THE SHIBPUR INCIDENT

-Tarun Srivastava

ACT 1:(Characters:Main Character(MC),MC's mom,MC's best friend (B))

Scene 1:(Enter MC's mom annoyed into MC's room):

MOM:Uth jaao mere raaj dulaare kumbhkaran.Kabse phone baj raha hai tumhara(picks up the phone and hands it to the MC).Pata hai din bana hai tumhare sone ke liye magar ghar ke aur logon ko kaam karna rahta hai.Humein apne is aalasi rawaiye se baksh do!

MC: (In his deep sleep turns then gets up and receives the call) Arey yaar itne achha sapna tha….

B: Rise and shine princess !Aasha karta hu ki aapka beauty nap na disturb hua ho par Wo kya hai na chai jyada der garam nhi rah paegi.

MC: (speely tone which fades away slowly) Tujhe kiase pta ki mai so rha hu ya ni. Tu har jagah rehta hai kya?Bharosa ni hota to khud aakr dekh le. Mai raste me hu bhai bas pahuchne wala hu. Arey chacha thoda sambhaal ke chalaiye,kyon selmon bhai banna?(Tentative joke,just to create a fake imagery that he is driving in the traffic).

B: Acha mughe nhi pataa tha ki tuu pure parivar ke sath aa rha hai. Dada famous ho gye ho aap.Log saparivaar aarhe aapki chai peene. Lag rhaa hai ki kuch dino mein bill gates hi ni balki dolly chai wala bhi aapki hath ki chai pine khud aaega.

MC:Aaraha hu bhai, mere kaam me taang arana kam de thora, tu apni chai pr dhayaan de. Thodi der mein pahuch jaunga.

(MC gets ready quickly and leaves)

Mom:Hayee bhagwaan iss bachche se tang aagayi iske zindagi mein bas sona aur khana hi hai.Kaash thoda mature ho jaaye aur life ko lekar thoda serious!

Scene 2:

---MC ARRIVES AT THE TEA STALL---

B: Arey sleeping beauty,mera matlab walking beauty,aagayi aap, ye lijiye aapki chai.

MC:GARAM HAI GARAM HAI!

B: Arey sorry bhai,chai ko refrigerate karna bhool gaya,laao laao abhi kar deta hu

Mc: Abey yaar,thora shaant rahna bhi sikh le.. Jab dekho meri taang khicte rhta h.ek bhi mauka ni chorta.Chhod, Waise ye bta ki boards ke baad kya plan h tere? Kyoki na tere papa ambani h aur na hi mere..

B: Are baap re tu future ke bare me soch rhaa hai? Aaj tarik kya hai 30 Feb? Dada aaj suraj paschim se nikalaa tha kya? Mai spne me to nhi hoon?!

Mc: maine soch liya hai ! mai to bhai science le kr acche se padhuga aur phir jee ke through ek acche se college me jaunga. Phir ek girlfriend bnaunga, kab tak tere jaiso ke saath gumunga? Phir coding aur dsa sikhuunga. Uske baad kya, google microsoft wale to khud aayenge mere pass. phir note chapunga, aur shadi karunga , phir bacche aur ek dina aise hi buddha hokr mar jaunga ekdm chill life . Tu bta tune kya socha h.?

B: Mera bhi science mein interest hai par goal alag hai. Mai future ko thoda seriously leta hoon. Engineers wo hote hai jo is duniya ki neev rkhte hai. Mai ek inventor bananaa chahta hoon or ek aisi duniya bananaa chahtaa honn jahaa kisi ko koi unavashyak dukh na ho.chahe who khraab infrastructure ya sansadhano ki kami ke karan ho. Socho 1 aisi duniya jo itni chamakdaar ho ki shuruat mein tumhe apni aankhen sikodni pade, aur jab tum poori tarah se apni aankhen khologe, to ek aadarsh duniya saamne dikhe.Na koi anavashyak dukh ho aur chaaro or khushi rahe.

Mc: chii chiii.. Sari zindagi kaam! Mere se to ni hoga ye sab, tu bas kaam krna aur tere hisse ki aaram aur neend mai puri kar dunga. Deal done? Aur kya bol rha tha ,adarshvaadi duniya?!. Aur mujhe jagta tha ki mai hi bs din me sapne dekhta rahta hu.

B:Haa bhai mughe pataa hai ki ye laghbhag namumkin sapna hai. Lekin agar log nahi sochte ki tum paagal ho, to kya tum oonche sapne dekh bhi rahe ho?

Mc: ha kyo ni, tu apne sapno ki duniya bna, bas ek kaam krna , us duniya me mere liye ek bed ka jugad krwa dena.

B: Ab kisi ko to phla kadam uthanaa hi hoga na.

MC: tu thik to hai na? Tujhe khuch hua h kya, tu daang se so to rha h n.. agr usme koi help chaiye to ask the expert. Dada, apne pakka bas chai patti hi daali hai na chai me?

B: Pataa nhi yaar. Sayad ab umr ke saath mai bhi badaa ho gyaa hoon.

Mc: sach me, tu sahi bol rha h, isi wajh se shayad mujhe neend bhi jyada aarhi h, wo baat alag h ki mujhe isse koi dikkat ni h..

B: Bas Bas kumbhkaran ye sab tumhare aalas ka natizaa hai,ismein umr ka kuch ni lena dena.

Mc: ab aap hi btao dopahar ke khaane mein pet bhar chawal dal khane ke baad agr mai 2-3 ghante ki beaut-ni nim era mtlb power nap nahi lunga to mere zindagi ka kya mtlb rh jayega. Apne lakshya ki prapti ke liye mera dhang se khana aur sona bohot important h.Aur chawal daal khaane ke baad dangerous neend lagti hai.

B: Kaunsa Lakshya?Raat ke khaane ke liye apne aap ko prepare krna?Kahan se aate hai yeh log?Abhi future ke baare me soch rhaa tha ab fir nautanki karne lag gyaa

MC:AAAH raat ka khana.. Shabd aapke hai but vichaar humaare hai.

B: Tu kabhi nhi sudharega. Thoda to serious ho jaa.

Mc: ha ha, dekh lenge kya jldi h?

B: Jab samay aaega tab bhi tu soo hi rha hoga. Achaa chl ab mughe late ho rhaa hai mai ghar jaa rhaa hoon.

later--both say their goodbyes to each other—

---------- END OF ACT 1.---------- ----------

- ACT 2:(Characters: Narrator,MC's mom,MC's dad,MC's bestfriend(B),MC):

Enter the narrator

(The play takes a serious tone)

Narrator:Kisi ko koi khabar nahi thi ki aage kya hone waalaa hai.Sab kuch achanak se hogaya!Logo ki zindagiyo par ek prakar ka tala sa lag gaya. -Aam zindagi ekdam se hi ruk gayi Scene 1:(B and MC talking over call)(MC is sleeping but this time he receives the call)

B: Ha bhai kaisa hai?news dekha? Ek nyaa virus ayaa hai jo bahut teji se fail rhaa hai.

Mc: is duniya me boht sari bimari phle se hi h, filhal mai apne neend ki bimari ka ilaj kar rha hu.

B: Sabkuch majak nhi hota hai. Log ki death ho rhi hai aur tujhe majaak sujh rhaa hai.

Mc: arey thik h, mazak kr rha tha, itna gussa kyu ho rha hai. ek kaam krte h ,sham ko jab chai k liye aayega, tab baat krenge iske baare mein.

B: Arey tui iss duniya mein rehta hai bhi ki nahi?Lockdown lag chuka hai bhai.Bimaari kaafi tezi se phail rahi. Kuch dino ke lye tea party ko hold pe rkhna padega.

Mc: kya! Mtlb ab hm chai ke liye mil bhi ni skte. Mtlb ab mai bahr bhi ni ja skta,kya mtlb ki ab mujhe sone ke aur bahane mil gaye. Chalo ek trah se acchi deal hi h. no complaints.

B:HAHA,nahi nahi tere alas ko dekh ke bimaari khud hi apna haath jod legi

MC:Ha Ha ekdm bachkar sounga,bas ye bimaari mere bed tak na pahuche.

B:Tu kabhi nahi sudharega.Ye videsho mein mahamari ghoshit hogayi hai.Tu apna dhyaan rakhna.Sambhal kar rehna.

MC:Ha,bas kuch dino ki hi toh baat hai fir wapas chai ki tapri par moj masti aur ambition talks krenge.

B:(smiles)hmphh.. Chal apna dhyaan rakhna baad mein baat krte hai.

#(B starts feeling a certain discomfort in his chest and starts coughing excessively)(#Lights over B start to dim/flicker as he breaks down coughing intensively and the lights finally go out)

Narrator: (in a serious tone) Har kisi ne kuch na kuch iss mahamari ke karan khoya. Logo ne dost,pariwaar hi nahi balki apne aap ka ek hissa bhi kho diya.Iss mahamari ne kuch gehre zakhm diye jo kabhi ni bhar sakte aur hamesha dard karenge.Ek udaas din par,aisa kuch hua jo ki MC ki zindagi ko hamesha ke liye badal dega.

Scene 2:(MC's house)(in the living room)

(MC's mom comes in rushing while the dad is seated,reading some old newspaper out of habit)

Mom:(In a rushed ,panting ,frightened and mournful tone):Arey Ayush k papa(Tries to control herself from panicking to convey the message)-Apne suna?Ashutosh guzar gaya!

Papa : Kya!!! Ye kaise ho sakta hai ?? Kya Ayush ko ye pata hai ??

Mom(sobbing):Nhi maine ni btaya abhi,meri himmat nahi hor hi hai.Kaise btaaye usko humlog?

Papa : Kitna achha ladka tha.Hamesha ek bade bhai ki trh Ayush ka dhyaan rakhta tha.Hey bhawaan!Ashutosh ke saath hi kyu !!! Ashutosh ke saath hi kyu ??

MC:Uske maa baap par kya beet rahi hogi? bhhagwaan Beta khone ka dukh kaise kisi par daal sakte hai?Lockdown ke karan mai unke paas jaa bhi ni sakti.Kaash mai waha jaa skti unka dukh baantne(Probably change this,make it more mournful and sensitive,discuss about it).

Dad:Achanak se sab hogaya,abhi ek hafte pehle hi toh bhaisahab se baat hui thi.Ayush ko kaise btaaye,yeh sun ke uspe kya beetegi?

---Enter MC's room:

MC is sitting on his bed writing something.

MC:Kya hua papa?Aap theek hai?(ONLY IF AYUSH CAN CRY ON SPOT)

Dad(trying to calm himself and speak normally): Beta suno,tumse kuch baat krni hai

#when he breaks down his parents comfort him.

#Now the despair from the news will be depicted just by music and expressions.Not by words. #MC looks up to his dad,his face drops any sort of expression,his eyes enlarge,he drop the pen from his hands and tears start coming out of that dead face,showing a complete state of shock and grief. We can use a sad background music,my personal suggestion would be an ost named somewhere else by yutaka yamada.

Narrator:(In a sad tone) (Aankhon mein aansuon ke saath bas apne dost ke saath bitaaye hue lamhon ki tasveer dikh rahi thi. Jo khabar usey di gayi thi, use samajh paana uske liye namumkin tha. Lekin jab use thoda samajh aane laga , toh...

Cutting off the Narrator the MC breaks down and start crying,with his head held low on his bed.The lights all around the MC turn off and only one light is focused on him beyond which lies pitch black darkness.This is to show the isolation of the MC's mind from his own body and from the world around him.

#his parents try to console him,just to show that two other characters are present in the room,just to include them in the setting.

Scene 3:(This takes place after a few days of the intimation of news)

(Mom and Dad are worried about the MC)

(Discussion in the living room)

Mom:Kayi din ho gaye hai,woh kuch khata bhi ni hai,ghar mein bhi bahut kam dikhaayi deta,bas kamre mein akele rehta hai,jab baat karne jaao toh yeh samajh ni aataa ki kya kahun,uska chehre pe koi bhaav ni rehta,kitne din tak aise rahega,jaaiye aap use baat kariye.

Dad:Dost ko khone ka dukh mai samajh sakta hu,aur Ashutosh jaise dost iss duniya mein kaafi bhagya se milte hai.Mai use baat karne ki koshish karta hu.

(Enter MC's dad in his room(lights only focus on the MC in the scenes he is in))

Papa : Beta, mai samajh sakta hu tumpe kya beet rahi hai... Agar tumhe iss baare me baat karni ho to tumhare mummy papa yahi hai.

Mc: papa! Mai abhi tak jitne bhi logo se mila hu, uske jaise achha aur udaar dil ka koi ni tha, aap dono ke baad ek wahi tha jispe mai bharosa krta tha.Usne kabhi mere aalasipane par mujhe judge nahi kiya, hamesa meri madad ki aur behtar karne ke liye protsahit karta tha,Par bhagwaan ne use mujhse cheen liya,Agar bhagwaan sach mein hota hai toh who bahut nirdayi hai papa,bahut nirdayi .Mujhe unse nafrat hai,Mujhe khud se nafrat hai.Mai uske liye kuch nahi kar paayaa.jab use meri zaroorat thi tab kha tha mai, hamesha ki trah so rha tha, mai to use aakhri baar dekh bhi ni paya papa.Woh mera bestfriend tha papa,uske saath hi kyu?kyu?Uski jagah mujhe-

Dad(in a worried and sad tone):Ni Ni beta isse apne upar mat lo,ye sab tumhare haath mein nahi hai,apne aap se nafrat mat karo!(Comforts the MC)(with the MC crying beside him)-Zindagi mein kaafi kathinaiyan aati hai .Kuch cheezein humaare bas ke bahar hote hai.Hume in kathinaaiyo ka saamna krke,apne dukh ke saath jeena seekhna hota hai,yehi zindagi hai.

Mc: papa! Mujhe ab neend bhi ni aati,mai jab bhi sone jata hu,har baar uska chehra yaad aata h. mera n dum ghutne lga h.

Dad: Mai samajh sakta hu beta,aise ghaav kabhi ni bharte.

MC:Papa,agar kisi ko in sabse door jana ho toh woh kaha jaaye?

Dad:Tum zindagi se bhaag nahi sakte... Tumhe zindagi ki har mushkilo ka saamna karna padega aur unse sikh ke aage badhte rehna hoga... Hum insaan dikhne me to sadharan lagte hai lekin vastav me hum bahot uljhe hue hai... Mushkil samay me hi insaan ko apno ki ahmiyat ka ehsaas hota hai... Filhaal hume iss mahamaari ke samay achhi medical infrastructure ki jarurat hai... taaki nuksan ko kam kiya ja sake. Abhi log iski maang kar rahe hain, lekin jaise hi mahaamaari samaapt hogi, yeh iccha bhi dheere-dheere khatam ho jaayegi, log apne saamanya jeevan mein vyast ho jaayenge aur yeh sab unki swarthi icchaon mein doob jaayega aur chale jaayega .Vaastav me kewal unhi ko dukh hoga jinhone kisi apne ko khoya hai...Unhi ko unavashyak dukh ke sath jeena padega…

#MC gets up,wipes his tears,goes to his chair and starts studying with a determined countenance.Lights go out and the narrator enters.

Narrator: MC ne jee jaan se mehnat ki.Shuruaat mein use kuch kathinaiya hui apne alasipane ko door karne mein.Uske dost ke guzar jaane ka shok use khub pareshaan krta tha.Uske karan usne apne aap ko logo se door karliya tha,hamesha apne kamre mein band akele rehta tha.Kisi se baat krne ka use mann bhi ni krta tha. Uske dost ki baatein usse padhai krne ke liye prerit krti thi.Chaliye dekhte hai ki in 2 saalon mein usne kya kya paaya aur kya kya khoya

----------END OF ACT 2----------

ACT 3(Characters: MC,MC's mom,MC's dad,Narrator,Three college mates:A,B and C)

Scene 1(MC's household)(approximately two years have passed)

Mom:Arehh Ayush ke papa, aj college allotment ka result aya hai na.Konsa college mila hai use?

Dad: Arey aaj tha uska result? Mujhe dhyaan ni tha,chalo yaha kya khadi ho,dekhe kya mila.

