

WHO KNOWS

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FADE IN:

EXT. NEIGHBOURHOOD - NIGHT

1

Deserted roads. Dogs bark loudly. Different animals are roaming around majestically, as if celebrating their new freedom. Distant sound of news fades in

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - CONTINUOUS

2

Continuation of the news on the mobile phone screen. Daily corona virus update. AKASH reading a book while lying on a bed beside a table. On a bed side table there is an empty cup and a watch. CU to the mobile phone screen. News continue. Suddenly the phone rings. Nigel Calling.

AKASH

Hey... not sleeping?

NIGEL

(voice on phone)

Hi AKASH, How are you? Just thought of checking if you are awake.

AKASH

Accha kiya. I'm enjoying the vacation he he :) Abhi Kya, raat ko 2 baje dinner kar raha hu, sham ko 6 baje lunch. I have just lost track of time and date.

NIGEL

I am a bit worried about this. You mark my words that this will go too far.

AKASH

Relax yaar, chill! Bohot jaldi sab sahi ho jayega.

Doorbell rings

AKASH (CONT'D)

I think there is someone at the door. Can I call you back later?

NIGEL

Okay

AKASH  
Yaa.. Okay.. Bye

AKASH checks the mobile phone. It's 2:17 AM

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 3

AKASH comes out of the house. He is wearing the mask. There is no one except the occasional sounds of watchmen's whistles pervading through the silence. Few dogs are barking at a distance. He takes a short walk around with his flashlight but do not see anything or anyone. The night is calm and still.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER 4

CU on Handwashing.

INT. ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 5

AKASH eats the dinner. It's 2:49 AM. He keeps his slippers beside the bed and gets up on the bed. He is sleepy. He surfs the mobile phone in the dark. Information on symptoms of corona virus.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - AFTERNOON 6

The same deserted roads shine in daylight. Birds and dogs are busy with their daily life without being concerned. They don't need a mask to function. All human beings look similar now with the masks on their faces. A government's announcement board hangs on a side reminding us of a new way of life with mask.

A clean shot of the house from outside.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - AFTERNOON 7

AKASH is still sleeping. A shaft of daylight enters through the window and illuminates a part of his bed. He wakes up. The room is normal. Empty.

He gets up and tries to put on his sleeper as a regular habit but to his surprise it's not there! He puts on his glasses (as he is myopic) and discovers the sleepers outside the bathroom and there is sudden sound of the flush. When he opens the bathroom, it's empty. Just the sound refill of the flush tank.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT 8

He takes a shower.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - NIGHT 9

He faces the mirror and combs his hair. On the BG sound of news from the mobile phone continues ceaselessly.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 10

The mobile phone on the table. Flashes of news about Covid-19 continue.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 11

AKASH is talking over the phone.

NIGEL

(VO)

Today 2 more are found infected near my area. They are home on quarantine.

AKASH

Our area is also shut down. Totally. I have 2 weeks of supply. I don't prefer to go out.

NIGEL

Do you remember that guy Vishal?

AKASH

Red scooty?

NIGEL  
Yes that senior guy with a red  
scooty.

AKASH  
I remember

NIGEL  
He is missing since last Wednesday.

AKASH  
Wednesday? Aaj kya din hain?

NIGEL  
(he ignores AKASH's  
question and continues)  
He was last seen at his place on  
Tuesday. He was alone and he has no  
relatives in Kolkata. His empty  
house was found locked from inside  
and he seems to have disappeared  
into thin air. Useless fellow.  
(laughs)  
People say he was suffering from  
strange symptoms and  
hallucinations.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT 12  
CU on the noodles boiling.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 13  
AKASH is eating noodles while watching the updates on Covid-  
19.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 14  
AKASH is on his bed. He is surfing the feeds of social media.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

15

Black screen and silence. Sounds of news fade in. AKASH is sleeping and the REM suggests he is having intense experiences in his dream. Slowly another suggestive voice takes over. It's the voice of NIGEL.

