

SIYAPPA - TROUBLE INCOMING

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FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

RAHUL (30s), bulky but soft is pushing ADITI (30s), petite but fierce who is seated in a wheelchair. Rahul increases his speed as the sound of Aditi's scream increases. We see Rahul walking briskly as Aditi holds onto her baby bump.

RAHUL (V.O.)

My father always used to say, "when you will become a father, then you will understand." Today, as I become a father, I wonder if I end up becoming like him.

Aditi's scream increases. She raises her hand and holds onto Rahul's collar; Rahul stops and comes in front of her.

ADITI

This is terrifying!

RAHUL

Everything will be fine, trust me.

Rahul places his hand on her belly.

RAHUL (CONT'D)

Both my girls will be absolutely fine.

Rahul kisses Aditi on the forehead, a nurse arrives and takes her away.

RAHUL (V.O.)

Not that he didn't love us, but he was over the top protective. "Parenting isn't a stay at your aunt's house," my mother used to say. As all these lines repeatedly play inside my head, I can't help but wonder if I would finally experience them.

Rahul takes out his phone and starts scrolling through thousands of photos until he lands on one where he looks incredibly young.

We see a family of four, awkwardly standing with the Alberta/British Columbia Border.

Rahul zooms in at KABIR (53), remarkably fit for his age, wearing an extremely over-enthusiastic smile. He is clearly the only one happy in this photo.

Rahul zooms in at PRERNA (49), well-maintained, and a face that reflects the innocence of a perfect Indian wife, awkwardly smiling as Kabir holds her tight.

Rahul zooms in at MANSI (21), tall, snarky but beautiful as she holds onto a young Rahul (16), short, sassy and clearly going through puberty trying to escape this embarrassment. Rahul zooms out, and we can see the photo come all together.

RAHUL (V.O.)

We weren't the happiest back then,
but this one trip to Vancouver
changed our lives forever.

TITLE CARD: SIYAPPA

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

TITLE CARD: 14 YEARS AGO

INT. BROWN'S SOCIAL HOUSE, MOUNT ROYAL VILLAGE, CALGARY - NIGHT

Kabir enters the bar to a dead crowd as they listen to *Ghazals* (sad songs). "*Tumko Dekha Toh Yeh Khayal Aaya*" plays as old uncles with slight beer belly's sing the music aloud to express their sadness.

Kabir walks over to a bunch of old men. He jumps over ANAND(50), who looks way older, takes his glass of whiskey and gulps it down.

ANAND

At least let us be sad in peace!

Kabir hits his head and walks over to the D.J., Whispers something in his ear and walks back over to Anand.

KABIR

Stop wasting your time in mourning
after your long lost love. We are
Punjabi's; we drink to have fun,
not to drown in sadness.

The D.J. Plays peppy bhangra music, Kabir starts dancing his way to the stage, his friends follow. Kabir seems to look like the light of the party, but his eyes reflect sadness. Something is eating him from the inside.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, MASTER BATHROOM - DAY

Kabir, dressed in silk pyjamas, walks into his lavish bathroom and stands in front of the mirror. He takes out his trimmer and starts to precisely trim his beard to the perfect shape. He pauses and looks at his sheer beauty.

KABIR
You look amazing!
(beat)
You are the best; always remember
that.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, STAIRS - DAY

Kabir, dressed in formal wear, goes down the stairs while fixing his cufflinks.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, DINING ROOM - DAY

Kabir arrives in his lavish dining room. Breakfast has already been laid out for him. He reads the newspaper while Prerna serves him parathas.

RAHUL (V.O.)
This is Kabir Chopra, the head of the Chopra industries and my father. He is a self-made man, left India when he was 45 to start in a new country from scratch. In just eight years, he has made it to the top.

Rahul and Mansi join him. A picture-perfect shot of the ideal family having breakfast. Kabir gets up; Prerna helps him put on his coat and bids him goodbye.

RAHUL (V.O.)
He has everything a man would want. A perfect house, a beautiful and dutiful wife and two amazing kids. What problem could this guy have, right?

INT. KABIR'S OFFICE - DAY

Kabir walks around an office filled with cubicles, leaning over to each one to greet them. The employees don't seem to respond and carry on with their work.

INT. KABIR'S OFFICE - DAY

The office is full of shelves with different south-Asian snacks and spices with the name "CHOPRA" on them. Two men dressed in formal wear have been waiting for him. Kabir greets them and takes a seat as they start a presentation.

Kabir starts reading a file, he turns over the pages, shuts the file, takes out his phone and starts calling GURUJI (75).

KABIR

Guruji, these men have come with a proposal...

RAHUL (V.O.)

The Chopra's emerged as a respected surname among the Desi community all over Canada, thanks to him. He is a dedicated and hard-working man.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Kabir, dressed in a new pair of silk pyjamas, is trying to peep inside the kitchen as he waits for Prerna to bring fresh Rotis. Prerna walks over and places two hot Rotis from a casserole on an empty plate.

She starts pouring other dishes on his plate and starts to leave, but Kabir holds her hand and stops her from going.

KABIR

Let's have dinner together.

Prerna lets go of his hand and walks away. Kabir stares at his plate for a while. We zoom out to see him all alone. Kabir's phone starts ringing. It's Guruji; he gets excited and starts eating his food while talking to him.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, KABIR AND PRERNA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Prerna sits at her vanity, in front of her are tons of skincare products placed. She starts by applying toner on a cotton pad; as she covers all of her face with different products, tears start running down her face.

She gets up, puts on a smile which signifies fake to its maximum level, walks towards her King size bed, takes a pillow and a comforter.

She reaches for the door but looks around to have a look at her marital bed. She takes a deep breath and walks out of the bedroom. The door shuts behind her with a loud bang.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Kabir is brisk walking all over the house to digest his dinner. As his speed increases, so does the intensity of his belch. He starts to look for his kids, but they are nowhere to be seen.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, RAHUL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kabir knocks at Rahul's door, no response. He enters the room, Rahul is nowhere to be found. The room is a mess with clothes all around the floor, a basketball on the floor and a massive ring - light which shines so bright that it can blind anyone.

Kabir takes out the ring light's plug, picks up his clothes and places them on his gaming chair and leaves.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, MANSI'S ROOM - NIGHT

Kabir enters Mansi's room in the hope of finding her, but the space is empty. The room is white from the walls, the bedsheets, the closet to the study desk, and plants all around.

Kabir shuts the door behind him, and we see an **acceptance letter from The University of British Columbia.**

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, KABIR AND PRERNA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kabir gets ready for bed. He looks beside him; the side is missing pillows. He takes a deep breath, turns off the lights and tries to sleep.

RAHUL (V.O.)
Someone rightly said, "Never judge
a book by it's cover!"

INT. UBC UNIVERSITY DORM - DAWN

Mansi stands at the door of her dorm. We can see a single bed finished with white sheets and plants all around the dorm. On a desk lies sweatshirts, tumblers and keychains of UBC merchandise. Mansi's hands start to sweat; she grabs a tissue.

MANSI

Just one more weekend, Mansi! One more weekend.

Mansi's phone starts to ring; it's Prerna. She picks it up and starts talking while switching off the lights and dragging her stroller.

PRERNA (O.S.)

Beta, how are things? Is your dorm okay, or do you need an apartment?

MANSI

Yes, Mama, the room looks great...I will see you in a bit.

Mansi closes the door and walks towards the elevator.

INT. UBC DORM ELEVATOR - DAWN

The elevator doors open; Mansi steps inside and closes her eyes. We see her clenching her fists tightly.

MANSI

One last time Mansi...One last time.

INT. KABIR'S OFFICE - DAY

We see a man dressed in formals; his shoes shine from far away. As he walks around the cubicles, everyone stands up to greet him; we finally see it's GURUJI (75).

Doesn't look that old, but his face screams, "I have seen this world the most," a personality that could intimidate anyone. He strolls around with his stick and establishes power; behind him walks the company's owner, Kabir.

INT. KABIR'S OFFICE, CABIN - DAY

Kabir sits down on his chair, but not with a posture that signifies an owner.

Guruji sit's across him but with a stance like he is the King of the World. Kabir hands him a file to read.

KABIR

With the blessings of *Mata Rani* and your unwavering guidance, this season has been the best for us so far.

Kabir waits for a response from Guruji, he doesn't say a word. Kabir drinks a glass of water and clears his throat; Guruji looks above from his file.

GURUJI

Good job, Kabir. I will make sure you do better next time!

Kabir awkwardly accepts the compliment and starts making a drink for Guruji.

I/E. CHOPRA'S HOUSE - DAY

Kabir and Guruji ring the doorbell and wait for Prerna to get the door. Prerna walks towards the door and peeps as to who it is through the Peephole. She gets shocked, seeing the two men so early.

Prerna realizes she is still in her nightdress; she quickly searches the coat's closet for a dupatta and wears it. She opens the door and touches Guruji's feet.

PRERNA

What are you guys doing here so early in the morning?

KABIR

Didn't have much work at the office today, so I thought to come home and have some pakoras made by my beautiful wife!

Kabir leans in to plant a kiss on her cheek. Prerna gently pushes him away and taps his chest

PRERNA

(awkwardly)

Kabir, Guruji is here!

Guruji looks at Prerna from head to toe; she starts adjusting her *dupatta* to cover her nightdress.

GURUJI

Your aunt gets up and takes a shower first thing in the morning.

Kabir and Guruji start walking towards the living room. Prerna gets startled by the remark but chooses to ignore it.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kabir starts making a drink, while Guruji turns the television on and surfs through Indian News channels. Kabir sits down on the couch and hands over a glass to Guruji.

KABIR

Here's to a successful quarter, Guruji!

Guruji is busy listening to the news and doesn't pay attention. Kabir's glass is hanging in the air as he waits for much deserved 'cheers' from Guruji. Kabir clears his throat.

GURUJI

Cheers, *Yaar* (*a friendly expression*) Cheers!

Prerna arrives in the living room with a tray of two cups of chai and a bowl full of pakode. She places the tray on the coffee table and makes a plate for the two of them. Suddenly, she notices the two of them drinking.

PRERNA

Why are the two of you drinking when you asked me to make all this.

GURUJI

Prerna *beta*, none of us said chai.

PRERNA

But, Guruji. It's eleven in the morning. Is this a time to drink? What will Mami Ji say? And you know alcohol doesn't suit Kabir at any time of the day.

GURUJI

Next time, ask if we want chai or not, and no need to tell us what to do. He is your husband; he knows better.

Prerna looks at Kabir; he looks at Guruji with disgust but doesn't say a word. Prerna leaves the room and heads to the kitchen.

GURUJI (CONT'D)

Modi has done excellent work with abolishing Article 370.

Kabir gulps down his drink in guilt.

GURUJI (CONT'D)

So, when are you getting Mansi married?

KABIR

What's the hurry Guruji, she is just 21.

GURUJI

It's the ideal age to get married; she doesn't even have a degree...so it will be tougher to find a respectable man for her.

Kabir doesn't respond. He starts to shake his left leg, vigorously. Guruji notices his nervousness.

GURUJI (CONT'D)

At least start to find a boy and get together the dowry; this one will cost you a bit more.

KABIR

You are right, Guruji. I will get to work.

GURUJI

See, get her married at the right age, and her married life will be blissful. Prerna was 24 and look what has happened, your Mami Ji was 19 when we got married...so trust me, bete!

Kabir nods in agreement. His gaze goes around the room and stops at Prerna; her eyes are teary. The two look at each other as Guruji decides their daughter's future. Prerna shakes her head in disappointment and heads to her bedroom.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, RAHUL'S BEDROOM - DAY

Guruji steps inside Rahul's bedroom; the room is messier from the night before. He starts to search the room as if finding something important.

He checks the nightstand, the closet, the desk and the washroom; he tries to examine the trash contents.

RAHUL (V.O.)

Wait, wait! Isn't this guy too much? Well, let me back up a bit!

BEGIN FLASHBACK :

INT. GURUJI'S HOUSE - DAY

Kabir and Mansi greet Guruji and his wife by touching their feet. A younger Mansi and Kabir run around the house as they cause chaos.

Kabir sits beside Guruji, holding onto his hand. Guruji assures him, he is there for him. Prerna smiles at Kabir and blows a kiss.

RAHUL (V.O.)

You see, Guruji is my mother's long lost uncle, who was one of the first people to come to Canada. He helps families who immigrate to settle down in this mysterious land. He is quite respected in the community. So, he has since taken our family under his arms and teaches us how to live life.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, RAHUL'S BEDROOM - DAY

Rahul walks in on Guruji, smelling one of his hoodies. While Rahul gets awkward, Guruji doesn't seem to care.

GURUJI

Rahul bete, how are you here so early? Don't you have school?

RAHUL

It's summer...there is no school.

Rahul takes his hoodie from Guruji.

RAHUL (CONT'D)
Can I help you with something,
Guruji?

GURUJI
Nothing was checking your room for
contraband and cigarettes.

Guruji walks towards the door, Rahul starts to roll his eyes.

GURUJI (CONT'D)
I would like the room to be proper
next time, Rahul.

Guruji leaves; Rahul jumps on his bed and lets out a
frustrated SCREAM into the pillow.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, MANSI'S ROOM - DAY

Guruji enters Mansi's room and roams around. He notices the
dust on the furniture and dusts it off with his finger. At
her nightstand, he sees a journal and starts to go through
it. He sits down on the bed and attentively reads the pages.

