To my film school

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Screenplay is now considered to be an established genre of literature. It is no more technical writing to turn a story into a movie. Instead, reading it is often more interesting than reading a story since it gives an audiovisual description of emotions. There lies the challenge of writing a screenplay. This challenge has always driven me to write screenplays without any expectation. It always feels good to see a screenplay turning into a full-fledged movie. But since a movie depends on too many things, starting from money to dealing with different individual personalities,

most of the time the original screenplay goes through a lot of changes. Production of a movie is highly dependent on many other technical constraints. But a screenplay certainly is not. The original screenplay almost always becomes the victim of these production constraints. So, it is a good sign that people have started reading it as storybooks. This will certainly encourage writers to write more and more screenplays as literature. I also hope that screenplays will very soon become part of academics in schools and colleges in India. It should be taught the way drama scripts, novels, short

stories, and essays are taught to the students of literature. The students of different film schools have already realised the fun of reading screenplays as storybooks. Then why should it not be easily available in all the big and small bookstalls of India? At the same time, if the habit of reading this increases, it will surely, in general, help Indian cinema get rid of poor themes. If a lot of audiovisual stories, in the form of screenplay, are available in the market, movie makers and producers will have more choices. Let's hope the day is soon coming when readers will say beforehand which screenplay

is going to turn into a five-point-one movie.

INFATUATION

Saibal Ray

Category: Original Screenplay

A psycho-sexual story of adolescence

The main story©Saibal Ray

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SYNOPSIS

This movie is about the ‘infatuation’ of an adolescent boy who gets attracted to his married lady tutor. Rani, a married woman of 30, often teaches Piku, a boy in his puberty, English at her own house. She loves Piku as her son. But Piku slowly develops a physical attraction toward her. Though Rani realises it much before, she indulges him to get more attracted toward her. She actually enjoyed it, although she had no intention to have an impossible and socially unacceptable physical relationship with his adolescent student. In the mean time, Rani’s husband moves out of his town for a

few days in order to serve his business. By this time, instinctively, Rani also starts craving for an intercourse and thus gets physically attracted toward Piku. She realises it and becomes more and more impatient for having her husband immediately back. Unfortunately, her husband informs her about a possible delay to return home. So Rani really starts fighting hard with her basic instinct and the social custom. Since she is a teacher with free, open, and quite unconventional thought, the trauma of her dilemma makes her impatient, a bit crazy, and drunk. Similarly, Piku's desire to get closer to Rani

gets stronger. Consequently, the intense pent-up emotion inside him makes him write poems. He creates his new diary of poems as a result of his affinity for Rani.

On the other hand, Rani and Rajat, Piku's father, are coworkers, i.e., both of them are teachers in the same high school, and incidentally, Piku is one of their common students. One day Rajat catches Piku red-handed in the study while writing poems in a math notebook. Consequently, he becomes worried about Piku's progress in study and conveys his worry to Rani. But Rani pacifies Rajat by saying that Piku is quite mature and knows when what

is to be done. It becomes very clear that though Piku is attracted toward his tutor, Rani ignores silently any possible intention of immature liaison between them, just as his 'infatuation'. So she also suggests Rajat give Piku a medical book as a replacement of pornographic materials, on which the adolescent curiosity often surrenders. Though Rajat is a bit conventional father, he goes by Rani's suggestion. It is also true that although a medical book does help Piku to know properly about soma and sexuality, his 'infatuation' for Rani remains the same; on the contrary, it even grows stronger in his

heart. As a result, when he accidentally notices Rani and Anol, her husband, making love wildly in their bedroom, he becomes wrathful and burns his diary of poems.

Screenplay

INT-NIGHT–THE PALACE OF COOCHBEHAR

Someone is moving to one of the corners of the huge palace of Coochbehar. When we reach the corner, it is almost dark and gives a hint of a jungle ahead. The breeze in the jungle slips through the whistling woods. An owl hoots somewhere for nothing. Far away, the murmur of crisp fire with the soothing breeze mixes up with the buzz of insects. It is foggy all around. We see from a very long distance that a boy is sitting in front of a bonfire inside a jungle. As we move slowly towards the bonfire, we discover a young boy of 16

is sitting in front of the bonfire, though not looking at the fire; instead, he was staring at someone hidden behind the fire. When we move slowly to see Piku face to face behind the fire, we catch a glimpse of Rani, a woman of 30, with a dishevelled bent head and dressed like an Indian queen in relaxed clothes, relaxing, stretching her leg straight toward the fire, sitting on a log. Her face was so bent inward that it was completely hidden by her dishevelled hair flying in the breeze. She slowly raises her head to look at Piku. But we cannot see her face properly. The intensity of the

claustrophobic breeze rises. All of a sudden, she gets up and moves out of frame. Dry leaves fly everywhere. Now, we see Piku gets up and steps behind her while a hand catches his ear. We see the big face of Rajat, Piku's father, snubbing him.

