

'ALIGARH' EDITED Shooting Draft 9 March 1st 2015

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EXT. NAUSHAD MARKET. ALIGARH. NIGHT

We see an evening marketplace and hear indistinct chatter. College students sit and talk. Rickshaws honk. An distinguished-looking man is buying vegetables. He is **Professor Shrinivas Ramchandra Siras (63)**.

INT. VAISHNO DHABA. NAUSHAD MARKET. NIGHT

Siras stops to collect a parcel from a 'pure veg' restaurant. The waiter gives him a familiar smile.

EXT. NAUSHAD MARKET. ALIGARH. NIGHT

Siras walks to a line of rickshaw pullers, waiting for a ride. He sits on a cycle rickshaw and it moves.

EXT. AMU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. NIGHT

Beautiful clean roads. The rickshaw-puller is lean and strong. Siras, who seems to be a couple of drinks down, hums an old song. The rikshaw-puller is amused. We see the passing University buildings.

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

The rickshaw enters the Medical Colony rear-gate. A guard watches.

Siras walks into the two-story building. The rickshaw puller follows a little after, carrying the vegetable bags. They walk up the stairs. From outside, we see the lights go on in a second floor apartment. An old song starts to play.

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

Date card: 'February 08, 2010'
OPENING TITLES BEGIN--The song continues to play as we slowly pull back from the building to reveal an overview of the street.
OPENING TITLES END.

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

Two shadowy figures enter the street. They are **ADIL (23)** & **MISAM (24)**. They have a silly chat as they approach the two-story building.

ADIL

Chill rakh. Nahi to 'mohan pyare'
nahi jaagega!

MISAM

Kehti hain 'mohan pyare' ko
entertain nahi karegi. Ab iske liye
shadi karu kya?

ADIL

Arre karegi entertain, lekin
zarurat padne pe..

MISAM

Tasneem aisi ladki nahi hain...

ADIL

To kaisi ladki hain be?

a beat.

ADIL

Sun, tereko kahani sunata hoon...
Salma ek din college ke fees ke
counter par khadi thi.
Fee collector se boli, 'Sir, le lo
na'
Fee collector lambi saas lekar
bola, '2 minute ruko...aaraam se
lunga'
Salma irritable hokar boli, 'arre
jaldi lelo, warna de nahi paungi...
period shuru hone wala hain.'

Misam doesn't get it. Adil bursts out laughing. Misam nervously gestures to him to keep it low. Adil sings softly and teasingly.

ADIL

Jaago Mohan pyare..jaago...

EXT. STAIRWAY. SIRAS HOUSE1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

The two boys climb the stairs and stop outside Siras's apartment. They switch on a video camera. They look through a slightly open curtain and watch the activity inside.

INT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

We see an empty living room. The old song is still playing. From a distance, we see the two boys open the door and tiptoe inside. Their camera is recording. They walk towards a door where they can hear some chatter. They kick open the door.

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

We hear loud shouting. Sounds of a struggle.

Fade to Black.

INT. IC OFFICE. DELHI. DAY

The scroll of the Reuters news-wire runs on a computer screen.

We see the following stories: 'Slums Demolished for Commonwealth games'; 'Sena attacks movie halls playing *My Name Is Khan*'; 'Naxals kill 24 Soldiers in West Bengal'.

DEEPU VO

Ek reporter ke career mein
bahut breaking stories aati
hain, har kahani usse thoda sa
badal deti hain..

We see various journalists pursuing different stories from their desks at the bustling Indian Chronicle office.

DEEPU VO

...lekin woh ek story hain, joh
reporter ko pehle break karti
hain...

The 'wire' stops scrolling at: 'Aligarh University suspends gay Professor'

We zoom into the word '**ALIGARH**'. (Film Title).

DEEPU VO

Woh kahani, Joh reporter ko
journalist banati hain.

Date card: '**February 9th, 2010**'

INT. DEEPU DESK. IC OFFICE. DELHI. DAY

DEEPU Mathew, 23, is sitting inside the Indian Express office in his socks, feet up on the desk. This story has caught his attention.

DEEPU

Fuck me!

ANUJ SHARMA, 38, a senior colleague who has been doing the same job for years, turns to him in shock.

DEEPU

Anuj, Aligarh mein agar koi source chahiye, to kiss-se baat karte hain?

ANUJ

Wahan ke PTI correspondent se. Kyon?

DEEPU

Koi number hain?

ANUJ

Tumhara kaam hain stories select karna. Unhe likhna nahin!

DEEPU

Yaar, thoda research karna hain pehle.

Anuj searches and clicks on his keyboard.

ARUN

Mail kar diya. Uska naam Utkarsh hain.

Deepu dials from his office-line.

DEEPU

Hi, main Indian Chronicle, Delhi se bol raha hoon...Kya meri baat Utkarsh se ho rahi hain?

INT. NAMEETA CUBICLE. IC OFFICE. DELHI. DAY

A clean & neat cubicle. **NAMEETA, 35**, the efficient News-Editor, is talking agitatedly to someone on the phone.

(CONTINUED)

NAMEETA

Secretary sahab. You maybe clearing the slums for the games, but you're creating huge dumping grounds elsewhere.

An impatient Deepu waits for Nameeta to see him. She doesn't notice. Deepu knocks loudly. Nameeta gives him a dirty look.

NAMEETA

Sirji, hum kisika image kharab karne nahin baithe hain. There are enough people doing that at your end.

Nameeta hangs up.

DEEPU

I have a breaking story.

NAMEETA

Uske liye cubicle todna zaruri hain?

DEEPU

Kal raat ko, Aligarh Muslim University mein, kuch TV reporters, ek professor ke ghar mein zabardasti ghusse. They filmed him having sex...with a rickshaw puller.

NAMEETA

I see! Arpit ko de do. He's good with sex scandals.

DEEPU

Tumko yeh sex scandal lagta hain? Kal University ne us professor ko suspend kar diya!

NAMEETA

So what do you see..?

DEEPU

Human Rights. My beat!

NAMEETA

Deepu, tumhe yaha sirf chaar mahine ho chuke hain, you have to climb the 'wire' like the others.

Deepu is offended.

(CONTINUED)

DEEPU

I won a scholarship to Journalism
College. I topped my class.

He takes the water bottle from Nameeta's desk and drinks directly from it. Nameeta slaps his wrist and gives him a glass.

NAMEETA

Yeh story Sonali ko de do. I need
someone with experience

Deepu drags his feet out.

DEEPU

Agar mein news-wire pe sadte-sadte
mar gaya na, to meri jagah ek plate
laga dena. Likhna 'Ek tha talented
reporter, jisko surkhiyon ke
samundar mein...duboh diya gaya!'

NAMEETA

Get out Deepu!

Deepu walks away. Nameeta looks at a newspaper on her desk. It reads 'Poor Displaced by Commonwealth Facade.'

INT. SONALI DESK. IC OFFICE. DELHI. DAY

Deepu stands at Sonali's desk. **SONALI RAZDAN(30)** is a pretty and fashionable senior journalist and is reading something on the computer. Deepu stands behind her.

DEEPU

Shrinivas Ramchandra Siras is...was
Chairman of the Linguistics
department at AU and he taught
Marathi.

Sonali turns her chair around to face Deepu.

SONALI

Aligarh University mein Marathi
teacher?

DEEPU

Aisi badi universities, 'Modern
Indian Languages' ke bahut courses
offer karti hain. AU mein 22 saal
ke baad, Siras ko Linguistics
Department ka chairman banaya gaya.

Sonali finds it hard to keep up pace with Deepu's research.

(CONTINUED)

SONALI

Aur kuch??

DEEPU

Originally from Nagpur, Siras ek published poet bhi hain. Unhe Marathi Sahitya Academy award bhi mila tha.

SONALI

Kavi bhi hain?? Yeh sab..itni jaldi kaise?

Deepu opens the AU website on Sonali's desktop, clicks faculty, shows her Siras's profile.

DEEP

Au ke website pe hain.

Sonali feels silly.

INT. BOOKSTORE. CP. DELHI. DAY

An old, well-stocked bookstore. Deepu searches for a book, but is unable to find it. He approaches the bored bookstore lady.

DEEPU

Title dhoondh raha hoon, 'Grass Under My Feet' .

The woman searches her database.

BOOKSTORE LADY

Sorry. Computer mein nahi hain.

DEEPU

Store mein toh hogi??

The lady ignores his wise-crack.

DEEPU

Inki koi aur kitab? Naam hain Shrinivas Ramchandra Siras.

She looks at her computer screen.

BOOKSTORE LADY

Computer mein to nahin hain.

Deepu is disappointed.

EXT. DEEPU PG. DELHI. NIGHT

A red bricked two-story house. Deepu parks his bike by the wall. His phone rings. The screen reads 'Amma'. Deepu answers the call.

DEEPU
Sugham-aano amma?
(Are you well, ma?)

MRS MATHEW
Sugham. Ne engene aana?

(GOOD, YOU?)

DEEPU
Good amma.

MRS MATHEW
When does your probation end Deepu?

DEEPU
In 2 months.

MRS MATHEW
Your acchan was asking about the money.

DEEPU
Please tell daddy that as soon as I'm confirmed, I'll send the money.

MRS MATHEW
Are you writing articles for the paper?

DEEPU
Not yet amma. But I'm helping with a story.

MRS MATHEW
What is it about?

Deepu has reached the door of the house.

DEEPU
Ma, I'll call you tomorrow.

Deepu disconnects and takes out his key.

INT. DEEPU PG. DELHI. NIGHT

Deepu quietly opens the door and enters a dark corridor. He looks around and tip-toes into a room right in front. He takes out a key and opens a padlock.

Deepu enters a small messy bedroom. His clothes are strewn on the bed and last night's take-away dinner is still on the table. He throws it in the bin and moves clothes away from his bed.

He changes into shorts and sits down on his laptop.

There is a knock at the door. Deepu opens it to see a tall, broad-shouldered woman, **MAGGY** D'Mello, 35.

MAGGY

Tum motor chalu karna bhool gaye.

DEEPU

Sorry main late aaya ...

MAGGY

10pm, motor has to be on, nahi to paani nahi ayega.

She walks into his room without permission, heads for the bathroom and turns it on. A loud whirring noise begins.

MAGGY

Subah 7 baje phir chalu karna hain!

Maggy goes to leave, then stops.

MAGGY

PG ko darwaze par lock lagana allowed nahin hain. Aunty ne bataya hoga.

Deepu nods awkwardly. Maggy exits.

Deepu sits in the balcony with his laptop and google searches Aligarh University. He sees an article about the VC Abdurahman under probe.

He frantically searches to see more allegations against Abdurahman. The camera captures words like 'Surveillance system' 'CCTV' 'Moral Policing' 'Investigation'.

DEEPU

What the fuck??

Deepu begins writing something.

EXT. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. DAY

An effigy of Siras is burnt and angry students hit it with a stick. A student protest inside AU against the immoral conduct of Siras. The mind-set is conservative, right wing.

ANGRY MALE STUDENT

Suspension se kya hoga? Kal appeal karenge, parson post wapas mil jayegi. Zaruri hain ke AU sakt action le aur Siras ko expel karde. Agar aisi gandi harkate teachers se hi ho, to students se kya umeed ki ja sakti hain...??

A middle-aged man with a nervous disposition walks past the students. He has a tiffin-box slung over his shoulder and walks hurriedly. He is **Professor SRIDHARAN (55)**.

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. DAY

Sridharan walks into the building that we saw at the start.

EXT. STAIRWAY. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. DAY

He rings the bell. No answer.

SRIDHARAN

Professor Siras, main hoon,
Sridharan.

No answer. He is concerned.
He walks to the window and uses a stick to pry open the curtain. There he sees Professor Siras lying on his bed. He calls out again.

SRIDHARAN

Professor Siras, hello??

We see Siras suddenly wake up. His hair is a mess and face unshaven. He is startled to see Sridharan at the window and takes a while to register who he is.

INT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. DAY

A grumpy Siras opens the door.

SIRAS

Raat ko so nahi paya. Machhar bahut hain..

(CONTINUED)

Sridharan stands awkwardly at the door.

SIRAS
Andar aao na.

INT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. DAY

In a large, but messed up living room, Sridharan sits on the only chair that isn't covered in books.

SIRAS
Chai banata hoon..

SRIDHARAN
Nahi. Time ho jayega.

Siras sit's awkwardly on a side-table, avoiding eye contact.

SRIDHARAN
Letter likh diya?

SIRAS
Letter kyon likhun? Uss dine jo
hua...

SRIDHARAN
Jo hua, so hua. Ab aage ka sochna
hain.

Siras seems irritated by his friend's cold behavior.

SIRAS
Kya likhna hain?

SRIDHARAN
Yahi, ke jo uss raat hua, uske liye
tum sharminda ho...

Siras is silent.

INT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. DAY

Siras sits at a desk and writes on a piece of paper. He hands it to Sridharan. Sridharan reads it carefully.

SRIDHARAN
Envelope?

Siras hands him a used envelope. Sridharan looks at it disdainfully and returns it.

(CONTINUED)

SRIDHARAN
Mere paas hoga ghar pe.

Sridharan folds the letter and gets up to go.

SRIDHARAN
Bahar ka mahaul bahut kharab
hain. Kuch din tak campus se door
rehna.

Sridharan leaves. Siras sits alone in his house, watching the closed door.

INT. DEEPU DESK. IC OFFICE. DELHI. DAY

An article in the paper titled 'Gay Professor Suspended after Sting'. Deepu is reading it at his desk. He sits with his feet up. Sonali is disgusted.

SONALI
Aise kaise baithe ho? You are not
in a hammock in your backwaters.

DEEPU
Sonali, feedback du?

SONALI
Dena hain to do.

DEEPU
Tumhari story article kum aur gay
rights morche ki script zyada lagti
hain.

Sonali ignores his comment. The lift opens and a tall, bearded man, **KARAN** Pai, 50, the editor, enters.

ANUJ
Pair neeche kar, editor aaya hain.

Deepu puts his feet down. Sonali adjusts her hair and runs upto Karan. Deepu & Anuj watch her.

SONALI
Karan, did you read the story?

KARAN
Yes.

SONALI
what did you think.

KARAN

An important story.

Karan smiles at her and marches off. Sonali grins widely. Deepu turns to Anuj.

DEEPU

Itna kyon hass rahi hain? Important story kaha...good story nahin.

Anuj interrupts.

ANUJ

Deepu, forget about her. Kahani abhi bhi tumhare haath mein hain.

Deepu takes his advice and opens AU VC Abdurahman's profile page. He calls the number listed. It is answered by a secretary. Deepu speaks in Malayalam.

DEEPU

Good evening, Main VC sir se baat kar sakta hoon? Main Indian Chronicle ke campus beat se bol raha hu...

Sonali watches him suspiciously as he talks.

Cut to.

Nameeta is mixing 'sugarfree' tablets into her coffee. She is jolted as Deepu knocks on her cubicle wall.

DEEPU

Mujhe conveyance chahiye, Aligarh jaane ke liye.

NAMEETA

Kyon??

DEEPU

Meeting hain. AU ke Vice Chancellor, RK Abdurahman ke saath!

NAMEETA

Really?

DEEPU

Exclusive hain.

NAMEETA

Sonali ke saath jao.

DEEPU

Sorry. Its a Malayali only deal...

NAMEETA

Deepu, Editor ke sanction bina I cant send you...

DEEPU

Research kehke bhej dena.

Nameeta thinks.

NAMEETA

Fine. Photographer ko saath le jao. Tashi Ngawang ne kuch saal pehle ej story cover ki thi AU mein...

Deepu stares at her coffee.

DEEPU

These artificial sweetners are not good. Is se weight aur badta hain...

Deepu marches out. Nameeta awkwardly looks at her coffee.

EXT. DELHI-AGRA EXPRESSWAY. DELHI. DAY

Deepu rides at manic speed with a small-built and soft-spoken **TASHI NGAWANG (25)** holding onto his seat for dear life.

TASHI

Car allowance lekar bike pe kyon jaa rahe hain? Office mein pata chala to..?

DEEPU

Darta kyon hain? Jo paise bacchenge, uski beer le lenge.

Deepu winks at him.

TASHI

Main beer nahi peeta.

EXT. DELHI- ALIGARH EXPRESSWAY. DELHI. DAY

Deepu & Tashi stand baking in the heat as a mechanic fixes multiple punctures. Tashi giggles.

TASHI
Gayi teri beer!

a beat.

DEEPU
AU mein kaunsi story cover ki thi tumne?

TASHI
September 16, 2007 ki raat ko, kuch students ne VC lodge par attack kar karke usse jala diya tha. Proctor ke office aur staff club ka bhi wahi hashar hua...

DEEPU
Kyun?

TASHI
Ek student ka murder hua tha...

EXT. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. DAY

Deepu & Tashi ride into Aligarh. We see the imposing AU gate and the clock tower. There are several policemen standing by the gate.

TASHI (VO CONTINUES)
...Ussi mahine rumours utthe the ki ek student ka rape bhi hua. Mar-dhaad phir shuru ho gayi. The university was closed and the students' union was scrapped.

Deepu notices that there are mostly male students on campus. He sees multiple cameras monitoring everything.

TASHI
Itne cameras nahi the uss waqt.

Deepu sees that there are thick green cables all over the place. He keenly observes the details of the campus. They stop the bike.

(CONTINUED)

DEEPU
VC ke meeting to dedh ghante
hain...

TASHI
Coffee peete hain...

DEEPU
Nahi. Siras se milte hain...

Deepu sees some boys dressed in sherwani's walking past and approaches them.

DEEPU
Excuse me? Medical colony kahan
padeगा?

SHERWANI BOY
Seedhe chaliye, aur clock tower se
bayi taraf mud jaiye.

DEEPU
Thank you.

SHERWANI BOY (TO TASHI)
Kahan se ho?

TASHI
Dilli se...

SHERWANI BOY
India kab aaye?

The boys laugh. Tashi ignores them, he and Deepu ride off.

EXT. MEDICAL COLONY. ALIGARH. DAY

Deepu and Tashi on the bike, they stop to ask someone directions.

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. DAY

The two locate Siras's house.

TASHI
Are you sure yahi jagah hain?

Deepu nods. They look around and enter the building.

INT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. STAIRWAY. MEDICAL COLONY. DAY

Deepu and Tashi climb up the stairs. The house is padlocked. Deepu tries to check the window; he notices that a fan has been left on.

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. DAY

They start to exit.

TASHI

Lagta hain tera Siras bhaag gaya!

DEEPU

Nahi, yahi kahi hain woh, Pankha chalu tha...

TASHI

To? Pankha chalu chodke bhaag gaya hoga!

They notice that some neighbors, a woman, a man and a child are staring at them from inside a window.

TASHI

Aise ghoor rahe hain jaise hum homo hain.

DEEPU (TO FAMILY)

Aapko pata hain Professor Siras kaha milenge?

The family ignores Deepu, but continue to stare. Deepu moves closer to Tashi's face teasingly.

TASHI

Kya kar raha hain??

DEEPU (TEASES)

Kya gay hona paap hain?

Tashi backs off. The family shuts their curtain.

EXT. MIL DEPT. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. DAY

Deepu & Tashi reach the Modern Indian Languages Department. Compared to the stately white buildings on campus, the MIL is in decrepit shape. Deepu points to Tashi how Siras's name has been removed from the board with a coat of fresh paint.

INT. MIL DEPT. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. DAY

Deepu & Tashi walk in a small corridor with three offices, and stop at a door with Siras's name on it. They enter the small office and explore the room.

Tashi starts to take pictures. A peon enters.

