

BOUND TO BREAK

Written by

Milin Joshi

Email: milincjoshi@gmail.com

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

We open to the sound of keyboard typing.

SHANAYA, a 25 year old wearing house casual clothes with hair in a bun, is sitting on the desk working, typing, writing code.

MANAGER

(Instant Message)

Hello Shanaya, are you available to discuss upcoming tasks?

SHANAYA

(Instant Message Reply)

Yes, sure

MANAGER

(Instant Message Reply)

Ok, Calling

She puts her headphones on. Inaudible conversation, mellow music starts playing.

CUT TO:

SHANAYA'S POV -

Code she types - `while (int i < upperLimit) { doWork(); break; }`

She clicks on 'build' button. Percentage bar showing up on screen. Percentage bar shows error/failure at 13%

Shanaya starts typing, writing code.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET SIDE OF HOUSE - EVENING

Silhouette of Shanaya from the window working on her desk in front of a computer screen, typing.

AMIT, a 25 year old with casual clothes, climbs up the porch and rings the doorbell.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

TING-TONG-TING, the doorbell rings.

COMPUTER POV - Shanaya stands up, her hands still typing.

EXT. STREET SIDE OF HOUSE - EVENING

Amit, waiting, checks his phone, his stock portfolio is showing a 10% loss graph.

TING-TONG-TING, he rings the doorbell rings again.

SHANAYA

Be right there!

Shanaya puts her headphones down.

Shanaya heads over to the door and opens it.

AMIT

You were working, weren't you?

SHANAYA

A software engineer works 24*7*365.
There are some moments in between
where they live.

AMIT

Do you know what time is it?

SHANAYA

It is dinner time!

Shanaya grabs the grocery bags from Amit's hands. Shanaya and Amit head over to the kitchen and have conversation during unloading groceries and chopping and cooking the meal.

Shanaya pulls out a gift wrapped item from bag.

SHANAYA (CONT'D)

What is this?

AMIT

Oh just a little something for
house new job joining gift.

Shanaya, smiling, unwraps the item to find a empty photo frame.

SHANAYA

I don't get it.

AMIT

What?

SHANAYA

It's empty.

AMIT

Which means you can put in any photo you like.

Shanaya places the photo frame on the side and starts prepping the dinner.

AMIT (CONT'D)

You know, I want to ask, Do they pay you overtime?

SHANAYA

Unlike you, we do not have punch cards.

AMIT

So, what hours do you work? Wait, sorry wrong question, I mean to ask what hours do you not work?

SHANAYA

I think the recommended term is 'flexible hours'

AMIT

So you are always working. Why don't you quit? Find another job position? Do they pay you enough to work this much?

SHANAYA

Well, this one pays well, well enough that I can pay the installments on the loan that my parents took out for my higher education, after which I got this position. And you know how much time and effort it takes to find a new position. I can pay the loan quickly through this and not worry about the future for a while you know, at least up to the point where the loan is paid back so that my parent's house can be freed up which is used as collateral. Wooo...I'm hungry since ages, Come on, let's cook, fast!

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Shanaya and Amit take out the hot food in their respective plates.

They head over and sit on the couch right in front of the already on tv with news channel.

They take their first bite.

TV

Breaking News, this just in, the S&P 500 Index futures are currently in a free fall. It seems like large Hedge funds are unloading their positions and the Futures are in a free fall. This will heavily affect the American economy and its companies. It seems like the US economy is headed for a crash.

CHIME! Shanaya receives a notification on her phone.

There's a pop-up on her phone to join meeting with manager.

Shanaya gets up, leaving her plate on the coffee table and header over to her desk.

She puts her headphones on and joins the meeting.

MANAGER

Hello Shanaya, how are you doing?

SHANAYA

Good, and you? Is everything alright?

MANAGER

Yes, yes, everything's fine. I am sure you might have been following the news. It seems like our company is affected as well with this stock market crash and economic downturn. Now this brings us to a very delicate situation. All of your teammates as of now are laid-off (pause) except you. We love your work and dedication to this position, especially your ability to work and answer outside normal working hours of 9 to 5.

(MORE)

MANAGER (CONT'D)

Therefore, we are still keeping you around, however, there will be an increase in the workload going forward, more deliverables will be expected from you. I called you at this hour just to confirm that you would be comfortable with this, right?

Shanaya pauses for a beat.

SHANAYA

Yes, Yes, Yes... of course! That is such a relief to hear. Thank you so much!

MANAGER

No, no, thank you Shanaya, and don't thank me yet. We still have a long way to go. I will email you further details about the next task. Have a good night.

SHANAYA

Good night.