Guruji is disturbed by Kabir's voice; he precisely places the
journal how he found it and rushes outside the room. We see
the acceptance letter from UBC fall down on the floor as the
door is shut.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, KABIR AND PRERNA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Guruji enters the master bedroom with Kabir and notices one
side to be empty.

GURUJI
So...this is still going on?

KABIR
Yes! I have tried everything...even
made her talk to ma, but she isn't
ready to understand.

GURUJI
How long has it been since you have
had sex?

KABIR
Almost 18 months, to be precise.

GURUJI

I don't know what's wrong with this woman! I am so sorry beta, I should have trained her instead of her useless father.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, MASTER BATHROOM - DAY

Prerna has been glued to the door as she listens to the two discussing her sex life. She starts to cry, which leads to heavy breathing. She runs to the toilet seat, and we see a pack of cigarettes and a lighter taped at the back.

Prerna lights the cigarette to calm herself down, but her tears won't stop. In anger, she takes a few puffs, stomps on the cigarette, picks it up and flushes it away.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, DINING ROOM - DAY

Prerna is laying down the plates for Lunch. Mansi comes in from behind and surprises her. Prerna gets shocked and embraces her. Kabir and Guruji walk in.

Mansi goes ahead and hugs Guruji awkwardly.

GURUJI

It was a long trip this time!

MANSI

Yes, I mean, we decided to extend the trip for a bit and head to Victoria.

Guruji looks at Mansi from top to bottom, which makes her uncomfortable.

GURUJI

It's good that you are back now.

Mansi looks at Kabir, he comes towards her for a hug, Mansi smiles, Kabir stops and steps back and gives her a warm smile. Rahul walks in and hugs Mansi.

KABIR

Now that everyone is here...I would like to share some good news!

Everyone takes a seat, Kabir gets ready to speak. Everyone looks at him in anticipation.

GURUJI

This has been one of the best
quarters for the Chopra Industry!

Prerna, Mansi and Rahul get happy, but Kabir looks grumpy as his moment was taken away. Kabir awkwardly sits down and angrily starts the dishes on his plate.

GURUJI (CONT'D)

Let's have a party tonight to
celebrate Kabir!

Kabir's face shines. Prerna and Mansi look at each other as Guruji dumps an enormous responsibility at them at the most reasonable hour.

GURUJI (CONT'D)

Ladies! Get to work!

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

The kitchen is a mess, with pots and pans spread all over the marble slab. Different spices and cookbooks are being used by the stove stand. Prerna and Mansi are frying samosas.

Prerna wraps the stuffing inside the dough and hands it over to Mansi to fry them. Prerna is clearly tired, but she doesn't stop. Mansi looks at her and sees her running like a machine.

PRERNA

We don't have time... *jaldi jaldi*
Karo (do it fast)!

MANSI

Ma...can we take a moment to
breathe? You are clearly tired.

Mansi holds Prerna by her arms and makes her take a seat on the barstool. Mansi sits beside her.

PRERNA

Okay, *beta*! Tell me, did you enjoy
setting up your dorm?

MANSI

Oh, it was amazing! I have never
experienced so much freedom.
(winks)
No one would roam around and go
through my stuff.

The two of them laugh and high-five each other.

PRERNA

Let me know if you need anything...I am always here for you.

MANSI

Ma! Trust me, I have this all figured out.

Prerna holds Mansi by her cheeks and looks at her grown-up daughter with loving eyes.

PRERNA

Yes! My smartest child. I know you do...But, I feel it's time you tell your father--

MANSI

Ma! Let me start university first, or else he will not let me go, and I would have to stay in Calgary.

PRERNA

Mansi, he is your father! He has the right to know. You know he will react to this news, but things would get worse if you don't tell him this news face to face.

Mansi starts to clench her fist again; she vigorously starts to tap her right foot, hands, feet, and forehead get sweaty.

MANSI

Ma--

Before Mansi could say a word, the fire alarm goes off as the samosas' batch gets burnt. Prerna starts to fix the kitchen while Mansi stares at an unknown point; she notices something wrong, grabs a Kleenex box and starts excessively wiping her hands to dry them.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Guests start to arrive, the front door is lined up with footwear like an Indian temple. All of Chopra's house is filled with guests, kids running around, men drinking, and ladies gossiping. The noise keeps increasing with every passing second.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, BASEMENT - NIGHT

We see a well- done basement with a bar and all the technology a millennial might need. We can see small groups all around the room.

All the teenagers and young adults are gathered below, far away from the commotion upstairs. Mansi grabs a drink and starts talking to a bunch of cousins. Rahul tries to sneak a drink from the bar.

SNEHA (21), smart, sassy and the light of any party, arrives at the basement. She looks at Mansi and screams in excitement, Mansi immediately joins her, and the two of them hug each other tightly.

MANSI

I have missed you so much!

SNEHA

Same here! It's good to be back.

MANSI

Oh yeah! It completely slipped my mind that you are a graduate now. Congratulations!

SNEHA

Congratulations to you too!
Finally, you are following your dreams and taking--

MANSI

Botany!

SNEHA

Yeah! Whatever...get me a drink and tell me all the tea you have!

Mansi laughs and drags Sneha to the bar. She takes out two shot glasses and pours them three shots each. The two gulp them down like it's water.

SNEHA (CONT'D)

Ahh! I have missed this.

Suddenly, the music stops, and everyone gets quiet. Prerna is calling for the kids.

PRERNA (O.S.)

Kids! Dinner is getting served.

Everyone starts going upstairs.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The house is so crowded that one more person and no one can move from their spot. Guruji stands in the centre of the room with Kabir. Kabir clinks his glass to gather everyone's attention.

KABIR

I am so glad that you guys are here! After all, be it happiness or sorrow, one should share it with his closest. I came to Calgary 8 years ago and never thought that everything would go so smoothly. But, with the guidance of Guruji, blessings of *Mata Rani* and the presence of my dearest kids--

Everyone looks at Prerna as she isn't mentioned by Kabir. Prerna, aware that everyone in this room knows about their sex life, tries to hide. She feels the eyes of women on her from all directions.

KABIR (CONT'D)

Chopra Industries--

GURUJI

Has had its best quarter yet!

Everyone starts to applaud, Guruji pats Kabir's back. Kabir tries to hide his disappointment of Guruji taking his highlight with his best fake smile. He is surrounded by family, but none of them are his own.

Mansi, Prerna and Rahul stand together far away; Kabir looks at them. He sees they are happy for him but are far away, he starts to move towards them, but Guruji and his friends drag him for a drink.

Guruji takes center stage and raises his glass.

GURUJI (CONT'D)

To Kab--

Just then, Sneha walks in and takes over. Sneha is quite drunk by now, she doesn't realize it's Kabir's moment, and she takes over. She steps on a couch; Guruji looks at her with wrath, wondering what the hell is wrong with her.

SNEHA

To Mansi! I am so glad that my beautiful sister is finally chasing her dreams of becoming a...boto..uhh..something.

(MORE)

SNEHA (CONT'D)
Here's to Mansi and her new Journey
in Vancouver from Monday! WOHO000!

Sneha is unable to maintain her balance; she falls down from the couch. There's dead silence in the room for a while. Rahul comes forward and takes over.

RAHUL
To my sister!

Everyone starts clapping and congratulating Mansi. Mansi starts to feel Kabir's eyes on her. Kabir is in absolute shock; he tries his best to pass through the crowd to get to Mansi.

Mansi starts to breathe heavily; Rahul notices and takes her to the basement. Kabir misses them by a second. He finds Prerna and signals her to come after him.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, KABIR AND PRERNA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Prerna is standing in a corner as she waits for a response from Kabir.

KABIR
Did you know about this?

PRERNA
Yes--

Kabir runs towards Prerna, punches the wall behind her and blocks her from all sides.

KABIR
Then why in the hell didn't I know
about this?

PRERNA
You exactly know why! It's not my
fault.

KABIR
You are my wife; you should have
involved me in this huge decision
of my daughter's life.

PRERNA
IT'S HER LIFE! IT WAS HER DECISION.

Guruji enters their room. Kabir lets go of Prerna and sits himself down on the bed. Guruji comes to Prerna.

GURUJI

For once...you could have been a responsible mother! You fool!

Prerna's eyes reflect anger. Guruji notices the flame inside her.

KABIR

What should I do, Guruji? This is a disaster.

GURUJI

See, what's done is done. We can't change the past.

Kabir nods in agreement.

GURUJI (CONT'D)

What can be done is if we get her *Roka* (a ceremony before engagement in which the families come together to accept the union of the couple) done this weekend.

KABIR

ROKA??

PRERNA

ROKA ??

*

GURUJI

This family is under my guidance and if I let you two handle that girl, then she will drown the name of this family forever. I will not let my name go into the mud because of the irresponsibility of that foolish girl.

KABIR

Her classes start on Monday? How can all of this happen so early?

GURUJI

I know some people, leave that on me. Now, listen to me very carefully.

Prerna stands, shocked as the two of them go on.

PRERNA

What do you mean I know some people? Marriage is a huge responsibility, and that girl has just turned 21. I will not let you two do this to her while I am alive.

GURUJI

Marriage makes you responsible. She will be fine. Kabir, you listen to me.

Prerna comes and stands in front of Guruji.

PRERNA

SHE IS MY DAUGHTER!

Kabir raises his eyebrows.

KABIR

SHE IS MY DAUGHTER! You have let her out of your hands, you irresponsible bitch!

PRERNA

KABIR! DON'T YOU DARE!

KABIR

Or what? What will you do?

PRERNA

You son of a bitch! Don't even think about ruining my daughter's life.

KABIR

I am doing the right thing! You have already ruined my life, at least let your daughter live peacefully. Guruji, tell me what do you want me to do?

Prerna holds Kabir's collar, aggressively.

PRERNA

MR. KABIR CHOPRA. PLAN ALL YOU WANT BUT THIS WILL HAPPEN OVER MY DEAD BODY.

Guruji comes in between and forces out Kabir from Prerna's clutches. Prerna storms out of the room.

KABIR

Ab toh kuch bhi ho jaye Mansi ki shaadi hokar rahegi Guruji! (Now, no matter what, Mansi will get married!)

Guruji pats Kabir's back in agreement.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, BASEMENT - NIGHT

Kabir enters the basement, dancing towards Mansi. He looks at her with innocent eyes and embraces her like she is being sent off to her husband's home. Mansi awkwardly hugs him as she wonders why isn't he reacting.

MANSI

Papa???

Kabir let's go of the hug and cups Mansi's face in his hands.

KABIR

Bete! I am so proud of you. It took you time, but I am glad you are finally going to university.

Mansi looks at Rahul, confused. Kabir keeps his hand on her head.

KABIR (CONT'D)

Bless you, my child! All I want is for you to be happy.

Kabir stands in the middle of the room.

KABIR (CONT'D)

Put some *bhangra-wangra* music. *Inn angrezi gaano main bhi koi dance Hota hai?* (Can someone even dance to these English songs)

Kabir starts dancing, everyone says away as he is the oldest in the room. Kabir drags everyone one by one, and they are forced to dance. Mansi and Rahul can't believe their eyes.

RAHUL

Papa isn't so bad after all. See, everything is alright. Now you can also relax and enjoy the party.

Rahul tries to take Mansi's glass from her, Mansi hits his hand.

MANSI

Yeah...I don't think I can relax after whatever happened.

Mansi gulps down her glass of whisky.

MANSI (CONT'D)

I need another drink.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

The party is over; Mansi and Prerna are busy cleaning up the dishes while Rahul brings them dishes from all over the house. Suddenly they notice a different set of hands with the plates; it's Kabir.

Mansi and Prerna stand in attention, shocked to see Kabir in the kitchen.

PRERNA
AAP?? (you??)

KABIR
(laughs)
Han toh?? (Yeah, so what?)

Kabir moves the girls aside and signals Rahul to come and help them. The girls take a seat.

KABIR (CONT'D)
You have been working since morning, let the boys take over! Relax!

Rahul doesn't seem to believe this; the way they are handling the dishes, it's evidently the boy's first time helping out the ladies. Mansi gets up and starts to leave.

KABIR (CONT'D)
Acha (ok) , I was thinking...if we could drop Mansi off by car this weekend? Like a last family road trip!

Rahul gets excited.

RAHUL
Yes! That's a great idea.

PRERNA
There is no need. She has her flight booked.

Kabir pats Rahul's back, which makes a loud noise.

KABIR
Yes...now we have one more driver!

MANSI
I don't know if it's a --

RAHUL
Come on, Mansi! Let me drive, for
god's sake!

Kabir looks at Prerna in anger. Mansi notices Kabir. He corrects himself immediately, smiles and faces Mansi.

KABIR
It's just one ticket! Everyone
start packing. We have to leave
tomorrow early in the morning!
Prerna, please pack breakfast and
chai for the trip!

RAHUL
Awesome!

Kabir leaves the room while humming tunes. Prerna follows him in anger.

RAHUL (CONT'D)
He looks delighted! This is going
to be fun.

Mansi rolls her eyes over the stupidity of Rahul.

MANSI
I don't want to go through this
Yaar!

RAHUL
Come on Yaar. It's just one
weekend. This is the least you
could do for him. He didn't react
earlier, you should appreciate
that.

Mansi groans.

MANSI
UGHH! You are right. Fine, let's do
this.

Rahul runs away to his room. Mansi gets back to work as the Kitchen is messier from before.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, KABIR AND PRERNA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kabir is about to close the door but is stopped by a furious Prerna.

