

THE ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

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EXT. AIRPORT – DAY

A plane taxis on the runway.

INT. AIRPLANE – DAY

An AIR HOSTESS closes the overhead bins. FARHAN (30s), a passenger, is reading a book when his phone rings. He scrambles for it, embarrassed he hadn't turned it off. Other passengers look at him disapprovingly. He sheepishly takes the call.

फरहान
हैल्लो हॉ।

FARHAN
Hello... Yes?

A beat.

फरहान
(*incredulous*)
क्या ?

FARHAN
What?

AIR HOSTESS

Sir, kindly switch off your mobile phone.

FARHAN

Just one sec, please, one sec, please.

The airplane revs its engines. Farhan hangs up, looking disturbed. He tries to catch the attention of the Air hostess.

FARHAN
Excuse me.

The plane races down the runway.

Farhan appears to be in acute physical discomfort as the plane takes off.

FARHAN

(to the Air hostess)

Excuse me.

He unbuckles his seat belt and stands up.

The Air hostess is alarmed.

AIR HOSTESS

Sir, please sit down.

Farhan tries to steady himself but keels over
and falls in the aisle, unconscious.

AIR HOSTESS

(into the phone)

Captain, there's a medical emergency.
A passenger has just fallen down in the
aisle.

INT. COCKPIT – CONTINUOUS

CAPTAIN

Delhi, Air India 101 returning due to
medical emergency.

EXT. AIRPORT – CONTINUOUS

The plane returns to the airport.

INT. AIRPLANE – CONTINUOUS

The Air hostesses rush to help Farhan.

AIR HOSTESS

Excuse me Sir. Sir, excuse me. Sir, excuse
me Sir.

INT. TERMINAL – MOMENTS
LATER

The airline ground STAFF and a DOCTOR
are taking an unconscious Farhan on a

wheelchair through the terminal. As they approach the exit, Farhan opens his eyes, looks around furtively, and jumps out of the wheelchair.

फरहान
एक मिनट!

FARHAN
Hold on!

Farhan takes several deep breaths. The Doctor and the Airline Staff are astonished and concerned.

फरहान
नहीं मैं बिल्कुल ठीक हूँ। थैंक्यू। आप लोग जाएं,
आप लोग जाएं। मैं चला जाऊंगा।

FARHAN
I'm fine now, thanks. Carry on, please.
I will go.

Farhan starts running towards the exit. The flummoxed Medical Staff call out after him.

MEDICAL STAFF
Gentleman, wait!

Farhan charges through the crowded terminal, slowing down only once he nears the exit.

EXT. AIRPORT – CONTINUOUS

Outside the terminal, waiting for arriving passengers, is a queue of DRIVERS holding placards. Farhan randomly picks one with a placard that reads MR. DHILLON.

फरहान
गाड़ी निकालो यार।

FARHAN
Get the cab yaar!

The driver looks at Farhan suspiciously.

ड्राइवर
तुस्सी मि. दिल्ली?

फरहान
क्यों, नाम यहाँ टेढ़ करवाऊं क्या? अरे जल्दी
निकालो यार गाड़ी।

INT. CAB / EXT. DELHI ROADS –
MOMENTS LATER

Farhan is in the cab and on the move.
He takes out his phone and starts to dial
a number.

ड्राइवर
होटल जायेंगे ना सर?

फरहान
हाँ हाँ होटल जायेंगे, लेकिन वसंत विहार होके।
वहाँ ले लो।

A beat.

फरहान
(*impatiently*)
अरे एक्सेलेरेटर पे थोड़ा लोड दे काके?

INT. RAJU'S NEW HOUSE /
CAB – DAY

The screen of RAJU's phone, on his
bedside table, illuminates with Farhan's
call. Raju (30s) peeps out from under
the bedsheet, grabs the phone, looks at
it and answers it.

राजू
हाँ फरहान ... बोल।

फरहान
तू जल्दी बाहर आ। मैं पाँच मिनट में तेरे यहाँ
पहुँच रहा हूँ।

DRIVER
Mr. Dhillon?

FARHAN
Want the name tattooed? Get the car
fast man!

DRIVER
To the hotel, Sir?

FARHAN
Yes, yes, but via Vasant Vihar.

FARHAN
Step on the gas, dude!

RAJU
Yeah, Farhan?

FARHAN
Get ready. I'll pick you up in five
minutes.

राजू
(*sleepily*)
क्या हुआ यार?

RAJU
What happened?

फरहान
चतुर का फोन था। रिमेम्बर हिम?

FARHAN
Chatur called. Remember him?

राजू
कौन साइलेन्सर?

RAJU
Who? 'Silencer'?

फरहान
हाँ वोही वोही। बोल रहा है कि रैनचो आ रहा है।

FARHAN
Yeah. He said Rancho is coming.

Raju sits up on the bed with a jerk. In the balcony, outside the room, his wife, SOONI, does breathing exercises.

राजू
क्या बोल रहा है?

RAJU
What?

फरहान
हाँ, बोला कि अगर रैनचो से मिलना है तो ठीक आठ बजे कैम्पस आ जा, टंकी पे।

FARHAN
He said: If you want to meet Rancho come to the campus at 8. On the tank.

RAJU
(*looks at his watch*)
Oh, shucks!

फरहान
अरे तू जल्दी बाहर आ ना यार।

FARHAN
Hurry!

राजू
हाँ ठीक ठीक है, ओके।

RAJU
Ok.

He grabs a toothbrush and tube of toothpaste and rushes back into the room. Sooni gives him a puzzled look as he throws on a *kurta*.

राजू
सूनी मैं थोड़ी देर में आ रहा हूँ। अरे जूते।

He grabs his shoes

राजू
अरे ... अपना दोस्त मिल गया।

In response, Sooni indicates something with her eyes, without breaking her breathing pattern.

राजू
क्या?

She gestures frantically, without speaking.

राजू
यार मैं आपके बात करता हूँ। बाँय।

She finally breaks her breathing pattern and yells out to him.

सूनी
अरे पैन्ट तो पहन के जाओ।

EXT. RAJU'S NEW HOUSE –
CONTINUOUS

Raju runs out of his home, shoes, water bottle, toothbrush, and toothpaste in hand. He is not wearing his trousers. Farhan's cab screeches to a halt in front of him and he gets in. They take off.

ड्राइवर
अब तो होटल जायेंगे ना सर?

RAJU
Soon, I'll be back soon. Oh, shoes.

RAJU
We found our buddy.

RAJU
What?

RAJU
I will talk after coming back – bye.

SOONI
You forgot your pants.

DRIVER
Now to the hotel, Sir?

फरहान
अरे होटल जायेंगे काके, लेकिन इम्पीरियल कॉलेज
ऑफ इंजिनियरिंग हो के।

FARHAN
Yes, but via Imperial College of
Engineering.

ड्राइवर
(*with resignation*)
ओके सर।

DRIVER
Ok, Sir.

Raju shakes out his shoes, peering into
them.

राजू
(*disappointed*)
यार, सौक्स लेना भूल गया हूँ!

RAJU
Forgot my socks.

फरहान
(*amused*)
तू सौक्स की बात कर रहा है, अबे नीचे देख –
पैन्ट भी भूल गया है।

FARHAN
More than just your socks. Your pants.

Startled, Raju looks down at his bare
legs.

राजू
ओय तेरी!

RAJU
Oh no!

Farhan chuckles.

EXT. IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING – MOMENTS
LATER

The taxi enters the campus of Imperial
College of Engineering (ICE). It comes
to a halt in front of a building. Raju
runs out, brushing his teeth. Farhan
follows, calling out instructions to the
driver.

फरहान

भाई साहब, अब आप होटल जाना, लेकिन एयरपोर्ट होकर जाना। मेरे भाई साहब आ रहे हैं। उनको होटल पहुँचा देना। सेम सरनेम यार – दिल्ली।

EXT. AIRPORT – DAY

A SIKH MAN waits outside the airport. Referring to the slip of paper in his hand, he speaks into his phone.

हरभजन सिंह दिल्ली

(angrily)

मैं दिल्ली। गड्डी भेजी तो गई किथ्थे? ... रनवे पै?

EXT. WATER TANK, ICE – DAY

Farhan and Raju bolt up the steps towards the water tank. They climb up the ladder that leads to the terrace of the tank, and emerge, panting. CHATUR (30s), stands at the far end of the terrace, his back to them. Raju and Farhan frantically search the terrace.

फरहान

ओये रैन्चो।

राजू

हे चतुर, रैन्चो कहाँ है?

(looking around)

रैन्चो!

No Rancho in sight, they finally walk up to Chatur.

फरहान

रैन्चो कहाँ है?

FARHAN

Now get my brother from the airport. Same last name – Dhillon.

HARBHAJAN SINGH DHILLON

This is Dhillon. Where's my cab? On the runway?

FARHAN

Hey Rancho.

RAJU

Hey Chatur, where's Rancho?

FARHAN

Where's Rancho?

Chatur types something on his fancy phone. The electronic English to Hindi dictionary shows the translation '*LIQUOR* = *MADIERA*' on the phone screen.

CHATUR

(*calmly*)

Welcome, idiots.

He turns to face them.

चतुर

मदिरा पियोगे?

(*takes out a bottle from his jacket pocket*)

ये वही रम है न जो तुम लोग यहाँ पीते थे?

He throws the bottle at them. Farhan catches it.

CHATUR

Have a drink.

राजू

(*exasperated*)

अरे रैनचो कहाँ है यार?

चतुर

बताता हूँ। पहले ये देखो।

Chatur holds up his phone to Raju and Farhan. On the screen is a picture of his wife in front of a mansion.

चतुर

मेरा वाइफ को नहीं, उसके पीछे का बंगला देखो, इडियट्स 3.5 मिलियन।

Chatur presses a button on the phone.

CHATUR

Some '*madeira*' for you? The same rum you guzzled those days.

RAJU

Where is Rancho?

CHATUR

I will tell you. First look at this.

CHATUR

Don't eye my wife. Check out the mansion behind, idiots, \$ 3.5 million.

As a slide show of photographs starts on it, he keeps up a running commentary.

CHATUR

Swimming pool – heated. Living room – maple wood flooring.

The photograph changes on the phone.

CHATUR

My new Lambhorghini 6496cc – very fast!

Farhan and Raju are perplexed.

फरहान

अबे हमे क्यों दिखा रहा है ये सब?

चतुर

भूल गये?

Chatur's fingers glide over his phone again. A date appears on screen: 5th September.

चतुर

यह क्या है?

राजू

(looks at the phone)

पाँच सितंबर। आज की डेट। और क्या यार?

Chatur pushes through them and shuffles up to the dome-like structure in the centre of the terrace. He wipes the fungus off a portion of the wall, to reveal a date chiselled into it – SEPT 5. Farhan and Raju look on, baffled.

FARHAN

Why're you showing us all this?

CHATUR

Forgot?

CHATUR

What's this?

RAJU

'5th September'. Today's date. What else?

FLASH:

It's ten years back. A drunk and angry Chatur stands next to the same wall and yells.

चतुर

चल लगा बैट। दस साल के बाद वापस आएंगे। यहीं पे। आज ही के दिन। देखेंगे, कौन ज्यादा सक्सेसफुल है। है हिम्मत? बोल? आएगा? आएगा?

END OF FLASH

चतुर

कृछ याद आया? यहीं पे उस इडियट से शर्त लगाई थी। आई केप्ट माई प्रोमिस। आई एम बैक।

Farhan loses his temper. He flings down the bottle he is holding at Chatur. It shatters at Chatur's feet. He moves threateningly towards Chatur but Raju holds him back.

फरहान

साले, मैं हवाई जहाज छोड़ के आया हूँ। ये अपनी पैन्ट छोड़ के आया है। सिर्फ रैन्चो से मिलने के लिए। पाँच साल से हम उसको ढूँढ रहे हैं। जिन्दा हैं कि मर गया, नहीं पता। और तुझे क्या लगता है, तेरी यह फूद्दू सी शर्त के लिए यहाँ आएगा?

Chatur continues, unfazed.

चतुर

नहीं आएगा। मुझे मालूम है वो नहीं आएगा।

Farhan lunges at Chatur.

CHATUR

I challenge you. We'll meet again after ten years. Same day. Same place. We'll see who's more successful. Have the balls? C'mon, bet!

CHATUR

Remember? I'd challenged that idiot right here. I kept my promise. I'm back.

FARHAN

Jackass! I aborted a flight, he forgot his pants all to meet Rancho. Five years we've searched. Don't even know if he's alive. And you think he'll show up for your silly bet.

CHATUR

I know he won't show up.

फरहान
यार तू इसके दांत तोड़ता है या मैं तोड़ूं?

राजू
(*restraining Farhan*)
एक मिनट फरहान, एक मिनट। अबे साले तो
तूने हमें क्यों बुलया?

चतुर
रैन्चो से मिलाने। चल के देखो वो कहाँ रहे
गये ओर मैं कहाँ पहुँच गये।

राजू
मतलब तुझे मालूम है रैन्चो कहाँ है?

चतुर
येस।

फरहान
कहाँ है रैन्चो?

CHATUR
He is in Shimla.

Farhan and Raju's faces light up with hope
and happiness.

EXT. ENROUTE TO SHIMLA – DAY

Opening Titles roll.

PBS 1 – BEHTI HAWA SA THA WOH

बहती हवा सा था वो
उड़ती पतंग सा था वो
कहाँ गया उसे ढूँढ़ें

बहती हवा सा था वो
उड़ती पतंग सा था वो

FARHAN
You gonna break his jaw or should I?

RAJU
So why did you call us here?

