

1 INT: BEDROOM-MORNING

1

The clock is showing five in the morning. There is a window in the room, half open, overlooking the park. Amaltas are visible. Suddenly the baby starts crying in response to which Puja slips one side of her nightwear in her sleep and tries to breastfeed the baby. As the baby sucks, Puja clenches her own teeth in pain.

VIKAS

Take her to the lobby, please naa

Vikas turns to the opposite side and sleeps. Puja wears her slippers and takes a small blanket of the baby on her as she carries the baby to the living room.

CUT TO

2 INT: LIVING ROOM-MORNING

2

Freshly painted walls. The furniture is minimal. There are no cushions. There is a couch in the middle of the living room. Puja is struggling to shift her position to be comfortable.

The baby starts crying as the boob slips out of its mouth.

PUJA:

(humming a tune of the song)

Vikas enters and there is an open kitchen connected to the living room. He yawns and starts boiling water.

VIKAS:

Khuch help ki zarorat hai?

PUJA:

(continues humming in her sleep)

Vikas sees her, and then collects some almonds in a small bowl and move to the entrance. He opens the door to collect the newspaper when a cold wave of breeze ushers in. In response to that, Puja embraces the baby close to her chest.

JUMP CUT TO:

3 FLASHBACK: INT: LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

3

Sujata is sitting with her fingers crisscrossed into each other. Vikas is sitting in front of her, knelt down.

VIKAS:

I am sorry. I am really sorry.
(without meaning it)

Puja's facial expressions are blank, looking at Vikas, trying to make sense of it

CUT TO

4 PRESENT

4

Suddenly, an alarm rings. The voice is coming from the room.

VIKAS

It is just an alarm.
(nonchalantly)

Vikas walks into the room, without any rush and silences it. Vikas is in the room. They are talking with a wall in between.

PUJA

(a bit high-pitched)
Can you take me to the doctor's today? Monthly check-up hai aaj mera.

VIKAS

Wait. Mein mummy ko bula raha hun. She will take you. I have an important meeting that needs to be closed today itself.

The phone's alarm starts ringing again.

PUJA

Mummy, Nainital gayi hai. Don't you remember? She had to visit her sister for quite some time.

VIKAS

Toh khud chale jao. Usmein kya buraai hai.

Tired of talking through the wall, Sujata gets up with the baby in her arms and walks into the room. Vishal is immersed in his closet.

PUJA

Aur tumhare chalne mein kya burai hai?

VIKAS

Yaar, mera har jagah sath jaana zarori hai kya? And, you will be fine and Gayatri has known us for two years now.

5 EXT. CLINIC-MORNING

5

Puja is standing at the entrance of the clinic door with the baby in her arms. Unable to open the door, a good-looking man passing by, opens it for her.

THE MAN

Aapka dupatta (gestures to get it straight)

She smiles at him shyly, gets her dupatta on each side equally, and enters the clinic.

CUT TO:

6 INT. CLINIC-MORNING

6

Puja enters the clinic when the receptionist at the counter, looks at her and smiles at her. There is a mirror wall in which she can see herself. She stares at herself in the mirror like a stranger.

THE RECEPTIONIST

Ma'am, the waiting time is 10 minutes.

NURSE

We just need to note some things before the regular check-up. Can we get a check on your body weight?

PUJA

Sure.

NURSE

Why don't you give me your baby for a minute?

The receptionist opened her arms to receive the baby when suddenly on losing the warmth of Puja's bosom, the baby started crying in a shrill voice.

Puja brought her baby back into her arms.

PUJA

Will it be fine if you could note
down my weight while I am still
holding her?

THE RECEPTIONIST

Okay, fine

Puja stood on the weighing machine and the nurse noted down her weight. The nurse wrote the figure down but didn't tell her how much she was weighing.

NURSE

Let's check your blood pressure too.

Puja stretches her arm forward and the nurse ties the blood pressure band across it. The receptionist places the card in Puja's right hand and asks her to seat herself.

Before she makes herself comfortable in a vacant maternity chair, she looks at the card and checks her weight, and gasps in horror. Then she sinks into the enormous seat designed just for a new mother.

The maternity chair changes shape according to the mother's space requirement.

There are other mothers sitting on the vast open benches. Puja starts observing their babies and the weight they seem to be carrying.

The baby in her arms has finally fallen asleep. She stretches her back and closes her eyes.

THE RECEPTIONIST

Mrs. Puja. Please come in.

Puja helped herself out of the maternal chair. The baby was still sleeping in her arms. She entered the glass room, and the walls suddenly dipped into a lighter blue shade of calmness and coolness.

PUJA

Hi, Gayatri!

GAYATRI

Hi. How's the young mother doing?

Puja just nods.

Gayatri checks the health card.

GAYATRI

Your weight is coming across to be too much after the delivery. Do we have thyroid reports right now?

PUJA

It is baby weight too.

GAYATRI

The baby could not let go of you. I see. I see. Seems like this baby weight will grow only. (Laughs)

Puja keeps quiet upon hearing this. She looks around and sees the blues of those walls more deeply.

GAYATRI

Well, everything seems to be fine. You need to take these two new medicines for your hormonal regulation and discontinue the other tablets that you were taking in the morning.

Puja nods her head in affirmation.

GAYATRI

You seem a bit lost. Do you want to talk about it?

Puja looks at Gayatri.

GAYATRI

Do you want to talk to him? I promise it will help.

PUJA

I don't think I am ready for that.

GAYATRI

Why not?