Mom:Ha,Jai Bhagwaan Ji,mere bachche ko ek achha sa college mil jaaye!

Dad:Arey zarur mila hoga,chinta mat karo,usne apna 100% diya hai taiyyari mein.Mujhe poora vishwaas hai ki result achha hi aayaa hoga.

(Both head to the MC's room in a slighty excited tone)

Enter the narrator..

Papa : Arey beta! Aaj college allotment ka result tha na.Tumne bataya nahi tumhe kon sa college mila!

Mc: Indian institute of Engineering Science and technology, shibpur.

Dad: Badhai ho Beta... Chalo fir tumhare college jaane ki taiyaari karte hai...Jaldi se taiyyar ho jaao,5 min mein shopping ke liye niklenge.

MC:Shopping ke liye..?Bahar jana hai..?Abhi turant….?Kabhi aur nahi jaa skte..?(he's trying to avoid going into the outside world)

Papa : Arey issi samay saari cheezein ready krlete hai.Baad mein time bahut kam rhega,pehle se ready rehte hai.Isiliye abhi tumhare liye college ki shopping karne bahar jaana padega .

Mc: accha thik h! Aap log ruko to.. Mai aisi halta me kaise chalu.. thore time baad chalte h n!Taiyyar ho jaau….(Indicative that he wants to be mentally ready)

Papa:Ready ho jaao mai bahar wait krrha(both exit)

#We need to show the social awkwardness of the MC after they exit.

Narrator:IIEST Shibpur huh?Sounds quite familiar na?Bahar ki duniya aur kayi avsar MC ka intezaar krrhe hai.Par mujhe yeh darr hai ki iss ladke ne 2 saal tak apne aap ko bahar ki duniya se door rakha.Ghar se bhi bahut hi kam bahar nikalta.Ab naye jagah mein naye logo ke saath who kaise ghul milega dekhte hai.

Scene 2: The departure to Shibpur

(On the front poarch of the house)

(Mom and Dad bidding farewell)

Mom(a bit emotional): MC, main hamesha tumhara dhyaan nahi rakh paungi. Main jab tumhe dekhti hu toh us chhote ladke ko dekhti hoon, aur main usko bachana chahti hoon. Tumhe apni zindagi mein khud faisle lene honge. Jahan bhi tum yahan se jao, tumhe vaada karna hoga ki tum us chhote ladke ka dhyaan rakhoge. Yeh sunischit karo ki woh kabhi bhool na paaye ki woh kahaan se aaya hai. Aur chahe kuch bhi ho jaye, kisi ko bhi tumhe yeh mehsoos karne ka mauka mat dena ki tum yahan belong nahi karte. Vaada karo mujhse, MC, ki tum us chhote ladke ki hifazat karoge jise maine paala hai, aur tum apne aap ko kabhi nahi khogoge. Samjhe? Tum apne aap ko nahi khona !

(The narrator now has to integrate himself as he is breaking the fourth wall and integrating himself also in the play like fiddling with the set and stuff to make himself/herself comfortable)

Narrator: Unhe yeh nahi pata tha ki MC ke andar ka who bachcha pehle se hi kho chuka hai.

Mom: Aur haan mujhe call krna mtt bhulna,tumhari awaz sune bina so nahi paati.I hope jindagi me tumhare sare sapne pure ho.Good luck beta.

#Touches both's feet and leaves with baggage.

#MC comes across the deserted tea stall while on his way.Stops there for a moment ,wipes his tears with his arms and exits the stage.

Scene 3:At Shibpur Characters:A-An excited girl with the desire to explore new things, B-An irritable girl who has been forcefully admitted to muhhalle ka college, C: An extrovert,a complete opposite of what the MC has become over years.

(narrator exits the stage)

Enter A and B(students awaiting admission into the college)

A: A:Hello mera name ankita hai ,Tum kaha se ho?

B: Mai toh bas yehi Shibpur se hi hu.

A: Achha Day Scholar-Sahi hai,ghar ka aaraam mil rha tumko.Door nahi jana pada kahi ghoomne.

