

LOOTERA

Shooting Draft
v1

Inspired by "The Last Leaf" by O. HENRY

Screenplay
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1 **EXT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- DAY**

1

An almost barren tree. Not many leaves left.

Snow all around, and a light snow falls as well.

Watching this tree from inside a cottage is PAKHI. She's in her early twenties and pretty, but her eyes make her look much older.

The wind picks up and a leaf breaks off the tree. It starts to float towards the ground.

Pakhi watches the falling leaf, all the way till it hits the snow-covered ground.

Overlap the soft sound of drums and woman ululating.

Slowly, a title fades in on screen:

BASED ON O.HENRY'S "THE LAST LEAF"

The title fades out. The leaf disappears into the snow.

The drums get louder.

2 **INT. HAVELI -- NIGHT**

2

ON a light bulb, unlit. On this visual, a title:

"MANIKPUR. BENGAL. 1953"

Behind the bulb is the courtyard of a grand haveli.

Durga pooja in progress.

Woman ululate and men play the drums. A decorated statue of Durga looms over everyone.

Standing amongst many people in front of the statue, dressed in finery, is Pakhi, the same age but looking years younger.

Next to her stands a very dignified middle aged man. SOUMITRA ROYCHOWDHURY, the Zamindar of the haveli.

The drums beat on.

3 **INT. HAVELI -- NIGHT**

3

On a makeshift stage in the centre of the courtyard, a jatra is being performed.

Loud actors appear from the middle of the crowd, walking dramatically on stage. The audience claps, whistles and cheers.

Pakhi sits in the crowd with DEVYANI, her friend. Like everyone else, they have wide smiles on their faces, fascinated by the play.

She looks across the stage and sees the Zamindar, sitting with his estate manager MAJUMDAR. They're in deep conversation.

MAJUMDAR

Thodi savdhaani baratne mein aap
hi ka faayda hai... kanoon kabhi
bhi lagoo ho sakta hai...

ZAMINDAR

Apni viraasat hum nahin bechenge
Majumdar...

MAJUMDAR

Nahin bechna hai to trust bana
leejiye... uss mein bhi waqt lagta
hai. Baki sab zamindar babu log
bhi yahi kar rahe hain...

The Zamindar ignores him.

Another loud actor enters the stage dramatically,
delivering a line. Pakhi and Devyani laugh aloud.

Pakhi's laugh turns into a bout of coughing, soft at first,
but gradually becoming more persistent.

Devyani doesn't notice at first but then she does.

The Zamindar also notices.

4 **INT. HAVELI -- NIGHT**

4

The Zamindar and Devyani hurriedly help Pakhi through a
corridor.

She's breathing with a lot of difficulty.

5 **INT. PAKHI'S ROOM -- CONTINUOUS**

5

They carry her into her room and place her on an armchair.

A MAID follows them in.

MAID

Kya hua?

ZAMINDAR

Dr. Guha ko bulvaiye...

6 **INT. HAVELI -- NIGHT**

6

The jatra is still on.

DR. GUHA, a balding middle aged man, walks past it and
into the haveli.

7 **INT. HAVELI -- NIGHT**

7

Guha walks up the staircase and finds the Zamindar waiting
for him.

They walk together.

ZAMINDAR

Apni Pakhi ko baar baar iss haalat
mein hum dekh nahin sakte Guha...

DR. GUHA

Dama hai Zamindar Babu... Jaanleva
tab hoga jab hum bagal mein na
ho...

8 **INT. PAKHI'S ROOM -- CONTINUOUS**

8

Dr. Guha enters and goes straight to Pakhi. He opens his bag and a syringe and vial emerge.

The zamindar, Devyani and the maid watch as the doctor fills the syringe, takes Pakhi's arm and injects it.

Very gradually, Pakhi's breathing comes back to normal.

She reaches out a hand in the direction of the Zamindar.

He comes over to her and takes it.

CUT TO:

9 **INT. PAKHI'S ROOM -- LATER**

9

Pakhi sleeps, still wearing her durga pooja clothes.

It's silent now. The celebration is over.

The Zamindar watches her sleep, fanning her at the same time, lost. He then notices her smiling.

ZAMINDAR

Pakhi?

Her smile disappears.

ZAMINDAR

Pakhi bete...

She opens her eyes, smiles again. She sits up, still a little breathless.

PAKHI

Kahan kho gaye the?

ZAMINDAR

Tum kab se uthi hui ho?

PAKHI

Mujhe uthe to dus minute ho gaye...
lekin aap to aise ek tak dekhe ja
rahe the... haath bhi, aise...

She imitates him holding the fan.

PAKHI

Pankha jhal raha tha... buth ki tarah...

The Zamindar smiles.

ZAMINDAR

Abhi kaisa lag raha hai...

PAKHI

(imitates him)

Achcha lag raha hai...

The Zamindar hits her arm with the fan.

Pakhi makes a face.

ZAMINDAR

(concerned)

Laga kya?

She looks at him and smiles again.

ZAMINDAR

Maine tumhe kabhi bheel raja ki kahani sunayi hai?

Pakhi shakes her head.

ZAMINDAR

Bahut pahle bheelon ka ek raja hota tha... bahut taakatvar... koi usse maar nahin sakta tha. Sab darrte the usse... sainkdon baar angrezon ne inke jungalon mein dhava bola, usse hazaaron teer maare, talwaar se kaata lekin vah marre hi na... phir unko pata chala ki iss bheel raja ne apni jaan ek tote mein rakh chhodi hai... ab lakhon tote jungle mein, kaise dhoonde iski jaan kiss tote mein hai? To unhone ek jasoos bheja. Ek sundar sa jasoos... bheel uske pyaar mein padh gaya aur shaadi kar li...ek din uss jasoos ne bhaanp liya ki kiss tote mein bheel raja ne apni jaan daal rakhi hai... phir aav dekha na taav, yoon pakda tote ko aur...

(twists the neck)

PAKHI

Phir?

ZAMINDAR

Phir vah marr gaya...

Pakhi looks at him.

ZAMINDAR

Beta mera tota aap ho... aur aap
ko agar kuch ho gaya na, to main
marr jaoonga...

They look at each other.

She leans forward and embraces him.

Music...

10 **INT. HAVELI -- NIGHT**

10

The courtyard, now empty.

The Zamindar and Pakhi stand on a balcony. He points
out.

Their POV: the light bulb is lit.

ZAMINDAR

Manikpur mein bhi bijli aa gayee...

PAKHI

Aur rukegi kab tak?

He looks at her.

ZAMINDAR

Matlab?

She smiles.

Music builds...

11 **EXT. FIELDS -- MORNING**

11

The sun rises over green fields, date palms and red earth.

TITLE SEQUENCE BEGINS, with title cards on black intercut
with visuals:

- Pakhi and the Zamindar take a walk through the fields.

- The women stand on a balcony of the haveli, watching
the Durga Statue being taken away with much fanfare.

All the OLDER WOMEN have tears rolling down their faces.
Pakhi and Devyani try not to laugh.

- Rain falls.

Pakhi, in her room, sits by a window and writes in her
notebook.

- Pakhi and Devyani stand on the terrace of the haveli in
the rain, watching grey clouds roll in, standing close
together to battle the strong breeze.

- The sun shines again.

Pakhi and her father take a walk through the fields.

They stand by the car and watch the setting sun under a crimson sky.

MAIN TITLES END.

12 **EXT. STREET -- DAY**

12

A motorcycle chugs its way down a rural road.

Driving it is a young man. VARUN SHRIVASTAV.

Coming down the other end and taking up most of the road is the Zamindar's car.

Inside the car:

Pakhi drives. The DRIVER sits next to her, very nervous.

Devyani sits in the back, on the edge of her seat.

DRIVER

Sadak ka baanya taraf pakad kar
chaliye... dheema chaliye...
bhida gaya to samasya ho jaayegi...

Pakhi looks at him, glee on her face.

PAKHI

Bhida gaya to aapne bhidaaya,
nahin bhida to hum chala rahe
the...

DRIVER

Arre dekh ke... naukri se barkhast
karvaayengi humko...

Varun slows down his motorcycle, looking at a lane going off.

He speeds up again, reaches into his shirt and takes out a small note. He reads it as he drives.

As Pakhi rounds a curve, she swings the car from side to side. Devyani gets thrown around the back seat. The driver hangs on for dear life. Pakhi laughs.

She doesn't notice Varun's motorcycle approaching.

And Varun doesn't see the car approaching, swaying from side to side, till it's pretty close.

The driver notices Varun.

DRIVER

(pointing)
Pakhi Di...

Pakhi sees Varun and she screams. In panic, she lets go of the steering wheel.

The car veers towards Varun, who has no option but to take evasive action... and fly into a ditch.

Pakhi hits the brakes. The car screeches to a stop. They all look back.

Varun is nowhere to be seen.

PAKHI
Kahan gaya?

DRIVER
Yamraaj ke dvaare gaya aur kahan
jaayega...

Devyani looks at Pakhi.

DEVYANI
Gaadi ke neeche?

Pakhi opens the door.

DRIVER (O.S.)
Paapad ban gaya hoga usska aur
kya...

13 **EXT. STREET -- DAY**

13

Pakhi, Devyani and the driver stand by the ditch.

Pakhi's POV: Varun, unconscious, bleeding from his forehead. Very still.

As they watch, he moves, very slightly.

Pakhi and Devyani breathe massive sighs of relief.

Pakhi looks at him, for a few seconds longer than necessary as he opens his eyes.

14 **INT. ZAMINDAR'S CAR -- DAY**

14

The car drives by. The driver drives.

Varun sits in the front seat, holding a handkerchief over the bleeding wound above his eye.

DRIVER
Galti hamaari thi bhaiya... hum
hi bhidaaye. Didi to bas handle
thaame thi...

Pakhi sits at the back, watching the back of Varun's head.

15 **INT. DR. GUHA'S CLINIC -- DAY**

15

Dr. Guha examines the wound above Varun's eye.

In the outer room, Pakhi and Devyani watch through the crack in the door.

Pakhi observes Varun for a while. She then comes to his jacket lying on a table, starts to look through it.

DEVYANI

Tum kya kar rahi ho?

PAKHI

Shhhh....

Pakhi removes an envelope from inside the jacket pocket. It bears the stamp of the Archaeological Survey of India and is addressed to Zamindar Roy Chowdhury.

Pakhi smiles.

DEVYANI

Doctor chacha aa rahe hain...

Pakhi hurriedly puts the letter back.

Dr Guha steps out.

DR. GUHA

Bete aap log ghar jao... usse
kuch nahin hua hai, theek ho
jaayega...

Pakhi nods. Dr Guha returns to the chamber and shuts the door. Pakhi's eyes meet Varun's as the door closes.

INSIDE:

Dr. Guha turns to Varun. And smiles, holding up a bottle.

DR. GUHA

Tincher iodine... charcharaayega...

He reaches for Varun's wound. Varun closes his eyes.

16 **EXT. DR. GUHA'S CLINIC -- DAY**

16

Pakhi and Devyani reach the car when they hear Varun shout in pain.

They look back. Pakhi smiles to herself. The driver shakes his head.

DRIVER

Bechaara...

Pakhi looks at him. Indicates that he should vacate the driver's seat.

PAKHI

Sarakiye...

DRIVER

Kaahe?

PAKHI

Ek to bechaare motorcycle vaale
ko naale mein dhakelte ho, gaadi
chalaana nahin aata, aur poochte
ho kaahe?

DRIVER

Hum dhakele?

PAKHI

Nahin to kya hum?

His face falls. He moves to the passenger seat.

DRIVER

Aayiye...

17 **EXT. STREET -- EVENING** 17

A strong breeze hits Pakhi's face as she drives back.
The car races by fields now lit by the late afternoon
sun.

18 **INT. HAVELI -- NIGHT** 18

Pakhi switches the lightbulb on and off, fascinated by
the mechanism.

19 **INT. HAVELI -- DAY** 19

The Zamindar looks at the lightbulb being unscrewed by an
electrician.

Majumdar stands next to him.

MAJUMDAR

Aap baar baar mazaak samajh kar
taal dete hain. Zamindari unmoolan
ka kanoon aaj, kal, kabhi bhi lagoo
ho gaya to daanye haath ko baanya
bhi nahin milaga malne ke liye...

ZAMINDAR

(to the electrician)
Kya kharaabi aa gayee thi uss
mein?

ELECTRICIAN

Iska paleeta udd gaya tha... kissi
ne bahut bandbujh kiya hai iske
saath...

ZAMINDAR

Paleeta?

ELECTRICIAN

Tantuk... andar hota hai jisse
roshni hoti hai...

ZAMINDAR

Bijli se nahin hoti roshni?

ELECTRICIAN

Bijli se paleeta jalta hai jisse roshni hoti hai...

ZAMINDAR

Hahn, pata hai... vah jo bhi hota hai, poori haveli mein lagvaana hai... jo bhi kharcha aayega Majumdar sahab ko di deejiyega...

He smiles at Majumdar.

ZAMINDAR

(to the electrician)

Aur vah kya bola tha? Paleeta ka doosra naam?

ELECTRICIAN

Tantuk...

ZAMINDAR

Tantuk... achcha hai...

He walks. Majumdar follows him.

MAJUMDAR

Aap zara bhi gambhir nahin hai... aapko samajh mein nahin aa raha ha ki kuch nahin bachega aapke paas adhiniyam lagoo ho gaya to...

ZAMINDAR

Ye kanoon kabhi nahin lagoo hoga.

MAJUMDAR

Hoga. Sarkar mein na to maharaajein baithe hain na zamindar, jo aapki vakaalat karenge. Vah jog baithe hain jinki aankh mein tabhi se kirkiri hai jab vah aapke neeche paida hue... yah log prajatantra ke naye zamindar hain. Pandrah acre zameen se ek dhela zyaada nahin rakhne denge aapko...

ZAMINDAR

Koi baat nahin... pandrah acre hi sahi...

MAJUMDAR

Aur kamaai kahan se aayegi?

ZAMINDAR

Pandrah acre ka to lagaan aayega.

MAJUMDAR

Zamindar khatam lagaan hazam
Babuji... khud hi khet jotna
padega, aur agar jutvaaoge to
tankhwa deni padegi...

They walk on, still arguing.

Pakhi and Devyani sit in a room above, listening to the conversation.

PAKHI

Hamaare baba hamesha aapas mein
bahas kyon karte hain?

DEVYANI

Pata nahin... mere baba ko lagta
hai Zamindar Babu samajhte nahin
hain, aur Zamindar Babu ko lagta
hai mere baba aise hi bakte rahte
hain...

PAKHI

Kya bakte hain?

Before Devyani can answer, both of them hear the sound of an approaching motorcycle.

They look at each other, and get up quickly.

They come to the balcony. Devyani nudges Pakhi.

DEVYANI

Udhar...

Pakhi looks.

Her POV: Varun stands at the entrance to the haveli, looking for some assistance. A bandage is plastered over his eye.

He pulls the rope for the old bell.

A servant walks up to him.

Pakhi watches Varun as he talks to the servant.

SERVANT

Kahiye...

VARUN

Mera naam Varun Shrivastav hai...

SERVANT

Kaun jagah se padhaar rahe hain?

VARUN

Archaeological Survey of India,
Delhi...

The servant looks at Varun, tongue tied, finding it too hard to assimilate. Varun gives him a letter.

SERVANT

Yahin rukiye...

Pakhi watches the servant walk up to the Zamindar and Majumdar.

SERVANT

Dilli ke aajal savediya se aaye hain...

MAJUMDAR

Kahan se?

SERVANT

Angrezi jagah hai...

He hands the Zamindar the letter.

As Pakhi watches, the servant comes back to Varun and leads him to the Zamindar. They shake hands.

CUT TO:

20 **INT. HAVELI LIBRARY -- DAY**

20

The Zamindar looks through books on the shelf. Pakhi walks with him.

ZAMINDAR

Archaeologist hai... hamaari mandir ki zameen ke chaaron taraf khudai karna chahte hain... kahta hai koi puraani civilisation dabi padi hai hamaari zameen ke neeche.

Pakhi looks at her father, waiting for more information.

He finds the book he was looking for and pulls it out of the shelf. Walks away from her.

ZAMINDAR

Raat ko khaane pe aa raha hai, khud hi pooch lena...

Pakhi smiles.

Music...

CUT TO:

21 **INT. PAKHI'S ROOM -- NIGHT**

21

Pakhi sits in front of the mirror. She's dressed in a beautiful sari. Her hair is done up and so are her eyes.

She looks at the clock in the mirror. Almost 8 o'clock.

CUT TO:

22 INT. HAVELI -- NIGHT

22

A clock strikes 8.

Varun sits on a large chair at the foot of the stairs.

He hears a voice behind him.

PAKHI
Varun Shrivastav...

VARUN
(turns to look)
Ji...

PAKHI
Peeche mat dekhna...

He looks back in front.

PAKHI
Jis gaadi se aaj aapki takkar hui
usse chalaane vaale ka naam Babu
Singh tha...

VARUN
Ji... aur aapka naam kya hai?

PAKHI
Zyaada hoshiyar banne ki koshish
mat karo kyonki tum ho nahin...

VARUN
Ji aap un dono mein se kaun vaali
hain?

There's no response. He turns to look. There's nobody there.

