

darna zaroori hai
'Murder by Proxy'

Screenplay & Dialogues
by
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EXT. LONELY FOREST ROAD - NIGHT

It's a black night. And it's raining heavily. We crane down to see a long road ahead stretching till our eyes can see. There is a thick dark forest on either side of the road. The road is a Veeraana. There are no lights around. Far away at the horizon made between the sky and this road, we see two headlights appear in the far, far distance. The light from the headlights is being filtered through the rain droplets. Before the lights can approach nearer, we cut to inside the car.

EXT. INSIDE AJAY'S CAR - NIGHT

A man in his early thirties is driving his car. His name is Ajay. A psychedelic slow rock number is playing on the car stereo. The volume is very low. The windows of the car are up. The visibility through the windscreen is very poor due to the rain. There is one wiper each, wiping the raindrops from the front windshield and the rear windshield. In the backseat we can see a traveler's suitcase. We can make out that Ajay is returning home from a business trip. Ajay is yawning while driving. He has had a long and late night. Ajay's eyelids are shutting by themselves – a common occurrence on long drives in the night. From time to time, he keeps jerking his head back to upright position.

EXT. LONELY FOREST ROAD - NIGHT

The car is moving quite fast on the wet road, it's tyres throwing tiny arcs of water on either side.

EXT. INSIDE AJAY'S CAR - NIGHT

Ajay's eyelids are nearly shut. And he is on the verge of dozing off but suddenly he is rudely awakened from his slumber. His eyes open wide in shock as he sees a woman on the road right up ahead. But she's mere inches away. We see her through the arc created by the wiper wiping the rain-splashed windshield of the car. Ajay swerves desperately braking at the same time. We see Ajay's expression as he swerves the steering wheel violently to the left. We don't see the woman. But by the proximity of the woman to the car in the previous shot, we know she has definitely been hit.

EXT. LONELY FOREST ROAD - NIGHT

The car swerves violently on the road, skidding and splashing up water in wild arcs. It keeps skidding till it rams a tree and comes to a halt.

EXT. INSIDE AJAY'S CAR - NIGHT

Inside the car, a shaken Ajay is in a state of shock due to the sudden-ness of it all. But then after a few moments, he recovers. He looks around himself and assesses the situation. Fortunately he is unharmed. He looks in anxiety back towards the road. Through the clean arc being made by the wiper moving on the rain-splashed rear windshield, Ajay sees the white figure still standing there.

Ajay opens the door and exits angrily. The lady is looking away from him. The way she is standing is weird and ghostly. Her head is hanging loosely downwards. We can't see her features because she is looking away and also because her long black wet hair is hanging on either side of her face veiling her features from us.

Ajay approaches her angrily. She is not reacting. She is standing still and cold. Her body suggests that she is a young woman. She is wearing a body-hugging Sari with a white blouse. Her belly is showing.

Ajay approaches her and is just about to give her a piece of his mind. But as soon as he looks upon her face, his eyes open wide in shock and he recoils back in terror with an instinctive scream of fear.

INT. CELL - DAY

With a jerk and a gasp, Ajay wakes up. But he looks ahead in surprise. Low angle: (Ajay's POV): Two stern looking Policemen are staring down at him. Ajay looks around him. Cut to wide: we see that he is inside a cell and has been seated on a chair. Ajay is shocked. But before he can say anything, the inspector (Rao) brings his face close to Ajay's:

RAO (commanding)
Kyun kiya...?

Ajay looks up at Rao surprised at what he is saying and who is he?
THAP! one tight slap on Ajay's face.

RAO Bataa...(biting his lower lip threatening with a gesture of his hand that he'll get one more slap)

Ajay is just looking at him perplexed.

RAO koi puraani dushmani thee...?

Ajay is thoroughly confused.

AJAY Main...main yahan kaise pahonch gaya...

They look at each other with an expression that see how dumb he is acting now.

RAO (squeezes Ajay's cheeks)
Naatak band kar aur bataa kyun kiya aisa tune...!!!?

AJAY (looks at the inspector perplexed)
aap yeh sab kya keh rahe hain...kya kiya hai
maine...!!!?

RAO Khoon...

(beat)

AJAY (shocked out of his wits)
Kya...

They are looking down at him. They are convinced of his guilt.

AJAY (perplexed, gets defensive and worked up)
Yeh kya bakwas kar rahe hain aap...kiska khoon kiya
hai maine...!!!?

RAO Hasan Choudhary ka.
Hamare paas witness bhi hai.