MIL PEON

Yaha kya kar rahe hain! Bahar niklye!!

DEEPU

Professor Siras...?

MIL PEON

Woh yaha nahi aate, aap bahar jaiye!

Deepu takes out his wallet and sees a few notes left. He looks at Tashi.

DEEPU

Give me 50 bucks na!

Tashi rolls his eyes and hands Deepu the money. Deepu gives it to the peon. Tashi resumes taking pictures.

MIL PEON

Jab se woh kand hua, tabse suspend hain. Ek baari aaye the, apna saman lekar chale gaye.

DEEPU

Kaha milenge woh?

MIL PEON

Woh nahin jaante.

DEEPU

Yeh department itna khaali kyon hain?

MIL PEON

Arre sahib, Marathi aur Malayam ke teachers ko kaun puchta hain? Mushkil se do-teen students aate hain saal mein. Bas naam ke professor hain.

Just then **Professor Sridharan, 56** walks nervously towards his office. He has a lunch box slung over his shoulder. The guard motions Deepu.

(CONTINUED)

MIL PEON

Unse puchiye, Malayalam ke
Professor hain, Sridharan...Siras
sahib ke friend hain.

INT. MIL DEPT. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. DAY

Sridharan is unpacking his lunch box when Deepu accosts him.

DEEPU

Professor Sridharan...

SRIDHARAN

Yes?

DEEPU

Main ek story likh raha hoon,
Professor Siras par...

Sridharan's face falls.

DEEPU

Main aapse kuch sawal puchna chahta
hoon.

SRIDHARAN

Sorry, main busy hoon.

DEEPU

Bas do minute lagenge sir. Aapko
lagta hain Professor Siras ka
suspension jayaz tha?

Sridharan quickly starts packing his unfinished lunch.

SRIDHARAN

Main media se baat nahi karna
chahta..

DEEPU

Main unki madat karna chahta hoon
sir..!

SRIDHARAN

Aap madat na karo to behtar hain.
Already is baat ka pahad ban chuka
hain.

Sridharan gets up to leave the room.

(CONTINUED)

DEEPU

But Sir..

SRIDHARAN

Dekhiye, Siras apology letter likh chuke hain, aur yeh baat internally solve ho jayegi. Aap isse aur na uljhaeiye...

Sridharan exits. Deepu follows him out.

EXT. MIL DEPT. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. DAY

DEEPU

Sir, University ne sting karne wale reporters par koi action nahi liya. Zahir hain woh Siras ko hi target karna chahte hain...

SRIDHARAN

Main aapse request karta hoon, Professor Siras ko aur expose mat kariye, nahi to samaaj mein unhe kahi jagah nahi milegi!

Deepu look at the name-board where Siras's name is deleted.

DEEPU (SARCASTICALLY)

Sir, lagta hain unki jagah already jaa chuki hain...

Sridharan walks away.

EXT. VC BUILDING. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. DAY

Deepu & Tashi walk towards the VC building. They notice a sign outside the library next door that reads 'CCTV MONITOR 35 CAMERAS, including hidden ones in operation'. They reach the imposing VC house. It is grand and stately.

INT. WAITING AREA. VC BUILDING. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. DAY

Deepu and Tashi wait for their turn inside a rich waiting room. Deepu looks at the ornate glass windows and jokes.

DEEPU

Sheesh mahal style!

The VC's SECRETARY, a stern matronly woman approaches Deepu.

(CONTINUED)

VC SECRETARY
Mr. Mathew. You can go in.

Deepu gets up with a smile. Tashi picks up his camera bag.

VC SECRETARY
Sorry, strictly no photographers.

Tashi begins to protest.

DEEPU
Tashi, tu wait kar..

Tashi sulks.

TASHI
Bol de, ki mera naam Tashi Pillai
ya Tashi Menon hain!!

Deepu ignores him and follows the secretary out of the waiting area.

VC SECRETARY (IN MALYALAM)
I must remind you, this interview
is strictly about AU's surveillance
system.

Deepu nods. The secretary smiles for the first time and points him to a corridor.

INT. CORRIDOR. VC BUILDING. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. DAY

Deepu walks through a long corridor of tall pillars. He is somewhat nervous. This is his first interview.

INT. VC CABIN. VC BUILDING. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. DAY

The VC, **RK Abdurahman (56)** is a tall, thin man with sharp eyes. Akhtar has a prominent beard and talks slowly.

VC ABDURAHMAN
Come Mr Mathew, join me for lunch.
Wife ne fish curry banayi hain.

DEEPU (IN MALYALAM, LYING)
I'm sorry sir, I just had lunch.

VC ABDURAHMAN
Too bad. Aligarh mein aisi
fish-curry milna mushkil hain.

Deepu laughs.

VC ABDURAHMAN
You don't mind if I continue?

DEEPU (IN MALYALAM)
Please go ahead.

VC ABDURAHMAN
Yaha urdu mein baat na karo to koi samajhta nahi.

DEEPU
Delhi mein bhi wahi haal hain. Do saal mein Hindi seekhni padi.

VC ABDURAHMAN
When in Rome, do as the Romans do!

The VC begins to eat. He watches Deepu nervously rummage his bag.

VC ABDURAHMAN
Tum Kollam se ho?

DEEPU
Yes!

VC ABDURAHMAN
Kerala mein best waters for clam-fishing..

DEEPU
I can't swim.

VC ABDURAHMAN
Backwaters mein rehkar tairna nahin aata??

DEEPU
My parents are very embarrassed.

VC ABDURAHMAN
Tumhare Amma aur Acchan wahi hain?

DEEPU
Haan.. Sir, shuru kare?

VC ABDURAHMAN
Ok.

DEEPU
AU ko naye surveillance system ki kya zarurat thi?

(CONTINUED)

VC ABDURAHMAN

AU ek politically hostile environment ban chuka tha. Cross-border activities, student-clashes, khoon kharaba, roz ki baat ban gayi thi. Committee ne students par nazar rakhna zaruri samjha.

DEEPU

Sir, 35 CC TV Camera's, 300 uniformed guard's jo 'bulls' ke naam se jaane jaate hain. . .

EXT. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. DAY

As students hang out on campus, we see a bunch of uniformed guards with guns drinking tea under a shade.

Cut to

Outside the University gate, 15 policemen keep watch.

DEEPU (VO CONTINUES)

Gate ke bahar Provincial Armed Constabulary ke 15 policemen. Unke haath mein 5.56 mm 'Insas' rifles hain, jabki aam policewale ke haath mein sirf .303mm ke rifles.

We see cuts of CCTV cameras, some rotating, all over the campus.

DEEPU (VO CONTINUES)

Anginat infra-red CCTV cameras, jo andhere mein bhi record karti hain.

INT. VC CABIN. VC BUILDING. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. DAY

VC Abdurahman is staring at Deepu, trying to make sense of him.

VC ABDURAHMAN

Security upgrade ka khayal Union Home Ministry ka tha, humara nahi. Teen saal pehle students ne VC ke lodge ko jala diya tha. You know how serious that incident was?

Deepu nods. Abdurahman continues his meal.

(CONTINUED)

DEEPU

Maine padha ki surveillance system teachers ki sehmati ke bina paas hua tha? Aur AU Teachers Association ne is proposal ko oppose kiya tha. Phir bhi, pichle February, Executive Council meeting mein, aapne khud is proposal ko paas karwaya. Bagair minimum vote ke.

VC ABDURAHMAN

Teachers ki maang thi ke cameras hostels aur classrooms ke andar install na kiye jaye. Baqaida humne waha CCTV nahi lagayi. The cameras are non-intrusive.

DEEPU

10 crore ki surveillance? Woh rakam education ke liye bhi to kharch ho sakti thi?

Abdurahman becomes uncomfortable. He stops eating and leans forward.

VC ABDURAHMAN

Students zinda rahenge to education hogi na? Mr Mathew, in do saalon mein AU mein na koi clashes, na koi arrests hue hain. Zahir hain ki opposing members humari kamyabi se jal rahe hain...

Deepu scribbles in his notepad. He nervously broaches his next line without looking up.

DEEPU

Professor...Siras ko suspend kyon...kiya gaya?

Abdurahman is surprised.

VC ABDURAHMAN

Iska aapke story se kya connection?

DEEPU (STAMMERING)

Kya yeh sting operation, jiski wajah se Professor Siras suspend huye hain, koi misaal to nahi? Aapke is expensive surveillance system ki?

Abdurahman is done eating. He covers his food.

(CONTINUED)

VC ABDURAHMAN

Na woh sting koi surveillance thi,
na hi koi misaal. Jin cameras ne
Siras ko pakda, woh AU ke nahi the.
Siras ko isliye suspend kiya gaya
kyonki uski harqat immoral thi.
Urdu mein immoral ko 'bad-akhlaq'
kehte hain.

DEEPU (MUTTERING)

Bad-akhlaq? Sounds like bad luck...

Abdurahman ignores him.

DEEPU

Sir, jo kisike ke bedroom mein ho
raha ho, kya woh ek private matter
nahi?

VC ABDURAHMAN

Tum press walon ka kaam hain aise
bhadkaane-wale headlines likhna.
Mera kaam hain AU ke tradition ko
maintain karna.

DEEPU

To aap maante hain ki Professor
Siras ko apne sexual preference ki
wajah se...

VC ABDURAHMAN

No more questions Mr Mathew, my
lunch-break is over.

Deepu gets up and starts putting his notes away.

VC ABDURAHMAN

Tumhare amma-acchan ko kisi cheez
ki zarurat ho, to mujhe phone
karna. Kollam mein mere acche
connections hain .

Deepu smiles feebly and leaves the room. ABDURAHMAN
opens his desert box.

INT. MEDICAL CLINIC. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. NIGHT

Siras is sitting at a doctor's clinic with a grocery bag,
waiting to check his blood pressure. Other patients are
called in and leave, but Siras's name is not called.
After realizing he is the only one left, he approaches the
ward boy.

(CONTINUED)

SIRAS
BP check karna tha...

WARD BOY
Clinic to bandh ho chukka hain.

SIRAS
Main dedh-ghante se baitha hoon,
mera number kyon nahi aaya?

WARD BOY
Woh humko nahi pata. Nurse se naam
likhwaya tha kya aapne?

SIRAS
Haan!

WARD BOY
To phir aap kal aaiye. Nurse nikal
chukki hain.

SIRAS
Main dedh ghante se baitha hoon,
woh kaise jaa sakti hain??

Siras angrily pushes the boy away and enters the doctor's
cabin.

WARD BOY
Aap kya kar rahe hain??

Siras finds the BP pumps and straps it upon his arm. He is
perspiring.

WARD BOY
Yeh allowed nahi hain..arre???

Siras checks his own blood pressure. His face is red and he
breathes heavily.

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

Siras is walking back to his house. The red lights from an
approaching bike (a reminder of a camcorder light) freak him
out and he begins to feel dizzy.
As Siras loses balance, someone holds him. It is Deepu.

DEEPU
Aap theek hain?

Siras holds onto Deepu's arm.

(CONTINUED)

DEEPU

Kya aapko Doctor ki zarurat hain?

Siras nods to say no. He regains his composure and starts walking towards the building. Deepu follows him.

INT. STAIRWAY. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

The two walk up the stairs.

SIRAS

Sara dopahar dhoop main tha mein.
Monday I do grocery shopping na.
Must be little bit sun-stroke.

DEEPU

Mujhe bag dijiye please.

SIRAS (SMILING)

No. No. It is fine! Kya padh rahe
ho tum?

DEEPU

Actually main...Delhi se aaya
hoon...

SIRAS

DU se? Nice. But AU jaisa campus
aur kahi nahi milega. India mein
number 3 hain..!

DEEPU

Sir, jo aapke saath hua, woh bahut
galat hua. Main..main..

Siras nods awkwardly and opens the door to his flat.

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

Meanwhile, Tashi enters the compound, searching for Deepu.
He unslings his camera to take pictures and shouts.

TASHI

Deepu?

INT. STAIRWAY. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

Siras looks down from the window to see Tashi taking photographs. Deepu slaps his forehead. Siras suddenly becomes paranoid and begins shouting in Marathi. Tashi runs up the stairs.

SIRAS

Tujha aai la!! Bhenchod, reporter
aahes tu???

He physically moves Deepu to the stairs. Tashi continuously takes pictures of Siras.

DEEPU

Sir, main आपको batane hi wala tha.

SIRAS

Madarchod, nikal idhar se!

Siras pushes Deepu and goes to break Tashi's camera.

DEEPU

Tashi, band kar!

Tashi backs off.

SIRAS

Wapas aaya to taang tod dunga
Saale!

Siras enters his house and slams the door shut.

DEEPU

Siras Saab?

Siras doesn't answer. A radio is turned on loud inside. Deepu gives a dirty look to Tashi. He then examines the area. He notices the solid door and its locks.

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

Deepu walks in a huff and Tashi follows him.

TASHI

Mujhe chaiwalle pe chod ke bhag
gaya? Mereko kya malum tha?

DEEPU

Saale, tera camera ek second ke
liye rukta nahin hain kya? Uske
naak mein ghuske photo le raha tha.

(CONTINUED)

TASHI

Tu kaha ruka hua tha? Jhoot bolke
uske peeche pad gaya?

DEEPU

Kamsekam uski feelings to samajhta
hu. Teri tarah bikau nahin hu.

TASHI

Abe, kisiko ko fool mat kar, tu ye
uske feelings ke liye nahin, khud
ke liye kar raha hain.

a beat.

TASHI

Aur teen mahine deta hu tereko
bikau ka matlab samajhne ke liye.
Teen mahine!!

EXT. NAUSHAD MARKET. ALIGARH. NIGHT

Deepu rides the bike, Tashi holds on to his seat.

Deepu stops at the bus stand.

TASHI

Yaha kyo ruka hain?

DEEPU

Tu bus le le.

TASHI

Matlab?

DEEPU

Mujhe ek raat aur rukna hain. Kal
phir try karunga..

TASHI

Kal phir...? Deepu, story file
karni hain tujhe.

DEEPU

Kar lunga.

Tashi stares at him in shock. He is about to turn.

DEEPU

Kuch paise de na...

EXT. HOTEL MAHAJAN. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. NIGHT

Deepu checks into a modest hotel. The manager eyes him with suspicion.

DEEPU VO

When professor Siras threw out this reporter and an intrusive camera from his home, I didnt see anger, i only saw pain...

INT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

'Kuch dil ne kaha..', a Lata Mangeshkar song plays off a CD player.

We see Siras writing at his desk. He gets up, opens a bottle of whisky and pours a drink.

DEEPU VO

...I saw the horror of a man whose most secure space had been invaded.

As Siras walks back to his desk, he sees a faint red light appear behind the window curtain. Siras suddenly pales.

INT. HOTEL MAHAJAN. AU CAMPUS. NIGHT

Deepu sits at a desk by the window and writes on his laptop.

DEEPU VO

A man who couldnt trust anything anymore, not even the locks on his door..

INT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

Siras picks up a stick and approaches the window. He seems to hear whispers. He suddenly runs to the window and begins hitting the grills with a stick.

SIRAS (IN MARATHI)

Bhenchod, sar phod doonga!!

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

An empty corridor. We see the stick smashing against the grills, hitting it repeatedly. There is noone outside.

(CONTINUED)

SIRAS VO

Aai shapat, kaat dunga tum logon
ko.

EXT. HOTEL MAHAJAN. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. NIGHT

Deepu is in the window of hotel Mahajan smoking a cigarette. He looks at the deserted buildings outside. A dicomforting feeling.

EXT. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. NIGHT/DAY

We see eerie shots of the deserted AU campus.

INT. HOTEL MAHAJAN. AU CAMPUS. DAY

Morning. Deepu gets on his bike and exits hotel Mahajan.

EXT. AU CAMPUS. DAY

Deepu rides past a sign pointing towards 'Medical Colony'. Suddenly, he sees an OB van drive into AU. He does a U turn.

EXT. PRO LAWN. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. DAY

Some OB vans are parked outside. In a lush lawn we see a hustle-bustle of reporters. Deepu enters the gathering and elbows his way to the front.

PRO SHADAB QURESHI (52) gathers his papers and approaches the microphone.

QURESHI

8 tareeq ki raat jo waqya hui, uski
wajah se Professor Srinivas Siras
ko University charge-sheet kar rahi
hain. Unka immoral conduct, AU ke
teacher ke likye khaas-taur-se
na-munasib hain.
Professor Siras ko aaj ek legal
notice bheja jayega, aur unko apne
alloted quarters, 21, Medical
Colony ko 7 din mein khali karna
hoga.

Deepu looks at a random reporter.

(CONTINUED)

DEEPU
 Saat Din? Seriously??

The reporter gives him a dirty look.

REPORTER 1 (TO QURESHI)
 Kya aapne tape dekhi hain?

REPORTER 2
 Unke saath dusra aadmi kaun tha?

Qureshi's PA takes the microphone.

PRO PA
 No questions please. This is not a
 press conference.

Qureshi begins to exit.

DEEPU (SHOUTS)
 Sir, un do 'reporters' ka kya hua?
 Jo sting operation ke peeche the?

Other reporters stare at Deepu. A distinguished looking gentleman, **Dr. TAHIR ISLAM (63)**, sitting among the journalists, notices Deepu. Qureshi stops to look at Deepu and walks away. Deepu chases after him.

DEEPU
 Unke khilaaf koi karavahi nahin ho
 rahi hain?

QURESHI
 Nahin.

DEEPU
 Kyon?

QURESHI (CURTLY)
 Kyunki woh hamare employees nahi
 hain.

DEEPU
 Yeh sach nahi ki un logo ne
 Professor Siras ko bina permission
 videotape kiya tha?

Qureshi stops and glares angrily at Deepu.

QURESHI
 Journalist hokar mujhse ye sawal
 pooch rahe ho? Tumhare cameras
 kahin bhi permisssion lekar ghuste
 hain kahin kya??

Deepu is taken aback.

QURESHI

Aur yaad rakhiye, masla yaha
cameras ka nahi hain, unpe paye
gaye content ka hain.

Qureshi leaves.

Islam has been watching Deepu and approaches him. Islam is flamboyant, talks perfect Urdu and speaks English with a British accent.

ISLAM

Congratulations!

DEEPU

Kyun?

ISLAM

Jo sawaal tumne uthaye, woh aur koi
reporter nahin uthata.

DEEPU

Aap?

ISLAM

Tahir Islam, head of Philosophy.
Siras is a good friend of mine.

Deepu's eyes light up.

DEEPU

Professor Siras ka yaha koi friend
bhi hain, yeh nahi pata tha...

Islam laughs.

ISLAM

The sun is such a lonely star.
Whenever he comes out to see his
friends, they all disappear.

Deepu laughs.

EXT. STAIRWAY. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. DAY

A bright spark. An electrician and an AU official are at the meter box cutting the electric supply to Siras house.

(CONTINUED)

SIRAS

Aise-kaise bijli kaat sakte hain??

Siras's protest is ignored. He waves a piece of paper to them.

SIRAS

Saaf-saaf likha hain, saat din mile hain mujhe..

AMU OFFICIAL

Chaar ghante milegi bijli. Saat se gyarah.

SIRAS

Arre? Jab tak occupancy hain, aap nahi kaat sakte. Main police mein complaint karunga.

AMU OFFICIAL

Jaiye Police thaane!

Siras runs into his house. He takes out a wallet, removes some badly stacked notes and returns outside.

SIRAS (SWEETLY)

Thoda chai-paani le lo. Do-chaar din baad aakar kaat lena.

The men ignore him. The wires are cut and the box is sealed with a lock. The men walk away. Siras shouts after them.

SIRAS

Kitne baje se kitne baje tak bola?

