospital."

Veer now ashamed, "I am deeply sorry for the chaos I caused that night."

Radhika replied, "Nahh it's okay anyways it was fun to see you like that. Chalo I must leave Bye."

AHHH. Bye then reach safely." Veer dishearteningly replied not wanting Radhika to leave.

Radhika walked a few steps and then turned around and shouted, “VEER tomorrow same time?”

A sudden happiness came on Veer’s face and he shouted, “YES”

He happily went home and slept contented that night.

He went to office the next morning. As soon as he sat on his desk, a new peon relatively younger came and said, “Bhaiya Apko Sahab Bula Rahe hain.”

Veer left his bag on his chair and rushed to Zorawar’s office.

Blinds were drawn out at his cabin as usual Veer knocked and heard a voice come in.

He entered the cabin and now what was his regular view was to see half naked shruti tidying up and Zorawar smoking his rare edition cigarette. For the first few times Veer did fumbled seeing this scenario, asking Zorawar if he should come later and never even looked at Shruti, but now this was his regular he calmly entered, didn’t looked at Shruti yet again and just coldly said, “Hi Sruti.”

Shruti raised an eyebrow and her face looked clearly agitated as she has clearly asked Veer to pronounce her name Shruti and not Sruti in his weird MP village accent.

She didn’t even bother to answer him and left.

Veer then looked at Zorawar and said, “You wanted to meet me Boss.”

Zorawar kept quiet as he finished his cigarette in peace leaning on his chair scrolling his phone and then turned to Veer. His face clearly exhausted and tired he said.

“Ahhhhh Veer finally, look at all the shenanigans these board members put me through, so now I must present the whole project that we have been working on and since you know... I mean you want to learn a lot; I need this presentation by next week.”

“Yes, sir on it.” Veer said it with utmost confidence.

“Good, I mean they asked me to make a presentation son of the founder of Agora to make a presentation like who the fuck they think I am.” Zorawar murmured

Veer smiled and decided to not ass lick Zorawar, he just said, “Thank you sir, I’ll give my best on this presentation, now if I may take your permission to leave.”

Veer left the office, meanwhile Gaurav had fixated his ears outside Zorawar’s cabin as soon as he realised someone is coming, he started pretending to use his phone so that no one would suspect, though in reality everyone knew what is happening and didn’t bother to pay any heed to Gaurav’s antics for a while now.

As soon as Veer entered from Zorawar’s office Gaurav almost groped him in the corned and demanded, “What did boss asked you to do.”

Veer lowkey got terrified and said, “What the hell Gaurav what’s your problem.”

At this point Gaurav realised that he is being too obvious, so he lowered his raised shoulders and calmly said, “Ahemmm sorry what I meant was what did the Boss said.”

Veer, “Right and how does this concern you again.”

“Because, I have been working for him since ages and if you tell me I might give you some input since I know what he wants.” Gaurav said.

Hearing this Veer felt that he could trust Gaurav and said,

That’s so generous of you these are the project details, and I have to make presentation on it.”

“Here Lemme see, yes...yes we can do it.” Gaurav sighs

“Ummm.we”? Veer exclaimed

“Yeah, I mean, like. like I told you, I can help you out with...with the presentation. I mean you know what let me do it for you, you work so hard let me do it for you.”

Veer astonished with Gaurav’s new profound helping nature replied, “Are you sure like you want to do the whole presentation by yourself?”

“Yeah, I mean I don't have much work on me, and you always work so hard, so I think it'll be nice for you to have a break for a while and let me do it.”

For the first time Veer didn’t give any second thoughts, he got the chance to escape early, and meet Radhika in his spare time. “Yes, thank you so much if you need any help do let me know, and I’ll tell Zorawar sir once, that you want to work on this project.”

‘No, no don’t tell boss or else he’ll think that you are trying to get work off your chest, and it will create a bad impression on you. Do you really want that?’ Gaurav revolted.

Veer landed straight into, Gaurav’s trap and handed over the papers to him, And texted Radhika

“Same place? I’ll come 30 mins early today.”

For the next week Veer left early to meet Radhika every day, he did check twice on Gaurav if the presentation is going well but every time Gaurav assured him that he has nothing to worry, apart from that he made sure to always leave after Veer so that he is always giving an impression of over working.

Meanwhile Veer started falling for Radhika, the little touches, the holding hands became a regular for them. Some days Radhika acted coy but on some she would reciprocate the same gesture.

On one of their walks, Veer paused and grew quiet for a brief moment, Radhika stood with him confused but didn't say a word. Then Veer exclaimed, “I’ll always protect you.”.

At that moment Radhika shed a tear and for the first time she hugged Veer tightly, he stood there astonished and then wrapped his arms tightly around as he planted a small kiss on her forehead.

For the rest of the evening, they just held hands and walked together.

Next day the meeting was supposed to take place, due to the last day events, Veer spent the whole night rolling in his bed unable to sleep, causing him to wake up late. Finally, he woke up from Radhika’s call to check on him since his

mandatory “good morning” message was missing today. Veer woke-up in hurry and promised Radhika to meet in the evening and straight away ran to the washroom. He could barely reach the office on time let alone be early to review Gaurav’s presentation, last evening when he was about to leave, he made sure to check on the presentation once but Gaurav told him that the work is still underway and he can check and prepare tomorrow morning. Veer reluctantly agreed and asked him to meet 1 hour prior so that they can discuss. Gaurav shrugged him off by asking Veer to let him work so that he can complete on time. Today Veer itself was running late and Gaurav didn’t bother to call him once.

Veer caught a rickshaw and luckily managed to reach office just on time, although he got angry on himself for waking up late enough, to waste money on rickshaw. He rushed to the office; Zorawar saw him running and gave him a death stare for coming so late as he couldn’t afford to get angry in front of the board members.

Veer quickly entered the meeting room and formally apologised to everyone for coming so late. He looked for Gaurav who was standing behind Zorawar. He signalled Gaurav for the presentation, Gaurav looked at Veer and mouthed to start the presentation.

Zorawar looked at Veer and with tightened lips asked him to resume.

Veer coughed and then said, “I am sorry for this constant delay, but Gaurav can you please share the presentation with me.

Gaurav looked amused and said, “Sorry what presentation.”

Chapter 6: -

"To be betrayed, you first have to be brave enough to be vulnerable."



Veer looked stunned, as if the earth has been removed from his feet.

He meekly smiled and said, "What do you mean you don't have it, you made the presentation right."

"What do you mean I have the presentation; I am just here to take notes." Gaurav revolted.

"Why are your colleagues fighting over a presentation that you were supposed to make Zorawar." A board member intervened.

"Yes. Yes, it was me only who made the presentation but... umm since you know I've sore throat and am unable to speak, I sent my presentation to my juniors to review to present, but I guess they have lost it now." Zorawar said meekly trying to save his skin.

“Ok but you will have the original file in your device don’t you since you made the presentation”. The board member questioned.

Zorawar remained tight lipped.

“Just what do you expect from mighty Zorawar the great, who just wanted to be the CEO instead of being one. You know people kill for your job. Oh, wait a minute I guess you actually did that Zorawar” One of the board members taunted him. Followed by laughter from others.

“It has always been a displeasure seeing your face Zorawar, but now it has been a waste of time as well. Anyways we are going to leave now, and for all of this you will hear from us soon.” One of the board members said in a stern voice now.

All the board members left with Zorawar still sitting on his chair.

“LEAVEEEEE, I said leave both of you right now.” Zorawar growled in anger.

Both Veer and Gaurav ran too stunned to even comprehend what just had happened.

Outside the meeting room Gaurav ran to his desk, Veer followed him to ask what he did, and why did he do that. Seeing Veer coming from afar, Gaurav quickly held his guard high up and ordered.

“Not now Veer, can’t you see I am too busy after your mess. Go and be ready for the consequences.”

Suddenly the peon came and said, “Veer boss is asking you to wait and then he will call you.” For the first time he didn’t addressed Veer as sir.

“It was nice knowing you Veer,” Gaurav smirked.

Veer quietly went and sat at his desk.

Nearly at 7 in the evening when the whole office was empty with only Gaurav still working so that he can later hold Zorawar’s briefcase and open his gate to escort him to his car. The peon came and poked Veer’s shoulder and said; “Boss has called you to show you how to make presentation, Go learn.”

Veer slowly got up from his desk and took a deep breath, for all the scolding he is going to hear. He walked towards Zorawar’s office and knocked, he heard a loud growl, “COME IN”.

Veer meekly opened the door.

For the first time he didn’t act cold or indifferent to Shruti being partially naked he was shocked to see her condition, she wasn’t just naked her clothes were torn off, blood stains all over her thighs. A sticky mix of sweat and cum all over her face, her hair all messy, her thigh shivering and calves weak enough to help her walk.