RAJAT:

What are you doing, huh?

CUT TO.

TITLE

EXT/INT-NIGHT-RANI'S DRAWING /BED ROOM

An owl hoots nearby. Translucent clouds float on the crescent of the moon slowly until the **TITLE** stops. Wind whizzes, thunder rumbles softly, wind chime tinkles, and water showers in the bathroom. Shower stops, and Rani calls Anol from the bathroom.

RANI

Anol, Can you give me the towel? I've just forgot. Anol, are you there?

Anol turns his head from the window and looks towards the door of the bathroom (his

eyes and lips look naughty). Anol comes in front of a wardrobe and opens it. Black lingerie, he takes out. Rani shouts again, with one of her naked hands stretching outside the bathroom door.

RANI
What's going on? Hurry up, please. I'm feeling cold.

The black lingerie falls on her hand, and immediately she takes it in. Anol stands at the threshold waiting for a reply with one of his feet itching another. Rani begs for the towel again.

RANI

Hey, are you drunk? I wanted the towel. Give it to me.

ANOL

Put on the lingerie and come out. I'll wipe you dry.

Rani smiles but speaks reservedly, as if she is a bit angry.

RANI

Give me the towel. Otherwise, Iwon't get out.

ANOL

It's okay, honey. Don't get angry, please. I'm giving you the towel. But have you forgotten about today?

RANI

What's so special about today?

ANOL

Forgot it? Today is the birthday of our sex. She is now ten.

RANI

Give me the towel.

Rani smiles again and leans on the door. Anol has received the white towel in his hand, when actually he stands in front of the wardrobe, almost undressing himself by taking out his tee-shirt and trousers. Instead, he picks up a red pair of night trousers and wears it. By that time,

Rani is already standing outside, wearing the black lingerie onto her wet naked body. She looks at Anol's blood-red trousers and smiles. Anol looks at her legs. Rani puts one of her legs on the bed and hints him by eyes to come close. Anol wipes her leg from heel to thigh and at last tries to kiss on her thigh. But she slaps on his head and then stretches her one hand towards Anol. When he moves to wipe her hand, she swoops away the towel from his hand and starts wiping her own body. Then she looks at the dressing table and asks Anol to bring a body lotion.

RANI

Bring that lotion?

ANOL

Which lotion?

RANI

That one, honey.

Anol stands in front of the mirror, attached to the dressing table, and picks up the wanted bottle of 'edible body lotion' and notices it carefully, just when the white towel falls on his face suddenly. Rani has already squatted on the bed and beckons him with her middle finger to come close. Anol approaches slowly. He looks at sexy Rani covered with translucent lingerie.

He gives her the bottle of body lotion. Rani holds his hand and snatches him forcefully on the bed. He falls on the bed. Rani rides on his waist. She starts drawing spirals with the lotion on his bare chest.

Cut to.

INT-DAY-BATHROOM

Anol, in the same red trousers, pours shaving cream in spirals on his palm and applies it to his cheek at the same time he was smoking a cigarette. He throws the butt into the commode. Suddenly Rani, also in the same lingerie, opens the door and enters the bathroom. She kisses on Anol's bare shoulder and hugs from behind. Anol seems to be in a hurry and just keeps doing whatever Rani says as if just to make her happy.

ANOL
Did you sleep well?

RANI

Yep. You wanted to colour my nails?

ANOL

Of course, I'll do it. But…

RANI

But, you know, I can't wait anymore. You have to do it now.

Anol turns behind and smiles politely. He pulls up Rani in his arms and carries her.

CUT TO.

INT-DAY-RANI'S BEDROOM

He makes her sit on the bed. He goes out and brings the bottle of nail polish while Rani looks at him with a happy, satisfied face. She keeps her hands on her bent knees and concentrates happily on Anol. Anol comes in and starts painting her toe nails. But while painting the toe nails, he keeps on painting a portion of her skin as well. Rani pats on his shoulder and frowns, guessing a disturbed mind of Anol. She holds his face in her palms and asks anxiously,

RANI

What happened?

ANOL (stands up)
Nothing. Just got lost for a while. One thing I forgot to tell you.

RANI
What?

ANOL
I'll have to go outside for one week. Want to come with me?

RANI
How can I? It's not possible to get leaves now. But what's the matter?

ANOL
I've just got a new contract. I must go. I'll tell Rajat, in case you need something...

CUT TO.

INT-DAY-RAJAT'S KITCHEN

Indrani, a housewife, 40, is cooking something on a gas oven, and his son, Piku, who is 16, heights himself up on his toes and peeks into the cooking pot. Indrani applies some spices to the hot oil in the cooking pot, and it sizzles.

PIKU
Mom, why do you add spices?

INDRANI
This is the way to make food tasty.

Rajat is going outside with a handbag in his hand when suddenly he sees Piku in the

kitchen and snubs him.

RAJAT
What are you doing here? Is it time to finish your study?

PIKU
This is time for going to Rani madam's.

INDRANI
Then what are you waiting for? Go right now.

Whenever Rajat vanishes, Indrani shouts behind, and Rajat returns again.

INDRANI
Rajat…

RAJAT

What happened?

INDRANI

If you can, bring some 'misti aalu' (sweet potatoes).

RAJAT

(becomes happy)

Would you prepare 'puli pithe' (pies)?

INDRANI

Yes.

RAJAT

Can you make a little 'payes'(a milk-rice preparation) with it?

INDRANI

…and what else?

RAJAT

(smiles)

It will do for now.

CUT TO.

INT-DAY-RANI'S BEDROOM / RANI'S STUDY/VERANDAH

Rani wears a blue full-sleeve cloak. Anol, in a formal black pants and reddish shirt, comes in.

ANOL
I'm just going out to buy those medicines.

RANI
Don't go without having your lunch. I'll come at lunch hour. Okay?

ANOL
No, no, I can't wait so long.

The calling bell rings. Piku is waiting behind the gate when Anol comes and opens

it, and Piku gets in.

ANOL
Piku, tell your papa I won't be home for a week.

PIKU
Where are you going?

ANOL
Kolkata.

PIKU
Okay. I'll say.

Anol goes out, and Rani comes in.

RANI
Go in. I'm just coming.

Piku sits on one of the two chairs, leaving one for Rani in Rani's study, packed

with two big bookshelves and a small table accompanied by two beautiful little chairs. There is a pen stand, some English storybooks, a small album with a cool blue cover, and a flower vase full of blood-red roses on the table. He looks at a photograph kept inside the bookshelf. That was a couple photo of Rani and Anol. He opens his exercise book. Then he notices the small album and starts browsing. He keeps seeing one after another photo in the album, but when there comes a close-up picture of thinking Rani, he gets fixated. Suddenly Rani comes in, and the windchime hanging from the door tinkles. Piku closes

the album. Rani does not sit in the chair.

RANI
How are these?

PIKU
Good. What's that place? Darjeeling?

RANI
Yes. Have you done home tasks?

Piku pushes forward his copy book and tries to find out the exercise by browsing his English grammar book.

RANI
It's okay. I’ll check it later. Now, translate the next paragraph. I’ll be back

soon.

Rani goes out again. Piku notices her. Whenever she is out, he opens the album again and picks up that close-up picture of Rani. Rani turns around in the verandah and comes back again. Whenever she reaches the door of her study, she stops noticing Piku. Piku picks up the photo and inserts it into his pocket. Rani smiles and turns back so that Piku does not notice her.

CUT TO.

EXT-DAY-ROAD

Piku zigzags away with his bicycle. He looks at the camera while cycling, and we see him in MCU, and he is so happy that he moves his eyes up to the blue sky. We also follow his sight, and the camera tilts up to the blue sky, just after we hear a sound of a crashing cycle.

CUT TO.

INT-NIGHT-PIKU'S STUDY

Piku gets a long notebook and a glue stick from the drawer of his study table. He gets up and goes to the door to shut it properly, though he does not latch it. Then he returns to his table and opens the notebook. When he turns pages, we see some photographs of beautiful models, cut out from various advertisements of cosmetic products, and some similar couple pictures are glued on each page. At last we see there is a jewellery-clad lady's lips-to-cleavage photo, and the next page consists of another hip-to-feet picture, captured from the back, of a pair of

sleek, lissome legs of a mini skirt-clad girl. The next page is white, empty. Piku sticks Rani's photo on that white page. He slithers his fingers on the picture and then closes the book and puts it into the drawer again. He looks at the closed door with fear. Then he picks a math notebook from the pile of books on the table and keeps scribbling on a page. In between the scattered numbers on the page of the math notebook, he writes 'The Heaven of Feelings'. He thinks (though we do not see his face) of Rani's obscure face covered with dishevelled hair. He cuts those words with a pen. Again he thinks (though

we do not see his face) of black cloak-clad Rani's hallucinatory, cloudy body from behind. Now he writes on the same page, 'Ballerina'. Again, he cuts off the word. The door, which he shut carefully, slowly opens with a gap, where we can see a glittering sneak-peeping eye. Piku turns the page, full of scattered numbers, and writes 'My Moonbeam'. At this moment we see his knit eyebrows and hear the fast scratching of his pen, as if he writes down some lines of a poem at one stretch. Suddenly, Rajat opens the door and enters. Piku turns the page and opens the mathematics book immediately. His heart is

beating high. Rajat pulls the notebook and tries to see what is written on it. But Piku pulls it back almost immediately. Rajat shouts, but Piku does not reply.