PRERNA

Whatever you and your "mistress"
have planned for Mansi on this road
trip--

*

Kabir holds her gently by her arms and makes her sit down on
the bed.

KABIR

There is no need to use that
language, *Jaan* (my life). After
all, he is your uncle.

*

*

Prerna is confused by Kabir's reaction.

KABIR (CONT'D)

You were right, she is too young to
get married! Guruji really took
this to another level this time.

PRERNA

Exactly, there is no need to
involve him in our decisions. We
should cut all ties--

KABIR

See, *jaan*, we live in a society and
that man has helped us a lot. So,
we have to give him that respect.

Prerna nods in agreement.

KABIR (CONT'D)

Ab jo hua uss par mitti paa. (Water
under the bridge)

Kabir places his hand on hers.

KABIR (CONT'D)

Let's spend time with OUR daughter
and bid her farewell.

Kabir places his forehead onto Prerna's. Prerna gives in ,
but corrects herself.

PRERNA

I should go and help Mansi.

Prerna gets up and opens the door.

KABIR

Jaan, I love you!

Prerna doesn't look back. She stands at the door, still, closes her eyes and takes a deep breath.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, MANSI'S ROOM - NIGHT

Mansi is on her bed, with her journal open in front of her. She isn't writing anything and stares at the wall. We see her diary, just one line written all over in big letters, "Just one last weekend."

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, RAHUL'S ROOM - NIGHT

Rahul's room is still a mess. He is sitting on his desk, selecting appropriate enough songs to play for this trip. He grooves to them.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, KABIR AND PRERNA'S BEDROOM

Kabir is sitting on his desk, with a drink next to him. In front of him are print outs of different biodatas of boys. There are at least five of them; he lays them all in front of them.

We see each boy's photo slowly, suddenly the speed starts to increase. Kabir's head spins, and he finishes his drink to calm his nerves down. He takes out his phone and calls Guruji.

GURUJI

So, did they agree for the road trip?

KABIR

Yes, they bought the act.

GURUJI

That's great. So, did you get the chance to go over the biodatas I sent you?

*

KABIR

I have them right in front of me.

GURUJI

Did someone catch your eye?

KABIR

I don't know; I feel like we are rushing this. Mansi is too young.

GURUJI

Kabir, this isn't India that Mansi will stay innocent all her life. You are her father; you have to see if she is taking the best path. God forbid if something happens...who do you think will marry her?

KABIR

I don't know Guruji--

GURUJI

See, she accepted the admission without informing you and made things worse. If I was her father, I would do my best to prevent her from falling in love with a white boy and getting pregnant or something. If we are done with her Roka (the relationship is finalized), at least we won't have to worry day and night as to what she is up to.

KABIR

Yes! Yes...you are right. I am her father, after all. Her mother has just ruined her life from the very beginning. She let Mansi do whatever she wanted because she was in depression and needed to 'find herself.' I am her father, won't I know if she is depressed! I know what's best for my child. That woman has ruined my life.

GURUJI

Let's not talk about her right now. So, did you select some boy yet?

Kabir starts looking at the biodatas again. His eyes stop on ABHISHEK (25), handsome, lean and has a very warm smile. He starts going through his biodata. On the paper, we see -

Name: Abhishek Arora

Age: 25

Complexion: White

Height : 5'11

Job: Intermediate Software Engineer at Google.

Hobbies: Likes playing basketball and cricket. Also likes to cook every now and then.

KABIR

Hmm... This Arora boy looks good.

GURUJI

Good choice, they are in Golden right now; we can meet their family first.

KABIR

How's the family.

GURUJI

Believe me *bete*, they are terrific people and quite a respectable family. Mansi will feel like a queen in their house.

Kabir cuts the call and picks up Abhishek's biodata. He gets up and starts walking around the room, worrying if this is the right thing to do.

INT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE, KABIR AND PRERNA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

It's 3:00 am; Perna enters the room and finds Kabir to be asleep on his chair, clutching many papers. She starts walking towards him but stops.

SERIES OF SHOTS

- She takes out two strollers and starts packing their clothes for the trip.
- She comes out from the bathroom, dressed in her nightgown.
- She does her skincare by the vanity.
- She takes her set of pillows and leaves the room.
- The door bangs and Abhishek's biodata falls out of Kabir's clutch.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

EXT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE - DAY

It's early in the morning; Kabir and Rahul have been waiting for the ladies to get ready so that they can start the trip.

Kabir starts to get in his workout as he waits, Rahul is yawning.

KABIR

Beta, these two will take their sweet time as always! I am going to try clear my stomach, want to join?.

RAHUL

No, dad, I am fine. You go ahead.

Kabir runs back to the house and pats Rahul's stomach. Rahul rolls his eyes and starts peeking through the window to see if the girls are ready.

EXT. CHOPRA'S HOUSE - DAY

Rahul is getting impatient by the car while waiting for everyone. He checks his watch; it's 8:30 am. He starts YELLING.

RAHUL

MAMA!! MANSI!! Can you guys please come out!

Mansi and Prerna arrive with bags of snacks and utensils. Rahul gets shocked to see them holding onto so much stuff and rushes to take the bags away from them. Rahul places all the bags in the trunk.

Suddenly, Mansi comes and places a portable gas stove in the trunk.

RAHUL (CONT'D)

Really? Do we really need this??

Prerna arrives with a tea urn and overhears Rahul.

PRERNA

Your father loves his *Chai*!

Rahul grunts, Mansi giggles. Prerna taps Rahul's back and signals him to close the trunk.

PRERNA (CONT'D)

Chalo Abhi! (Let's go)

Mansi notices Kabir is missing.

MANSI

Where's papa?

Rahul checks his watch; it's 9:00 am. He grunts in frustration. Kabir finally comes out with a massive smile across his face, one hand on his hip and the other massaging his stomach.

KABIR

Ahh! Glad that everything got cleared.

Rahul's facial expression scream disgust.

RAHUL

Can we go now? We were supposed to leave at 8:00!

KABIR

These women will take all the time in the world!

Mansi and Prerna look at Kabir in amusement. Mansi rolls her eyes and starts scrolling through her phone.

RAHUL

(murmurs)

Yeah...they are the reason we are late.

Kabir walks towards the door in front of Mansi. Mansi, busy scrolling through her phone. Kabir stands in attention and clears his throat. Mansi ignores. Kabir clears his throat again.

Mansi looks down and sees Kabir's shoes; she shakes her head in disappointment, get's up to gives way to Kabir.

INT. CAR - DAY

Rahul is in the driver's seat, Kabir beside him. Mansi and Prerna are seated at the back with a Thermos, four cups and a vast, four-tiered, silver Tiffin in between.

In the middle of a dashboard is a small figure of *Mata Rani* (An Indian goddess). Kabir takes her blessing by touching the feet and placing that hand over his head.

Prerna in the back starts to fiddle through her purse. She takes out a small box which is filled with sugar, she hands over some to everyone.

PRERNA

May this trip go smoothly!

Everyone gulps the sugar at the same time.

*

KABIR
 (shouts in devotion)
JAI MATA DI! (Hail mother
 Goddess)

Everyone looks at him in confusion. Kabir senses their stares.

KABIR (CONT'D)
Are mein Nahi suniya? (I didn't
 hear anyone)

Prerna lets out a giggle. Rahul starts the engine.

RAHUL
JAI MATA DI

MANSI
Jai mata di

*
 *
 *
 *

EXT. CAR - DAY

We see the car on the highway heading towards HIGHWAY 1A, still in the city. We catch a glimpse of the Olympic plaza as the vehicle drives ahead.

FADE TO BLACK.

We have entered the highway, farms can be seen on both sides. A heard of cows eating grass, horses running, etc.

FADE OUT.

INT. CAR - DAY

Everyone is silent, there is no music playing in the car. Rahul reaches for his phone but stops himself. He vigorously starts tapping his fingers on the steering wheel, which creates harmony.

KABIR
 Why haven't you put on songs yet?

Rahul smiles and starts scrolling through his huge ass playlist. "*The Wakhra song*" starts playing on the stereo. Mansi and Rahul start to groove a little. Kabir's eyes widen.

He opens the dashboard and starts searching for it. He takes out a CD, the cover says, "*Narendra Chanchal top Mata Songs.*" Rahul doesn't notice and keeps grooving; Prerna rolls her eyes.

Kabir inserts the CD, "**Tum Kripa Karo Maharani**" (Bless us O Goddess!) And it starts playing.

KABIR (CONT'D)
(Sings along)
Jai Ma! Jai Ma! Jai Ma!
(Oh, Goddess!)

Rahul and Mansi get disturbed by this sudden change. Rahul presses the Bluetooth button, the song continues, and he sings along.

RAHUL
Aaja Dassan Tainu sohniye Ni
fashion ki hunda (Come, let me tell
you what real fashion is)

Before Rahul can complete the next line, Kabir changes it back to the devotional song.

KABIR
(Louder)
JAI MA! JAI MA! JAI MA

Rahul presses the Bluetooth button with more force.

RAHUL
Oh Wakhra Swag Ni! (Unique swag,
girl)

This back and forth continues for a while; with each line, the two men's frustration increases. Mansi joins Team Rahul and sings along. Prerna crosses her arms, watches the scenery ignoring the song battle going on.

Kabir changes it back and covers the stereo with his hands, blocking Rahul's way.

KABIR
Tum Kripa Karo Maharani jan par
Kripa Karo! (Bless us, O Goddess!
Please bless everyone)

This time, Kabir takes his pitch to a whole other level, which is enough to defeat anyone. Prerna places one hand on Mansi and the other on Rahul, comforting them to let it go.

KABIR (CONT'D)
It's still early in the morning; we
should remember god!

Rahul brings his hand towards the stereo but stops and gives up. Mansi puts on her headphones. Kabir continues to sing along.

EXT. CAR - DAY

We can still hear the devotional song in the background paired with the beautiful scenery outside. The car runs on the highway, and we can see the vehicle's exterior with the family passing snacks inside.

INT. CAR - DAY

It's 11:00 am. The music is still devotional. Rahul is yawning continuously, Mansi is asleep, Prerna is doing deep breathing exercises, Kabir is on his phone, texting Guruji.

GURUJI: I am going to reach Golden in another thirty minutes.

KABIR: Can you text me the address.

GURUJI: How far away are you guys?

KABIR: Going to reach Elk Pass

Guruji starts calling Kabir, he keeps on rejecting it. His phone keeps on ringing, Kabir gets irritated. Prerna starts to think something is fishy and tries to lean forward.

PRERNA

Who is calling? Is everything fine?

Kabir gets nervous, his phone slips out of his hand, he tries to find it but struggles to, he panics. The phone keeps on ringing.

PRERNA (CONT'D)

Is it really important??

Kabir corrects himself.

KABIR

Not at all *Jaan*, it must be spam anyways.

Prerna doesn't believe him

EXT. CAR - DAY

We can see a glimpse of the Elk Pass. Some cars are parked over there.

INT. CAR - DAY

Kabir's phone has been ringing continuously. He notices the pass and gestures Rahul to take the exit.

KABIR
Stop the car!

RAHUL
Papa, we can stop later at times.

His phone flashes "GURUJI" continuously.

KABIR
Beta, please! Let's stop here and have breakfast...I am hungry.

Rahul nods and takes the car to the parking. Kabir quickly unbuckles his seatbelt, finds his phone and gets out of the vehicle.

EXT. ELK PASS TO ALBERTA - B.C. BORDER - DAY

We are surrounded by mountains; these ones aren't snow-capped. We see the parking, it only has the Chopra's car, Rahul and Mansi are getting the thermos and tiffin.

On a bench, we see Prerna laying out the dishes like it's a dining table. In a corner, near the portable toilet, stands Kabir with his phone glued to his ear as he tries to have a conversation with Guruji.

GURUJI (O.S.)
Bete! Why are you running so late?
You are on the girl's side; what will people say.

KABIR
Guruji, you know these girls...they take their sweet time. Anyway, the family should also know that a Chopra is coming to see their boy, let them wait.

GURUJI (O.S.)
Makes sense. Is Mansi ready? Is she in inappropriate clothes?

Kabir looks around for Mansi. Mansi is seen clicking photographs; she is dressed in a white kurta (an Indian long shirt) and jeans.

KABIR

Yes, she is wearing A kurta and jeans.

GURUJI (O.S.)

Jeans?? Anyways, try to reach as soon as possible and tell Prerna to hand over a dupatta.

KABIR

(slowly)

Yes, Guruji!

Guruji senses some disturbance in his voice. Kabir closes his eyes and takes a deep breath.

GURUJI (O.S.)

Kabir, we have to do this. There is a society I...we are answerable to.

KABIR

Yes...Yes, you are right! The Arora's sound like a fantastic family, and she will stay happy and fulfilled with Abhishek. I am sure she will like that boy.

GURUJI (O.S.)

(cutting out)

Good bete... Trust me --

The call disconnects as Kabir's phone loses its signal.

RAHUL

PAPA!

Kabir walks towards the bench. The table is set, Rahul, Kabir, and Mansi sit, and Prerna starts serving them food. It's aloo puri.

KABIR

The perfect travel food!

Prerna gives a smile, Kabir looks at her lovingly. Mansi and Rahul notice this slight change in behavior and start whispering.

RAHUL

Someone has indeed said, sis. What a way to Man's heart--

MANSI

Is through his stomach!