AMU OFFICIAL

Saat se gyarah!

Siras checks the lock on the box and sighs.

INT. STUDY. ISLAM HOUSE. ALIGARH. DAY

A big air-conditioned office with old books, sets of dictionaries, encyclopaedia's and a communist newspaper. There is coffee on the table.

ISLAM

Mere vaalid, AU mein professor the. Main Oxford mein pada hoon, but I returned here to teach. And let me tell you, this was not the dream of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, the great

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ISLAM (cont'd)

Muslim reformer who founded this institution.

Mughal rule ke baad, India ke Muslim-soch ko agar kisini badala, to woh thi Aligarh University. Sir Syed imparted a more progressive & scientific world-view to Indian Muslims. AU created lumineries who participated in India's freedom struggle..

Deepu listens intently, mesmerized by the flamboyance of Islam.

ISLAM

Gham hain ki aaj, main AU ke liye aise alfaz nahi istamal kar sakta. Aaj iske zirre-zirre mein Rajneeti bhari hui hain. Jo bhed, ek zamaane mein, debates ki zariye sulajhti thi, woh ab khoon-kharabe mein aur ulajh rahi hain.

DEEPU

Professor Siras is a victim of internal politics??

ISLAM

Yes! Unke saath bahut badtameezi hui hain. Pehle to un reporters ne ki, phir University walon ne, aur ab media ki insensitive reportage. Kitni sharmnaak baat hain.

Deepu absorbs what he has just heard.

DEEPU

Main Siras ki kahani likhna chahta hoon, kya aap unse mila sakte hain?

ISLAM

Siras is a very private person. Woh cameras ke saamne nahi ayenge, khas kar ke is episode ke baad.

Deepu smiles sadly.

DEEPU

Funny. Itne saare hidden cameras lage hue hain, par yaha log visible cameras se dar rahe hain!

(CONTINUED)

Islam smiles.

ISLAM
Main baat karke dekhta hoon...

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

A guard is trying to push two journalists way from outside the medical colony gate.

REPORTER 1
Arre bhai, Press ko nahin rok sakte
aap!

MEDICAL COLONY GUARD
Allowed nahi hain. Colony ka rule
hain.

Deepu park his bike outside Siras's building. He nervously walks past reporters to the gate. The guard stops him.

MEDICAL COLONY GUARD
Kahan jana hai?

DEEPU
Professor Siras ke yahan.
Appointment hain.

The other journalists look at Deepu in envy.

MEDICAL COLONY GUARD
Kya naam hai?

DEEPU
Deepu Mathew.

The guard goes to read his register.

EXT. STAIRWAY. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

Deepu walks up the stairs and tries ringing the bell, but it doesn't work. He peeps through the window and sees the house in darkness.

Deepu is confused. He then hears a sound. He walks around the corridor.

EXT. METER BOX. STAIRWAY. SIRAS HOUSE. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

Deepu sees Siras at the other end, tinkering at the meter box with a torch in one hand. Siras is jolted by Deepu's sudden appearance. He shines his torch at the approaching Deepu. Deepu is nervous after their last meeting.

DEEPU

Hey. Its me. Deepu Mathew. Dr. Islam
ne...

Siras nods. He hands Deepu the torch and continues to tinker. We see that the lock to the meter box has been broken.

DEEPU

Kya kar rahe hai aap?

SIRAS

Bijli reconnect kar raha hoon.

DEEPU

Yeh aapka meter hain?

SIRAS

Nahi. Padosi ka. Lekin woh bahar
hain.

Deepu is amused. He watches Siras intently.

DEEPU

Us wire se nahi hoga. Woh earthing
ka wire hain.

Siras looks at it quizzically.

DEEPU

Main try karun?

Siras backs off. He holds the torch as Deepu tinkers.

DEEPU

Dekhiye, main nahin jaan-na chahta
us raat aap kya kar rahe the. Its
none of my business. But main yeh
zarur jaanta hoon ki unlogo ko
aapke ghar zabardasti ghussne ka
koi haque nahi tha.

The lights momentarily come on in Siras flat. Before Siras can smile they go off again.

(CONTINUED)

DEEPU

Ho jayega, aap mujhse thoda dur
hatiyee.

Siras wonders if Deepu is being rude.

DEEPU

Shock laga to...? Isiliye.

Siras goes back a bit and Deepu tries the wires again.

SIRAS

Mere khilaaf yeh conspiracy hain.

DEEPU

AU ki?

SIRAS

AU mein kuch logo ki. Woh jalte
hain mujhse.

DEEPU

kyon?

SIRAS

Dekho, main humesha bahar ka aadmi
raha hoon. Urdu bolne walon ke
shehar mein Marathi sikhata hoon.
Shaadi-shuda logon ke beech, campus
mein akela rehta hoon. Iske bavjoot
mujhe Linguistics Department ka
Chairman banaya gaya.

Suddenly, the lights come on in the house. Siras is pleased
with Deepu.

SIRAS

Andar aao..

Deepu follows Siras towards the house.

SIRAS

Pata hain, subah jab inlogo ne
bijli kaati, to maine socha aaj
university clock tower se jump
kardu..

Deepu is shocked. Siras laughs.

SIRAS

Accha hua ruk gaya!

INT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

Siras shuts the curtains so that no one sees the small light that is on. A fan whirrs as Siras goes to finish brewing the tea. He turns on a CD player. An old song plays softly.

SIRAS

January-end mein ek professor ne
mujhe dhamki di thi ki woh mujhe
chairman ke position pe zyada din
tikne nahin dega. Uske ek hafte
baad, yeh ghatna hui.

Siras enters with two cups of tea.

DEEPU

Aap...gay hain, isiliye?

Siras is taken aback.

SIRAS

Main is shabd ka matlab nahin
samajhta.

DEEPU

Aap...nahi hain?

SIRAS

Koi mere feelings ko teen aksharon
mein kaise samajh sakta hain?

Siras turns on his CD player. An old song plays softly.

SIRAS

Yeh ek kavita ke tarah
hain...bhavatmak. Ek teevra
iccha...jo apne kaabu ke bahar hoti
hain. Batao, kin poets ko padha
hain tumne?

DEEPU

Zyada nahi. Frankly, mujhe ye
Tennyson-Vennyson bahut confusing
lagte the. Shabdon ka khel samajh
nahi aata hain...

Siras laughs.

SIRAS

Kavita, shabdon mein kaha hoti
hain? Kavita to shabdon ke beech,
antaral mein chuppi milti hain. Har
koi uska alag arth nikalta hain.

(CONTINUED)

DEEPU

Maine aapki kitaab 'Grass Under My Feet' bahut dhoondi, nahin mili.

SIRAS

Naturally. Poetry kaun khareedta hain aajkal? Tumhari generation poetry nahi samajhti, woh har ek cheez ko label karna chahti hain.

DEEPU

Aapne AU kyon join ki? There doesnt seem to be a demand for Marathi here..

SIRAS

I am most lucky I came Aligar...so I got very much respect here. Maharashtra state mein to saikdo Marathi teachers hain...yahan sirf main hi hoon.

Deepu smiles. A beat.

DEEPU

Professor Siras, Uss raat ke baare mein bataiye...

Siras is silent.

DEEPU

Woh log kaun the? Kya aap unhe pehle se jaante the?

SIRAS

Nahi.

DEEPU

Woh andar kaise ghusse?

SIRAS

Main nahin jaanta.

DEEPU

They broke in?

Siras nods to say no.

DEEPU

Aapne darwaza khula chhoda tha?

SIRAS
Yaad nahin.

DEEPU
Please talk to me sir.

a beat.

SIRAS
Main aur mera friend, wahan andar,
bedroom mein the.

Siras is uncomfortable.

DEEPU
Unloge ne aapke saath kya kiya?

Siras stares at the door.

INT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

The bedroom door bursts open. Adil and Misam enter. Adil has a camera and Misam has a stick. Both are screaming.

ADIL
Bhag mat! Bhag mat!

Siras is in his underwear. Irrfan tries to run, but Misam starts beating him with the stick.

ADIL
Videolene de behenchod, press waale
hain!

INT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

Deepu sees Siras perpiring. Siras stares at the door while talking.

SIRAS
Ek ke haath mein camera tha, doosre
ke haath mein danda. Woh humpar kud
pade. Dande se maar rahe the, khaas
karke mere friend ko. Mujhe kapde
bhi pehene nahi diya...

Siras goes silent.

DEEPU
Phir kya hua?

(CONTINUED)

SIRAS

Main haath jodkar unse rukne ko request kar raha tha, jab darvaza khula, aur mere University ke chaar colleagues, mere bedroom mein ghus aaye.

DEEPU (SHOCKED)

Kya?? Woh yaha kya kar rahe the?

Siras nods to say he doesnt know.

He gets up and pours a glass of water. Deepu looks at him in shock.

INT. STAIRWAY. SIRAS HOUSE 1. NIGHT

Deepu is at the door. He shakes Siras's hand.

DEEPU

Kya aap AU ke khilaaf ladenge?

SIRAS

Meri age 64 years hain. Mujhe ladna nahi hain. I love my University Mr Deepu.

Deepu goes to exit.

SIRAS

Deepu, ek second ruko.

Deepu stops; Siras runs inside and rummages a bookshelf. He returns with a book. He dusts and hands it to Deepu. It is his book 'Grass Under My Feet'.

SIRAS

Meri kitaab. Agar phir kabhi poetry padna ka mann ho to..

Deepu looks at it.

DEEPU

Magar yeh to Marathi mein hain..!

SIRAS (SMILING)

Translate kiya hua version hain kahin. But it is too much badly done. Sochta hoon, kabhi khud translate kardun.

(CONTINUED)

DEEPU

To phir mujhe wahi copy dijiye.

Siras smiles and takes the book back. Deepu leaves.

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

Deepu exits the building, a neighbour eyes him suspiciously. Deepu turns back to see Siras's apartment. He sees a faint hidden light through the drawn curtain.

EXT. DEEPU PG. DELHI. NIGHT

Deepu parks his bike outside the red brick house.

INT. DEEPU PG. DELHI. NIGHT

Deepu enters the dark corridor and opens the door to his bedroom. The motor is on. Deepu is shocked to see that the bedroom is neatly made up. He changes into his shorts and begins writing.

DEEPU

Gay ya straight ka iss kahani se
koi lena dena nahi. Bina
permission, 6 log Professor Siras
ke ghar mein kaise ghusse? Iss
sawal ka jawab jaan-na zaruri
hain...

INT. INDIAN CHRONICLE OFFICE. DELHI. DAY

Busy IC office. Deepu sees the morning edition of the paper in office. His story has the headline 'Policing morality in AU' by Sonali Razdan. He watches as colleagues congratulate Sonali.

IC COLLEAGUE 1

Good story Sonali.

Sonali beams. Deepu grins to himself. Anuj winks at Deepu.

ANUJ

Yeh Sonali ki pehli researched
story hogi.

Deepu laughs. Sonali walks upto Deepu.

(CONTINUED)

SONALI
Lagta hain professor ke saath
connection ban gaya tumhara?

DEEPU
Of course!

SONALI
Hmmm... date pe gaye the?

Another female colleague giggles.

DEEPU
Nahi Sonali. Suspension,
chargesheet aur eviction ke beech,
time hi nahin mila.

SONALI
Line toh maara hoga?

DEEPU
Sab tumhari tarah frustrated nahin
hain.

Sonali plays with her hair.

SONALI
Tumhari girlfriend nahin hain kya?

Deepu realises its pointless talking to her. He returns to
look at the article.

INT. IC OFFICE. DELHI. DAY

Deepu & Tashi watch Siras on the news in the office. Deepu
changes channels to see all covering Siras. They watch in
awe.

NEWS BULLETIN 1

NEWS ANCHOR
Bina permission, 6 log Professor
Siras ke ghar mein kaise ghusse?
Iss sawal ka jawab jaan-na zaruri
hain...

STUDENT 1
Hum isse kabhi accept nahi kar
sakte hain. AU ki apni tehzeeb
hain, apni sakhafat hain...is liye
se unka suspension bilkul sahi
hain.

(CONTINUED)

AU TEACHER

Along with other subjects at AU, we teachers teach moral values, so no teacher should be allowed to devalue our system...

NEWS BULLETIN 2

Students inside AU speak about Siras on camera.

YOUNG MALE STUDENT

Inhone jo kiya hain woh janwar se bhi bhattar hain, aur Jaanwar bhi homosexuality pasand nahi karte.

NEWS BULLETIN 3

A middle aged and affluent psychiatrist speaks from his clinic.

PSYCHIATRIST

Yeh sach nahi hain ke jaanwaron mein homosexuality payi nahi jaati. American Psychiatric Association ke anusar, homosexual behaviour, jaanwaron ke 1500 species mein paayi jaati hain. Kabutar, bandar, girraffe, haathi aur lions tak, 'same-sex' mein indulge karte hain.

INT. SIRAS HOUSE. MEDICAL COLONY. DAY

Siras's house is packed up. An intrusive camera is filming him as he packs the last carton, he is uncomfortable.

REPORTER 1

Sir, ek baar aur karenge please?

Siras doesn't understand. The cameraman goes to the carton, opens it and scatters some of the clothes on the floor. Then resumes filming position.

REPORTER 1

Haan, ab bhariye please.

Siras begins packing the box again.

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE. MEDICAL COLONY. DAY

Siras leaves his home with his personal belongings scattered over two hand carts. An official padlocks the house. Reporters surround Siras.

(CONTINUED)

REPORTER 1

Professor Siras, Kya aap AU ke khilaaf legal action lene wale hain?

REPORTER 2

Kya aap gay hain?

Siras is embarrassed to see his personal belongings being filmed. He refuses to comment and smiles awkwardly. He walks away as the two handcarts follow him.

EXT. CENTRAL GARDEN. CP. DAY

A small protest against Siras's suspension in CP. Deepu is present. He sees a Gay Rights activist making a speech.

GAY ACTIVIST

An outdated British law, Section 377 criminalized sexual activities "against the order of nature". But after a long fight, on 2 July 2009, the High Court of Delhi declared section 377 unconstitutional.

A young good looking boy, holds a petition and walks around getting signatures on it.

GAY ACTIVIST

Professor Siras ka suspension aur charge-sheeting judiciary ke faisle par ek tamacha hain. Aaj hum sabko milkar, is suspension ko challenge karna hain. Kyonki aaj Bharat ke itihaas mein pehli baar, kanoon humaare saath hain!

The boy reaches Deepu.

YOUNG GAY BOY

Please sign this petition in support of Professor Siras.

Deepu reads it and goes to sign it.

YOUNG GAY BOY (FLIRTINGLY)

Tumhe pehle kabhi nahi dekha...?

DEEPU (SMILES)

My first time.

The protestors applaud. Deepu watches as the activist gets down from the podium and gets mobbed by the crowd.

EXT. CENTRAL GARDEN. CP. DAY DELETED

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 2. RESHAM BAGH. ALIGARH. NIGHT

A new apartment in a modest building away from AU. Siras follows **BANSI LAL, 40**, his estate agent up the stairs. They are both carrying bags.

BANSI LAL

Thoda dur hain University se, par
accha hain Hindu society mil gaya
aapko. Shanti purvak log hain
yahan.

INT. SIRAS HOUSE 2. RESHAM BAGH. ALIGARH. NIGHT

Siras looks at the small and stark apartment. Bansii Lal puts a heavy carton down and peeks inside it to see several books.

BANSI LAL

Ah. Reading. Accha hain. Time-pass
hojayga. Humari Mrs raat ko jabtak
Filmfare nahi padti, usse neend
nahi aati.

Siras counts some money and gives it to the agent.

BANSI LAL

Teen hazar aur lagenge.
Registration karni hain.

Siras tentatively searches his jacket pocket and finds some hidden money. He gives it to Bansii.

BANSI LAL

Chalte hain. Society wale theek
hain lekin parde-warde band rakhe
to accha hain.

Bansii Lal leaves. Siras stares at the boxes before him and starts breathing heavily. Suddenly in frustration, he begins cutting open all the boxes, searching desperately for something.

He finally finds a tea-pot and strainer and goes inside the kitchen to make tea. He almost loses his balance, but holds onto the wall for support.

Fade to Black.

INT. STUDY. ISLAM HOUSE. ALIGARH. DAY

Siras enters a beautiful study, with wall to wall books. Anjali Gopalan and **ARVIND NARAYANAN (32)** get up to greet Siras. Tariq Islam introduces them.

ISLAM

Yeh hain Anjali Gopalan, Naz Foundation, Dilli se, aur yeh Arvind Narayanan, Bangalore se vakeel hain. Inlogon ne milkar section 377 ke khilaaf ladai ladi thi...

Siras nods nervously. Arvind shakes Siras's hand.

ANJALI

Please sit down, Mr. Siras.

They all sit down.

ANJALI

Hum aapko batane aaye hain, ki agar aap AU ke khilaaf ladne ko tayyar ho jaaye, to hum aapko tahe dil se support karenge.

NARAYANAN

Aapko shayad pata nahi ki aapka case bahut strong hain, 377 ke ammendment ki wajah se...

SIRAS

Sorry, mujhe is activism mein koi interest nahin hain...

ANJALI (STERNLY)

Sorry Mr Siras, magar aap 377 ko kisi aur ka problem kaise samajh sakte hain? Iska laabh to aapko bhi padta hain na? Phir kyon na shamil ho jaaye, hum sabke saath?

Siras is taken aback. Anjali turns her laptop towards him.

ANJALI

Yeh campaign dekhiye... already teen hazar signatures aaye hain aapke support mein.

NARAYANAN

Aapne vakil Vijay Grover ka naam suna hoga? Jinhone 377 ke

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NARAYANAN (cont'd)
khilaaf....Woh aapko represent
karna chahte hain.

Siras thinks, he looks at the signature campaign and is
overwhelmed.

SIRAS
Kya karna hoga?

NARAYANAN
Humme likhna hoga ki aap gay hain.
Are you ok with that?

Siras is uncomfortable.

SIRAS
Kya yeh zaroori hain?

Anjali nods. Siras contemplates.

INT. POLICE STATION. ALIGARH. NIGHT

A lazy police station. Siras & Arvind are sitting on a
bench. A constable walks upto them.

CONSTABLE
Aaeye.

They both get up to go.

CONSTABLE
FIR kisko file karni hain?

NARAYANAN
Inko.

CONSTABLE
To phir aap baithe rahiye.

He motions Siras to follow him. Siras nervously walks in.

Siras is directed to Sub-Inspector **FUWAD**, 35.

SIRAS
FIR file karni hai..

FUWAD
Kiske khilaaf?

SIRAS
NEWS100 ke do reporter's aur AU ke
PRO, Proctor aur Deputy Proctor ke
khilaaf...

Fuwad is taken aback.

FUWAD
Kyun?

SIRAS
Mere ghar me bina permission ghusne
ke liye, aur mujhe harass karne ke
liye.

Siras hands him his typewritten statement. Fuwad reads it.
He doesn't know what to make of it.

FUWAD
Rukiye ek minute..

Fuwad gets up and goes inside. Siras waits. Fuwad returns.

FUWAD
SSP saab nahi hain na aaj. Aur unki
gair-maujudgi mein nahi file
karsakte.

SIRAS
Magar...

FUWAD
Bade naam hain FIR mein, hum chote
officer nahi file kar sakte.

INT. STUDY. ISLAM HOUSE. ALIGARH. NIGHT DELETED SCENE

INT. POLICE STATION. ALIGARH. DAY DELETED SCENE

EXT. POLICE QUARTERS LANE. ALIGARH. DAY

Siras along with Narayanan are outside the SSP's house. It
is already evening. The SSP's staff is busy preparing for a
Holi celebration party.

SSP PA
Nahi milenge aaj. Function mein
busy hain.

(CONTINUED)

NARAYANAN

Please milwa dijiye, do minute ka kaam hain.

SSP PA

Arre, dekh nahi rahe hain. Bade log aa rahe hain. Aap jaiye yaha se.

Just then a car drives up and two guests alight. The SSP, a tall man wearing a kurta pyjama & a colorful stole comes out to greet the guests.

GUEST

Kaise hai SSP sahib?

SSP

Aap ki kripa hain maalik. Aaiye.

Narayanan urges Siras to sieze the opportunity. Siras rushes to him with the letter.

SIRAS

Sir, thane mein humara FIR darj nahin kar rahe hain, keh rahe hain aap hi isse accept kar sakte hain.

SSP PA

Arre? Jaiye aap. Parson thane me miliye.

NARAYANAN

Jaa rahe hain, bas sir isko padh le.

The guest notices Siras's desperation. The PA snatches the paper and hands it to the SSP. His guest goes inside.

SSP

Yeh to file nahi kar payenge bhaiya.

NARAYANAN

Kyun?

SSP

Bade hastiyon ka naam liya hain. Aligarh mein inka bahut sammaan karte hain. Pehle humko yeh matter investigate karna hoga na

NARAYANAN

But it is his constitutional right.

The SSP laughs.

(CONTINUED)

SSP

Kal ko tum aakar kahoge ke District
Magistrate ke naam FIR file kar de,
to kar sakte hain kya??

The SSP goes inside. The PA and some guards push Siras and Narayanan out. Some media people rush towards Siras. He tries to avoid them.

REPORTER 1

Us rikshawwalle ke saath aapka kya
sambandh tha?

Siras avoids him and tries to get into Arvinds car.

REPORTER 2

Kya aap accept karte hain, ki us
video mein aap hain?

REPORTER 3

Professor Siras, kya aap gay hain?

Siras looks at Arvind, who nods at him.

SIRAS

Haan. I am a gay. But main ek
senior professor bhi hoon. Aur AU
ke Liguistics Department ka
Chairman bhi.

INT. IC OFFICE. DELHI. DAY

Deepu is on his desk. Nameeta shouts to him.

NAMEETA

Deepu, come here quickly!

Deepu rushes to Nameeta's desk. She is watching Siras on the news.

SIRAS

Haan. I am a gay. But main ek
senior professor bhi hoon. Aur AMU
ke Liguistics Department ka
Chairman bhi.

Deepu watches in disbelief.

REPORTER 1

Kya aap university ke khilaaf
action lene wale hain?

Siras pauses and then speaks.

(CONTINUED)

SIRAS

I love my University, Par shahyad
un logon ne mujhse love karna chhod
diya hain..

Narayanan ushers Siras into the car.

NARAYANAN

My client is exploring his legal
options...

Arvind and Siras get into the car and it drives off.
Deepu claps his hands in excitement. Nameeta smiles.

NAMEETA

Itna uchlon mat! Yeh to sirf ladai
hain. Yudh abhi baaki hain.

INT. DEEPU PG. DELHI. NIGHT

Deepu opens a beer and sits in the balcony. He is pleased
with himself.

Deepu sleeps through the whirring motor in his messy room.

EXT. ALLAHABAD HC. ALLAHABAD. DAY

A long majestic corridor, where Siras is accompanied by his
lawyers **VIJAY GROVER, 50** and Arvind Narayanan. They walk
towards the courtroom. Grover is a well-dressed man who is
from Delhi's high society. He speaks in a slightly
anglicized manner and is courteous towards Siras.

GROVER

The problem with 377 was that
nobody could speak up. If you said
you were gay then you were directly
seen as a criminal. Tragically, If
you were wronged as a gay man, you
couldn't even use the justice
system to fight back.

Siras nods but doesn't full understand. He is in awe of
Grover's personality.

GROVER

I applaud your courage. Janta hu ke
yahaan aana aasan nahi raha hoga.

(CONTINUED)

SIRAS

No. No. You are courageous one.
Apne jaison ke liye lad jo rahe
hain!

Grover is unsure about what Siras said. Narayan whispers to Siras.

NARAYAN

I don't think he is gay.

SIRAS

He is not a gay?

NARAYAN

No.

Siras thinks.

NARAYAN

Aur 'he is a gay' nahi bolte.

SIRAS

Matlab??

NARAYAN

Sirf 'he is gay' kehte hain!

SIRAS (CONFUSED)

He is??

Narayan shakes his head in frustration. They enter the courtroom.

INT. COURTROOM. ALLAHABAD HC. DAY

A moderately crowded courtroom. Siras sits alone. Grover and Narayan prepare their notes as **Smt. NITA GREWAL, 45**, AU's lawyer chats with AU PRO Shadab Qureshi.

INT. COURTROOM. ALLAHABAD HC. DAY

Siras is making notes in his book even as the case is being argued. Nita's witness, PRO Shadab Qureshi is in the box.

QURESHI

Proctor aur mein paas ke guesthouse
mein dinner kar rahe the. Khabar
mili ki Medical Colony mein koi
shooting ho rahi thi. PRO hone ke
naate mera farz banta hain ki

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

QURESHI (cont'd)

campus mein shooting ho, to main maujud rahu! Maine Dy. Proctor--Dr. Majid aur Media Advisor--Prof. Murtuza ko phone karke Medical Colony bulaya tha.

NITA GREWAL

Jab wahe pahuche to aapne kya dekha?

QURESHI

Dekha ke Siras aur uska partner, bistar mein baithe the. Siras apne chaddi-banyan mein tha, aur un reporters se muafi maang raha tha. Maine foran videotape dekhni ki maang ki. Aur maine jo dekha woh nihayati ashleel aur sharmanaak thi!

NITA GREWAL

Kya dekha aapne?

QURESHI

It was embarrassing. He had been engaged in an immoral act with the rikshawalla.

NITA GREWAL

It was sexual in nature?

QURESHI

Yes.

NITA GREWAL

Kya inka vyavhaar AU ke code of conduct ke anusar sahi tha?

QURESHI

Bilkul nahi. It was a case of moral turpitude. Homosexuality ko practice karna aur woh bhi university premises ke andar, haraam mana jaata hain. Unka suspension AU ke rules ke anusar kiya gaya.

Vijay Grover cross-examines Qureshi.

(CONTINUED)

GROVER

Mr Qureshi, Aap aur proctor us raat, paas-wale guesthouse mein kya kar rahe the?

QURESHI

Maine bataya, hum dinner kar rahe the.

GROVER

Aapko done akele the? Aapke patniya kaha thi?

QURESHI

Kya matlab?

GROVER

Kya unko pata tha ki aap dono guest house mein akele the?

NITA GREWAL

Objection!

GROVER

Do log, akele, ek sunsaan gueshouse mein. Kuch bhi ho sakta hain. Savdhaan rahiyega, hidden camera's kuch bhi record kar sakti hain.

There is laughter in court. Qureshi looks upset.

NITA GREWAL

Objection!

JUDGE

Sustained.

GROVER

Aapko kisne bataya ke 21, Medical Colony mein filming ho rahi hain??

QURESHI

It was an anonymous phone call.

GROVER

Convenient. Kya un reporters ko permission mili thi, shooting ke liye?

QURESHI

Nahi.

(CONTINUED)

GROVER

To jab aapne unlogo ko bina permission shoot karte dekha, aapne kya action liya? Kya aapne Police bulayi?

QURESHI

Nahi. Jab pahucha to dekha ki Siras reporters se muafi maang raha tha. Woh bhi to police ko bula sakta tha, magar usne nahi bulaya. Usko dekh kar koi shaque nahi tha ki he was guilty.

GROVER

Aapko nahi laga ki reporters ke aakramak vyavhaar se woh bhay-bheet ho gaye the?

QURESHI (SARCASTIC)

Isliye to maine video dekhne ki maang ki. Usme to nahi lage the bhay-bheet.

There is laughter in court.

GROVER

Aapne reporters ko allag kamre mein bulakar privately baat kyon ki?

QURESHI

Maine unse personally request kiya ke woh uss tape ko air na kare. Main nahi chahta tha ke university ka reputation kharaab ho.

Grover picks up some papers from the desk and waves them one by one to Qureshi.

GROVER

Times, Express, Herald...Is ghatna ke do din baad se hi aapne har newspaper ko interview dena shuru kar diya. Tab aapko AU ke reputation ki chinta nahi hui?

NITA GREWAL

Objection. Yeh University ke PRO hain, inka kaam hain press se baat karna.

(CONTINUED)

QURESHI

Story leak ho chuki. Woh humare control ke bahar ho chuka tha.

GROVER

Kya yeh sach hain ke Adil, un do reporters mein se ek, AU ka ex student hain?

QURESHI

Yeh mujhe uss waqt nahi pata tha.

NITA GREWAL

Objection. Isse kya saabit hota hain? Itni badi universities ke saikdo ex students hain.

JUDGE

Carry on Mr Grover.

GROVER

Woh guest house, jaha aap dinner kar rahe the, Mr Siras ke ghar se kitne door tha?

QURESHI

Sau, do sau metre.

GROVER

Chalo isse recap karte hain. Concidence se, aapko ek phone call aaya filming ke baare mein. Conventiently, aap 100 metre ke doori par dinner kar rahe the. Surprisingly, woh reporters AU ke ex students nikle? All this is not absurd?

NITA GREWAL

I object.

GROVER

Main yeh kehna chahta hoon ki woh chaar faculty members jo zabardasti mere client ke ghar mein ghusse, ek saazish mein shaamil the. Inhone un do reporters ke saath mere client ko pareshan karne ur discredit karne ka plan banaya tha.

NITA GREWAL

I object. Kyon court mein Mr Siras ki begunahi ka bhaashan sunaya jaa

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NITA GREWAL (cont'd)
 raha hain, jab inhone khud apna
 apraadh admit kiya hain?

Grover looks quizzically at Nita.

NITA GREWAL
 Yeh hain woh letter, jo Mr Siras ne
 AU ke VC Abdurahman ko ghatna ke ek
 din baad likhi. Isme inhone saaf
 kaha hain ke yeh apne harqat se
 sharminda hain.

An assistant takes the letter to the judge. A puzzled Grover
 looks at Siras. A copy reaches him. The judge & Grover read.

JUDGE
 Prosecution and defense, please
 approach the bench!

Nita & Grover approach the judge.

JUDGE
 Kya aapke clients 'out-of-court'
 settlement ke liye razi honge?

NITA GREWAL
 Unse baat karni padegi, your honor.

JUDGE
 What about you Mr. Grover?

GROVER
 Ji nahi, your honor. We will fight!

The judge looks at his papers.

JUDGE
 The court is adjourned till
 February 28th.

Siras is trying to hear what is being said on the bench.

EXT. ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT. DAY

Siras follows Grover and Narayanan out of the building. The
 old man is trying to keep pace with the dynamic Grover.

SIRAS
 Yaha paas mein canteen hain. Aaplog
 dinner ke liye join karenge?

(CONTINUED)

GROVER

No. I have a flight. Woh letter tumne kyon likhi?

SIRAS

Sridharan ke kehne pe. Usne bahut koshish ki VC se pardon ki baat karne ki.

GROVER

Kya woh aapke friend hain?

SIRAS

Ji haan.

GROVER

Phir apne friend se baat kijiye. Unhe court me depose karne ko kahiye. This letter doesnt look good..

SIRAS

Main try karta hoon.

GROVER

Arvind, When are you preparing Siras for the cross examination?

NARAYANAN

Today sir? Kya aaj shaam ek choti meeting kar sakte hain? Saat baje.

SIRAS (UNSETTLED)

Saat baje?

NARAYANAN

Koi problem hai?

SIRAS

Saat baje, Guru Dutt ki 'Pyasa' book ki hain cable par...I am a very much fan!

Arvind and Grover exchanged an amused glance.

NARAYANAN

Can we do 9:30?

Siras agrees, smiling. Grover and Arvind get in Grover's swanky car and they drive off. Siras watches the car disappear.

INT. HOTEL SAMRAT. ALLAHABAD. NIGHT

An old movie plays on the TV. Siras sits on his desk, carefully writing something in his book. A plate of food is kept covered on the table. Siras stops writing and stares at the telephone. He makes a phonecall. (He speaks in MARATHI)

SIRAS

Raghu kasaa aahes tu? (Raghu, How are you?)

RAGHU

Mi baraa aahe kaka. Tumhi tv var disalaat. (I am fine uncle. I saw you on TV)

SIRAS

Aai aani Sulbha kashaa aahet? (Your mother & Sulbha are fine?)

RAGHU

Ho. Sagale chhaan aahet. Tumhi Nagpurla kadhi yetaay? (Yes. Everyone is well. When are you coming to Nagpur?)

SIRAS

Thoda rikamaa jhaalo ki yein. (As soon as I get free)

RAGHU

Tumchya naavache summons aalet don divasaanpurvi. (A summons in your name arrived 2 days ago)

Siras is silent.

RAGHU

Property chi case azun chaalu aahe na...? (The property case is still on..?)

SIRAS

Mi yein, mi yein. Tu lagna kadhi kartoyas te saang... (I will come, I will come. Tell me, when are you getting married?)

A beat.

(CONTINUED)

RAGHU

*Mee zaato Kaka...Daddy ghari aale.
Bye. (I have to go now
uncle...Daddy is back home. Bye.)*

Siras sits alone in his room.

INT. IC OFFICE. DELHI. NIGHT

Deepu sits feet up at his desk, scrolling the news-wire, listening to music on his headphones. Sonali taps him continuously till he takes off the headphones.

SONALI

Kab se tumhe bula rahi hoon!

DEEPU

Kya hain?

SONALI

Anything on *My Name Is Khan*?

DEEPU

Main apna shift kar chuka hoon. I'm off duty.

He puts his headphones back. Sonali pulls them off.

SONALI

As long as you're on this desk, you're on duty. Now give me something on *My Name Is Khan*!

Deepu reluctantly scans the 'wire' and reads...

DEEPU

SRK Sena ke saath mandvali kar raha hain, twitter pe. He says he regrets the IPL tweets..

SONALI

Good. Bhejo mujhe...

DEEPU

Of course. Isse Bharat ka bhavishya zarur badlega.

Sonali exits. Deepu hits send. He looks bored. He picks up the phone.

(CONTINUED)

DEEPU

Tashi, woh jo tune Aligarh mein
photos liye the, woh bhej na...

Deepu looks at his inbox. A mail from Tashi pops up saying 'Aligarh'. He opens the pictures and sifts through various pictures of the campus and the CCTV. He sees the images of Siras's house and sees an angry Siras.

He then sees pictures of the door and the locks. He looks carefully at the three locks on the door and enlarges the image.

DEEPU

Yeh log andar kaise ghusse?

A beat. Deepu calls a number.

DEEPU

Utkarsh, mein Indian Chronicle se
Deepu bol raha hoon.

A beat.

DEEPU

Yaar, woh video mil sakta hain?
Siras aur rikshewalle ka?

Sonali looks at Deepu and widens her eyes. Deepu stares at images of Siras's door.

EXT. DEEPU PG. DELHI. NIGHT

Deepu rides his bike and parks it outside the red brick building.

INT. DEEPU PG. DELHI. NIGHT

Deepu enters the corridor and goes to his room. He sees several pairs of slippers outside his door. He is puzzled. There are noises coming from inside.

He opens the door to see 4 kids sitting on his bed taking tuitions from a man. The teacher gives Deepu a dirty look.

Deepu shuts the door and marches into the living room. An old woman, **Aunty**, 81, is fast asleep on the chair. Maggy is watching TV.

(CONTINUED)

DEEPU
Iska matlab kya hain?

Maggy is surprised to see him.

MAGGY
Tum jaldi aa gaye?

DEEPU
Meri aaj se shift change hain...

MAGGY
Woh aunty ki poti hain, aur uske friends. Woh abse yaha tuitions lene wali hain...

DEEPU
Mere kamre mein?

MAGGY
Problem kya hain? Tum ek dedh ghanta late aa jana.

DEEPU
But wahan meri personal cheeze hain?

MAGGY
Koi nahi chuega aapki personal cheez.

Deepu is unconvinced.

MAGGY
Dekho, agar private space chahiye, to khud ka makaan rent karlo. PG mein to adjust karna padega.

Deepu looks at her in shock, then marches out. He enters his room awkwardly amidst curious kids, takes his laptop, shuts the door and locks it.

INTERMISSION

EXT. SRIDHARAN HOUSE. ALIGARH. NIGHT

We see a long winding road that leads to a corner house in a small neighbourhood. Siras walks with a bag in hand. He rings the door bell. Sridharan opens the door and is shocked to see Siras.

(CONTINUED)

SRIDHARAN
Yahan kyun aaye ho?

SIRAS
Kya mein andar aa sakta hoon?

Sridharan looks around and quickly ushers him in.

INT. SRIDHARAN HOUSE. ALIGARH. NIGHT

They both sit in a waiting area. In the background, we see Sridharan's wife and daughter watching them from the dinner table. Sridharan looks very hassled.

SRIDHARAN
Dekho Siras, aajtak meri family se
koi police station ya courtroom
nahi gaya! Humara naam keechad mein
mat uchalo please.

SIRAS
Mujhe bhi bura lag raha hain
Sridharan. Par woh us letter ko
mere against use kar rahe hain.

SRIDHARAN
To tumhe court jaane ki kya zarurat
thi?? Maine kaha tha na ek-do
mahine mein mamla apne aap thanda
ho jayega?

SIRAS
Aur koi chara nahi reh gaya tha...

SRIDHARAN
Ab yeh ek public tamasha ban chuka
hain Siras. Sorry, par tumhe isse
akele bhukatna hoga.

Sridharan's wife comes in. Siras smiles at her, she doesn't acknowledge him.

MRS. SRIDHARAN
Khaana thanda ho raha hain.

Siras is embarrassed. He gets up to go.

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 2. RESHAM BAGH. ALIGARH. NIGHT

Siras walks towards his home with two bags in his hand. At the gate, he is stopped by the guard.

RESHAM BAGH GUARD
Aap andar nahi jaa sakte?

SIRAS
Kyon bhai? Yeh mera ghar hain?

RESHAM BAGH GUARD
Aapko manahi hain. Makaan-malik se baat kijiye.

EXT. LANDLORD HOUSE. RESHAM BAGH. ALIGARH NIGHT

Siras stands outside the landlord's house.

LANDLORD RESHAM BAGH
Aapko ghar khali karna padega. Abhi ke abhi.

SIRAS
Kyun?

LANDLORD RESHAM BAGH
Yahan bachelor log allowed nahi hain. Aapke agent ne jhoot kaha tha ki aap shaadi-shuda hain.

SIRAS
Magar mein shaadi-shuda hoon. Bas hum saath nahi rehte...

LANDLORD RESHAM BAGH
Yaha sirf families ko rehne ki anumati hain. Aap kal aake samaan le jaiye.

The guard comes to pull Siras away. The landlord locks the door. Siras loses it.

SIRAS
Tujha aaila! Bhenchod, kya samajhte hain tum log? Kahi tari raada nahi kele tadhipar maala traas dete! Mein deposit dele hote...! Registration ka paisa kyon liya??

The guard forcibly escorts a livid Siras out.

INT. COURTROOM. ALLAHABAD HC. ALLAHABAD DAY

NITA GREWAL

Mr Siras ne shadi-shuda hone ka natak karke, apne padision ke aankhon mein dhool jhonka hain. Aur jab unhe pata chala ki raat-raat ko gair mard unke yaha aa rahe hain, to naturally unhone complaint ki. Aisi anaitik activities ka prabhav unke bacho par kyon pade?