RAJAT
What were you doing…? Give me that. I want to see how many sums you have done so far.

Piku gets anxiously blushed, and he does not look at Rajat. He stands, looking in an unknown direction with angry knit eyebrows. Rajat looks at him for trying to understand the matter, and when he is just about to open his lips to say something, he checks himself. Then he says

something without stirring Piku too much.

RAJAT

I am going out for shopping and will be back in an hour. Finish all the sums. I will check it.

Rajat gets out, and Piku tears the page immediately. He gets a diary from the same drawer and keeps it folded inside the diary.

CUT TO.

INT-NIGHT-RANI'S BEDROOM

Clock ticks. Cricket drones.A 'kirton' (a form of music)is heard far away. Rani has forgotten to switch off the table lamp. Her white bedsheet-clad naked body sleeps on the bed. On her breast there is an unclosed pink book, which has the title 'Best Erotic Stories of the World'. The cell phone, beside her pillow, rings with a sweet tune. She opens her eyes and holds the phone. Anol calls from the other side.

ANOL

Have you taken medicines?

RANI

No.

ANOL

Why? Something wrong with You?

RANI

If you don't give me, I won't take.

ANOL

Don't be silly, honey. Please take those right now.

Rani does not reply. She looks unmindful and puts her sight in an unknown direction.

ANOL

What happened? Say something!

RANI

Don't worry. I have taken all

those in time.

ANOL
Why did you tell me a lie?

RANI
I don't know. When will you return?

ANOL
I don't know. I think it'll take some more time.

RANI
I don't want to hear any excuse. Don't take one extra day more than a week.

ANOL
Hey, listen. You know, I have shopped for you. Hello…. Are you hearing me?

RANI

Yes, yes. Tell me.

ANOL

A beautiful gold chain. Believe me, it looks awesome. And the whole collection of Harry Potter.

RANI

I have already read the whole Harry Potter. I think you forgot; I gifted it to Piku.

ANOL

O shit. Yes, I just forgot.

RANI

You don't need to return. Bring it home. It will be part of my collection. If you have time, please bring 'Putul Naacher Itikatha'.

ANOL
What's that?

RANI
It's a Bengali novel by Manik Bannerjee.

ANOL
You'll read Bengali?!

Rani gets a bit up and leans on the pillow behind.

RANI
What do you think? I can't read Bengali?

ANOL
No no. I was thinking, I never saw you reading Bengali.

RANI

How would you see? You are always busy with your work and work.

ANOL

(teases)

O really? I mean, do you really read Bengali?

RANI

Of course. I do read. But these days it does not happen. Except for Bankim Chatterjee's, I don't face any problem with any other kind.

ANOL

Okay baba. D'you know, I still haven't told you about the real stuff I bought for you?

RANI
I know you never forget to buy pornies.

ANOL
(laughs)
Yes, I really can't help.

RANI
I know, how many did you get?

ANOL
Two.

RANI
(surprised and angry)
Only two?!!! Bring at least ten, honey, and what about my lingerie?

ANOL
Yes, yes, I will get

everything. Whenever I get a little time, I'll go shopping.

RANI
(whispers)
Anol?

ANOL
What?

RANI
(whispers)
Can you buy some sex toys?

ANOL
I am putting it down.

RANI
(does not understand)
Why?

ANOL

I need to go to the bathroom.

RANI

(smiles)

What for?

ANOL

I don't want to spoil my bed.

Rani puts down the cell phone with a thin line of smile at the edge of her lips, and then she sighs and slips into the white bedcloth to sleep.

CUT TO.

INT-RAJAT'S BED CUM TV ROOM-NIGHT

Rajat sleeps, snoring loudly, on the bed, embracing the side pillow. Indrani applies cream to her hands and face while sitting in front of the mirror. On television, there is an advertising show for fitness products. Piku roams around his mother.

PIKU
Mum, can you snore like dad?

Indrani bursts into laughter and looks at Rajat.

INDRANI
(laughs aloud)
Every day Rajat snores this way like a bull.

PIKU

The great snoring…

Right at this moment, Rajat turns around, but he is not awake. Piku shuts his mouth. Indrani looks at Piku.

INDRANI

Are you going to study tonight?

Piku rubs his eyes with fingers.

PIKU

No. I am feeling sleepy.

INDRANI

Go to the bed.