But what he couldn’t avoid this time was a man sitting on the couch in the shadows of an otherwise well-lit office. He saw a dark tall silhouette with only his black Satin Pathani and thick gold chains, and rings occasionally shining, in the dark. He grinned with his shiny white teeth, and a single gold tooth glistening.

Zorawar came close to Veer and held his collar and picked him up,

Veer cried, “Sir. Sir sorry sir it was a mistake sorry sir please sir”. But Zorawar didn’t pay any heed to Veer and threw him at the glass table.

Veer flew a few meters in the air before landing on the glass table and shattering it. The glass pieces and bits flew into the air, one of the tiny pieces even pierced shruti’s face she screamed in agony, but Zorawar didn't pay any heed. He went on and landed a few punches on Veer’s face his knuckles were dripping with Veer’s blood. Veer was barely conscious. Zorawar picked Veer up and dragged him to his cabin door and gave one final punch to throw him out of his cabin.

Gaurav face was all white, he knew that his actions would put Veer into trouble, but not at this extent.

“Gaurav, I want this pest and his stuff out of my office in 5 minutes.” Zorawar ordered and then shut his door

Gaurav froze for a second after seeing all the horrors and then quickly with his shivering and sweaty palms he grabbed Veer and took him along with his stuff out of the office.

After making Veer sit in the auto rickshaw, Gaurav was shaking vigorously, he pressed the lift button with his shaking finger, he was feeling nauseated with all that had happened, just when the lift arrived, he ran outside the building and started retching outside beneath a tree.

Whole office was dead silent, surprisingly the only noise was the new peon who was going around whistling.

Shruti sat on her desk quite traumatised with all that had happened, tears started drenching her, for the first time.

The peon came to Shruti and taunted him, “Madam second round on the call.” and gave a weird grin.

Shruti was literally shocked by the peon’s utter shamelessness.

She went to Zorawar

“Open your shirt and bend, and yes tie your hair for God’s sake... I don’t want that cheap shampoo smell.” Zorawar ordered while smoking his rare edition cigarette.

“Sssir... with all due respect Veer was innocent he shouldn’t have been beaten in such a manner.”

Zorawar came near Shruti and blowed his cigarette smoke on her face and then suddenly slapped her, he held her head through her hair and pushed her mouth on his dick

After 30 seconds of Zorawar’s dick being pushed into shruti’s throat she pushed him back and coughed to have a clear airway.

Zorawar then pressed her cheeks with his huge palms and rubbed his rough callouses on her cheeks and said, “Stay the fuck where you belong and that is on my dick, not above it, or else you will lose both your job and your dignity, as I’ll for sure slip on your not so fantastic nudes online. Now go home my mood is ruined”

Shruti didn’t say a single word just grabbed her clothes and ran away.

Veer straight away went to a government hospital to get himself bandaged.

The nurse looked at him and sensed that there might have been some fight or brawl she inspected;

“How did you get hurt, were you in a fight or something, and don’t lie ok or else I’ll call someone from the authorities.”

Veer got confused first on whether to say the truth or not but then he decided to not create a scene in the hospital what if they know that he was thrown on a glass table and decided to do thousands of tests, that will surely burn up his pocket, he thought.

“No... No, it's just that I was walking with earphones on and then suddenly I had to go down the stairs but since I was so glued to my phone, I didn’t pay any attention and tripped and I fell from 15-20 stairs minimum, I got a lot of injuries, and since I fell on my stomach, broke my nose and teeth.” Veer tried to cover up.

The nurse sighed and realised that Veer will anyhow deny the truth, so she decided not to put any second thoughts and just do her work by cleaning his wounds and applying ointment and bandage to it.

“Pay the bill over there and just go, I don’t know where do these people come from,” the nurse murmured agitatedly.

Veer just silently nodded and went to the billing counter he paid the bill and walked away.

As he was walking towards his PG, when he saw an impatient Radhika fidgeting and waiting for him outside. She was about to fight with him as he was super late to meet her,

she grinded her teeth eager to shout at him, but as soon as Veer came near her, and she saw his injuries, she melted for a second and then she grew scared,

“What happened to you... I mean are you ok, did someone beat you, what happened, why are you not telling me. What in god’s hell happened to you?”

Radhika in a frightened state asked all these questions in a single breath, without letting Veer react at all.

“Areee baba chill baby, I am fine, I just didn’t notice and I was on my phone, and I tripped over a flight of stairs, I am all fine, I straight away went to the hospital to get myself mended. See all bandaged up.” Veer tried to clarify to calm down an already terrified Radhika.

“You tripping because being on phone, please Veer I am not buying this.” Radhika revolted.

“What do you mean by not buying this, this is the truth Radhika chill out, I know my girlfriend loves drama but baby chill.” Veer clarified while scoffing.

“Are... Are you sure, I hope you are not lying. Promise on me” Radhika tried to confirm.

“Yes, I promise nothing happen chill out now I have taken meds, I need to rest see you tomorrow?” Veer lied

Radhika still not convinced but decided to leave so Veer can rest. Veer gave a forehead kiss to Radhika and left.

“Sleep and take rest ok and if you need anything call me.”

Radhika said with utter concern.

But Veer pretended to go to his room and rest as soon as Radhika went, he came out of his PG and started walking aimlessly, he walked for an hour until he reached his desired location.

He entered in a room full of commotion and chaos, jailers beating up the local pick pocketer, them screaming, Hawaldar's gossiping with the regular criminals, the Trans-genders to pay their weekly protection share.

Veer hesitantly went to a Hawaldar, with his name written in bold letters at his desk, "Santosh Patil" his belly could barely fit his desk, he was in his mid-40s with his stout figure and unkept beard Veer thought will this person even catch a pick pocketer in his life but he kept his intrusive thoughts aside and said "I...I want to log a complaint."

The Hawaldar looked up at Veer's condition and said judgingly, "friend, family, foe who is it now."

"Its... It's my boss he had beaten me up because of a mistake." Veer fumbled

"There are lakhs of bosses in this city which one is yours now." the Hawaldar said angrily

"Zorawar CEO of Agoda." Veer said quickly

The Hawaldar dropped his pen and smiled, "You should have told me before, do one thing go home and take rest, I'll personally look into this matter."

"But sir my complaint, won't you write it." Veer asked confused

"You are like my son I'll personally handle it, Go home and rest."

Veer hesitantly went to his PG to have some much-needed rest.

Veer walked back to his PG and just landed his head on his bed and just then his phone vibrated in his pocket, for the first few seconds he just wished to not answer his phone but then he gathered all his courage and picked up his phone. The phone was ringing with his dad's name flashing on the screen.

Veer got up and picked up the phone in his dead voice, "Hello yes baba, how are you, how is mom." Veer asked his dad in a dead voice.

"Veer where are your manners, where are the greetings." his dad scolded Veer.

"Sorry baba, I am very tired today." Veer apologised in a low voice.

"Is everything okay beta, you sound disturbed." his mom intervened

"Yes, mom just tired can I please sleep; I'll call you later."

"You never talk like this Veer is everything okay beta?" his father asked concerned

"Yes, yes everything is okay I'll call you tomorrow, promise?" Veer lied

"Okay beta take care call us soon." his parents said still not fully convinced, he hung up and dozed off.

Two hours later his phone again starts buzzing he grabbed his hair in frustration and migraine and then looked at his phone an unknown number was flashing at the mobile screen,

he picked it up and in a sleepy voice answered, "Hello, who is it?"

"Hello, Veer beta Santosh Patil this side." a weirdly loud voice from the other side of the call.

"Santosh Patil who?" Veer asked sleepily

"Beta you forgot me you came today to make a complaint; remember you were all bruised up." the weirdly sweet voice said.

Veer quickly got up from his bed alerted and said, "Yes sir, yes have you taken any action or what is happening, do I need to come again to the station or what?"

"Yes, we need to do some formalities but don't come to the station it is filled with so many criminals do one thing I'll send you one address come there ok, I'll help you out." Santosh Patil said

Veer quickly got up and got dressed his body was very sore and he could not move his limbs as well but he somehow managed to do so and went out. He knew that he won't be able to walk today so he took a rickshaw. On the way to the location, he felt weird he had thoughts about why Santosh Patil is calling him at a secluded location and how does he have Veer's phone number in the first place when Veer never gave him his number. But too many thoughts started to give him a migraine, so he brushed it and anyways went.

He arrived at a secluded construction company the air felt off, why would a policeman call him to such a secluded place, he grew restless and waited, he kept calling the number repeatedly.