Grover is amused.

GROVER

First of all I cant understand ki yeh log Mr Siras ke ghar mein kyon jhank rahe the?? Aur anaitik activities?? Kiski 'morality' ki baat ho rahi hain yaha? Har ek vyakti 'naitikta' ka alag arth nikalta hain. Joh shakhahari hain, woh maas khane wale ko anaitik samajhta hain. Shaadi-shuda log, divorce lene waloh ko anaitik samajh sakte hain. Naitikta ki seema kya hain?? Aise to saare desh ko 'immoral conduct' ke jurm mein jail ke andar hona chahiye!

NITA GREWAL

Hum yaha kisi ek vyakti ke morality ki baat nahi kar rahe hain Mr Grover. Yaha ek 135 saal purani sanstha ke samuhik naitikta ki baat ho rahi hain!

Grover gestures to Narayanan. Narayanan hands him a report.

GROVER

There is no such thing as collective morality, Nitaji. I would like the honorable judge to refer to Delhi High Court's historical July 2009 judgment legalizing homosexuality.

Grover submits a report to the bench; the judge just looks at it.

(CONTINUED)

GROVER

Us ladai mein bhi vipaksh ka pramukh mudda tha... 'morality'! Humne argue kiya tha ke 'naitikta' ki samvaidhanik seema hona bahut zaruri hain. It must have constitutional limitations! Agar isse aspsth choda gaya, to log apne neeji fayde ke liye iska durupyog kar sakte hain.

Nita Grewal is grinning.

NITA GREWAL

Kshama chahti hoon Mr Grover, Aap shayad jante nahi ki Section 377 ke jis amendment ki aap baat kar rahe hain, woh Delhi High Court ka order hain. Yaha Allahabad High Court mein aisi koi tabdeeli nahi hui, aur iss court mein homosexuality abhi bhi gunah mana jata hain!

Grover laughs.

GROVER

Nitaji, Bharatiya samvidhan sab ke liye samanya hain. Desh ke kisi bhi High Court ka order, India ke har ek state mein applicable hain... jab tak ki us state ke high court mein usse challenge aur overrule na kiya jaata. Therefore, the Delhi High Court order, legalizing homosexuality, holds in this court too!

Nita converses with her assistant. The judge takes note.

EXT. BUILDING EXTERIORS. DURGAWADI. ALIGARH. NIGHT

Siras & Bansi Lal enter the dingy Durgawadi area.

BANSI LAL

Thoda messy area hain. Magar yaha sab suvidha hain. Paas mein stainless steel ki badi factory bhi hain. Best taale milenge wholesale mein.

INT. SIRAS HOUSE 3. DURGAWADI. NIGHT

A messy apartment with peeling walls. Siras's half packed boxes lie strewn around.

BANSI LAL
Makaan maalik bahar-gao rehte hain.
Yaha problem nahi honi chahiye.

Siras nods.

BANSI LAL
Bas...guest-log mat laiye.

Siras nods.

BANSI LAL
Registration ke paise?

Siras reaches into his jacket pocket.

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 3. DURGAWADI. ALIGARH. DAY

Early morning. Siras carries a small bag and leaves the still area. He appears underslept.

INT. BUS. HIGHWAY. DAY

Siras sleeps in a crowded bus.

INT. IC OFFICE. DELHI. DAY

Morning. Deepu wakes up. He is sleeping on two chairs in the office. He washes his face, uses deodrant and gets to his desk just as other employees trickle in.

ANUJ
Early today?

Deepu nods and looks at his email. There is an email from Utkarsh@PPTI. He opens it to see a file marked Siras video. He quickly makes a call.

DEEPU
Tashi, Mereko conference room mein mil.

INT. CONF ROOM. IC. DAY

Deepu and Tashi fire the laptop and watch a dark, soundless video clip. A camera is filming an empty living room. We see two cups of tea. Some slippers. The camera moves towards the bedroom.

SIRAS VO

Main ek friend ke saath tha. Uska khud ka cycle-rikshaw hain. Hum hall mein chai pee rahe the...

INT. COURTROOM. ALLAHABAD HC. ALLAHABAD. DAY

Siras sits the witness box. He speaks softly and slowly.

NITA GREWAL

Sirf chai pee rahe the?

SIRAS

Jee. Kuch der baad, hum bedroom mein chale gaye...picture dekhne.

NITA GREWAL

Aapne kapde pehne hue the?

SIRAS

Garmi thi...to shirt-pant utarkar baithe the.

NITA GREWAL

Acha, garmi ke wajah se. Phira kya hua?

SIRAS

Mujhe nahi pata tha, ki teen log mere flat mein already ghus chuke the.

INT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

The door busts open. Adil and Misam enter the bedroom. Adil has a camera and Misam has a stick. Both are screaming.

ADIL

Bhag mat! Bhag mat!

Siras is in his underwear. Irrfan tries to run, but Misam starts beating him with the stick.

(CONTINUED)

ADIL
 Videolene de behenchod, press waale
 hain!

INT. COURTROOM. ALLAHABAD HC. DAY

Siras is very uncomfortable. He looks to Grover for support.
 Grover gives him an assuring look.

SIRAS
 Un logon ne apne aap ko NEWS100
 channel se bataya. Woh humpar kud
 pade. Dande se maar rahe the, khaas
 karke Irrf...mere friend ko. Mujhe
 kapde bhi pehene nahi diya...

INT. CONF ROOM. IC. DAY

Deepu watches incongruent shots of Siras in his underclothes
 scrambling for cover as another unclothed man tries to
 escape the room.

INT. COURTROOM. ALLAHABAD HC. ALLAHABAD DAY

SIRAS
 Jab maine poocha ki woh aisa kyon
 kar rahe hain, toh ek ne kaha
 'complaint aayi hain. Family
 society mein aise kaand karte ho!
 Kal TV par dikhayenge.'
 Phir zabardasti humme ajeeb
 positions mein khada karwakar,
 humari photos nikali.

INT. IC OFFICE. DELHI. DAY

Deepu & Tashi watch the video. we see cuts of Siras & the
 rikshawpuller in lewd positions. Deepu is disgusted.

He rewinds it and plays it back slowly to see a clear frame
 of the rikshaw-puller. He pauses and blows it up. Deepu
 stares at a lean face with facial hair.

INT. COURTROOM. ALLAHABAD HC. DAY

The courtroom is in silence.

SIRAS

Main haath jodkar inse rukne ko request kar raha tha, jab darvaza khula, aur mere University ke chaar colleagues, mere bedroom mein ghus aaye.

GROVER

Kya aap court ko unke naam bata sakte hain?

SIRAS

Ji. Proctor--Dr. Zuber Khan, Dy. Proctor--Dr. Feroz Majid, University PRO, Dr. Shadab Qureshi aur Media Advisor--Prof. A.K. Murtuza.

We see the people that Siras names, sitting in court.

SIRAS

Unko mere kamre me dekh, main chauk gaya. Maine kisiko na phone kiya tha, na hi maine kisise madat mangi thi. Yeh chhar log mujhe ghurte reh gaye, kisini mere kapde bhi nahi lautaye. Phir mere colleagues ne media-walon ko alag kamre mein bulaya. Waha unke beech kuch baat hui aur media-waale chale gaye. Maine Shadab Qureshi se vinnati ki ke woh is mamle ko na badhaye. Unhone ashwasan diya ke woh tape, jo ab unke paas thi, kabhi public tak nahin pahuchegi. Unhone yeh bhi kaha, ke uss raat ke baare mein woh kisi ko nahi batayenge. Agli subah, har local newspaper mein yeh kahani chhap gayi, mere photo ke saath. Aur mujhe suspend kiya gaya.

INT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

Siras sits on the edge of his bed. He is alone and almost naked in the house. He stares at the door.

INT. COURTROOM. ALLAHABAD HC. DAY

Siras stares at his colleagues, he is looking angry and let down.

EXT. HIGHWAY. DAY

Deepu rides his bike on the highway. The sun is setting.

INT. COURTROOM. ALLAHABAD HC. ALLAHABAD. DAY

Nita Grewal approaches Siras.

NITA GREWAL
Rikshawalla aapke kya lagte the?

SIRAS
Mera friend tha.

NITA GREWAL
Aapke friend ke saath aapka kya
rishta tha, zara court ko
batayenge?

GROVER
Objection. Iska is case se koi
taluk nahin...

NITA GREWAL
It has everything to do with our
case your honor. Ek family area
mein, aap der raat ko kis tarah ke
logon ko ghar invite kar rahe hain?
Yeh jaan-na zaruri hain.

JUDGE
Over-ruled.

NITA GREWAL
Aap jaise senior professor aur ek
kum-jaati ke Muslim ladke ke beech,
kaisi dosti ho sakti hain?

SIRAS
Hum music sunte the, kabhi picture
dekhte the ...

NITA GREWAL
Kya aap rikshawalle ko sex karne ke
liye paise bhi dete the...

(CONTINUED)

GROVER
Objection!

JUDGE
Over-ruled!

Siras doesn't answer, he is getting agitated.

NITA GREWAL
Aapki umar kya hogi? 63-64?

Siras reaches for a glass of water, his hands are shaking.

NITA GREWAL
Is umar mein aap yaun-sambandh
kaise rakh paate hain?

SIRAS
Mujhe aur baat nahi karni!

NITA GREWAL
Kaise nahi karni Siras saab, aapne
itne bade institution par ilzaam
lagaye hain. Kuch sawalon ka jawab
to dena padega aapko!

Accha, yeh bataiye...mard kaun tha
aur female kaun? Aap top hain, ya
bottom?

SIRAS
Ae! Jaasti bolu naka. Tujha aai la,
aise baat karte hain senior teacher
se? Woh log sahi the kya, jo video
nikalne aaye! Madarchod log, mere
bedroom mein kaise ghusse woh...

JUDGE
Mr. Siras!! Please!

Nita seems to be enjoying his outburst. Grover is concerned.
Siras is red in the face and perspiring. Arvind runs towards
Siras to calm him down.

GROVER
Meri client ki tabiyat kaharab
hogayi hain your honor. Inhe high
BP ka problem hain...

JUDGE
I don't care. Aage se aisi bhasha
nahi chalegi mere courtroom mein!

Nita watches as Siras is being helped off the box by Arvind.

(CONTINUED)

SUNITA AGRAWAL

Jis bhasha ka Mr Siras ne prayog
kiya hain, aur jis kisam ke logon
ko yeh ghar le aate hain, usse saaf
zahir hota hain ki Mr Siras ek
family area mein rehne ke योग्या
nahi hain. That's all your honor!

Nita sits down vindicated.

INT. COURTROOM. ALLAHABAD HC. DAY DELETED

DELETED.

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 1. MEDICAL COLONY. NIGHT

Deepu enters the colony. He is surprised to not see a single
media person outside. Even the guard is fast asleep.

He reaches the corridor and looks at Siras's door. Examines
the three locks. Tries to open them. They are strong.

He looks into the window and reconstructs the night. We see
clips of the sex-video intercut into the reconstruction.

EXT. HOTEL SAMRAT. ALLAHABAD. NIGHT

An OB van is parked outside the hotel.

INT. HOTEL SAMRAT. ALLAHABAD. NIGHT

Siras anxiously watches the crew sets up a camera and a
light. They comb Siras's hair, and dry off the sweat. Siras
sits on a chair before the camera.

CREW MEMBER 1

Directly camera mein dekhiye.
Studio ka feed neeche wale monitor
pe dikhegi.

Siras looks at the camera-light and feels unsettled.

EXT. NAUSHAD MARKET. ALIGARH. NIGHT

Deepu reaches the town market. A line of parked rickshaws.
Some men are sleeping in their rickshaws, some wide-awake.
In a corner, 2-3 rickshaw-pullers are smoking as they lie
next to each other. Deepu walks up to them. He talks to two
guys.

(CONTINUED)

DEEPU

Ek rikshawalle ko dhoond raha hoon.
Umr hogi kuch pachees-chabees saal.
Patla sa hain, daadi baniye hui
hain.

One of the guys says dryly.

RICKSHAWALA 1

Saab, main pachees saal ka hoon.
Kahi mereko to nahi dhoond rahe
hain?

The guy next to him breaks into laughter.

RICKSHAWALA 1

Aage puchiya sahib.

Deepu looks at the other pullers lying on their vehicles. One of the guys RICKSHAWALA 2 has been watching him all along. Deepu approaches him.

DEEPU

Lamba sa hain, daadi hain uski,
medical colony main aksar jaata
hain...

RICKSHAWALA 2

Lambe baal hain?

DEEPU

Haan. Jaante ho usko??

RICKSHAWALA 2

Baithiye sahib. Aligarh ghumate
hain.

INT. TV NEWS STUDIO. DELHI. NIGHT

A news bumper graphic. A dramatic Voice Over:

NEWS VO 'To dissect, to debate and to expose, this is the Big Lady of Indian news. PB. Pratibha. This is India Fights Back.'

We see **PB. Pratibha**; a small-built, sari clad woman with a 'big' hair-do, sitting at a massive news-desk. She finishes looking at some papers and lowers her reading glasses.

PB PRATIBHA

A man harangued for his sexual preferences; an institution people are calling the 'Academic Taliban';

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PB PRATIBHA (cont'd)
 a country repeatedly besieged by
 'Big Brothering'. 'Is AU
 homophobic?'
 Professor Siras, kya apko isiliye
 sataya jaa rahan hain, kyonki aap
 gay hain??

INT. HOTEL SAMRAT. ALLAHABAD. NIGHT

Siras is taken aback. He finds it hard to concentrate with
 the red light of the camera glaring at him.

SIRAS
 Main bahut disturbed hoon ki 22
 years service ke baad, mere
 university ne aisa kadam uthaya
 hain. I am very much upset that
 they barged into my house
 without...

INT. MEDIA NEWSROOM STUDIO. NEW DELHI. NIGHT

Pratibha cuts him short.

PB PRATIBHA
 Mr Shakeel Mushtaq, of the AU
 students Union. Kya AU ko malum
 nahin ke gay sex ko Delhi High
 Court ne pichle saal decriminalize
 kiya tha?

Shakeel has an impeccable hairstyle and wears a black
 sherwani.

SHAKEEL
 Madam, High Court ne inhe azadi di
 hogi India mein is tarah rehne ki,
 lekin AU ke courts ne aisi choot
 nahin di hain.

PB PRATIBHA
 Aap kya kehna chahte hain, AU ke
 'courts', India ke High Courts se
 oonche hain???

INT. ALIGARH. RIKSHAW. NIGHT

Deepu rides watching the rikshawpuller. He seems cocky and doesn't talk straight to the point.

RICKSHAWALA 2
Aligarh ko raat mein hi dekhna
chahiye. Din ke bheed mein maza
nahi aata.

DEEPU
Kya jaante ho uske bare mein?

RICKSHAWALA 2
Usme kya rakha hain sahib? Hum
chalte hain na? Maalish waalish
karaenge..?

Deepu takes out some money and shows it to him.

DEEPU
Uska naam kya hain?

The rikshawala realizes Deepu means business.

RICKSHAWALA 2
Irrfan.

DEEPU
Kahan rehta hai?

RICKSHAWALA 2
Jamalpur. Aligarh ke bahar padta
hain...

DEEPU
Chalo wahan..

RICKSHAWALA 2
Raat ko danger jagah hain saab..kal
subah jaana...

DEEPU
Abhi chalne ka kitna loge?

RICKSHAWALA 2
500 rupya lagege saab

DEEPU (COUNTING MONEY)
300 dunga.

INT. MEDIA NEWSROOM STUDIO. NEW DELHI. NIGHT

Shakeel shouts while Saleem Kidwai watches amused.

SHAKEEL

Madam baat yahan 'courts' ki nahi hain, baat hain ek azeem rivayat ki. Ustaad aur shagird ke paak rishte ki. Agar teachers hi aisi 'immoral' activities ki rah-numai karenge, to students par kya asar padega??

SALEEM KIDWAI, 60, laughs.

PB PRATIBHA

Mr Saleem Kidwai, historian and author of 'Same-Sex Love in India', please respond to this insolent man.

KIDWAI

Agar is naujawan ne tareekh padi hoti, to ihe pata hota ki homosexuality par AU ke views, sau saal pehle bhi, progressive aur tolerant the...

PB PRATIBHA

Please elaborate...!

KIDWAI

Aap jaante hain ki England ke mashoor novelist EM Forster jinhone 1924 mein, 'A Passage To India', likhi, woh India kyon aaye?

KIDWAI

Kyonki unhe ek Indian naujawan se mohabbat ho gayi thi...!

KIDWAI

Aur woh naujawan khud AU ke founder, Sir Ahmad ke bete Sir Tanvir Ahmad the!! Joh AU ke VC bhi reh chuke hain!

Siras is taken aback. Shakeel is red in the face.

SHAKEEL

Kya aap yeh keh rahe hain ki Sir Tanvir homosexual the??

(CONTINUED)

KIDWAI

Nahi. Sir Tanvir ek tolerant insaan the. Forster ne do baar Sir Tanvir ko propose kiya, unke naam kavitaaye bhi likhi, lekin Sir Tanvir ne badi izzat se unko inkaar kar diya. Iske bavjut, un dono ki dosti humesha barqarar rahi.

INT. HOTEL SAMRAT. ALLAHABAD. NIGHT

Siras signals to the crew that he wants to go to the loo. The crew member is irritated, but lets him go. The debate continues with as he puts a prerecorded loop of Siras sitting in.

EXT. JAMALPUR. ALIGARH. NIGHT

Jamalpur is a cramped area with low-caste Muslims. The rickshaw-puller stops.

RICKSHAWALA 2

Iske aage nahi jayenge.

DEEPU

Kahan rehta hain?

RICKSHAWALA 2

Woh masjid dikh raha hain? Uske paas..

Deepu gives him the money and walks into a dingy and dark lanes past small cramped houses. He stops at a panwala.

DEEPU

Irrfan kaha rehta hain?
Rickshawala...

The panwala nods to say he doesn't know. He walks ahead. He sees a woman breastfeeding her child outside a hut.

JAMALPUR WOMAN 1

Kya dekh rahe hain?

Deepu awkwardly exits.

EXT. SHANTY. JAMALPUR. NIGHT

In another dingy lane, Deepu sees a small dirty eatery and enters.

INT. SHANTY. JAMALPUR. NIGHT

A few men are sitting in a circle drinking and playing cards. A Bollywood song is playing on the radio.

DEEPU

Bhai, Irrfan kaha milega?

The men look up at him.

JAMALPUR MAN 1

Kaunsa Irrfan?

DEEPU

Woh rikshawallah.

JAMALPUR MAN 1

Idhar nahi hain.

DEEPU

Woh lamba sa hain, dadi aur lambe baal..

JAMALPUR MAN 1

Kya kaam hain..?

DEEPU

Woh...Personal hain.

JAMALPUR MAN 2

Kahan se aaya be tu?

DEEPU

Dilli se.

A fat guy gets up, he is drunk.

JAMALPUR MAN 2

Personal maane kya??

Deepu hurries out of the joint.

INT. NEWS STUDIO. DELHI. NIGHT

Siras comes back and the crew-member make him sit hurriedly.

SHAKEEL

Agar AU ne yeh stand nahi liya to
AIDS jaisi bimariyan campus mein
phailengi....

Kidwai is shocked and amused at the same time.

EXT. JAMALPUR. ALIGARH. NIGHT

Deepu walks fast. He stops at a hut, it is broken. He sees
an old lady sitting sadly in the rubble. She is half blind.

DEEPU

Irrfan?

JAMALPUR OLD WOMAN

Woh gaya..

DEEPU

Kahan?

JAMALPUR OLD WOMAN

Malum nahi. Usko bahut peeta. Jaan
bacheke bhaga.

DEEPU

Kisne?

JAMALPUR OLD WOMAN

Muhalle walon ne. Police ne bhi.
Bhaag gaya.

The men from the dirty eatery are walking past when they see
Deepu. They surround him.

JAMALPUR MAN 2

Bhenchod, tumlog raat ko idhar kyon
aate ho?

JAMALPUR MAN 1

Khujli hain pichwade mein?

JAMALPUR MAN 2

Irrfan se gaand marana chahta
hain??

He pushes Deepu. Deepu falls on the ground.

(CONTINUED)

JAMALPUR MAN 1
Bamboo ghussa de kya?

JAMALPUR MAN 2
Bhenchod. Tumlogo ki wajah se
police aati hain idhar.

Deepu gets up, the fat guy roughs him up.

JAMALPUR MAN 3
Wapas dikha to lund kaatke mooh
mein ghused dunga..

Deepu runs out of there.

INT. HOTEL SAMRAT. ALLAHABAD. NIGHT

Siras shuts the door and clears the mess left by the crew.

INT. POLICE STATION. ALIGARH. NIGHT

A bleeding Deepu sits in front of Sub Inspector FUWAD, who seems to be hassled. The police station is busy with some arrangements.

FUWAD
Aap-log Jamalpur jaise ilaakon mein
kyun jaate hain? Shukr karo jaan
salamat hain.

DEEPU
Irrfan ko police ne kyon peeta?

Fuwad is taken aback.

FUWAD
Kisiko peeta nahi. Normal tareeke
se poch-taach hui..

A constable hurries to the table.

CONSTABLE
Sahib ne bulaya hain.

Fuwad picks up his cap and gets up to go. Deepu also gets up.

DEEPU
Sir, professor Siras case ke ek
important witness ko kyon pita
gaya?

(CONTINUED)

Fuwad loses his cool.

FUWAD

Bhai, baar-baar wahi jawab du kya??
Dekhte nahin, sab yahan busy hain.
3 din mein cabinet minister AU ke
tour pe aa rahe hain.

Fuwad then takes a softer tone.

FUWAD

Meri maniye to yeh professor ka
business chhod hi dijiye. Galti
hain unki. Jamalpur ke ladko ko
ghar mein bulana, khatre se khali
nahi. Yeh log to apni rooh bhi
kachori ke daam bech denge.

Fuwad begins to exit.

DEEPU

Sir, ek aur baat...

Fuwad stops to look at him.

DEEPU

Kya un reporters ka naam mil sakta
hain jo Professor Siras ke ghar
ghusse the..

FUWAD

Kyo bhai Byomkesh? Aur karenge
investigate?

DEEPU

Nahin. Unka interview lena hain.

Fuwad walks to some files and searches.

FUWAD

Adil Hussain tha reporter...NEWS100
se bataya...

Deepu quickly makes a note.

DEEPU

Aur doosra?

FUWAD

Doosra kaun? Ek hi to tha. Adil
Hussain.

Fuwad rushes inside. Deepu sits puzzled.

EXT. ALLAHABAD HC. ALLAHABAD. DAY

Morning. Siras and Grover enter the imposing facade of the Allahabad HC. Siras gets a phone call.

SIRAS
Haan Deepu?

Siras taps Grover.

SIRAS
Aapse baat karna chahta hain.

Grover takes the phone and listens to Deepu, surprised.

INT. COURTROOM. ALLAHABAD HC. ALLAHABAD DAY

Almost an empty courtroom. Siras makes notes in his book.

GROVER
Permission chahta hoon, Kuldip
Nayyar, managing editor NEWS100, ko
bulaya jaye.

NAYYAR, 45, is a poised corporate type. He sits expressionless in the box.

GROVER
Reporters Adil aur Misam, aapke
channel ke saath kab se kaam kar
rahe hain?

NAYYAR
Woh humare liye kaam nahi karte.

GROVER
To aap unhe nahin jante?

NAYYAR
Maine aisa to nahin kaha. Main Adil
Hussein ko freelance reporter ke
taur pe jaanta hoon. Humara network
aksar freelancers se stories leta
hain.

GROVER
To phir aapke network ko is kahani
par jump karna tha! Aapne ise air
kyon nahin kiya?

(CONTINUED)

NAYYAR

Kyonki yeh story humare paas aayi hi nahi! Mujhe iske bare mein agle din pata chala, jab paper mein chappi.

GROVER

Thankyou Mr Nayyar, just one more question. Doosre reporter Ashu Misam ko kabse jaante hain aap?

NAYYAR

Ji, main uss naam ke kisi reporter ko nahi jaanta.

GROVER

Mr Nayyar tajub ki baat hain ki Ashu Misam ke naam ke reporter ko koi nahi janta. Your honor, is naam ka aadmi na to police records mein hain, na media circles mein, to phir AU ne Mr Siras ke charge-sheet mein Ashu Misam ka naam kyon fabricate kar diya?

There are murmurs in the courtroom. The judge makes a note.

GROVER

Mr Nayyar Thankyou.

Nayyar leaves the witness-box.

JUDGE

Mr Grover, isse kya saabit hota hain?

GROVER

Your honor, is sting operation ka uddeshya kabhi 'Breaking News' thi hi nahi. Uss raat, ek private batchet ke baad, Adil aur uske gumnaam saathi ne ne woh tape AU ke PRO Shadab Qureshi ko handover kar diya tha! This further proves that yeh defendents ki internal operation hi thi.

NITA GREWAL

Reporters ek the ya do, Mr Siras ka behaviour AU ke code of conduct mein unacceptable tha! Your honor, agar aaj shaam, courtroom band hone ke baad, kisi employee ne wahan

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

NITA GREWAL (cont'd)
 aapke kursi par apni hawas bhujhane
 ki himmat ki, to kya usse punish
 nahin kiya jayega?

GROVER
 Nitaji, Mr Siras's private business
 didnt take place in the University
 classroom nor in the staff quarters.
 Yeh incident unke bedroom, unke
 private residence me hui thi.

NITA GREWAL
 Mr Siras ke quarters university
 allotted hain, therefore AU is his
 landlord. Kya makaan malik ko haque
 nahi ki woh apne property par nazar
 rakhe?

GROVER
 That is incorrect! Aap shayad
 jaanti nahi, ke ek makan-malik
 khud, apne kiraye pe diye hue
 makaan mein, bina permission enter
 nahi kar sakta. Nitaji, please
 refer to our constitutions rights,
 namely 'The Right To Privacy & The
 Right To Dignity'.

Nita checks with her assistant.

INT. MEDIA NEWSROOM STUDIO. NEW DELHI. NIGHT

PB Prathiba's news broadcast. An angry Maulvi rants while
 Salim Kidwai watches amused.

MUSLIM CLERIC
 Hum is cheez ke bilkul khilaf hain.
 Islam mein to is nuqs ka koi wajbi
 shabd bhi nahi hain. Aap log TV par
 isko itna mushtahir kyon kar rahe
 hain?

KIDWAI
 Maulvi sahib, Quran mein likhe ek
 quisse ko daurana chahta hoon.. Ek
 baar kisine Caliph Omar ke kaan
 mein bhar diya tha, ke ek makaan ke
 andar, do aadmiyon ke beech,
 gair-mamooli talukat chal rahe the.
 Ghusse mein laal hokar, Caliph ne
 us makaan ka darwaza tod diya, aur

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KIDWAI (cont'd)
 un do aadmiyon ko range haathon
 pakad liya...

INT. HOTEL SAMRAT. ALLAHABAD. NIGHT

We see Siras enter his hotel room and lock the door carefully. He takes off his shoes, turns on the TV and goes to the bathroom. Kidwai's VO continue.

KIDWAI VO
 Caliph ko apne ghar mein dekh, dono
 aadmi chauk gaye. Pehle ne himmat
 banakar kaha 'Huzur, maanlijiye ki
 humne jo kiya woh gunah hain, magar
 aapne jo kiya hain, woh usse bhi
 bada gunah hain.'

INT. MEDIA NEWSROOM STUDIO. NEW DELHI. NIGHT

Kidwai talks as the Maulvi watches in a split-screen.

KIDWAI
 'Kya matlab' Caliph chauk gaya.
 Aadmi ne kaha; 'Huzur, bina ijazat
 ke aap mere ghar mein kaise ghusse?
 Pehli galti to aapne ki hain.
 Kyonki, Islam mein kisike ghar mein
 zabardasti ghusna, bahut bada gunah
 mana jata hain!

INT. HOTEL SAMRAT. ALLAHABAD. NIGHT

Siras prepares for bed. He dusts the bed meticulously and adjusts the pillow. He lies down and notices that the window curtain is open. He gets up and shuts the curtain.

KIDWAI
 Caliph ko aakhir apne galti ka
 ehसास ho gaya. Usne un do aadmiyon
 se muaafi maangi aur foran unka
 makaan chod diya. Uske baad Caliph
 ne kabhi bhi unhe koi takleef nahi
 pahunchayi.

INT. MEDIA NEWSROOM STUDIO. NEW DELHI. NIGHT

The Cleric is red in the face.

MUSLIM CLERIC

Yeh kahani be-adbana, jhooti hain.
Quran ka inhone apna hi matlab
nikala hain. Main phir daurata
hoon; agar har kisiko is cheez ki
aadat lag gayi, to insaaniyat ki
tabhahi hatmi hain.

KIDWAI

Maulvi sahib, yeh koi zaini-tambaku
nahin hain, jiski aadat aise hi lag
jaaye. Yeh qudrati cheez hain, joh
zamanon se chala aa raha hain. Aur
Insaaniyat ki tabahi chodo, insaan
ki aabaadi aaj control main nahi

....

The cleric drinks his glass of water.

INT. HOTEL SAMRAT. ALLAHABAD. NIGHT

Siras lies in bed facing the shut window.

A male hand slips by Siras's side and holds him from behind.
We cant see the man's face, but we hear him giggle. He
tickles Siras, who starts laughing.

Siras turns to see that he is all alone in his bed.

INT. HOTEL SAMRAT. ALLAHABAD. DAY

The doorbell rings incessantly. Siras finally wakes up and
stumbles to the door. He opens to it to see Deepu with a
bandage on his head. Deepu giggles as he looks at a dazed
Siras with his hair standing oddly.

SIRAS

Deepu?

DEEPU

Allahabad se guzar raha tha, socha
mil lu.

Siras beams.

INT. DELUXE RESTAURANT. ALLAHABAD. DAY

A busy restaurant with lively chatter. Deepu is eating meat. Siras is eating a veg meal. Siras notices the bandage on his head.

SIRAS
Chot kaise aayi?

DEEPU
Seediyon se gir gaya..

Siras is not convinced, Deepu changes the topic.

DEEPU
Daal kyon nahi le rahe?

SIRAS
Tumhara haath lag gaya na. Hum log
Brahmin hain.

DEEPU
Sorry!

SIRAS
Its ok. Waise bhi aaj Triveni
Sangam jaa raha hoon.

DEEPU
Woh kya hai?

SIRAS
Jahan teen pavitra nadiyon ka milan
hota hain. Ganga, Jamuna aur
Saraswati.

DEEPU
Dharm ki baate main nahi samajhta.

SIRAS
Arre samajhne wali cheez kaha hain?
Dimag lagaai to samjho aastha
gayi..

DEEPU (LAUGHS)
Bataiye, court mein kaisa chal raha
hain?

SIRAS
Yeh courtrooms bahut boring hoti
hain. Mere father vakeel the, aur
mein 'sections', 'petitions' ke
baare mein sunkar bada hua. Tab bhi

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SIRAS (cont'd)
 kuch nahi samajha, aaj bhi nahi
 samajhta hoon.

Deepu chuckles.

DEEPU
 Law ke saath mere bhi ajeeb rishta
 hain. Bachpan mein bahut behas
 karta tha. Sab kehte the vakil
 banega. Umar hui to law ka entrance
 exam diya. Place bhi mili, magar
 fortunately maine iraada badal
 diya. Daddy aaj tak us ek lakh
 rupay ki baat karte hain, joh
 unhone mere law ke chakkar mein
 dubaye!

SIRAS
 Ab woh tumhare career se khush
 hain?

DEEPU
 Ya to doctor, engineer bano, ya to
 Gulf jaakar dhirams kamao. Aur koi
 option hain hi nahi!

Siras laughs.

SIRAS
 Ek baat kahu, bura nahin maan-na.

DEEPU
 Of course.

SIRAS
 Kisike karz mein mat rehna. Khaas
 karke apno ke. Nahin to pata nahin
 chalega ki woh rishta pyar ke wajah
 se zinda hain, ya majboori ke..

a beat.

DEEPU
 Aapke family mein kaun-kaun hain?

SIRAS
 Mere do bhai hain, Nagpur mein.
 Magar humari banti nahin. 20 saal
 alag rahe na? Lekin unke bacche
 mere bahut close hain...

Deepu eats his food quietly. Siras looks at him
 affectionately.

SIRAS
Tumhari bus kab ki hai?

DEEPU
Shaam saat baje..

SIRAS
Tum mere saath Triveni Sangam
dekhne kyon nahi aate?

EXT. GANGA BANK. TRIVENI SANGAM. ALLAHABAD. DAY

Deepu sits on the banks of the ganga. Several sadhus dry themselves after a bath. Deepu watches Siras in the water, taking several dips and chanting.
It is the magic hour of sunset. Siras sits down with Deepu after drying himself. They look at a bunch of school-children performing the evening aarti.

SIRAS
Kabhi khudka bachcha bhi chaha tha.

DEEPU
Singles ke liye adoption mushkil
hain?

SIRAS
Adoption?? Nahi nahi...

Siras laughs.

SIRAS
Shaadi ki thi maine.

Deepu is surprised.

SIRAS
Jab Professor ki naukri lagi, tab.
Woh mere saath Aligarh bhi aai thi.
Par..baat nahi bani.

DEEPU
Kyonki aap...?

SIRAS
Phir wahi word mat use karna. Nahi,
us wajah se nahi. Main apne kitabon
mein uljha rehta tha. Woh mere se
bore ho gayi.

Deepu chuckles. Siras is distracted by the wound on Deepu's head.

(CONTINUED)

SIRAS
Sachmuch yeh chot girne se aai?

DEEPU
Ji nahi.

SIRAS
To phir?

DEEPU
Main Jamalpur gaya tha. Irrfan se
milne.

Siras becomes very serious.

DEEPU
Mahaul bahut kharab hain waha.
Irrfan bhaag gaya hain kahin. Main
bhi jaan bachake bhaga.

a beat.

DEEPU
Pata laga ki police ne Irrfan ko
bahut peeta tha.

Siras looks away silently.

SIRAS
Gareeb aadmi ko kyon sata rahe
hain?

DEEPU
Aapko lagta hain ki Irrfan bhi mila
hua hain?

SIRAS
Kya matlab?

DEEPU
Aapke ghar ka taala toota nahin
tha. Kisine to andar se darwaza
khola hoga.

SIRAS
Shayad maine bandh nahin kiya tha
theek se.

DEEPU
Teen locks hain. Teeno ko khula
choda diya aapne??

Siras is silent.

DEEPU

Zaruri hain ke aap Irrfan ki baat se comfortable ho, warna woh iska fayda uthayenge.

A beat.

SIRAS

Usko aath mahine se jaanta hoon. Accha ladka hain. Padna, seekhna chahta hain. Par gareeb hain, chaar bacchon ke saath! Ghar aata tha, kabhi khana khaa leta tha. Uski behn ki shaadi jab hui to maine madat ki thi. Deepu, meri umar mein log aksar akela mehsoos karte hain.

Deepu finds courage to say something.

DEEPU

Woh aapka 'lover' tha?

Siras is irritated.

SIRAS

Tum log 'lover' ke peeche pad jaate ho. Kabhi 'love' ko samajhne ki koshish nahin karte.

Deepu seems to understand him. Siras looks into sunset as the little school children scatter away after the arti. A cold drink seller tinkles at his bottles nearby. Siras smiles.

SIRAS

Tumne Allahabad ka mashoor masala-drink try kiya hain?

Deepu nods to say no. Siras leaps to his feet and approaches the drink seller. Deepu watches him with a smile.

EXT. HOTEL SAMRAT. ALLAHABAD. NIGHT

Deepu and Siras get out of a taxi at Siras's hotel.

DEEPU

Phir milunga. Ek aur story karne. Aapke jeet ke baad!

Siras smiles.

(CONTINUED)

SIRAS

Yahin ruko do minute.

Siras goes inside the hotel. Deepu waits. Siras returns with a book and hands it to Deepu.

SIRAS

For you.

Deepu looks at the book of Siras's poems.

DEEPU

Main abhi bhi Marathi nahi pad sakta.

SIRAS (SMILING)

Kholkar dekho.

Deepu opens it to see that Siras has pencilled neat English translations next to the Marathi words.

SIRAS

Court mein kuch karne ko nahin tha.
Socha isse translate kar du.

Deepu is touched. Siras smiles.

DEEPU

Main aapse jaldi milunga Professor
Siras.

Siras waves as he watches Deepu's cab drive off. He walks back into his hotel.

INT. VOLVO BUS. ALLAHABAD HIGHWAY. NIGHT

Deepu is travelling on a bus. He begins to read Siras's book. We hear a stanza in Deepu's VO. (Siras's Marathi Poem to be inserted)

'I sit by the window while you gently caress my face. I cannot open my eyes and see you, or I will perish in passion. I must only feel you...'

Deepu, overwhelmed by the poem, looks out of the bus, into the moonlit night, at the verge of the early dawn.

INT. HOTEL SAMRAT. ALLAHABAD. NIGHT

We see Siras enter his room and prepare for bed.

DEEPU VO: *'It is quiet outside, but inside is a cacophony of breath, begging for your caress to become an embrace. I waited for you all day long, and you arrived as you always do, just when the sun had retreated'*.

We see Siras stare at his room. A chair sits empty by the window.

'The gentle sound of your footsteps is buried in the chirpy songs of crickets. But I know I am not alone'

Siras lies in bed staring out of the open window. A yearning in his eyes.

INT. DEEPU PG. DELHI. NIGHT

Deepu opens the door and enters the dark corridor. He sees the lights of a TV flicker from the living room.

Deepu enters his bedroom and sees that it is neatly arranged. He is uncomfortable.

'O beloved moon, fear not the dawn that separates us. For we must unite again when the world sleeps.'

EXT. RAJARAM LIBRARY. NAGPUR. NIGHT

Siras gets off a taxi outside an old Nagpur library. He walks in.

INT. RAJARAM LIBRARY. NAGPUR. NIGHT

Siras enters the library. An old librarian smiles at him warmly.

OLD LIBRARIAN

Siras? Kasha aahes tu??

(Siras? How are you?)

SIRAS

Barra Deshpande. Naveen wing tayyar jhaale ka? (Good Deshpande. Is the new wing ready yet?)

OLD LIBRARIAN

Naveen? Adheech 'Junya' wing diste.

Bekaar karigari bagha! (New wing?

It already looks like the old wing.

See the shoddy workmanship.)

Siras laughs and enters the hall. He smiles at a few people who just nod back.

INT. RAJARAM LIBRARY. NAGPUR. NIGHT

Siras sits with a young lawyer, Kamble, who seems to be in a hurry to finish.

KAMBLE

Aapko pichle hafte aana chahiye tha na? Aise kab tak court excuse karti rahegi??