Ajay looks at Rao and the constable incredulously.

AJAY Hasan Choudhary...? Khoon...? Witness...
...aaplog kaheen paagal toh nahin ho gaye hain...?
(then suddenly he frowns and his eyes go blank as he
remembers something)
voh ladki...?
(with urgency) voh ladki kahan hai...?

Rao and the constable look at each other.

RAO Kaun ladki...?

AJAY voh...
...jo road pe khadee thee...

RAO (grabs his hair and yanks it behind)
Yeh dramabaazee band kar...aur seedhee tarah mooh
khol de...nahin maar-maarke chamdee utaar denge
teri...

Ajay is just looking up at Rao perplexed.

AJAY (his eyes open in Fear)
Voh...voh ladki...voh ladki kahan hai...kahan gayee
voh...?

Rao enters with a lady in tow. The lady is around 45 years old and looks like a lower middle-class Maharashtrian. She is wearing a light coloured saaree. Rao offers the old lady a seat. She sits tentatively. Rao sits down opposite her. Ajay is sitting on the ground near them. The lady is looking at Ajay. She is looking with some effort looking down and up, because Ajay's head is held low.

RAO (to the lady)
Yeh hee thaa?

The lady nods in despair and fear (yes).

RAO Us din ke pehle kabhi dekha tha aapne isko?

She shakes her head in despair (no).

Rao nods satisfied and takes a deep breath. He is convinced now that he is on the right track.

RAO (with sympathy)
Aapke pati kahan hain abhi?

LADY Voh Poona mein hain is waqt...(her face cracking up sadly) maine unhe bataaya nahin hai ab tak...jawaan bete ki maut ki khabar kaise sunaaoon unhe...

Rao nods a little sympathetically. He understands her situation.

RAO Aapke ladke ki...shaadi hui thee...?

LADY (looks down)
Haan.

RAO Uski biwi kahan hai?

LADY (looks down)
Kuch hee din pehle, uski aurat hamara ghar chodke bhaag gayee thee kisee aur ke...

Before the lady can finish her sentence, we suddenly hear a female voice:

FEMALE VOICE *Jhoooot boltee hai saalee...*

At first we think it is coming from nowhere but then we pan to Ajay and see that the voice is coming from his throat. The lip sync of Ajay's lips and his throat movement are in perfect sync with his voice. But since it is a woman's voice, it is clear that though the voice is coming from Ajay's throat, it is not his own.

AJAY (cont'd) *(to Rao, in female voice)*

*...Yeh aurat, iska pati aur iska beta Hasan...jo mera marad tha...in teenon ne milke mereko zinda jalaa diya tha...zindaa...
phir meri jaleli body shaher ke baahar ke jungle mein phenk dee thee...saalon ne...*

Ajay's eyeballs are defocused and blank. He is not looking anywhere in particular. His eyeballs are lolling strangely and eerily. His head is rolling loosely on his neck.

Rao does not react. The old lady begins to frown.

AJAY (cont'd) *(to Rao, in female voice)*
*Kuch dinon ke baad, yeh aadmi...yeh (pointing to his own chest)...vaahan se apni gaadi mein guzar raha tha, toh bas main isko **chipak** gayee...aur is aadmi ke haathon maine apne marad Hasan ko maar daalaa, kaat daalaa saale ko...*

RAO Dekho Mr. Ajay...yeh sab drame-baazi karne se tum bachne nahin walle ho...

AJAY *(in female voice)*
*Main Ajay nahin, main Sandhya hoon...
Sandhyaaaaaa....*

The old lady gasps on hearing Sandhya's name.

LADY *(nervously, trying to cover up)*
Yeh sab kya bakwas lagaa rakhaa hai is aadmi ne, Maine khud dekha tha isko, raat ko hamare ghar mein ghus aayaa tha,...(choking) aur mere sote hue ladke ka galaa kaat-ke bhaag gaya...yeh hi aadmi...!!!

The lady looks at Ajay. Ajay stares at her strangely, his eyes lolling weirdly. He smiles at her in an insane ghostly and threatening smile that indicates 'you're next'. The lady is already un-nerved. Rao is also a little shaken. But he is not sure. He continues pretending not to be affected.

RAO *(unsure)*
Dekh yeh sab drame-baazi main pehli baar nahin dekh raha hoon...samjha...apna yeh roz ka kaam hai...jo tu kar raha hai yeh toh kuch bhi nahin hai...humlogon ko toh yahan ek se ek drama dekhne ko miltaa hai...