B:Kya door nahi jana pada,mujhe bahut door jana tha but Mummy Papa mane nahi,bole ki yehi admission leke engineering krlo.Mujhe kya pataa tha ki jis college ko bahar mai shaam ko roll khaane aati thi bachpan se,ussi se graduation krna padega.Mujhe yaha se door jana,tang aachuki ek hi jagah pe reh kar.

A:hahaha,Arey koi ni,waise college toh badhiya hai,aage ki padhai ke liye bahar chali jana. Kuch samay aur mila hai mummy papa ke saath rehne ke liye,rehlo,lucky ho.

B:kya lucky,inka bas chale toh yehi se mera post doc kraake isi college mein Naukri dilaa de.

A:Ha toh achha hi toh hai.In campus placement.

B: NI yaar tum samajh nahi paarhi,samajho ki tumhra muhalle mein hi tumko zindagi bhar rehna pade,mujhe explore krna hai duniya.

A:Ha baat toh sahi hai.Vese tumhara department konsa hai?

B:Information Technology…I mean the department of information technology.

A:Ohh,damn,mera bhi same *same pinch* .IT Rocks!Yaha toh Bahut baarish hoti hai.But Baarish mein campus aur bhi zyada khoobsurat lagta hai. Main bhi college ke swimming pool ko dekhna chahta hoon!

B: Haha, tumhe baarish ke mausam mein yahan ek nahi bahut saare "swimming pools" dikh jayenge. Aur haan, apne saath chhata lena mat bhoolna. Chhata tumhare dress code ka hissa hona chahiye, warna tumhare kapde paani ke boondon se code ho jayenge.

A:Code se yaad aayaa coding shuru kari hai.Mujhe toh bilkul nahi aati.

B:Arey yahafirst year mein common subjects padhaaye jaate(I REALLY WANT TO BASH THIS ANCIENT 50Y/O FIRST YEAR USELESS SYLLABUS).Something along the lines like ki first year mein loha katwaya jaega,ya fir it waalo ko isometric projection padhaya jaega,pata nahi kahi software mein use ho jaae.

A:Waise tumhra naam ni suna.

B:Mai B.

(Enter the MC with a dull and reserved countenance,seated alone at a distance from A and B)

A: Helloo!
MC: Hey.
A: Tumhra naam kya hai. tumhe college kaisa laga?
MC: It's nice.-not telling the names to A is a recurring theme,is important.

A:Aur btao tumhra kuch hobbies hai-to B.

B:Ha mai reels bnaati hu,mujhe social media influencer banna hai.(Have to show the corny edgy take on reels)

A-to herself-Ab pataa chala ki kyu ni bahar jane diya.

B-Tumne kuch kaha?

A:Ni ni,it’s a nice hobby,keep up,-to MC-Aur tum btao tumhri kya hobbies hai.

MC:Kuch aisi hobbies ni hai.

A:arey fir bhi.

MC:Kuch ni.

A:Ajeeb aadmi ho,koi hobbies hi nahi hai,pahaad ke neeche jee rhe the kya abtak.-isko dekho muhalle se bahar ni nikle but social media pe global presence banana chahti hia-fun exchange with action reaction between A and B but MC doesn’t show any emotions.

#Enter C(I'm using C to show the stark difference between the MC and a normal socially inclined person).

C:Hello wasgud-My name is C.How’s the college?

a-Badhiya hai

B-booooooooooring

C:I didn’t catch y’all names.-Here C is that genz stereotype to create a comedic character ,he normally uses English .

(Natural responses).

-mc doesn’t reply

C:So what are your names and departments.

Oh same department,dayum.-here we will see an alleviation in the mood of B,because this social media influencer wannabe likes genZtards.

C to MC:What about you bro?

MC:Hello,I'm MC.

C:Oh,okay(Is startled to see the introverted nature of the MC)

C to A and B:You know maine suna hai ki seniors bahut helpful aur sweet hai.

B:Ha and the professors too.

C:You don't say,ofcourse they are.

B: Maine suna hai ki Madhusudhan Bhawan....(audience ki taraf dekhta hai)...chhodo!
A: Kya baat hai?
B: Kuch nahi....hehe..

B to C:Toh tum kaha se ho?

C:Darbhanga,Bihar.But Don’t judge me by the accent,I belong to the hood
C: Toh tumhari is college se kya ummeedein ,I mean expectations hain?

A:Ab jab ghar se door aagayi hu,toh azaadi hi azaadi,Kolkata ghumungi poora ek hafte ke andar sabse pehle,-to B-arey sorry sorry-B:(With an irritated demeaner)-Ni ni koi ni ,mai ghoom chuki hu kolkatya bachpan mein hi.

A-to C:Ha bas wohi aur kya,raat raat bhar enjoy karungi,college ki night life enjoy karunngi,late night cafes,night walks,sab kar paungi,Ghar pe toh 9 baje ke baad bahar nikalna allowed hi ni tha.Ab yaha toh main raat mein kabhi bhi nikal sakti Kolkata enjoy krne.

B who knows the reality just (smirks or laught)-

A:arey kya hua?

B:Kuch ni kuch ni hahaha.

C: Nice Nice.

B:Mujhe toh apna social media followers-

A cuts B in the midst of her speech and self praise -Aur ha mujhe Bengali cuisine try krne ko milegaa,Mess ka tasty aur healthy food, Varieties of dishes,evening snacks….yummmm

B:(who knows the reality being a local)Haha lagta hai youtube pe zyada hi first day of my college waale videos dekhli ho.

A:Arey ,tumhe kaise pataa

C:To MC,so what about you bro?

MC:Dekhta hu……

(MC is zoned out listening to music feeling awkward by the sudden interaction which heightened his introvertness)

---Ayush Ranjan—(His name gets called for the admission process and he takes his leave)

the penultimate scene

The mc alone in his room Reminiscing the past and his inability to move on from it. He's realising his predicament and is constantly searching a way to get out but everything amounts to a dead end.

Mc:(seated on his bed) :ye main kaha aa gaya. Itne saare log! Mai kaise kisi se baat karu? Hobbies..? Iske baare mein toh socha hi ni. Kya karu? Kaise sab hoga? (Then drops his head down)

Enter ashutosh:(with a smile on his face) Badi gehri chinta mein dikh rhe.

Ayush:Ashutosh...

Ashutosh:Pichle do saal se kisi ko apna haal ni btaya,kissi se apna dukh ni baantaa. Apne mein hi simte rehte ho. Aise Kaise kaam chalega?

Ayush:Uss din ke baad kisi se baat krne ka mann ni kiya. Kuch samajh mein hi ni aarha tha kya horha hai,kyu horha hai. Kisi se kya baat karu,andar se khokla lagta tha sab kuch,kya horha kyu horha kuch ni samajh aataa tha.

Ashutosh: Tumne koshish bhi toh ni ki.

Ayush : Kisse apna dukh baant ta. Tumse zyada kaun samajhta tha mujhe? Tum hi ni rhe.

Ashutosh: Kabtak past mein phase rahoge? Kuch cheezein apne bas ke baahar ho jaati hai,par iska yeh matlab nahi ki hum jeena hi chhod de. Uss khoklepan ko tumko bharna hi padega, tumko aise log zarur milenge jo tumhe samajhenge, tumko aise logo ko dhoondhna padega,Poori zindagi padi hai,itni badi duniya tumhara intezaar kar rahi hai. Tumko khud aage badhna padega. Tumse duniya hai,duniya se tum ni.You have to move on,you have to move ahead!

-exits-

Ayush just sits there introspecting

Narrator: Dekhte hi dekhte subah ho gayi.

Ayush looks at the time on his phone and leaves for the lab.

ACT 4-THE SHIBPUR INCIDENT

The setting is just a lab (any) where A,B,C and MC are in the same group.

Enter A and B

A:Arey B kaisi ho kaunsa group mila?

B:Group 4.

A:Arey hum tum same group.* same pinch again *

B: Toh kaisa lagaa college? mess ka khana kaisa laga? Aagaya swaad?

A:*Just smirks knowing the reality*

THIS MILD CONVO IS BASICALLY EXPECTATIONS VS REALITY(Characters can improvise and add few more lines based on their experiences).

C: * Vibing to some funny rap or something* Yo yo yo wassup guys! Same group huh?

A:Yea what a coincidence. Dekhte hai chautha person kaun rhega group mein.

Enter MC

A: Arey,kaise ho,kaisi chal rhi hostel life?

B:Ha btao,night outs kaise rahe ?

A:Tu mera mazaak uda rhi hain na.

B: ahahaha nahi to

MC: to A,group 4 kaha hai.

A:Yehi hai,skill based matchmaking.

C:Sup bro.

MC is scared to talk openly because he thinks that opening vulnerabilities to strangers would not be a good thing.He is scared to interact with people because of the social anxiety that he has developed over the past two years.

A: Aur btao tumhra mujra..I mean social media content kaisa chal rha hai?

B: Arey main kya btau,kal toh mere reel pe 50 k views aaye the.

A:Arey wow aisa kya post kiya tha?

B:Maine C ke saath ek desi hiphop rap pe dance kiya tha college ke baare mein.

C: Yeah my idol Drake inspired me.i like desi hiphop.

A:Aur btao kaisa raha tumhra experience,waise tumne apna naam abhi tak nahi btaya,kuch funny naam hai kya?

MC:ni mera naam Ayush hai.

A:Aur btao kaisa raha expectations vs reality .

MC: hmm theek hi tha…

Narrator:MC abhi tak apne dukh ke saath jeena nahi seekh paaya hai. Usse sab koi ajnabee sa lagta hai. Usse lagta hai ki agar who logo ko apne kareeb aane dega toh uske who ghaav wapas khul jaenge .Shayad kuch chamatkar hojaaye aur uske ghaav thora bhar sake.

B: Arey yaar yeh workshop mien loha kaatte kaatte thak gayi main.

A:Ispe bhi reels bnaa de taaki logo ko tumhri mehnat dikhe.

B:Ni mehnat waali cheezein itni famous ni hoti hai.

C:Wait…wait kya matlab maine rap likhne mein mehnat nahi kari?

B:arey nahi nahi,chalo aajka workshop aakhir khtm hua..

C:yeah,are you guys free,if you wanna drink tea,lets go to chai ciggie,yo yo..

A:Ha chal sakte hai group bonding ho jaega.

(A, B aur C uthte hain aur chai ki dukan ki taraf jaane ke liye tayyar ho jaate hain)

A: (wapas mudhkar) Oooye MC! Chai peene chalega?

MC: (yeh sunte hi usse apne sabse ache dost ki yaad aati hai) (thoda jazbaati hote hue) Haan... Haan! Main chaloonga. (aankhein pochhte hue)

A:Arey chal na emotional hone ki kya baat hai ismein.

C:Cheer up brooo.

----At tea stall----

C: So where are you from

MC: Main xyz se hoon...

#C CANNOT DRINK CHAI IT IS TOO HOT FOR HIM SO A AND B TEACH HIM HOW TO SIP,BRO HAS BEEN LIVING THE GANSTA LIFE,DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT NORMAL LIFE.THIS MAKES THE MC SMILE AS HE REMEMEBERS THAT INCIDENT WHERE THE TEA WAS HOT FOR HIM.

A: Iska toh lagaa hi rhega,MARS se aayaa hai seedhe,NASA Channel se.(Homophone of DASA channel)Tumne ab tak nahi bataya ke tumhara college se kya umeed hai? Tumhare ambitions kya hai?

MC (emotional hote hue): (kuch pal sochta hai, phir achanak samajh aata hai ke ab uska goal kya hai zindagi mein) Main ek acha engineer banna chahta hoon aur duniya ko aise roop mein dhaalna chahta hoon jahan logon ko bekaar mein takleef na ho. Aur main aisi duniya zaroor banaunga! (pake iradon ke saath) *Aasman ki taraf dekhta hai aur muskurata hai*

Narrator: Yeh MC ki zindagi ka turning point hai. Wo apne toot chuke tukdon ko wapas jodne ki koshish kar raha hai. Uska dost ab uske saath nahi hai, lekin uska sapna ab bhi MC ke dil mein zinda

hai.So always have dreams in your life ,your dreams matter because PEOPLE’S DREAMS WILL NEVER DIE!