NAME:MIHIR GOLATKAR

NUMBER: 9820441405

EMAIL: [golatkarmihir7@gmail.com](mailto:golatkarmihir7@gmail.com)

CITY: NERUL, NAVI MUMBAI

EXT. ROAD

A sedan slowly edges its way through an off road path, first smoothly, then in fits and starts. Through the windows of the sedan, we see this: A cool, gentle breeze rushing by, the twitter-twatter-of-birds-filled-morning. Trees of all assortments and sizes, with the cool blue morning sky beyond. Nisha(30) is driving, while her husband Tanmay(30) is dozing in the back. They come to a crossroad. Tanmay wakes up. We see them arguing from an exterior view of the sedan. Apparently, its about which way to go, the husband quietens up after a short spurt of angry words, the wife has won the argument. A short while later they turn to the left.

The sedan enters a small town. Slowly rolls in front of an establishment: "Bholenath Motors".The shutter is half-closed, but a man comes from within the shop, and approaches them.This is Vijay Chitnis (65), moderately dressed, bespectacled, with an air of insomnia around him. He gives a look of distaste when he sees a WOMAN alighting from the driver's side, and the MAN sleeping in the back.

VIJAY

Yes, how can I help you?

NISHA

Engine's giving problem. Can you have a look at it?

VIJAY(OPENING THE FRONT)

Please start it.

After a little fiddling around, he opens the shutter and invites them in, calls somebody up.

VIJAY

It is a two man job, the spark plug needs to be replaced.

TANMAY

How much time would it take?

VIJAY

I don't know, 3-4 hours maybe.

TANMAY

We should have taken up the shortcut. Maybe, we could have reached your mom's till now.

NISHA(SNAPPILY)

And what if the car broke down in the middle of nowhere?

TANMAY(MAKING A WEIRD FACE)

How would you know until you try?

NISHA

Aargh.....don't make that face!!

VIJAY

Please keep it down. People here don't wake up so early. You can wait in the showroom by the side, I will have someone send tea for you two.

Presently, a young boy arrives. This is Babua (15), Vijayan's helping hand. He first spots Nisha talking vehemently on the phone with somebody. He sits on the pavement across, and begins to stare at her beautiful form with dreamy eyes, and a broad smile. Until, someone O.S. twists his ear.

NIDHI

You have grown up quite a lot, haven't you?

This is Nidhi (28). she is Vijay's daughter. Not traditionally beautiful, but she has a calm demeanor to her. Dressed in casual tees and leggings, she smiles at the young Babua.

BABUA

Arre didi, when did you come here?

NIDHI

Half an hour ago. I went to the house, but Nimit said that Baba was down here.

BABUA

He hasn't slept all night. Doesn't listen to anybody.

NIDHI

Was he so tense about my arrival?

BABUA

No...didi, he misses you a lot, even if he doesn't say it aloud.

NIDHI

I know, I miss him too. I will go in, you do your work.

Nidhi goes into the office by the side. Vijayan is sitting in a contemplative posture, eyes closed and hands folded, in meditative contemplation. He opens his eyes and gives her a smile.

VIJAY

Come in. I was expecting you.

She sits down in front of him.

NIDHI

You have been smoking all night. What tensions keep you awake at night, Baba? Do you run this town, or does Malya calls you at night asking about your financial advice?

VIJAY

If he took my advice,he wouldn't find himself in the fix he currently is in.

NIDHI

We all love your confidence...(picking up the box of cigarettes), these are low tar, Baba, smoke something with a better filter you know,like...

VIJAY(GLARING AT HER)

You know a lot about cigarettes.

NIDHI

More than you would like me to.

There is an awkward silence. Nidhi breaks it with a sigh.

NIDHI

My room partner smokes, she keeps telling me about all that.

VIJAY

Wonder what the city has done to you.

NIDHI

You didn't tell me what's keeping you up all night.

VIJAY

I keep thinking.

NIDHI

What, now. Did Nimit bungle up again?

VIJAY

Your brother is a dreamer, not a businessman.He's one of the worst people to manage this place.

NIDHI

Cool down , Baba. He was a born dreamer. He wanted to take up literature, you remember?

VIJAY

Yes, he reads out poetry to Babua. God! He gives away barely used cars for peanuts.Sends Babua away on frequent holidays. Quarrels pointlessly with the accountant.

NIDHI

But this is not about him, right?

VIJAY

No...it isn't, (sighs). Allow me to digress. I was almost raised an orphan. After my Father left my mother and me to fend for ourselves, my mother decided to open a grocery shop with her good-for-nothing, drunkard brother who eloped with all the money. After that my mother died..

NIDHI

I know the story Baba..

VIJAY

Bear with me, O restless one.Hear me out and think about what I say. After this old man leaves this world for the next one, you can do as you please.

Nidhi grows uncomfortable, she can sense her father's pain and hesitation to speak.

VIJAY

All those incidents of my childhood formed a firm opinion if mine: women are weak and gullible and entirely given in to their senses.

NIDHI

You need to stop saying that. That was the reason I left this place, that was the reason I gave up proving myself to you..

VIJAY

Proving yourself to me, were you? Why did you run away to the city then? Who knows, what kind of people you are living with, maybe you have started all that stuff city folk do, that clubbing and drinking and whatnot.

NIDHI

Does it make a single iota of difference to you what do I do? No..Because if you did, then you would have appreciated me atleast once. But no, you preferred the Kuldeepak over me.

VIJAY

Stop..I meant to say something else, see, I didn't mean for a quarrel to happen( rubs his forehead).

NIDHI

Then? Speak out,whatever it is. Then hear ME out, because I have something to say too.

VIJAY

All these years, I prided myself on keeping my head clear, that's what keeping this dealership running so long. I prided in my son too, because after all he was my son, he would carry my name forward.

Nidhi is suprised my the turn of conversation. There is a knock on the door. Tanmay lets herself in.

TANMAY

Sirji, is the work done? How much time more?

VIJAY

I told you, it will take time. Babua is working on it.

Nisha comes in too.

NISHA

Actually, we should have reached the next town by now. I know its not your fault, but can't you please hurry up the repair work?

NIDHI

Well, why don't you do one thing? We will rent a car out of the used cars lot to them, fill a little bit of cash as guarantee against it, and then we will have your car repaired and sent out to you.

NISHA

That' cool with us.

VIJAY

We don't rent cars.

NIDHI

Flexible policies, dad? By the way, do we still have the Amby in there?

A signing of few papers take place. Cash and keys exchange hands. A beautiful Ambassador rolls out and the couple are on their way again.

VIJAY( IN A LOW VOICE)

That was a good call.

Nidhi and Babua watch him with mouths agape and eyes wondrous.

VIJAY

Nidhi, I use to believe that women are senseless and foolish, but I think there are exceptions now..I believe there are survivors, women who are the complete opposite of what I said just now, an di bleive you ar eon of them.

There is a long silence, but slowly Nidhi begins to comprehend her father's words.

NIDHI

No..you cannot mean all that....

VIJAY(WITH A QUIVERING VOICE)

I want you to take up the business, and run it. Nidhi, if anyone can do it, it's you. This (pointing to the entire establishment) is my legacy, this is my heart and soul...

NIDHI(ON THE VERGE OF TEARS)

My..my..my..the only word you have known... Baba I hate you, you are the most selfish man....