ZAMINDAR
Mr. Shrivastav...

Varun looks. The Zamindar is walking down the stairs.

Varun stands. The Zamindar walks up to him, shakes his hand. He points to Pakhi, who seems to have magically appeared behind.

ZAMINDAR
Ye hamari beti hai... Pakhi...

VARUN
Ji...

ZAMINDAR
Aur Pakhi bete, ye hai vah
gentleman jinke baare mein...

PAKHI
Namaste...

CUT TO:

23 INT. HAVELI DINING ROOM -- NIGHT

23

The Zamindar and Varun sit at the dining table. Pakhi supervises the servants in setting dinner.

ZAMINDAR

Likhna chahti hai hamari beti...
vaise, likhti burra nahin hai...
hamari library ki har kitaab par
apna naam likh rakha hai...

She looks at him, mortified.

PAKHI

Baba...

He smiles at her fondly.

PAKHI

Hum achcha likhte hain...

VARUN

(polite)
I'm sure... kaafi kam bolti hain
aap Pakhi ji...

PAKHI

Ji...

ZAMINDAR

(to Varun)
Archaeologists... mujhe hamesha
lagta tha ki koi umradaraaj...
puraane jang lage log hote honge...
jo makdee ke jhalon mein apni
jeevika dhondte hain...

VARUN

Shayad isiliye hamaare department
ko puraatan vibhaag kaha jaata
hai...

The Zamindar laughs.

Varun smiles.

CUT TO:

Food is being taken away. Pakhi stands and serves the Zamindar hot coffee.

ZAMINDAR

(to Varun)
Rah kahan rahe ho tum?

VARUN

Circuit house mein... mandir ke
paas hai...

ZAMINDAR

Yah apna maatha kahan phod liya?

VARUN

Meri motorcycle ki ek gaadi se
mutbhed huyi thi...

ZAMINDAR

Manikpur mein?

VARUN

Ji...

ZAMINDAR

Kaun chala raha tha?

VARUN

Main hi chala raha tha...

ZAMINDAR

Dono ek saath chalaoge to phir
mutbhed to hogi hi...

Varun smiles.

Pakhi controls her laughter. She moves to serve Varun.

VARUN

Main motorcycle chala raha tha...

ZAMINDAR

Of course...

VARUN

Aur gaadi pata nahin, koi
nauseekhiya chala raha tha... itni
chaudi sadak par ek itni si
motorcycle... phir bhi ussi mein
bhidaane ja raha tha... inn andhe
nauseekhiya ko gaadi kyon koi
chalaane deta hai meri samajh mein
nahin aata...

Pakhi suddenly pours hot coffee on Varun's hand. He shouts
out in pain.

PAKHI

Sorry sorry...
(to the servant)
Jaldi thanda paani layiye...

CUT TO:

24 INT. HAVELI LIBRARY -- NIGHT

24

The Zamindar pours himself a drink, and another for Varun,
who sits in an armchair, his hand bandaged with tumeric.

Pakhi looks among the books in the shelves.

ZAMINDAR

Shukra hai tum iski coffee ke neeche
aaye, kyonki vah gaadi jisse tum
bhide the agar ye chala rahi hoti
to phir shayad haath bacha hi nahin
hota jalne ke liye...

The Zamindar hands Varun his glass.

ZAMINDAR

(placing a record)

Ek baar baitha tha main is
nauseekhiya ke bagal mein... hum
log bazaar ki taraf gaye... jaisa
hamesha hota hai, hamaari gaadi
dekhte hi log jhuk ke pranaam karne
lag gaye. Unko dekh kar hamaari
Pakhi bhi jhuk jhuk ke jawaab dene
lagi... aur gaadi seedha aata chakki
mein. Kaali gaadi safed vaapas aa
gayee...

Varun laughs.

PAKHI

Agli baar baithna seedha khaai
mein le jaakar utaaroongi... saari
Zamindari bhool jaaoge...

The Zamindar goes towards his grammaphone, chooses a
record.

VARUN

Sarkar ne aapko pata hai na,
Zamindar unmoolan aayog baithaaya
hai... kabhi bhi kanoon lagoo ho
sakta hai...

The Zamindar doesn't answer.

PAKHI

Matlab?

VARUN

Kanoon ban gaya to Zamindaron ka
sab kuch rashtriya khazaanon mein
chala jaayega...

(to the Zamindar)

Is se pahle ki sab jabt ho jaaye,
agar aap apni viraasat bechna chahe
to main aise kuch khareedaar jaanta
hoon. Jinse aksar hamaare
department ka kaam chalta hai...
achchi keemat bhi dete hain aur
moonh bhi band rakhte hain...

Music starts playing. Varun trails off, realising that
he's being ignored.

The music grows...

CUT TO:

LATER:

Varun walks between shelves of books, rows upon rows, looking at the immense collection.

He comes back to the sitting area and sees Pakhi reading to the Zamindar from a book. He listens to the sound of her voice and the music.

PAKHI

Kai dinon tak chulha roya, chhaki
rahi udaas... kai dinon tak kaani
kuttiya soi unke paas... kai dinon
tak lagi bheet par chhipkaliyon ki
gasht... kai dinon tak choohon ki
bhi haalat rahi shikast...

Varun then starts mouthing the words along with Pakhi.

The Zamindar looks at him.

PAKHI & VARUN

Daane aaye ghar ke andar kayi dinon
ke baad... dhuan utha aangan se
ooper kayi dinon ke baad... chamak
uthi ghar bhar ki aankhen kai dinon
ke baad... kauve ne khujlaayi
pankhen kayi dinon ke baad...

Silence...

VARUN

Baba Nagarjun... asli naam
Vaidhnath Mishra.. Mere nanihaal
Darbhanga ke rahne vaale the...

Pakhi looks at him.

The Zamindar clears his throat.

ZAMINDAR

Tumne kya bataya tha, kahaan rah
rahe ho tum?

CUT TO:

25 INT. HAVELI OUTHOUSE -- DAY

25

A servant walks carries Varun's bags into the outhouse courtyard. Varun follows him, and behind Varun walks another young man, DEBDAS, who carries his own heavy bags.

They stop in the courtyard and look around - a simple, small courtyard with lots of rooms. The balcony of the main house surrounds them from all sides.

The servant unlocks one of the rooms and takes their bags inside.

DEBDAS

Aapne kaafi asar jamaya hai Varun
Babu... uss badboodaar circuit
house ki jagah ye shaandaar
haveli...

Varun smiles.

From inside her room, Pakhi has a perfect view of the outhouse courtyard. She watches Varun and Deb checking out their room.

She smiles to herself.

CUT TO:

25A **EXT. TEMPLE SITE -- DAY**

25A

Old temple ruins, some broken, some intact, in the middle of a dusty field.

The Zamindar walks with Varun, Deb, Majumdar and Pakhi following close behind. Pakhi watches Varun more than often.

ZAMINDAR

Ye jagah paanch sau saalon se vaisi
ki vaisi hi hai. Na to humne kissi
ko yahaan kuch banaane diya hai na
bigaadne. Jo saaf safaai hoti
rahi hai vah Majumdar sahab ke
saamne hoti hai, aur inke pahle
inke Pitaji ki dekhrekh mein hoti
thi...

They come to the centre temple. Recently made iron gates and padlocks cover the entrance to the interior.

Inside is a beautiful idol of Kali.

ZAMINDAR

Aur ye Kali ki murti Roychowdhury
khaandaan ki dharohar hai... kam
se kam teen sau saal puraani hai...

Varun pulls out a camera from the case slung over his shoulder.

VARUN

Main dekh sakta hoon?

ZAMINDAR

Of course...

Varun gets closer to the temple, frames and clicks.

He then lowers the camera and looks at the idol, carefully.

CUT TO:

25B **EXT. HAVELI -- NIGHT**

25B

In the courtyard of the haveli, a movie projector is set up and beams it's images onto a makeshift screen.

Varun, Deb and the Zamindar's close ones watch the film sitting on chairs, while a host of villagers watch the film while sitting on the floor.

Varun leans closer to Deb.

VARUN

Kuch samajh mein aa raha hai Debdas
Mukherjee?

DEBDAS

Sab kuch samajh mein aa raha hai...
mere Ma Babuji aise hi baat karte
hain...

Varun smiles, and looks away. His eyes meet Pakhi's. They smile at each other and then look back at the screen.

DEBDAS

(not taking his
eyes off the screen)
Bangali seekh lo, abhi nahin to
kabhi na kabhi seekhna padega...

25C **OMITTED**
AND
2625C
AND
2627 **INT. PAKHI'S ROOM -- MORNING**

27

Early morning light streams into Pakhi's room.

She sits by the window, peeping out into the outhouse courtyard.

Her POV:

Varun shaves and Deb tunes his radio. After many strange noises it finally tunes itself to the right frequency - Geeta Dutt singing "Tadbeer Se Bigdi Hui".

Deb beams, starts swaying to the music.

Pakhi smiles, then walks over to her own radio and tunes it to the same song.

She returns to the window and looks out.

28 **INT. HAVELI OUTHOUSE -- CONTINUOUS**

28

Varun looks at Deb doing his jig, razor in hand.

DEBDAS

Baazi dekhi hai tumne?

Varun shakes his head.

DEBDAS

Dekhi chahiye tumhe... isse kahte hai picture. Dev Anand number ek ka juaari hai iss mein. Aur kya hota hai, ek samay aisa aata hai... ki usse chunna hai. Bahut saara paisa aur uski bahan ki zindagi... ya sab kuchh chhod de sirf pyar ke liye... dekhna chahiye kya karta hai vah... aur kya ladta hai... aisa khada hokar...

Deb stands, legs apart, torso crouched down.

DEBDAS

Saamne se jitne chaahe lampat aa jaaye, majaan hai ki uske baalon ka style bigad jaaye...

Varun washes his face.

DEBDAS

Aur iss picture ka nirdeshak naya aadmi hai, koi Guru Dutt... naam suna hai?

VARUN

Nahin.

DEBDAS

Sunoge... ek din... har koi sunega...

The song continues...

29 **EXT. BENGAL ROADS -- MORNING**

29

The Zamindar's car drives past green fields, kicking up red earth.

A few people bow down to the car as it passes by.

Varun and Deb follow on the motorcycle.

CUT TO:

30 **OMITTED**

30

31 **EXT. TEMPLE SITE -- DAY**

31

The Zamindar breaks the ceremonial coconut at the digging site.

Pakhi, Varun, Majumdar, Devyani and Deb applaud, as do the villagers assembled.

Milk is poured on the idol of Kali as the priests perform a pooja.

LATER:

Varun talking to Deb. Majumdar stands with them.

VARUN

(pointing)

Yah dono mandir ke beech ki jo jagah hai, hum yahaan khudaaai karenge...

(points elsewhere)

Idhar hamaara camp lagega...

Deb nods. Varun turns to Majumdar.

VARUN

Aur kuch mazdooron ki zaroorat padegi hamein... milenge?

32 **EXT. TEMPLE SITE -- DAY**

32

Fifteen labourers sit in the sun. Deb stands in front of them.

DEBDAS

Aap logon ko yahaan khudaaai karni hai, kya karna hai...

LABOURER 1

Khudaaai...

DEBDAS

To...

(imitating Dev Anand)

Phir savaal ye hai ki... aapko khodna aata hai?

The labourers look at each other.

LABOURER 2

Sahib, yah kudaal kaahe ke liye laaye hain... khodne ke liye hi to laaye...

DEBDAS

Very good...

LABOURER 1

Hum khod kyon rahe hain?

DEBDAS

Hum khod rahe hain kyonki... zameen hai, usse... khodte hain...

LABOURER 2

Matlab andar kuchau dabal hai ki bas gadhha banana hai?

DEBDAS

Andar hi to hai jo hai... baahar to sirf...

He looks around, sees Majumdar looking at him silently.

DEBDAS

Vah... bhai mujhe nahin pata...
bade saahab ko pata hai...

He walks on, past Majumdar.

DEBDAS

Ye theek hai...

33 **INT. HAVELI DINING ROOM -- NIGHT** 33

Music continues...

The Zamindar, Varun and Pakhi sit at the dinner table.

Animated conversation between Varun and the Zamindar.

Pakhi watches them.

34 **EXT. TEMPLE SITE -- DAY** 34

Varun explains to the labourers what they are supposed to do, how to dig down in a straight line, how to collect the earth and where to keep it.

Deb supervises the erection of the tents. Tables, chairs and other paraphernalia go under them.

Music continues.

35 **INT. HAVELI LIBRARY -- NIGHT** 35

Pakhi and Varun animatedly read to the Zamindar from a book.

35A **EXT. HAVELI OUTHOUSE -- NIGHT** 35A

Varun constructs a wooden frame and stretches a painting canvas across it.

He sets up the canvas on an easel. Deb watches him.

From her room, So does Pakhi.

36 **EXT. HAVELI OUTHOUSE -- MORNING** 36

Varun shaves while Deb does another jig to the song.

From the house, Pakhi watches, smiling.

Varun and Deb laugh.

37 **EXT. TEMPLE SITE -- DAY** 37

Varun finishes writing a letter and puts it into a large envelope along with a photograph of the idol.

He addresses the letter to "Mr. R Bajpai"

He gives it to Deb.

41 **EXT. FARMHOUSE -- DAY**

41

The Zamindar sits at the edge of the pond, holding a fishing rod.

Servants around him wait, some bored, some fidgety.

Varun and Deb sit under a tree, watching the Zamindar.

DEBDAS

Ustad Allahrakha tabla baja rahe
hain pet mein... maare gud gud ke
haalat kharab hai...

VARUN

Pahli rohu jab tak kaanta nahin
kaategi, tabla bajta rahega...
parampara janaab...

DEBDAS

(imitating the
Zamindar)

Of course... Tab tak to Vilayat
Khan bhi bajaana shuru kar denge...

CUT TO:

Under another tree, Pakhi and Devyani:

PAKHI

Zamindari hamari khatam hui hai,
machliyan kyon maatam mana rahi
hai... itna hi dukh hai unko to
Baba ke kaante par jaan kyon nahin
de deti...

She looks from her father to Varun. Devyani notices.

DEVYANI

Varun Babu?

Pakhi looks at Devyani, who smiles.

CUT TO:

Varun looks down from the mango he's been watching and his eyes catch Pakhi's. Deb notices.

DEBDAS

Galat jagah ja rahe ho Varun
babu...

CUT TO:

PAKHI

Tum paagal ho gayee ho... main to
aise hi dekh rahi thi udhar...

DEVYANI

Aise kaise dekh rahi thi mujhe
bhi dikh raha hai...

PAKHI
Kaise dekh rahi thi?

DEVYANI
Vaise, jaise dekha jaata hai, tab
jab ho jaata hai...

CUT TO:

VARUN
Kya ho jaata hai? Tumhaare bhookh
ke kaaran dimaag bhi chhutti par
chala gaya hai...

DEBDAS
Naaraaz kyon ho rahe ho? Tum jo
paka rahe ho, main to bas un
khayali pulao mein dam bhar raha
hoon...

CUT TO:

PAKHI
Kuch nahin paka rahi hoon main...

CUT TO:

Varun looks at Deb in silence.

Just then, a cheer goes up. Everyone looks - the Zamindar
has caught his fish.

42 **EXT. FARMHOUSE -- EVENING**

42

A fire burns. Fish roast in it. Everyone sits around the
fire.

Varun and Pakhi find themselves on opposite sides of the
fire. Pakhi with Devyani, Varun with Deb. Very conscious
of each other.

43 **EXT. FARMHOUSE -- EVENING**

43

In the last light of the day, the Zamindar stands by the
river, watching it flow by.

Pakhi comes up to him, touches his arm. He puts his arm
around her.

44 **EXT. FARMHOUSE -- EVENING**

44

The motorcade makes it's way out of the orchard.

IN THE CAR:

The Zamindar looks back at the receding lake and farmhouse.
When he turns again there are tears in his eyes.

Pakhi, sitting next to him, holds his hand.

The Zamindar forces a smile and looks at Varun in the front seat.

ZAMINDAR

Mahine ke aakhir mein aap bhi
chhod ke chale jaaoge Varun Babu?

VARUN

(without turning
around)

Ji...

ZAMINDAR

(looks at Pakhi)

Main aur mere tote ke alaava koi
saath nahin rahne vaala...

Pakhi looks at the back of Varun's head. She then watches the darkness outside.

45 **INT. PAKHI'S ROOM -- NIGHT**

45

Pakhi stands at the window, looking into the outhouse.

Her POV: Varun is contemplating the canvas set up on an easel.

46 **EXT. HAVELI OUTHOUSE -- CONTINUOUS**

46

Deb sits on the doorstep, watching Varun watching the canvas, which we can see now is blank.

DEBDAS

Bhaiya ye chitrakaari aapke bas ki
baat nahin hai... na to aap raja
ho, na Ravi Varma ho... yah rang
holi ke liye bacha kar rakho...
canvas par kyon barbaad karte ho...

VARUN

Beta Debdas... ek din jab
masterpiece banaonga na, tab
dekhna...

DEBDAS

Masterpiece to baad mein banega
pehle uspe koi rang to daalne ki
himakat karo... canvas hai, khaa
nahi jayega...

Debdas gets up.