PUJA

Because he will see through me and I am not ready to be that vulnerable in front of him.

GAYATRI

But it's him.

PUJA

Exactly. It's him.

7 INT. CAB-NOON

7

Puja is returning from the doctor's when she starts humming that song again. The baby grows quiet. She reaches home.

PUJA

Bhaiya, darwaaza khul denge? Baccha hath mein hain.

CAB DRIVER

Haan madam. Ek minute.

The cab driver opens the door, she comes out.

PUJA

Meine gpay kar diya hai.

CAB DRIVER

Thank you.

CUT TO:

8 INT. BEDROOM-NOON

8

The lights are off. The baby is cooing beside Puja. Puja is staring at the roof with blankness.

PUJA

(humming that song, and finally sings it)
Tera hai mujhse ka pehle ka naata
koi yuhun hi nahi dil lobhata koi.

She sees the baby and stops. She turns her back towards it and stares out of the window that overlooks the park.

CUT TO:

9 INT. BEDROOM: NIGHT - NIGHT

9

Vikas enters the room and switches on the light. Puja wakes up with a start.

VIKAS
So, what did the doctor say?

Puja

Zyada nahi. Bas weight kam karne ke liye bola hai.

VIKAS
Great! That's nice to hear. We do need that.

PUJA
But Vikas.. (suddenly Puja becomes silent.)

VIKAS
Tum theek ho naa?

PUJA
Bas darwaaza band karke chale jao.
She does not fall asleep when there is light.

VIKAS
Mein help kar dun?

PUJA
Ohh. Really? Don't you have an important meeting now?

VIKAS
So, is this about me not taking you to the clinic? Come on! You are well equipped to do everything on your own.

Puja is silent. Vikas turns off the light and crawls to the opposite side of Puja's side of the bed.

VIKAS
Hey, hey. what's up with my lady?

PUJA
Your lady is no longer the woman you married. What part of me makes you

think that I can still do stuff on my own or be alone?

VIKAS

Why do you say that baba?

PUJA

It's the baby weight or I don't know.

VIKAS

Wait, you do not have to do anything. Mujhe tum aese hi pasand hun.

PUJA

Are you even listening to yourself? Nahi samaj paa rahe tum.

The baby's eyes were wide with wonder, cooing in Puja's arms. Vishal took the baby in his arms and Puja deflects the gaze.

PUJA

Isko sula do. Mujhe bas suna hai abhi.

VIKAS

Sure. I can do that. Don't worry. I am taking her for a walk. You stay tucked into the bed.

Puja curls herself at the edge of the bed as Vikas wraps their three-month-old baby in a blanket and ventures out.

FADE OUT

10 EXT. PARKING LOT-NIGHT

10

Vikas checks his watch and finds it has only been fifteen minutes since he has come out for a walk. The baby in his arms is growing a bit restless. She is moving her head from his left shoulder to his right shoulder and burying her head in his chest. It tickles him a bit but he sighs in the same breadth. She looks at his daughter.

VIKAS

Bilkul apne maa par gayi hai.
(starts humming the song Puja was humming.)

Vikas yawns. He is strolling in the parking lot. Soon, he tries to change the position of the baby from his left shoulder to his right shoulder. The baby resists it as if demanding the exact embrace she has been in for the past fifteen minutes.

Vikas is growing a bit tired when Mrs. Mukherjee, 54, enters the society, carrying one large grocery bag in her left hand. She sees Vikas struggle with the baby.

MUKHERJEE AUNTY

Are you all right, Vikas? Do you need some help?

He smiles in a nod of affirmation but his shoulders droop when the baby starts crying her heart out. He starts jumping slightly on his feet but his baby cranks up the volume more.

VIKAS

Mukherjee aunty, can you take her for a few minutes?

MUKHERJEE AUNTY

Arre, do naaa.

Mukherjee takes the baby in her arms as she keeps the bag of groceries on the pavement. The baby becomes quiet.

VIKAS

Papa, ki toh yeh class lagayeigi. Apne maa ko bhi pheechey choodna hai isse.

Mukherjee aunty laughs at his response. Vikas tries to press his muscles a bit.

MUKHERJEE AUNTY

Don't worry, a crumpled shirt looks pretty when you have a baby in your arms.

VIKAS

Aunty, abh kisko impress karna hai. Jisko impress karna tha woh iske maa ruth ke baithe hai. Sala samaj mein bhi nahi aa raha ki hua kya hai.

MUKHERJEE AUNTY

Uska ruthna jayaz hai. Tumhara naa samjhana nahi. (smiles at him.)

(Cont'd)

It's baby weight. Abhi pareshaan
karega baad mein aaddat lag jaeyge.
Bas dhyaan rakhna, bhaar sirf ek par
naa aye.

Vishal looks at Mukherjee aunty. Mukherjee aunty laughs at his bewildered expression and hands his daughter back to him. They both nod in each other's acknowledgment.

Vishal takes the baby to Puja. He starts walking towards his apartment. It is located on the edge. His arms are more confident with the baby now. He enters their room, adjacent to the open kitchen.

Puja is lying on her side with one elbow stretched out. He places the newborn baby and she sleeps likewise. He crawls to Puja's side of the bed. Puja wakes up with his presence.

VIKAS
I am sorry.

A beat.

PUJA
For what?

VIKAS
You do not have to carry the baby
weight alone.

Puja looks at him and smiles. There is a drop of tear that floats down. She embraces him and the baby is asleep.

THE END

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