

The Pool Club

written by
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FADE IN:

1 INT. SHARMA'S HOUSE - VERANDA - MORNING

1

A wide-angle frame shows the house's big open-roof **veranda**. It's a warm Tuesday morning. A swing sits in the far right corner. The edges of the veranda are covered with small flower pots, while some hang from the edges of the roof.

The veranda floor is a bit lower than the rest of the house. The plaster of the walls surrounding it is coming off because of dampness but the bricks are still hidden. The house has earthy-coloured walls and interiors.

Enters the frame SONU (9), is holding a bowl of halwa in one hand and a big spoon in the other. His hair is a bit oily and parted to one side. His neck has almost become white with the talcum powder. He sits down and starts eating his favourite halwa while staring curiously at something.

SONU (V.O.)

Main hamesha sochta tha ki hafte ke
inn saat dino mai mere liye khaas,
kaun sa din hai?

It's a calendar, in Hindi, even the dates. It has weekends marked in red.

SONU (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Sunday. Nahi, wo to sabka hai, aisa
jo sirf mere liye khaas ho aisa.
Jaise...

We see DADI (grandmother) in her 70's. She has a round and loving face but she can get super angry. She is sitting in a cushioned chair watching the TV with so much excitement, holding the remote with both hands to her chin.

SONU (V.O.) (CONT'D)

...Dadi, haan unke liye to sunday
kyuki har sunday Mahabharat jo aata
hai jismai bhagwaan Krishna unhe
swayam darshan dete hai. Aur haan,
aaj yani Tuesday, jab wo episode
dobara aata hai.

The scene cuts to the veranda where PAPA (43), his dad is reading the newspaper on the wooden chair with his glasses on his nose's edge. He seems impatient for something and looks back and forth from the newspaper to the kitchen. He is waiting for his tea.

SONU (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Papa..., unke liye to woh din khaas
 hai jab bhi unki subah ki chai unhe
 time pe mil jaaye.

Then we see MUMMY (39), his mom, walking quickly (not running) towards PAPA with a hot cup of tea. She gives it to PAPA and runs back to the kitchen as we hear the cooker's whistle.

SONU (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 (thinks)
 Mummy ke liye to... (remembers) haan,
 Friday. Jab yaha ki, unki saari
 sahelian unse milne aati hai.
 Aur CHINKI ke liye...

Then, we see CHINKI (7), his little sister, who is lost in her thought, laughing randomly and spilling the halwa all over her.

The camera finally shifts back to SONU who is looking at her sister CHINKI, sitting behind her in amusement.

SONU (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Us bechari ne to iss moh maya se door
 kisi aur hi duniya main ghar basa
 liya hai.

SONU looks back to the calendar, but this time he seems happy about something.

SONU (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Lekin ab mujhe mera khaas din mil
 gaya hai. Jo hai AAJ, kyuki Ab main
 jaa sakta hoon...

Behind SONU in the frame, we see SUNNY (19), his elder brother, grabbing his stuff and running hastily with just one slipper and yelling...

SUNNY
 Maa, main pool club jaa rha hoon.

A cunning smile covers the face of SONU as he takes a big spoon of halwa.

AND WE CUT TO:

TITLES: THE POOL CLUB

2 INT. SHARMA'S HOUSE - STUDY ROOM - DAY

2

There is a big heavy wooden table on the far right of the room, it's a working table with a few books on its right and a reading lamp on the left with a newspaper in the centre.

Under it, SONU was going through some old cardboard boxes filled with books.

SONU (V.O.)

Lekin Pool club jaana utna aasan nhi hai. Kyuki jaane ke liye jagah kaha hai maloom hona zaroori hai. Aur mere liye raasta yaad rakhna thoda mushkil hai.

He is throwing the covers of the boxes as he becomes restless to find what he is looking for.

SONU

Kaha rakh diya... (finds it) ye raha.

It's a hardcover book. He quickly scrolls a few pages and in the near middle of it, there was a folded white page.