Piku moves a bit away but does not go out. Indrani gets

her spectacles from a bag that is kept on the dressing table and puts them on.

INDRANI
Piku, just see once. Is it looking good?

PIKU
(comes close)
New specs?

INDRANI
Yes.

PIKU
This one is far better.

Indrani takes off the spectacles and puts them into the bag.

INDRANI

Go. Don't waste time. Go to bed early and rise early tomorrow.

PIKU

Tomorrow, Rani madam won't teach. I will get up late.

INDRANI

So what? Don't you have your own studies and homework? I'll wake you up in the morning. Go to bed now.

CUT TO.

EXT-DAY-SCHOOL

We see a big main building of the school, engraved with the name of the school on the large spectacular arch, which is typical of West Bengal's traditional architecture. Rani is standing in front of a noticeboard, where thereis a notice hanging with the letter head that includes the name of the school, though it is impossible to understand it visually. There are a lot of obscure heads of students around her. Rani is talking to them, but nothing can be heard. Instead, there is a tinkling of wind chime with roaring thunder. Slowly, the camera moves

towards her. She notices and turns her head to the camera and smiles. We notice that she has put on a pair of spectacles as Piku's mother. She turns her head again to the first position, and we lose sight of her face behind her hair. A sudden blow of air comes and ruffles her hair. Camera gets out of focus as if our eyes blur.

CUT TO.

INT-NIGHT-PIKU'S STUDY

Piku opens his eyes. Two drops of sweat glitter on his forehead in the dark. He turns the light on with the bed switch again, turns it off, and again turns it on and off while the camera slowly moves towards his face. He smiles mildly.

CUT TO.

EXT-DAY-SCHOOL

Rani comes out of the door of the common room and notices Rajat. Rajat comes from the opposite direction and meets Rani in front of the same noticeboard with the same notice with the big letterhead that includes the school's name, and this time it is clearly visible. Rani is in a blue monochromatic sari, and Rajat wears a white shirt. Rajat changes his path and takes the direction in which Rani walks.

RAJAT
Are you going home?

RANI
Yes, do you have any more

class?

RAJAT

No. Let's go. I am also thinking of going home.

Rajat turns to come with Rani.

CUT TO.

EXT-DAY-ROAD/THE PALACE OF COOCHBEHAR

While looking at the Palace of Coochbehar as if we are seeing it from the window of a car, our eyes suddenly catch with the sight of Rajat and Rani passing by in the footway attached to the railing of the palace. We see Rani and Rajat walking down the road from a long/top distance.

RAJAT
Does Piku do home tasks and all?

RANI
Yes. He does it regularly, and he is very intelligent. He gets anything very easily.

It's really fun to teach him.

RAJAT

But sometimes he makes so silly mistakes that…

RANI
Yes. He is a bit fickle-minded. But I think it's alright. After all, he is too young to be so serious.

RAJAT
May be. Do you know these days he is writing poems?
We see a close-up of Rani.

RANI
(CU)
Really? Did you see him writing?

We see them in mid-shot from

the front. Camera moves behind with them.

RAJAT
Yes, yes. Our little poet writes poems in the pages of his math notebook.

RANI
That's really nice to hear.

RAJAT
At least you don't pamper him anymore. He has interest in everything except his syllabus.

RANI
He must have fallen in love with a beautiful girl.

RAJAT
That's what I am afraid of.

RANI

Why are you afraid? What I can easily guess is that he is always afraid of you. Besides, he is not a silly boy. He knows what not to do.

RAJAT

I know that. Yet I am scared mostly because of the television. Whenever you turn on that foolish box, you see only titillation. I am afraid if he loses control at any time.

CUT TO.

EXT-DAY-ROAD BY A GREEN MEADOW

Piku, in school uniform, cycles on the road. Suddenly he sees a goat in the green meadow. He stops and stands his bicycle. He takes a green leaf from a shrub. The goat gets frightened and starts running. Piku chases. Just after a moment, he stumbles and falls on the ground. His face shrinks in pain. Blood oozes from his toe.

CUT TO.

EXT-DAY-ROAD

Rani stops for a moment.

RANI
You can do one thing. Give him a doctor's text book.

RAJAT
(thinks and walks ahead slowly)
I don’t know. I thought to give him the collection of Bankim when the exam is over.

RANI
Yes, I heard that Bankim has explained infatuation vividly. But it's too hard for me - very difficult Bengali.

RAJAT
Yes, that's true. But I am sure he will read it. Do you know why?

Rani looks at Rajat with curiosity.

RAJAT
Because it's completely out of the syllabus.

RANI
(Laughs)
Yes. But I think this is not enough. In this age, he must have begun to get curious about about… I mean, he needs to know about his body. Don't you think it's urgent to solve his queries?