Suddenly for a split second the world stopped for him, he saw the surroundings in what it feels like watching an 8-D movie without the glasses. His head spun, a sensation rang through all his body. His saliva flew in spin from his mouth, his body involuntarily flew and with a loud bang fell on the ground all this happened in a second, and as usual Veer was unable to process anything that has or might have happened in that short span. He saw 2 men with a strong built and medium height, completely bald were standing on top with a wooden stick. After a few seconds Zorawar, and Santosh Patil along with the same man whose silhouette Veer saw in Zorawar's office when he was being beaten to a pulp came, this time he could clearly see the guy he was standing tall at nearly 5'10-5'11 ft with a pot belly which popped out from his black satin Pathani with a low neckline from which his gold chains were glistening.

Zorawar leaned down and held Veer's chin he spat on him and said, "Don't you get it, you can neither beat me nor outrun me, I am invincible, you just thought that in this democratic country you can make a complaint against me against Zorawar of all people."

"Beta I would never even waste a drop of ink on an insect like you, when I came to know that you want to file a complaint against Chappan Dada's client then you deserve a treatment don't you, I might be your daddy but he is Godfather beta." Santosh Patil said sarcastically.

Chappan dada put his feet on Veer's face and rubs it "Let me tell you a story how a sweet boy from Guwahati named Ravi became Chappan dada of Mumbai. My mom and dad ran to Guwahati from my nana one of Rajan's member after some time they returned as they were fools enough to think

my nana will forgive them on his deathbed what they didn't realise well the guy had a hidden gun and my parents became his 55th and 56th murders but the old man saw his legacy in me and that's how that kid became Chappan dada of Akhi Mumbai and you were an asshole enough to complaint about my client."

Veer got beaten into a pulp spats, kicks all were showered on him. Zorawar finally said to him, "I am untouchable so keep that in mind the next time you go against me."

Veer struggled to even get up after all of them left, he pulled all his might and got up to go to his PG. On the way to his PG, he cried his eyes out blood, tears, spat, and mud covered his face.

He somehow managed to reach at his PG, his landlord was stunned to see Veer's condition, he always thought that Veer was a good kid and seeing him in this condition had stunned him as well, thinking Veer to be a well-bred decent boy who won't even shout at someone let alone be in a fight with someone. Veer went to his room everyone kept quiet when people saw him in such vegetative state too stunned to speak; he quietly went to his room and stood beneath the shower. As the water trickled down his face the open cutes burned, he cried and howled the tears mixed with water, blood fell on the ground. He stood there under the water for an hour before he came out, the landlord knocked Veer's room for a few minutes, then the knocks became sharper and louder Veer rushed from the bathroom to open the door.

The landlord entered the room and was impressed by how neat Veer had kept his room was in a boy's PG of all places, he smiled and sat on Veer's bed he sighed and said, "Beta I guess you have been the most nicest person ever to live here,

you are decent, sweet, and disciplined, but since the last day you have been coming in such a state that I am scared, see if something bad is happening to you please tell me I'll help you out surely and if you come to the PG in such state again then for the safety of others I might have to kick you out."

Veer not being able to process anything just nodded, the landlord seeing Veer's condition just gave him a look of pity and left.

At this point a sudden rush of anger came to Veer his body started to shiver, his palms sweating, tears started to fall on his cheeks he started howling, he sat on the floor and started weeping, he was disgusted with himself but then suddenly he stopped crying wiped out his tears and then a wave of vengeance came on his face, he ran and grabbed his laptop, his fingers were shivering, he opened the company's software, "how dumb Zorawar could be to give him the full access of the company's software," Veer thought. With his shaking fingers he searched for the delete button which was surprisingly well camouflaged for him. After 10 seconds of searching, he finally got hold of the delete button, he paused and closed his eyes all the things that happened to him in the past few days came rushing to him and then without a flinch he just deleted the software, a sudden relief came to his petrified soul. He went ahead to install a virus in the company's software making the data completely non retrievable. After a long eventful week of his life, he decided to doze off.

Chapter 7: -

"An action committed in anger is an action doomed to failure."

– Genghis Khan



The next morning Zorawar entered the office his head was buzzing with his previous night's shenanigans, he wore dark black goggles to hide away his hangover. Gaurav came rushing towards Zorawar, "What now Gaurav who has done what now why are you showing your face to me so early in the morning what has happened and why the fuck my phone is buzzing so much today." Zorawar yelled

"Sir because all our software and its data have been lost and we are unable to retrieve it even our IT department is unable to do so. And without the software no one would be able to do a single task. We are in deep trouble sir what should we do." Gaurav said in a single breath

Zorawar was too stunned to even comprehend a single thing that has happened he straightaway went to his office and opened his laptop, when he turned on the software it was a

complete blank screen his fingers froze in horror, he knew if this reached the board his position which was already on a thin rope would be cut. He immediately contacted the biggest IT firms and asked for their help. Meanwhile calls were continuously coming on his phones regarding the website crash, even 2-3 board members also called him when they could not reach him, the office landline began to ring continuously, to prevent himself from this chaos he put up a message for everyone concerned that, “There has been some software malware and until further notice we won’t be able to comment on the same and everyone is requested to have some patience as we are trying to solve the bug and post that we’ll personally reach out to everyone.”

Meanwhile the IT company notified him that the virus has been manually installed and therefore nothing can be done and while removing it all the data will get corrupted. This message froze Zorawar for the first time he was nervous of what could happen to him. He immediately knew who would have done this. He picked up his phone call and saw the 50 pending missed calls; he paid no heed to it and directly called Chappan dada,

“Hello....hello dada we’ve made a big mistake keeping that Veer alive, we should have fabricated an accident then itself, now look what has he done.”

“Calm down and tell me what happened in detail I want to know everything so that I can rectify it.” Chappan dada said to calm down an already worried Zorawar

“That asshole son of a bitch Veer deleted all the software data and installed a virus so potent that nothing can be

recovered and the whole software worth crores is ruined now.” Zorawar panicked

“Are you serious mannn I didn't expect him to have guts to do that.” Chappan dad said in astonishment

“Either we went too far or we didn't complete it but anyways we are in deep trouble. But now we must complete it properly” Zorawar asked

“This time will be it Zorawar don't worry, you won't ever hear of this Veer problem again.” Chappan dada assured Zorawar.

“Natha, Bobby go and keep an eye on that Veer and keep updating me of his every move, and yes take the injection and a gun with you, they might come handy.” Chappan dada ordered the 2 bald henchmen standing next to him who played a crucial role in hitting Veer last time

They followed his orders and stationed outside Veer's PG, it was hot summer noon, and they were aimlessly roaming outside his PG waiting for him to come out.

“We didn't wait this enough even when we had to kill our pimp of a father as well.”

“Yes, it was fun just enter his home and short point blank on the head it was clean, but I think we should have given a more painful death.”

“Killing was enough punishment to fuck our mother; she was also working.”

“Should have used that plastic thing, 2 mistakes would have been prevented from happening.”

“Enough now what is done is done now let’s wait for this Veer.”

Later in the evening Veer stepped out of his PG in a broken condition he walked towards the garden to meet Radhika.

Natha and Bobby silently observed him and started following him they dialled Chappan dada.

“Dada he is out should we take action.” They inquired

“No no what if he is going to meet someone and they get suspicious, let's not risk it just quietly follow him and keep updating me.”

Natha and Bobby did as they were told and followed. Veer walked towards the park and met Radhika as his usual they walked for a bit, and Radhika thoroughly check all of Veer’s bruises before leaving.

Natha and Bobby observed all this from afar.

“Thank God boss was right not to abdicate him at that time or else that Girl would have kept searching for him.”

Veer walked back to his PG, Natha and Bobby informed this to Chappan Dada.

He sent a thumbs up signalling them to now take action.

Veer was walking towards his PG his attention was on his phone.

Natha and Bobby were following him and then suddenly Bobby took lead and tapped on Veer’s right shoulder as he turned towards his right shoulder to see who has tapped on

shoulder at the very same moment Natha took charge and pricked on his left neck.

Veer felt something, on his neck, but couldn't see anything or anyone so he brushed it off thinking it to be a mosquito bite.

He resumed his walking but felt heavy after a few more steps he started feeling blackouts and dizzy.

"Brother, are you feeling okay, do you need anything." Natha came from behind and enquired as a concerned bystander.

"No No it's just that I suddenly feel dizzy nothing much I guess I'll just take rest my PG is nearby thanks for asking." Veer replied sweetly unaware of Natha's identity as he was never able to see his face in the dark

Veer walked a few more steps but then he was even unable to stand. Natha and Bobby grabbed him from behind, "Here brother let us help you to your PG." they carried him away and put him in Chappan Dada's SUV and left.

Chapter 8: -

"Here comes the Claustrophobia."



