

# A BROKEN AQUARIUM AND A FISH OUT OF SEA

**Statement of Purpose:** This story connects with me through Ashwini's relationship with her son. It reflects what my relationship was with my mother, even though I had a father, due to his work he mostly used to stay unavailable and my mother laid the foundation for what I think about the world. While the genre extravaganzas of the pulpily named "mom on a mission" films are exciting, I feel it's worth taking a glance of a daily struggle of a mother who is raising a child on her own and the financial and societal baggage that come with it.

[THIS IS A STORY TOLD IN THREE CHAPTERS]

## 1. A FISH OUT OF SEA

A young woman (ASHWINI), in her early 20s, comes back to her home town at night with a baby boy in her arms. Her family is shocked to see her like this. They talk to her and shout at her. They don't have a clue who's baby it is and why is she the mother of that child. The next day we get a very awkward breakfast wherein everyone's quiet. Ashwini leaves the table as quickly as possible and stays with her baby. After a couple of days of silence, her dad comes to her and consoles her. He assures her that he'll do everything to get her married as fast as possible, but the baby can't live with them. He assures her that he has organized one of the best orphanages for the baby and they'll take good care of the baby. It's a nightmare of a conundrum for any mother.

Ashwini says no, obviously. She can't let her baby go away. It's a her baby, even if it's a reminder of a betrayal she experienced, it's her baby.

She leaves the house in the morning the next day without telling anyone. And starts searching for a house. The problem is that she needs to pay a rent and she B.A. graduate with no prospects with her.

After a couple of really bad interviews at sleazy offices she makes her way to a school. The principal promises to give her a job if she completes her B.Ed. But until then, nothing.

She takes up a job as a receptionist of a shady hotel for the time being, a year. The hotel owner lets her stay in one of the backrooms with a 50% salary cut.

Of-course it definitely isn't comfortable staying there, but she does prevail. And at

night, on her phone, starts the online B.Ed. course.

Until her neighbors see her through the window and talk about it to her father. He visits her there, utterly disgusted and in pain.

And a big argument ensues in her backroom about her own identity and the baby and the need for her to do all this rather than just getting married off.

There is no remorse or conclusion by the end of it. Her father leaves the hotel without a goodbye.

This chapter of the film is more than anything else, about basic survival without the shackles of traditions.

## **2. A BROKEN AQUARIUM**

When Ashwini comes back home from her job, ARNAV's shoes are already there. He probably has skipped school. She knocks on his door a couple of times - Arnav tells her the incident that happened at his school. The school teacher asked him about his middle name. This propels Ashwini to talk the Arnav's school teacher, who's apologetic about the incident but Ashwini's fury somewhere down the argument pierces the teacher, which leads to him kind of exploding into a narrow-minded moralistic blabber about Ashwini as a person.

She takes Arnav off that school and admits him into the school where she teaches. This section of the story tries to talk about how Ashwini tries to keep everything together while handling a little boy who's constantly is being reminded of an absence of his father.

One of Ashwini's colleague also becomes quiet close with the two of them but Ashwini as soon as she realizes she pushes him away slowly. There's a fear in her that a male role model would somehow drive her son into path she deems unfavorable.

She needs to step up and earn her place as a role model for her son. For that, she decides to take up his training which her colleague was going to do for the annual football match.

Of-course, it starts bumpy but soon Ashwini gets a hand of it, through her unruly instincts and some heavy handed help from her phone and google.

The football match turns out to be a success for Arnav.

## **3. A BROKEN AQUARIUM AND A FISH OUT OF SEA**

This part of the story is the least figured out.

Ashwini is a woman in her 40s now and Arnav is off to college. You'd feel that after so much of passionate motherhood one would acknowledge the efforts of their

mother, but as it's true for parenthood, it's almost obligatory to be extraordinary. This part of the story focuses on one thing, which college would Arnav go to? Ashwini feels that he should live here with her and go to a good college locally whereas Arnav is trying his options out for an education outside his town. Here the conflict will arise from the sheer possessiveness of her child that Ashwini has cultivated since her last 20 years of motherhood. The story which starts from her willing her inability let her baby go away from her comes back again at a similar crossroad. But now probably the right thing to do is to let him go. I don't know what she'll choose.