Rajat stops again and

looks at her with his confused and uncomfortable eyes. Then he changes the topic carefully.

RAJAT
You know I belong to a different generation. May be that's why I can't think the way you think. By the way,did Anol call you?

RANI
Yes.

CUT TO.

EXT-NIGHT-ROAD

A streetlight is flickering to get lit.

CUT TO.

INT-NIGHT-RAJAT'S BED CUM TV ROOM

There is a book, 'Where There Is No Doctor', on the bed. Piku picks it up. Indrani comes in through the door with an incense stick in her hand.

PIKU
Mom, who brought this?

INDRANI
Rajat. Keep it on the book shelf.

Piku moves out.

CUT TO.

INT-NIGHT-PIKU'S STUDY

Piku keeps the book on his table and opens. He browses through the sketches of naked human bodies. He notices a sketch of a syphilis-infected penis. Then he notices a picture of a fat-belly pregnant woman. At last he gets fixated on a stanza titled 'Various Ways of Contraception'.

CUT TO.

INT-MORNING-RANI'S BEDROOM / VARANDAH

Rani is sleeping underneath a black bedcloth. A narrow sun beam through the window pane is falling on Rani's sleeping face. Rani feels disturbed and opens her eyes. Somewhere a dove is calling continuously. She picks up the book 'The Best Erotic Stories of the World' and browses once. Then again, she keeps it closed at the same place. She turns and holds the side pillow. She thinks for a while. Then she gets up and sits. She holds the black nightgown, which was there just by her pillow, with one of her hands. She looks at the

flower vase kept on the table. The red roses in it look bent-dry and inanimate. Rani picks up those and goes to the door. She opens the door and throws those away outside. Then she picks up the newspaper lying on the floor. She comes in the bedroom again and throws the newspaper on the bed. She goes to the window and opens it. She sees the clouds, which are almost static today. The land phone rings suddenly. Rani comes and picks up the receiver.

RANI
Hello.

UNKNOWN VOICE

Is it Anol Ray's number?

RANI

Yes. But right now he is not at home. May I know who this is?

Unknown voice cuts the telephone.

CUT TO.

INT-MORNING-RAJAT'S BED CUM TV ROOM

Piku puts down the receiver and takes off the hanky, pressing which on the mouth he changed his voice. He looks behind to see whether anyone noticed him. The sound of adding spices to the cooking food comes from the kitchen.

CUT TO.

INT-MORNING-RANI'S BEDROOM

Rani looks at the receiver for a while, and getting irritated, he utters 'bastard' and puts down the phone.

RANI
Bastard.

Rani looks at the empty vase on the table. She comes close to the table and notices an ant is moving on the vase. She rubs her left palm with her right forefinger. Then she takes her right hand in front of her mouth and bites to tear a thread from the frills that has come out of the cuff. Then she comes in front of

the mirror and takes the lip gel stick. She applies lip gel to her dry lips.

CUT TO.

INT-DAY-RANI'S BATHROOM

Rani comes in the bathroom. She takes off the black nightgown.

CUT TO.

INT-DAY-RAJAT'S BATHROOM

Piku's hand turns the shower on. Water falls on his face. He closes his eyes and sings a Bengali song aloud. Indrani shouts from outside.

PIKU
(sings)
Tui haaraale aandhar dekhi ami du chokhe… (I see dark if you leave me alone…)

INDRANI
Piku, hurry up.

CUT TO.

EXT-DAY-SCHOOL GATE

Piku comes in riding a bicycle, and suddenly Rani appears in. Piku gets down from the cycle.

RANI
Will you come tomorrow?

PIKU
But tomorrow is Sunday.

RANI
(unmindful)
O shit. I have just forgotten. So you are not coming tomorrow?

PIKU
(nods)
No.

RANI

Okay. Go now. I am coming to the class.

Piku gets into the school premises. He keeps the cycle hurriedly and rushes to the school building, which is there just opposite the noticeboard. Rani walks in front of the noticeboard. Piku peeks from behind a pillar on the first floor of that building. Piku notices the carefully-careless look of Rani's face crossing the noticeboard.

CUT TO.

EXT-EVENING-THE EVENING SKY

A bird is flying across the sky. Somewhere somebody blows a conch shell three times (an indication of nightfall).

CUT TO.

INT-NIGHT-RANI'S BED CUM TV ROOM

Rani watches a fashion show where male models are walking on ramps on a famous TV channel. She sits on a chair by the table with the remote in one of her hands. The flower vase is again filled with fresh and wet blood-red roses. Besides the vase, there is a cup full of hot tea. Vapour is coming out of the cup. Suddenly she presses the remote, and the television gets switched off. Crickets chirp continuously. Somebody goes by ringing a bicycle bell in a particular musical scale since the bell sounds to Rani musical with the reverby last clink.