Veer opened his eyes he tried to move his hands, he thought he is in some kind of sleep paralysis unable to move his head he could feel himself but was not able to move an inch he tried to sleep a bit more not worrying about office due to his recent unemployment, he waited for his dream to be over but suddenly he felt this isn't a normal sleep paralysis, he can't be sleeping for too long even when he is unemployed, he tried to stretch his arms to grab his phone and see time but he was not able to do it, he tried to push his arms but they felt trapped and confined, fear started to creep in, he tried to tilt his head and look around, all he could see was a small opening which beamed light to his eyes, he tried all his might to push but couldn't, he could feel the rubble of sand and stone but could hardly identify what place he was in, in his sheer confusion and fear he started screaming, He screeched till 20-30 minutes but then due to the continuous screaming he felt a sharp pain in his throat, it was then he heard some muffled voice saying,

“Yes, saabji he is awake do you want me to leave him as it is or give him something. Yes, okay saabji I’ll do as you told, ok saabji yes yes.”

Hearing this voice Veer again started screaming for help but no one came. Exhausted he tried to again rest but his throat started to pain like hell broke loose, it itched and he was thirsty, in helplessness he tried to consume his own spit. He tried to take deep breaths to calm his heart-rate down he started chanting Hanuman Chalisa, he was scared for his life. Few hours went by it was quiet, Veer was completely exhausted with his mouth flung open. He suddenly heard a car approaching and revving at full speed then the tyres screeching to stop the car hearing this he started to knock vigorously to catch someone’s attention, he tried to shout but his throat was parched. He saw a few blurred silhouettes of men standing and murmuring, he noticed them pointing at him and discussing the details of what to do next, it was at this moment he gathered all his courage and started screaming for help again.

The murmurs became quiet for a minute and then he heard loud terrifying laughs, this made him anxious and terrified hearing those laughs made him sure of one thing that all this is planned and he is not here by accident.

A man in a suit and resembling figure approached him, as the figure kept approaching Veer got terrified more of it until he fully realised it was none other than Zorawar itself.

Streaks of tears flew from his eyes he started sobbing and said, “No..No it can’t be true, it was all you.”

Zorawar smirked and said in his malicious voice, “Kid it has always been me remember when you asked me about

killing my father because that old hag wasn't handing over the company to me and how I had to kill your sweet peon kaka because that idiot was snooping too much, they still had it easy, I gave them clean deaths but you my darling adorable Veer, you did something that I can never forgive, you took my company so I had to rightfully pay you back and here it is, your own fucking house, here you will just sleep, eat food, soil your pants, rot and eventually die, best of luck for your new life."

"Please just give me water." Veer said gasping on his rough voice caused due to the constant shouting and no water for 16 hours.

"Ohh yeah I can surely give you something to drink." Zorawar said being extra chirpy and then he unzipped his pants pulled out his dick seeing that Veer wept, Zorawar took a piss in the hole straight onto Veer's face he was mum for a second but then he opened his lips apart and drank out of his utter helplessness.

He clearly heard the evil laughs this time and sobbed quietly as he was too broken to even make noise.

Zorawar handed the watchman 3 packets of what looked like a brown muck, "Just shove it in his mouth using the pipe enough to keep him alive and suffer."

Tears flew from Veer's eyes hearing all this, he regretted his life decisions at that moment, his decision to delete the files in anger, his decision to actually trust the police, his decision to trust Gaurav, and his initial decision to even join this company.

On the other hand, Radhika got impatient and relentless with Veer's sudden disappearance she sensed that something is going on with Veer's odd behaviour throughout this week,

but she decided to give him time and space to heal on his own but during that he never ever missed one of her calls but since the past 2 days 50 of her calls have been unanswered Veer's voicemail completely filled with her messages with her being concerned and angry on him with occasional breaking down every now and then, as the time flew by she got more concerned after a day and half passed by, with Veer being completely M.I.A she decided to take matters in her own hands and pay a much needed visit to his PG. She reached there with multiple thought running in her brain, what if he is cheating on her, or worse what if he has left for Annupur without informing her. She hesitantly entered his PG and met his landlord who without wasting any second said out loud,

“This is not a girls PG; it's a boys PG and girls are strictly prohibited to even enter.”

“No, no I just want to inquire about one of my friend Veer who happens to live here, he hasn't been answering my calls so I am a bit concerned, can you please ask him to come down and meet me.” Radhika cleared the air

“Oh, sorry sorry beta you see youngsters are living with zero shame some even in live-in, so I feel it's better to clear the air from early on. Veer you said, right very nice and decent boy always keeps his room clean though I never presumed him to have any female friends although who am I to judge, ha ha ha”

“Uncle please can you call Veer it is urgent.” Radhika said impatiently with anger in her voice

“Beta calm down as if he is the prime minister and for your information he hasn't returned to the PG since yesterday evening and we don't keep check on people's whereabouts

once they leave PG so kindly you also leave.” The landlord said this time more stern to show-off his authority

“Uncle, can you call his roommates or anyone else who would know about his whereabouts. It is really urgent.”

“Beta his roommate was out of town for 2 weeks and the boy rarely talked to anyone, I highly doubt anyone would know even about his existence. Now I would have to request you to please leave”

Radhika was not fully convinced with the answers and grew more concerned she decided to wait outside and ask everyone who enters the PG about Veer’s whereabouts, and she did that for 3 hours straight until she got fully convinced of the landlord’s words that nobody knew Veer here that much. She decided to go to his office once and ask his colleagues if they knew anything about him.

When she entered his office, she was amused as no one was working and everyone’s eyes and ears were at the meeting room, the investors were furious, the board room was shaken, one board member said,

“Everyone knows that you are incompetent Zorawar but to this level that you gave all access to one single employee and ended up doing God knows what with him that he deleted all the data, till when do we have to bear with your childish antics there is a limit and our money is at stakes, we have all decided to remove you from the company as the CEO. And it has been done by votes in all fairness so that you can’t find any loopholes.”

Zorawar was completely aware that he can’t beg or argue his way out and had a final smirk and said, “Well you can

remove me from the CEO position, but I am still in the board with a majority of the shares.”

“Yeah, Zorawar we were aware of this situation so since a year we all have been quietly buying your shares when you were busy with your local moronic goons, and whoring yourself out as of today you have no shares in the company and you do have a rather small sum of money in your bank account, we quietly bought all those shares in cheap when you were busy ruining this company. My advice will spend it wisely and not on whores.” A board member explained him politely

It was at that moment hell broke loose on Zorawar’s face he was too stunned to speak anything he never expected this to be coming on his face. His eyes were wide open, he just stood up from his chair and silently walked out of the conference room, seeing him devastated AJ smirked and said, “End of Ravan Yug well Shruti you need to find a new cock to suck on, I wonder if the new boss will hire Veer, again.”

Shruti gave him an eye roll silently as she was relieved believing Zorawar will now leave her for good.

Seeing the chaos Radhika was just standing behind them and overheard AJ, she said, “Excuse me sorry for eavesdropping but did you said Veer was not working here.”

“Ummm... who the hell are you and what do you care.” Shruti inquired

“Well, I am his girlfriend and he has been missing since the last 48 hours, he isn’t picking up his phone nobody knows about his whereabouts, so I came here to inquire and see if anyone knows about him and his whereabouts.” Radhika told everyone, AJ was about him to make a joke, but Shruti signalled him to keep quiet

“I am sorry, but our boss ruthlessly kicked him out a week ago we haven’t heard of him since.” Shruti said this time in a polite tone

“Now it makes sense why was he acting so weird, can you please give me more details.”

Radhika pleaded

Meanwhile the new peon overheard this conversation and went to Zorawar’s office

“Saabji Saabji, Veer’s girlfriend is here and she is inquiring about him to everyone.”

Zorawar was quietly sitting in his desk blunt of any emotions he picked up his phone and called Chappan dada,

“Dada sending you a girl’s picture I want her on the site she is that fucker’s girlfriend.”

Zorawar hung up the call and said to the peon without even looking at him,

“Take her picture quietly and sent it to dada, and yes your loyalty will be rewarded soon”.

The peon’s chest broadened by this sudden accomplishment he smiled and went out. Meanwhile after finding out what it all happened to Veer in the past few weeks, Radhika got so distressed that even when she noticed the peon lurking a bit too much, she didn’t pay any heed and exited the office silently.

It was dark, the chaos and Radhika’s personal investigation made her pretty late but the darkness was something she was never afraid of, she embraced it. Riding her scooter in the

dark alleys was her calm but today she was distressed. She saw a blurred silhouette of a man in middle of the road as she drove closer; she saw a van parked beside the road she sensed that someone might be in danger, she stopped near the van and asked

“Are you guys in trouble, do you need some help.”

The man sitting in the van smiled and said,

“No, we are fine and for your troubles you will never find help now.”

Radhika got confused by these words but as she decided to go away the man standing on the road grabbed her from behind and snuffed a clothe on her face. Radhika resisted and fought for few minutes before succumbing to the chloroform she had just inhaled.

For the first few minutes Radhika couldn't feel anything her body felt sore she struggled to open her eyes she tried moving her hands around to feel sand and stones her body ached she heard faint crying and shriek noises followed by much louder laughs she tried to gather her senses as fast as she could.