NIGEL

It's no ordinary virus. It has taken over the whole world. These small killers will eventually enter our house get total control of us. Our brains, our vitals, our life. We all are responsible for this and now it's too late. It will come to take you to quarantine. It will knock your door, make you feel its presence clearly. You remember we had this discussion long back in Juhu? Does that ring a bell? Does that??

The doorbell rings very loud. MID-SHOT of AKASH opening the eyes. AKASH waits for a while to digest what is happening. No, there is no further doorbell. Perhaps that was a part of his dream too.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

16

CU on boiling tea. Pouring tea

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

17

AKASH relaxes on the chair and talks on the phone while sipping the tea.

AKASH

I don't have any symptoms like headache or cough. These days I'm thinking too much. May be it's purely psychological. Kya pata!

NIGEL

Yes it can be. You better relax watching some good stuffs on Netflix and Amazon Prime.

The doorbell rings loudly distracting AKASH. We see a shadowy presence passing on the wall with a hush. He is unaware and continues to talk over the phone.

(MORE)

NIGEL (CONT'D)

Listen Nigel, let me tell you something. For the last 4 days I have been listening to doorbells at night. There is no one outside. May be someone is playing prank. Who knows!

The doorbell rings again. AKASH seems nervous now.

AKASH

Hello Nigel. Hello.. Can you hear me? Hello. Hello..

The mobile phone runs out of battery and shuts off. He puts the phone to charge. The doorbell rings once.

INT. ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

18

AKASH faces the mirror and wears his mask. Takes his flashlight and tests the battery and leaves the room. The doorbell rings once.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBOURHOOD - NIGHT

19

The neighbourhood is empty as usual. Dogs are disturbed by his trespassing. He takes a walk around. No, there is no one close by.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

20

AKASH enters the room, and enters the bathroom first for the hand wash. The camera pans revealing the changes in the arrangement of the two chairs. The mobile phone is on the table in a projecting gesture and the 2 chairs are now facing the mobile phone (which was supposed to be on charge few moments back)

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

21

CU - AKASH washing the hands, wiping the hands and face. Suddenly a sound of age old backstreet boys song fills the silence.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

22

AKASH comes closer to the table. He is unable to choose a proper reaction for this unexpected incident.

He comes closer to the mobile phone screen and watches. The disconnected charger rests on the table.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 23

AKASH on his bed. The fan slowly rotating. Silent night. He looks at the rotating fan. Seems to be in deep thought or must have fallen asleep. Suddenly there is a screeching sound. Camera pans down to the door knob. Someone is trying to open it. Trying persistently. Again and again. The door bangs open finally.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - DAY 24

AKASH is asleep. The room is partially dark. The mobile phone resting on the stand gets switched on suddenly and an empty chair rotates to face it.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - EVENING 25

The sun sets and it is getting dark.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEIGHBOURHOOD - NIGHT 26

The roads are deserted again. Sounds of barking dogs.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - NIGHT 27

AKASH wakes up from his sleep and switches on the mobile phone and puts it on the stand. The sound of the news fills the air. AKASH wakes up and sits down. He leaves the bed and walks to the mirror and he is in a total shock by what he DOES NOT see in the mirror! He is unable to see himself! His reflection is not there. He tries hard to figure out what is happening. AKASH breathes heavily and tries to scream but he has no voice. He discovers that he is not alone. Some other invisible entities are present in his room who are apparently infected. They are coughing. We see AKASH on various jerky POVs. Then 1 POV camera collides with AKASH and screen goes blank. A familiar sound of laughter engulfs the darkness.

CUT TO:



EXT. NEIGHBOURHOOD - NIGHT

28

A POV camera moves along with the V.O of NIGEL over the phone.

NIGEL

Hello. Yes the line got disconnected. What I was to tell you is do you remember that AKASH? No, That guy who was living alone. Yes dark glasses, Heavy tea drinker.

He is missing since last Wednesday. As per investigation the house was locked from inside. There is no trace of him nor his mobile phone.

The POV camera while moving in the NEIGHBOURHOOD seems to have identified a target by now and there is a slow zoom in.

FADE TO BLACK.