Shanaya sits there thinking for a beat.

Shanaya heads back to have dinner on the couch. Shanaya and Amit have dinner.

CUT TO:

INT. PORCH - EVENING

Amit and Shanaya hug goodbye.

Amit steps out the door.

Door closes.

SHANAYA

See you later!

Shanaya heads back to her desk.

She removes all the comics, CDs, pen holders and other items from the desk and throws them into the dustbin.

She takes her desk to the basement.

She places a book and a pen on the desk.

She picks up a framed family picture of her mother, father, elder brother and herself standing with their backs against a new house and looks at it for a beat.

She places it right next to her monitor screen.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Shanaya sits, puts her headphones on and starts working.

ZOOM IN ON:

Clock speeding up to 2am

ZOOM OUT ON:

Shanaya stands up, stretches and heads over to couch and falls asleep

Clock showing 7am, alarm goes off.

Shanaya wakes up on her bed sitting upright.

She brushes her teeth.

She places coffee pot on machine and presses button. BEEP.

She pours coffee in her cup.

She drinks coffee.

Shanaya sits down on desk to work, starts typing.

CUT TO:

Clock speeding up to 2am.

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CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

CHIME! Shanaya receives a notification on her phone.

There's a pop-up on her phone to join meeting with manager.

She puts her headphones on and joins the meeting.

MANAGER

Shanaya, good work, you have really proved yourself as a valuable employee to the company, especially during these tough economic times. We really hope that you continue to work and deliver in the same manner.

SHANAYA

Thank you so much, I will keep trying.

Shanaya hangs up. She lays back on her chair and has a slight smile on her face.

RING! Amit calling on Shanaya's phone.

SHANAYA (CONT'D)
(Conversation over text message)

SHANAYA (CONT'D)
"Can't talk, work."

AMIT

"Food?"

SHANAYA

"can't, working, catch up with you later."

Shanaya opens a website. She sees a Chart going down.

One of the headlines reads *"More layoffs to come soon"*

Shanaya puts her game face on, tidies up the items on desk including plant, frame and notepad and starts working on her desk.

TIMELAPSE
SHOWING 3 DAYS
PASSED:

CHIME! Shanaya receives a notification on her phone.

MANAGER

All the best!

Shanaya frowns.

RING! A pop-up on monitor shows *Incoming Call: Manager B*

Shanaya accepts.

MANAGER B

Hello Shanaya, how are you doing?

SHANAYA

Good, how are you?

MANAGER B

I am good as well, thank you for asking. I have some news for you. Your previous manager was laid off and going forward I am going to be your new manager.

SHANAYA

Oh!

MANAGER B

Yes, hence, I have to ask you to put in more hours into work mandatorily every day with the same remuneration. I hope this is not an issue for you, after all I got a very glowing recommendation of you from your previous manager.

Shanaya, still in shock, nods.

MANAGER B (CONT'D)
Awesome, I will email you the
details about your upcoming tasks
soon. Have a good night!

Manager B hangs up.

Shanaya starts typing, and is a little tense now with worried face.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

She places coffee pot on machine and presses button. BEEP.

She pours coffee in her cup.

She drinks coffee.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

On her desk now, Shanaya drinks a coffee sip, starts typing.

She orders food from FOOD DELIVERY APP.

She opens door, picks it up and closes the door.

Shanaya takes a bite, still on her desk.

CUT TO:

Clock speeding up to 2am

CUT TO:

Shanaya stands up, stretches and heads over to couch and falls asleep

CUT TO:

Clock showing 7am

CUT TO:

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She orders food from FOOD DELIVERY APP.

She opens door, picks it up and closes the door.

Shanaya takes a bite, still on her desk.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

RING! A pop-up on her screen with *Incoming call: Manager B*

Shanaya accepts.

MANAGER B

Hello Shanaya, I regret to inform
you that you have been let go. Your
services are no longer required. I
wish you all the best for your
future endeavors.

Manager B hangs up.

Shanaya sitting still, trying to process what she just heard.
She places her hand on her forehead.

Hold this for a beat...

She taps fingers on the table desk rapidly, her one leg
shaking with anxiety.

RING! Shanaya's phone. *Incoming Call: Amit*

She rejects the call.

She gets up and starts pacing up and down.

Shanaya cuts a calendar and marks 60 days countdown and
sticks it to the wall next to her computer, visible from
where she sits.

TIMELAPSE - Shanaya sitting on her desk. Calendar pages
teared 60,59,58,57...9,8. Days

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Shanaya sleeping on her desk.

TING-TONG-TING! The doorbell rings.

Shanaya heads over and opens the door.