She saw a cemented box which almost resembled a coffin with a small rectangle opening

Inside the box she heard sobbing and a male's voice crying her name aloud after a split second she realised it is veer's voice. She quickly tried to get up but Natha grabbed and pulled her hair from behind and smashed her head and body on the ground

Veer screamed,

“Sir sir please leave her I have made my mistakes she is innocent she hasn’t done anything please leave her. Punish me all you want but please leave her.”

Zorawar walked and leaned to Veer’s confinement and spat on his face and said,

“Madarchod you have costed me my entire company what all we do to both of your measly lives is still very little to what you have costed me your entire bloodline’s suffering is also little so shut up.”

Veer cried and yelled, “Zorawar sir no please, no leave her kill me but not her.”

Chappan dada who was witnessing everything from afar lit his beedi and said,

“People are chutiya in love look this girl went behind him and now what will happen to her my parents were also mad in love like them.”

“So, what happened to them then.”

Natha eagerly asked

Bobby landed his palm on his face

Chappan dada gave them a side eye while taking a drag and said “Nothing my gangster nana killed them on his deathbed they were his 55th and 56th murder and I became his next generation and 56 Dada.”

Natha and Bobby were stunned hearing Chappan dada’s story for the first time they stared at him as he walked away then Bobby screamed

“Dada, won’t you have a bite of the bounty.”

Chappan dada turned around and stared at him giving him a death stare Natha got scared and immediately scolded Bobby,

“Don’t you know Dada never touches a woman without her permission.”

Chappan dada again turned around and proceeded to go sit in the car

Zorawar grabbed Radhika by her hair and took her to a table and laid her down. Veer watching this screamed in agony

Radhika was in a shock to utter a single thing

Zorawar ripped her clothes off and started thrusting in her seeing this veer screamed and howled, after Zorawar was done; he pulled his dick out and saw blood on it he laughed and said,

“Guess someone is not dying as a virgin today, you should have told me earlier child I love to fuck virgins I would have enjoyed it more. Here have her leftovers”

The other men laughed as they inserted themselves one by one in Radhika, she didn't utter a sound and sobbed quietly.

Meanwhile Veer howled and cried, Natha and Bobby fucked her until she was lifeless, Zorawar looked at her dead body and said,

“Throw it here only so that he sees it day and night.”

Chapter 9: -

“When you suffer, the people who love you suffer twice, once for your pain, and once because they cannot take it away.”



Veer wasn't answering his phone in the last 3 days, for the first day his parents brushed it off by saying that he might be too busy, it was in middle of the second day that the visible sign of worry started coming on their faces, by the third day they were trying to reach him in every 5 minutes. When all their efforts went into vain; they decided to go to Mumbai by themselves as they didn't have anyone in mumbai to ask for help. Veer's mom had fainted twice by crying but still persisted to come along.

The neighbours packed them some food for the train journey. They boarded the train only managing to get a general ticket in the train, Veer's father had written down his phone number, and some addresses in his diary just in case his phone dies, his mother was restless just praying to god that her son is fine. She just wanted to go and slap him hard for not picking up her phone and then hug him so tightly that he never leaves her.

Upon reaching Mumbai his father said, auto is expensive here we have to take the local here, his mother nodded not able to understand a single thing. They managed to reach his pg, seeing them the landlord understood that they might be someone's parents or coming to inquire about the pg he went towards and greeted them nicely. His father smiled in pain and with folded hands said, "Namaste our son Veer stays here but we aren't able to contact him for 3 days can you please call him, we are extremely worried, this his mother she hasn't eaten anything for 2 days."

The landlord seemed worried and said, "I am sorry but veer hasn't showed up since the last 3 days, I was also trying to contact him usually the boys roam around without telling us, but I knew that it was very unlikely of him that's why I was also concerned

"Does anyone know, his friend or anyone about him."

"He rarely talked to anyone he always minded his business went to office and then straight to his room interacted with no one." the landlord told them

Hearing this his mother started sobbing more, "Let's go to the police station it's been more than 3 days."

His father nodded as they were about to leave the landlord screamed, "Yes yes a girl came to inquire about him as well just a day after Veer's disappearance she was around 5'5 ft skinnyish with an indian tanned skin tone, she had big sharp eyes and thin lips with a sharp nose though she was skinny she had fuller cheeks." The landlord gave them Radhika's description to see if they might know her and contact her.

“No sir we don’t know any girl and veer never mentioned anything but thank you for the help this might be useful do you have her contact number or name?” his father inquired

“No, I am sorry but please let me know if I can help you in any other way.” the owner said

His parents left and straight up went to the police station.

On their way to the police station Veer’s mom suggests going to his office once and investigate there. His father agreed. They reached his office and tried entering but the watchman stopped them thinking them of some labourers trying to trespass.

“No no bhaiya our son Veer works here we just need to see him he has been missing we want to see if anyone knows about his whereabouts.” his father tried to explain

“I don’t care whoever your son is, I can’t let you enter until someone from inside gives you entry.” the watchman protests

Veer’s parents beg and cry in front of the watchman but he remains stern refusing to let them enter.

Shruti sees this whole scenario from afar while smoking she crushes her cigarettes and runs towards veer’s parents to aid them, “Namaste uncle namaste aunty I am veer’s colleague Shruti. What happened all okay”

“Yes, Sruti beta veer has mentioned about you, do you know about him we are not able to reach him since days please tell us if you know anything.” his parents asked almost breaking down

Shruti calmed them down and said, “Uncle aunty he was fired from the office a week ago since then we haven’t heard from him but yes his girlfriend might know something she came to inquire about him as well.”

“Girlfriend who, a skinny 5’5ft tall brown skin coloured girl.” his mom asked

“Yes, yes aunty that girl she was also quite worried.” Shruti replied

“Thank you for the help beta. We will now go to the police.”

Shruti fetched an auto for them and asked the richkshaw driver to take them to the nearby police station.

This interaction was noted by the peon who had started lurking around shruti more. Meanwhile a distressed shruti confronted to AJ and Bhavya about her worries they calmed her down, but she started sobbing,

“I am now scared for all of us what will happen....I...I.”

Her phone chimed with an unknown number sending her nudes with a message in bold

“U DARE SAY A WORD ANYMORE AND ALL THIS WILL BE VIRAL U WILL BE BLACKLISTED AND DEATH WORSE THAN VEER WILL BE WAITING FOR U.”

Reading this shruti became mum and just got up, wiped her tears and ran straight to the washroom. AJ and Bhavya got a bit weirded out with her behaviour.

Veer’s parents entered the police station

As soon as veer's parents entered the police station a grim stench of blood, sweat, cigarettes, and paan filled their nostrils. His mother covered her nose with her pallu and rolled her eyes seeing the paan stained walls.

As soon as they enter, they saw a police officer around 5'10 ft with a lean built and a thick moustache his look reminded them of cops that they generally saw in Hindi masala films

They saw some hope in him and ran straight to his table, Veer's father read the officers name on his desk it was

"ASHUTOSH SINHA" written in bold black letters

His father straightaway grabbed his feet and started crying,

"Ashutosh Saab please find our son please he has been missing since, 4-5 days no one know where he is please help us find him."

"Please sir we have no one in this city please help us find him." His mother begged

Seeing this condition of veer's parents Ashutosh held and requested his father to get up and said,

"Please get up you don't have to beg us it is our duty to help you, please give me all the details so that we can find your son."

"He always calls us but when he didn't call us for 2 days straight, we got worried and came here in Mumbai. The pg owner said he hasn't seen him since 4-5 days no one knows about him and when we went to his office his colleague said that he was kicked out a few days ago and yes a girl was also

inquiring about him although we don't know about anyone.”
His father said

“I have written everything and I'll soon start the investigation please don't worry I think the girl might be involved.” Ashutosh suspected

“Sir everyone told us she was also worried we think she is a good person trying to help.” His mother defended

“Aree maaji you don't know these big city girls they are...”
Ashutosh quipped but a havaladar intervened

“See our Saab, his own wife cheated on him and left him and then he got transferred for being too honest, that's why you shouldn't be too nice learn from our certified woman hater.”

Ashutosh gave him a side eye asking him to shut up but as soon as the Hawaldar's daily taunt was done and he went away whistling

Veer's parents were too stunned but went on, “sir we don't know who is a good human or a bad human we are simple villagers and our only intent is finding our son please help us find him, you seem like a good cop please help us.” His father begged again

“You don't worry I have written down the complaint and we will start our investigation soon.”

His parents left crying but with a glimmer of hope that they will soon find their kid.

Ashutosh sighed and then asked the Hawaldar, “when you go on your routine check go to this boy's pg as well dig out

information as much as you can and yes do keep an eye if that girl resurfaces again.”