SIRAS

Kay karte mee? Allahabad mein busy tha.

KAMBLE

Bagha, unlogo ko accha offer aaya hain, mall waloh ka. Aap pe case pe case dalenge jab tak aap bechne ko tayyar nahi hote!

Kamble grudgingly takes out some papers and Siras signs them.

The library is closing for the night. Siras walks out alone, looking nostalgically at the place where he spent his youth.

INT. DEEPU PG. DELHI. DAY

Deepu sits in the balcony looking at his neatly made up room. He suddenly gets angry and begins checking the cupboards to see if his personal belongings are safe. He throws all his things out and makes a mess. He removes the bedsheet off the bed and dusts it violently.

He lies in bed but cant sleep.

EXT. SIRAS FAMILY RESIDENCE. DHARAMPETH. NAGPUR. NIGHT

Siras opens the gate of a three-story house. There seems to be a family get together on the ground floor. There are a couple of people talking on the porch. Siras and one of the men ignore each other. The younger of the two, **RAGHU** (35) smiles at Siras. Siras smiles back.

SIRAS

Kashaa aahes Raghu? (How are you Raghu?)

(CONTINUED)

RAGHU

Kaka. Thamba ek minute.(Uncle, wait one minute.)

Raghu runs inside and returns with an envelope. Siras takes it, pats his head and goes upstairs. The older man glares at Raghu. Siras goes upstairs.

INT. SIRAS RESIDENCE. DHARAMPETH NAGPUR. NIGHT

Siras sits alone at the bedroom window, reading his pending mail. He is somewhat irritated by the noise coming from the party downstairs. He turns on a Lata Mangeshkar song and increases the volume. He mimes Lata's voice effeminately in the mirror.

EXT. SIRAS FAMILY RESIDENCE. DHARAMPETH. NAGPUR. NIGHT

Siras walks around the house to the kitchen window. He peeks through the curtain to see a middle aged woman. She is Siras's sister-in-law Sunanda, who is happy to see him.

SUNANDA

Motha bhau, kasha aahes tumhi?
Raghu ne bataya ke tum aaye....

SIRAS

Mee theek aahe. Ek raat ke liye
aaya tha. Chai ki patti khatam ho
gayi...

SUNANDA

Haan, deti hoon. Vishwaas Kaka aale
aahe. Party rakhi hain tumhare bhai
ne.

SIRAS (JOKES)

Haan? Mere aane ki khushi mein
rakhi hogi!

SUNANDA

Motha bhau, yeh kab tak chalta
rahega? Tum bhai log ek doosre se
baat kyon nahi karte?

SIRAS

Tyacha barobar bolaycha naahi! Jo
maine unke liye kiya, woh sab bhool
gaye. Ab woh businessmen ki tarah
baat karte hain bade bhai se.

(CONTINUED)

A young girl comes running into the kitchen. It is Siras's niece Prabha. She squeals in delight to see him.

PRABHA

Srinivas Kaka!! Tumhi kadhi aalo?

SIRAS

Ae Prabha, aataich aalo mee.
College kaisa chal raha hain?

PRABHA

Thank you for the scooty Kaka.
College mein sabhi mujhi se lift
maangte hain!

SIRAS

Hmmm. Boys ko mat dena lift. Naytar
tere papa merepar ek aur case
kardenge!

They laugh. A male voice calls from inside.

MALE VOICE

Ae Sunanda, paneer gheun ya.

SUNANDA

Chala motha bhau, kabhi aao ghar
pe!

SIRAS

Ho Ho mee yete.

Sunanda motions to Prabha, Prabha runs and gets him some tea leaves in a bowl. She whispers to him.

PRABHA

Mee guptapane baghto tumhala News
madhun kaka. I'm proud of you!

Siras looks at Prabha emotionally. She runs off inside. Siras walks out with the tea-leaves in his hand. In the background we hear laughter. He enters the house. We stay on the building.

INT. IC OFFICE. DELHI. NIGHT

Late night. Hardly anyone in Deepu's section. Nameeta comes out of her cabin to see Deepu asleep on two chairs.

INT. COURTROOM. ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT. ALLAHABAD. DAY

Grover is addressing a packed court. Siras is neatly dressed and alert.

GROVER

Your honor, this sting was a dirty conspiracy to deflect attention from the truth. 9th February 2010 ke saare newspaper headlines, Siras ke sting operation ke baare mein thi, jabki they should have been about AU's Vice Chancellor RK Abdurrahman.

NITA GREWAL

Objection. Aapne to suspense novel likhna shuru kar diya?

GROVER

Your honor. 5th february ki subah, iss ghatna ke teen din pehle, ek envelope AU ke VC, RK Abdurrahman ke desk par pahunchi.

NITA GREWAL

Objection. Yaha VC ki baat kyon ho rahi hain??

JUDGE

Over-ruled.

GROVER

Us letter ke andar thi ek notice. President's Commission se. Desh ke rashtrapati ne khud, VC Abdurrahman ke khilaaf, ek enquiry order ki thi. This was a result of accusations against the VC for financial irregularities and misappropriation of funds.

NITA GREWAL

I object!

JUDGE

Over-ruled.

GROVER

Kya yeh sting operation is bade scam se nazar hataane ke liye rachi gayi?

Kya Professor Siras ko namuna

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GROVER (cont'd)
 banakar, Abdurahman aur unke
 saathiyon ne conservative Muslim
 vote bank ko impress karne ki
 koshish ki? Taaki unki nazar mein
 VC ki 'naitik-mulya' badhe aur aane
 wale election mein woh unhe support
 kare.

There is uproar in the courtroom. More AU officials are present including the PRO & the Proctor. A group of NGO supporters for Siras is also present. Grover submits some documents to the bench.

GROVER
 Your honor this is a copy of the
 'Independent Fact Finding
 Committee' report. And this is a
 copy of my clients FIR against the
 university, which was never
 accepted.

JUDGE
 Ise kyon accept nahi kiya gaya?

There is pin drop silence in the room.

GROVER
 Because the system, the power of an
 institution failed the
 constitution. Collectively, they
 failed one man.

Grover points to Siras. Everyone turns to look at him. Siras gets self conscious and adjusts his hair.

EXT. GARDEN. ALLAHABAD BUNGALOW. ALLAHABAD. NIGHT

A Mallika Pukhraj ghazal plays on the speakers. Well-dressed men engage in excited chatter. Servants serve alcohol and kebabs. Siras, dressed smartly in a jacket, enters with Arvind. Several people turn to see Siras. They smile and approach him.

NARAYANAN
 Mr Siras, meet Mehmood Naqvi, a
 well known artist from Delhi. Yeh
 hain Abhilash Tripathi, jaane mane
 kavi hain, yeh Prathmesh Sharma,
 vakeel hain.

(CONTINUED)

TRIPATHY

Na tum satya ho. Na main satya
 hoon. Na jeet mein hain satya na
 haar mein satya hain. Na aarambh
 mein hain satya, na manzil mein
 hain. Satya to satat sangharsh mein
 hain.

Everyone 'wows' at his poem, Siras nods politely. Prathmesh,
 a large-set man with a goatee, shakes Siras's hand.

PRATHAMESH

'O beloved moon, fear not the dawn
 that separates us. For we must
 unite again when the world sleeps.'

Siras cannot believe his ears, he looks around proudly.

SIRAS

Yeh meri kavita hain...

PRATHAMESH

Aapki kitaab padi. Mushkil se mili
 thi. Meri translation kaisi lagi?

SIRAS

Theek hain. I will give you better
 one.

Prathmesh laughs.

PRATHAMESH

It would be an honor.

MEHMOOD

Siras sahib, aiye aapke liye ek
 drink banate hain. Kya pasand
 karenge aap...?

SIRAS

Whisky please. Small.

MEHMOOD

Aaj mana na kijiye Siras sahib.
 Utar jayegi yeh sharaab, lekin yeh
 raat kabhi na khatm hogi.

PRATHAMESH

Aur na utri, to hangover se inka
 bada gehra rishta hain...

Siras laughs.

TRIPATHY

Kya matlab?

PRATHAMESH

Inki kavita... 'Hangover Ki
Yaadein'... padne layak hain.

SIRAS

Nahi, nahi. Woh to aise hee chaap
dee thi publisher ne.

PRATHAMESH

Sir, aise hee nahi milti Sahitya
Academy Award.

At the bar, Mehmood orders Siras a drink. As Siras sips it, he begins to notice that there are mostly men at the party. He then realizes that there are several male couples. He turns to look for Narayanan and sees him blushing as an older, bearded-man flirts with him. Siras realizes that he is at a gay party and nervously takes another drink from a waiter.

MEHMOOD

Chaliye andar. Aisi performance
aapko shayad kahi aur dekhne ko
mile.

INT. LIVING ROOM. ALLAHABAD BUNGALOW. ALLAHABAD. NIGHT

Everyone then gathers in the living room, where a performance is taking place. We see the back of a man in drag who dances to 'Thahre Rahiyo' from Pakeezah. The crowd cheers him on and he turns towards them. Siras is shocked to see that it is Prathamesh, the large set man with the goatee. Everyone applauds his exquisite performance. Siras stands watching dumbfound. Narayanan notices his discomfort.

NARAYANAN

Yeh wahi log hain jinhone aapki
petition ko sign karke aapko
support kiya tha. Aap inke liye aaj
hero se kum nahin hain.

Siras smiles. Narayanan offers him another drink. Siras takes it.

EXT. GARDEN. ALLAHABAD BUNGALOW. ALLAHABAD. NIGHT

A 'high' Siras is sitting on a chair, with an eager 'mehfil' around him.

SIRAS

Mere life mein sabkuch 10 saal late
hee hua. Pehtees saal tak padhai
ki, chalees saal mein ghar choda,
aur ab, retirement ke time pe, tum
log mile mujhse! Woh kehte hain na,
der aaye, durust aaye.

Everyone laughs.

SIRAS

Accha, mera ek favorite gaana hain.
School se aate hue hum bacche gaate
the Nagpur mein. Aaj bhi jab
university se ghar jaata hoon, yahi
gaana yaad aata hain.

He sings a Marathi song slowly and beautifully. Everyone applauds. Siras is a star for a night.

Fade to black.

INT. IC OFFICE. DELHI. NIGHT

Deepu is sitting at his desk, looking at some real estate sites. He looks at the exhorbitant prices for apartments and turns to Anuj.

DEEPU

Rent dekhkar samajh aata hain ki
log property ke liye jhadge aur
murder tak kyon karte hain.

ANUJ

Ek hi solution hain. Paise bana,
daldal se nikal.

Anuj begins packing up for the day.

ANUJ

Double shift?

DEEPU

Kucch kaam tha..

(CONTINUED)

ANUJ

Bhai office mein accha kaam karne
ka kya inaam milta hain bolo?

DEEPU

Kya?

ANUJ

Aur bhi kaam milta hain!

Anuj chuckles and leaves. There is hardly anyone in the office. Deepu makes a call.

DEEPU

Hello acchan?

ACCHAN

Yes Deepu.

DEEPU

How are you?

ACCHAN

Not very good. The roof has
collapsed in the kitchen. I need to
rebuild it. Very costly.

DEEPU

Is amma around?

A pause. Deepu's mother comes on the line.

MRS MATHEW

Deepu?

DEEPU

I tried talking to him. He only
talks about money.

MRS MATHEW

Things are hard for him. Pension
hardly takes care of things...

DEEPU

Ok ma, I'll go now. I cant talk
about money yet...

MRS MATHEW

How are you? Are you eating
properly? Is there a cook..?

Nameeta pops out of her cabin and sees Deepu.

(CONTINUED)

DEEPU

All ok amma. I'll call you soon.

Deepu hangs up.

NAMEETA

Tumhara ghar nahi hain kya?

DEEPU

Not really.

NAMEETA

Want to have a drink?

DEEPU

Yahan?

Nameeta points to a CCTV camera near Deepu and winks. Deepu understands.

EXT. TERRACE. IC OFFICE. NIGHT

Nameeta and Deepu enter a terrace. She points to the CCTV camera near the door and leads him to a section hidden from it by a large water-tank. Deepu and she stand before a brightly lit Delhi skyline. She pours a vodka mini into a Sprite bottle.

DEEPU

Meri News Editor ko pata chala to?

NAMEETA

Your News Editor doesn't have a life. Almost chaubees ghante office mein bitaati hain.

She laughs. Deepu smiles shyly and sits on a metal staircase. Nameeta drinks from the bottle and gives it to Deepu. Deepu takes a large swig.

NAMEETA

Pareshan lagte ho. Raat ko ghar nahi jaate. Whats up?

DEEPU

PG mein rehkar tang aa gaya hoon.

NAMEETA

Yeh tumhare probation ka akhri mahina haina?

(CONTINUED)

DEEPU

Haan.

NAMEETA

Phir apna ek makaan rent karlena.

DEEPU

Ghar paise bhejna hain. Dad se loan
liya tha.

NAMEETA

Do chaar mahine baad de dena.

Deepu thinks. Nameeta gives him the bottle.

DEEPU

Koi aa gaya to?

NAMEETA

Koi nahi aata.

Nameeta looks at Deepu and plays with her hair. Deepu looks at her and their eyes meet. Deepu is a bit awkward.

Nameeta gets up and sits next to him on the stairs. He parts her hair and touches her face. He feels drawn to her. They begin to kiss. Nameeta starts to unbutton his shirt. Deepu suddenly backs off.

NAMEETA

What happened?

DEEPU

I'm sorry...

Nameeta moves closer to him.

NAMEETA

You've never been with a woman
before?

Deepu is awkward. Nameeta smiles. She pulls him closer and takes control. Deepu responds passionately. They have sex against the twinkling lights of the city and hidden from the cameras.

INT. IC OFFICE. DELHI. DAY

Title card 'April 6th 2010'

Morning. Deepu is sleeping on two chairs in the office. He gets woken up by Anuj.

(CONTINUED)

ANUJ
 Deepu, uth! 'Wire' pe kuch aaya
 hain. Its about Siras.

Deepu sees that the office is full again. He & Anuj rush to Anuj's computer read the news wire.

ANUJ (READS)
 Allahabad High Court rules in favor
 of Professor Siras.

Deepu is elated.

DEEPU
 He won Anuj! He fucking won!

Deepu doesn't realize he is shouting. Some of his colleagues surround him to read the 'wire'. An elated Deepu moves to the window and dials a number. The phone is switched off.

INT. VOLVO BUS. HIGHWAY. DAY

Siras is on a bus and is looking at the landscape outside the window.

He watches an old woman resting her head on her husband's shoulder. He looks at them for a bit, then stares out of the window.

EXT. VOLVO BUS. HIGHWAY. DAY

We see the bus with a sign saying 'ALIGARH' drive off on an empty highway.

NEWS VO

Professor Siras ko MIL department ka Chairman phir se banaya jayega aur unka makaan, 21, Medical Colony unko lauta diya jayega.

INT. IC OFFICE. DELHI. DAY

A team gathers around a TV set in newsroom. A news bulletin covers Siras's victory.

NEWS BULLETIN

Court ne yeh bhi aadesh diya ki News100 ke banaye gaye video ke saare copies jalaye jaaye, aur compensation batuar, Mr Siras ko 30 lakh rupees award kiya jaye. Lawyers Collective aur Naz Foundation ke liye yeh Human Rights ko lekar doosri badi jeet hain.

EXT. CENTRAL GARDEN. CP. DAY

People in colorful outfits celebrate and dance. Its akin to a gay pride. We see a placard that says 'Gay & Proud Of Indian Judiciary'.

INT. IC OFFICE. DELHI. DAY

Deepu's colleagues gather around him.

ANUJ
Well done buddy!

COLLEAGUE 1
Congratulations, Deepu.

COLLEAGUE 2
Party kab hai?

SONALI
Congrats Deepu.

Deepu acknowledges an awkward Sonali. Nameeta accompanies the editor, Karan Pai, from his cabin as they approach Deepu.

NAMEETA
Karan, this is Deepu Mathew

KARAN
Congratulations Deepu, great job on Siras.

DEEPU
I'm glad Nameeta let me...

KARAN
Its not over yet. Mujhe Siras ke saath exclusive chahiye. This is front page material.

DEEPU
Consider it done!

Deepu starts to return to his desk.

KARAN
Aur Deepu aur ek baat.

DEEPU
Kya?

(CONTINUED)

KARAN

You are off the 'wire'! I want you
to write more stories...

Deepu gives Nameeta a broad smile. Anuj & Sonali watch with
bitter-sweet expressions.

EXT. DEEPU PG. DELHI. NIGHT

Deepu parks his bike outside the red brick house. He is on
the phone.

DEEPU

I get my first full salary next
week amma...

MRS MATHEW

Your father will be very happy
Deepu.

DEEPU

Amma, I was thinking if I can start
sending the money in a few months..

Silence.

DEEPU

I really need to find a new
house...

MRS MATHEW

He will be upset. Why dont you talk
to him?

Deepu hangs up and enters the house.

EXT. STATE BUS DEPOT. ALIGARH. NIGHT

Siras takes a cycle-rikshaw from the bus stand. He finds
himself staring at the rikshaw puller and looks away
awkwardly.

INT. DEEPU PG. DELHI. NIGHT

Deepu sits in his room feeling like an outsider. The water
motor whirrs in the background. He picks up his phone.

INT. SIRAS HOUSE 3. DURGAWADI. ALIGARH. NIGHT

Siras is lying in bed, watching a comedy on TV, when his phone rings. It is Deepu.

DEEPU
Professor Siras. Congratulations!

SIRAS
Thank you Deepu.

DEEPU
I tried calling you this morning..

SIRAS
Main bus pe tha..

DEEPU
Aap tayyar hain agle story ke liye?

SIRAS
Ek minute, mujhe TV ka volume kam karne do.

a beat.

DEEPU
Aap University kab join kar rahe hain?

SIRAS (LAUGHS)
High Court order se jaise hi university pahuchega...

DEEPU
Kab pahuchega order?

SIRAS
Kal subhah. Mera bhanja usse lene Allahabad gaya hain.

DEEPU
Aur Ab? Aage kya?

SIRAS
Aage? Sochta hoon mein America chala jaun, jahan mere jaise log izzat se reh sakte hain.

DEEPU
Yahan bhi aapki izzat hain Professor sahib.

Siras looks at his empty room.

(CONTINUED)

SIRAS

Deepu, mein tumhe aise hi phone pe interview nahin karne dunga. You must come here and meet me!

Deepu laughs.

DEEPU

Kal aajau?

SIRAS

Parso aana. Mere department mein milenge hum!

DEEPU

Done. Parson subah 11 baje! Aapke office mein chai peeyenge.

SIRAS

Chalo, ab phone rakhta hoon. Bahut neend aa rahi hain.

DEEPU

Good night Professor.

SIRAS

Good night, Deepu.

Siras disconnects the phone and prepares to go to bed.

INT. DEEPU PG. DELHI. NIGHT

Deepu smokes a cigarette in the balcony watching 'Aunty' smoke a beedi next door.

INT. SIRAS HOUSE 3. DURGAWADI. NIGHT

Siras is lying in bed. A male hand slips by his side and holds him. Siras smiles. The hand begins to tickle him, Siras starts laughing.

Cut to.

Siras is lying alone in bed. The TV is on.

INT. DEEPU PG. DELHI. NIGHT

Deepu packs all his bags. A knock on the door. It is Maggy. She sees his packed bags.

MAGGY
Kahin jaa rahe ho?

DEEPU
Ji. Yaha se chhod ke..

MAGGY
You have to give notice.

DEEPU
Kal subah bhej dunga.

MAGGY
Ek mahine ka rent katega deposit se.