Rani gets up and sits in front of the mirror of her dressing table. She takes the cell phone and rings. Indrani speaks from the other side.

INDRANI
Hello.

RANI
Indrani-di…?

INDRANI
Who is this? O Rani?

RANI
Yes. Is there Piku…?

INDRANI
Yes yes. I was just scolding him. He went to his study a few seconds back. Hold a

sec. I am calling him.

RANI
It's okay. You don't need to call him. Just send him to my house.

INDRANI
Now?

RANI
Yes. I would be busy on Monday.

INDRANI
Okay. I am sending him.

RANI
Just tell him that he doesn't need to worry if the home tasks are not done. I won't check those today. Another thing: today he will

have dinner here.

CUT TO.

INT-NIGHT-RAJAT'S BEDROOM

Piku peeks through the door and slowly slips into the room. Slowly he goes ahead. At last, he stands behind Indrani. Rani speaks from the other side.

INDRANI
I guess, again, you have learnt some new recipes.

RANI
It's not like that. I just want to cook chilli chicken today.

INDRANI
O then it's going to be a picnic today, I guess.

RANI

(smiles)

I am just feeling like cooking. I will send it for you and Rajat-da.

INDRANI

Never do these formalities. For nothing you are trying to make yourself busy.

CUT TO.

INT-NIGHT-RANI'S BED CUM TV ROOM

Rani stands by the table with the flower vase and cup. Indrani speaks from the other side.

RANI
It's nothing…

INDRANI
I have told you not to do this. I will really be angry. Let Anol come; one day I will definitely go to taste your cooking.

RANI
(smiles)
It's okay, dear. I am not going to send anything.

INDRANI:
That's like a good girl. Hey, I am heating milk. It may spill down. I am telling Piku. See you later. Bye.

RANI
Okay, bye.

Rani switches off the cell phone.

CUT TO.

INT-NIGHT-RAJAT'S BEDROOM

Indrani keeps the receiver and turns about. She finds Piku behind and snubs him.

INDRANI
You are still here?

In the mean time, Piku smiles, and embracing Indrani from behind, he puts his jaw on her shoulder. Indrani jerks off him, shrugging her shoulders since she feels a tingling sensation.

PIKU
Who called?

INDRANI
Rani.

CUT TO.

INT-NIGHT-RANI'S BED CUM TV ROOM

Rani is again in front of the mirror. She sits on a small stool. She picks up the lip gel stick and rubs it on her lips for some time. She stretches the skin behind, just below her eyes, with one of her forefingers. Then she touches eyelashes politely to arrange them properly. She rubs her neck and shoulders with a palm once. Then she gets up and stretches her whole body to break the lethargy. She looks at the wall clock. The time is six o'clock.

CUT TO.

INT-NIGHT-RANI'S KITCHEN

Rani comes in the kitchen. She lights up the oven with a lighter.

CUT TO.

EXT-NIGHT-ROAD 1

The chainwheel of Piku's cycle rotates in full swing. Piku's face looks very happy while cycling. We hear the slight tinkle of wind chime, which is there in Rani's study on Piku's happy face.

CUT TO.

INT-NIGHT-RANI'S BED CUM TV ROOM

There is the flower vase with red roses on the table, two beautiful glasses and a water jug dining dishes and spoons, and three beautiful pots, made of china and filled with hot and fresh chilli-chicken, fried rice, and chatni (a type of Indian sweet sauce), respectively. The china pots are decorated with pictures from Kamasutra (a very famous traditional Indian book on sex principles, written by a hermit called Vatsayana), though a very obscure, abstract, and smoky interpretation.

Rani, in a reddish outfit, comes to the table with Piku when Piku touches the wind chime with his head.

Piku's face looks a bit tensed. Thunder roars slightly.

RANI
No study today. We will just eat and chat. Sit here.

Rani pulls him out of the chair and moves out to another room. Piku notices the pictures on the surface of china pots. Rani comes in with a bottle of vodka, and Piku straightens his backbone. She keeps the bottle on the table. Piku feels a bit uneasy and

looks at her with surprise.

RANI
Do you drink? Don't tell a lie.

Thunder roars heavily, and Piku looks downwards. Rani looks at him.

RANI
What happened? I guess you drink with your friends, right?

She opens the bottle and pours vodka into their glasses. Piku keeps his eyes down.

PIKU
Yes. Twice.

RANI

Didn't I tell you to look into the eyes while talking to a person?

Piku looks at Rani. She looks really fresh and beautiful. The switch of the tube light, she presses off and turns on a mild yellowish light. She turns on a mild fusion type of music (piano and ak taara, an Indian folk instrument). Piku looks at her and shifts his eyes suddenly. She comes in. She notices Piku.