“Yes saabji”

After his hearty lunch sweet yawns began to surround Ashutosh, his eyes began to flicker like they were drowning in sleep Ashutosh revolved his eyeballs to check if anyone is seeing and then decided to lean on his chair and take a sweet nap. He leaned on his chair and shut his eyes off, streaks of drool started coming of his mouth.

He had forgotten all his worries for a second and then he heard someone arguing and crying he didn't paid any heed to it after all he is in a police station which can never be a quiet place in this whole country, but the cries intensified and then when he decided to open his eyes and see for himself who is crying a man in his mid-50s and a pot belly and check shirt was consoling his crying wife and requesting her to keep quiet along with looking at Ashutosh in disappointment for his negligence in his duty. A sudden embarrassment ran through Ashutosh's face he got up, cleaned himself and sweetly asked,

“Yes, sir tell me.”

“You are sleeping on duty are you even capable to do hour duty.” The man interrogated

“Ohhh shut up with your Deshbhakti and file the complaint my daughter is missing since 2 days.” His wife screamed

Listening to this Ashutosh alerted himself now in his stern voice he asked them to sit down and asked, “please tell me what happened.”

“Sir our daughter was in a worried state for a few days and then since yesterday she hasn’t returned home, we are very worried please help us.”

The man explained while controlling his sobbing wife

“WHAT your daughter is missing since more than 24 hours and you are coming just now are you even worried.” Ashutosh scolded him

“That is what I am saying sir this man is the least worried about his daughter.” The wife taunted her husband and then again resumed to crying

“Sir she is out there always helping out dogs and people and she returns home late a month ago only she was in hospital helping a bystander so we thought this might be the scene but now she hasn’t reached out since more than a day and that has never happened, her phone is also off.” The husband now said keeping his judgement of Ashutosh aside.

“Ok ok still you should have come earlier, leave it can you give me any details or contacts and your daughter’s picture.” Ashutosh asked

“She didn’t had any friends if the street dogs don’t count and here is the picture.”

Ashutosh held the picture and found an uncanny resemblance is the girl’s described by veer’s parents.

But before reaching to any conclusion he calmly said, “please don’t worry I am on it and will try to find your daughter as soon as possible I have filed the official FIR as well.”

As soon as Radhika's parents left Ashutosh called the Hawaldar and said, "this looks kind of uncanny I am also coming for the investigation."

"What Saab will you investigate dogs now." The Hawaldar joked

"Are you done joking so that we find these 2 missing people."

Chapter 10: -

"I am afraid we must make the world honest before we can honestly say to our children that honesty is the best policy."

– George Bernard Shaw



The Mumbai heat irritated Ashutosh's guts he was sweating profusely he tilted his head out of the police jeep to have a gasp of fresh air but all he got was a foul stench from a nearby gutter and hot air blown to his face, annoyed he took his head back inside.

"Sir here it is AGORA office now let's interrogate in centralised AC and scented cabins."

The Hawaldar said Ashutosh nodded and went inside as soon as he entered the office all the employees started oozing their eyes out to see the new drama that might brew, the new CEO rushed to keep everything in check after Zorawar being kicked out his main task has been to clean his mess and keep Gaurav off his back as he was constantly trying to woe him

"Sir may I help you I am the new CEO of AGORA." He politely asked

“Ummmm yes we are here to investigate one of your ex-employees Veer he was kicked out a week ago and has been missing since the last 5 days.” Ashutosh replied.

As soon as those words crossed Gaurav’s ears his face turned white and he was stunned, fidgeting his left foot Ashutosh noticed that but decided not to say anything for now.

“Do you have a warrant sir?” The CEO asked calmly

Ashutosh glanced at the Hawaldar indicating him to handover the warrant as soon as he did Ashutosh quite irritated looked at the new CEO and said, “Yes can we talk now.”

“Sir I have been appointed a day ago after my predecessor was kicked out by the board for negligence and drowning the company’s reputation his only smart work was to hire Veer as he was a very disciplined guy and worked great but due to some stupid argument he kicked him out in a fit of anger. Actually, that violates some laws and rights and I was thinking to contact him to rehire him as well after cleaning some mess because the guy had done good work compared to some fools.” The CEO said while looking at Gaurav still behind his back

Ashutosh’s attention was all at Gaurav who noticed his change in expressions every now and then

“Thanks, for the help sir May I question some of your employees.” Ashutosh asked politely

The CEO nodded and said, “if you need any assistance please ask Gaurav so that he can be of some use to us.”

Ashutosh turned to Gaurav and said, “so let’s start with you then.”

“Sir me, I haven’t done anything I barely talked to that guy I can’t tell you anything.” Gaurav started to defend himself without any questions asked

“Relax I am not pushing you behind the bars or anything, I just wanted normal answers about veer and his habits etc nothing serious, I guess you are scared by police don’t worry. Please escort me to your other colleagues.”

Gaurav hesitantly took Ashutosh around the office his palms were sweaty and his feet were continuously fidgeting While Ashutosh acted to look around his focus was primarily on Gaurav and how he reacted around

As soon as Ashutosh reached Shruti’s desk he asked,

“So, I believe you were quite close to your boss Zorawar can you give me some intel about him and why did he kick out such a talented and only hardworking employee.”

“Sir...”

As soon as Shruti opened her lips she saw the peon glaring and smiling to her from afar so after brief pause, she continued, this time more coldly, “I have no idea Zorawar sir never told me about that that’s all that I can say Thank you.”

And she went back to working on her laptop, Ashutosh found it a bit fishy but decided to investigate this now on his personal level he turned to Gaurav and said, “that will be all I’ll leave now thank you for the cooperation.”

Gaurav suggested to me escort them out, but Ashutosh refused and walked off.

On the entire way to the police station, he pondered about Gaurav's attempts to clear himself out and Shruti's reluctance, but he figured out that Shruti is not speaking out of fear and hence decided to pursue Gaurav more.

At the police station he asked the Hawaladar, "I want phone logs and location of both missing people's mobiles asap. And ask Sakha to get me a chai where the hell is he anyways."

"Off with wooing another prostitute for the night." The Hawaladar scoffed

"Sakha, Sakha" Ashutosh yelled

After a few moments a Hawaladar in his mid 40s of medium height with a pot belly dark skinned with black spots all over his forehead showing early sign of diabetes, moustache and black mole with 2 hairs popping out, emerged from the gates on his phones typing something, busy he glanced at Ashutosh and said, "yes Saab you called."

"Why the hell you are on phone, on duty go get me a chai." Sakha annoyed didn't bothered to give even a glance and left

Ashutosh's patience was hanging loose hours flew by his mind was constantly revolving around the possibility of the 2 people being related he even thought to visit veer's pg once but gave up on the possibility of collecting more information first and go a bit prepared.

"Saab ji saabji," the Hawaladar came rushing at dusk "you won't believe what this Veer and Radhika were related you

were right they have calls as long as hours since a month. I guess they had a lafda going on.”

“Very good that’s an important lead and what about their locations.” Ashutosh asked excited

“Sir the phones were switched off at location miles apart that is the problem ruling out possibility of running away.”

“No worries unmm it’s 7.30 anyways let’s go to investigate to his pg and other places.”

“Sorry sir my wife is nine months due I need to leave please take Sakha with you.”

“Ok you take care of your wife SAKHA you are coming with me to veer’s pg.”

Sakha nodded from afar and went back to typing on his phone

As soon as Ashutosh entered the van, “do one thing take to Agora office first and I don’t want you on your phone.”

“But sir we should investigate the pg first.” Sakha resisted

“Do as I say Sakha.” Ashutosh scolded him. Sakha obliged and started driving cussing Ashutosh under his lips While waiting outside agora office Sakha constantly asked Ashutosh, “sir why aren’t we going inside to interrogate what are we doing outside.” Ashutosh calmly smoking his cigarettes while leaning on the jeep said, “don’t eat my brain in this heat just wait I am your senior not the other way around.”

“No sir I am asking so that we can quickly find the missing people.” Sakha tried to cover up

“Since when do you think about helping people why the sudden change of heart you just find reasons to miss your daily patrols also.” Ashutosh asked

Sakha didn’t say a word and tried to whistle it away.

Suddenly he saw Ashutosh all alert and charged up, “sakha come and just follow me don’t ask anything.”

Sakha looked confused but still he had no choice but to follow Ashutosh. After a few minutes he realised that they have been following Gaurav all along.

“But sir why are we following Gaurav.” Sakha protested

“Sakha shut up and let me concentrate.”

They followed him all the way in the Mumbai local as well Ashutosh was adamant on getting the truth but sakha on his side was just confused with what is going on in his mind as soon as Gaurav went out of the local station and boarded a sharing auto.

Ashutosh ran towards it, Sakha running behind trying to catch his pace.