The two giggle, which brings Prerna and Kabir to attention. Kabir eats the food fondly, his expressions praising it every second. Prerna over enthusiastically serves everything to Kabir.

RAHUL

Thoda humare liye bhi bacha lo!
(Save some for us as well)

Kabir and Prerna share a smile. The kids wander off to do a photo session. Kabir tears a bite from the puri scoops in sabji to feed Prerna. Prerna hesitates but gives in.

KABIR

Acha, listen! We are going to Arora's house.

PRERNA

(confused)
Arora's??

KABIR

They are a lovely family, our Mansi will rule there.

Prerna goes numb, her eyes look for Mansi, but she is out of focus. Kabir's voice goes slow in the background.

KABIR (CONT'D)

Give Mansi your dupatta, Guruji suggested.

Prerna looks at Kabir with anger, Kabir is busy scrolling through his phone. He notices the kids having a photoshoot and drags Prerna with him.

KABIR (CONT'D)

Everyone! Gather around, family photo time!

The border sign says, "Welcome to British Columbia." Kabir takes the camera from Mansi, she resists. He tickles her and takes it away.

Kabir starts suggesting poses and blocks positions for everyone. He sets the camera on a 10-second timer, runs towards the family, and grabs Prerna tightly by the shoulder. The photo is clicked; it's the same one from Rahul's phone.

Kabir's touch wakes Prerna, and she stares at Kabir with Anger. The kids run away from the awkwardness back to the car. Kabir looks at her and gets confused.

KABIR (CONT'D)

What??

Prerna shrugs his hand away and stomps away from Kabir. Kabir runs after her and grabs her.

KABIR (CONT'D)

What happened? I thought things were getting better.

PRERNA

Things will never get better, Kabir! You fucking lied to me!

KABIR

What do you mean?? When did I? Oh--

PRERNA

What oh? Yeah, I wondered, how did this man finally listen to me! That man is more important than your own wife!

KABIR

Yeah, you haven't been much of a wife, have you?

Prerna gets up in anger, takes out her sandal and almost throws it at Kabir. She corrects herself and buries her head in her palms.

PRERNA

KABIR! When will you get it! This isn't the right thing to do!

KABIR

I am her father. It's my duty!

PRERNA

(shrugs)

Duty. Go, do your duty, I am not going to get in that car.

Kabir gets frustrated, his phone flashes "Guruji calling"

EXT. ELK PASS TO ALBERTA - B.C BORDER

Prerna is sitting on the bench with her arms crossed. She refuses to get up. Kabir comes and sits beside her.

KABIR

Prerna! Let's go, what will the kids think.

PRERNA
That their father is crazy ?

KABIR
Prerna! Don't make me force you! We
have to drop Mansi, at least do it
for her.

Prerna refuses. Kabir's phone still ringing, he picks up the
call in anger.

KABIR (CONT'D)
We are coming Yaar ,Guruji! It's
not easy to handle two women! Have
patience na!

Kabir comes towards Prerna, holds her arm and tries to drag
her.

PRERNA
Don't touch me!

INT./EXT. CAR - DAY

Prerna goes to the car, sits inside and shuts the door hard.
Rahul and Mansi's eyes widen. They look at Prerna.

PRERNA
What?? Don't you have work to do??

Rahul brings his attention to the wheel, Mansi puts her
headphones on. A disheartened Kabir sits inside and shuts the
door lightly.

INT. CAR - DAY

It's 1:00 pm. The car is dead silent. Mansi is asleep. Prerna
has been staring at Kabir continuously; he has been trying to
ignore her gaze, making it more uncomfortable.

Rahul is controlling the steering wheel with one hand, the
other on his forehead. The music system is playing old Hindi
songs.

**"Kya Se Kya hogaya bewafa there Pyaar Mein. Chaha, kya Mila
Bewafa there Pyaar Mein"** (What all has happened Hey
unfaithful, in your love . What did I desire and what did I
get. Hey unfaithful, in your love)

Kabir looks at Prerna, Prerna turns away. Kabir sighs and
rests his head on the window. His phone buzzes; it's a text
from Guruji.

Guruji: The Arora's are waiting for you...they are excited to meet Mansi, especially Abhishek. I suggest telling Mansi a bit about them. Jai Mata Di, bete!

Kabir looks at the message and sits straight in attention. He lowers the volume of the song. Mansi wakes up to the sudden silence.

KABIR
Mansi and Rahul!

KABIR (CONT'D)
Handling a business isn't easy--

RAHUL
Because it demands sacrifice.

Mansi takes out her phone; she knows what's coming and doesn't care to participate. Kabir is disappointed to not hear from Mansi.

KABIR
Mansi bete!

MANSI
Yes, papa??

KABIR
You know, I have always admired people who have jobs.

Mansi gets interested.

MANSI
Really?? I feel the same. It's much safer, and you aren't always working. You can spend time with your fr...I mean family.

KABIR
That's so true! I have this friend who lives in Golden, he works at some networking company.

Prerna looks at Kabir in disgust.

MANSI
Really? You have a friend in Golden?

RAHUL
You have a friend who has a job??

KABIR

Yes!

MANSI

What's his name?

KABIR

Mr. Arora.

RAHUL

Arora what?

Kabir starts to go through his phone to find his name. Mansi loses interest in the conversation again.

KABIR

Anyways, we are going to stop at lunch at their house?

MANSI

WHAT?? Why the hell did me and Mama wake up so early in the morning after a tiring night? What about our food?

KABIR

Beta! Language!

Mansi sits back and crosses her arms.

KABIR (CONT'D)

They invited us...it doesn't look nice if we say no. We live in a society--

RAHUL

Papa!

KABIR

You guys will enjoy it. Mr. Arora has a son, Abhishek. Tall, dark and handsome. He is an engineer at Microsoft or something.

MANSI

Whatever.

KABIR

Are! You will love meeting him! They are a fun family.

Kabir turns his head around, Prerna's eyes are red. She shakes her head in disappointment. Kabir ignores it and looks forward.

KABIR (CONT'D)

Wait and watch! We all will have so much fun!

EXT. CAR - DAY

We are surrounded by beautiful mountains, the car drives along Kicking Horse River. The water is so pure, the color so blue. People are in their boats under the sun, getting a tan.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

Rahul is filling gas. Prerna and Mansi are taking a stroll.

INT. CAR - DAY

Kabir is busy typing the address in the GPS.

EXT. CAR - DAY

We see a sign for Golden's exit coming up. The car takes the exit, and we enter the small yet cute city of Golden.

INT. CAR - DAY

The GPS is guiding Rahul to the destination, but Kabir distracts Rahul every now and then.

KABIR

Beta! You are going the wrong way.

RAHUL

Will you let me listen to her, papa!

KABIR

I know more!

Rahul sees the house and parks the car in front of it. Kabir is still unaware of the fact that they have reached.

KABIR (CONT'D)

You should listen to me. I am your--

RAHUL

(shouts)

Fuck Papa, Yaar (dude/bro, an expression, almost like using fuck in different scenarios) (dude/bro, an expression, almost like using fuck in different scenarios), we are here!!

Rahul's abusive language is ignored by Kabir. Mansi mouths to Prerna

MANSI

Didn't he hear that??

Prerna talks with her eyes and tells her to calm down.

KABIR

Everyone, let's go!

Mansi's bag is in the trunk. She turns back and tries to grab it from the seat itself. For a second, her eyes glance at the opposite curb, she sees a car and panics.

MANSI

(whispers)

Mama! Mama!

PRERNA

What??

MANSI

Guruji is here!

PRERNA

What??

Prerna turns back to confirm Mansi's theory.

PRERNA (CONT'D)

Listen, beta! Whatever is going to happen next, was not my idea! Trust me, I could never do that to you!

Mr. GOPAL ARORA (54), short, bald and healthy, vigorously knocks at the window.

EXT. ARORA HOUSE - DAY

The family straighten themselves up and step out of the car. Gopal opens his arms for a hug.

GOPAL
Kabir Ji! It's a pleasure to meet
you!

KABIR
Oh! The pleasure is all mine, Ji!

Prerna presses her hands together to a namaste and greets
Gopal.

GOPAL
Bhabhiji! (Sister-in-law)

Gopal comes towards her with his arms open. Kabir gets
amused.

GOPAL (CONT'D)
Kidding Ji...Kidding!

Prerna awkwardly smiles at the absurdity of his gag. Kabir
laughs loudly to get into Gopal's good books. Mansi tries to
avoid this commotion but is spotted by Gopal.

GOPAL (CONT'D)
Mansi??

Kabir takes Mansi and pushes her forward.

MANSI
Namaste.

GOPAL
Namaste Ji Namaste! Badi Soni kudi
hai! (She looks like a lovely girl)

Guruji comes at the pavement with his stick. He walks like
Royalty. Kabir and Gopal in awe of him.

GURUJI
Finally! You guys are here.

Kabir and Prerna touch his feet together, Rahul follows.

GURUJI (CONT'D)
Should we carry this introduction
inside?

Kabir and Gopal laugh and walk inside arm in arm, together.
Prerna starts to walk towards the house but is stopped by
Guruji's stick.

GURUJI (CONT'D)
For once, be a good mother and get
Mansi ready!

(MORE)

GURUJI (CONT'D)

We are here to get this done right now! Do you understand?

Prerna freezes, Guruji walks away.

INT. ARORA HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Kabir, Guruji and Gopal are seated down having a ball. Prerna awkwardly enters the room. MRS. RIYA ARORA (48), Curvy and bubbly, enters with a tray of snacks and Chai. Prerna comes forward to lend a hand.

RIYA

Bhabhiji! That's alright

Prerna smiles; Riya keeps the tray on the coffee table and starts making plates for them. Prerna starts helping.

PRERNA

Where is Mansi?

RIYA

She is freshening up in the guest bedroom. I can look after this, you go on.

INT. ARORA HOUSE, GUEST ROOM - DAY

Mansi is walking around the room while biting her nails, she tries to control herself by taking long breaths in between her brisk walk around the room but it doesn't help. Her body expressions scream anxiety. Prerna walks in, Mansi is delighted to see her.

MANSI

Maa! What is happening? Why are we really here? Why is Guruji here?? What the fuck is happening.

Prerna doesn't respond; she starts to go through her bag and ignores Mansi's hyper behavior.

MANSI (CONT'D)

MAA!

PRERNA

What??

MANSI

What is happening??

PRERNA

You exactly know what is happening!
Now, calm down and get through this
like every girl does. Do you get
me?

Prerna Gestures to Mansi to stand in front of the mirror; she takes out a dupatta (scarf) from her bag and lays it over Mansi's head.

PRERNA (CONT'D)

I would suggest you not create any
ruckus right now. Be polite, smile
and speak less, and this will be a
piece of cake.

MANSI

Ma, but why--

Mansi is cut off by a knock at the door. Prerna reaches for the door; it's Kabir. He starts walking towards Mansi. Mansi is ready to shout but is stopped by Prerna.

KABIR

My little girl is all grown up now!
You look beautiful.

He makes Mansi look at herself in the mirror, and he stands beside her. Mansi's face is tensed.

KABIR (CONT'D)

Beta! I am your father. Believe me,
I am doing this for your own good.

Kabir turns Mansi towards him and kisses her forehead. Despite the situation, Mansi takes that moment in.

KABIR (CONT'D)

I support your decision to go to
uni, but at the same time, as the
head of the family, I have to make
sure things happen at the right
time. Finish off the Roka today and
let your father breathe...okay?

MANSI

I can give this a try...but only
for you!

Mansi nods, her eyes teary. Kabir looks at her with fatherly love.

KABIR

Mera Raja beta! (My Royal Child)

Kabir walks away, Mansi glances one last look in the mirror and takes a deep breath. Prerna keeps her hand on her shoulder.

EXT. ARORA'S HOUSE, PORCH - DAY

Mansi saunters towards Abhishek. He turns around, smiles and starts walking towards her.

ABHISHEK'S POV - MANSI

Mansi, dressed in a white kurta with a bright red dupatta, walks confidently towards Abhishek. The wind picks up, whipping her hair around her face. ROMANTIC MUSIC Starts playing in the background.

Abhishek checks his clothes while walking towards her. Suddenly, Mansi trips, Abhishek catches her. They are in a romantic pose, Abhishek's hands on her waist and his eyes fixed on hers.

BACK TO SCENE

Mansi is trying to get out of his clutches. He is focused on her eyes. Mansi clears her throat, which brings Abhishek back to reality. The two adjust themselves.

ABHISHEK

Hi!

MANSI

Hi

The two share an awkward pause.

ABHISHEK

So, how do we do this?

MANSI

I don't know, this is my first time.

ABHISHEK

Oh! I have a bit of experience. How about we go for a stroll.

The two start walking, Abhishek stops.

ABHISHEK (CONT'D)

By the way, I am Abhishek!

He brings his right hand forward.

MANSI

Mansi...

She shakes his hand.

INT. ARORA HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

All the elders are seated in the living room. The women, Riya and Prerna, are relatively quiet. The room is filled with the laughter of the men.

GOPAL

Don't mind me asking, Kabir Ji.
But, isn't Mansi joining UBC?

KABIR

Yes, her classes start on Monday.

GOPAL

So, why are you so keen on getting
her married?

KABIR

I know she is young but--

GURUJI

Gopal, as you know. We live in a
society, and today's generation is
going into the dumps.

Kabir nods his head in agreement.