Amit enters, they head towards the couch.

Amit sits on the couch, Shanaya on her desk chair.

AMIT

Care to tell me what's going on?

AMIT (CONT'D)

Why won't you answer your phone?

SHANAYA

I..I was busy with work

AMIT

Don't you think you are pushing
yourself too much here

SHANAYA

I have to, I have been laid-off,
trying to find a new job here.

Amit mouth half open in shock.

AMIT

Why didn't you tell me?

Shanaya shrugs.

AMIT (CONT'D)

I still think you should relax a
little, have you looked at yourself
in the mirror?

(BEAT)

Come on, let's eat something. I
brought food.

SHANAYA

I don't want to. I already ate.

Amit gets up and heads towards the door.

He stops at the door and turns around.

AMIT

I want you to think for just once,
and answer to yourself, not me,
just yourself OK? Is this what you
came to USA for?

Shanaya silent. She looks at him.

Amit turns and leaves.

Shanaya comes back to her desk and sits in the chair, shaking her legs in anxiety, knocking on desk with fingers rapidly. She is frowning, pressing her teeth.

She grunts in anger, gets up and knocks off the frame off the desk breaking its glass and starts pacing up and down.

She looks at calendar.

Pop-up 7 days...

She grunts louder in anger and heads towards the door.

CUT TO:

INT. FOYER - EVENING

Shanaya wears her shoes and heads to the door, slams the door behind her, and steps into the bright light of the sun.

She walks up to a tree and leans against it.

A soft breeze blows.

A tear rolls down her cheek.

She heads back to the home door, removing shoes outside and heads in, opening and closing door.

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Shanaya arrives at her desk and slowly picks up the frame and glass pieces. She throws glass pieces in dustbin and picks up the frame.

A tear rolls down her cheek and falls into the family photo frame she is holding in her hands.

She opens her eyes and starts wiping the tear on the frame away using her sleeve.

She looks at the photo.

ZOOM IN - On photo.

Shanaya's eyes light up as she notices something in photo.

There is a large poster in a frame in this photo reading
"Embrace Nature, Endure Life!"

Her eyes light up, look around as if it is searching for something, finally realizing what she has to do.

She gets up and heads towards the door.

EXT. PORCH - EVENING

She does not wear her shoes and heads towards the tree right outside her house.

She slowly brushes her back to the tree and sits down closing her eyes.

She breathes in, breathes out, slowly.

Breathe in, breathe out, slowly.

Breathe in, breathe out, slowly.

She slowly opens her eyes and stands up.

She removes her shoes and bare feet, she curls her toes into the green grass. She starts walking

CUT TO:

EXT. LAKE SHORE - EVENING

Shanaya walking, barefoot, by a lake with ducks swimming.

She stops and hears the soothing wave brushing against shore.

She takes a few steps further and a wave brushes up water against her feet.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS - EVENING

Shanaya walking, barefoot, into the woods. She feels the bark of the trees, rustles the leaves on a tree, brushes her hand against leaves, smells flowers.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK - EVENING

Shanaya walking in the park, barefoot on grass.

Shanaya sits down and runs her hands through the flowers slightly smiling.

CUT TO:

EXT. PAVEMENT - EVENING

She comes back, takes her shoes and heads into her house.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

She heads to her desk and brings it out of the basement and into the living room.

She opens the curtains and throws the coffee mug with coffee into the trash.

She drinks water from a water bottle and places it on her desk.

She places a plant pot on her desk.

She applies to one more job.

OVERLAY SHOT- Shanaya walking in woods, near lake, and in park WITH Countdown 6,5,4,3 days.

EXT. PARK - EVENING

Shanaya is walking in park. CHIME! An Email pops up on Shanaya's phone. *Congratulations Shanaya, we would like to offer you a position at Company X. I hope you accept as we have a great track record in the past working together. Signed, MANAGER*

She clicks the accept button smiling and calls Amit.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Shanaya opens the door and there standing is Amit arrives at the door with a bag of groceries, smiling.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

They start unloading the grocery items and prepare for dinner.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

They bring food to the table.

Amit grabs the remote to turn on the tv.

SHANAYA

No, no, no. Turn off the tv, tell me how have you been?

Amit smiles, inaudible conversation and laughs.

Amit and Shanaya walking near the lake.

Amit and Shanaya cycling (sunset silhouette)

They come back into the house.

Amit and Shanaya are playing board games.

(Chime) Meeting invite

Amit eyeing her, Shanaya clicks the reject button.

SHANAYA (CONT'D)

(sends a text)

"Can't join, see you tomorrow"

Shanaya smiles and then looks at Amit.

FADE OUT: