

OMISSION

Written by

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BEENA
What about your homework?

Rajun shrugs.

BEENA (CONT'D)
(suppressing smile)
You're lazy.

Monir comes into the living room and starts searching amongst some papers on a table next to the TV and then searches papers on the kitchen table.

MONIR
(worriedly)
I've lost some money.

BEENA
How much?

Monir ignores her question and goes over to search on top of the fridge in the kitchen. Beena starts looking for the money too.

MONIR
I needed it for the mechanics tomorrow.

Rajun watches cricket on TV.

8 EXT. SCHOOL - MIDDAY 8

Everyone is in classes. We see: main building from a distance; outside class room; empty playground. A couple of children walk by in the distance.

9 INT. SHOPPING CENTRE, FOOD COURT - EARLY AFTERNOON 9

Rajun walks over and sits at a table holding ninety dollars, some change and some fried chicken in a large box. He finishes his food, dipping his last chip in the gravy. He looks around. He gets up and leaves. He counts the money and carefully puts it in his pockets.

10 OMITTED 10

11 INT. SHOPPING CENTRE - EARLY AFTERNOON 11

Rajun wanders around the shopping centre. Walks past a games shop.

12 INT. SHOPPING CENTRE, SPORT STORE - EARLY AFTERNOON

12

Rajun wanders past all of the sports equipment. He walks over to the cricket bats and cautiously runs his hands over the ones on sale. An upbeat POP SONG PLAYS in the store. He takes out a bat to play with. He looks at the price and whistles. He picks one that's cheaper.

As he walks back to the counter with the bat he sees an oversized cricket T-shirt. He grabs it impulsively.

He hesitates and then walks up to the counter. The CLERK scans the items.

CLERK

That's eighty five dollars.

RAJUN

My mum gave me money.

The Clerk looks at him blankly.

RAJUN (CONT'D)

She's in the car.

Rajun counts out eighty five dollars and fumblingly hands it over. The Clerk gives him change. Rajun takes the bag and his money and then slowly walks out of the store. The Clerk turns away. Rajun starts walking faster as he gets around the corner. Shoppers walk past.

13 INT. HOUSE, FRONT STEPS, LOUNGE ROOM - AFTERNOON

13

Rajun sits on the front steps. Finally he resolves to go home. He walks up the stairs and after pausing, knocks on the door. He hides the bat behind his leg.

Beena leaves the cooking in the kitchen and opens the door for Rajun. She goes to the kitchen. He waits a little and then grabs the bat and walks into the apartment.

Rajun tries to sneak past Beena. A Hindi movie plays on TV. She turns and sees him trying to hide the bat behind his legs.

BEENA

Where did you get that?

RAJUN

I won it at school.

BEENA

What?

RAJUN

(exasperated)

I won it!

Beena watches him walk to his room. She turns back and continues to cook. She stops and looks out of the window. Outside, branches sway and leaves rustle.

14 INT. HOUSE, RAJUN'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

14

Rajun is in bed. He wears the T-shirt and plays with the bat. He hears Monir arrive and quickly hides the shirt and bat. He sits down at his desk and gets out his school books.

Monir opens the door. Rajun looks up.

MONIR
I told you I don't like closed
doors!

Monir watches Rajun and then turns to walk away.

RAJUN
I can't study, it's too loud.

Slowly Monir walks back in and over to Rajun. Monir looks at Rajun's books. He lays his hand on Rajun's shoulder.

MONIR
(quietly)
Study.

Monir walks out of the room.

15 INT. HOUSE, KITCHEN/LIVING ROOM - EVENING

15

Monir is sitting on the sofa tallying up receipts. He wears a loongi. A Bengali serial plays on TV.

BEENA
I need money for tomorrow.

MONIR
Top of the fridge.

Beena walks over, sits and watches television.

BEENA
(tentatively)
Have you found the money?

MONIR
No.

BEENA
Have you seen your son's new bat?

Monir keeps on working.

BEENA (CONT'D)
He says he won it at school.

16 INT. HOUSE, LIVING ROOM/RAJUN'S ROOM/BEDROOM - EVENING

16

Rajun is studying at his desk with the door closed.

Monir bursts in enraged. He rushes over to Rajun and throws him from the chair. Rajun falls against the wall, and retreats into the corner. Beena rushes into the room.

MONIR
(seething)
Where is it?

BEENA
Monir!

Rajun starts to whimper and looks towards Beena.

MONIR
(through gritted teeth)
Look at me you son of a bitch!

Monir advances on him menacingly.

BEENA
Where's the bat RAJUN? Tell him!

MONIR
Where's the money?

RAJUN
I found it.

Beena looks over at Monir and realises that Monir suspects Rajun. Rajun is frozen in terror. Monir grabs a hold of him and slaps his face. CAMERA looks away to parent's bedroom.

The sounds of the beating can be heard.

MONIR
You're lying to me!

More beating.

BEENA
(begging Monir)
Stop it Monir!

MONIR
You think I'm an idiot!

RAJUN
No, dad, no! ...

There are further sounds of violence and then a loud thud.

Rajun is in the corner of the room. Monir is towering over him. Monir walks out of the room. Beena sits close to Rajun and tries to comfort him but she is in shock.