As soon as the auto driver pulled the gear Ashutosh also boarded the auto along with Sakha panting profusely with all the running. Gaurav was stunned with Ashutosh’s sudden embarkment on the auto,

“Bhaiya please take us wherever he is going, Hello Gaurav it’s high time we have a word.” Ashutosh smiled as he placed his arm around Gaurav’s shoulder

Gaurav looked stunned he didn’t expect Ashutosh to appear out of the blue.

“Sir how are you here.” He asked in a stunned but low voice

“Well, you see I know you are hiding something so the faster you spill the faster I get off your back.” Ashutosh said in an almost threatening tone

“Sir I am a simple man with family how can I be involved in someone being missing.” Gaurav said in an almost defending voice

“Gaurav, I know you have family and you are not involved in veer being missing but I also know that you are definitely hiding something so the sooner you spill the sooner you I’ll be off.”

“But sir I don’t know anything.” Gaurav once again tried to defend himself

“You are going home right let’s have chai made by bhabhi ji then.” Ashutosh said all friendly and then sat quietly still wrapping his arm around Gaurav and whistling.

Gaurav sat quiet not even moving an inch here and there. Streaks of sweat started coming from his forehead and side locks.

As the auto stopped Gaurav sandwiched between the 2 signalled Ashutosh that they have reached their destination.

They left the auto and Ashutosh paid the auto rider for all, the auto driver hesitated to take money from a cop but Ashutosh remained adamant, even Sakha said once “Leave it Saab or give it to me, even I never pay.” Hearing this Ashutosh turned to Sakha and said, “do you want to hear a lesson or will you shut up and you take your money and leave.” The

auto driver did as told and left then Ashutosh turned to Gaurav and said, “come on let’s go to your house.”

Gaurav now almost begging said, “Sir please understand I come from a respected family.”

“So, we are not respected.” Sakha argued

“No sir this is a strict Gujarati colony if these people even get whiff of police coming to out house; they will inform the landlord and kick us out, please sir please I beg you.” Gaurav said almost folding his hands

“Then tell us the truth Gaurav simple.”

A kid of 5-6 years ran towards the party screaming, “pappaaaa” and jumped on Gaurav, he picked up the kid and kissed his cheek.

“Papaa how was your day?” The kid asked innocently Gaurav just smile and nodded and the kid continued, “But I have been a good kid ask mummy why did you bring police uncle with you.” Gaurav smiled and then Ashutosh took his kid from Gaurav and lightly pinched his cheeks and said, “relax beta we are your papa’s friend I known you have been a good boy but now go home and have your dinner or else we will actually come and punish you.”

Gaurav grew more uncomfortable but maintained a smile and said, “yes beta you go inside I am coming.”

The kid ran from Ashutosh’s lap towards his home

“Cute kid at-least think of him Gaurav if you won’t open your mouth, I have ways and those ways can hurt your reputation in the society could expel your kid from school and

much worse the choice is yours.” Ashutosh tried to intimidate Gaurav.

“Sir I don’t anything I didn’t liked that guy but can you see my condition and lifestyle in this city as a middle-class man I can’t afford to fight with an auto wala let alone make someone go missing.” Gaurav begged once again.

“Gaurav, I know that but I also know that there is something that you are keeping from us the sooner you spill that, the sooner we are able to find the 2 people missing.” Ashutosh this time urged Gaurav

“2!! I thought veer is only missing.” Gaurav asked in astonishment

“Yes, veer and his girlfriend both are missing so you understand the gravity of the situation.”

“No one is safe no one is safe from him.” Gaurav yelled

“From who Gaurav who, give me the name.” Ashutosh held Gaurav and screamed at him.

“Zorawar who else!!” Gaurav finally let it out he started crying and told Ashutosh everything, “I tricked veer into not making the presentation hoping he will be scolded but the repercussions scared me and shook me to the ground and in anger veer deleted all the files which led to Zorawar being kicked out, and his temperament was all over the roof, he exploited all of us taped Shruti and had her nudes, I used to lick his ass for promotions etc because I had to feed a family then veer came, became the favourite I felt I had to do something but never expected this to escalate.

Then his girlfriend came to the office to find about him I guess Zorawar might have noticed her and since he was being kicked out that day, he took revenge from her as well, I was afraid of Zorawar hurting my family and if my involvement costs me my life, so I kept quiet I am sorry sir sorry.” Gaurav sobbed

“Gaurav you did make a mistake but not a grave punishable offence, now I want you to find some hard evidence tomorrow so we can take down such a powerful man, and I want your full corporation in this, people’s lives are on the line here.”

Gaurav agreed and went inside his home.

Ashutosh turned and said, “Sakha you also leave it’s been a long day.” Sakha still on his phone looked up nodded and then saluted Ashutosh and left.

Ashutosh started walking pondering the eventful day he grabbed an auto on his way home he felt relieved that he will be finally able to serve someone justice, how he is now able to beat his past, how he was transferred just for being honest and how his wife cheated on him in his absence, this all pushed him to become a chain smoker, Mumbai never felt like home to him it was always Lucknow but now he had no one there.

No one who remembered him and then suddenly he remembered that when they started following Gaurav Sakha asked him that why are they following “Gaurav” how did he know about Gaurav when he was never part of the investigation and Ashutosh never explained him the mission he just simply asked him to follow him, how he was attentive on a case for the first time and how he was always typing.

It hit him that he has sold himself. And if that is true then Gaurav and his family are in danger. Ashutosh was in shock for a second and then he asked the auto driver to turn back.

“Drive faster faster” Ashutosh yelled the auto driver obeyed.

As soon as he reached his society gates he rushed to the security cabin and asked the watchman did someone suspicious or for Gaurav’s flat entered.

The watchman got frightened and said, “yes sir a delivery boy came for his flat Gaurav sir never orders in it was the first time a delivery guy came for his flat he just left 20 minutes ago.”

“Follow me” Ashutosh said to the watchman and started running towards Gaurav’s flat he pressed the lift button but had no time to waste so he decided to take the stairs he almost sprinted as he reached Gaurav’s floor all other’s flat doors were shut while Gaurav’s door was slightly open as Ashutosh moved ahead to open it, he was stunned with a pool of blood on the white tiles, half eaten food on the dining table a chair on the floor, with Gaurav in his indian vest and shorts on the floor laying cold with his wife behind him in her night gown in the same position, meanwhile their son head was on the dinning table with the gunshot placed on his head and blood dripping from it.

Chapter II: -

“The great appear great because we’re on our knees.

Let us rise.”

– James Connolly



The watchman was shocked and started screaming while Ashutosh was still for a minute and then dialled the ambulance and police force to reach the murder site immediately.

The post-mortem team arrived and sealed the area a mob of media reporters were waiting for Ashutosh, he gathered all his courage took a few deep breathes, the ACP was calling him he finally picked up the call and answered,

“Jai hind sir yes sir.”

“Ashutosh what the hell is going on and what were you investigating before this family was murdered.”

“Sir I got missing complaints of a young couple from their respective families we drew out the warrant and began investigations there, I felt that Gaurav was hiding something

and after following him and using some tactics he finally told me that their ex-boss has kidnapped the ex-employee of the company and his girlfriend. But the Hawaldar on duty with me was bribed and he informed his goons and they did what they had to, I decoded the Hawaldar being involved and rushed as soon as I could but it was too late.”

“Oh my god this has now become a headline news we need to arrest this boss no matter who he is send me his details I am sending the search squad and where the hell is this Hawaldar now.” The ACP said in his worried voice.

“Sir he has been missing too, probably ran away and I have sent you Zorawar “the guilty’s” information.” Ashutosh replied

“Ok good now tackle the media and don’t let Sakha’s name come for now it will tarnish the department and the media will not let us do our job wandering like swarm of bees, make up any lie.” The ACP ordered

“Yes sir” Ashutosh hung up the call and went to face the media

Zorawar was in panic he knew that the police might be coming to arrest him anytime soon he was continuously calling chappan dada, but he also went underground, he had warned Zorawar of the consequences but now things did went too far. The plan was simply to get Zorawar out of the country, but the execution was the most difficult.

Suddenly he heard a sharp knock on his window he got spooked first but then realised it must be Natha and Bobby with his new passport.

He opened the window to let them in,

“Sir here is your new passport, and visa dada has sent it and asked us to get the payment also.” Natha said

“Payment right now I need cash in London my accounts will be frozen by tonight or else should I wire him.” Zorawar asked timidly.

“Ohhh so that we get tracked and our accounts get frozen too don’t use your brains you have already landed us into enough trouble, and we need payment right now what if you go to London and never return us our money back.”

“Ok fine how much.” Zorawar reluctantly asked

“2 crores” Natha quoted

“What have you lost your mind 2 crores for what?” Zorawar screamed

“To beat up veer for the first time and then capture him, capture his item, kill Gaurav and his family and the most important getting you these fake documents so soon. Don’t you remember now, that time you were enjoying pissing on him and raping that girl. Now it is payment time.” Natha said pointing a revolver on Zorawar.