CUT TO:

Pakhi continues to look at Varun and the canvas.

Then she suddenly smiles.

47 **INT. ZAMINDAR'S ROOM -- DAY**

47

Pakhi hands the Zamindar a cup of tea.

PAKHI

Mujhe painting seekhni hai...

The Zamindar, sitting on his armchair and reading a paper, looks at her.

ZAMINDAR

Abhi achaanak ye painting ka bhoot kahaan se savar ho gaya?

PAKHI

Achaanak nahin savar hua hai. Bachpan se savar hai... aap hi to dikhaate rahte ho... kitni baar kaha hai maine, mujhe bhi karni hai painting...

ZAMINDAR

Tumne kabhi nahin kaha...

PAKHI

Kaha tha... aap kabhi sunte hi kahaan ho jab main kuch kahti hoon...

ZAMINDAR

Bol do Majumdar ko... dhoond laayega kissi ko... Devyani ko bhi pooch lo...

PAKHI

Usse khaana banaane ki alaava kuch nahin jaanna seekhna hai...
(pause)
Aur baahar kissi ko dhoondne ki kya zaroorat hai... apne Varun babu kaafi achche chitrakaar hai...

48 INT. ZAMINDAR'S ROOM -- LATER

48

Varun chokes on his cup of tea. He looks at the Zamindar.

Deb, standing behind him, tries to look serious.

ZAMINDAR

Hamein pata hai aap kaafi vyast ho apni khojbeen mein... phir bhi, agar ek do ghante nikaal lete to...

Varun looks at Pakhi, who looks at him innocently.

ZAMINDAR

Ye bhi seekh legi aapse... khush ho jaayegi. Aur humko bhi pta chal jaayegi iski chitrakaari... aur isse bhi...

Varun nods. He's about to get up.

ZAMINDAR

Apni chai to khatam karte jao...

He sits down again and drinks his cup, deliberately avoiding looking at Deb, who's staring into the back of his head.

49 **EXT. HAVELI OUTHOUSE -- DAY**

49

Varun and Deb walk towards the outhouse.

DEBDAS

Tumne kabhi deewal bhi rangi hai?
Uss canvas ko bas ghoorte hue hi
dekha hai tumhe... You're too bloody
scared to put any paint on it...
khudai se putai tak ek hafte
mein... aapki raftaar kabile tareef
hai Varun Babu...

They reach the outhouse. Varun walks into the room. Deb stands at the door.

DEBDAS

Master Moshai Badi kahte hai
isse... teacher's quarters...

VARUN

(from inside)
Toh?

DEBDAS

Bas bata raha hoon... vaise Pakhi
ko padhaane tumse pahle koi master
moshai kabhi nahin aaye... vah
gayee thi unke paas Shantiniketan
mein padhne... English
Literature...

Varun comes out of the room and starts walking out of the outhouse. Deb follows him.

VARUN

Tumko bahut pata hai... Sherlock
Holmes ki aulaad ho tum... baahar
chowk ke baniye se poochtach karke
aaye ho...

They reach the motorcycle. Varun gets on. Deb holds him by the arm.

DEBDAS

(softly)
Ye tumko bhi pata hai aur humko
bhi... ki ye poori kasrat kyon ho
rahi hai... bholapan apna usko
dikhaana jo tumhaare pyar mein
podhti ja rahi hai... mujhe nahin...
aur jab Bajpai uncle aayenge to
unke samjhaana ki kyon painting
sikha rahe the...

He leaves Varun's arm.

Varun drives off. Deb watches him go.

50 **EXT. TEMPLE SITE -- DAY**

50

Varun sits in his tent, reading a book on painting.

A worker enters the tent and places a parcel on the table.

WORKER

Jo jo aap mangaaye rahe Varun
babu sab to nahin mila... baaki
sab paint, brush, keen laaye
hain...

Varun nods. The worker leaves. Varun gets back to his book.

51 **INT. LIBRARY -- DAY**

51

Varun sets up an easel inside the library while Majumdar sits in a corner, going over some papers, looking at Varun now and then.

Pakhi peeps in from outside the library.

She turns to Devyani.

PAKHI

Kaisi lag rahi hoon?

DEVYANI

Bahut sundar... ab jao...

She pushes Pakhi.

PAKHI

Dhakka kyon de rahi ho?

Pakhi composes herself and takes a step forward. Then turns around again.

DEVYANI

Ab kya?

PAKHI

Agar kuch nahin hua to?

DEVYANI

Matlab?

PAKHI

Agar unka pahle se hi koi ho to?

DEVYANI

Unse baat nahin karogi to pata
kaise chalega hai ya nahin...

She pushes Pakhi.

DEVYANI

Ab jaaoo...

Pakhi stumbles and composes herself just as she enters the library.

Varun sees her walking towards him and keeps watching her, completely unaware of his gaping mouth.

She sits next to him. Still a little awkward.

VARUN

Pahle kabhi koshish ki hai? Mera matlab... jab Shantiniketan mein padhti thi, kuch to seekha hoga...

PAKHI

Aapko pata hai main Shantiniketan mein padhi hoon...

VARUN

Nahin... matlab... Zamindar babu ki beti ho na...

PAKHI

Thoda bahut seekha hai...

VARUN

Mujhse kya seekhna chahti ho?

PAKHI

Aap bataao...

VARUN

Landscapes se kyon na shuru kare... nature ko canvas par utaarna aasaan hai, haath bhi sadh jaayega, phir dheere dheere...

PAKHI

(interrupting)

Nahin... humko seb aur aam banaane ke baad sabse pahle landscapes hi sikhaya tha... bahut aasaan hai... hum portraits kyon nahin seekh sakte...

Varun looks at her, unsure.

PAKHI

Aapko bharosa nahin hai maine landscapes pahle kiya hai... dikhaon?

Varun nods.

Pakhi begins to draw on the easel, with ease.

PAKHI

Yah mandir ke bagal mein jo khaadi
shuru hoti hai... dekhi hai na
aapne?

VARUN

Ye to bilkul...
(looks at her)
Tumko to pata hai...

PAKHI

Mujhe bas pattiyan banana nahin
aata... hamesha galat banaati
hoon.

VARUN

Pattiyan
(laughs)
Bahut aasaan hai banaani...

PAKHI

Dikhaiye...

She hands him the brush.

VARUN

Ye dekho...

He mixes the paints.

VARUN

Thoda hara lo... aur thoda kaala,
aur...

He paints very amateurish leaves, almost block like.

PAKHI

Ye kya hai?

VARUN

Pattiyan...

PAKHI

Ye?

VARUN

Modern Art mein aise hi pattiyan
banti hai...

She looks at him, and suddenly giggles.

PAKHI

Aapko painting nahin aati na...

Varun looks at her and then at Majumdar, who hasn't
noticed.

VARUN

Shhh... chup...

She continues to giggle while Varun looks mortified.

52 **INT. PAKHI'S ROOM -- NIGHT**

52

Pakhi sits with Devyani in her room.

DEVYANI

Tum unko sikha rahi ho?

PAKHI

Ab class chalte rahne ke liye
kissi ko to sikhaana hoga aur
kissi ko seekhna... hai ki nahin?

53 **EXT. HAVELI OUTHOUSE -- CONTINUOUS**

53

Varun and Deb eat in the outhouse.

DEBDAS

Babut badhiya... banne chale
rangrez, pakde gaye angrez...

CUT TO:

DEVYANI

Kya bola tha maine... unke andar
bhi vahi kulbula raha hai jo
tumhaare andar se ubal ubal kar
baahar aa raha hai...

CUT TO:

VARUN

Mai to hamesha se painting seekhna
chahta tha... ab mauka mila hai
to seekh raha hoon...

Deb stares at him.

CUT TO:

Pakhi smiles.

Music... leading into SONG # 1

54 **INT. HAVELI LIBRARY -- DAY**

54

MONTAGE begins:

Pakhi teaches Varun how to paint - first with sketching,
then mixing paints, then painting it on. Their fingers
touch, their hands accidentally meet, they exchange awkward
smiles, they talk.

Their relationship grows.

And through the teaching, a painting takes shape on the
canvas - of a tree, full of leaves.

Towards the end of the song, we see Varun setting up his
camera on a tripod. He and Pakhi sit next to each other,
very formal.

The camera clicks.

54A **OMITTED** 54A

55 **INT. HAVELI LIBRARY -- DAY** 55

The songs ends as we see the painting up on the library wall.

The Zamindar looks at it, smiling. Pakhi stands with him.

ZAMINDAR
Achcha banaate hain...

Pakhi looks at him.

PAKHI
Maine banaya hai...

The Zamindar smiles at her.

ZAMINDAR
Matlab achcha sikhaate hain...

She looks at the painting.

CUT TO:

The Zamindar sits reading a book. He looks up towards the door.

Majumdar stands there, looking very serious.

56 **INT. HAVELI -- DAY** 56

The Zamindar and Majumdar watch a very sweaty official looking man walk up to them. Two men follow him.

The man takes off his cap and gives the Zamindar a letter.

MAN
Biswajeet Roy... Treasury
Department.

The Zamindar goes through the letter and looks up at Roy, who smiles.

ZAMINDAR
Ye kaun sa department hai?

ROY
Aadesh par sarkaari muhar lagi
hai, dekh leejiye...

57 **INT. HAVELI STORAGE CHAMBER -- DAY** 57

A door opens and we enter a storage chamber. All around, valuable pieces and artifacts - paintings, swords, helmets...

Roy walks through the storage chamber with the Zamindar and Majumdar, looking at pieces of value carefully. His man follows.

He picks up a gold glass.

ROY

Yah... aapko...

ZAMINDAR

East India Company ne diya tha hamare Dadaji ko...

ROY

Do sau saal puraana hai kam se kam...

ZAMINDAR

Usse zyaada...

Roy nods and gives it to the man with him.

ZAMINDAR

Ye kya kar rahe hain aap?

ROY

Yah hamaare itihaas ki dharohar hai jo sarkaari khaazaane mein jaayegi aur vahaan se shaayad sangrahalaya mein...

ZAMINDAR

(getting angry)

Yah hamaare Roychowdhury khandaan ki dharohar hai. Ye aap nahin le ja sakte...

Majumdar touches him on the arm to calm him down.

ROY

Roychowdhury Babu...

MAJUMDAR

(snapping at Roy)

Zamindar Babu.

Roy gives Majumdar a cold look, then looks at the Zamindar.

ROY

East India Company ne aapko jo bhi diya tha vah unka nahin tha... unhone churaya tha... agar aap nahin denge to hamein aapko giraftar karke lena padega...

They all look at each other.

CUT TO:

58 **EXT. HAVELI -- DAY**

58

The Zamindar watches, heartbroken, as artifacts, statues, precious coins and other valuables are put into the back of a truck.

He signs a paper that Roy puts in front of him.

MAJUMDAR (O.S.)
Kitni baar kaha aapko, lekin
hamesha taal dete the...

Roy puts on his hat and gets into the truck.

59 **INT. HAVELI LIBRARY -- DAY**

59

The Zamindar pours himself a drink. Majumdar stands behind.

MAJUMDAR
Abhi bhi waqt hai... vah dobara
aayenge, baar baar aayenge... jo
nahin le gaye hain usse bacha
lo...

The Zamindar sips his drink.

60 **EXT. VALLEY -- EVENING**

60

Pakhi and Varun sit at the crest of a valley, a river flowing below.

The sun is on the verge of setting.

The easel is set up in front of them but they haven't bothered to paint anything on. They watch the sunset in silence.

Finally, Pakhi speaks...

PAKHI
Main hamesha itni jaldi mein hoti
hoon ki baba mujhe Pakhi express
bulaate hain...

VARUN
Kya karna chahti ho tum?

PAKHI
Main likhna chahti hoon... mujhe
dher saari kitaabein likhni hai...
kabhi kabhi sochti hoon yahaan se
bhaag jaoon apne Dalhousie vaale
ghar mein, aur vahaan baith kar
likhti rahoon, likhti rahoon...
baahar barf girti rahegi aur andar
main...

VARUN
Likhti rahogi likhti rahogi...

PAKHI

Hahn...

He smiles.

PAKHI

Bahut sundar jagah hai Dalhousie...
aur jab barf padhti hai na, thand
mein...

(fakes a shiver)

Bahut mazaa aata hai...

VARUN

Vahaan pe ek raja ka mahal bhi
hai na?

PAKHI

Hahn. Jandrighat Mahal. Unke
Raja ke paas kitna kuch hai.
Baba se dus guna zyaada...

VARUN

Aur unke paas ek bahut keemti
Ganesh ki puraani murti hai.

PAKHI

Sach mein?

VARUN

Hahn... khaalis sone ki. Paanch
sau saal purani...

She looks at him.

PAKHI

Tum ye sab jo khudaai dhoondai
karte ho tumhe achcha lagta hai?

VARUN

Mujhe yahi hai jo aata hai.

(beat)

Jo karta hoon uske alaava kabhi
aur kuch kiya nahin...

PAKHI

Agar kabhi mauka mille kuch karne
ka to kya karna chahoge?

Varun doesn't reply.

PAKHI

Bataao na...

VARUN

Ek baar marne se pahle Chandratal
dekhna chahta hoon...

PAKHI

Vah kahan hai?

VARUN

Manali se bahut aage. Himalay ke
beechon beech. Neela hara paani.
Aur zara si bi awaaz nahin...

She looks at him, never having seen this side of him
before.

PAKHI

(whispers)
Bilkul bhi nahin?

VARUN

(looks at her,
whispers back)
Nahin...

PAKHI

(whispers)
Aur?

VARUN

(whispers)
Ek aisa masterpiece paint karna
chahta hoon jisse log yaad
rakhein...

PAKHI

Sach mein?

VARUN

Kissi ko bataana nahin...

PAKHI

Aur bataya toh?

They look at each other. They're very close.

Pakhi closes her eyes. Varun looks at her, but doesn't
do anything.

When she opens her eyes, she sees him packing up the easel.

She watches him walk towards the car.

61 **INT. CAR -- EVENING**

61

Varun drives. Pakhi looks at him.

PAKHI

Aap ko ye khandar, puraani murti,
puraane mandir... in sab ke ilaava
kuch samajh mein nahin aata na?

He doesn't respond.

She looks at him, then picks up his packet of cigarettes
from the dashboard. She lights one. Smokes.

She coughs. He looks at her, smiles at her stupidity.
She coughs again.

He's about to say something when there's a loud bang and a rhythmic flapping sound.

Varun stops the car and gets out.

The rear tyre is flat.

62 **EXT. STREET -- NIGHT**

62

It's dark now.

Varun shuts the boot of the car and wipes his hands on a rag. He opens the door and gets in, looks at Pakhi and reacts with shock.

She's slumped in her seat, in the middle of a very bad asthma attack, struggling to breathe.

He helps her sit up.

VARUN

Kya hua?

Gasping for breath, she points to a small bag on the seat.

Varun opens it and finds a syringe and vial. He looks at Pakhi. She nods.

He quickly loads the syringe and takes Pakhi's arm. Rolls up the sleeve of her blouse and injects the liquid.

He then holds her hand and gently rubs her back, till her breathing slowly comes back to normal.

Pakhi starts shivering. Varun takes off his jacket and wraps it around her. And he holds her this way for a while.

They sit in silence, and then look at each other.

Without warning, Pakhi kisses Varun.

He looks at her, she at him. For a long while.

Music...

63 **EXT. STREET -- NIGHT**

63

Varun and Pakhi drive back, both silent, illuminated by the reflection of the car's lights on the road.

64 **INT. HAVELI -- NIGHT**

64

Varun carries Pakhi in his arms through the corridors of the haveli.

The Zamindar and maids come running towards them.

Varun gently lets her down. The Zamindar and maids take her and support her through the corridors.

Varun watches her go.

65 **INT. PAKHI'S ROOM -- NIGHT** 65

The Zamindar sits on the edge of Pakhi's bed, fanning her, looking at her for a long time.

66 **EXT. TEMPLE SITE -- DAY** 66

ON Varun's face. The sound of rocks being hammered.

He absently looks into the deep trench that has been dug, seeing the workers hammer away at the rocks.

ZAMINDAR (O.S.)

Varun Babu...

Varun turns around and sees the Zamindar standing behind him.

67 **EXT. TEMPLE SITE -- DAY** 67

The Zamindar and Varun walk, away from the noise.

ZAMINDAR

Bahut bahut dhanyavaad karna chahta hoon aapka...

VARUN

Aap mujhe sharminda kar rahe hain...

ZAMINDAR

Main kabhi usse akele jaane nahin deta... kab pata daura aa jaaye... vah bol ke thodi na aata hai... saavdhan, main aa raha hoon...

He smiles weakly, then looks away, embarrassed.

He starts walking away. Then turns.

ZAMINDAR

Kabhi bhi koi bhi zaroorat pade maang leejhiyega, jo chaahe... hum denge... hamaara vaada hai...

Varun nods. The Zamindar walks towards his car.

Varun watches him go.

68 **INT. OUTHOUSE -- NIGHT** 68

Varun sits on the outhouse steps, smoking a cigarette.

Deb sits next to him.

DEBDAS

Pakhi achchi ladki hai...

VARUN

Hmmm...

DEBDAS

Aur jaate jaate tumhe uska dil
todna padega...