DEEPU
Sure

Deepu picks up his bags and leaves the house as the motor whirrs in the back.
Fade To Black.

Fade in title **'April 7th 2010'**

EXT. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. DAY

Deepu and Tashi, on the bike, enter the imposing AU campus.

EXT. MIL DEPT. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. DAY

Deepu and Tashi look around. There is no one there.

INT. MIL DEPT. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. DAY

They enter the department and find that it is a mess. They see a pornographic graffiti on the wall. Deepu makes a face. Tashi takes photos.

DEEPU
Yahi par milne ko kaha tha!

He tries Siras's number.

(CONTINUED)

DEEPU
Unreachable aa raha hain.

EXT. MIL DEPT. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. DAY

Deepu and Tashi are outside the Modern Indian Languages Dept. They see the same guard approach them.

MIL PEON
Aap log phir aa gaye?

DEEPU
Siras sahib nahi aaye?

MIL PEON
Ajeeb hain. Do mahine baad aap log wahi sawal kar rahe hain? Bataya to tha, unko yaha aana mana hain!

Deepu is puzzled by his reaction.

EXT. MIL DEPT. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. DAY

The two sit under a tree. Deepu keeps trying Siras number. Tashi also tries from his phone.

TASHI
Ek ghante se baithe hain. Chalo kuch kha lete hain!

DEEPU
Kahi usne interview dene ka irada to nahi badal diya?

Tashi looks at him surprised. Deepu dials a number.

DEEPU
Dr. Islam? Meri Professor Siras ke saath meeting hain, aur unka number unreachable aa raha hain...

ISLAM
Sorry Deepu, Main kuch dino se Aligarh mein nahin hoon.

DEEPU
Kya aapke paas Professor Siras ka address hain?

ISLAM

Ji nahi. But you can ask Sridharan.
Woh unse recently mile the shayad.

Deepu looks at the guard.

EXT. SRIDHARAN HOUSE. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. DAY

Deepu and Tashi walk towards Sridharans house. Deepu is trying to phone Siras. They ring the bell. A woman opens the door. Deepu speaks in Malayalam.

DEEPU

Can I talk to Professor Sridharan?

MRS. SRIDHARAN

Who are you?

DEEPU

An ex-student of his. My name is
Deepu. I'm from Kerala

She shuts the door and goes inside. After a while, the door opens. Sridharan stares at Deepu, he immediately tries to shut the door. Deepu sticks his foot in and pleads.

DEEPU

Please professor Sridharan, Siras
sahib case jeet chuke hain. Ab
aapko kis baat ka darr hain?

Sridharan eases up slightly.

SRIDHARAN

Mujhse kya chahte ho?

DEEPU

Subah se unka phone unreachable
hain. Kya aap mujhe unka address de
sakte hain?

SRIDHARAN

Durgawadi mein rehta hain kahin.
Post Office ke paas. Exactly I
don't know.

EXT. DURGAWADI COLONY. ALIGARH. DAY

Deepu and Tashi drive to Durgawadi. They stop at a corner shop by an old temple and make an enquiry. Deepu and Tashi walk the smelly Durgawadi bylanes.

Deepu stares at Tashi disdainfully.

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 3. DUGAWADI. DAY

Deepu and Tashi reach a modest house. One of the two doors is padlocked from outside and the curtains are drawn. They ring the bell, knock loudly. An old lady comes out of the opposite house.

DEEPU

Aunty, Yahan pe jo rehte hain, kya woh kahin bahar gaye hain?

OLD AUNTY

Kaun aadmi? Kisiko nahi dekha waha.

The start walking out.

DEEPU

Yeh phone off rakhna--very unusual of him. Tereko lagta hain doosre journalist ko exclusive de diya hoga?

TASHI

Kya baat kar raha hain yaar?

DEEPU

Jeet ke baad sab unke peeche pad gaye honge, breaking story ke liye.

TASHI

Abey, tere feelings ka kya hua? Yaad hain, tereko teen mahine diye the mahine...bikau ka matlab samajhne ke liye! Do mahine mein seekh gaya yaar!

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 3. DUGAWADI. DAY

The boys wait for a while on a bench outside the gate.

TASHI

Yaha kab tak wait karenge? Kisi aur se baat karte hain tabtak?

(CONTINUED)

DEEPU

Kisse? Islam hain nahin. Aur
Sridharan to fatoo hain.

Deepu has a thought and springs to his feet.

DEEPU

Ek idea hain. Chal Tashi!

INT. VC CABIN. VC BUILDING. AU CAMPUS. ALIGARH. DAY

Abdurahman is cold as steel. Deepu sits before him with his dictafone.

DEEPU

Thankyou for meetine me again sir.

ABDURAHMAN

Dekho, mujhe kisi cheez ka darr
nahin. Especially uss aadmi ka,
jisne is institution ke saath
ghalat kiya hain.

DEEPU

Par Professor Siras to case jeet
chuke hain.

ABDURAHMAN

Pehla round shayad woh jeet gaye
honge, par agle round ki tayyari
jaari hain. Abhi to court order bhi
nahi pahucha hain.

DEEPU

Woh to aaj subah pahuchne wala tha?

ABDURAHMAN

Jab ayega, tab ek committee form
hogi, order ko bareekhi se study
karne ke liye.

DEEPU

Is mein kitna time jayega?

ABDURAHMAN

Kam se kam 45 days...Uske baad agar
university chahe, to hum
counter-affidavit file kar sakte
hain.

Deepu cannot believe what he is hearing.

(CONTINUED)

DEEPU

Aisa lagta hain ki aap High Court ke decision ko accept karna nahin chahte.

ABDURAHMAN

Usse pe gaur kiya jayega. Dont forget there are higher courts. And remember Mr Mathew, an institution is always bigger than a man.

Deepu is disgusted by Abdurahman's arrogance. He clears his stuff and leaves, slamming the door behind him. Abdurahman opens a box of mint and puts one in his mouth.

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 3. DURGAWADI. ALIGARH. DAY

The sun is ablaze and it's hot. Tashi waits impatiently as Deepu tries to peek into the window that is blocked from inside by a large water cooler. Deepu sees a garbage bag that has been left exposed.

DEEPU

Kachra ek-do din se sad raha hain.

A man and woman enter the property.

DURGAWADI WOMAN

Kaun hai aap?

DEEPU

Siras sahab se meeting hain. Aap?

DURGAWADI MAN

Upar rehte hain. Accha, Siras hain unka naam?? Kabhi aate hain, kabhi nahi. Light chalu dekhke pata chalta hain ki koi ghar pe hain ya nahin.

Tashi's phone rings, he goes to take the call.

DURGAWADI WOMAN

Kya kaam karte hain woh?

DEEPU

Lecturer hain AMU mein aur ek Kavi bhi hain. Sahitya academy award mila tha unhe.

The woman is impressed to hear this.

(CONTINUED)

DURGAWADI WOMAN (TO HER MAN)
Unko kabhi chai pe bulana chahiye.

Tashi comes running to Deepu.

TASHI
Deepu, jaldi chal.

DEEPU
Kya hua?

TASHI
UP-Chattisgarh border par kal ek
bahut bada naxal hamla hua. 75 CPRF
jawan maare gaye! Unme se do yahan
Aligarh ke bahari gao mein rehte
the. Unki bodies aaj ghar aa rahi
hain. Nameeta chahti hain ke hum
unke parivar waloh se baat kare.

DEEPU
Lekin.. Siras?

TASHI
Arey, woh kahin nahin jaa raha
hain. Yeh bahut badi story hain
Deepu, chal!

DEEPU (TO NEIGHBOR)
Agar professor sahib aaye to unse
kehna ke Deepu Mathew aaya tha.

The old couple nod. Deepu and Tashi get on the bike and leave. The camera stays on Siras's house for a bit.

EXT. BROKEN HUTS. VILLAGE. ALIGARH BORDER. DAY

As the sun sets, two funeral pyres burn in a small village. Women wail uncontrollably outside a nearby hut. The men set somberely near the funeral. Deepu and Tashi try to talk to the villagers.

DEEPU
Kaun lagte the yeh tumhare?

OLD VILLAGER
Mera pota

DEEPU
Kya naam tha unka?

(CONTINUED)

OLD VILLAGER

Raju. 19 saal ka hua teen din
pehle...

Tashi is photographing the funeral pyres and the tragic faces.

INT. SIRAS HOUSE 3. DURGAWADI. DAY

A pair of hands enter through the window, the large water-cooler is moved out of the way. Torchlights flash through the window grills; people are trying to peek inside. Flies buzz. There are shocked murmurs.

EXT. BROKEN HUTS. VILLAGE. ALIGARH BORDER. DAY

A woman holding a baby beats her chest and wails uncontrollably. Deepu holds his dictafone uncomfortably, trying to record her words.

CHHATISGARH MOTHER

Mera ladka. Bees saal ka tha. Abhi
abhi force mein bharti hua woh.
Uski beevi kal se behosh hain.
kaise sambhalu uske bache ko?

Deepu is unable to handle to devastation. He stops the recorder and comes out of the house.

He walks alone till the end of the road and lights a cigarette. He sees Tashi walking towards him hurriedly.

TASHI (STAMMERING)

Woh..ek photographer ka phone
aaya....Aligarh se...Deepu, yaar,
Uski...uski laash mili...ghar ke
andar se...!

DEEPU

Kiski?

TASHI

Siras ki Deepu.. Siras ki!!

Deepu's knees go weak; he is unable to stand his ground and the cigarette from his hand falls.

EXT. BROKEN HUTS. VILLAGE. ALIGARH BORDER. DAY

Tashi rides the bike as Deepu talks to Nameeta.
Deepu is rattled and is mumbling incoherent words.

DEEPU

Main, main..wahan pe tha...wahah
kachra tha...do din ka...uski maa o
rahi thi...baees saal ka tha. Woh
Laash mili. Water cooler tha na...

NAMEETA

Deepu, hold yourself together. Apne
emotions ko alag karo isse. Do you
understand? You are a journalist...

The stormy skies turn into evening as the bike rides on the
highway.

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 3. DURGAWADI. ALIGARH. NIGHT

The narrow lane outside Siras's house is plunged in darkness
but we see the surreal glow of mobile phones and camcorder
lights to reveal a sea of people, Police vans, media vans,
etc. Everyone has their noses covered.
Deepu and Tashi make their way through the crowd. Whispers
are heard.

WHISPER 1

Gay tha woh!

WHISPER 2

Gay matlab?

WHISPER 3

Samlaingik.

WHISPER 4

Rikshawaale ke saath pakda usko.
News mein aaya tha.

A swarm of media people are clicking pictures from the
window.

INT. SIRAS HOUSE 3. DURGAWADI. ALIGARH. DAY

Deepu tries to enter the house but a cop stops him. Deepu
flashes his ID card.

(CONTINUED)

CONSTABLE 2

Nahi jay sakte andar. Abhi abhi
Forensics aayi hain. Body ko post
mortem ke liye bheja jaa raha hain.

Deepu's head is spinning and he musters courage to look inside the window. His last conversation with Siras plays in his head.

SIRAS VO

Mujhe TV ka volume kam karne do,
taaki hum baat karsake...

Deepu notices the Tata sky remote lying on the bed.

SIRAS VO

Mein America jaana chahta hoon.
Jahan mere jaise log izzat se reh
sakte hain.

Deepu sees a Time Magazine scattered on the floor.

SIRAS VO

Mein tumhe aise hi phone pe
interview nahin karne dunga. You
must come here and meet me!

Through Deepu's POV we see a glimpse of Siras's corpse facing a wall.

SIRAS VO

Chalo, ab phone rakhta hoon. Bahut
neend aa rahi hain.

The forensics guys turn Siras's body to put it on a stretcher, Deepu cannot bear to see it, he looks away.

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 3. DURGAWADI. ALIGARH. NIGHT

A dizzy-headed Deepu walks out through the crowd. Snatches of curious faces. Some are pushing. Some are watching a video on a cell phone. Deepu sees that they are watching Siras's sex tape. Snatches of Siras & Irrfan's naked bodies. Deepu feels sick. He comes out and throws up by a tree. Tashi is by his side, offering him water. A forensic guy comes out of the house; the media rushes towards him.

FORENSICS

Aisa maloom hota hain ki inki maut
do din pehle hee hui thi. Beech
raat mein.

(CONTINUED)

REPORTER 1
Maut wajah kya thi?

REPORTER 2
Kya suicide case hai yeh??

FORENSICS
Yeh information lab mein detailed
jaanch ke baad pata chalegi.

Deepu watches the tamasha while holding onto a tree. He spots Siras's neighbor talking to Sub Inspector Fuwad. The neighbor points to Deepu.

INT. POLICE VAN. DURGAWADI. ALIGARH. NIGHT

We see Deepu and Tashi sitting inside a Police van. Sub Inspector Fuwad is interrogating Deepu while sipping tea from a plastic cup.

FUWAD
Aap victim ke ghar ke bahar kya kar
rahe the?

DEEPU
Meri unke saath aaj interview thi.

FUWAD
Aapko andar se koi smell nahi
aayi??

DEEPU
Mujhe laga smell kachde ke dabbe se
aa raha thi.

FUWAD
Professor se aakhri baar kab baat
hui aapki?

DEEPU
Parson raat ko, takreeban sawah-nau
baje, woh sone jaa rahe the..

FUWAD
Impossible!

DEEPU
Kya matlab?

FUWAD
Kamre se koi mobile phone baramat
nahi hui.

(CONTINUED)

DEEPU

To phir kisine phone ko kamre se
nikal diya hoga...

FUWAD

Cant be. Kamra andar se lock tha.

Deepu is shocked to hear all this.

INT. HUT. JAMALPUR. NIGHT

A wet hand frantically tries to light a match. The box is soaked and it is difficult, finally it succeeds. As soon as the match is lit, a man goes up in flames. He screams. People gather at the window and some try to break open the door. The whole hut catches fire.

INT. GOVT GENERAL HOSPITAL. ALIGARH. NIGHT

A government hospital lit with battery lamps. There is no electricity. The place is dirty and chaotic. Deepu follows the cops as they go to the ICU.

MADI, 50, the rickshaw union head is standing outside with two police officers. They stop to talk to him.

MADI

Main rikshaw union ka head hoon.
Irrfan do din pehle Jamalpur wapas
aaya tha. Jaise Irrfan ko Professor
ki khabar mili to usne apne aap ko
kamre mein bandh karke jala
diya....

The cops go inside the room to question Irrfan. Deepu watches them talk to a distant, still, figure in a bed. A woman in a burqa is weeping outside. She has in her arms a new born and 3 other kids surround her. The cops exit.

Deepu goes to talk to Irrfan. Irrfan is half-burned and listless.

DEEPU

Irrfan tumne apne aapko kyon
jalaya?

Irrfan turns away from Deepu.

DEEPU

Isiliye ki tumne Professor ke saath
galat kiya tha?

(CONTINUED)

IRRFAN

Aap jao idhar se.

DEEPU

Please Irrfan. Mujhse baat karo.
Professor Siras ko main acche tarah
se janta hoon. Woh tumpar koi
karawahi nahi chahte the. Ant tak
tumhare acchai ke liye sochte the.

Tears roll down Irrfan's face.

DEEPU

Yeh mere liye jaan-na bahut zaroori
hain Irrfan. Kya AMU se kisini
tumhe paise diye the...us raat
darwaza khula choddne ke liye?

Irrfan cries inconsolably.

DEEPU

Kya tumne ghar se un reporters ko
koi signal diya tha? Kya tumne
darwaza andar se khol diya tha?
Batao Irrfan.

Irrfan weeps and folds his hands in an attempt to ask
forgiveness.

IRRFAN

Main gareeb aadmi hoon sahib. Mujhe
muaf kardijiye. Main gareeb aadmi
hoo sahib, main garib aadmi hoon.

Deepu gets his answer and backs off.

SIRAS (POEM)

With you beside me I will not
stumble. You are my friend, my
family, my lover.

Deepu looks around to see Irrfan's children in torn clothes
and his wife weeping with the new born child.

EXT. BYLANES. ALIGARH. NIGHT

We hear Siras poem being recited and see shots of Deepu walk
in a stupor into the bylanes of Aligarh.

EXT. SRIDHARAN'S HOUSE. ALIGARH. NIGHT

Deepu walks into the lane. Streetlights are on and the houses have electricity. He knocks on the door. Sridharan's wife opens it. She freezes seeing Deepu looking like a ghost.

DEEPU

Mujhe aapka computer use karna hain.

She moves, allowing him to enter. She points him in a direction.

INT. SRIDHARAN'S HOUSE. ALIGARH. NIGHT

Deepu walks in a corridor. He stops outside a room, where he sees Sridharan sitting in the dark. His eyes are red, it looks like he has been crying. He looks older in the partly shadowed light.

He sees Deepu and talks to him, choked with disbelief.

SRIDHARAN

Woh mujhse help maangne aaya tha Deepu. Do baar. Par maine uski madat nahi ki. Woh mujhe apna friend samajhta tha...

Sridharan breaks down. His wife directs Deepu to a room.

Deepu enters to see a computer.

He sits down to file his story. We hear his VO as he types.

DEEPU VO

Jinhe woh peeche chhod gaye, unhe samajh mein aane laga ki unka ek hissa humesha ke liye kho chukka tha.

Sridharan's wife tries to console his husband. He is trembling.

DEEPU VO

Woh ek gay aadmi se kai zyada the. Siras Marathi ke professor the, ek award-winning kavi the. Woh ek sacche Brahmin the, joh bhagwan aur Lata Mangeshkar ke gaano ko barabar pyar karte the..Ek line mein agar samaya jaye, to Siras ko apne zindagi se bahut pyar tha. Aur izzat aur maryada unke liye utni hi zaroori thi, jitni ki zindagi khud.

EXT. NEWSPAPER STAND. DELHI. DAY

Early morning. A young boy delivers bundles of papers. Siras is on the front page. 'Gay professor found dead under mysterious circumstances.'

We see various characters from the film like Anjali Gopalan, Tariq Islam & Anand Grover read the papers.

EXT. SIRAS HOUSE 3. DUGAWADI. DAY

A crowd has gathered as a news reporter reconstructs the crime scene.

TV REPORTER

Kya yeh suicide thi, ya unki hatya ki gayi? Forensic report ka ab besabri se intezaar hain.

DEEPU VO

Siras shayad zinda rehte hue itni badi story nahi ban paye, jitni ki maut mein ban gaye. Aakhir mein woh har newspaper ke front page par aa gaye...

INT. IE OFFICE. DELHI. DAY

We see the news-wire run at a newsroom desk. Several stories appear and disappear...

"Protests against Vice Chancellor in AU"; "Siras's wife moves court against brothers in property row"; "Dead Professor was a literally genius". .

DEEPU VO

...aur kuch hi dino mein, Professor Siras gayab bhi ho gaye, surkhiyon aur breaking news ke behte samundar mein.

Other news stories replace Siras on the 'wire':

'Government cracks down on Naxals after Chhattisgarh ambush.' *'Storm in West Bengal kills 140.'* *'Twin bombs injure eight at Chinnaswamy Stadium Bangalore.'* *'Indian embassy employee in Pakistan arrested on charges of espionage.'*...

Deepu sits at his new desk and stretches back on his seat. He looks above his head to see a CCTV camera watching the office.

Fade To Black.

END CARDS

'The court order asking for Siras to be reinstated arrived in AU on April 9th 2010...

...One day after he had been found dead.'

'The police confirmed traces of poison in his blood... but ruled out foul play.'

'On 12th December 2013, The Supreme Court ruled in favour of upholding section 377...

...Homosexuality was criminalised again.'

END