CHATUR
To meet Rancho. Come and see where
I've reached and where he rots.

RAJU
So you know where Rancho is?

CHATUR
Yes.

FARHAN
Where?

*Free as the wind was he
Like a soaring kite was he
Where did he go ... let's find him*

*Free as the wind was he
Like a soaring kite was he*

कहाँ गया उसे ढूँढें

हम को तो राहे थी चलाती
वो खुद अपनी राहें बनाता
गिरता, सम्भलता, मस्ती में चलता था वो

हम को कल की फ़िक्र सताती
वो बस आज का जश्न मनाता
हर लम्हें को खुल के जिता था वो

कहाँ से आया था वो
छू कर हमारे दिल को
कहाँ गया उसे ढूँढें

सुलगती धूप में छाँव के जैसा
रेगिस्थान मे गाँव के जैसा
मन के घाव पे महरम जैसा था वो

हम सहमे से रहते कुँए मे
वह नदिया मे गोते लगाता
उल्टी धरा चीर के तैरता था वो

बादल आवारा था वो
यार हमारा था वो
कहाँ गया उसे ढूँढें

Chatur's SUV is cruising along on the
beautiful road leading up to Shimla.

INT. SUV – CONTINUOUS

Chatur is at the wheel. Farhan sits next
to him, in the front. Raju, still without
pants, sits in the backseat.

Farhan looks out of the window and
reminisces.

Where did he go ... let's find him

*We were led by the path we took
While he carved a path of his own
Stumbling, rising, carefree walked he*

*We fretted about the morrow
He simply revelled in today
Living each moment to the fullest*

*Where did he come from ...
He who touched our hearts and vanished ...
Where did he go ... let's find him*

*In scorching Sun, he was like a patch of
shade ...
In an endless desert, like an oasis ...
On a bruised heart, like soothing balm
was he*

*Afraid, we stayed confined in the well
Fearless, he frolicked in the river
Never hesitating to swim
against the tide*

*He wandered lonesome as a cloud
... Yet he was our dearest friend
Where did he go ... let's find him*

फरहान

रैन्चो। रणछोड़दास स्यामलदास छँछड़। जितना
अलग साले का नाम था उतनी ही अलग सोच।
हमने तो बचपन से यही सुना था कि लाइफ
एक रेस है, तेज़ नहीं भागोगे तो लोग तुम्हे
कुचल कर आगे निकल जाएंगे।

The SUV enters a tunnel and the screen
goes black.

FLASHBACK:

MONTAGE

A shoal of sperms surge forward. One happy
sperm races ahead and hits the ova.

फरहान (V.O.)

साला पैदा होने के लिए भी तीन सौ मिलियन
स्पर्म से रेस लगानी पड़ी थी।

From the point of view of the mother
delivering the baby, the gloved hand of a
doctor brings out a baby.

फरहान V.O.

1978। मेरा जन्म पांच बजकर पंद्रह मिनट
पे हुआ।

फरहान (V.O.)

और पांच बजकर सोलह मिनट पर अब्बा ने
कहा ...

फरहान के पिताजी

मेरा बेटा इंजिनियर बनेगा।

फरहान की आंटी

फरहान कुरैशी बी.टेक. इंजिनियर।

FARHAN

Rancho. Ranchhoddas Shamaldas
Chanchad. He was as unique as his name.
From birth we were taught – life is a race.
Run fast or you'll be trampled.

FARHAN

Even to be born, one had to race 300
million sperms.

FARHAN

1978. I was born at 5.15 pm.

FARHAN

At 5.16, my father announced ...

FARHAN'S FATHER

My son will be an engineer.

FARHAN'S AUNTY

Farhan Qureshi. B.Tech. Engineer.

An Imperial College of Engineering identity card, with Farhan's photograph on it, is stamped.

FARHAN

And my fate was sealed.

EXT. IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING – DAY

From the stamp on the card, dissolve to the ICE logo outside the ICE campus where Farhan stands facing it. It's ten years back. He has a suitcase in one hand, a holdall in another, a rucksack on his back and a pillow tucked under his arm.

फरहान (V.O.)

मैं क्या बनना चाहता था, साला किसी ने पुछा तक नहीं।

FARHAN

What I wanted to be ... no one asked.

Farhan walks into the college.

EXT. CORRIDOR, ICE –
CONTINUOUS

He enters a corridor bustling with FRESHMEN and walks up to the notice board. He moves his finger up the room list and stops on his name. Next to his name are the names of his room-mates. Farhan reads aloud.

फरहान

राजू रस्तोगी, रणछोड़दास छॉछड़।

FARHAN

Raju Rastogi, Ranchhoddas Chanchad.

Farhan notes the room number. Just then, MANMOHAN, AKA MILLIMETER, a street-smart 12 year old, comes up behind him.

मिलीमीटर
रूम नम्बर बोलो।

MILLIMETER
Room number?

A startled Farhan turns to face him.

FARHAN
D-26.

Millimeter picks up Farhan's bags and starts to walk away.

मिलीमीटर
चलो।

MILLIMETER
C'mon.

Farhan follows him, taking in the ambience of the college as they walk.

मिलीमीटर
मैं मन मोहन। एम एम। ये सब इंजिनियर्स मुझे मिलीमीटर बुलाते हैं। दूध, अंडा-ब्रैड, कपड़े धोना, इस्त्री करना, जरनल भरना, असाइन्मेंट कॉपी करना, कोई भी काम है, बोलो। फिक्स्ड रेट है। नो बारगेन।

MILLIMETER
I'm Man Mohan. M.M. These engineers call me Millimeter. For eggs, bread, milk, laundry, finishing journals, copying assignments, I'm your guy. Fixed rates. No bargaining.

Farhan spots a litter of puppies and gets excited.

फरहान
अरे एक मिनट, एक मिनट ... एक मिनट इसको पकड़।

FARHAN
Hey wait, hold this.

He takes out a camera from his rucksack and clicks their photographs from different angles.

मिलीमीटर
ये किलोबाइट है। ये मेगाबाइट और ये इनकी माँ, गीगाबाइट। ले लो, फोटो ले लो। ये फैमली बाइट नहीं करती।

MILLIMETER
Meet Kilobyte, Megabyte, and their mother Gigabyte. Go ahead, click – this family doesn't bite.

Still pictures of Gigabyte and the puppies cover the screen.

INT. ROOM, HOSTEL, ICE –
CONTINUOUS

The door opens and Millimeter and Farhan enter the room. Glancing at them briefly, Raju continues to perform ‘aarti’ in front of a wall covered with pictures of different gods and goddesses.

मिलीमीटर
लो आ गया एक और भक्त।

MILLIMETER
Check him out ... another god-fearing soul.

Amused, Farhan looks at the wall, and then extends his hand to Raju.

फरहान
हाए। फरहान कुरैशी।

FARHAN
Hi. Farhan Qureshi.

राजू
(*ignoring the proffered hand*)
मैं राजू रस्तोगी।

RAJU
I'm Raju Rastogi.

Raju immediately goes back to praying. Millimeter is putting Farhan's bags in a corner. He looks at Farhan. Raju starts to move around the room with a ‘puja thali’ with burning incense on it. With the turn of his hand, he shoves the fumes from the incense in every corner of the room.

मिलीमीटर
घबराओ मत। थोड़े दिन इधर रहेगा ना तो अपने आप भगवान से विश्वास उठ जाएगा ... फिर बाजू मैं नंगी लड़की की तस्वीर लगाएगा और कहेगा – ओ भगवान, एक बार दिला दे।

MILLIMETER
Don't worry, a few days here and he'll lose faith in God. Then naked babes will be on the wall, and he'll say – “Oh God, give me one chance with her”.

राजू
(*irritated at Millimeter's irreverence*)
ये, चल निकल यहाँ से। निकल।

मिलीमीटर
चार रुपये दो। दो रुपया पर बैग।

फरहान
ये ले। पाँच रुपये। चेंज रख ले।

मिलीमीटर
क्या साहिब। तुमने अपने को टिप दिया तो
आपून् भी तुमको एक टिप देगा। आज रात
को अंडर्वियर बिना होल वाले पहना।

Millimeter leaves the room. Raju
wonders.

राजू
क्यों?

EXT. CORRIDOR, HOSTEL, ICE –
NIGHT

In the corridor, a group of bare chested
freshmen, standing in a row, take off their
pants to reveal their underwear. They bend
down and shout in unison.

सब विद्यार्थी
जहाँपनाह, तुस्सी ग्रेट हो।

In a coordinated move, they spin around
and offer up their backsides, patting
them.

सब विद्यार्थी
तोहफा कबूल करो।

RAJU
Get out of here.

MILLIMETER
Four bucks. Two per bag.

FARHAN
Here's five. Keep the change.

MILLIMETER
Thanks boss. For your tip, here's one
in return – wear your best underwear
tonight.

RAJU
Why?

ALL STUDENTS
Your Majesty, Thou art great.

ALL STUDENTS
Accept this humble offering.

A Senior moves down the line, inspecting butts and stamping them.

रैगिंग सीनियर 1

आह, ये तो ही-मैन है। ही-मैन। ये लो। अरे-अरे, नन्हा सा, प्यारा सा। हो हो हो चिकना चिकना चिकना।

Farhan and Raju are part of the butt-offering line-up.

फरहान (V.O.)

इज्जत ज़मीन पे बिखरी हुई थी, हाथ सलामी ठोक रहे थे, सिर गुलामी में झुके थे, जब हमने पहली बार रैन्चो को देखा।

From their positions of obeisance, Farhan and Raju spot RANCHO. Though laden with luggage, he walks briskly into the corridor, before faltering to a halt.

Bewildered, he takes in the scene before him. To his right, a group of freshmen in their underwear perform pelvic thrusts to a Senior's instructions.

रैगिंग सीनियर

चार आना, आठ आना।

He cuts his eyes to the left. There, Chatur, in his snazzy briefs, does a James Bond act.

And then, Rancho is spotted by a predator.

रैगिंग सीनियर 1

नया तोहफा। तोहफा ... तोहफा ... तोहफा ... तोहफा। नमस्ते सर। पैन्ट उतारिए और ठप्पा लगा लो

RAGGING SENIOR 1

Ha ... here's a He-Man. What a pretty piece. Cute and compact.

FARHAN

A campus tradition – on Day 1. Freshmen must pay their respects to seniors in their underwear. This is when we first saw Rancho.

RAGGING SENIOR

Spiderman, Batman.

RAGGING SENIOR 1

Fresh meat, Greetings. Drop your pants, get stamped.

The Senior crows in delight.

रैगिंग सीनियर 1
नाम क्या है तेरा? बोल।

Ragging Senior 2 pulls out the name tag
from Rancho's bag.

रैगिंग सीनियर 2
'रणछोड़दास स्यामलदास छौछड़'।

रैगिंग सीनियर 1
ओए, सुना भाईयों रट्टा मार लो। फाइनल ईयर
तक याद हो जाएगा।

रैगिंग सीनियर 1
चलो – पैन्ट उतार! पैन्ट उतार।

Rancho is silent, rooted to the spot.

रैगिंग सीनियर 1
अच्छा, तो तू ऐसे नहीं सुनेगा?

Ragging Senior 1 takes out Rancho's water
bottle from his bag and empties the bottle
into the pocket of his jeans.

रैगिंग सीनियर 1
गीली पैन्ट नहीं पहनते बच्चु। चल उतार। चल
चल चल....

Rancho does not react. Instead, he holds
his hand over his heart and mumbles.

रैन्चो
आल डिज़ वेल ... आल डिज़ वेल।

रैगिंग सीनियर 1
क्या बोला?

RAGGING SENIOR 1
Name?

RAGGING SENIOR 2
'Ranchhoddas Shamaldas Chanchad'.

RAGGING SENIOR 1
What a mouthful! Needs serious
cramming.

RAGGING SENIOR 1
Come on – pants off.

RAGGING SENIOR 1
Being stubborn?

RAGGING SENIOR 1
Wet pants not good, kiddo. Take them
off.

RANCHO
Aal izz well ... aal izz well.

RAGGING SENIOR 1
What's that?

रैन्चो
आल डिज़ वेल ... आल डिज़ वेल।

RANCHO
Aal izz well ... aal izz well.

Farhan and Raju are so immersed in Rancho's situation that they inadvertently straighten up, pulling up their pants.

फरहान
(*whispers to Raju*)
ये क्या बोल रहा है?

FARHAN
What did he say?

Rancho does not break his silence. Ragging Senior 1 gestures to Chatur.

रैगिंग सीनियर 1
ये कोई समझा इसे! ऐ जैम्स बांड – समझा इसे। हूँ!

RAGGING SENIOR 1
Someone tell him. Hey James Bond – make him understand!

Chatur obediently runs up to Rancho.

CHATUR
Take off your pants or they are going to piss on you.

रैगिंग सीनियर 1
ओए अंग्रेज, हिन्दी बोलने में शर्म आती है?

RAGGING SENIOR 1
Hey 007! Ashamed to speak Hindi?

CHATUR
Sorry Sir, I was born in Uganda, studied in Pondicherry, so little slow in Hindi.

रैगिंग सीनियर 1
तो स्लोली समझा ना इसे। जल्दी किसको है।

RAGGING SENIOR 1
So explain slowly. No hurry.

Leaving Chatur to explain, Ragging Senior 1 walks up to Farhan and Raju.

रैगिंग सीनियर 1
फिर से पहन लिया आपने?

RAGGING SENIOR 1
Feeling cold?

Chatur opens his dictionary and puts together a literal translation of the Senior's threat.

चतुर
वस्त्र उतारिये नहीं तो यह आप पर मूत्रविसर्जन करेगा।

The Seniors burst out laughing.