Zorawar knew he can never out man these 2 so he obliged unwillingly.

“Ok at least drop me to the airport.” Zorawar pleaded

“Ok fine one last rodeo but hide in a carton police are searching for you everywhere.

Zorawar nodded his cockiness had vanished with the sudden turn of events.

But little did he know the police had already been tipped off that a chopper is waiting for Zorawar at the old terminal, as soon they got a whiff of him trying to run they made a plan to use a different route and catch him red handed when he least expects it.

Natha and Bobby along with Zorawar reached the isolated old airport terminal where his chopper was waiting for take-off.

As soon as he got off the carton and was going towards the chopper, he heard loud siren,

Zorawar panicked and asked Natha and Bobby to reverse but they knew that now they will be followed if Zorawar is with them, Bobby punched him on his face throwing him out. And Natha revved the engine, Zorawar ran behind them to help him, but they speeded out and the police soon followed.

Zorawar was finally arrested.

In the police station Ashutosh tried to interrogate Zorawar but he stood there like a log, he very well knew the constitution and how to manipulate them as soon as he entered the police station, he demanded his lawyer to be called up.

The ACP came in the middle of the night just to make sure that there is no hassle he took Ashutosh aside and said,

“It is a high-profile high-risk case there is hanging noose around our neck one wrong move either the media and the public is after us or the politicians are, tackle it very smartly

don't use any violence we have enough proof any which ways, thanks to your habit of recording everything and the watchman's confession. And yes, carry out a lookout for Sakha asap."

"Sir I have already sent two Hawaldar to search for him and submitted all the evidence."

At that moment Zorawar's lawyer came and immediately demanded to be explained the case and meet Zorawar.

Zorawar was eagerly waiting for him in the remand room.

As soon as his lawyer entered Zorawar rushed to him and eagerly said, "is my bail ready when am I getting out."

"Sir you can't get a bail." The lawyer said

Zorawar grabbed him by the collar and said, "listen if I don't get out then..."

"Sir I am the only one that can help you leave me in a second or else you are gone." The lawyer backfired a threat on Zorawar.

He left the lawyer and lowered his tone and said, "what's the issue what is happening."

"Sir they have the evidence of you getting 2 people kidnapped and a family murdered the media is swarming outside it is a non-bailable offence when all the evidence is there. They will be coming to interrogate you they won't beat you of course because of your power but they won't let you leave also. You will be produced in front of the court. Your safe bet is confessed where you have kidnapped that couple. We will then pay them off and build the murder narrative on

someone else. Just don't confess the murder." The lawyer explained

"I can confess but the issue is that the girl is dead we all gang raped her." Zorawar told his lawyer softly

"Are you out of your fucking mind, 4 murders, 1 rape, 2 kidnappings. Nobody can save you if not death penalty, life imprisonment is guaranteed for sure." His lawyer screamed

"Do what you can that is what you are being paid for." Zorawar told him

"Confess the kidnapping rape is still not an issue we will blame it on what you said the henchmen on whom we are pinning the murders as well. Just tell them the location to find the missing person then we will spin the story to put you through the least of all offences." The lawyer told him and left

Ashutosh entered to interrogate Zorawar, as soon as he can speak Zorawar handed him a paper with the location and said, "go and find them they are still alive, I'll confess everything then." He spoke very calmly

Seeing this Ashutosh was stunned but then rushed to rescue Veer and Radhika.

Chapter 12: -

“When rich wage war, it’s the poor who dies.”

– Jean Paul Sartre



Ashutosh ran to save veer and Radhika as soon as he could but the coordinates given by Zorawar were too far and in an isolated place at times the police wondered if it’s even the correct place or if it’s some trick by Zorawar to deviate them.

Another manhunt was carried out by a segment of police for Natha and Bobby.

As soon as Ashutosh reached the isolated building he rushed towards the rusted iron gates and burst opened it as he entered the building with dripping walls half broken gates and chipped of paint a foul stench entered their noses the entire team entered and made their way through the debris with a single hand on their noses and one holding the torch to help them navigate the way through the debris. Suddenly Ashutosh tripped down as his foot stepped on something as he flashed his torch on the thing it was a girl’s body. He shouted,

“Hawaladar come fast this must be Radhika’s body call the post mortem team and the ambulance, Veer must be somewhere here only, let’s just hope that he is alive.”

Ashutosh ran through the entire building shouting Veer’s name in hopes to find him. After the long 1 hr search, he was tired and sat on a cemented elevation, then it instantly hit him why is there an elevation in middle of the hall. He instantly shouted, “come here fast all of you.” He flashed the torch through the gap installed to pass food down he indeed saw a rotting body.

The police force rushed quickly and tried to smash the cemented elevation with whatever they could. After 30 minutes of hard labour, they were finally able to break into it and retrieve the rotting body. The stench was strong as if the fumes were arising from it. The corpse was covered in blood, and faeces. “Sir I guess he was starved to death.”

Ashutosh took a long glance at Veer’s corpse and took a deep breath and said, “No do you see the long pipe it was to made sure that he is fed enough to survive and suffer that’s why is body is covered in faeces as well but I guess he couldn’t hold it that’s why there is deep wound in his left wrist he would have for sure found some stone or something sharp and scratched his wrist continuously as the physical pain was easier for him than this hell.”

“What all human beings are there, sir to think of doing this to someone I don’t care whatever power this Zorawar must have he needs to be hanged for all of this.” The Hawaldar said

“5 murders torture of a man at this extent, gang raping a girl and what not for sure he will be hanged only.” Ashutosh

said softly he was in a state of shock after seeing all this he felt guilty for affirming to both Veer's as well as Radhika's parents that he will find both of them and now both the kids caught in the whirlwind of this city died for just existing at the wrong place and at the wrong time.

"Found thousands of ways to move on, but death is still the best"

VEER'S POV

The prison veer was in, was something he never imagined to exist, he cried and shouted continuously for help but no one listened during the first span of 24 hrs he was forced to drink a human's pee to quench his thirst and when he was hungry a blob of food mixed with water was passed down his throat with the help of a pipe he choked on it a few times but his jailer didn't bothered to see his comfort.

Still veer endured insects crept on him a small rat came inside the hole at first Veer folded his hand thinking of the rat to be some sign of God but when the rat nibbled his foot Veer cried in agony but still, he kept praying.

But he actually hit rock bottom when he saw Radhika helpless not able to do anything just seeing him from afar being raped by a bunch of men he cried, shouted and begged for mercy, he was happy living in the encroachment as a prisoner if they let go of Radhika but she had her fate written over.

Veer saw a girl die in front of his eyes because of him the girl he had once promised to forever protect he punched the cemented walls as hard as he could in agony a bazillion times. A few pebbles and pieces of cement dropped but that did nearly nothing to the wall.

Veer passed out but as soon as he woke up, he saw Radhika's corpse lying on the ground in front of him. It was at that moment that he decided that he now can't suffer anymore and he needs to end it now, he swept his palms around in search of something and suddenly he found a sharp rock that must have fallen when he punched the walls.

Without any hesitation he began scratching his wrist aimlessly and after bleeding and scratching for literally 30 minutes straight up, he started feeling dizzy he knew it is time now for his final moments he remembered his parents and Radhika for one last time and then went into a deep slumber.

PRESENT DAY

The news broke out in the media of what had happened in the city marches very carried out against Zorawar and gangsters like Chappan dada, a search warrant was drafted for Chappan dada, Natha, Bobby, and Sakha, but the police was sure they had fled the state.

Everyone was sure that Zorawar would be hanged.

For the first time Zorawar was quiet Shruti and AJ appeared as witnesses.

But then Zorawar's lawyer swooped in he appealed that Zorawar was just involved in Veer's kidnapping. Whereas Radhika's kidnapping her gang rape and the murder of Gaurav's family was done by Chappan dada in order to cover their tracks, and Veer committed suicide. The lawyer manipulated with made up evidences. The judge couldn't ignore those even though he knew that Zorawar was involved in everything the rape the murders, but he had to acknowledge the evidences produced in the court. The judge

still gave Zorawar a life imprisonment for kidnapping and torturing Veer to such an extent. The lawyer fought that the punishment was harsh but the judge didn't pay any heed.

Shruti sighed and felt that she is finally free from Zorawar's clutches tired from a metropolitan city she decided to move to the mountains.

But then one day she received a call from an unknown number.

As she picked up the call and said, "hello yes who is this."

"Hello Shruti." Hearing this she stood froze, it was a voice she will never forget until her last breath it was Zorawar's, the man she ran away from and the voice from the phone continued and said, "The hunt is on." Followed by loud fan noise probably of a chopper.