Ajay looks at Rao tilting his head with that strange deranged expression. Rao looks back at Ajay imitating his expression back mockingly.

RAO Criminal lawyers ka yeh favourite bahaana hai ke murder karte time murderer ki dimaagi haalat thik nahin

thee...isliye paagalpan ke bahaane death sentence se bach jaate hain kitne log...yeh paagalpan ka dhong toh puraana paentra hai inlogon ka...

Kyun Mr. Ajay...?

(raises his eyebrows looking at Ajay)

AJAY

(in female voice)

Maine aapse kaha naa...main Ajay nahin...main Sandhyaa hoon....

RAO

(humouring him)

Thik hai, thik hai,'Sandhyaji' , (laughs)

(mockingly)

Lekin Sandhyaji (thinking)...mujhe ek baat bataeye...ke chalo maan lete hain ke Hasan ka murder Ajay ne nahin Sandhya ke bhoot ne yaani aapne kiya hai...(smirks) maan liya humlogon ne, thik hai? Lekin yeh bataeye aapka lawyer court mein yeh saabit kaise karega...haan?

Witness box mein aapko...yaani Sandhya ke bhoot ko bulaaegaa...? Kya kahega...'Sandhya ka bhoot haazir hooooo....'

(starts laughing, finds his own joke funny)

The lady is not amused. But Rao thinks he has cracked a big joke. He finds it too funny. He goes on laughing and laughing hysterically.

RAO

(laughing) Sandhya ka bhoot...(laughs) haazir (laughs) ho...

Ajay begins staring at Rao. Even as Ajay is staring at the laughing Rao, he (Ajay) begins to shiver in cold and anger. The shivering goes on becoming more and more violent till in a flash Ajay returns back to his normal self.

THAK!!! There is a loud gunshot. Ajay now in his senses, looks up. He sees the old woman falling back from her table. Her chair is falling back. Dhaam!!! She crashes to the floor, flat and lifeless on her back. We see a neat round bullet wound on her forehead. Ajay is fully back to normal. His eyes are normal. He turns his face to Rao.

He sees that Rao's eyes are defocused. His eyes are not looking anywhere in particular. The expression on Rao's face is weird, ghostly and deranged. His head is lolling on his neck strangely. He is holding the smoking gun in his hand.

RAO

(in ghostly female voice)

Sahee bolaa Rao saab ne...sahee bolaa...

Abhi kaun maanega ke is saalee ko Sandhya ne maaraa hai aur Rao saab ne nahin...

RAO Tu Poona jaa raha tha naa...

Ajay nods.

RAO (tilts his head)
Jaa...
Jaldi nikal yahan se...

Ajay shakes his head ('yes') obediently.

Rao walks over to his Qualis. And sits inside.
Ajay keeps standing there looking at the Qualis as it takes a U-turn and drives away.

When the Qualis is gone, Ajay walks towards his car. He sits in his car. He starts the car and begins to drive away, in the opposite direction.

EXT. INSIDE AJAY'S CAR - NIGHT

Ajay's car is moving on the road. It's raining outside. The windows of the car are rolled up and it is raining heavily outside. The visibility on the road through the windshield is quite poor.

Ajay is relieved that he is going back home. He doesn't know what sense to make out of this episode. He is not even clear about what happened. But he's glad to have gotten out of the mess.

Ajay's eyes are fixed on the road as he drives ahead. He heaves a sigh of relief glad that it is all over now.

Some seconds pass uneventfully.

But then some kind of a sixth sense prods him - 'psst...look in the rear view mirror.' Slowly and very reluctantly, Ajay's eyes shift towards the rear view mirror.

(Beat!!!) there's this burnt pair of eyes looking at him from the back seat.

EXT. LONELY FOREST ROAD - NIGHT

Ajay's car skids violently on the wet road and screeches to a halt sideways, several metres away from where it started skidding.

INT. INSIDE AJAY'S CAR - NIGHT

A trembling Ajay is frozen stiff. He is not daring to see who is sitting in the back seat. We see Sandhya. Her face is badly burnt. Some of her skin has melted. Her expression is ghostly and morbid and so are her eyes. She looks at Ajay and says:

SANDHYA Ghabraao mat...
 tumhe vaapas nahin chipkoongee main.
 Bas Poona tak chod do mujhe,...

Ajay's reaction.

SANDHYA ...Hasan ka baap baaki hai abhi.

EXT. LONELY FOREST ROAD - NIGHT

The car tyres screech. And water is thrown back as the car takes off like a rocket.