GURUJI (CONT'D)

I have a reputation and won't take
a risk to damage it. After all, an
unmarried girl in a family holds
the most value when it comes to
honor.

(beat)

So, I feel, and Kabir will agree
that he has to do the right thing
at the right time.

Prerna rolls her eyes at the absurdity, Kabir notices, his
eyes turn red.

KABIR

Also, if one is married young, I
feel one's sex life only gets
better.

Kabir looks at Prerna as he takes a sip of Chai. Prerna
stares at him back.

KABIR (CONT'D)

After all, I don't want my kids to suffer the way I am.

Prerna clenches her fists in anger. The room is dead silent for a while. Suddenly, to clear the tension, Gopal laughs awkwardly.

Riya clears her throat, gets up and starts removing the coffee table; Prerna helps her. Still, her eyes are fixated on Kabir, with anger.

EXT. ARORA HOUSE - DAY

Rahul is roaming around, searching for a signal. He is walking in front of the garage, it's open, but he is unaware. He tries to lean on the door but falls down. He hears Aditi SHOUTING (actually Aditi from page 1, there was some issue)

ADITI

Hello? Can't you see?

Rahul looks at her beautiful face for a while, then gets up to see her actually working to fix a car.

RAHUL

Sorry about that. I was actually trying to find some network over here. By the way, I am Rahul.

Aditi fakes a smile.

ADITI

Hi! I am busy.

Rahul smirks and starts setting his hair. Aditi starts to grunt in frustration.

ADITI (CONT'D)

Subah se Lagi hui hun Yaar! (I am working on this since dawn)

RAHUL

Maybe I can help?

Rahul bends down to pick up some tools. Aditi stands straight with her hands over her hips.

ADITI

Did I ask for your help?

Rahul gets confused.

ADITI (CONT'D)
Did I ask for your help?

RAHUL
No??

ADITI
Then who made you the hero of this film? I don't need your help.

RAHUL
You are so weird!! I was just trying to help, dude wtf.

Aditi gestures him to get lost, Rahul starts walking away, but something makes him stop and look at her.

RAHUL (CONT'D)
Hey! Want to grab a drink?

Aditi looks at him and drops her tools.

ADITI
Sure!

RAHUL
You are very intriguing, you know.

ADITI
Tell me something I don't know.

Aditi starts walking ahead of Rahul; he smiles at her silliness.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Mansi and Abhishek are walking on the sidewalk. They share awkward smiles every now and then.

MANSI
So, how do we start?

ABHISHEK
Usually, we introduce ourselves, like what we do, hobbies etc.

Mansi smiles.

ABHISHEK (CONT'D)
I can go first. I am Abhishek Arora, I do nothing, and my hobby is to do cocaine.

Mansi giggles.

MANSI

I am Mansi. I also do nothing. My passion in life is to have at least 10 sugar daddies at once.

They both laugh together and look into each other's eyes.

INT. ARORA HOUSE, KITCHEN

Prerna and Riya are cooking lunch. The two aren't saying a word; it's awkward. Suddenly, Riya breaks.

RIYA

Bhabhi, this is common. It happens with everyone.

PRERNA

What?

Riya opens a drawer and starts searching; she takes out a bottled shaped like a woman. Prerna is startled.

PRERNA (CONT'D)

What's that?

RIYA

A few years ago, even we had problems. So, a friend gave me this Ayurvedic viagra.

Riya hands it over to Prerna and winks.

RIYA (CONT'D)

Believe me, *Bhabhi* (*sister in law*), this will do wonders. Just give him this before--

PRERNA

I need to go.

Prerna hands over the bottle and leaves the kitchen.

EXT. ARORA HOUSE - DAY

Rahul and Aditi have left. Now, arrive Abhishek and Mansi laughing as they discuss their lives.

ABHISHEK

Man, your cousin is wild!

MANSI
I know, right!

Mansi places her hand on Abhishek's shoulder. Abhishek smiles.

ABHISHEK
This was fun.

MANSI
Yeah...I had fun.

ABHISHEK
I know it's weird to say...but I think this could really work.

Mansi starts clenching her fists.

MANSI
Abhishek--

Mansi's face turns pale.

ABHISHEK
I really like you, Mansi.

Abhishek holds her hand but immediately lets it go; he rubs his fingers against his palms and gives a concerned look to Mansi.

INT. ARORA HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Prerna rushes to the living room, Riya behind her. Mansi and Abhishek also arrive. Prerna and Riya take a seat, Mansi and Abhishek remain standing.

KABIR
So, beta! Did you guys get to know each other?

ABHISHEK
Yes, uncle!

GURUJI
So, is it a yes?

Gopal and Kabir get excited.

MANSI
No.

Everyone sits up straight, concerned.

GURUJI

I am not asking you.

ABHISHEK

Guruji...she is right.

MANSI

I mean, I don't understand what you guys were thinking. Abhishek, as wonderful as he is, deserves someone who is his age and ready for this.

KABIR

Mansi--

MANSI

I am not the right girl for him...and I won't be for anyone. For god's sake, I am 21. I am too young to be married.

Prerna smiles at Mansi's bravery.

KABIR

Mansi...calm down.

MANSI

How can I calm down papa??

Mansi looks at Abhishek.

MANSI (CONT'D)

For starters, I wasn't even aware that I will be meeting a man.

Kabir signals Mansi to shut up.

MANSI (CONT'D)

And you want me to get pretty much engaged today??

ABHISHEK

Sir, with all due respect. Mansi is just starting out; she has big dreams. This isn't the time to burden her with such a huge responsibility.

GURUJI

So, you don't like her?

ABHISHEK

No, I really like her... but this won't work. It's not fair to either of us.

MANSI

Yes! So please stop trying to--

Guruji gets up from the sofa and walks towards Mansi with his stick. Mansi gulps, Prerna gets concerned. Kabir is confused. Guruji walks up to Mansi and stands in front of her.

GURUJI

Tu bahut bolti hai (You speak a lot)

MANSI

Sorry, Guruji...but you should also understand--

Mansi gets cut off as Guruji starts tapping his stick. She starts looking for Prerna. Guruji picks up his stick and comes towards Mansi.

Mansi feels something coming towards her and tries to save herself. Guruji's stick is stopped mid-air, he gets frustrated. It's Kabir.

Guruji looks at Kabir with anger, but Kabir's eyes hold more power in this situation.

KABIR

Nahi, Guruji! Ye zyada hogaya (No, Guruji, this is too much now)

Kabir let's go of his stick. The room stares at Guruji. Guruji feels ashamed, but his eyes blame Mansi for this embarrassment.

GURUJI

(To Mansi)

Tujhe toh mein baad mein dekhlunga
(I will deal with you afterwards!)

Rahul and Aditi enter the house, hand in hand, laughing aloud. The dead silent room makes them realize things are awkward. He looks at what has happened, his eyes fill with anger.

INT. GURUJI'S CAR - DAY

*

Kabir is handling the steering wheel, Guruji sits beside him, continuously staring at Kabir.

Kabir is holding onto the steering wheel with anger. As each second passes, his grip gets more robust.

GURUJI

Bete!

Kabir doesn't respond; he starts tapping his fingers fiercely on the steering wheel.

GURUJI (CONT'D)

BETE!

Kabir gets irritated and pulls the car to the side.

KABIR

What? Guruji, this time you went too far!

GURUJI

She was going too far in front of them, it doesn't look nice.

KABIR

So, hitting a girl looks nice?

GURUJI

No...It doesn't--

KABIR

In her 21 years of life, not once have I raised my hand on her, no matter what!

GURUJI

Maybe you should have--

KABIR

GURUJI! She is the Lakshmi (Goddess of wealth) of this house. I wash her feet, and you are here saying that I should have hit her! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

GURUJI

I say this from experience...trust me!

Kabir gets angry, his eyes turn red. He gets out of the car and walks back and forth furiously. Guruji steps out as well.

KABIR

Trust you? Trust you? What must my daughter be thinking right now?

(MORE)

KABIR (CONT'D)

Her whole life, no one dared to ever hit her and here is someone who her father gives the utmost respect, raised a stick on her??

GURUJI

I didn't mean to bete--

KABIR

Maybe Prerna was right--

GURUJI

Prerna was right? The reason for all the troubles in your life is right? That woman is right over me? How dare you compare me to her!

Kabir gets concerned, he tries to calm Guruji down.

GURUJI (CONT'D)

Here I have been helping you for the past eight years, handling your business, wife, and kids! I mean, I spend more time with you than your own wife, and that woman is right?

KABIR

Guruji, I didn't mean to--

GURUJI

Bete, nothing will make me happier than seeing my Kabir happy. I want you and your children to have a happy and blissful life. I am here to help.

Guruji starts getting emotional, which fades away Kabir's anger. He taps Guruji's arm in support.

GURUJI (CONT'D)

I just want to make things right for you, and you know this is the only way.

KABIR

You are right--

Guruji hugs Kabir and pats his back. Kabir likes the feel of a hug right now and gives in.

INT. TIM HORTONS - NIGHT

*

Rahul, Prerna and Mansi are sitting at a table beside the window, having their coffee. No one is talking to each other. Kabir and Guruji enter, Rahul turns furious, he clenches his fists and gets up to fight, Prerna handles him.

PRERNA

Calm down, beta!

RAHUL

Calm down?? He tried to hit Di with a stick!

PRERNA

If your father has settled his differences, we can't do anything.

RAHUL

But, Ma!

Kabir comes and sits beside Mansi, he tries to hold her, but she squeezes herself with the window and turns her face that way. Kabir gulps and distances himself from her as well.

Rahul grabs a chair for Guruji, the family has their coffee silently in a place full of people. No one looks at each other; Mansi stares into a void, a tear drops from her eye.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

*

Kabir is in the driver's seat, Prerna is sitting beside him. Rahul lays down in the back, using Mansi's lap as his pillow. Mansi's gaze is fixed outside as she massages Rahul's head.

Kabir's eyes are sad and teary. Music is playing, but the sound is low, the lyrics aren't recognizable. Suddenly, a familiar tune starts playing, Kabir increases the volume.

"Waqt ne Kiya Kya Haseen sitam,

Tum rahe na tum, hum rahe na hum"

(Time has done such great injustice, You're no longer you, and I'm no longer me)

Kabir and Prerna look at each other. He tries to hold her hand, but she pushes it away. Kabir looks at her with desperate eyes; she nods her head and turns her gaze away.

Kabir is about to cry, he tries to control his feelings, he mans up and grips onto the wheel. He gulps his emotions down and looks at Mansi through the rearview mirror.

KABIR

See, whatever happened, it was a mistake, and Guruji didn't mean to--

MANSI

Papa, don't care. Let's not talk about that.

KABIR

Good, I knew you would understand.

Mansi rolls her eyes.

KABIR (CONT'D)

See, bete. It's not that he is a bad man; he only wants to see us happy.

PRERNA

And how does he know what makes us happy?

KABIR

I am not talking to you. And, besides, he has seen the world. He knows what's best for us.

MANSI

Yeah, whatever.

Mansi's hands start sweating. Rahul feels it and gets up in an instant.

RAHUL

DI! Your hands are sweating, eww!
Don't touch me!

KABIR

You still have that problem? Your mother said everything is fine!

MANSI

Yeah, it's okay...I will be fine.

Prerna hands a box of tissues to Mansi, Mansi starts wiping her hands.

PRERNA

She is fine...it happens sometimes.

Kabir looks at Mansi from the rearview mirror as she takes out a bunch of tissues.

KABIR

When Will you stop lying to me? She clearly isn't fine.

PRERNA

If you are so concerned, why don't you stop interfering in her life?

KABIR

I won't interfere if you both stubborn women tell me the truth!

PRERNA

We will if you stop broadcasting our life to a bunch of unknown people!

KABIR

So, where should I go, haan? You are never there in the bedroom! It's been 18 months--

MANSI

PAPA, STOP!

Mansi starts to panic. Rahul clenches on to her and wraps her around in his lean arms.

KABIR

You are never ready to work things out, so I ask my family for advice. What's the big deal? What haven't I done for you? You wanted to come here. We came. You wanted me to stop growing my glorious mustache. I did! What haven't I done for you! And, you can't even fulfill the duties of a wife!

Kabir steps on the accelerator. The odometer shows us a reading of 110 km/h.

PRERNA

I want a Divorce!

The kids hear Prerna. Kabir is still going on with his rant.

KABIR

Neither have you been a good wife nor a mother! You know, if too much freedom is given to daughters, things go wrong, but no! You want to be modern!

(MORE)

KABIR (CONT'D)
How dare you stop me from bettering
my daughter's life, you--

Prerna closes her ears with her hands. She starts shaking her head as she can't take in one more word. Prerna lets out a scream.

PRERNA
I WANT A DIVORCE!

MANSI
WHAT??

Slow Motion: The Kids get shocked, Kabir loses his control of the wheel. The tire of the rear passenger seat bursts and comes out of the rim at the speed of 120 km/h.

Kabir tries to balance the steering wheel and tries to pull the vehicle off the road. Prerna reaches her hand out for Mansi. Kabir glances a disturbed Mansi and Rahul, worried and screaming their hearts out.

Kabir brings the car on the fork, starts the emergency blinkers and switches on the interior lights. He checks up on Prerna and the Kids.

All of them are shocked except Rahul. Kabir is shocked to see his reaction. Rahul's face screams excitement. Mansi and Prerna look at him with disgust, he corrects himself.

RAHUL
(Awkwardly)
Jai Mata di?

Everyone ignores him and rest their back on their seats.