He unfolds it to reveal an imperfect map with one black circle marked as 'Ghar' and a red line from it leading to somewhere, unfinished but nearly close to another black circle marked 'Pool Club'.

SONU (V.O.)

Isliye maine ye tareeka nikala hai. Waise agar mera SUNNY ko lekar naseeb achcha hota to shayad ye sab kaafi aasan hota. Waise wo itne bure nhi hai lekin...

3 INT. SHARMA'S HOUSE - VERANDA - DAY

3

A few weeks ago, SONU was sitting in the same place in the veranda, he was eating bread toast while looking at the calendar.

Behind him, his elder brother is in a hurry to leave and yells,

SUNNY

Maa, main pool club jaa rha hoon.

A similar innocent smile covers the entire face of SONU. He exits the frame to follow him.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. NARROW LANE - SMALL COLONY - DAY

4

A still frame captures this big lane, behind which we can see three old and big houses. SONU's brother enters the frame from the right, walking to the club. A few moments later we see SONU enters the frame. His brother realises being followed, turns back and shoos him.

He signs okay and pretends to go back but as his brother turns back, he continues the follow. His brother again turns back and angrily points him to go back, he shows he is sorry and turns to home and exits the frame.

His brother continues his journey but before his brother also exits the frame, he enters the frame again to follow but this time his brother looks around, picks up a rock and throws it at him. He runs back dodging the rocks.

5 INT. SHARMA'S HOUSE - STUDY ROOM - DAY

5

BACK TO PRESENT- SONU is staring at the map.

SONU (V.O.)
(frustated)
...Haan bure hi hai, kuch achche nhi
hai. Lekin chahe kuch bhi ho ab main
haar nhi maan sakta, kyuki aage ka
safar aur bhi mushkilo se bhara hoga.

As he closes the book, he looks at the cover and we get to see it also. It read- "Agneepath - Harivansh Rai Bachchan".

He is now pumped up.

6 EXT. OLD MARKET ALLY - NOON

6

It's next Tuesday.

A wide-angle frame captures the stillness of an old market's ally. There is a big pole of electricity on the right and an old shop with a big banner in the centre.

SUNNY enters the frame from the right and after a few moments, Sonu enters the frame. SONU is moving slowly to avoid being caught and is using objects around him like the pole to take cover.

SONU (V.O.)
Kabhi kabhi to meri timing hi kharaab
ho jaati hai.

As SONU walks past the pole, SUNNY turns around to catch him, in panic, SONU turns back and hits the same pole behind him. SUNNY's frustration turns to concern, but SONU pretends for a while as if nothing happened. He is walking around clumsily and signals SUNNY to stay where he is showing that he is okay. This act doesn't go on for a while as SONU falls unconscious.

7 INT. SHARMA'S HOUSE - STUDY ROOM - LATER

7

SONU is sitting under the big table with cotton balls in both nostrils. He is scribbling something with a red marker on the map.

A close-up shows that he is extending the red line, first left and then a two right.

8 EXT. UNKNOWN ALLY - DAY

8

Next Tuesday. We see a big pile of boxes in the corner of the road and among them, SONU is rummaging around to find something.

SONU (V.O.)
Aise kaamo ke liye planning bohot
zaroori hain. Aur planning ke saath
taiyyari. Aur peeche karne ke liye
bhes badalna bhi to zaroori hai.

He finds it—a big shirt, glasses, and a wig. Among the items, there's also a pair of pants, but as SONU tries to grab them, they refuse to budge. They're stuck on something.

He tugs harder, using all his strength. With one final, desperate pull, he loses his balance and falls to his back.

And on the other end of the pants—clamped between its powerful jaws—stands a big, scary dog.

SONU (V.O.) (CONT'D)
(disappointment)
Mera naseeb itna kyu kharaab hai.

SONU gets up in a hurry and runs for his life leaving everything behind.

9 INT. SHARMA'S HOUSE - STUDY ROOM - LATER

9

With torn clothes and swelled-up eyes from crying he is extending the red line on the map a bit further. He looks even more determined now.