Monir comes back and tries to carry Rajun out of the room. Beena tries to grab Monir as he's leaving but Monir breaks free. He carries Rajun out of the back door.

17 INT. HOUSE, BOTTOM OF STAIRWELL - EVENING

17

Monir drops Rajun at the back steps.

MONIR

Don't lie to me! Thief.

Beena comes out of the house and looks down at Rajun. She sits near him on the stairs.

Monir grows quieter, calmer, breathes softly. He walks forward a little and braces himself against the railing. Haltingly, he walks back into the house and out the front.

18 INT. HOUSE, BEDROOM - 2 A.M.

18

Monir lies awake in bed next to Beena. He gets up carefully so as not to disturb her.

19 INT. HOUSE, KITCHEN - 2 A.M.

19

Monir walks to Rajun's door and slowly shuts it. He rests his hand on the doorknob.

In the kitchen Monir gets rice from the rice cooker and a fish curry from the fridge. The cricket bat and the T-shirt are laid out neatly on the dining table. He heats his plate in the microwave. He goes to the bathroom (O/S) whilst the food heats. Sitting down to his meal he eats with his hand.

As he eats he looks at the bat and T-shirt. He finishes eating, walks over to the T-shirt, picks it up, and leans back in his chair. We only see his silhouette in the dark.

20 INT/EXT. CAR OUTSIDE TAXI LOT - 3 A.M.

20

Everything around Monir is deeply out of focus. Sounds of the taxi lot can be heard. He is in his car listening to a classical Bengali Ghazal. A taxi drives by and pulls in to the lot. Monir stops the music, takes out the tape, collects his keys and puts everything in his bag. He gets out and locks the car.

21 **EXT. TAXI LOT, STREET OUTSIDE - 3 A.M.**

21

Monir walks to the taxi where a Bengali TAXI DRIVER gets out.

MONIR
Assalamalikum!

TAXI DRIVER
Monir! How's the family?

MONIR
They're well, Inshallah. ...
Rajun's in year 5 now.

Taxi driver completes a vehicle recieved slip.

TAXI DRIVER
Ah! He'll do well. Make sure you
discipline him. Kids here ... Did
you hear? I'm buying a flat in
Kograh?

MONIR
No, that's good news! When did you
buy it?

The Taxi driver gives Monir the keys and the slip to sign.
Monir signs the paper and opens the taxi door.

TAXI DRIVER
Only last week.

MONIR
Good, good. Ok. Allah-hafez
brother.

Monir smiles and shuts the door. He gets settled and starts
to drive off. The Taxi Driver calls out to him, Monir stops
the car and rolls down the window.

TAXI DRIVER
Come visit us. Bring Beena.

Monir nods, waves and drives off.

22 **INT/EXT. TAXI, CITY - 3:30 AM**

22

Monir drives around the city and over bridges. He listens to
classical Bengali ghazal. Party goers walk by on the
sidewalks. He stops at a red light. The lights change to
green. Monir drives off.

23 **INT/EXT. TAXI, STREET OUTSIDE CLUB - DAWN**

23

The dawn breaks. Monir turns off the ghazal. Some girls
standing in front of the club get into the cab.

GIRL 1
 (to GIRL 2)
 I can't believe you gave him your
 number.

GIRL 2
 (to Monir)
 We need to go to Darlingurst
 thanks.

The girls continue to talk loudly about their night. GIRL 3 rummages around in her handbag.

GIRL 3
 Oh fuck! I've lost my phone.

They start searching whilst one of them tries to call the phone.

24 INT. HOUSE, LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN - MORNING

24

Beena is praying on the floor with a headscarf on as Monir enters. She finishes her prayer. Monir goes to the bathroom.

Monir comes back to the kitchen, walks over to the stove and picks up the packed lunch that is waiting on the table in a tupperware container. He puts it into a plastic bag and lingers at the table taking a drink of water.

BEENA
 What did you do yesterday? ... We
 have neighbours, the police will be
 called. ... (Quietly) He's a boy.

Monir looks over at her, begins to say something but stops. He puts his lunch in his bag and leaves. Beena gets up and carefully folds the prayer mat.

25 EXT. TAXI RANK, CITY - MORNING

25

Monir leans back on the taxi. He gets out a cigarette which he does not light. He stares ahead. As he puts the cigarette to his mouth a tired looking MAN IN SUIT walks up to the cab and gets in.

MAN IN SUIT
 Airport. Thanks mate.

MONIR
 Domestic?

MAN IN SUIT
 No, International.

His mobile phone rings. He looks at the number and apologises to the MAN IN SUIT then takes the call.

BEENA (O.S.)
Your son has something to say.

She passes the phone over.

RAJUN (O.S.)
Dad ... I'm sorry. I didn't do it.

MONIR
(after a long silence)
It's OK, Rajun. ... I'll see you at
home.

Monir's face begins to crumple but he gets a hold of himself.
Wincing through the pain he smiles.

MAN IN SUIT
God, I barely know what city I'm
in.

Monir's face is impassive, his eyes scan the road. He turns
left. He looks down at his weathered hands on the steering
wheel.