INT./EXT. CAR - NIGHT

*

Rahul examines the tire burst. Kabir starts calling roadside assistance.

FADE TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

*

The family stands, holding suitcases, bags filled with food and utensils as roadside assistance takes care of their car. Rahul looks at his watch; it's 11:00pm.

ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
This will take a while. I suggest
you take the night off.
(MORE)

ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE (CONT'D)

There's a hotel nearby, I can drop
you guys off.

KABIR

Thank You so much! It's kind of
you.

ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

No problem!

INT. ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE TRUCK - NIGHT

*

Rahul, Mansi, Kabir and Prerna hold on to their stuff as they
are squeezed together in the truck.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

*

We see the truck drive on the highway.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

*

Kabir and Rahul drag their tired asses inside a shabby
Apartment styled room. The room has two rooms, one bathroom
and a tiny kitchen. The two lay down on the bed. Behind them,
enter Mansi and Prerna with the suitcases.

The two ladies go back and forth as they bring all the stuff
into the room. Prerna takes out a utensil and starts boiling
tea leaves. Mansi comes with a carton of milk.

Mansi takes out packets of Maggi (Ramen noodles) and starts
making them. The boys are busy stretching their bodies out,
scrolling through their phones, while the girls haven't taken
a seat since they have entered.

Kabir's phone starts ringing; it's Guruji. He gets up and
goes to the other room.

GURUJI (O.S.)

Is everything alright?

KABIR

Yes, the family is safe.

GURUJI

Bhagwan ka lakh lakh shukar hai (
Thank God)

Kabir closes his eyes in respect.

GURUJI (CONT'D)

Listen, I am going to reach Kelowna in an hour or so. I am excited for you to meet the Aggarwal's.

KABIR

I don't know Guruji...Mansi is going to say no, anyway.

GURUJI

We have to try, the stars align or not, leave that upon god. Sometimes, things work out.

KABIR

But, Guruji--

GURUJI

Kabir, bete! Do this for me...please. I just want Mansi's happiness. She is like my own daughter.

Kabir nods his head and runs his fingers through his hair.

KABIR

Sure, Guruji. I can do this for you.

Prerna enters the room with a cup of tea and tries to hand it over to Kabir. Kabir refuses. She places it on the nightstand and is about to leave. Kabir starts speaking LOUDLY.

KABIR (CONT'D)

I am sure the next boy would work out, Guruji! He is of her age, they would get along more!

Prerna looks at Kabir, his face covered with a vicious smile. Prerna walks away.

GURUJI

That's my boy! I am proud of you.

Kabir watches Prerna leave the room, his eyes turn teary. Guruji goes on. Kabir isn't paying attention. He cuts the call and sits down on the bed.

EXT. MOTEL - NIGHT

*

Prerna runs around the Motel as if looking for something specific. She finds a pool and runs towards it. She sits down and dips her feet in the cold water.

She opens her palms, we see a pack of cigarettes and a lighter. Prerna lights a cigarette, which releases her tension. She starts taking puffs continuously, as it helps her.

Mansi is facing Prerna's back. Her hands folded. She clears her throat. Prerna gets startled and throws the cigarette in the pool.

MANSI

I know you smoke, Ma!

Mansi comes and sits beside Prerna. Prerna hands over her pack to Mansi. She takes one and lights it up. The two smoke in relief.

PRERNA

So, do you do this regularly?

MANSI

Nah, just to relieve stress, like you.

PRERNA

Why didn't you stop me?

MANSI

I get it Ma, it's not easy to live with a husband like that.

Mansi signals back to their room. Prerna playfully hits her shoulder. The two laugh. Prerna takes in a puff and releases it slowly.

PRERNA

He isn't evil, you know. He is just naive.

MANSI

Hmm...are you sure about this?

PRERNA

About the divorce?

MANSI

Hmm..yeah--

PRERNA

I don't know... I feel we both have tried enough.

MANSI

It just feels so sudden...You always said you won't because he is our father.

PRERNA

I know...My priority has always been my amazing kids. And, I did not want you guys to grow up in a broken home.

Prerna runs her fingers through Mansi's hair.

PRERNA (CONT'D)

But you both are growing to be better adults than we ever were. So, I feel I can get away from this mess.

MANSI

So, you don't love papa anymore?

PRERNA

I do...I love him so much. But, I can't deal with others, and he can't be without others. I am his wife, yet I have always felt like an outsider.

Prerna starts to weep, her voice starts to crack.

PRERNA (CONT'D)

I shouldn't be talking to you about all this, but believe me, when I say this, marriage isn't easy; it isn't just about sex and having kids; it's not always blissful. Situations come, but you have to get through it together or end up like your father and me.

MANSI

Ma--

PRERNA

If, for any reason, you do want to get married...like right now? I will support you. If you don't, I am here too. But remember, it's your decision. Don't let those two idiots decide what's right for you.

Mansi hugs Prerna. Prerna kisses her on her forehead. The two get out of the hug and take a puff.

MANSI

That Abhishek wasn't so bad, by the way.

PRERNA

Really?

MANSI

Maybe in some other birth!

The two laugh. Rahul walks towards them.

RAHUL

You guys are here. Papa has been wondering where you have been from such a long time.

Mansi and Prerna get conscious and throw their cigarettes in the pool and try to sway away from the smoke. Rahul sits beside Mansi and joins them.

RAHUL (CONT'D)

It's damn cold, Yaar.

MANSI

Give it time; you will get used to it.

RAHUL

Give it time, even you will get used to meeting boys.

Everyone laughs.

MANSI

Papa is literally encouraging me to speed date!

RAHUL

He is your Tinder!

Mansi and Rahul high-five each other. Prerna smiles and watches her kids. Rahul starts smelling Mansi.

RAHUL (CONT'D)

Were you guys smoking?

PRERNA

No, some pervert was...why would we.

MANSI

Yeah, why would we?

Rahul stares at them, the two give in and start laughing.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

*

Kabir is on the bed, going through the other biodatas. His eyes are red. It seems he has been crying. He rubs his eyes and tries to concentrate, but everything is too blurry.

He gets up and calls his mother. The phone rings, but no one picks it up. His head starts to spin, no one is around. He heads out to find his family.

FADE IN:

EXT. MOTEL - NIGHT

*

Kabir is searching for his family, he finally finds them by the pool. The three of them are having fun, throwing water at each other, laughing. Kabir's phone starts to ring. It's Guruji.

KABIR'S POV

He looks at the phone and then looks at his family. His eyes go back and forth, his head spins.

BACK TO SCENE

Kabir cuts the call and takes a step forward towards them. Mansi, Rahul and Prerna are hugging each other. They look delighted.

Kabir takes that step back and sighs. He doesn't turn around but starts walking backwards as he takes in the sheer beauty of his beautiful family, the people he loves most in the world.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

*

The clock on the nightstand shows it's around 1:00 am. Kabir is covered by a blanket from head to toe. He is still awake. Mansi, Rahul and Prerna enter the room, making noise. Prerna notices Kabir.

PRERNA

Shh! Now, go to bed, you two. We have to get up early in the morning for the complimentary breakfast.

Mansi and Rahul groan and go to their room. Prerna slowly steps into the bed and carefully takes the rest of the blanket to not disturb Kabir. She turns to the other side and closes her eyes.

Kabir notices Prerna's presence. It's been a while since the two of them have shared a bed. He gets conscious, corrects his posture and comes out of his blanket fort.

KABIR

Do you really want this?

Prerna opens her eyes, she doesn't respond.

KABIR (CONT'D)

I know you are awake!

Prerna turns towards Kabir, they both lie down, their heads on their palms.

PRERNA

You haven't left me with much of an option, have you?

Kabir gently caresses Prerna's cheeks. Prerna closes her eyes.

KABIR

I know I haven't been the best husband, but I am not a monster, Yaar .

Prerna holds onto Kabir's hand.

PRERNA

No...No, you aren't a monster. You are an amazing man.

Kabir's voice gets teary.

KABIR

Then why do you want to leave me? You don't love me at all, right?

PRERNA

I do...I love you, but--

KABIR

Kya Jaan? (but what, baby)

PRERNA
Sometimes...love isn't enough to
hold onto a relationship.

KABIR
How do we know that for sure?

Kabir comes forward and starts kissing Prerna. She is clearly not into that kiss. He holds her tight.

KABIR (CONT'D)
(murmurs)
Maybe, this is all we need.

Prerna is disgusted. Kabir doesn't stop. Prerna can only hear all the voices of different people giving suggestions to her about her sex life. Her eyes can only see the many faces who know about this.

Kabir isn't stopping. He tries to slip his hand down her nightdress. Prerna tries to stop him but fails.

PRERNA
This isn't loving, Kabir.

KABIR
Shh!

PRERNA
Kabir...

Kabir moans.

PRERNA (CONT'D)
Kabir...stop it, please.

Prerna suddenly feels him; she gets fed up and pushes him off herself.

PRERNA (CONT'D)
KABIR! I can't do this!

KABIR
Why?? Why? I am your husband, for
god's sake!

PRERNA
Because, whenever you touch
me...all I can think about is how
random people know about our
bedroom.

KABIR

We were in a rut. What was I supposed to do?

PRERNA

You were supposed to talk to your wife! Me!

Prerna points towards her *sindoor* (red vermillion, signifies a married woman)

PRERNA (CONT'D)

Tumne mere saath saat phere liye the, Guruji ke saath nahi!
(You married me, not Guruji)

KABIR

Don't bring him into this!

PRERNA

I am bringing him between us? Ha! It's you who got him between us.

KABIR

PRERNA

PRERNA

WHAT?? YOU KNOW YOU ARE WRONG! YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, BUT--

KABIR

BUT WHAT??

PRERNA

Your big ass ego won't accept it because I have always apologized in our whole marriage, even when you were at fault.

KABIR

That's not true!

PRERNA

It is, and you know that, Mr. Chopra. We used to fight, I apologized, and we had sex. That's it...that has been our married life.

KABIR

Lower your volume; kids are in the next room.

PRERNA

Like, they don't know? KIDS, WHY
DON'T YOU COME OUT AND GIVE SOME
SUGGESTIONS TO ME ON HOW TO --

KABIR

PRERNA!

Kabir takes his jacket and wallet and heads out towards the door. Prerna comes and blocks the door.

PRERNA

Where do you think you are going?
TALK TO ME!

Kabir pushes her aside and heads out. Prerna falls down to the floor, crying. Rahul and Mansi come out and hug her tight.

EXT. NOWHERE - NIGHT

*

Kabir is running away from the Motel. He wants to escape that view as soon as possible. His breath is getting shorter with each second. He doesn't stop. He continues to run. In the back of his mind, plays Prerna's words.

Kabir stops and takes in his breath. He lets out a SCREAM. Not a single soul can be seen around. He realizes he is in some shady parking lot. He turns around and finds a bar; it's open.

He takes his phone out, the time is 3:00am. His wallpaper is a photo of him and Prerna; he throws the phone to the ground and stomps it.

Kabir stops and rubs his face with his palms. He picks up the phone and examines it; while doing that, he walks towards the bar.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

*

Prerna, Mansi and Rahul are all asleep on one bed. Prerna is in the middle, her kids holding on to her to comfort her. But, Prerna's eyes are wide open as she worries about Kabir's whereabouts in the middle of the night.

FADE IN:

INT. SOME BAR - NIGHT

*

Kabir steps into the bar. Slow melancholic music plays, not a lot of people around. He heads to the bar and calls the bartender.

BARTENDER

Tough night?

KABIR

Listen, buddy, it's 3:00 am, and I am in a shady bar. Neither do I want to talk to you, and neither do you. So, let's just keep the drinks coming.

BARTENDER

Sure, what would you like?

KABIR

Just a whole lot of whiskey!

FADE TO:

INT. SOME BAR - NIGHT

*

Kabir is clearly drunk; his head is sticking to the bar top. In front of him are 5-6 empty glasses, which have clearly been finished by him. His hand has another glass filled with whisky.

Kabir tries to lift his head up to drink but fails, he brings the glass near his mouth and tries to take a sip, but he spills the whisky all over him. He starts humming a tune.

A STRANGER (20s), significantly young and too drunk, starts laughing. Kabir raises his eyes towards him; the image is blurry. The stranger's laughter increases. Kabir gets furious and tries to get up.

KABIR

Hey! Why are you laughing?

The stranger doesn't stop laughing.

KABIR (CONT'D)

HEY! FUCK OFF!

The stranger gets up as well. Both of them, too drunk, are unable to stand in attention.

STRANGER

What did you say?

KABIR
FUCK OFF!

STRANGER
Hey! Old man...lower it!

KABIR
FUCK OFF!

The stranger runs towards Kabir and punches him in the face. Kabir is on the floor.

STRANGER
Fucking Terrorist! Go back to your country!

Kabir gets up and stands; he rubs his eyes. Then, he flexes his muscles and runs towards the stranger.

KABIR
Teri toh, bhenchod
(You, fucker)

Kabir starts punching the stranger, he falls down. Kabir sits on top of him and starts hitting him harder.

KABIR (CONT'D)
First of all, I am not a terrorist!

He punches the stranger.

KABIR (CONT'D)
Second of all, I am a citizen of this country, you fool!

He punches him again. The bartender starts dialing 911. He rushes towards them to separate them and end the fight. But Kabir isn't in the mood to. He is taking out his anger towards Prerna.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. JAIL CELL - DAY

*

Kabir is sitting all alone in the cell. His right eye is a bit swollen. His lips, bruised. He buries his head in his palms.