Varun looks at him.

DEBDAS

Tum todoge, todna to padega hi
na...

Varun looks away.

DEBDAS

Usse itne sapne mat bunaane do ki
jab tum jaaon vah marr hi jaye...

Silence.

Deb gets up and walks towards the outhouse.

VARUN

Aur agar main ye kahoon ki mujhe
Pakhi se vaakai pyar hai to?

DEBDAS

Pyar karne ki suvidha aapko nahin
hai Shrivastav sahab... Aap pyar
mein badkismati ke mulaajim hain...
aapko pyar karna ho to anumati
leni padegi. Aur anumati vah kathor-
dil chacha aapko denge nahin...

Deb goes inside.

Varun reaches into his pocket and pulls out the photograph
of him and Pakhi. He looks at it for a while, then looks
up towards Pakhi's room.

She is standing behind the curtain, looking at him. He
can't see her but he knows she's there.

They look at each other a long time.

SONG # 2 begins.

69 **EXT. STREET -- MORNING**

69

SONG # 2:

INTERCUT between Pakhi and Varun.

Her happiness at the way the relationship is going. In
the haveli.

His inner turmoil at the way the relationship is going.
At the site and in the outhouse. Deb watching him all
the time.

Towards the end of the song, Pakhi gets ready - sari, hair, jewellery.

She does her eyes, looks herself over in the mirror one last time and gets up.

She takes the easel from her room and walks out.

70 **EXT. TEMPLE SITE -- DAY**

70

Varun looks at his watch while sitting in the tent.

He keeps sitting there.

SONG ENDS.

71 **INT. LIBRARY -- DAY**

71

Pakhi waits in the library, the easel set up in front of her.

She looks at her watch, then looks at the door. No sign of Varun.

72 **EXT. TEMPLE SITE -- DAY**

72

Varun stands inside the tent with Deb and two labourers. A map is spread out on the table. Varun draws on it.

VARUN

Neeche jaakar ek is taraf seedha
khodna hai, doosra theek ulti disha
mein... pahle ulti disha mein khodo
aur saari saari mitti baahar nikaal
kar khaali karo...

They hear a car coming and look, sees the Zamindar's car arriving.

LABOURER 1

Memsahib...

Varun folds the map and places it under another one. He watches Pakhi walk towards the tent.

Deb and the labourer leave as she enters.

PAKHI

Varun Babu...

Varun looks at her.

PAKHI

Aaj aap class mein nahin aaye...

VARUN

Hahn, hamaara kaam khatam hone
vaala hai... samay bhi kam bacha
hai, isliye...

PAKHI

Aap chaho to hum yahaan bhi seekh
sakte hain...

VARUN

Nahin... yahaan nahin...

PAKHI

Koi baat nahin... to kal aap
aayenge na...

VARUN

Kal...
(looks at Deb)
Nahin...

PAKHI

Parson?

He looks at her, helpless.

PAKHI

Tarson?

He looks on.

PAKHI

Narson? Agle hafte?

VARUN

Agle hafte hum vaapas jaa rahe
hain...

She looks at him.

PAKHI

Koi baat hai jo aap kah nahin
rahe hain?

Varun is silent.

PAKHI

Kuch galat hua hai humse? Naraaz
hain aap?

VARUN

Nahin... Pakhi ji, kaafi kaam hai
yahaan... mere log mera moonh
dekh rahe hain...

PAKHI

Main bhi to vahi kar rahi hoon...

Silence.

VARUN

Behtar hoga aap jaiye...

She looks at him, anger slowly brimming up.

PAKHI

(snaps)

Behtar hoga aap mar jaayiye!

Pakhi storms out of the tent.

Varun watches her go.

Deb enters.

DEBDAS

Kam kar len?

They walk out of the tent together and head towards the trench.

Pakhi reaches the car, then stops and looks back. She walks back towards Varun, fast and furious. Speaks to his back.

PAKHI

Tum aisa kyon kar rahe ho mere saath?

Varun looks at Pakhi. She's fuming.

All around, workers are looking at them.

Varun takes Pakhi by the arm and leads her away.

They reach a quieter place. She shakes his hand off.

VARUN

Kya ho gaya hai aaj tumhe?

PAKHI

Hamein kya ho gaya hai? Aapko kya ho gaya hai? Aisa kyon kar rahe hain aap mere saath? Jaise ki aap humse milna hi nahin chahte ho...

He doesn't reply.

PAKHI

Hamara koi maayna hai aapki zindagi mein?

No reply.

PAKHI

Kuch mahsoos hota hai aapko hamaare liye?

No reply.

PAKHI

Jo samay humne sang mein bitaaya? Vah?

VARUN

Tumhe painting seekhni thi...

PAKHI

Aur kya sikhaayi aapne... jab
aapko aata hi nahin tha painting
karna to kyon hahn kiya aapne?
Tabhi mana kar dete...

He doesn't reply. Tears well up in her eyes.

PAKHI

Aur vah raat?

Silence.

PAKHI

Kyon?

No reply.

PAKHI

Aap mujhse pyaar karte hain Varun
babu?

No reply.

PAKHI

Mera dil rakhne ke liye hahn bol
deejiye...

He doesn't reply. Her tears begin to fall.

She turns and walks away, back to the car.

He watches her go.

73 **INT. CAR -- DAY**

73

Pakhi drives back, tears streaming down.

She stops the car at the side of the road and breaks down
completely.

74 **EXT. TEMPLE SITE -- EVENING**

74

Under a flaming orange sky, Varun sits at the temple site.

Overlap his voice...

VARUN (O.S.)

Majdooron ke jaane ke baad hum...

75 **INT. TEMPLE SITE -- EVENING**

75

Inside the tent, the map is laid out on the table again.

Varun speaks to Deb.

VARUN

Iss disha mein mein khodenge... jo
mitti yahaan se niklegi vah yahaan
jaayegi... teen raaton mein
hamein...

His voice trails off.

76 **EXT. TEMPLE SITE -- NIGHT** 76

Two labourers dig inside the trench.

Varun stands at the rim of the trench with a torch, looking inside.

77 **INT. PAKHI'S ROOM -- NIGHT** 77

Devyani holds Pakhi as she cries.

PAKHI

Vah humse pyaar nahin karte Devi...

DEVYANI

Vah jhoot bol rahe hain...

The camera moves to the window. We see Deb and Varun return from the temple site, mud all over their boots.

78 **INT. OUTHOUSE -- NIGHT** 78

Varun washes the mud off his shoes in the bathroom, pre occupied.

Deb watches him from the door.

DEBDAS

Itna mat socho... jo kiya sahi kiya...

Varun looks at him sharply.

VARUN

Mere sar par mandraate mat raho meri antaraatma ban ke! So jaao.

79 **EXT. OUTHOUSE -- NIGHT** 79

Varun stands outside the door to the outhouse, looking up at Pakhi's shut window.

ZAMINDAR (O.S.)

Hamaari gaadi lene aa rahein hain kal...

80 **OMITTED** 80

81 **INT. HAVELI LIBRARY -- NIGHT** 81

The Zamindar hands Varun a drink and takes a seat.

Pakhi isn't there.

ZAMINDAR

Kolkata ke ek laatsahab ko bechi hai...

They drink in silence.

ZAMINDAR

Duniya badal gayee hai Varun Babu...
aap logon ki behtar ho gayee hai,
hamari khatam ho gayee hai. Itni
gehri aadat ho gayee thi iss zindagi
ki ki aapke, Majumdar ke saavdhan
karne par bhi... lagta nahin tha
ki zamindari lutne ka matlab sab
chala jaayega... aap log angrezon
se aazaad ho gaye, hum aazaadi se
barbaad ho gaye...

VARUN

Abhi bhi bahut kuch hai aapke
paas... jiski antarashtriya bazaar
mein kaafi keemat hai... khareeddaar
abhi bhi ghoom rahe hain chaaron
taraf

ZAMINDAR

Sarkar hamein barbaad karna chahti
hai kyonki unhe lagta hai hum
angrezon ke dost the... hum majboor
the...

(gets up)

Aazaad Hind fauj ko kitna paisa
diya humne... hamaari galti hai
agar sarkar unki aazaadi ki ladaai
accept nahin karti hai...

The Zamindar makes another drink.

Varun watches him in silence.

ZAMINDAR

Jaao tum... tumhe bhi apna kaam
karna hai... jaao...

VARUN

Good night Zamindar Babu...

Varun walks towards the door when the Zamindar stops him.

ZAMINDAR

Varun Babu...

Varun turns.

ZAMINDAR

Bula lo unhe...
(shows all around
him)
Bech daalo sab... bechbach ke
chala jaata hoon angrezon ke
desh... bula lo...

Varun nods and walks out.

The Zamindar takes another sip and casually flings his
glass across the room.

CUT TO:

82 **INT. OUTHOUSE -- NIGHT**

82

Deb is sleeping, snoring. Varun tries to shake him awake.

VARUN

Deb... abe Debdas... uth...

He snores. Varun slaps him.

Deb wakes with a start and immediately produces a gun from under his pillow, points it at Varun.

They look at each other.

VARUN

Usse andar rakh...

DEBDAS

(touches his cheek)

Tumne maara mujhe?

VARUN

Zamindar bechne ko taiyyar hai...

On Deb's face, his eyes light up.

83 **OMITTED**

83

84 **EXT. HAVELI -- DAY**

84

Varun and Deb walk towards the entrance of the haveli.

The Zamindar, Pakhi, Devyani, Majumdar and the servants are already gathered there in front of the Zamindar's car. Everyone looks sad.

The Zamindar hands the keys of the car to a YOUNG GENTLEMAN.

Overlap the Zamindar's voice:

ZAMINDAR

Meet Mr. Mukhopadhyay... he's taking our car...

CUT TO:

Varun and Mukhopadhyay shake hands.

VARUN

To Calcutta?

MUKHOPADHYAY

Yes...

VARUN

(to the Zamindar)

Deb inke saath ja sakta hai?

CUT TO:

The car leaves.

The Zamindar and Pakhi watch it go, both very sad.

Varun stands behind them.

VARUN

Zamindar Babu... do din baad him
bhi chale jaayenge...

ZAMINDAR

Mahina poora ho gaya? Itni jaldi?

VARUN

Hamaara kaam khatam ho gaya...

Pakhi looks at him.

VARUN

Samay hi barbaad kiya... milla
kuch nahin...

The Zamindar looks at him. Varun smiles awkwardly and
walks off.

Pakhi watches him go.

85 **INT. PAKHI'S ROOM -- NIGHT**

85

Pakhi looks out of her window towards the outhouse.

Her POV: The room to Varun's door is closed. She can see
light from under the door.

She keeps looking at the door, then moves away from the
window.

86 **INT. HAVELI -- NIGHT**

86

Pakhi moves stealthily through the haveli, careful not to
make a sound.

The sound of Indian classical music gets closer. Pakhi
walks past the library door, making sure her father doesn't
see her.

She walks through corridors, down the staircase and into
the outhouse.

She comes up to Varun's door and knocks.

He opens it. Sees her standing there.

They look at each other and then he moves out of the way,
letting her into the room. He shuts the door and faces
her.

PAKHI

Mat jao...

Tears form in Pakhi's eyes.

Varun moves forward and holds her. They embrace.

PAKHI
Please mat jao...

VARUN
Shhhhhh...

He embraces her tighter.

She sits on the bed. He kneels in front of her. They look at each other, silently.

He then kisses her on the eyes. They touch noses. They embrace again, slowly.

CUT TO:

They lie in bed, facing each other. He's asleep. She watches him.

DISSOLVE TO:

87 **INT. OUTHOUSE -- MORNING**

87

Varun opens his eyes. Early morning light comes through the windows.

He sees Pakhi, who sits by the closed window and writes on a piece of paper.

VARUN
Kya likh rahi ho?

She doesn't reply.

VARUN
Koi kahaani likh rahi ho?

PAKHI
Hmmm...

VARUN
Kya kahaani?

PAKHI
Kahaani hai bas...

VARUN
Kahaani mein kya hai?

Pakhi is silent.

VARUN
Ladka hai kahaani mein?

She nods.

VARUN

Aur ek ladki?

She nods again.

VARUN

Dono pyar karte hain ek doosre se...

She looks at him.

PAKHI

Nahin.

VARUN

Pyar mein padne vaale hain?

PAKHI

Pata nahin.

VARUN

Dono baat kar rahe hain?

Pakhi goes back to writing.

VARUN

(whispers)

Ladka kuch pooch raha hai?

She looks at him, doesn't reply.

VARUN

(whispers)

Vah jawaab nahin de rahi hai...
naraaz hai ladke se?

PAKHI

(whispers)

Hahn.

VARUN

(whispers)

Kyonki vah jaa raha hai?

PAKHI

(whispers, emotional)

Kyonki vah bahut savaal pooch
raha hai...

VARUN

(whispers)

Aur ladki kya kar rahi hai?

PAKHI

(whispers, emotional)

Vah usse bata rahi hai ke itne
savaal mat poocho...

VARUN

(whispers)

To usne savaal poochne band kiye?

PAKHI
(emotional)
Vah bewakoof hai... usse bolne
par bhi kuch samajh mein nahin aa
raha hai...

A tear starts to roll down Pakhi's cheek.

He walks to her.

VARUN
Usne ladki ko bataaya, ki vah
kitni sundar hai, ki usse sundar
duniya mein koi nahin hai...

She looks at him.

PAKHI
Nahin...

VARUN
Aur ladki ne ladke ko bola ki vah
duniya mein sabse zyaada usse
pyar karti hai?

PAKHI
Nahin.

VARUN
Phir vah kab bolegi?

She doesn't reply. He comes very close.

VARUN
Kab bolegi?

They stay very close for a moment. Then Pakhi pulls away.

PAKHI
Subah ho gayee... mujhe jaana
hai...

He holds her hand, not letting go.

They look at each other.

88 **INT. HAVELI -- MORNING**

88

Pakhi walks through the haveli, silently.

She comes to her room and enters, shuts the door behind her.

And then notices her father lying on her bed, asleep.

She quickly turns around and opens the door again when he calls out to her.

ZAMINDAR
Pakhi bete...

She turns, looks at him.

ZAMINDAR
Usko bolo mujhse milne ko...

89 INT. ZAMINDAR'S ROOM -- DAY

89

The Zamindar sits with Pakhi, looking at her. She doesn't say anything.

The servant walks in with Varun.

ZAMINDAR
(to Pakhi)
Tum jaao...

She gets up.

ZAMINDAR
Aur darwaaze band kar do...

She looks at Varun as she walks to the door.

She shuts the door.

90 INT. ZAMINDAR'S ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

90

The Zamindar looks at Varun.

ZAMINDAR
Vaapas kab jaa rahe ho?

VARUN
Parson...

ZAMINDAR
Kabhi humne tumhaare Ma Babuju ke baare mein nahin poocha...

VARUN
Mere Ma Babuji nahin hai. Mujhe yaad bhi nahin vah kaise the... mere chacha ne mujhe paala, padhaya, saara kaam sikhaya. Jo bhi main jaanta hoon sab unka sikhaya hua hai. Hamaara department bhi vahi chalaate hai.

ZAMINDAR
Vah kahan rahte hain?

VARUN
Kalkatta mein.

ZAMINDAR
Unse mil sakte hain hum?

Varun is silent.

ZAMINDAR
Kya baat hai?

VARUN

(beat)
Vah nahin milenge...

ZAMINDAR

Kyon?

VARUN

Vah manaa kar denge.

ZAMINDAR

Kya mana kar denge?

VARUN

Unko pata chala Pakhi ke baare
mein to mujhe goli maar denge...

The Zamindar looks at him.

Just then, the servant enters with a tray of tea.

In the silence that ensues, he pours tea cups for both Varun and the Zamindar. They sit through the silence, the Zamindar watching Varun.

The servant leaves, shutting the door behind him.

ZAMINDAR

Zamindari to ab chali gayee hai.
Jo sarkar chhodegi ya tum bikvaoge
usske alaava Pakhi hi ek hai jo
hamara hai...

Varun nods.

ZAMINDAR

Kal raat bhar vah tumhaare saath
thi aur hum uske kamre mein uska
intezaar kar rahe the...

Varun looks away.

ZAMINDAR

Hamaare yahaan nahin hota jo tum
dono ne kiya... kahin bhi nahin
hota. Aur jab hota hai...

He trails off, emotional.

Varun looks at him.

VARUN

Main Pakhi se shaadi karoonga...

The Zamindar looks at him.

VARUN

Main bas chacha ko nahin bata
sakta. Hum shaadi karke kahin
aur chale jaayenge...

The Zamindar keeps looking at him.

VARUN

Main Pakhi ko bahut pyaar karta
hoon. Main poori koshish karoonga
usse khush rakhne ki. Main jaan
laga doonga lekin usse dukh nahin
pahunchne doonga... agar aap anumati
dein to...

The Zamindar gets emotional. He nods.

Varun touches his feet. The Zamindar embraces him.

ZAMINDAR

Main jaanta hoon pakhi tumhaare
saath khush rahegi...

On Varun's face...

91 **EXT. HAVELI -- EVENING**

91

A shehnai player and a tabalchi sit in the courtyard of
the haveli, playing music.