रैगिंग सीनियर 1
ऐ! पिस को मूत्रविसर्जन बोला?

रैगिंग सीनियर 2
अबे महापंडित आए है इंजिनियरिंग पढ़ने।

The Seniors are absorbed in making fun of Chatur.

Rancho takes advantage of this distraction and slips into his room, banging the door shut. Ragging Senior 1 notices this and runs after him. He starts banging on the door.

रैगिंग सीनियर 1
ये बाहर आ साले ... ऐ बाहर आ।

All the students, including Farhan and Raju, watch with interest. Ragging Senior 1 calls out threateningly.

रैगिंग सीनियर 1
बाहर आ, नहीं तो ... नहीं तो मैं तेरे दरवाजे पे मूत्रविसर्जन करूंगा।

There is no response from the room.

CHATUR
Pray undress or he'll do 'urine-expulsion' on you.

RAGGING SENIOR 1
Calls pissing 'urine-expulsion'!

RAGGING SENIOR 2
A true linguist in the land of engineers!

RAGGING SENIOR 1
Hey, come out of there.

RAGGING SENIOR 1
Come out or ... or I'll do 'urine-expulsion' on your door.

रैगिंग सीनियर 1

दस तक गिन्नूंगा। बाहर नहीं आया तो -- तो मैं -- तो पूरे समेस्टर में तेरे दरवाजे पे मूत्रविसर्जन करूंगा।

Inside the room, Rancho thinks.

रैगिंग सीनियर 1

एक ... दो।

He looks around the room and as his eyes rest on the ceiling, he seems to have found a solution.

रैगिंग सीनियर 1

तीन!

Rancho looks around the room again. He spots something and throws off his rucksack moving towards it. Outside, curious students pour out of their rooms. The tension mounts.

रैगिंग सीनियर 1

चार!

Ragging Senior 1 bangs on the door again.

रैगिंग सीनियर 1

पाँच!

Inside the room, Rancho climbs onto a chair, unscrews the bulb from the hanging light and rips out its wire.

रैगिंग सीनियर 1

छः!

RAGGING SENIOR 1

If you aren't out by the count of ten, I'll do 'urine-expulsion' on your door all semester.

RAGGING SENIOR 1

One ... two.

RAGGING SENIOR 1

Three!

RAGGING SENIOR 1

Four!

RAGGING SENIOR 1

Five!

RAGGING SENIOR 1

Six!

Rancho turns off the switch that the hanging light was attached to. With his teeth, he bites off the plastic from the ends of the wire.

रैगिंग सीनियर 1
सात!

RAGGING SENIOR 1
Seven!

Rancho places the exposed wire ends strategically under a metal spoon, and starts binding the spoon to a wooden ruler. Outside, in desperation, Ragging Senior 1 calls out again.

रैगिंग सीनियर 1
आठ! नौ!

RAGGING SENIOR 1
Eight! Nine!

A laugh escapes Farhan. The Senior whips around menacingly. Raju surreptitiously indicates Farhan to him. Inside the room, Rancho has finished binding the spoon to the wooden ruler.

रैगिंग सीनियर 1
दस!

RAGGING SENIOR 1
Ten!

Angry, frustrated and with no other option, the Senior walks to the door, faces it and unzips. Unseen by him, from underneath the door, Rancho slides out the spoon. He then puts on the switch that the wire under the spoon is connected to. The Senior starts urinating. As the stream of urine hits the spoon, he gets electrocuted. He jerks back and collapses, writhing in pain. The semi-naked group of Freshmen break into delighted laughter.

Rancho's door opens and he walks out. Laughter changes into sounds of scurrying

as everyone tries to get out of his way.
He just walks to where his water bottle
had fallen, picks it up and walks back
into his room.

Farhan and Raju exchange a look.

Fully dressed again, they open their room
door tentatively. Rancho is sprawled on
his bed, fast asleep, not a care in the
world.

फरहान (V.O.)

साल्ट वाटर इस अ ग्रेट कनडक्टर आफ इलेक्ट्रिसिटी।
एट्थ स्टैंडर्ड फिज़िक्स। हमने पढ़ा था। साले ने
अप्लाई किया।

EXT. ICE – DAY

VIRU SAHASTRABUDDHE (mid-50's)
cycles to work. On the carrier of his bicycle
is a bird's nest with a clay bird and five
eggs in it.

फरहान (V.O.)

आइसीई के डाइरेक्टर का नाम डा. वीरू सहस्त्रबुद्धे
था, पर सब उन्हें वाइरस ... कम्प्यूटर वाइरस
बुलाते थे।

EXT. HOSTEL, ICE –
CONTINUOUS

Millimeter stands in the centre of the
hostel courtyard and calls out.

मिलीमीटर

अरे वाइरस आ रहा है अंडे – लेके। फर्स्ट
इयर को नीचे बुलाया है ... जल्दी आओ, जल्दी
आओ। जल्दी आओ।

FARHAN

Salt water is a great conductor of electricity.
8th-grade-physics. We had studied it. He
applied it.

FARHAN

Dr. Viru Sahastrabuddhe was the Director
of ICE. Students called him Virus,
computer Virus.

MILLIMETER

Virus is on the way, with eggs. First year
students are summoned. Come quickly.

EXT. CAMPUS, ICE –
CONTINUOUS

An office PEON, on his bicycle, overtakes the Director.

FARHAN (V.O.)

Virus was the most competitive man we had ever seen.

The Director pedals harder to get ahead of the peon.

फरहान (V.O.)

कोई उनसे एक कदम भी आगे निकल जाये ...
उनसे बरदाश्त नहीं होता था।

FARHAN

He couldn't bear anyone getting ahead of him.

MONTAGE

The Director puts on a shirt and smooths his hand over the buttons to fasten the velcro beneath them. He hooks a tie onto his collar.

फरहान (V.O.)

टाईम बचाने के लिए शर्ट पे बटन नहीं, वेलक्रो लगाते थे, और टाई में हुक।

FARHAN

To save time, his shirts had Velcro and his ties had hooks.

In a classroom, the Director writes on the board with both hands.

फरहान (V.O.)

माइन्ड को ऐसा ट्रेन किया था कि दोनों हाथों से एक साथ लिख सकते थे।

FARHAN

He'd trained his mind to write with both hands simultaneously.

The clock in the Director's office strikes 2 pm. A shaving kit is opened, the Director lies down on a couch and a needle is placed on a gramophone record. Music envelopes

the room. The Director's man-Friday, GOVIND, shaves him as he naps.

फरहान (V.O.)

रोज़ दो बजे, एक्ज़ैक्टली साढ़े सात मिनट का पावर नैप लेते थे, और औपेरा सुनते थे। गोविन्द को इन्सट्रक्शन्स थे कि सारे अन्प्रडक्टिव काम जैसे शेविंग करना, नाखून काटना, इन्ही साढ़े सात मिनट में किये जायें।

EXT. HOSTEL FOYER / CORRIDOR,
ICE – CONTINUOUS

The Director reaches the hostel. He strides down the corridor, bird nest in hand, as nervous freshmen rush past him to gather in the courtyard. The Director reaches them and slows down.

डाइरेक्टर

(*re: nest in his hand*)

ये क्या है?

Chatur pipes up.

CHATUR

Sir, nest.

डाइरेक्टर

किसका?

चतुर

सर कोयल बर्ड का नेस्ट।

DIRECTOR

Wrong.

He starts moving towards a raised platform in the courtyard, where Govind stands

FARHAN

Everyday at 2 pm he took a 7½ minute power nap with an opera as lullaby. Govind, his valet, had instructions to carry out all unproductive tasks such as shaving, nail-cutting, etc. during this time.

DIRECTOR

What is this?

DIRECTOR

Whose?

CHATUR

Koel bird's nest, Sir.

attentively, next to a pile of cardboard cartons.

डाइरेक्टर

कोयल अपना घोंसला कभी नहीं बनाती। वो अपने अंडे दूसरों के घोंसले में रखती है।

Rancho, Farhan and Raju make a rushed, belated entry, looking like they've just woken up. The Director turns around to face the students.

डाइरेक्टर

और जब उसके बच्चे इस दुनिया में आते हैं तो सबसे पहले क्या करते हैं?

A beat.

डाइरेक्टर

वो बच्चे दूसरे अंडो को धक्का मार के घोंसले से गिरा देते हैं।

He holds up an egg from the nest and drops it. The egg splatters on the ground. The students wince at the brutal action.

DIRECTOR

Competition over. Their life begins with murder. That's nature. Compete or die.

While everyone listens transfixed, Rancho starts getting restless. The Director hands over the nest to Govind.

DIRECTOR

You also are like the *koel* birds.

With a sudden movement, he turns over a carton. ICE application forms spill out onto the courtyard floor.

DIRECTOR

A *koel* bird never makes her own nest. She lays her eggs in other nests.

DIRECTOR

And when they hatch, what do they do?

DIRECTOR

They push the other eggs out of the nest.

डाइरेक्टर

ओर ये वो अंडे हैं, जिनको धक्का मार के तुम लोग आइसीड में पहुँचे।

Millimeter irons clothes in the corridor adjoining the courtyard.

He lip syncs to the Director's words.

डाइरेक्टर/मिलीमीटर

डोन्ट फोरगेट की हर साल आइसीड में चार लाख एप्लीकेशन्स आती हैं और उनमें से सिर्फ़ दो सौ सिलैक्ट होती हैं। यू।

A beat.

डाइरेक्टर

और ये ...फिनिशड। ब्रोक्न एग्स। मेरे खुद के बेटे ने तीन साल एप्लाई किया था...

The Director's voice softens with sadness.

डाइरेक्टर

... रिजेक्टेड ऐवरी टाईम। रिमैम्बर लाईफ़ इज़ अ रेस। अगर तेज़ नहीं भागोगे तो कोई तुम्हें कुचल के आगे निकल जायेगा।

He takes out a pen from his shirt pocket and holds it up for the students to see.

डाइरेक्टर

लेट मी टेल यू अ वैरी इनट्रैसटिंग स्टोरी। ये ऐस्ट्रनॉट पेन है। स्पेस में फाउन्टेन पेन, बॉलपेन कुछ नहीं चलता। तो लाखों डॉलर खर्च करने के बाद, साइअन्टिस्ट ने ऐसा पेन इज़ाद किया – जिससे कोई भी एंगल, कोई भी टेम्परेचर, जीरो ग्रेविटि में, हम लिख सकते हैं।

DIRECTOR

And these are the eggs you pushed to get into ICE.

DIRECTOR / MILLIMETER

Don't forget, ICE gets 400,000 applications a year and only 200 are selected – you!

DIRECTOR

And these? Finished. Broken eggs. My son ... he tried for three years.

DIRECTOR

... Rejected. Every time. Remember, life is a race. If you don't run fast, you'll get trampled.

DIRECTOR

Let me tell you a very interesting story. This is an astronaut's pen. Fountain pens and ballpoint pens don't work in outer space. So scientists spent millions to invent this pen. It can write at any angle, in any temperature, in zero gravity.

All the students look at the pen.

DIRECTOR

One day, when I was a student, the Director of our institute called me. He said, “Viru Sahastrabuddhe.” I said, “Yes Sir” “Come here!” Main darr gaya. He showed me this pen. He said, “This is a symbol of excellence. I give it to you. Aur jis din tumhe tumahre jaisa koi extraordinary student mile, to yeh pen usse paas on kar dena.”

A beat.

DIRECTOR

Battis saal se Viru Sahastrabuddhe is waiting for that student. But no luck. Anyone here, who'll strive to win this pen?

Led by an over eager Chatur, whose hand shoots up first, all the students raise their hands.

DIRECTOR

Good. Put your hands down.

As all the hands go down, Rancho raises his. The Director looks up after putting the pen back in his shirt pocket. He sees the lone, raised hand.

DIRECTOR

(sarcastically)

Shall I post it on the notice board? Hands down.

रैन्चो

सर, मेरा एक सवाल है सर।

RANCHO

One question, Sir.

रैन्चो

सर, स्पेस में फाउनटेन पेन, बॉलपेन चलता नहीं हैं, तो ऐस्ट्रोनॉट ने पेन्सिल का इस्तेमाल क्यों नहीं किया? लाखों डॉलर बच जाते सर।

There's a burst of involuntary laughter from the students. Raju glares at Rancho disapprovingly. The Director seems stumped. Chatur looks at him anxiously.

DIRECTOR

I will get back to you on this.

Seeming disoriented, he walks away.

EXT. CORRIDOR, ICE – MOMENTS LATER

Farhan and Raju walk behind Rancho on the way to their first class. In a low voice, Raju speaks reprovingly of Rancho's antics, even as Farhan looks on with amused enjoyment.

राजू

साला रात को सीनियरस की नूनू पे झटका देता है, दिन में डाइरेक्टर को ऊंगली करता है। बोल रहा हूँ, इसके साथ रहेंगे तो ये मरवायेगा।

In front of them, ambling along, carefree, Rancho encounters Millimeter.

मिलीमीटर

यार तू तो वाइरस का फुल केएलपीडी कर दिया? जहांपनाह तुस्सी ग्रेट हो। तोहफा कबूल करो।

Rancho and Farhan dissolve into laughter. Raju looks at Millimeter with displeasure.

RANCHO

Sir, if pens didn't work in outer space why didn't the astronauts use a pencil? They'd have saved millions.

RAJU

He zaps a senior's privates at night. Fingers the Director in the day. Best avoid him.

MILLIMETER

You deflated Virus's erection. Your Majesty, thou art great. Accept this humble offering

राजू
अबे, भाग यहाँ से। स्कूल नहीं है तेरा?

मिलीमीटर
फीस कौन भरेगा ... तेरा बाप?

Angered at his impertinence, Raju takes off his slipper and rushes towards him threateningly.

राजू
साले, बाप पे जाता है, तेरी ...

Rancho and Farhan quickly intercede and restrain Raju.

रैन्चो
रुक जा, छोड़ ना।

फरहान
राजू, क्या कर रहा है यार!

Rancho puts his arm around Millimeter and starts to walk with him.

Farhan and Raju follow.

रैन्चो
सुन, स्कूल के लिये फीस थोड़ी लगती है। यूनीफॉर्म लगता है। यूनीफॉर्म। रुक।

Rancho takes out money from his pocket and hands it over to Millimeter.

रैन्चो
तुझे जो भी स्कूल पसंद है ना, उसका यूनीफॉर्म खरीद ले और चुपचाप जाके क्लास में बैठ जा। इतनी आबादी है, किसको क्या पता चलने वाला है?

RAJU
Buzz off. You don't have school?

MILLIMETER
Who'll pay for it? Your pop?

RAJU
Keep off my dad! You ...

RANCHO
Relax.

FARHAN
Raju, what are you doing!

RANCHO
For school you don't need any money. You need a uniform.

RANCHO
Pick a school, buy the uniform and slip into class. In so much of a crowd, no one will notice.

मिलीमीटर
और पकड़े गये तो?

MILLIMETER
If I get caught?

रैन्चो
पकड़े गये तो यूनीफॉर्म चेंज, स्कूल चेंज।

RANCHO
Then new uniform, new school.

He puts his arm around Millimeter as they continue to walk on. Raju purses his lips and gives Farhan an 'I told you so' look.

राजू
देखा ...

RAJU
See that?

But Farhan gazes after Rancho admiringly.

फरहान (V.O.)
कुछ बात थी उसमें। साला दुनिया के तौर तरीके कदम कदम पे चैलेन्ज करता था। वाइरस के घोंसले में एक आज़ाद पंछी घुस आया था। हम सब तो प्रोफेसर के रिमोट कंट्रोल पे चलने वाले रोबोट थे। वो बस एक था जो शायद मशीन नहीं था।

FARHAN
He was different... He challenged conventions at every stage. A free-spirited bird had landed in Virus's nest. We were robots, blindly following our professors' commands. He was the only one who was not a machine.

INT. CLASSROOM, ICE – DAY

A class is in progress. PROFESSOR POTDAR writes the word 'MACHINE' on the blackboard and turns to face the students.

PROFESSOR POTDAR
What is a machine?

Chatur's hand, and one other, shoots up. Professor Potdar looks around. His eyes alight on Rancho who has a beatific smile on his face.

प्रोफेसर पोद्दार
आप मुस्कुरा क्यों रहे हैं? नहीं

रैन्चो
ऐक्चवली सर, बचपन से चाहता था कि
इन्जीनियरिंग कॉलेज में पढ़ूं। आज यहाँ बैठा
हूँ। बहुत मज़ा आ रहा है सर।

प्रोफेसर पोद्दार
ज्यादा मज़ा लेने की जरूरत नहीं है।

Taken aback, Rancho stops smiling.

प्रोफेसर पोद्दार
बोलो, मशीन का ड्यफिनेशन बोलो।

RANCHO
A machine is anything that reduces human
effort.

PROFESSOR POTDAR
Will you please elaborate?

Rancho stands up and starts to explain.

रैन्चो
सर, हर वो चीज़ जो इन्सान का काम आसान
करे या वक़्त बचाये वो मशीन है, सर।

Chatur frowns at Rancho in disdain.

रैन्चो
गरमी लग रही है? बटन दबाया, हवा चालू –
फैन ... मशीन है, सर।

Rancho launches into examples to
illustrate his point with gusto and
enthusiasm.

PROFESSOR POTDAR
What're you smiling for?

RANCHO
Sir, to study engineering was a childhood
dream. I'm so happy to be here finally.

PROFESSOR POTDAR
No need to be so happy.

PROFESSOR POTDAR
Define a machine.

RANCHO
Anything that simplifies work, or saves
time, is a machine.

RANCHO
It's a warm day, press a button, get a blast
of air. The fan ... a machine!

रैन्चो

मीलों दूर आप अपने दोस्त के साथ बात कर सकते हैं ... टेलीफोन ... मशीन है सर।

A beat.

रैन्चो

करोड़ों का हिसाब चुटकी में करता है ... कैल्कुलेटर ... मशीन है सर। सर, ऐक्चवली हम मशीनों से घिरे हुए हैं सर। पेन की निब से लेके पैन्ट की जिप तक, सब मशीन है, सर।

Rancho pulls his jeans zipper up and down to demonstrate.

रैन्चो

एक सैकेण्ड में अप, एक सैकेण्ड में डाउन। अप डाउन ... अप ... डाउन अप डाउन।

Students laugh.

Furious, Professor Potdar throws a piece of chalk at Rancho. Rancho looks at him in shock.

प्रोफेसर पोद्दार

डेफिनिशन क्या है?

रैन्चो

सर, वो ही तो बता रहा हूँ, सर।

Chatur laughs jeeringly, braying in his typical style.

Professor Potdar imitates Rancho, pulling the zip on his fly, up and down.

प्रोफेसर पोद्दार

इग्जैम में ये सब लिखोगे ... ये मशीन है? अप डाउन ... अप डाउन ... इडियट्। ऐनीबडी ऐल्स?

RANCHO

Speak to a friend miles away. The telephone ... a machine!

RANCHO

Compute millions in seconds. The calculator ... a machine! We're surrounded by machines. From a pen's nib to a pants' zip – all machines.

RANCHO

Up and down in a second. Up, down, up, down...

PROFESSOR POTDAR

What is the definition?

RANCHO

I just gave it to you, Sir.

PROFESSOR POTDAR

You'll write this in the exam? This is a machine – up, down ... idiot! Anybody else?

Chatur raises his hand.

प्रोफेसर
येस?

PROFESSOR
Yes?

CHATUR

Sir, machines are any combination of bodies so connected that their relative motions are constrained and by which means, force and motion may be transmitted and modified as a screw and its nut, or a lever arranged to turn about a fulcrum or a pulley about its pivot, etc., especially, a construction, more or less complex consisting of a combination of moving parts, or simple mechanical elements, as wheels, levers, cams, etc.

Professor Potdar looks at Chatur with admiration and approval.

प्रोफेसर पोद्दार
क्या बात है? परफेक्ट! प्लीज़ सिट डाउन

PROFESSOR POTDAR
Wonderful. Perfect. Please sit down.

Chatur sits down and looks around triumphantly.

CHATUR

Thank you ... Thank you.

Rancho is puzzled.

रैन्चो
लेकिन सर ... मैंने भी तो वही बताया सर।
आसान भाषा में।

RANCHO
But Sir, I said the same thing, in simple language.

प्रोफेसर पोद्दार
(*derisively*)

आपको अगर सिम्पल भाषा पसंद हो तो आर्ट्स
एण्ड कोमर्स कॉलेज जॉइन कीजिये।

PROFESSOR POTDAR
If you prefer simple language, join an Arts
and Commerce college.

रैन्चो

लेकिन सर, मतलब भी तो समझ में आना चाहिये।
ऐसे किताबी डेफिनिशन रट के क्या फायदा?

प्रोफेसर पोद्दार

आप किताब से ज्यादा जानते हैं? किताब में
यही डेफिनेशन है और अगर आपको पास होना
हो तो आप यही लिखेंगे।

रैन्चो

लेकिन सर, और भी तो किताबें हैं जिनमें ...

Rancho is abruptly cut short by the
Professor.

PROFESSOR POTDAR

Get out!

RANCHO

Why?

प्रोफेसर

आसान भाषा में बाहर जाइये।

Rancho is stunned. Raju and Farhan look
from the Professor to Rancho, not daring
to utter a sound. Rancho starts to walk
out of the classroom.

PROFESSOR POTDAR

Idiot!

Rancho stops mid-way and starts walking
back to his seat.

PROFESSOR POTDAR

So, we were discussing the machine ...
Why're you back?

RANCHO

But Sir, one must get the meaning too ...
What's the point of blindly cramming a
bookish definition?

PROFESSOR POTDAR

You think you're smarter than the book?
Write the textbook definition, mister, if
you want to pass.

RANCHO

But there are other books ...

PROFESSOR

In simple language – out!

रैन्चो

सर, कुछ भूल गया हूँ सर।

प्रोफेसर पोद्दार

क्या?

RANCHO

Instruments that record, analyse, summarise, organise, debate and explain information; that are illustrated, non-illustrated, hard-bound, paperback, jacketed, non-jacketed; with foreword, introduction, table-of-contents, index; that are intended for the enlightenment, understanding, enrichment, enhancement and education of the human brain through the sensory route of vision. Sometimes touch.

Professor Potdar and the students gape at Rancho.

प्रोफेसर पोद्दार

अरे कहना क्या चाहते हो?

रैन्चो

किताबें सर। बुक्स।

There is a wave of laughter in the class.

रैन्चो

बुक्स भूल गया हूँ सर। ले लूँ?

प्रोफेसर पोद्दार

तो सीधे सीधे नहीं कह सकते थे?

रैन्चो

थोड़ी देर पहले कोशिश की थी सर। लेकिन आपको सीधा सीधा पसन्द नहीं आया।

RANCHO

I forgot something.

PROFESSOR POTDAR

What?

PROFESSOR POTDAR

What do you mean?

RANCHO

Books, Sir

RANCHO

I forgot my books. May I?

PROFESSOR POTDAR

Couldn't you ask simply?

RANCHO

I tried earlier, Sir. It simply didn't work.

The class, except for Chatur and Raju, bursts into laughter, Farhan chuckling the loudest. Professor Potdar is rendered speechless.

INT. / EXT. VARIOUS LOCATIONS,
CAMPUS, ICE – DAY / NIGHT

MONTAGE

A) Rancho strolls in the corridor.

B) Rancho attends a senior class.

फरहान (V.O.)

रैन्चो को प्रोफेसर क्लास में कम, बाहर ज़्यादा रखते थे। वो एक क्लास से निकाला जाता था तो दूसरे में जाके बैठ जाता था। कहता था चारों तरफ ज्ञान बंट रहा है, जहां से मिलता है, लपेट लो। वो हम सबसे अलग था। हम रोज़ बाथरूम के लिए लड़ते रहते थे, उसे जहां पानी मिले, वहीं नहा लेता था ...

FARHAN

Professors kept Rancho mostly out. ... Seldom in, when thrown out of one class, he'd slip into another. He said – "First year or fourth year, it's knowledge. Just grab it." He was unlike any of us. We fought for a shower every morning. He'd bathe wherever he found water.

C) In the hostel bathroom, students mill around the shower stalls, yelling at those inside to hurry.

D) In the campus lawns, a bare-bodied Rancho soaps himself, rinsing off with water from the garden hose. Passing professors stare at him in surprise.

RANCHO

Morning Sir!

E) In the college cafeteria, Rancho dismantles a mixer with his screwdriver. Behind him, an attendant opens the refrigerator door – and it comes off in his hand. Rancho darts him a guilty look.

फरहान (V.O.)

मशीनों से बहुत लगाव था। जेब में स्कूट्रावर लेके घूमता था। जो मशीन दिखे, उसे खोल देता था। कुछ बंद होती थी, कुछ नहीं।

INT. / EXT. LAB / CORRIDOR, ICE
– DAY

In a lab, JOY LOBO, a student, works on his creation, a miniature helicopter.

फरहान (V.O.)

एक और था, जो बिल्कुल उसके जैसा था, जॉय लोबो।

From the window he spots the Director walking down the corridor. Joy rushes out of the lab towards him.

JOY

Sir. Excuse me, Sir.

The Director continues walking. Joy keeps up with him.

डाइरेक्टर

मिस्टर जॉय लोबो

जॉय

येस सर। सर वो कान्वोकेशन के डेट्स अगर पता चल जाते तो ...

डाइरेक्टर

क्यों?

जॉय

एक्चवली, डैड रिज़र्वेशन कराना चाहते थे। अपने गांव से मैं पहला इन्जीनियर हूँ सर। सारे रिलेटिव्स कान्वोकेशन पे आना चाहते हैं।

FARHAN

Machines were his passion. When he spotted them, he opened them. Some he could re-assemble ... some he couldn't.

FARHAN

There was another, just like him, Joy Lobo.

DIRECTOR

Mr. Joy Lobo.

JOY

Sir, if I could know the convocation dates ...

DIRECTOR

Why?

JOY

Actually, Dad wants to make train reservations. I'm the first engineer from my village. Everyone wants to attend.

The Director takes out his mobile phone and hands it over to Joy.

डाइरेक्टर

इन दैट केस, आपके डैड को फोन लगाओ प्लीज़।

DIRECTOR

In that case, call your dad please.

Joy looks a little unsure.

DIRECTOR

Come, please, please. Hurry up. Don't waste my time.

He reluctantly dials his Father's number.

An ELDERLY MAN potters around amongst plants in his backyard. He is Joy's father, MR LOBO.

His phone rings. He answers the call.

जॉय के पिताजी
हेल्लो

JOY'S FATHER
Hello.

जॉय
डैड, डाइरेक्टर साहब आपसे बात करेंगे।

JOY
Dad, the Director wants to speak to you.

जॉय के पिताजी
(*filled with happiness*)
जॉय

JOY'S FATHER
Joy.

डाइरेक्टर
मिस्टर लोबो, इस साल आपका बेटा ग्रेजुवट नहीं होगा।

DIRECTOR
Mr. Lobo, your son won't graduate this year.

The blood drains from Joy's face.

जॉय के पिताजी
(*crushed*)
क्या हुआ सर?

JOY'S FATHER
What happened, Sir?

DIRECTOR
He has violated all deadlines. Mr. Lobo, it's an unrealistic project. He's making some nonsense helicopter. I suggest you don't book your tickets. I'm so sorry.

The Director disconnects the phone.

JOY
Sir, I am this close, Sir.

DIRECTOR
Is your project ready?

JOY
I ...

DIRECTOR
Is your project ready?

जॉय
सर, आप एक दफ़ा देख तो लीजिए सर,
प्लीज़

JOY
Sir, see it once, please.

डाइरेक्टर
सबमिट करलो, तो हम कनसीडर करेंगे।

DIRECTOR
Submit it, and we'll consider.

जॉय
सर मुझे थोड़ा सा एक्सटेंशन दे दीजिए।

JOY
Sir, a small extension ...

DIRECTOR
Why! Why should I give you an extension?

जॉय
सर डैड के स्ट्रोक के बाद मैं दो महीने कान्सन्ट्रेट
नहीं कर पाया सर। प्लीज़।

The Director stops and looks at Joy
sternly.

डाइरेक्टर
दो महीने खाना पीना छोड़ दिया था?

जॉय
नहीं

डाइरेक्टर
नहीं। नहाना छोड़ दिया था?

जॉय
नो।

डाइरेक्टर
नहीं। तो पढ़ाई क्यों छोड़ दी?

जॉय
सर आइ ऐम वेरी क्लोज़। सर आप एक दफ़ा
देख तो लीजिए प्लीज़।

डाइरेक्टर
मिस्टर लोबो, संडे ऑफ्टरनून को मेरा बेटा ट्रेन
मे से गिर के मर गया था। मंडे मॉरनिंग को
वीरू सहस्त्रबुद्धे ने इसी कॉलेज में लेक्चर दिया
था! सो डोन्ट गिव मी दैट नॉनसेन्स!

A beat.

डाइरेक्टर
मैं आपको सिमपैथि दे सकता हूँ, ऐक्सटेंशन
नहीं, आइ ऐम सॉरी।

The Director walks away.

JOY
After Dad's stroke, I couldn't focus for
two months.

DIRECTOR
Did you stop eating for two months?

JOY
No.

DIRECTOR
Stopped bathing?

JOY
No.

DIRECTOR
So why did you stop studying?

JOY
Sir, I'm very close. See it once, please ...

DIRECTOR
Mr. Lobo! Sunday afternoon, my son fell
off a train and died. Monday morning,
I taught a class. So don't give me that
nonsense.

DIRECTOR
I can give you sympathy, not an extension,
I'm sorry.

JOY

(desperately)

Sir ... I'm very close ...

His words trail away. He looks down at the helicopter in his hand. Despair and frustration well up inside him. He smites his forehead in agony, then turns around and drops the helicopter into a dustbin. He walks away. From behind a pillar, Rancho gazes after him compassionately. He walks up to the dustbin, retrieves the helicopter and looks at it wonderingly.

Fade IN: *Give me some sunshine.*

EXT. HOSTEL, ICE – NIGHT

PBS 2- GIVE ME SOME SUNSHINE

सारी उम्र हम
मर मर के जी लिए
एक पल तो अब हमें
जीने दो जीने दो

*Lifelong I lived
The life of another
For just one moment
Let me live as I...*

सारी उम्र हम
मर मर के जी लिए
एक पल तो अब हमें
जीने दो जीने दो

*Lifelong I lived
The life of another
For just one moment
Let me live as I ...*

गिव मी सम सनशाइन
गिव मी सम रेन
गिव मी ऐनेदर चान्स
आई वाना ग्रो अप वन्स अगेन

*Give me some sunshine
Give me some rain
Give me another chance
I wanna grow up once again*

गिव मी सम सनशाइन
गिव मी सम रेन
गिव मी ऐनेदर चान्स
आई वाना ग्रो अप वन्स अगेन

*Give me some sunshine
Give me some rain
Give me another chance
I wanna grow up once again*

On a ledge outside his hostel room, Joy strums a guitar and sings in a voice filled with pain and hopelessness.

Rancho observes him from a distance.

INT. ROOM, HOSTEL, ICE – NIGHT

A portable black and white monitor shows candid images of the trio's room. The images are being shot by the camera atop Joy's helicopter. Rancho operates the helicopter with childish enthusiasm. He goes up to Raju, who is studying at his desk. Raju glances into the camera disapprovingly.

रैन्चो

(in awe)

साले ने क्या डिज़ाइन बनाया है, यार हेलीकॉप्टर के ऊपर वायरलेस कैमरा। दगा दगा दगा ... ट्रैफिक अपडेट, सिक्यूरिटी, सब के काम आ सकता है।

He zeroes in on Farhan's face.

फरहान

ए, पर वाइरस तो कह रहा था कि बहुत इम्प्रेक्टिकल डिज़ाइन है। उड़ेगा ही नहीं

Rancho pans the camera to himself.

रैन्चो

उड़ेगा कैसे नहीं। हम उड़ायेंगे। ए, जॉय को मत बोलना। उसको सरप्राइज़ देंगे। उसकी खिड़की के बाहर उड़ायेंगे, उसका रिएक्शन रिकार्ड करेंगे।

Raju's not drawn in by Rancho's enthusiasm.

RANCHO

Dude's come up with an amazing design. A wireless camera atop a helicopter. Can be used for traffic updates, security ... Wow!

FARHAN

But Virus said it's an impractical design, it won't fly.

RANCHO

It will fly! We'll make it fly. Don't tell Joy. It'll be a surprise. We'll fly it up to his window and capture his reaction.

राजू

अरे हम उसका प्रोजेक्ट करेंगे तो हमारे कौन करेगा? टेस्ट्स, वाइवाज़, क्वीज़स मिला के हर सेमिस्टर में 42 इग्ज़ैम हैं।

रैन्चो

(unfazed)

अरे तू डरता बहुत है यार। ये हाथ ले, अपने दिल पे डाल, और बोल – ऑल इज़ वेल, ऑल इज़ वेल।

Rancho grabs Raju's hand and places it on Raju's heart.

राजू

ऑल इज़ वेल।

रैन्चो

ऑल इज़ वेल।

फरहान

अबे ये कुछ नया लाया है हमारे बाबा रणछोड़दास।

रैन्चो

अरे हमारे गांव में एक चौकीदार हुआ करता था। वो रात को पहरा देते वक़्त जोर जोर से चिल्लाता था – “ऑल इज़ वेल”।

Raju rolls his eyes.

रैन्चो

और हम लोग सुकून से सो जाते थे। एक रात गांव में चोरी हुई, तो पता चला की साले को रात में कुछ दिखता ही नहीं हैं, यार। ऐसे ही चिल्लाता रहता था “ऑल इज़ वेल”, “ऑल इज़ वेल”। और हम लोग बेफिक्र होके सो भी जाते थे। उस दिन एक बात समझ में आई। ये जो अपना दिल है ना, बड़ा डरपोक है, यार। उसको

RAJU

If we work on his project, who'll work on ours? Tests, vivas, quizzes – 42 exams per semester.

RANCHO

You scare easily, bro. Take your hand, put it over your heart, and say, “aal izz well”.

RAJU

Aal izz well?

RANCHO

Aal izz well.

FARHAN

New words of wisdom from his Holiness Guru Ranchhoddas.

RANCHO

We had an old watchman in our village. On night patrol, he'd call out, “aal izz well”.

RANCHO

And we slept peacefully. Then there was a theft and we learned that he couldn't see at night! He'd just yell “Aal izz well”, and we felt secure. That day I understood this heart scares easily. You have to trick it. However big the problem, tell your heart, “Aal izz well, pal”.

बेवकूफ बना के रखो। लाइफ में कितनी भी बड़ी प्रोबलम हो ना, उसको बोलो कोई बात नहीं चाचू – सब ठीक ठाक है। ऑल इज़ वेल। ऑल इज़ वेल।

राजू
(*sarcastically*)
हाँ! और उससे प्रॉबलम सौल्व हो जायेगी!

रैन्चो
नहीं। लेकिन उसको झेलने की हिम्मत आ जाती है।

Farhan breaks into a laugh.

रैन्चो
ये मंत्र याद कर लो, यहाँ पर बहुत ज़रूरत पड़ने वाली है।

Raju makes a derisive sound.

INT. / EXT. – VARIOUS LOCATIONS,
ICE – DAY / NIGHT

PBS 3 – AAL IZZ WELL

जब लाइफ़ हो आउट ऑफ़ कंट्रोल
होंठो को करके गोल
होंठो को करके गोल
सीटी बजाके बोल
ऑल इज़ वेल

जब लाइफ़ हो आउट ऑफ़ कंट्रोल
होंठो को करके गोल
होंठो को करके गोल
सीटी बजाके बोल
ऑल इज़ वेल

RAJU
Yes. That resolves the problem?

RANCHO
No. But you gain courage to face iat.

RANCHO
We're gonna really need the mantra.
Learn it.

*When life spins out of control
Just let your lips roll
Let your lips roll
And whistle away the toll
Yell – Aal izz Well ...*

*When life spins out of control
Just let your lips roll
Let your lips roll
And whistle away the toll
Yell – Aal izz Well ...*

मुर्गी क्या जाने अंडे का क्या होगा
अरे लाइफ मिलेगी या तवे पे फ्राई होगा
कोई ना जाने अपना फ्युचर क्या होगा
ऑल इज़ वेल ...

होंठ घुमा,
सीटी बजा
सीटी बजा के बोल भाइया
ऑल इज़ वेल

अरे भाइया ऑल इज़ वेल
अरे चाचू ऑल इज़ वेल
अरे भाइया ऑल इज़ वेल

कनफ़्यूजन ही कनफ़्यूजन है
सोलूशन कुछ पता नहीं
सोलूशन जो मिला तो साला
कोशचन क्या था पता नहीं

दिल जो तेरा बात बात पे घबराए
दिल पे रख के हाथ उसे तू फुसला-ले
दिल इडियट है, प्यार से उसको समझा ले

होंठ घुमा
सीटी बजा
सीटी बजा के बोल
भाइया ऑल इज़ वेल

अरे भाइया ऑल इज़ वेल
अरे चाचू ऑल इज़ वेल
अरे भाइया ऑल इज़ वेल

स्कोलरशिप की पी गया दारू
गम तो फिर भी मिटा नहीं
अगरबत्तियाँ राख हो गईं
गौड तो फिर भी दिखा नहीं

*The chicken's clueless about the egg's fate
Will it hatch or become an omelette
No one knows what the future holds*

*So let your lips roll
And whistle away the toll
Whistle away the toll
Yell – Aal izz Well ...*

*Hey bro – Aal izz Well
Hey mate – Aal izz Well
Hey bro – Aal izz Well*

*Confusion and more confusion
No sign of any solution
Ah ... finally a solution
But wait ... what was the question?*

*If the timid heart with fear
is about to die
Then con it bro, with this simple lie
Heart's an idiot, it will fall under that spell*

*Let your lips roll
And whistle away the toll
Whistle away the toll
Yell – Aal izz Well*

*Hey bro – Aal izz Well
Hey mate – Aal izz Well
Hey bro – Aal izz Well*

*Blew the scholarship on booze
But that did not dispel my blues
Holy incense lit up my plight
And yet God's nowhere in sight*

बकरा क्या जाने उसकी जान का क्या होगा
सीख घुसेगी या साला कीमा होगा
कोई ना जाने अपना प्रयुचर क्या होगा

तो होठ घुमा
सीटी बजा
सीटी बजा के बोल भाइया
ऑल इज़ वैल

अरे मुर्गी ऑल इज़ वैल
अरे बकरे ऑल इज़ वैल
अरे भाइया ऑल इज़ वैल

Working on Joy's helicopter in the spare time he gets, Rancho is still unable to make it fly. In the midst of revelry with his friends, he hits upon the solution.

रैन्चो
मिल ... गया, मिल ... गया यस ...

In the hostel corridor stand, Farhan, Raju and Millimeter. Next to Rancho who operates a remote designed for the helicopter. The helicopter starts to fly. Ecstatic, the friends follow it, navigating. Other students join them, the excitement spreading, until a huge crowd stands outside Joy's block.

फरहान
ये जॉय की खिड़की पर ले चल, जॉय की
खिड़की पर ले चल ना।

Rancho takes the helicopter up, towards Joy's room.

*The lamb is clueless for what it's destined
Will it be served on skewers or simply
minced
No one knows what the future holds*

*So let your lips roll
And whistle away the toll
Whistle away the toll
Yell – Aal izz Well*

*Hey Mrs. Chicken – Aal izz Well
Hey Mr. Lamb – Aal izz Well
Hey bro – Aal izz Well*

RANCHO
Got it, got it ... yes

FARHAN
Hey, take it up to Joy's window.

राजू
ये जॉय।

फरहान
ऊपर, ऊपर!

The helicopter crosses Chatur's window. Raju, holding the monitor, guffaws with laughter at the sight of Chatur dancing in his underwear – and cramming.

राजू
वो तेरे! ए साइलेन्सर को देख! रंगा का नंगा!

Everyone laughs. The helicopter continues to rise.

राजू
ओए जॉय, बाहर आ यार।

फरहान
हे जॉय। जॉय ... जॉय खिड़की पर आ।

राजू
ओये जॉय, बाहर देख।

The helicopter reaches Joy's window. On the monitor is Joy's body, suspended from the ceiling.

राजू
जॉय ... जॉय ...

Even as time seems to stand still, Rancho, Farhan and Raju run to Joy's room. They fling open the door and stand, shell-shocked, looking at Joy's lifeless body – and the 'I QUIT' he's written on the wall.

RAJU
Hey Joy.

FARHAN
Take it higher.

RAJU
Look at Silencer – the nude dude!

RAJU
Joy, come out.

FARHAN
Hey Joy, come to the window.

RAJU
Joy, look outside.

RAJU
JOY ... JOY ...

EXT. GRAVEYARD – DAY

In the steady drizzle, a group of black umbrellas huddle around a fresh grave. Hugging his son's coffin, crying inconsolably, is Joy's father.

PRIEST

We commend our brother Joy to the Lord. May the Lord receive him into his peace and raise up his body on the final day.

Farhan and Raju stand together, grief etched on their faces. Rancho stands by himself, oblivious to the rain soaking him, his tears mingling with the raindrops.

PRIEST

Let us pray for our brother Joy to our lord Jesus Christ who said "I'm the resurrection and the life. The man who believes in me will live even if he dies. And every living person who puts his faith in me will never suffer eternal death ...".

Rancho makes a futile attempt to wipe his eyes, and looks up. He spots the Director on the fringe of the group of mourners. His eyes suddenly fierce, he walks up to him.

रैन्चो

(in a low voice)

गुड न्यूज़ है सर। ना पुलिस को पता चला, ना जॉय के बाप को। सब सोच रहे हैं सुसाइड है सर।

RANCHO

Good news, Sir The police and Joy's father have no clue. Everyone thinks this is suicide.

The Director waits, frowning.

रैन्चो

पोस्टमार्टम रिपोर्ट में आया – मौत का कारण:
इनटैन्स प्रेशर ऑन विंडपाइप, रिजल्टिंग इन
चोकिंग।

The Director nods in grim agreement.

रैन्चो

वो बेवकूफ सोच रहे है कि इधर प्रेशर पड़ने
की वजह से मर गया। और पिछले चार साल
से जो यहाँ प्रेशर पड़ रहा है, उसका क्या? वो
तो रिपोर्ट में है ही नहीं सर।

Surprise and disbelief race across the
Director's face. From a distance, with
increasing alarm, Farhan and Raju watch
their friend speak to the Director.

रैन्चो

ये इन्जीनियर भी बड़े चालाक हैं सर – ऐसी
कोई मशीन ही नहीं बनाई जो यहाँ का प्रेशर
नाप सके।

The Director's face is set in anger.

रैन्चो

बनाते तो पता चल जाता कि ये सुसाइड नहीं,
मर्डर है सर।

In fury, the Director turns to look at
Rancho.

Joy's coffin is lowered into the grave.

INT. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, ICE –
DAY

The Director sits in an armchair, seething
with anger. Rancho stands before him.

RANCHO

The post mortem report – Cause of Death:
Intense pressure on windpipe resulting in
choking.

RANCHO

All think the pressure on the jugular killed
him. What about the mental pressure for
the last four years? That's missing in the
report.

RANCHO

Engineers are a clever bunch. They will
never make a machine to measure mental
pressure.

RANCHO

If they had, all would know ... this isn't
suicide ... it's murder, Sir.

डाइरेक्टर

(in a raised voice)

जॉय के सुसाइड के लिए तुम मुझे दोष दे रहे हो? एक स्टूडेंट प्रेशर नहीं ले पाता तो हम जिम्मेदार कैसे? वैसे जिन्दगी में कई प्रेशर आएंगे तो हमेशा तुम दूसरे पे दोष डालोगे?

रैन्चो

सर, मैं आपको दोष नहीं दे रहा हूँ सर। सर मैं ऐक्चवली सिस्टम को दोष दे रहा हूँ। सर मेरे पास कुछ स्टैटिस्टिक्स हैं सर। सर सुसाइड में इंडिया न. 1 है सर। हर डेढ़ घंटे में कोई न कोई स्टूडेंट सुसाइड का अटेम्प्ट करता है। सर यहाँ पे स्टूडेंट बिमारी से कम ओर सुसाइड से ज्यादा मरते हैं। कुछ तो गलत हो रहा है न सर।

डाइरेक्टर

मैं दूसरे कॉलेज्स के बारे में नहीं बता सकता बट दिस इज़ वन ऑफ द फाइनेस्ट कॉलेज्स इन द कंट्री। बत्तीस साल से मैं यह कॉलेज चला रहा हूँ ओर आइवाइस्वी पॉजिशन से न. 1 तक लेकर आया हूँ मैं।

रैन्चो

सर वॉट न. 1, वॉट न. 1। सर, यहाँ पे कोई नये आइडियास की बात ही नहीं करता सर, इनवैन्शन की बात ही नहीं करता। बात करते हैं तो सिर्फ मार्क्स की – या फिर, यूएसए में नौकरी की। सर यहाँ पे ज्ञान नहीं मिल रहा है सर, यहाँ पे सिर्फ यह सिखाया जा रहा है कि मार्क्स कैसे लाते हैं।।

Beside himself with rage, the Director springs to his feet.

डाइरेक्टर

(shouting)

अब 'तुम' मुझे सिखाओगे कैसे पढ़ाते है?

DIRECTOR

How dare you blame me for Joy's suicide? If one student can't handle pressure, is it our fault? Life is full of pressures. Will you always blame others for pressure in life?

RANCHO

I don't blame you, Sir. I blame the system. Look at these statistics – India ranks No.1 in suicides. Every 90 minutes, a student attempts suicide. Suicide is a bigger killer than disease. Something's terribly wrong, Sir.

DIRECTOR

I can't speak for the rest but this is one of the finest colleges in the country. I've run this place for 32 years. We were ranked 28th. Now we're No. 1.

RANCHO

What's the point, Sir? Here they don't discuss new ideas or inventions. They discuss grades, jobs, settling in USA. They teach how to get good scores. They don't teach engineering.

DIRECTOR

Now you will teach me how to teach?

रैन्चो
नो सर, आइ ...

RANCHO
No Sir, I ...

The Director grabs Rancho's hand and starts dragging him out of the office. Stunned, unable to retaliate, Rancho glances back helplessly at his fallen sheet of statistics.

रैन्चो
सर, सर माइ पेपर ...

RANCHO
Sir, Sir my paper ...

EXT. CORRIDOR, ICE –
CONTINUOUS

As students and professors watch stunned, the Director drags Rancho through the corridors of ICE.

INT. CLASSROOM, ICE –
CONTINUOUS

The Director enters a classroom with Rancho. The teaching professor falls silent as the Director hurls Rancho towards his table. The class watches, baffled.

DIRECTOR
(*to the professor*)
Vaidyanathan, please sit down.

Farhan and Raju glance at each other, worried.

डाइरेक्टर
(*addressing the students, re: Rancho*)
आज हमारे बीच एक ऐसे लीडर हैं, जिनका मानना है कि वो हमारे हाईली क्वालिफाइड टीचर्स से बेहतर पढ़ा सकते हैं। तो आज प्रोफेसर रनछोड़दास छॉछड़ हमें इंजिनियरिंग सिखाएंगे।

DIRECTOR
Here is a self-proclaimed professor who thinks he is better than our highly qualified teacher. Professor Ranchoddas Chanchad will teach us engineering.

Leaving Rancho at the head of the class, the Director joins the seated students facing him.

Rancho looks at a loss for words. Chatur smiles broadly, enjoying his discomfort. Farhan and Raju look at their friend anxiously.

DIRECTOR

We do not have all day.

Rancho collects himself. He takes off his sling bag, places it on the table and picks up a book lying there. He leafs through the book and then, referring to it, writes two words on the board – FARHANITRATE and PRERAJULISATION. He turns to face the class.

रैन्चो

आपके पास तीस सैकेंड है। बोर्ड पे लिखे हुऐ शब्दों का मतलब समझाना है।

Chatur quickly sets the timer on his watch.

रैन्चो

आप चाहे तो किताब का इस्तेमाल कर सकते हैं। जिसे जवाब मिलेगा वो हाथ ऊपर करेगा। देखते हैं कौन फर्स्ट आता है और कौन लास्ट। यूअर टाइम स्टार्ट्स ... नॉव।

There's a flurry of activity in the classroom. The students search through their textbooks frantically. Chatur charges to the teacher's table and grabs the book Rancho had referred to.

RANCHO

You have 30 seconds to define the terms. written.

RANCHO

You may refer to your books. Raise your hand if you get the answer. Let's see who comes first, who comes last. Your time starts ... now.

CHATUR

Give me this!

The Director, his competitive spirit awoken, snatches a book, and then another, from the student next to him. He goes through both books simultaneously: ambidextrous. The whole class works through text books manically. Rancho keeps time.

RANCHO

Time up.

The students look up reluctantly. The Director is still flipping pages.

रैन्चो

(to the Director)

Time up Sir, time up.

(to the class)

क्या? किसी को जवाब नहीं मिला? अब अपनी लाइफ का एक मिनट रिवाइन्ड करो और सोचो। जब मैंने यह सवाल पूछा किसी ने यह सोचा कि आज कुछ नया सीखने को मिलेगा, मज़ा आएगा ...? ऐनीवन? सर? नहीं। सब रेस में लग गये। ऐसे पढ़ के फर्स्ट आ भी गये, तो क्या फ़ायदा। आप लोगों की नौलेज बढ़ेगी? नहीं! सिर्फ़ प्रेशर बढ़ेगा! और ये कॉलेज है, प्रेशर कुकर नहीं।

Farhan gives an involuntary laugh.

रैन्चो

अरे चाबुक के डर से तो सर्कस का शेर भी उछल के कुर्सी पर बैठना सीख जाता है। लेकिन ऐसे शेर को हम वेल ट्रेन्ड कहते हैं, वेल एजुकेटेड नहीं।

RANCHO

No one got the answer? Now rewind your life by a minute. When I asked this question, were you excited? Curious? Thrilled that you'd learn something new? Anyone? ... Sir? No. You all got into a frantic race. What's the use of such methods, even if you come first. Will your knowledge increase? No, just the pressure. This is a college, not a pressure cooker.

RANCHO

Even a circus lion learns to sit on a chair in fear of the whip. But you call such a lion 'well trained', not 'well educated'.

डाइरेक्टर

हैल्लो! दिस इज़ नौट अ फिलोसॉफी क्लास। उन दो वर्ड्स का मतलब बताओ, बस।

रैन्चो

सर ऐसे कोई वर्ड्स है ही नहीं सर।

The Director looks incredulous.

रैन्चो

सर। ये तो मेरे दोस्तों के नाम हैं। फरहान और राजू।

Rancho goes up to the board and underlines FARHAN in FARHANITRATE and RAJU in PRERAJULISATION. The students break into laughter.

डाइरेक्टर

क्वाइट! नोनसेन्स! क्या ऐसे पढ़ाओगे इंजिनियरिंग!

रैन्चो

नहीं सर। मैं आपको इंजिनियरिंग नहीं पढ़ा रहा था सर। वो तो आप मुझसे बेहतर जानते हैं।

A beat.

रैन्चो

मैं तो आपको यह पढ़ा रहा था कि पढ़ाते कैसे हैं।

The Director looks apoplectic.

रैन्चो

और मुझे यकीन है कि आप एक दिन जरूर सिखेंगे सर, क्योंकि मैं अपने कमज़ोर स्टूडेंट्स का हाथ कभी नहीं छोड़ता।

DIRECTOR

Hello! This is not a philosophy class. Just explain those two words.

RANCHO

Sir, these words don't exist.

RANCHO

These are my friends' names. Farhan and Raju.

DIRECTOR

Quiet! Nonsense! Is this how you'll teach engineering?

RANCHO

Sir, I wasn't teaching you engineering. You're an expert at that.

RANCHO

I was teaching you ... how to teach.

RANCHO

And I'm sure one day you'll learn because unlike you, I never abandon my weak students.

Before the Director's wrath can spill over, Rancho grabs his bag from the table and makes a run for the exit.

रैन्चो
बाय, सर!

RANCHO
Bye, Sir!

The students crack up in mirth. In helpless rage, the Director yells at them.

DIRECTOR
Quiet! Quiet, I said!

INT. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, ICE –
DAY

The Director sits at his desk and writes two letters simultaneously: Ambidextrous.

डाइरेक्टर (V.O.)
बड़े खेद के साथ मैं आपको सूचित करना चाहता हूँ कि आपका बेटा ...।

DIRECTOR
I regret to inform you that your son ...

In one letter he writes –

डाइरेक्टर (V.O.)
फरहान।

DIRECTOR
Farhan.

In the other letter he writes –

डाइरेक्टर (V.O.)
राजू।

DIRECTOR
Raju.

In both letters, he writes simultaneously.

डाइरेक्टर (V.O.)
गलत संगत में हैं। सही कदम नहीं उठाए गये तो उसका फ्यूचर बर्बाद हो सकता है।

DIRECTOR
– have fallen into bad company. Without urgent corrective steps, his future will be ruined.

INT. FARHAN'S HOUSE / RAJU'S
HOUSE – DAY

Split screen. Farhan and Raju's FAMILIES
receive the letters from the Director.

फरहान (V.O.)

वायरस के लैटर्स हमारे घर पे ऐटम बम की
तरह गिरे। हिरोशिमा और नागासाकी में मातम
छा गया। और हमको दोनों घरों में जूते खाने
के लिए इनवाइट किया गया।

INT. FARHAN'S HOUSE – DAY

The door to Farhan's room opens. Farhan's
Father leads the trio into the room. He
points towards the air conditioner.

फरहान के पिताजी

आइए। अन्दर आइए। आइए आइए। उधर देखिए।
एक ही एयर कंडिशनर ऐफोर्ड कर सकते थे
हम। और वो हमने अपने नहीं, फरहान के कमरे
में लगाया, ताकि वो सुकून से पढ़ सके। कार
नहीं खरीदी मैंने। आज तक स्कूटर चलाता हूँ।
सारा पैसा हमने फरहान की पढ़ाई में लगा दिया।
अपना फ्यूचर हमने फरहान के फ्यूचर के लिए
कुर्बान कर दिया। समझे की नहीं आप?

Rancho fidgets and looks around restlessly,
to the left, to the right

A beat.

And then he stands riveted. The far wall
in the room is covered with wildlife
photography. The pictures are stunning.
Hunters and prey, newborn cubs,
unrehearsed moments of nature. Farhan's
Father drones on, but Rancho is no longer
listening.

FARHAN

Virus's letters dropped on our homes like
atom bombs. Hiroshima and Nagasaki
plunged into gloom. Our parents invited
us for a dressing down.

FARHAN'S FATHER

Come in. See that? We could afford just
one air-conditioner We put it in Farhan's
room, so he could study in comfort. I didn't
buy a car. I managed with a scooter. We
put all our money into Farhan's education.
We sacrificed our comforts for Farhan's
future. Understand?

फरहान के पिताजी

और उसके बाद जब मुझे ऐसा खत आया
पिसिंपल साहब से, तो क्या आप अन्दाज़ा लगा
सकते हैं कि मुझ पर क्या बीत रही होगी?

Rancho walks towards the photographs,
riveted.

रैन्चो

हे, ये फोटोस तूने लिए फरहान?

Even as Farhan tries to shush Rancho, his
Father answers.

फरहान के पिताजी

फोटोग्राफी का भूत सवार था जनाब के सर पर।
जानवरों की तस्वीरें लिए फिरते थे। कहते थे कि
मुझे वाइल्डलाइफ फोटोग्राफर बनना है। बेटे उस
साल तुम्हारी परसैंटेज कितनी थी? बताओ।

फरहान

(*meekly*)

91%।

फरहान के पिताजी

सुना आपने? 94% से सीधे 91%।

Rancho stifles a spontaneous giggle. But
the damage is done.

फरहान के पिताजी

आपको मज़ाक लग रहा है?

रैन्चो

नहीं, नहीं अंकल, सॉरी ... ऐक्चवली मैं यह कह
रहा हूँ कितने कमाल के फोटो खींचे है सर,
उसने! इसको आप इंजिनियर क्यों बना रहे हैं?

FARHAN'S FATHER

And after that when I get such a letter
from the Principal, can you imagine how
I must have felt?

RANCHO

You took these pictures, Farhan?

FARHAN'S FATHER

He was obsessed with photography for
a while. Went around taking pictures
of animals. Wanted to be a wildlife
photographer. Son, what was your score
that year? Tell.

FARHAN

91%.

FARHAN'S FATHER

Hear that? Straight drop from 94% to
91%.

FARHAN'S FATHER

You find it funny?

RANCHO

No Sir, sorry. I'm just amazed at the
photos. Why make him an engineer ...?
Why not a wildlife photographer?

इसको तो वाइल्डलाइफ फोटोग्राफर बनना चाहिए।
बहुत आगे बढ़ेगा ...

Farhan's Father interrupts Rancho and speaks with barely contained fury.

फरहान के पिताजी
सुनिये ... हाथ जोड़ कर आपसे गुज़ारिश करता
हूँ, मेरे बेटे का प्रयुचर बरबाद मत कीजिए।

Unaware of the tension within the group,
Farhan's Mother comes up to the boys,
smiling warmly.

फरहान की माताजी
बच्चों, खाना लग गया। आ जाओ।

फरहान
हाँ चल ना, खाते हैं।

As the visibly relieved boys start moving
towards the dining area, Farhan's Father
steps in front of Rancho and places a
restraining hand on his shoulder.

फरहान के पिताजी
अगली बार आओगे तो खाना ज़रूर खाके
जाना।

INT. / EXT. RAJU'S HOUSE –
NIGHT

फरहान (V.O.)
अब्बा ने तो खाना दिया नहीं ... अब हम अपना
भूखा पेट भरने और डांट का कोटा पुरा करने,
राजू के घर पहुँचें।

The images on screen turn black and white.
Raju's one-room home is in the low-income

FARHAN'S FATHER

Enough! I humbly request you – don't
ruin my son's future.

FARHAN'S MOTHER

Food's on the table, boys.

FARHAN

C'mon, let's eat

FARHAN'S FATHER

If you ever visit again, do eat with us.

FARHAN

Dad denied us a meal ... So, to fill our
bellies with food ... and ears with more
reprimands, we reached Raju's house.

housing sector of the city. Inside the house, his paralysed father occupies the only bed. At the cooking stove, his Mother coughs incessantly. And his sister, KAMMO, sits at the window, staring at nothing.

The sofa has exposed springs and a strategically placed bowl catches the water leaking from the roof.

फरहान (V.O.)

राजू का घर 1950s की ब्लैक एण्ड व्हाइट फिल्मों की याद दिलाता था। एक छोटा सा कमरा जिसमें एक पैरालाइज़्ड बाप, एक खाँसती हुई माँ और एक विनब्याही बहन। सोफे पे खिले हुए स्प्रिंग और छत से 24 अवर्स रनिंग वाटर। माँ स्कूल से रिटायर्ड थीं और ज्यादातर टायर्ड रहती थीं। बाप किसी ज़माने में पोस्टमास्टर थे, पारैलिसिस के बाद बॉडी आधी बन्द हो गई और सैलरी पूरी ... और बहन ...

The trio sits on the floor with plates, waiting to be served their meal. Raju's Mother starts making *rotis*.

राजू की माताजी

अट्टाईस की हो गई है कम्मो। मारुति 800 मांगते हैं दहेज में। अरे तू पढ़ेगा लिखेगा नहीं तो शादी कैसे होगी इसकी?

Kammo starts serving the food to the boys.

कम्मो

भिन्डी लीजिये ना।

राजू की माताजी

पता है तुझे, भिन्डी बारह रुपये किलो हो गई है। और गोभी दस की!

FARHAN

Raju's house was straight out of a '50s black and white film. A small, dingy room, a paralysed father, a coughing mother and an unwed sister. A sofa sprouting springs and a 24-hour water supply from the leaking roof. His mother was a retired school teacher and a tireless complainer. His father was once a postmaster. Paralysis shut down his body partly – and his salary completely. And the sister ...

RAJU'S MOTHER

Kammo's turned 28. They demand a Maruti 800 in dowry. If you don't study and earn, how will she marry?

KAMMO

Some lady's finger?

RAJU'S MOTHER

Lady's finger is now Rs. 12/ per kilo, cauliflower is Rs. 10/.

Rancho and Farhan exchange a look.

राजू की माताजी
लूट मची है सारे देश में! और उसपर तेरी
ऐसी चिट्ठियाँ आएंगी कॉलेज से, तो बता हम
खायेंगे क्या!

राजू
(*embarrassed*)
माँ ...

Kammo ladles some cottage cheese on to
Rancho's plate.

कम्मो
पनीर लेंगे?

राजू की माताजी
पनीर तो बेटा कुछ दिनों में इत्ती-इत्ती थालियों
में सुनार की दुकान में बिकेगा ...

Rancho and Farhan stiffen with
discomfort.

कम्मो
पनीर दूँ?

फरहान
नहीं, नहीं, बस बस, थैंक यू।

राजू
माँ तू रहने दे ना अभी, ये क्या ...

राजू की माताजी
ठीक है भाई, चुप हो जाती हूँ।

A beat.

राजू की माताजी
ये अच्छा है – बच्चों के लिये कमाओ, नौकरानी
की तरह काम करो और उसके बाद मौन व्रत

RAJU'S MOTHER

It's daylight robbery! What will we eat if
we get warnings from your college?

RAJU
Mom!

KAMMO
Cottage cheese?

RAJU'S MOTHER
Cottage cheese should be sold at the
jewellers, in velvet pouches.

KAMMO
Cottage cheese?

FARHAN
No, no, it's ok. Thank you.

RAJU
Mom, please.

RAJU'S MOTHER
Alright, I'll shut up.

RAJU'S MOTHER
Earn for the family, slave like a maid
and then take the vow of silence. If not

रखो। अरे घर की समस्या है तो बेटे को नहीं बताऊंगी तो और किसे बताऊंगी? उसके दोस्तों को?

Rancho and Farhan, about to take their first bites, stop. Raju, fed up of the whining, pushes away his plate and walks out in a huff.

फरहान
ए राजू!

Raju's Mother starts crying.

Rancho and Farhan look nonplussed, food morsels still in their raised hands, inches away from their mouths.

फरहान (V.O.)
बड़ी दुविधा थी। दोस्त को सम्भालते की दोस्त की मां के आंसू पोछते। हमने सोचा हटो यार, मटर पनीर पे कान्सनट्रैट करो।

They put the food into their mouths and start chewing.

Raju's Father starts making small, moaning sounds.

Raju's Mother, still weepy, leans over and scratches his chest with her rolling pin. Rancho and Farhan stop chewing, their mouths agape with shock.

राजू की माताजी
इनकी एग्जीमा की क्रीम भी अब पच्चपन रुपये की आती है।

with my son, with whom do I share my woes – his friends?

FARHAN
Hey Raju.

FARHAN
We were in a huge dilemma. Do we comfort our friend or console his mom? Screw it, we thought, let's focus on the cottage cheese.

RAJU'S MOTHER
Even his eczema cream costs Rs. 55/ now.

She continues making *rotis* with her rolling pin. A hair, fresh off her husband's eczema-infected chest, gets rolled into the dough. Farhan starts retching.

राजू की माताजी
और रोटी दूँ बेटा?

RAJU'S MOTHER
Another *roti*?

Rancho and Farhan decline hurriedly and emphatically.

फरहान / रैन्चो
नहीं नहीं आंटी। बस, हो गया, पेट भर गया।

FARHAN / RANCHO
No, thank you. We're through.

EXT. ROADSIDE – MOMENTS
LATER

The images on screen return to colour. Rancho, Farhan and Raju are walking down a street. Rancho suddenly starts laughing.

रैन्चो
भिन्डी ... बारह रुपये की ...

RANCHO
Lady's finger for Rs. 12/.

Farhan joins Rancho.

फरहान
गोभी दस की ...

FARHAN
Cauliflower for Rs. 10/.

Raju gets angry.

राजू
अरे कम से कम खाना ऑफर तो किया। तेरे भुखड़ बाप जैसा नहीं। हिटलर कुरेशी।

RAJU
At least you were offered a meal. Unlike your sadistic dad ... 'Hitler' Qureshi!

फरहान
हाँ हाँ, तेरी मां तो मदर टेरेसा हैं! खुजली वाली रोटी खिला रही थी।

FARHAN
And your mom is Mother Teresa ... Feeding us 'eczema *roti*'!

Raju grabs Farhan's collar. Rancho intervenes.

राजू
मेरी मां को लेके मज़ाक नहीं करने का!

फरहान
छोड़ ना यार राजू।

रैन्चो
राजू! छोड़ यार तुम लोग क्या झगड़ा कर रहे हो! भूख लगी है यार। कहीं बाहर चलते हैं, खाना खाने के लिए।

फरहान
मन्थ-एन्ड है यार। पैसा क्या इसकी मदर टेरेसा देगी?

रैन्चो
ओए खाना खाने के लिए पैसे नहीं लगते, यूनिफॉर्म लगती है, यूनिफॉर्म।

Rancho points towards a brightly decorated wedding venue.

रैन्चो
वो देख।

Rancho's eyes dance with childish mischief.

रैन्चो
चल!

फरहान
चल ...

As always, Farhan follows Rancho enthusiastically and Raju follows them both reluctantly.

RAJU
Don't poke fun at my mom!

FARHAN
Enough, Raju.

RANCHO
I'm famished. Let's eat out.

FARHAN
It's month end. Who'll pay? His Mother Teresa?

RANCHO
To eat out, you don't need money. Just a uniform.

RANCHO
Look ...

RANCHO
C'mon!

FARHAN
Come ...

EXT. GATE, WEDDING VENUE –
CONTINUOUS

The boys enter the wedding wearing pink *pagdis* and carrying white envelopes. They greet the hosts at the gate with enthusiastic familiarity.

रैन्चो / फरहान
नमस्ते, नमस्ते।

RANCHO / FARHAN
Good evening, good evening.

रैन्चो
ओह अंकल!

RANCHO
Oh, Uncle!

INT. HALL, WEDDING VENUE –
CONTINUOUS

The three friends sit at a table. Rancho hails a waiter.

रैन्चो
अरे सुन, तीन लार्ज वोडका लेके आ।

RANCHO
Three large vodkas.

फरहान
हॉफ सोडा, हॉफ पानी।

FARHAN
Half soda, half water.

Raju glances around nervously.

राजू
यार मरवाओगे यार तुम लोग।

RAJU
If we're caught, we're dead.

रैन्चो
(*to the waiter*)
और स्टार्टर्स में क्या है?

RANCHO
What's for starters?

The waiter offers Rancho the snacks he's carrying.

फरहान
यार जो भी है, दो-दो प्लेट ले आ।

FARHAN
Get double portions.

Instead of picking a snack or two, Rancho relieves the waiter of his entire tray of snacks.

रैन्चो
और ये छोड़ दे। और म्यूजिक चेंज कर यार
— कुछ गज़ल वज़ल लगा।

A pompous, nasal voice carries across to them. They look in its direction. And see the flashily dressed SUHAS holds up PIA's wrist in indignation. Pia's back is to the boys.

SUHAS (O.S.)
Pia, what the hell!

Suhas's tone becomes condescending.

सुहास
ये क्या पहना है? ब्लडी ऐटीन्थ सेन्चुरी की
वॉच। पिआ, लोग क्या बोलेंगे, सुहास की
फ्रियान्सी को देखो, डॉक्टर बनने वाली है, पर
दो सौ रुपये की घड़ी पहनती है। प्लीज़ टेक
इट ऑफ़। थैंक यू।

Rancho looks on, amused. Before Pia can respond to Suhas, Suhas is accosted by a jewel-bedecked, perfectly coiffed, distant AUNT of his.

AUNTY
Hi, handsome.

SUHAS
Hey, Aunt, you're looking good.

AUNTY
Don't miss my set, darling!

RANCHO
Leave this here and start some peppy music.

SUHAS
Why're you wearing this ancient piece of junk? What'll people say – "Suhas fiancée ... a doctor in the making, wearing a cheap, 200-rupee watch!" Please take it off. Thank you.

SUHAS
Rubies?

आंटी
मेंडाले से हैं।

सुहास
मेंडाले, वॉव।

आंटी
हे ल्येट्स गो मीट डेविड, चलो तुम्हें मिलाती
हूँ

SUHAS
Of course ... Of course.

Before leaving with his Aunt, Suhas turns to Pia and indicates his watch, reminding her of his instructions.

A gleam in his eyes, Rancho gets up from his table. Armed with a bouquet of flowers, he taps Pia on the shoulder.

RANCHO
Excuse me.

Pia turns around to face him.

PIA
Yes?

Rancho offers her the flowers. She accepts, with a gracious smile, holding the flowers in one hand, a drink in the other.

RANCHO
Flowers. May I take the glass?

AUNTY
From Mandalay.

SUHAS
Mandalay ... Wow!

AUNTY
Hey, let's go meet David.

Rancho gently extracts from her hand the glass with her drink in it. Pia is taken aback.

पिया
क्यों?

PIA
Why?

रैन्चो
आप ग्लास फेंक के मारेंगी, मेरा सर फट जायेगा।

RANCHO
So you don't break it on my head.

पिया
मैं आपको क्यों मारूंगी?

PIA
Why would I do that?

रैन्चो
क्योंकि मैं आपको थोड़ी सी फ्री एडवाइज़ देने वाला हूँ।

RANCHO
For the free advice I'll now impart.

पिया
(*curiously*)
क्या?

PIA
What?

Rancho points towards Suhas.

रैन्चो
उस गधे से कभी शादी मत करिए।

RANCHO
Don't marry that ass.

Pia's smile fades.

PIA
(*coldly*)
Excuse me?

रैन्चो
वो आदमी नहीं, प्राइस टैग है, प्राइस टैग।

RANCHO
He's not a human being, he's a price tag.

पिया
Listen ...

रैन्चो

ज़िन्दगी भर आपको अलग अलग प्रोडक्ट्स के दाम बता बता के पका देगा।

With increasing incredulity and anger, Pia tries to get a word in edgeways.

पिया

Hello!

रैन्चो

आपकी लाइफ बर्बाद हो जायेगी, यूअर फ्यूचर विल बी फिनिशड। डेमो दूँ? उसके जूते कितने के हैं, पता करूँ? मैं नहीं पूछूँगा। वो खुद बतायेगा। जस्ट सी। होल्ड।

Before Pia can object, Rancho hands her drink back to her and walks off, towards Suhas. Despite herself, Pia watches, fascinated.

Rancho waylays a waiter, lifts a bowl of mint chutney from his tray, and gestures to him to follow him. He then walks by Suhas, and, with a nimble flick of his wrist, empties the bowl on his shoes. Pia gasps in shock. As Rancho strolls on unnoticed, the waiter tries to make a quick getaway.

AUNTY

Oh my God!

सुहास

(*to the waiter*)

हे ... हे ... हे! क्या! अरे क्या किया भाई? अरे तीन सौ डॉलर के शूज़ हैं! पुदीने की चटनी ऑन माइ 300-डॉलर शूज़।

RANCHO

He'll turn your life into a nightmare of brands and prices.

RANCHO

He'll ruin your life. Your future will be finished. Want a demonstration? Shall I find out the price of his shoes? I won't ask. He'll announce it himself. Just see. Hold.

SUHAS

What the hell ... Mint chutney on my \$300 shoes!

As Suhas has a meltdown, a smug Rancho walks back to Pia.

रैन्चो

भाग लो। फ्री एडवाइस है। लेना है तो लो नहीं तो जाने दो।

Rancho walks away.

Suhas continues bawling over his ruined Italian shoes.

SUHAS

Genuine Italian leather – hand stitched!

Pia walks up to a MAN and taps him on the shoulder.

The man turns. It's Viru Sahastrabuddhe.

पिया

डैड, ये आपके गेस्ट हैं?

The Director looks in the direction she's pointed in. And sees Rancho, Farhan and Raju piling food into their plates from the buffet.

डाइरेक्टर

(*baffled*)

ये तो मेरे स्टूडेंट्स हैं। ये यहाँ क्या कर रहे हैं?

The Director makes as if to move towards them. Pia stops him. She has a look of glee and resolution on her face.

पिया

एक सैकेण्ड, डैड।

RANCHO

Run for your life! It's free advice. Take it or leave it.

PIA

Dad, are they your guests?

DIRECTOR

My students. What're they doing here?

PIA

Hold on, Dad.

Typical, hungry hostel residents, the boys keep adding to the mounds of food in their plates, discussing the spread reverentially.

रैन्चो
यस छोले बहुत अच्छे लग रहे हैं यार — स्मेलिंग
वैरी गुड यार।

फरहान
अबे, पूरी के लिए जगह नहीं है।

रैन्चो
एडजैस्ट कर लेना साइड में।

फरहान
अच्छा ...!

Pia appears before them.

PIA
Hi!

रैन्चो
(*pleasantly surprised*)
हे! हाय!

पिया
आपने मेरी आंखें खोल दी। थैंक यू सो मच।

The Director walks up from the back and stands behind the trio.

रैन्चो
ओह हो हो हो! अरे, ऐसी क्या बात है, वो
तो मेरा फर्ज था।

PIA
Can I ask you for little more help?

RANCHO
These chick peas smell great.

FARHAN
No room for *puri*.

RANCHO
Just pile it on.

FARHAN
Ok ...!

RANCHO
Hey!

PIA
That was an eye-opener. Thank you so much.

RANCHO
It was my moral responsibility.

रैन्चो
या, या

पिया
मेरे डैड सुहास के साथ ये एंगेज्मन्ट तोड़ने नहीं
देगे। आप इतना अच्छा एक्सप्लेन करते हैं, अगर
आप उनको भी एक डेमो दे दें तो...

रैन्चो
हाँ हाँ क्यों नहीं क्यों नहीं डेमो देगे। राजू
चटनी दे।

राजू
हाँ।

PIA
You're really sweet.

रैन्चो
अरे! कहाँ है डैडी आपके?

पिया
बिल्कुल आपके पीछे।

रैन्चो
ओह!

The boys turn around – and freeze in shock.
The Director regards them icily. In a reflex
action their hands go over their hearts and
they start mumbling.

राजू / रैन्चो / फरहान
ऑल इज़ वेल ... ऑल इज़ वेल।

Thoroughly enjoying Rancho's discomfiture,
Pia speaks close to his ear.

RANCHO
Yes, yes.

PIA
Dad won't let me break off this engagement.
You explain so well. Can you give him a
demo too? Certainly.

RANCHO
Certainly. Raju, the mint chutney.

RAJU
Yes.

RANCHO
Where is your daddy?

PIA
Right behind you.

RANCHO
Oh!

RAJU / RANCHO / FARHAN
Aal izz well ... aal izz well.

पिया
भाग लो। फ्री एडवाइज़ है। लेना है तो लो
नहीं तो जाने दो।

डाइरेक्टर
तुम लोग यहाँ क्या कर रहे हो?

Rancho springs into action. He takes out
the white envelope from his pocket.

रैन्चो
सर ... लिफाफा देके आते हैं सर, स्टेज पे।

Pia snatches the envelope from Rancho's
hand.

पिया
मुझे दे दो। मेरी बहन की शादी है।

Reeling from this new blow, Rancho looks
from Pia to the Director to the bride on
stage.

रैन्चो
ओह! बहन! सर, आपकी टोटल कितनी बेटियां
हैं सर?

Pia tears open the envelope and holds
it up, shaking it out. Nothing comes
out.

पिया
खाली है!

रैन्चो
खाली? तूने डाला नहीं, राजू ... फरहान ...

PIA
Run for your life! It's free advice. Take it
or leave it.

DIRECTOR
What're you doing here?

RANCHO
We'll hand these gifts to the couple.

PIA
I'll do that for you. It's my sister's
wedding.

RANCHO
Oh sister! Sir, how many daughters do
you have?

PIA
Empty. No gift cheques.

RANCHO
(*feigning innocence*)
Forgot the cheques, Raju ... Farhan?

Ignoring this feeble attempt at deception, Pia breaks in, smiling sweetly, savouring her revenge.

पिया

वैसे हमने तो आपको बुलाया नहीं। आप शायद लड़के वालों के तरफ से होंगे?

रैन्चो

नहीं सर ... हम ऐक्चवली साइन्स की तरफ से हैं सर, साइन्स की तरफ से।

डाइरेक्टर

कैसे? कैन यू एक्सप्लेन?

पिया

डैड ये एक्सप्लेन बहुत अच्छा करते हैं। अभी डेमो देंगे। दो ना!

रैन्चो

सर ऐक्चवली दिल्ली में इलैक्ट्रिसिटी बहुत जाती है सर और शादी में बड़ी प्रोबलम होती है सर, उसकी वजह से। तो मैंने सोचा की एक ऐसा इनवरटर बनाऊं जो शादी में आई हुई गाड़ियों की बैट्रीज़ से पावर ले सर।

डाइरेक्टर

अच्छा।

पिया

वॉव। तो बना दिया इनवरटर?

Rancho glares at Pia.

रैन्चो

सर, डिज़ाइन रेडी है।

The Director extends his hand for the design.

PIA

We didn't invite you. You must be from the groom's side.

RANCHO

No Sir, we're here as the emissaries of science.

DIRECTOR

How? Can you explain?

PIA

Dad, he explains superbly. I'm sure he'll give us a demo. Won't you?

RANCHO

Well, Delhi has plenty of power cuts that ... disrupt wedding celebrations. So I thought of making an inverter that ... draws power from guests' cars.

DIRECTOR

I see.

PIA

Wow. So where's the inverter?

RANCHO

Sir, the design is ready.

रैन्चो
डिज़ाइन कहाँ है ... फरहान

Everyone looks at Farhan.

FARHAN
Hmm?

रैन्चो
डिज़ाइन दिया था ना तुझे?

Farhan points towards Raju.

फरहान
ओह – मैंने राजू को दिया था।

All turn to look at Raju now.

रैन्चो
राजू डिज़ाइन?

In response, Raju lets out a loud,
involuntary burp.

रैन्चो
सर, ऐक्चवली डिज़ाइन छोड़िये ना, सर। सर, मैं
आपको डाइरेक्ट इनवर्टर बना के दिखाता हूँ।

डाइरेक्टर
तुम सिर्फ बेवकूफ बना सकते हो। इनवर्टर
नहीं।

रैन्चो
नहीं सर, सर मैं आपको इनवर्टर ज़रूर बना के
दिखाऊंगा, सर। आइ प्रोमिस और, और उसको
आपका नाम दूंगा सर। क्योंकि ऑफ्टर ऑल
आपकी बेटी की शादी में इनवैन्ट हुआ है। तो,
इट विल बी ऐन आनर

RANCHO
Where's the design, Farhan?

RANCHO
I gave you the design?

FARHAN
I gave it to Raju.

RANCHO
Raju, design?

RANCHO
Never mind the design. I'll make the inverter
and show you.

DIRECTOR
You can only invent stories, not an
inverter.

RANCHO
I'll make one, I promise. And I'll name
it after you. After all, it was invented ...
at your daughter's wedding. So it'll be an
honour. ...

The Director cuts Rancho short.

डाइरेक्टर

फरहान। राजू आप दोनों से कल मैं ऑफिस में मिलना चाहूंगा।

DIRECTOR

Farhan, Raju. I'll see you in my office tomorrow ...

INT. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE, ICE –
NEXT MORNING

Faces pinched with anxiety, eyes downcast, Farhan and Raju sit uncomfortably on their seats in the Director's office. Opposite them, the Director chomps on his afternoon meal, never taking his gaze off them.

राजू

(bravely)

सर आपका पर प्लेट कौस्ट कितना था सर? हम लोग भर देंगे सर... इन्स्टालमेन्ट्स में सर।

RAJU

Sir, what was the cost per plate? We'll reimburse you ... in installments.

In response, the Director snaps a food morsel off his fork and bites down fiercely.

फरहान

और आगे से हम किसी शादी में नहीं घुसेंगे सर।

FARHAN

We'll never gate-crash a wedding again..

राजू

हाँ सर, मैं तो अपनी शादी में भी नहीं घुसूंगा।

RAJU

Not even my own.

फरहान

इनफैक्ट सर, मैं शादी ही नहीं करूंगा।

(looks at Raju)

और ये भी नहीं करेगा सर।

FARHAN

In fact, I won't even marry. Nor will he.

राजू

(glaring at Farhan)

हाँ हाँ सर... मैं... मैं भी नहीं करूंगा सर।

RAJU

Uh ... right. No marriage.