POLICE OFFICER
You, get one call!

Kabir is taken to a telephone booth, he starts dialling a number. We see a clock, the time, 7:00 am.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

*

Prerna's phone starts ringing; she carefully tries to free herself from the warmth of her kids, as to not wake them up. Prerna picks up the call and is shocked.

Intercut with

Kabir looks dead, his eyes are red, his head is spinning. He feels like he is about to vomit.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

*

Prerna rushes in and deals with Kabir's release. The officers aren't as helpful. Prerna is signing papers. Meanwhile, her phone is ringing continuously.

EXT. SOME GARAGE - DAY

*

Rahul and Mansi get their car.

INT. CAR - DAY

*

Rahul is driving, but he doesn't know where to go. Mansi is trying to reach Prerna. She finally picks up.

PRERNA (O.S.)

WHAT??

MANSI

Where are you??

Mansi's mouth opens wide, she looks at Rahul. Rahul gets concerned.

RAHUL

Where are they?

FADE TO:

FADE IN:

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

*

Rahul and Mansi arrive, they rush towards a worried Prerna. All of them head towards the cell.

I/E. JAIL CELL - DAY

*

Kabir is asleep. Mansi, Rahul and Prerna watch him in wonder. Rahul starts to laugh, Mansi joins.

KABIR'S POV.

*

His eyes turn towards Prerna, who is standing with her hands on her hips.

BACK TO SCENE.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

*

Prerna and Kabir wait for the kids to bring the car to the front. Prerna starts to examine his bruises.

PRERNA

How can you be so irresponsible?

Kabir doesn't respond. Prerna fiddles through her purse and takes a cream out. She starts to apply it to the swollen area. Kabir flinches.

KABIR

Stop acting like you care!

He removes her hand, the car arrives, and he heads to the car.

INT. CAR - DAY

*

Kabir is sitting in the back with Prerna, with a grumpy face. Rahul keeps on looking at Kabir with the rearview mirror and tries to control his laughter. Kabir notices and raises his hand. Rahul brings his concentration back to the wheel.

KABIR

It isn't funny, you know. That guy called me a terrorist.

RAHUL

Yeah, I think you are exaggerating.

KABIR

What do you know son! I was there. That guy punched me so--

RAHUL

So you punched him back? To prove what?

KABIR

To prove what he is dealing with.
How could I not fight back, I am a
Punjabi after all.

PRERNA

Or, listen to this...You could have
just ignored it and let it go.

KABIR

Sher puttar kabhi peeche nahi hat
te. (Lions don't back down from a
fight)

EXT. CAR - DAY

*

We watch the car head towards the highway.

INT. TIM HORTONS - DAY

*

Kabir, Prerna, Mansi and Rahul are having breakfast. Kabir is
icing his wound and flinching every second. Rahul and Mansi
are still amused at Kabir.

Kabir's phone starts ringing. It's Guruji. A disheartened
Kabir takes his call unwillingly.

KABIR

Yes?

GURUJI

It's almost 11am...you should be in
Kelowna now...where are you guys?

KABIR

Uhhh...hmmm.

GURUJI

Kabir! Getting late doesn't look
right.

Kabir nods in agreement. The kids are still giggling.

KABIR

Guruji, something happened...we
will reach there in an hour or so.

Guruji starts blabbering. Kabir takes off the phone from his
ear and cuts the call. Kabir looks at Mansi laughing, his
eyes twinkle, he smiles. Suddenly, Mansi's face has turned
pale.

MANSI'S POV

Mansi's eye spots RAJ (21), tall, handsome and well built. He looks back at her and waves.

Back to Scene.

Mansi waves back and starts to sink in her chair. Rahul notices the sudden change and spots Raj as well. Rahul raises his eyebrow.

RAHUL
(whispers)
Are Jijaji (It's brother-
in-law)

MANSI
Shh! And he isn't! Shut up!

Raj starts walking towards their table.

RAHUL
Go, say Hi before he comes here,
and papa punches him.

Mansi resists, but Rahul pushes her. She stands in front of Raj. Kabir gets tensed seeing this.

MANSI
Hi!

RAJ
Hey!

Raj opens his arms for a hug, Mansi brings her hand forward, things get awkward. They finally go in for one of the most awkward hugs.

RAJ (CONT'D)
So, what are you doing here? On a
family trip?

Raj points towards their table. Kabir is staring at them, Rahul waves at him, Prerna is asleep.

MANSI
Yeah...kind of. They are dropping
me at UBC.

RAJ
You are finally doing it?

Kabir starts tapping Rahul's hand as he is busy looking at them. Rahul doesn't respond at first but finally turns around when Kabir pinches him.

RAHUL
What??

KABIR
Isn't that the guy she dated? The muslim one?

RAHUL
You know?

KABIR
I am your father...I know everything.

RAHUL
That's not true.

Rahul laughs and raises his hand, expecting a high-five. Kabir shakes his head in disappointment.

KABIR
Do one thing, open your internet.

RAHUL
And?

KABIR
Go to shaadi.com

RAHUL
Why??

KABIR
Don't ask me questions and get to work. Make a profile for Mansi.

RAHUL
You know that's illegal, right?

KABIR
What illegal? I am her father.

Rahul hands his phone to Kabir.

RAHUL
Then you do it!

Raj hugs Mansi. Kabir gets disgusted. This hug is a long one.

RAJ
I am glad you are doing so well,
Mansi.

MANSI
I am glad too.

Mansi pushes her hair behind her ear and blushes.

RAJ
It was really nice seeing you!

MANSI
Yeah...it really was.

RAJ
Maybe we could grab a drink
whenever you are in town, or I am
in Vancouver--

MANSI
Yeah...I would like that.

The two stare into each other's eyes. Back at the table,
Kabir is filling Mansi's details on the matrimonial site.

RAHUL
Papa...why are you so keen to get
her married? It feels so sudden.

Kabir looks at Rahul with a wise old man look.

KABIR
When you become a father, then you
will understand.

RAHUL
Uggh! I don't want to become a
father.

Kabir smirks at his response.

RAHUL (V.O.)
Oops!

KABIR
Even I used to be just like you,
but it's inevitable bete!

RAHUL
I don't understand your obsession
to get *Di* married.

KABIR
I am just fulfilling my
responsibility towards Guruji--

RAHUL
Really?

KABIR
And Mansi of course.

Rahul rolls his eyes and looks at Mansi and Raj, the two look so happy.

RAHUL
Di and Raj look good together!

Kabir looks at them, he smiles looking at Mansi's happy face, but frowns immediately.

KABIR
They do, but he is a Muslim. What
would people say!

Prerna gets up from her nap.

PRERNA
You and your people!

INT. CAR - DAY

Rahul is driving, Prerna is on the passenger seat, Kabir is in the back catching up on his sleep. Mansi sits beside him, squeezing herself into a corner. Kabir's hand is still holding on to his phone.

Kabir's phone starts to vibrate. The vibration causes it to slip down his hand, which catches Mansi's attention, but she chooses to ignore it.

MANSI'S POV

The phone won't stop vibrating. She gives up and picks up the phone. The notifications show 15 missed calls from Guruji and a few messages. Her eye catches one precisely.

"Call me once you reach Kelowna. Pls, see that Mansi doesn't misbehave in front of this family."

BACK TO SCENE

Mansi is shocked, she starts breathing heavily. She taps Prerna's shoulder and hands over the phone to her. Prerna looks at Mansi; she is worried.

Rahul notices the commotion, Prerna shows him the phone.
Rahul stops the car at the shoulder.

EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY

Mansi gets out and takes in the fresh air, but it doesn't do much for her. Prerna and Rahul follow her. Prerna starts patting her back, Mansi starts to throw up. Rahul hands her water. Mansi looks at Prerna and Rahul in despair.

The three of them hug, Mansi feels better. They head back to the car.

MANSI
(To Rahul)
Aren't you tired?

INT. CAR - DAY

Mansi is driving, Rahul sits beside her, Prerna at the back with Kabir, who is still asleep. Mansi feels lighter. She has a massive smile on her face. Rahul feels relaxed looking at her.

EXT. CAR - DAY

We see the car near an exit. The exit says, "Kelowna." The car doesn't take the exit and heads straight.

INT. CAR - DAY

Rahul gets shocked; Mansi is smiling and looking at Prerna from the rearview mirror. Prerna nods.

RAHUL
Di what have you--

Prerna hits Rahul on the head.

PRERNA
Shhh!

Prerna signals to an asleep Kabir.

RAHUL
(whispers)
Di, you missed the exit for
Kelowna.

MANSI
I know!

RAHUL
(whispers)
Papa is going to get angry!

MANSI
Chill.

Mansi pulls Rahul's cheek, he gets annoyed.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. CAR - DAY

Kabir, still sleepy, wakes up; he gets confused seeing Prerna beside him. He notices Rahul in the passenger seat, which wakes him up. Seeing, Mansi drives panics, Kabir.

KABIR
Why is she driving?

MANSI
Because I can!

KABIR
Girls can't drive!

MANSI
That's just sexist, papa.

KABIR
It's a fact. Stop the car.

PRERNA
But why? She has been driving for
the past hour, she is doing so
good.

KABIR
Wait? Where are we?

Rahul sinks in his seat, trying to hide. Mansi looks at Prerna.

KABIR (CONT'D)
Look forward, Mansi! You are
driving!

Mansi corrects herself.

MANSI
Sorry, papa!

KABIR
Where are we?

Mansi squints her eyes.

PRERNA
We just crossed Kelowna--

KABIR
What??

RAHUL
We just crossed Kelowna--

KABIR
Mansi, stop the car right now!

MANSI
But, Papa--

KABIR
Are you deaf or what?? I said stop
the car--

MANSI
PAPA, YOU ARE OVER REACTING!

KABIR
STOP THE FUCKING CAR!

PRERNA
KABIR! LANGUAGE!

Mansi starts to panic, Rahul notices and gets worried.

RAHUL
SHUT UP!

KABIR
WHERE'S MY PHONE?

PRERNA
I DON'T KNOW!

KABIR
WHERE'S MY PHONE??? AND STOP THE
CAR!

RAHUL
SHUT UP! SHUT UP! SHUT THE FUCK UP,
PEOPLE!

Mansi stops the car and takes deep breaths. Kabir is staring at Rahul in shock. Prerna folds her arms across.

EXT. OKANAGAN LAKE - DAY

We are on the lakeside, the car is parked. Everyone gets out of the vehicle. Prerna waves Kabir's phone in the air, Kabir snatches it and starts calling Guruji.

There is no network; he starts beating the phone on his palm to see if it works.

RAHUL

Papa, that's a phone, not a remote!
It won't work if you beat the crap
out of it.

KABIR

Shut up!

Kabir waves his phone in the air to gather signal, but nothing works. His temper rises, and he throws the phone towards the lake.

PRERNA

KABIR! What's wrong with you??

Kabir turns around and looks at Prerna with anger.

KABIR

What's wrong with me is that all of
you have driven me crazy!

PRERNA

WE? WE HAVE DRIVEN YOU CRAZY? It's
you who drives us crazy!

KABIR

Haan haan! Mein to hu hi villain
tumhari life ka! (I know, I am the
villain of your life)

PRERNA

Kabir!

KABIR

Not only yours... but you have made
the children also believe that I am
the villain in their life as well.
I am the monster of this family.

RAHUL

Papa--

KABIR

(to god)

What did I do in my last birth? My wife hates me! My daughter hides stuff from me and doesn't respect me at all. I thought I had my son on my side, but he is also his mother's bootlicker.

RAHUL

Papa Yaar Aisa Nahi hai. (That's false). Do you think I like it when you two fight? I am always stuck in between! I am the youngest. That doesn't mean you guys will exploit me! Give me a break!

A concerned Prerna hugs Rahul. Kabir looks at them in aghast.

KABIR

Of course, you would go and pretend to care about him to prove how bad of a father I am.

MANSI

Papa! Please --

KABIR

Tu toh chup hi kar. (You better shut your damn, mouth)

Kabir walks towards Mansi.

KABIR (CONT'D)

(breaks down)

How could you? Why didn't you tell your own father? Am I so wrong? Have I treated you poorly?

Mansi nods in disagreement, tears in her eyes.

KABIR (CONT'D)

Then why? What are you punishing me for? After all of this, did I once raise my voice at you?

MANSI

No...papa--

KABIR

Then why bete? Why??

MANSI

Because I knew this would happen! I knew Guruji would suggest you get me married! The reason I didn't go to uni at 18 is you! I was depressed, but you told everyone I am faking it! How could you do that to me??

KABIR

Because...I know you bete! You were perfectly fine, I am your father.

MANSI

NO, YOU DON'T KNOW ME. WHEN WILL YOUR EGO ACCEPT THAT!

Kabir starts walking away from Mansi. He is shocked.

KABIR

You really hate me, right? I have ruined your life!

MANSI

No... that's not what I meant--

KABIR

Then I should kill myself! This will make you happy, right?

PRERNA

KABIR! STOP!

KABIR

You all hate me, and no matter what I do for all of you...you will hate me. So, what's the purpose of staying alive? I will die, and you guys can enjoy life without any interruptions! My will is already made.

PRERNA

Kabir...you are making this an issue for no reason.

KABIR

But what do I have to live, Prerna? You want to end our marriage. Mansi wants to start her new life, and Rahul, well he would also have some story where I am the monster.

Kabir starts running towards the lake. Rahul and Prerna run behind him. He gets inside the water, Rahul and Prerna follow him. Mansi tries to follow them, but she starts feeling dizzy.

MANSI'S POV

Slow-motion: Mansi tries to run behind her family but isn't able to. Her vision is getting blurry. She holds onto her chest; it hurts. Her heart rate increases, her breath gets heavy.

Mansi removes her hand from her chest and scrutinizes her palm. She sees her palm drenched as drops of sweat fall to the sand.

BACK TO SCENE

We see Mansi trying to drag herself to the lake. Kabir's lower half is in the lake. Prerna and Rahul have also entered the lake.

RAHUL

Papa! You don't know how to swim,
Yaar!

KABIR

THAT'S THE WHOLE POINT!

Rahul turns around in disappointment and sees Mansi. Mansi is holding on to her chest, her posture almost like an old person. Rahul taps on Prerna's shoulder.

RAHUL

Ma! Mansi!

Prerna turns around and gets concerned, the two of them run towards Mansi. Kabir is still in the lake. Prerna holds onto Mansi, Rahul runs towards the car to get some water.

PRERNA

Beta?

Mansi's breath is getting heavier by the second. She holds Prerna's kurta (dress) as tightly as possible.

MANSI

Ma, bahut dard hora hai (The pain
is unbearable!)

PRERNA

Mera bacha, kuch nahi hoga
tereke...sab theek hojayega.

(MORE)

PRERNA (CONT'D)
 (My child, everything will
 be alright, nothing will
 happen to you)

Rahul brings water and hands it over to Prerna. Prerna tries to make Mansi drink some, but she refuses. Her chest pain increases.

Kabir is almost going to immerse himself fully in the lake; his eyes are closed. Suddenly, he notices the lack of concern shouts from Rahul and Prerna. Kabir looks towards the sky.

KABIR
 Will they really let me die?

He turns around and squints his eyes to see what's wrong. He notices something isn't right and runs towards Rahul, Prerna and Mansi.

KABIR (CONT'D)
 What's wrong?

Rahul is worried.

RAHUL
 I don't know, papa! Di is in pain
 right now.

Kabir comes forward to hold Mansi but is stopped by Prerna.

PRERNA
 Don't!

Kabir immediately moves back. Prerna hands over Mansi to Rahul.

PRERNA (CONT'D)
 Keys!

Rahul hands the keys to Prerna.

FADE IN:

INT. CAR - DAY

Prerna is driving, Kabir is sitting beside her. Rahul is taking care of Mansi at the back. We can hear the GPS giving directions towards the nearest hospital.

Prerna turns back every other minute to check up on Mansi. Kabir is in a trance. He doesn't know what's happening; he cannot bring himself to look at Mansi.

Kabir finally turns around and is devastated to see Mansi in this position. He immediately turns around and closes his eyes. He starts touching the feet of Mata Rani on the dashboard.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Kabir, Prerna and Rahul are being briefed by the doctor.

DOCTOR

You can go and see her now!

Prerna and Rahul follow the doctor. Kabir stops Rahul.

KABIR

Give me your phone.

Rahul hands over his phone and walks away. Kabir doesn't follow them and starts dialing.

FADE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Kabir is standing at a corner talking on the phone. Prerna and Rahul walk towards him with a smile on their faces. Rahul is about to tap Kabir's shoulder, but Prerna signals him not to.

KABIR

Guruji! I understand, but I guess this is how it was supposed to happen. Maybe it isn't the right time to get her married.

Rahul and Prerna smile at each other.

KABIR (CONT'D)

She is fine now! In my opinion, I feel it was a call of attention. I mean, we have faced far worse situations in life, our parents have beat us up--

Prerna starts tapping Kabir's shoulder. He doesn't respond.

KABIR (CONT'D)

So severely sensitive these kids have become nowadays. "Panic attack," this is the first time I have heard about this in my life.

Prerna pulls his shoulder and turns him around. She slaps Kabir and walks away. Rahul looks at Kabir with disappointment, snatches his phone and follows Prerna. Kabir stands still with his palm on his cheek.

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING - NIGHT

Prerna is holding on to Mansi, Kabir, and Rahul follow them. They reach a parking space, we see their car, but it is missing wheels.

PRERNA

RAHUL!

Rahul notices the missing wheels. Kabir is shocked.

KABIR

OH MY GOD! WHO DID THIS? THEY WERE ALL-SEASON TIRES! THEY ARE SO EXPENSIVE!

PRERNA

Rahul call 911.

KABIR

No, there is no need to call them.

RAHUL

Then what should we do?

KABIR

We are near Kelowna, Guruji is there, let me call him.

Rahul gets frustrated. Prerna holds onto Mansi. Kabir is trying to reach Guruji, but he isn't responding. The call is repeatedly going to voicemail.

KABIR (CONT'D)

Guruji, we need your help. Some fucker, stole our tires. I am sending you the location. Please send someone.

Rahul, Prerna and Mansi stand by the car, rolling their eyes in despair.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING - NIGHT

It's been a while. Kabir is still trying to get hold of Guruji. Mansi is getting frustrated. She sees the time on her watch, it's 11:00 pm. Rahul goes to Kabir.

RAHUL
Papa, let's call Roadside assistance at least.

KABIR
Let me try some other people. I have my friends all around Canada. I will surely get hold of someone.

Kabir starts redialing numbers. Mansi comes and stands in front of Kabir with her hands crossed. Kabir looks from the phone at her. Her eyes are red with anger.

MANSI
CAN YOU FOR ONCE, LISTEN TO US!

KABIR
But--

MANSI
CAN YOU FOR ONCE! TRUST YOUR OWN FAMILY OVER SOME RANDOM PEOPLE!

KABIR
Mansi--

MANSI
I AM SICK AND TIRED! I HAVE MY CLASSES STARTING AT 8. WE ARE STILL AROUND 5 HOURS AWAY FROM VANCOUVER, I JUST HAD A FREAKING PANIC ATTACK AND THE TIRES OF OUR CAR ARE STOLEN BECAUSE APPARENTLY, THAT'S A THING!

KABIR
Let me at least try calling someone!

MANSI
PAPA, CAN YOU PLEASE FOR THE LOVE OF GOD OPEN YOUR EYES AND SEE THEY DON'T GIVE A FUCK ABOUT YOU!

PRERNA

By the time one of your friends responds, your brother can come from India.

Rahul bursts with laughter.

KABIR

Tereko badi hasi aari hai...tu kya kar raha hai, khade hokar hasta rahiyo bas!

(This seems very funny to you, right? Just stand there doing nothing)

RAHUL

I am doing nothing? From the beginning, I have been asking you to call 911 or roadside assistance, but you aren't ready to listen to me!

KABIR

Don't give me dumb suggestions like your mother!

RAHUL

It's you who is being dumb right now!

Kabir looks at Rahul with anger and holds him by his collar.

KABIR

I AM YOUR FATHER! IS THAT THE WAY YOU TALK TO YOUR FATHER?

RAHUL

IS THAT THE WAY SOMEONE TALKS TO HIS WIFE?

Rahul and Kabir are staring at each other. Prerna is trying to break them apart, but Kabir isn't letting him go.

RAHUL (CONT'D)

I HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING YET DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T NOTICE, PAPA!

Suddenly, Rahul gets pulled over by someone, Kabir gets confused. Rahul gets punched, and he lands in Kabir's hands. It's Guruji.

GURUJI

Only this was left, haan? You fighting with your father!

Guruji slaps Rahul and holds him by his shoulder.

GURUJI (CONT'D)
 Sharam nahi aayi tenu?
 (Don't you feel any
 shame?)

Guruji punches Rahul near his mouth. He starts to bleed. Mansi holds onto him. Prerna comes and stands in front of her kids like a protection shield. Kabir is standing still, taking in what's happening.

PRERNA
 Guruji, pls leave us alone! This is
 our issue. We will deal with it.

Guruji starts pushing Prerna away.

GURUJI
 First, handle your bedroom
 problems.

Rahul gets angry at Guruji when he pushes Prerna aside. Guruji gestures him to come forward and fight. Rahul comes, and Guruji knocks him out again.

GURUJI (CONT'D)
 All of you were lower-class people
 and will always stay that way.
 Earning money doesn't change
 someone's class. Aukat toh tumhari
 kutton wali hi rahegi! (Your class
 will forever remain like dogs)

Prerna tries to wake Kabir up from his trance, but he doesn't respond.

GURUJI (CONT'D)
 I have been here for the past 50
 years. So many families have come
 and begged me to help them and make
 their lives better, and you were
 one of them! Remember how you
 arrived at my doorstep, crying at
 my feet...begging for support.

MANSI
 Nothing like that happened!

Guruji ignores Mansi and continues.

GURUJI
 I helped you settle here, built
 your business, Kabir.
 (MORE)

GURUJI (CONT'D)

Do you have any idea how much you owe me?? You are so WEAK! You aren't even capable of handling your children and, most of all, your wife! What kind of man can't control his wife?

MANSI

Guruji!

Guruji looks at Mansi and taps his stick.

GURUJI

You slut!

Guruji comes towards Mansi with his stick, Kabir comes in between, throws Guruji's stick in the air and punches him in the face. Guruji falls to the ground.

MANSI

Papa!

KABIR

Tu theek hai na?

(Are you alright?)

Mansi nods. Kabir starts fiddling through Guruji's pockets.

PRERNA

What are you doing, Kabir?

Kabir finds Guruji's car keys and waves them in the air. He gets up and holds Mansi by her cheeks. He plants a kiss on her forehead.

KABIR

Pls, one last time! Trust me!

Guruji gets up and hits Kabir on the head with his stick. Kabir starts to bleed as well. Kabir turns around and punches Guruji again.

KABIR (CONT'D)

All debts are settled, now! Guruji!

Kabir picks up his stick and breaks it with his leg. He gestures to Mansi, Prerna and Rahul to run towards Guruji's car.

INT. GURUJI'S CAR - NIGHT

Kabir starts the car and takes it out of parking. Prerna sits beside him with a cloth as she tries to stop the blood flow. Mansi is treating Rahul in the back with a first aid kit.

Kabir looks at Prerna and kisses her on the forehead.

PRERNA

Are you sure about this, Kabir?

Prerna points towards the rearview mirror. We can see Guruji running towards them.

KABIR

Never been more sure about anything
in my life!

Kabir slams the gas pedal aggressively. Rahul, Prerna and Mansi get excited.

RAHUL

Jai Mata di (oh hail the divine
goddess)

KABIR

Jor Se Bolo (Say it Louder)

Kabir laughs, his family laughs with him.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. GURUJI'S CAR - DAWN

Kabir is the only one awake as he drives through this crazy night. He looks at his family and smiles. Kabir increases the song's volume playing in the background.

"Mein Zindagi Ka saath Nibhaata chala gaya,

Har Fikar ko dhuen mein Udata chala gaya"

(I faithfully followed wherever life took me,

I blew every worry into a mist of smoke)

Kabir sings along, pulls down the window a bit and lets the air come in his face.

EXT. UBC CAMPUS - DAY

Kabir is walking with Mansi around the campus, Prerna and Rahul are behind them. Mansi is excitedly showing him around. Kabir looks at her happy face and feels satisfied.

KABIR
Beta, I am sorry!

MANSI
Papa...you don't need to--

KABIR
Nahi bete aaj bolne de!
(No, let me speak today)
Kabir holds Mansi by her shoulders.

KABIR (CONT'D)
I am so sorry for putting you
through this arranged marriage
thing. It wasn't even about you--

MANSI
Papa... it's ok.

Kabir smiles and hugs Mansi tightly.

KABIR
Study well and make me proud!

Mansi hugs Kabir tighter, he kisses her on her head.

KABIR (CONT'D)
And I will have your groom ready by
then!

Mansi playfully hits Kabir in the stomach, he laughs, they hug again.

EXT. STANLEY PARK, VANCOUVER - SUNSET

Prerna stands on the Seawall path, enjoying the beautiful view. Kabir comes in and stands next to her. He looks at her and takes a deep breath. Prerna notices his presence and smiles.

KABIR
Listen, I know I haven't been the
best father and husband. You were
right. It was wrong of me to
involve others in our family's
business. But, I promise to change.
(MORE)

KABIR (CONT'D)

Divorce or no Divorce is totally your choice, Prerna. I won't stop you! I just want to be a better person.

Prerna looks at Kabir and smiles. They both take in the view, the sunsets.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL WARD - DAY

Aditi is holding her newborn daughter; she takes in her beauty and passes her over to Rahul. Rahul carefully takes over, his eyes get teary.

RAHUL

I love you so much! Pari! (Angel)

ADITI

That's a nice name!

The two of them smile. Suddenly, we can hear noises from outside. Mansi and Raj enter with MANAV (8), their kid, with balloons and flowers.

Behind them, we see an Old Kabir and Prerna entering hand in hand. Prerna has her vermillion and mangal sutra (the necklace which signifies marriage) on her. She rushes towards Aditi and hugs her. Kabir takes Pari in his arms.

Rahul holds onto Kabir's shoulder. The two men admire Pari's innocence. Mansi and Raj take over and start making funny faces to play with Pari. Manav tries to reach out to hold Pari but is stopped by Rahul.

MANAV

Mamu! (Uncle) Why so protective?

RAHUL

When you will become a father...then you will understand.

The whole room laughs, and we see a content and happy Chopra family.

THE END.