92 **INT. ZAMINDAR'S ROOM -- NIGHT**

92

The Zamindar stands in front of a mirror, getting ready.
He dictates a letter while Majumdar writes it down.

ZAMINDAR

Zamindar Soumitra Roychowdhury...

Majumdar writes.

ZAMINDAR

Abhi bhi Zamindar bula sakta hoon
na apne aap ko?

MAJUMDAR

Manikpur mein to hamesha hi
Zamindar rahenge aap...

The Zamindar smiles.

ZAMINDAR

Theek hai... phir... Zamindar
Soumitra Roychowdhury aapko apni
suputri saudaamini Pakhi aur Varun
Shrivastav ke vivaah mein saadar
aamantrit karte hain...

93 **EXT. HAVELI -- NIGHT**

93

The Zamindar and Majumdar walk through a corridor.

ZAMINDAR

Ab aamantran chapvaane ka samay to
hai nahin abhi... chaar ladkon ko
bhej deejiye bicycle par hamari
(MORE)

ZAMINDAR (CONT'D)

taraf se sab ko nyauta dene. Aur
doctor sahab, daakbabu, daroga ji
ko aap khud hi jaakar amantrit
karen...

Majumdar nods.

MAJUMDAR

Aap itne taiyyar hokar kahan jaa
rahe hain?

ZAMINDAR

Ja nahin raha hoon, koi aa raha
hai...

CUT TO:

A car drives up in front of the haveli.

Deb and a dignified middle aged man get down. BAJPAI.

CUT TO:

Bajpai and the Zamindar walk through a corridor.

Bajpai notices the shehnai player.

BAJPAI

Koi jalsa ho raha hai?

ZAMINDAR

Hamaari beti ki sagai hai...

BAJPAI

Wah... badhai ho aapko... kin
mahanubhav ko apni beti de rahe
hain?

94 INT. OUTHOUSE -- NIGHT

94

Varun sits on the outhouse bed, Deb stands in front of
him.

DEBDAS

Tum vivaah kar rahe ho, Pakhi
se...

VARUN

Sagaai.

Deb looks at Varun, who doesn't meet his eyes.

DEBDAS

Kya baat hai Varun? Kya chhupa
rahe ho?

VARUN

Kuch nahin...

DEBDAS

Kuch to hai jo tum nahin kah rahe
ho...

Varun is silent.

DEBDAS

Bajpai ji ko kya bataaoge?

VARUN

Pata nahin.

DEBDAS

To phir sagaai kyon kar rahe ho?
Usse poora hi khatam karke jaane
ka irada hai?

Varun stays silent.

DEBDAS

Sagaai kahaan hai?

VARUN

Mandir mein.

DEBDAS

Kab?

VARUN

Kal...

He looks at Deb, then gets up.

95 **EXT. HAVELI STORAGE CHAMBER -- NIGHT**

95

Majumdar opens the clock to the storage chamber. The
Zamindar and Bajpai stand outside.

Varun walks towards them from a distance.

ZAMINDAR

Aapko sagai samaroh tak rukna
chahiye... Varun ko bhi achcha
lagega...

BAJPAI

Zaroor rukta Zamindar babu, lekin
jahaaj pakadna hai...

Varun reaches them.

VARUN

Bajpai ji...

He shakes hands with Bajpai.

BAJPAI

Bahut shubkaamnaayen Varun sahab...
humne suna...

Varun looks at him.

ZAMINDAR
Shauk se Bajpai sahab...

100 **EXT. HAVELI -- NIGHT**

100

Bajpai and Varun walk towards the car.

BAJPAI
Kya ho raha hai?

VARUN
Sagai kar raha hoon...

BAJPAI
Phir uske baad?

Varun doesn't say anything.

BAJPAI
Ghadhaa ghaas se rishta bana lega
beta to khaayega kya...

VARUN
Chacha kabhi na kabhi shaadi to
karni hi hai na...

BAJPAI
Beta maine to nahin ki shaadi.
Aur agar maine kar li hoti to tum
sab ko kaise paalta...

VARUN
Main jaanta hoon aapne hamein paala,
nahlaaya dhulaaya, khilaya bada
kiya... aapne jo kaha maine bhi
kiya. Pahle aap se kabhi kuch
nahin maanga...

BAJPAI
Bata sakoge tum usse ki tum kya
karte ho yahan kyon aaye ho?

Varun doesn't reply.

They stop walking.

BAJPAI
Kal Suraj ko police ne maar diya
Bareilly mein...

Varun looks at him.

VARUN
Kaise?

BAJPAI
Usne bhaagne ki koshish ki...

Varun digests this.

BAJPAI

Do betiyan thi uski. Ek beta...
tum to jaante ho...

(beat)

Ye zindagi hai hamaari. Jo hum
jeete hain. Chaubees ghante.
Dono peher. Poore saal. Ye dena
chahte ho usse?

Varun doesn't reply.

Bajpai opens the car door.

BAJPAI

Baaki tum azaad ho. Tumhaari
zindagi hai jo karna chahte ho
karo...

He gets in. The door closes.

They look at each other.

Bajpai drives off.

Varun watches the car go.

Music...

101 **INT. OUTHOUSE -- NIGHT**

101

Varun looks at the photo of him and Pakhi. He stares at
it for a while.

After a while he gets up.

We stay on the mirror and see him take his bags and walk
out.

102 **EXT. HAVELI -- MORNING**

102

In the first light of the morning, Varun and Deb walk out
of the haveli.

Varun wheels his motorcycle away and out of the gate.

When they're a fair distance away, Varun and Deb get on
the bike.

It starts and drives off.

From the wheels of the bike...

103 **EXT. STREET -- MORNING**

103

The wheels of the Zamindar's car, heading towards the
temple site.

It's morning now.

He opens the door and looks inside. It's empty.

We see him from Pakhi's room.

Inside the room, Pakhi drapes her sari on and looks in the mirror. Devyani stands behind her, very emotional. *

111 **EXT. STREET -- MORNING** 111

The truck comes to a stop next to another car. Deb gets out of the truck and gets into the car.

The driver of the car is Biswajeet Roy, the treasury department official. *

He smiles at Deb.

112 **INT. PAKHI'S ROOM -- MORNING** 112

Pakhi smiles at Devyani.

113 **EXT. STREET -- MORNING** 113

The Zamindar's car races down the street again. It comes to a stop in front of the police station. *

He gets out of the car and sees Majumdar standing in front of him, holding the briefcase. They look at each other. *

114 **INT. POLICE STATION -- MORNING** 114

Majumdar and the Zamindar sit with the Police Inspector.

MAJUMDAR

Nakli. Sab ke sab nakli hai...
ek note asli nahin hai...

The Zamindar just watches in silence.

115 **EXT. STREET -- DAY** 115

Varun and Deb enter a bar in Calcutta and walk to a table.

Sitting there, smoking a cigarette and reading a newspaper, is Bajpai.

He looks at the boys, puts down his newspaper.

116 **INT. HAVELI -- DAY** 116

Pakhi comes down the stairs, fully dressed up in her engagement finery.

Watching her from the bottom of the stairs is the Zamindar. She smiles at him, then notices his distraught face.

Slowly, her smile fades.

FADE OUT:

INTERVAL

117 **EXT. HAVELI -- DAY**

117

The courtyard of the haveli, barren of any life.

Overlap a man's voice.

BOSE (O.S.)

Un logon ka ek bahut bada antar-
rajeeya giroh hai...

118 **INT. ZAMINDAR'S ROOM -- DAY**

118

Sitting across the Zamindar at his desk is BOSE, the police inspector from the station. Majumdar is also there.

BOSE

Bajpai jinka sardar hai... jo
khareeddar banke aaya tha...

Across the table, the Zamindar looks at him, broken and exhausted.

BOSE

Varun Shrivastav ka asli naam kya
hai kissi ko nahin pata... kabhi
vah Narayan Maurya hota hai, kabhi
Mohan Das... Debdas Mukherjee ke
bhi kayi naam hai... Madan, Tony...
aur pata nahin kaun kaun se...

Without a word, the Zamindar gets up and walks out of the room.

Majumdar looks at him go, then at Bose.

119 **INT. LIBRARY -- NIGHT**

119

The Zamindar pours himself a drink. Majumdar stands behind.

MAJUMDAR

Daroga Babu sirf aapki madad karna
chah rahe the...

Not bothering to reply, the Zamindar puts down the bottle and turns to Majumdar.

ZAMINDAR

Ek chhitthi likhiye hamari taraf
se...

Majumdar takes out a paper and pen, writes what the Zamindar dictates.

ZAMINDAR

Ki Pakhi ka vivaah humne sthaagit
kar diya hai...

He goes to the grammophone. He puts on a record.

ZAMINDAR
Aur maafi maang leejiye...

Music plays.

The Zamindar closes his eyes, downs his drink. Majumdar looks at him.

Outside the door, Pakhi looks at her father.

MAJUMDAR
Babu...

The Zamindar looks at him.

ZAMINDAR
(pause)
Jo mann mein aaye likh deejiye...
aur hamein akela chhod dein aap...
jjyiye...

Majumdar gets up.

MAJUMDAR
Kal yadi samay nikaal kar ek nazar
hisaab par...

The Zamindar makes the music louder, cutting Majumdar off.

Majumdar slowly walks out of the room, trying to fight tears.

He passes Pakhi on the way. She walks in.

PAKHI
Baba...

The Zamindar looks at her.

PAKHI
Mujhe maf karo do...

ZAMINDAR
Maafi to mujhe maangni chahiye
beti... ek cheez maangi tumne vah
bhi nahin de paaya...

He tries to smile.

ZAMINDAR
Kuch nahin to kam se kam tumhe hi
saath le jaata...

Pakhi looks down, on the verge of tears.

The Zamindar pulls her close and hugs her. She cries softly.

120 **INT. HAVELI -- NIGHT** 120
Music from the library echoes through the haveli.
Pakhi walks through the haveli corridors.

121 **INT. LIBRARY -- CONTINUOUS** 121
The Zamindar pours himself another stiff drink and listens to the music.
After a while, a tear drops out of his eye.

122 **INT. PAKHI'S ROOM -- NIGHT** 122
Pakhi lies in bed.
The sound of the music reaches her.
She shuts her eyes tight.

123 **EXT. HAVELI -- MORNING** 123
Over the fields, the sun rises.

124 **INT. LIBRARY -- MORNING** 124
Pakhi enters the library.
She sees her father in his armchair, eyes closed.
Coming towards him slowly, she sits on the chair opposite him... and keeps looking at his prone body.

125 **INT. HAVELI -- DAY** 125
The Zamindar lies in a white sheet.
Pakhi, Pishi Ma and Devyani sit near the body.
Pakhi is the only one who doesn't cry.
A tall rugged man stands in a corner, watching the proceedings. This is KN SINGH, the CID Inspector.

126 **INT. FIELDS -- MORNING** 126
Pakhi takes a walk in the fields, alone.

127 **EXT. HAVELI -- DAY** 127
Pakhi stands on the terrace, watching the clouds.

128 **INT. PAKHI'S ROOM -- DAY** 128
Pakhi looks out of her room at the outhouse.
Her POV: KN Singh stands before the door, inspecting everything. A few of his men look around.
Overlap Majumdar's voice.

MAJUMDAR (O.S.)
Sab kuch aapke naam chhodkar gaye
hain...

129 **INT. HAVELI LIBRARY -- DAY** 129

Pakhi stands over her father's chair. Majumdar across the table.

MAJUMDAR
Kya karna hai beti?

Pakhi looks at him. She then looks beyond him at the painting on the wall.

130 **INT. PAKHI'S ROOM -- DAY** 130

Pakhi packs clothes and other things into a trunk.

Devyani and Pishi Ma watch, silently.

Pakhi closes the trunk.

130A **EXT. HAVELI -- NIGHT** 130A

The painting burns.

Pakhi watches the flames devour it.

DISSOLVE TO:

131 **EXT. HAVELI -- DAY** 131

Pakhi's car makes it's way down the road, raising a cloud of dust.

It passes KN Singh along the way.

132 **INT. CAR -- DAY** 132

Pakhi sits in the back of the car.

It passes by the accident site, the place where Pakhi and Varun met for the first time.

The driver looks at her in the rear-view mirror. She doesn't react.

133 **INT. CAR -- DAY** 133

Pakhi looks out of the window at the passing scenery.

Day becomes night becomes day again.

The landscape changes, from the plains to foothills to mountains.

134 **EXT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- DAY** 134

Pakhi gets out of the car, which is parked in front of a pretty mountain cottage, tucked away amongst the trees.

PAKHI

Main kar loongi Shyama... unko
chhod do...

Shyama stands.

SHYAMA

Main kya karoon phir?

PAKHI

Tum jaao.

Shyama walks out.

LATER:

Pakhi scribbles, then rolls the paper into a ball and
throws it on the floor.

She starts coughing, which increases in frequency.

She gets up and comes to the kitchen, opens the lid of a
bowl.

Hot soup is inside. Pakhi drinks it.

139 **EXT. FOREST LANE -- DAY**

139

Pakhi takes a walk through the forest lane.

Around and above her, tall evergreens. It's very silent
and peaceful.

When she returns to the house, she sees a familiar figure
standing, waiting for her. Inspector KN Singh.

He takes off his hat.

140 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- DAY**

140

Shyama makes tea and watches from the kitchen as KN Singh
and Pakhi sit opposite each other in the living room.

He plays with his hat in his hand.

KN SINGH

Pakhi ji, aap jitni achchi tarah
Varun ko jaanti thi, koi aur nahin
jaanta...

Pakhi listens.

KN SINGH

Aap agar madad nahin karenge to
unke giroh ko pakadna mushkil ho
jaayega...

Pakhi doesn't say anything.

KN SINGH

Jo Manikpur mein hua aapke saath
vah kayi auron ke saath ho chuka
hai. Iss giroh ne lakhon, karodon
churayen hain zamindaron, raja
maharajaon se... kai parivar khatam
ho gaye hain, tod diye hain in
logon ne. Sirf akele Roychowdhury
sahab ki maut ke zimmedar nahin
hai ye...

PAKHI

Mere baba isiliye nahin marre
kyonki unhe kissi ne loot liya.
Vah...

(pauses)

Varun ne unka dil toda tha. Unko
dhokha diya tha. Vah us pe bahut
vishwas karte the...

KN SINGH

Aur agar vah marre nahin hote to
vah bhi yahi chahte ki Varun ko
uske kiye ki sazaa mille...

Pakhi looks away.

KN SINGH

Aap madad karenge to hum unko
pakad sakte hain...

PAKHI

Mujhe usse badla nahin lena hai
Singh sahab. Main sirf usse
bhoolna chahti hoon...

KN Singh looks at her for a while. When it seems like
she's not going to say anything, he writes something on a
piece of paper.

KN SINGH

Agar aapko meri zaroorat pade ya
aap ko kuch yaad aa jaaye jo aap
bataana chahe... to operator ko
bol ke aap yahaan phone kar sakti
hain...

Pakhi doesn't respond. He leaves the paper on the table
and walks out.

Pakhi watches him go, then gets up.

140A **OMITTED**
THRU
141

140A
THRU
141

142 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- DAY**

142

It's later in the day.

Pakhi sits at the desk, looks at the blank sheet that seems to be mocking her.

Shyama comes to the door.

SHYAMA

Main jaoon?

Pakhi doesn't respond.

SHYAMA

Khaana dhak ke rakh liya hai.
Thanda hone se pahle kha lena.
Aapne subah se kuch nahin khaaya
hai...

Pakhi doesn't respond again. Shyama gives her one last look and walks out.

Pakhi sits there for a while. She then picks up the pen. And she forces herself to write.

She writes furiously, then looks at the paper, tosses it aside, picks up another.

Writes, throws, writes.

She finally picks up a paper and tears it to shreds.

Then tears all the papers to shreds.

She sits at the desk, breathing heavily.

Silence.

She turns on the radio.

"Tadbeer se Bigdi Hui" plays. She looks at the radio. Turns it off angrily.

Silence.

The sound of the wind. She looks at the photo of her father.

She suddenly gets up and walks through the cottage to the living room. She comes to where KN Singh was sitting and takes the piece of paper.

She then comes to the telephone. She picks it up, dials, listens.

PAKHI

Inspector KN Singh se baat ho
sakti hai... Police Station... Ji
Pakhi Roychowdhury...

She waits. KN Singh comes on the phone.

PAKHI

Usne ek baar bataaya tha ki
Jandrighat ke raja ke mahal mein
ek paanch sau saal puraani Ganesh
ki sone ki murti hai...

Music...

CUT TO:

142A **INT. POLICE STATION -- CONTINUOUS** 142A

KN Singh listens. He then hangs up the phone.

CUT TO:

142B **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- CONTINUOUS** 142B

Pakhi hangs up the phone. She walks back into the room,
sits at the desk. She stares outside the window.

Music continues.

DISSOLVE TO:

142C **INT. JANDRIGHAT PALACE -- DAY** 142C

KN Singh stands in a corridor at the Jandrighat Palace.
In front of him - the idol of Ganesh.

A well-dressed MAN walks down the stairs. The RAJA.

CUT TO:

142D **EXT. JANDRIGHAT PALACE -- DAY** 142D

Outside the palace, KN Singh and the Raja talk. We don't
hear what they say.

As KN Singh explains, the Raja nods.

They shake hands.

CUT TO:

142E **INT. POLICE STATION -- DAY** 142E

KN Singh is surrounded by POLICEMAN at the police station.

He explains stuff to them. Again, we don't hear what
he's saying.

They listen to him, rapt with attention.

CUT TO:

142F **EXT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- DAY** 142F

A board is put up by TWO POLICEMEN outside Pakhi's house -
"Khaali guest house kiraye pe uplabd hai".

Shyama looks, not understanding. She looks at Pakhi, who doesn't explain.

CUT TO:

142G **INT. POLICE STATION -- NIGHT**

142G

KN Singh puts up names on a board in the police station - Bajpai, Varun, Deb, Biswajeet Roy.

The local Dalhousie INSPECTOR stands with him.

CUT TO:

142H **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- DAY**

142H

Pakhi eats a tiny bite of food. Then leaves the plate mostly untouched and goes inside the room.

Shyama watches her go, looks at the plate of food.

CUT TO:

142J **INT. JANDRIGHAT PALACE -- DAY**

142J

Photos are taken of the idol at Jandrighat Palace.

KN Singh supervises.

CUT TO:

142K **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- DAY**

142K

Pakhi sits on her desk, not bothering to write, just looking out.

Shyama watches her from the door, concerned.

CUT TO:

142L **INT. POLICE STATION -- DAY**

142L

He writes a letter by hand, seals it. Addresses it to "The Editor, The Statesman".

He hands it to BAJRANGI, a constable.

CUT TO:

Bajpai at a tea shop in Calcutta.

He reads the papers. The Statesman. He sees an article that interests him - a photo of the idol with a headline - "famous idol to be moved to Museum".

He puts the paper down on a table.

Across him, Varun and Deb.

CUT TO:

The montage ends.

The tree outside Pakhi's window.

It's leaves sway in the breeze.

DISSOLVE TO:

143 **EXT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- EVENING**

143

The same tree, the same shot.

Now the tree is shedding leaves.

Dark clouds have gathered around the house.

Pakhi sits on a bench outside, huddled under a shawl.

She stares into the distance. The wind blows, swirling leaves around.

Shyama watches her from the door of the cottage and calls out to her, but Pakhi can't hear her through the wind.

Pakhi coughs violently, covering her mouth with her hand.

She looks at the hand. Blood.

CUT TO:

144 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- DAY**

144

Pakhi lies on her side while an elderly doctor, DR. TSERING, listens to her breathing through a stethoscope.

Shyama watches tensely from the door.

Dr. Tsering pulls the stethoscope away.

DR. TSERING

Congestion badhta jaa raha hai...

Pakhi looks out of the window.

DR. TSERING

Pakhi... meri baat sun rahi ho?

Pakhi nods.

DR. TSERING

Kissi garam jagah jaakar rahna
chahiye tumhe... zyaada jeeyogi...

Pakhi closes her eyes.

PAKHI

Marna to hai hi ek din doctor
uncle... kya karoongi ji kar?

DR. TSERING

Ek aur kitaab likh sakogi...

Pakhi opens her eyes.

Her POV: A tree outside the window, gently shedding leaves.

PAKHI

Jo likh rahi hoon, ussi mein hi
saari zindagi khatam ho jaati
hai...

She keeps watching the tree.

145 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- DAY**

145

Dr. Tsering talks to Shyama outside.

DR. TSERING

TB hai... jaanleva hai... kitni
bhi zidd kare akele mat chhodna.

SHYAMA

Hum to lad lad kar ro ro kar thak
jaate hain. Jab vah akele rehna
chahti hai to baahar dhakel deti
hai, sunti kahan hai?

DR. TSERING

Tum bhi vaapas unko andar dhakel
diya karo... aur kaadha pilaate
raho.

146 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- EVENING**

146

Pakhi watches the tree shed another leaf.

Shyama puts some food on Pakhi's bed side table, along
with a cup.

SHYAMA

Kaadha pee lo didi. Doctor sahab
ne bola hai...

Pakhi ignores her.

SHYAMA

Kaadha pee lo.

PAKHI

Main pee loongi, mez par rakh do.

SHYAMA

Abhi peeyo, hamaare saamne.

PAKHI

(snaps)

Bola na mez par rakh do, pee
loongi...

Shyama, stunned by the outburst, walks away, hurt.

LATER:

Shyama washes dishes in the kitchen, crying at the same time.

Pakhi comes behind her and puts her arms around her.

PAKHI
Mujhe maaf kar do.

Shyama wipes her tears, nodding.

147 **EXT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- DAY** 147

The clouds have got darker.

The tree sheds leaves in the breeze.

148 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- DAY** 148

Pakhi sits by the window, looking at the tree.

The radio plays. A newscaster drones on about possible snowfall.

Pakhi watches the tree and all sounds slowly disappear from the soundtrack. She notices the swaying branches, the way the leaves fall off and float their way to the ground.

She stays in this reverie till Shyama puts a hand on her shoulder.

SHYAMA
Koi do jann aaye hain...

Pakhi doesn't say anything.

SHYAMA
Kya karoon?

PAKHI
Dikha do... kiraaya pahle le lena.

Shyama leaves.

Pakhi comes to the back window and looks out.

Her POV: Shyama leads two men to the outhouse - Varun and Deb. They look slightly different from the last time we've seen them. Varun's stubble has grown and Deb wears glasses.

VARUN
(to Shyama)
Aur kaun rehta hai yahaan?

149 **INT. COTTAGE OUTHOUSE -- DAY** 149

The door to the outhouse opens and Shyama walks in. Varun and Deb follow her.

SHYAMA

Maalkin... uski tabiyat theek
nahin hai...

She looks around the room.

SHYAMA

Ye leejiye... bistar hai, bijli
bhi hai, lekin thoda chhota hai.

DEBDAS

Jo bhi hai theek hai, poore shahar
mein bas yahi ek bacha hai, koi
bhi jagah khaali nahin hai...
aisa kyon?

SHYAMA

Aisa nahin hai... ek hotel hai,
dharamshaala hai...

DEBDAS

Sab bhari hai.

VARUN

Khaane ka kya hai?

SHYAMA

Subah bol deejiyega. Kyonki hum
to yahaan rahte nahin. Door shaher
mein rahte hain.

She goes to the door.

SHYAMA

Hum jaayen?

DEBDAS

Aap jaao.

SHYAMA

Hamaara naam nahin poocha aapne...

VARUN

Aapne bhi to hamara nahin poocha.

Shyama smiles.

SHYAMA

Hum Shyama hain...

DEBDAS

Hum Tony Jaalwaala.

VARUN

Aur main Vijay.

SHYAMA

Aur isse baat pe hum chalte hain...

150 INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- DAY

150

Pakhi watches through the window as Varun and Deb walk out of the gate.

Suddenly, her phone rings.

Outside the gate, Varun hears it ringing. He looks back at the house.

Pakhi is looking straight at him but he can't see her.

Pakhi picks up the phone, still looking outside.

PAKHI

Hello?

KN SINGH

Main Singh bol raha hoon, Inspector
KN Singh...

PAKHI

Ji...

KN SINGH

Giroh ka sardar Bajpai Kalkatta
mein pakda gaya.

PAKHI

Oh...

KN SINGH

Aapko saavdhan karne ke liye phone
kiya tha. Bajpai ne kuboola hai
ki vah dono Dalhousie mein pahunch
chuke hain... rahne ki jagah
dhoondenge. Humne saari jagah
jahaan par log rah sakte hain band
karva di hai. Kabhi na kabhi aapke
paas pahunchenge... jaise hi
pahunchenge aap mujhe phone kar
deejiyega...

PAKHI

Ji...

She puts the phone down, looks out of the window.

Sees Varun and Deb receding into the distance.

She keeps watching them.

Music...

151 INT. POLICE STATION -- DAY

151

KN lights his cigarette and looks at his men.

KN SINGH

Aap log phail jaa...

152 **INT. JANDRIGHAT PALACE -- DAY**

152

Varun and Deb are escorted through a corridor of the palace by a servant.

Around them, artifacts of all kinds.

They approach the idol of Ganesh. Both of them watch it.

The Raja walks down the stairs. Varun looks at him.

153 **INT. POLICE STATION -- DAY**

153

A man sits in front of KN Singh.

MAN

Do jan aaye the Hotel pe. Humne
unke bhej diya bol ke ki jagah
nahi hai...

KN SINGH

Chaubees Pachchis saal ke? Ek
dubla sa tha, Dev Anand type...

MAN

Bilkul...

KN Singh looks at the Station Inspector.

INSPECTOR

Pata nahin sahab... hamein to koi
khabar nahin...

KN SINGH

Hotel vaala bolta hai do jann
aaye the, yah bol rahe hain...
agar vah kahin nahin rah rahe
hain, to gaye kahaan?

Overlap the Raja's voice:

RAJA

Aap museum se aaye hain? Dilli
se?

154 **EXT. JANDRIGHAT PALACE -- LATER**

154

The Raja sits with Deb and Varun in the verandah.

He reads an official letter from the National Museum.

VARUN

Ji.

RAJA

Moorti le ke kaise jayenge?

VARUN

Truck mein le ke jayenge. Dilli
se truck nikal chuke hain.

RAJA

Aur security?

VARUN

Aap uski chinta bilkul na karein.
Kam se kam chhey log Delhi se bhejey
gayein hain, jo moorti ke saath
saath yahan se Dilli tak jayenge.
Aur agar aap chahein, to aapka koi
aadmi bhi saath jaa sakta hai...

The Raja nods.

RAJA

Main aur kya kar sakta hoon aapke
liye?

VARUN

Humein iske liye ek baksa banwana
padega... jiske liye hum kal a
key napai kar lenge agar aapko
asuvidha na ho...

RAJA

Bas?

DEBDAS

Aap bolo to thahar bhi jaate
hain...

The Raja laughs.

Deb smiles.

RAJA

Kal se aa jao... aaj hum sab ko
khabar karva dete hain ki aap log
aa rahe ho...

He points to his man standing against the wall.

RAJA

Yah rahenge aap ke saath...

The get up.

RAJA

Kahin chhodvaana ho to hamari
gaadi chhod degi...

VARUN

Nahin uski koi zaroorat nahin,
bahut bahut dhanyavaad aapka...

155 **EXT. JANDRIGHAT PALACE -- DAY**

155

Varun and Deb emerge from the palace.

They walk towards the gate, past the garden and a working
gardener.

The gardener looks at them. It's the man we know as Biswajeet Roy.

156 **INT. JANDRIGHAT PALACE -- CONTINUOUS** 156

The Raja picks up a phone, dials a number.

RAJA
Hello... hahn vahi dono the...

157 **INT. POLICE STATION -- DAY** 157

KN Singh puts the phone down. Looks at the Inspector.

KN SINGH
Aap ke paas kitne log hain?

INSPECTOR
Baarah...

KN SINGH
Sab ke paas hathyar hai?

INSPECTOR
Donali hai...

KN SINGH
Mujhe sab chahiye...

158 **INT. POST OFFICE -- DAY** 158

Varun dials a number. It rings. He waits as it carries on ringing. He hangs up.

VARUN
Phone utha nahin rahe...

DEBDAS
So rahe honge...

VARUN
Bajpai uncle sote nahin hai...

159 **EXT. POST OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS** 159

Through the POV of a pair of binoculars:
Varun and Deb emerge from the post office.

160 **INT. TEA SHOP -- DAY** 160

They sit at a table. A boy gives them tea.

VARUN
Kuch gadbad hai...

DEBDAS
Koi gadbad nahin hai...

VARUN
Hai...

Deb looks at him.

161 **OMITTED**
AND
162

161
AND
162

163 **EXT. TEA SHOP -- DAY**

163

Varun and Deb come out of the tea shop and start walking down the street.

Unseen by them, two men sitting outside the tea shop split up. One man follows them at a distance, the other enters an alley.

The alley man comes to the end of the alley and enters a shop, looks at KN Singh.

ALLEY MAN

Sahab... vah log vahaan se chale
gaye...

CUT TO:

Varun and Deb carry on walking. Behind them, two more men fall in line.

From a parallel alley, KN Singh tracks them.

Varun walks, when a peculiar sound hits his ears, a rhythmic metallic-like sound. He turns while walking. The sound stops.

His POV: a normal market scene. People talking, walking.

He notices a man standing outside a shop, talking to someone inside. The man wears civilian clothes. Varun looks down at his shoes. The man starts walking forward again. The same rhythmic metallic sound.

Varun looks in front and quickens his pace. The pace of the rhythm increases, tapping away on the cobblestone street.

KN Singh keeps pace with Varun. He takes out his gun.

Varun leans close to Deb.

VARUN

Hamara peecha ho raha hai...

Deb looks into an alley while walking, sees a figure tracking them. He looks up, sees a man dart into a balcony.

DEBDAS

Poori police force baahar hai
hamare liye.

VARUN

Tum daayen jaao, main baayen
nikalta hoon.

Deb and Varun come to a corner and suddenly go different ways.

The policemen stop in their tracks.

KN Singh looks, sees Deb turning into his alley a few feet in front. He indicates for one man to follow Varun and goes after Deb himself.

The Varun-following cop takes the lane that Varun took, coming out on the other side. He sees Varun running down the lane.

The cop raises his whistle to his lips.

KN Singh hears the whistle blowing. So does Deb. He turns around. Their eyes meet. Deb sees the gun in his hand and ducks into an alley.

KN Singh runs after him.

Music...

The chase begins.

Varun runs through an alley, comes out the other side and sees two policemen converging on him. He runs back into the alley and takes a narrow staircase. The cops follow him.

Varun enters a house, runs through it till he comes to the balcony. Looks out - no cops on the street.

He jumps on a nearby roof, and then on the ground. Starts running again.

KN Singh looks for Deb in the many alleys, can't see him anywhere. He passes an alley, and then comes back. He sees Deb running at the other end. He follows him.

Varun runs down an alley, hides in a doorway. He sees policemen running in another alley, in one direction. He runs in the other direction, almost bangs into KN Singh. He turns at the last moment and slams into an open doorway.

KN Singh hears the sound and turns.

Varun runs up the dark staircase and hides.

KN Singh comes to the open doorway, looks inside. He can't see anything.

Without warning, and before he can raise his gun, Varun jumps out on him. They tumble to the ground.

Varun manages to kick his gun away, picks it up, points it at KN Singh.

He sees other cops coming down the alley towards them.

KN SINGH
(shouting at the
cops)
Goli mat chalaana!

The cops stop, guns raised.

KN SINGH
Varun... aatmasamarpan kar do...

Varun looks at him, then at the waiting police, comes forward and kicks KN Singh in the stomach.

KN Singh doubles over. The cops shoot. Varun ducks out of the alley.

He runs for a while and then stops at a street corner, looks either side. No cops. He runs down the street and sees a policeman coming towards him. He raises his gun. The policeman looks away and ducks into an alley.

Varun hears footsteps behind him getting closer, whips around and fires his gun...

Straight into Deb's chest.

Deb, surprise on his face, goes down holding his chest.

Varun looks at him in shock.

He keeps looking at him and doesn't notice police coming down the alley in front of him. They shoot. Varun takes a bullet in his side. He falls to the ground, right in front of Deb's body.

He fires back at the cops blindly, hitting one of them, and not noticing.

The cops back away.

Varun looks at Deb's face. Still some life in the eyes. They keep looking at each other till Deb's eyes close.

Varun runs down the alley into a dark doorway. He hides and watches as the police come down the other end.

They gather around Deb's dead body. Varun holds his hands to his mouth, tears coming into his eyes.

His wound bleeds.

KN Singh and all the policemen look at Deb's dead body. Varun takes the opportunity to escape.

On Deb's dead face, snowflakes fall.

KN Singh looks up. Heavy snow.

He curses under his breath.

164 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- CONTINUOUS** 164

Pakhi sits by the window, looking up at the snow falling.
Shyama comes to the door.

SHYAMA

Didi main jaa rahi hoon...

Pakhi doesn't reply.

165 **EXT. STREET -- CONTINUOUS** 165

A crowd gathers around Deb's dead body.

KN Singh and the police try to move them away, but it
turning out to be difficult.

The Inspector comes to KN Singh.

INSPECTOR

Sahab... Bajrangi ki haalat bahut
kharaab hoti jaa rahi hai... doctor
ko bulva bheja hai...

KN Singh nods, his eyes scanning the crowd for any sign
of Varun.

166 **EXT. STREET -- EVENING** 166

Varun waits under the awning of a shop, a shawl covering
him, looking across the street.

His POV: Dr. Tsering locks up the clinic door and leaves
in a hurry, a constable with him.

Varun waits till he walks away and is out of sight, then
crosses the road.

He tests the lock on the door, then looks right and left,
takes out his gun. Hits the lock.

167 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- CONTINUOUS** 167

Pakhi comes out on the porch of the house.

Wind and snow swirl around. She covers herself with her
shawl. Coughs. And coughs again.

168 **EXT. STREET -- NIGHT** 168

Shyama tries to get a look through the crowd at the source
of interest but is unable to.

The police cover Deb's body with a sheet.

Dr. Tsering crouches over the body of the injured
constable.

- 169 **INT. DR. TSERING'S CLINIC -- NIGHT** 169
- Varun lights a match and looks around the dark clinic.
- Opens a cupboard and finds the doctor's instruments. And a battery operated torch.
- He puts on the torch and leaves it on the doctor's table, then sits on the bed.
- Lifts his shirt. Blood everywhere. He feels with his fingers, flinches with the pain.
- He picks up the doctor's forceps, steels himself and then inserts them into his side.
- He begins to cry, partly from the pain, partly from the memory of Deb's death.
- He manages to pull the bullet out.
- 170 **EXT. STREET -- NIGHT** 170
- KN Singh and the policemen comb through the alleys, with torchlights and lanterns, searching every alley and doorway.
- A constable calls out to KN Singh.
- He walks over. The constable points out to something. KN Singh looks.
- His POV: Blood on the floor.
- 171 **INT. DR. TSERING'S CLINIC -- CONTINUOUS** 171
- Varun wipes his tears and dials a number on the doctor's phone.
- The phone keeps ringing. Varun slams it down after a while.
- 172 **EXT. STREET -- CONTINUOUS** 172
- KN Singh walks through the street hurriedly.
- 173 **INT. DR. TSERING'S CLINIC -- CONTINUOUS** 173
- Varun dials another number. Nobody picks up this time either.
- He then notices the something on the doctor's desk, in the light of the torch - a file, with Pakhi's name on it.
- Music...
- 174 **EXT. STREET -- NIGHT** 174
- KN Singh approaches the doctor's door. He sees that it's open, and the lock has been broken.

He gets his gun out and opens the door. It's completely dark inside.

Keeping the gun pointed, he slowly enters the clinic and switches on a light.

The clinic is empty.

KN Singh notices the blood, and the bullet.

He curses again.

175 **EXT. STREET -- NIGHT**

175

KN Singh comes out of the clinic. The station inspector walks up to him.

KN SINGH

Usse goli lagi hai aur vah zyaada
door nahin jaa sakta. Vah shahar
mein hai, ghayal hai...

He walks on, then turns again.

KN SINGH

Chaaron taraf parcha chapva kar
baanto, deevaron par chipakvaado.
Uska huliya kaisa dikhta hai, sab...
mujhe ye aadmi chahiye. Dhoondte
raho usse jab tak mil nahin jaata
ya mar nahin jaata...

176 **EXT. FOREST LANE -- NIGHT**

176

Varun walks through the forest lane, now covered with snow.

He stumbles and falls, his flashlight wobbling all over the place.

177 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- NIGHT**

177

Pakhi comes into the room, a coughing bout in progress.

She slumps on the bed, breathing very heavily.

178 **EXT. FOREST LANE -- NIGHT**

178

Varun reaches the cottage gate.

179 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- NIGHT**

179

Pakhi hears the bell tinkling. She turns and looks towards the door, waiting, breathing very heavy.

After an almost interminable wait, Varun comes through the door.

They look at each other. Hate on both their faces.

VARUN

Police ko tumne bulaaya tha...

She keeps staring at him. He at her.

He comes closer to her.

VARUN

Police ko tumne bulaaya tha...

She doesn't say anything. Keeps looking at him, breathing hard.

He lifts her up violently.

She's breathing hard, staring into his eyes.

He stares back at her.

She closes her eyes, goes limp in his arms.

FADE OUT:

180 **EXT. STREET -- NIGHT**

180

KN Singh stands in the middle of the street, an isolated figure in the snow.

The Inspector walks up to him.

INSPECTOR

Bajrangi nahin raha...

KN Singh looks into the distance, his eyes steely. He lights a cigarette.

FADE OUT:

181 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- NIGHT**

181

Varun tries to dial a number from Pakhi's phone. It keeps ringing.

He slams the phone down.

FADE OUT:

182 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- MORNING**

182

Pakhi wakes up with a start, sits up in bed and looks around.

She notices the syringe lying on the table next to her.

She comes to the dining room, sees Varun standing by the window, looking out.

He turns to her.

VARUN

Mera dost mara hai tumhaari wajah se... itni aasaani se marne nahin doonga tumhe...

PAKHI

Tumko bhi kissi ki maut ka gam ho sakta hai mujhe pata nahin tha...

VARUN

Tumhe bahut kuch pata nahin hai.

PAKHI

Tum jao Varun.

VARUN

Mujhe chhupne ki jagah chahiye.

PAKHI

Vah tumhe yahaan nahin milegi.

He doesn't say anything.

PAKHI

Chale jao nahin to police ko telephone kar doongi.

VARUN

Tum nahin karogi.

PAKHI

Yah tumhaari galatfahmi hai...

VARUN

Karna hota to bahut pahle kar chuki hoti.

They stare at each other.

She walks towards the phone. He goes to cut her off. She tries to break through. He physically pulls her away from the phone.

She breaks free and turns on him, very angry.

Just then, Shyama enters the house.

Varun immediately pulls out his gun and points it at her.

She stares at the gun in shock. Looks at Pakhi, who's looking at Varun, breathing hard.

Silence.

Shyama takes a step towards the open door behind her.

VARUN

Darwaaza band kar do Shyama...

Shyama stands there, frozen, looking at the gun in Varun's hand.

VARUN

Aap band kar rahe ho ya main kar doon?

Shyama shuts the door.

VARUN

Police vaalon ne roka tumhe, kuch poocha tumse?

No reply.

VARUN

Koi savaal kiya, mere baare mein?

SHYAMA

Nahin...

VARUN

Mujhe bahlaane ki koshish mat karna.

PAKHI

(cutting in)

Tumhaari tarah vah jhoot nahin bolti.

Varun looks at Pakhi, then back at Shyama.

SHYAMA

Aapki tasveer saare bazaar mein lagi hai. Aapko dhoonda jaa raha hai. Ek havaldar ki hatya ka aarop hai aap pe... vah kah rahe hain ki aap ne apne dost ko bhi maara...

Pakhi looks at him.

PAKHI

Tum ne Deb ko maar dala?

He puts the gun down. Looks at Pakhi.

SHYAMA

Aapko dekhte hi goli maar dene ka aadesh hai...

Pakhi turns and walks off towards the room.

SHYAMA

(to Varun)

Kaun ho aap?

Pakhi turns at the door.

PAKHI

Yah Bhagwaan Vishnu ke avataar hai Shyama... inke das roop aur naam hai...

She walks in. Varun follows her.

VARUN

Maine Deb ko jaanbooch ke nahin maara. Vah mera dost tha, mere bhai jaisa.

PAKHI

Aur vah hawaldar?

VARUN

Vah mujhpe goli chala rahe the. Main unpe. Uss ek hawaldar ko goli lagi vah marr gaya...

Pakhi doesn't say anything.

VARUN

Main chor hoon. Hatyara nahin...

PAKHI

Mujhe tumhaari kissi baat pe vishwaas nahin hota Varun...

VARUN

Main sach bol raha hoon...

PAKHI

Uss samay bhi sach bol sakte the, bahut kuch bach jaata...

VARUN

Tum na to mujhe jaanti ho Pakhi, na mere baare mein.

PAKHI

Hahn, mujhe to tumhaara asli naam bhi nahin pata...

VARUN

Deb, Bajpai uncle... main unko dhokha nahin de sakta tha. Unhone paala hai mujhe, main aur Deb paida hue the, tab se... tumhaare liye unka vishwaas uthaakar taalaab mein nahin dooba sakta tha...

PAKHI

Mera vishwaas dooba sakte the, mere pyaar ko dhokha de sakte the...

VARUN

Tumhe samajh mein nahin aayega, tumne kuch dekha hi nahin hai... Chardeewari mein, aisho-aaraam mein rahi ho saari zindagi... tumhaari samajh mein nahin aayega...

He walks out of the room, straight into Shyama holding his gun to his face. He looks at her.

VARUN

Khaali hai...

Shyama pulls the trigger. It clicks. Varun doesn't flinch. He takes the gun from her hand. Shows her the barrel.

VARUN

Le jaayiye usse apne saath...
rakh leegiye... masala kootne ke
kaam aayega...

He walks out of the door.

183 **EXT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- DAY**

183

Varun comes out to the gate of the cottage, looks down the path.

Nobody there.

He comes back into the house.

184 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- DAY**

184

Shyama stands with Pakhi.

SHYAMA

Didi police ko telephone kar doon?

PAKHI

Tum apna kaam karo Shyama...

SHYAMA

Aap kaahe usse bacha rahi hai?
Pahle se jaanti hai?

PAKHI

Hahn... tum jao...

SHYAMA

Lekin...

PAKHI

Ye mera kuch nahin bigaad sakte...

Shyama looks at Pakhi, walks out. Passes Varun who makes his way to the telephone, dials a number.

While he waits for someone to answer he looks inside Pakhi's room, sees her sitting at the desk, looking out of the window.

And it's then that he notices the Zamindar's photo. He keeps looking at it.

A man picks up the phone.

VARUN

Nandan... Varun bol raha hoon...

NANDAN

Varun... jahaan bhi ho gaayab ho
jaao. Police ne sabko pakad liya
hai, poora giroh khatam ho gaya
hai...

VARUN

Nandan... Nandan... Deb mar gaya
hai. Mujhe bhi goli lagi hui hai...
Mujhe yahaan se nikaalo... Bajpai
uncle phone nahin utha rahe...

NANDAN

Bajpai uncle pakde gaye...

Varun is silent. Nandan carries on.

NANDAN

Ram aur Gupta ji ko to goli mar di
hai... Lucknow mein, Rai Bareilly
mein, Bastar mein, har koi pakda
gaya hai... inko sab kuch pata
tha...

VARUN

Mujhe yahaan se nikaalo Nandan...

NANDAN

Kal milo mujhe Lakkadmandi mein,
subah aath baje...

VARUN

Theek hai.

NANDAN

Samay se pahunch jaana. Main ek
minute intezaar karoonga bas...
abhi ghadi milao...

Varun looks at his watch.

NANDAN

Abhi baj rahe hain saat taintees...

CUT TO:

Varun hangs up the phone. Turns and looks towards Pakhi's
room.

She's looking at the tree.

He slowly walks into Pakhi's room.

VARUN

Main kal chala jaoonga...

She doesn't say anything.

VARUN

Aaj raat yahin rukoonga... tum
chaaho to police to phone kar
sakti ho...

PAKHI

Mujhe yadi phone karna hoga to
tumse poochne ki zaroorat nahin
hai...

VARUN

Main bas kah raha hoon...

PAKHI

Mat kaho...

Silence.

VARUN

Zamindar babu...

PAKHI

(cuts in)
Guzar gaye...

VARUN

Kaise?

PAKHI

Tumne unhe maar daala. Jaise
tumne Deb ko maara... tumhaari
galti nahin thi...

Varun looks at her.

VARUN

Mujhe...

PAKHI

Tumhe unki maut ka koi afsos nahin.

He doesn't say anything.

Turns around and walks out, shutting the door behind him.

As soon as the door closes, Pakhi's composure collapses
and she bursts into tears.

Varun stands outside the door and listens to her cry.

His eyes meet Shyama's. He walks out of the door.

185 **INT. COTTAGE OUTHOUSE -- DAY**

185

Varun lies in bed, staring at the ceiling.

The door opens and Shyama comes in with a tray. He sits
up.

SHYAMA

Khaana... didi ne nahin bheja
hai, hum khud laaye hain...

Varun smiles at her.

SHYAMA

Hum ghar jaa rahe hain. Police
ko kuch nahin bataayenge... bas
aap didi ko kuch mat karna...

Varun nods. Shyama leaves.

Music...

186 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- EVENING**

186

Sits at the desk, writing furiously.

Varun watches her from the door.

PAKHI (V.O.)

Sab kuch peeche chhodkar aayi thi
main yahaan, sab bhool jaane...
pata nahin kyon tum vaapas aa gaye
aur pata nahin kyon maine aane
diya... kyon jab tum so rahe hote
ho to main gala ghont ke maar nahin
daalti... mazaa aa raha hai tumhe
dekh kar ki main kis haalat mein
hoon...

She looks up at the tree.

PAKHI (V.O.)

Vah ped dekh rahe ho...

LATER:

In the room. Pakhi is sleeping. Varun reads what she
has written.

The last light of day outside the window.

PAKHI (V.O.)

Usse raat din taakti rahti hoon
jaise vah koi tota ho... meri
zindagi hai... roz uske patte
girte hue dekhti rahti hoon...

Varun looks at the tree.

LATER:

It's night now. Varun sits on the floor, leaning against
a wall, watching Pakhi sleep.

PAKHI (V.O.)

Jis din vah ped nanga hua aur jis
waqt uski aakhri patti girri, main
(MORE)

PAKHI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
apni aakhri saans loongi... yahaan
iss haalat mein la chhoda hai tumne
mujhe...

LATER:

The first light of the morning.

Pakhi's awake. She hears Varun get up and walk out of
the room.

PAKHI (V.O.)
Yah jaankar shaayad thodi sharam
aaye tumhe jeene mein... lekin
mujhe pata hai tumhe kya farak
padhta hai... tum usse bhi apne
aap ko chhupa loge...

Pakhi turns to look at the door. Varun's gone.

187 **EXT. COTTAGE OUTHOUSE -- MORNING** 187

Varun steps out with his bag. He looks at the tree, still
shedding leaves.

He starts walking, towards the gate.

188 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- MORNING** 188

Pakhi hears the tinkling of the gate bell.

She closes her eyes.

SONG # 3 begins...

189 **EXT. FOREST LANE -- MORNING** 189

Varun walks through the forest path, now totally covered
with snow.

The song echoes the thoughts in his head.

He holds the wound at his side. Grimaces as he walks.

He walks on, troubled, thinking, and comes to a group of
cottages, all abandoned. Everyone has left for the winter.

In the distance stands a man, looking at his watch. It's
Nandan, or the man we know as Biswajeet Roy.

190 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- MORNING** 190

Pakhi looks at the tree.

We realise that this is the very first visual of the film.

The leaf breaks off the tree and floats to the ground.
Pakhi watches it all the way.

As it hits the ground...

- 191 **EXT. FOREST LANE -- MORNING** 191
- Varun slows down, contemplative.
- After a few more steps, he stops in the middle of the road, his head hung.
- He looks back towards the way he came. Then looks at the path to freedom, at Nandan waiting.
- He thinks for a few seconds, then turns around and walks back.
- The SONG reaches a crescendo and ends as...
- 192 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- MORNING** 192
- Varun walks into the room, looks at Pakhi's back.
- VARUN
Baahar abhi bhi bahut garam hai..
Mujhe kuch din aur yahaan rehna
padega...
- She doesn't reply.
- He walks into the kitchen, pours water into a utensil.
- Looks around, sees the stove, starts pumping it.
- Pakhi hears the sound.
- Varun lights a fire.
- LATER:
- He brings her a cup of tea.
- VARUN
Chai...
- She doesn't look at him.
- 193 **EXT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- EVENING** 193
- A snowstorm in progress.
- Snow swirls around. The wind blows ominously.
- 194 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- EVENING** 194
- Pakhi lies in bed, asleep and shivering.
- Varun walks in and sees her. He sees the tea lying cold and untouched. He looks at the fireplace. No fire.
- 195 **EXT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- EVENING** 195
- Varun comes out, holding his coat tight around himself.

He walks around the cottage till he sees a pile of firewood. Holding the axe kept next to the pile, he lifts it, and then puts it down, groaning in pain and holding his side.

Taking a few deep breaths, he grabs the handle of the axe, and with a massive effort and a roar, smashes the axe down on the wood.

196 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- EVENING**

196

Varun comes inside the cottage with the wood. He places it near the fireplace and comes to Pakhi again.

She's still shivering. He touches her forehead. Pulls his hand away and looks at her face.

LATER:

The fire burns. Varun sits by Pakhi's bedside.

He dips a cloth in water and puts it on her forehead.

197 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- MORNING**

197

The tree has a few leaves remaining.

Pakhi sits on her chair, looking at the tree.

Varun walks up to her with tea again. He gives it to her. She shakes her head. He tries again. She throws it across the room. It smashes against a wall.

He looks at her.

PAKHI

Mukhe tumhaari chai nahin peeni...

VARUN

To kya karna hai? Marna hai?

PAKHI

Hahn marna hai... tum jao yahaan se aur mujhe marne do shaanti se...

VARUN

Shyama ke hote hue shaanti se marna mushkil hoga...

He goes to pick up the broken pieces.

PAKHI

Kya jataane ki koshish kar rahe ho tum?

VARUN

Kuch nahin...

PAKHI

Jab karna chahiye tha tab...

VARUN

Bhaag gaya tha... aur log the
tumhaare chaaron taraf...

PAKHI

Mujhe pata hai tumhe kya chahiye...

VARUN

Kya?

PAKHI

Ek baar se mann nahin bhara phir
se...

VARUN

(cutting in)

Kya karoon... tum to hi itni
haseen...

PAKHI

(getting angry)

Main mazak nahin kar rahi hoon.

VARUN

Mujhe to aata hi nahin mazaak
karna...

PAKHI

Tum jao yahaan se.

VARUN

Pakhi.

PAKHI

(screams)

Mera naam mat lo...

VARUN

Cheekho mat malkin... vaapas daura
pad jaayega.

PAKHI

Yahi to chahte ho tum, ki mujhe
daura pad jaaye..

She coughs.

VARUN

Dekha...

PAKHI

Tum...

VARUN

Chhup!

She wheezes, the familiar sound of an impending asthma
attack.

Varun walks towards her. She puts a hand out to stop him, and looks at him through huge wheezing breaths, defiant.

He looks at her, getting angry while her breathing gets worse, then starts rummaging through the room for her medicine.

He opens a drawer and finds the syringe. He loads it and comes towards her. She tries to fight him off.

He grabs her arms but she still struggles, breathing heavily all the time.

Finally grabbing both her arms in one hand, he gives her the shot in the arm, and holds her while her breathing comes back to normal.

She shakes him off and slumps in bed.

He sits on the floor against a wall, holding his injured side.

They look at each other, she with hatred, he with anger.

The phone begins ringing, but neither of them make any move to answer it.

It rings on a few times, then stops.

198 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- DAY**

198

Pakhi lies in bed. Varun sits against the wall. The anger still simmers.

PAKHI

Kabhi kabhi to sochti hoon tumhe
jaan se maar daaloon...itni nafrat
hoti hai mujhe tumse... lekin itni
taakat nahin bachi hai mujh mein...
mujhe bas ab mukti chahiye Varun...
tumse, apne aap se, iss zindagi
se... sabse...

Varun watches her. She watches the tree.

199 **EXT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- EVENING**

199

Varun raises the axe to cut wood. After a few chops, he takes a break and looks at the tree.

A handful of leaves left.

He keeps watching the tree.

200 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- NIGHT**

200

Pakhi sleeps, shivering.

Varun rummages through his bag. Finding what he wants, he zips it up and walks out of the door into the darkness.

We move towards the fireplace. The fire burns.

201 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- NIGHT**

201

We move away from the fireplace as Varun puts another log into it. He sits next to the fireplace and warms his hands.

His hair and clothes are wet.

He turns to look at Pakhi. She sleeps.

He lifts his shirt and looks at his side. Blood seeps through the bandage.

202 **INT. POLICE STATION -- NIGHT**

202

KN Singh talks on the phone.

KN SINGH

Mujhe pata hai Namita, Bhagwat ki
chhuttiyan chal rahi hai... kya
karoon... nahin mujhe usse nahin
baat karni... hello...

He pauses.

KN SINGH

Hahn bete, kaise ho? Main
Dalhousie mein hoon... nahin tum
yahaan nahin aa sakte... main
yahaan kyon hoon?

He smiles.

CUT TO:

KN Singh watches the photo of Varun put up on the wall.

The Inspector stands behind him.

INSPECTOR

Aap so jao...

KN SINGH

Sota hoon to sapne mein aata hai...
chidhaata hai saala... tum so
jao, main jaga hoon...

INSPECTOR

Usse goli lagi hai, ho sakta hai
mar gaya go.

KN SINGH

Marega to kissi na kissi ko to
dikhega... aur yadi kissi aise
jagah mara hai jahaan dikh nahin
sakta to insaani shaeer hai...
marta ha to sadta hai... sadta ha
to badboo aati hai...

INSPECTOR

Hahn lekin baraf bhi to gir rahi
hai. Usmein boo nahin aati...

KN Singh looks at the inspector.

Suddenly, the power goes.

203 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- NIGHT**

203

Varun lights a candle and sits propped against the wall.

Pakhi lies in bed, her back to him.

PAKHI

Tumne kabhi bhi mujhse pyaar kiya
tha?

He doesn't reply.

PAKHI

Mere saath hi aisa kyon kiya?

VARUN

Jaanbooch ke kuch nahin kiya
maine...

She waits.

VARUN

Main jab Manikpur aaya tha mujhe
nahin pata tha tumse takkar hogi...
jab pahli baar tumhe dekha tha to
thodi der ke liye laga tha main
mar gaya hoon...

Insert: Varun lying in the ditch. Opening his eyes.
Pakhi.

VARUN

Phir mujhe nahin pata tha tum
Zamindar babu ki beti niklogi.

Insert: Varun watching Pakhi come down the stairs.

VARUN

Main chori karne aaya tha... aur
parivar mein ghusna isiliye pada
kyonki pata karna tha kya kya hai
jo chori kiya ja sakta hai... ye
mera kaam hai...

(pauses)

Tha...

Insert: Varun reading poetry with Pakhi. Painting classes.
Hands touching. The painting, completed.

VARUN

Jab maine dekha ki tum mujhse
pyaar karne lagi ho to maine kayee
baar rokne ki koshish ki...

Insert: Varun and Pakhi fight at the temple site. Pakhi cries. Varun watches the window.

VARUN
Lekin nahin roka gaya...

Insert: They make love.

VARUN
Phir Bajpai uncle to pata chala...
unhone...

Insert: Bajpai talking to Varun near the car.

VARUN
Bola main kaun hoon, kya karta
hoon... tumhe pata chala to tum
kya phir bhi pyaar kar sakogi...

Pakhi looks at him.

PAKHI
Tumne abhi bhi mere savaal ka
jawaab nahin diya... tumne kabhi
bhi mujhse pyaar kiya tha?

He looks away, doesn't answer.

LATER:

Varun applies the cold compress to Pakhi's forehead.

The phone starts ringing. Varun looks at it.

When he looks at Pakhi, her eyes are open.

They look at each other.

She closes her eyes. He puts the cold compress on her forehead. She takes it off, hands it back to him and turns around.

He puts the cloth back in the bowl and walks out.

She watches him go.

The phone keeps ringing.

204 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- MORNING**

204

The window of the cottage, frosted over.

Pakhi walks towards it and wipes the pane. She looks outside.

The tree has a single leaf left.

Music...

She keeps watching it, trying to make sense of what it means.

She comes out of her room to the kitchen and sees Varun outside the house, standing by the logs of wood, his back to her.

205 **EXT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- CONTINUOUS**

205

Varun leans on the logs of wood, painting something we don't see.

He hears a sound behind him and immediately turns around, dropping the paintbrush and putting something in his pocket.

Pakhi looks at him. He looks back at her.

A gentle breeze blows. The snow has stopped.

Before she can say anything, both of them hear the gate bell tinkle.

206 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- MORNING**

206

Pakhi looks out of her door and sees KN Singh walking up, two policemen alongside.

She looks to the back door. No sign of Varun.

KN Singh steps on the porch and looks at Pakhi.

KN SINGH
Andar aa sakta hoon?

She opens the door. He enters.

He looks at her.

KN SINGH
Main seedha kaam ki baat par aata
hoon...

PAKHI
Ji...

KN SINGH
Aap ne usse dekha? Ya Milli?

PAKHI
Kisse?

KN SINGH
Varun...

PAKHI
Main usse kyon miloongi? Hahn,
aapne bola tha vah aane vaala hai...
aaya nahin... guesthouse khaali
hai... board abhi bhi baahar laga
hai...

KN SINGH

Phir bhi vah aapke guesthouse
mein rah raha tha...

PAKHI

Nahin...

She doesn't reply. They stare at each other.

He walks towards the back door.

KN SINGH

Main andar dekh sakta hoon?

PAKHI

Warrant hai aapke paas?

He stops.

KN SINGH

Abhi to nahin hai... kal laakar
dikha sakta hoon...

PAKHI

To phir kal hi aayiyega Singh
sahab andar dekhne...

They look at each other for a while.

KN SINGH

Aap usse bachaane ki koshish kyon
kar rahi hain?

PAKHI

Main kissi ko bachaane ki koshish
nahin kar rahi hoon...

KN SINGH

Ye vahi aadmi hai jiski wajah se
aapke pitaji ki maut hui, aur
hamaare ek havalदार ki... goli
maar ke hatya ki hai usne...

Pakhi doesn't reply.

KN SINGH

Jiss din pakda jaayega ya to usse
phaansi par latka denge ya utha
kar jail mein phenk denge, baaki
saaari zindagi ke liye...

KN Singh walks to the door.

KN SINGH

Kal main vaapas aaoonga warrant ke
saath, aur dus police vaale bhi
honge mere saath... jinko main
baahar chhodkar jaa raha hoon...
agar usne raat ko yahaan se bhaagne
ki koshish ki to ye usse goli maar

(MORE)

KN SINGH (CONT'D)
denge, nahin to kal main maar
doonga...

He turns at the door.

KN SINGH
Agar vah zinda milla to...

PAKHI
Kya matlab?

KN SINGH
Ho sakta uss raat jo goli maine
usse maari ho ussi se mar gaya
ho...

He looks Pakhi in the eye. She doesn't flinch.

PAKHI
Dhanyavaad Singh sahab... Main
jaakar aaraam karoon? Meri tabiyat
theek nahin hai...

KN Singh walks out.

Pakhi comes to the door and watches him walk away down
the path, very angry and very determined.

207 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- DAY**

207

Pakhi stares at the tree.

Varun enters the room, walks towards the window and sits
behind her.

She looks at him.

PAKHI
Tumne mujhe bataya kyon nahin ki
tumhe goli lagi huyi hai?

He smiles.

She doesn't say anything.

VARUN
Mera asli naam pata hai kya hai?

PAKHI
Kya?

VARUN
Atmanand Tripathi...

He smiles. And she smiles too, for the first time in a
long while.

He keeps looking at her smiling. After a while her smile
fades.

VARUN

Hanste hue achchi lagti ho...

PAKHI

Vah KN Singh tumhe maar daalega...

VARUN

Deb hota to pata hai kya kehte?

PAKHI

Kya?

VARUN

Aisa koi KN Singh ya Rahman paida nahin hua jo Dev Anand ka baal bhi baanka kar sake...

PAKHI

Tum Dev Anand nahin ho...

VARUN

Vah mujhe choo bhi nahin paayega...
isse bade bade chakravayuhon se
nikla hoon...

PAKHI

Vah kal warrant le kar aa raha hai...

VARUN

Main raat ko chala jaoonga.

She looks at him, then turns away to hide the coming tears.

PAKHI

Kahaan jaaoge?

VARUN

Pata nahin... Chandratal...

PAKHI

Aur phir? Vaapas apni duniya mein?

VARUN

Meri duniya to khatam ho chuki hai... koshish karoonga tumhaari duniya mein aane ki...

They look at each other. She looks away.

VARUN

Mujhse moonh mat modo Pakhi...

She doesn't look at him, walks away.

He comes to her, sits in front of her.

VARUN

Meri taraf dekho...

He forces her to look in his eyes.

VARUN

Mujhe pata hai tumhe meri kissi baat pe vishwaas nahin hai... lekin aaj main jhoot nahin bol raha hoon... maine tumhaare aur Zamindar babu ke saath jo kiya uske liye kabhi khud ko maaf nahin kar sakta... vah hak sirf tumhaara hai... lekin main nafrat karta hoon apne aap se. Aur shayad jab tak jeeyoonga tab tak karta rahoonga...

She looks at him, tears in her eyes.

PAKHI

Tumne kabhi mujhse pyaar kiya tha ya nahin varun?

VARUN

Kiya tha, bahut kiya tha... abhi bhi karta hoon... tum ek iklauta mauka thi meri zindagi mein jeene ka jo maine gava diya... meri zindagi mein sabne mujhe istemaal kiya hai... pyaar sirf tumne kiya, izzat sirf Zamindar babu ne di... aur uski keemat nahin chuka paaya...

He takes her hand in his. She doesn't protest.

VARUN

Jo tum ji rahi ho yahaan vah tumhaari zindagi nahin hai... uss aakhri ek patte ke saath zindagi jodkar rakhi hai, jo sahi nahin hai... vah tumhaara tota nahin hai...

She looks at him.

PAKHI

Aur agar vah aakhri patti gir gayi to?

VARUN

Nahin giregi...

PAKHI

Kiske liye jiyoon main?

VARUN

Apne liye... tum likhna chahti ho na... tum bahut khoobsoorat likhti ho... likho, bataao duniya ko ki kaise ehsaan faramosh log bhi hain unke beech...

Tears roll out of Pakhi's eyes.

PAKHI

Main akele nahin rah sakti Varun...

Varun embraces her.

VARUN

Tum kabhi akele nahin rahogi...
yah mera vaada hai...

She tightens the embrace. They keep holding each other.

Pakhi looks out of the window and see the single leaf,
holding on.

Music...

208 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- NIGHT**

208

Sitting next to her on the bed, Varun watches Pakhi sleep.

He gets up after a while and goes to the bathroom, leans
over the sink and coughs.

He holds his side, grimacing from the pain.

CUT TO:

Varun caresses Pakhi's hair gently. She holds his hand.

He smiles.

The first light of morning breaks through the frosted
window.

Slowly, Varun disengages his hand from her grip. She
sleeps on like a baby.

He reaches into his pocket and takes out the photograph
of them from the temple site and places it on her desk.

Then he walks out of the room, watching her all the time.

At the door, he takes one last look, and finally steps
out.

209 **EXT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- MORNING**

209

Snow falls outside.

Varun huddles under his jacket and steps out on the porch.
He looks at the tree.

His POV: Completely bare. The last leaf has fallen.

He smiles to himself and reaches into his jacket pocket.
He takes out a painted leaf.

SONG # 4 begins.

INTERCUT with the police marshalling their forces for the
final showdown.

Varun walks around the house and from behind the pile of wood, he removes a wooden ladder.

He carries it towards the tree.

Snow begins to fall harder.

Varun places the ladder against the tree trunk and slowly climbs up the tree, till he reaches a branch.

He takes the painted leaf, and some string.

We see other, older pieces of string on the tree.

Varun starts to tie the painted leaf around the branch of the tree.

The snow falls harder, the wind gets stronger.

The leaf flutters and flies off. Varun reaches his hand out and grabs the leaf. The ladder falls away. He hangs onto the brach with one hand, slamming into the tree trunk. He wants to shout out in pain, but can't. Blood falls on the snow.

The police gather at the end of the lane, led by KN Singh.

With a mighty pull, Varun climbs onto the trunk of the tree and reaches further onto the branch.

He reaches further onto the branch. The wood digs into his side. He grimaces in pain but doesn't stop. Blood seeps all the way out to his jacket.

He ties the leaf around the branch with his last bit of strength, then lets go.

He falls to the ground, hitting the snow, injuring himself even more.

The wind swirls, the snow falls. But the leaf hangs on.

Varun gets up looks at the tree, then notices a very weak and watery sun on the horizon, the first time we've seen it in a while.

He smiles and starts walking out of the gate.

He walks on the forest path, bent over in pain.

He looks up, and sees the police at the end of the lane, guns pointing towards him.

He keeps walking, looking them in the eye.

Then takes out the gun he has, holds it in his hand.

KN Singh taps a policeman on the shoulder. He fires.

Varun takes a bullet in the chest. Slumps to his knees. His breath comes out in spurts, frosted.

After a while, he slumps to the ground. His breath stops.

210 **EXT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- MORNING** 210

The sun breaks through the clouds.

211 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- MORNING** 211

Pakhi wakes up.

She walks through the house, looking for Varun, knowing that he won't be there.

212 **EXT. FOREST LANE -- MORNING** 212

KN Singh comes to Varun's dead body, looks at it.

He picks up Varun's gun and looks through it. It's empty.

213 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- MORNING** 213

Pakhi walks to the window and wipes the frost off the pane, keeps looking in amazement and smiles.

The single leaf flutters in the sunlight.

214 **EXT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- MORNING** 214

Pakhi walks out on the porch, sees the sunlight melting the snow.

She takes a deep breath, walks towards the tree.

She stands under the tree and looks at the leaf. And keeps looking. It's then she notices that the leaf is painted.

KN Singh comes up behind her.

KN SINGH
Ms. Roychowdhury...

Pakhi turns to him, tears in her eyes, smiling.

PAKHI
Vah bhaag gaya Singh sahab...

KN Singh looks at her smiling face and slowly nods.

KN SINGH
Mujhe pata hai...

She smiles wider and then looks back at the tree.

PAKHI
Aapko pata hai... vah painter
banna chahta tha... aur usse
pattiyen banana bhi nahin aata
tha...

He looks at her.

PAKHI
Usne aakhirkaar apna masterpiece
bana hi diya...

The painted leaf flutters. She keeps looking at it.

215 **INT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- DAY**

215

Pakhi writes on sheets of paper, furiously.

Shyama enters, sees Pakhi writing. She's about to go into the kitchen.

PAKHI
(without stopping)
Shyama...

SHYAMA
Hahn didi...

PAKHI
Bhook lagi hai...

Shyama tries not to cry, runs into the kitchen.

Pakhi writes on.

PAKHI (V.O.)
Pata nahin vah kahaan chala gaya
tha...

216 **EXT. CHANDRATAL -- DAY**

216

Pakhi walks towards a beautiful blue lake, surrounded by mountains.

PAKHI (V.O.)
Pata nahin vah yahaan Chandratal
pe kab aayega... lekin mujhe pata
hai...

She sits at the edge of the lake, looks around.

PAKHI (V.O.)
Ek din vah aayega, aur hum zaroor
milenge... kyonki main yahaan
baithi uska intezaar kar rahi
hoon...

ON her face, her hair tousled by the breeze.

CUT TO:

217 **EXT. PAKHI'S COTTAGE -- DAY**

217

The tree in full bloom. Green grass all around. The sun shining bright.

And nestled among the green leaves, one painted leaf...

THE END