RANI

Don't hesitate. I am not a teacher like your father. I believe students and

teachers should be friends, and they must respect each other. But do you know what the real problem is? I can't speak it out here, in such a small town. I am sure people will fabricate different meanings out of it. However… She stops and thinks something and pulls the chair to sit. She sits and serves rice on Piku's plate. Piku looks at her. She looks beautiful. She pours water into her vodka from the jug and then pushes it towards Piku. He holds the jug and pours water into his glass. Rani looks at him. He looks smart and innocent in a black T-shirt. Piku notices her and immediately shifts his eyes to the food on his

plate.Rani smiles.

RANI

How do I look today?

PIKU

(sees Rani freely for the first time)

You look great in red?

RANI

What's your favourite colour?

PIKU

Red.

RANI

(looks at the rose)

Aren't these beautiful?

PIKU

(nods)

Yes.

Rani drinks from her glass. Piku also picks up the glass to drink.

RANI
I want to ask you something. Don't tell a lie, ok?

Under the table, Rani moves her feet slowly towards Piku's. Piku looks at Rani.

PIKU
Do you love anybody? Don't be afraid. I am not going to tell anyone.

Piku again shifts his eyes and nods his head, saying no. Rani bends towards Piku. She looks towards his lips. Under the table, her feet move closer to his. Rani whispers.

RANI
Tell me. Is there any girl?

Rani's feet touch him. Piku pushes back the chair and stands up. She touches his forehead and then chest with fingers showing respect.

PIKU
Sorry.

Rani gets back. She pulls her feet behind.

RANI
It's okay. It's okay.

Piku sits again. Rani finishes the peg and leans behind on the chair. She does not keep the glass on the table, and consequently the

glass keeps hanging over the floor as if it will fall and break apart.

CUT TO.

INT-NIGHT-PIKU'S STUDY

A mosquito buzzes around. Piku slaps suddenly on his forehead. The sound of mosquitoes stops. He is sitting, wrapped up with a white blanket, inside the mosquito net and closes the diary in which he was writing something. He writes 'My Poems' on the cover. There is a sketch of a letter (mail), which is so torn that it has split the word ‘dear’ in between on the cover. He pulls up the net and keeps the diary inside the drawer of his reading table, which is there just by his bed. Again, the mosquito starts buzzing. He raises his two hands and searches for

the buzzing insects.

CUT TO.

INT-NIGHT-RANI'S BED CUM TV ROOM

Rani lights up a cigarette with a matchstick. She sees herself in the mirror. Then she goes to the dining table and makes another peg with vodka. She takes a sip and puts the glass on the table.

CUT TO.

INT-NIGHT-RANI'S BATHROOM

Rani opens the door and comes in. She stands in front of the mirror above the basin and turns on the water. She splashes water on her face. She looks in the mirror and bites her lips. The mirror dissolves into a water surface, which reflects a sexy male shoulder's image.

CUT TO.

INT-DAY-CLASSROOM

Piku, in school uniform, eats from his tiffin box. The benches are full of rows of school bags. A boy, sitting in a low bench beside Piku, does some sums on a notebook. Another boy comes in and stands just behind his head and throws a pebble pointing to his head and immediately turns his own face towards Piku and starts talking to him, as if he knows nothing about this nuisance. The victim boy holds his head with two hands and reproaches.

NAUGHTY BOY

Piku, what's Prabir sir going to teach today?

VICTIM BOY
Son of a bitch. Bloody Subir, I'll kick your period out.

NAUGHTY BOY
What's that? Do you do it?

Subarna, a girl in school uniform, comes in and puts the tiffin box into her own bag. Subir asks her.

NAUGHTY BOY
Yes, she can tell us. Subarna, how does it feel like having a period? Does it happen every day?

SUBARNA
(ignores)
Fuck off.

Subarna gets out. Piku turns

to Subir.

PIKU
I know.

NAUGHTY BOY
Really? How do you know?

PIKU
I have read about it.

NAUGHTY BOY
Porny? Do you have it? Give me. I want to check it out. It’s tasty, I guess. Yummy…

Subir almost jumps to go to Piku.

PIKU
It's not a porny. It's a medical book.

NAUGHTY BOY

What's written there? How does that look? Solid, liquid, or plasma?

Everyone around laughs out loud. Piku gets the book, 'Where There is No Doctor', out of his bag and opens it. There is a sketch of a vagina, from where a baby’s head is coming out. Suddenly, Rani comes into the class. The other students hurried into the classroom soon. Piku hides the book into the book quickly. Rani notices. She comes in front of Piku. Piku looks downwards.

RANI
What's that?

PIKU
(tensed and seeing downwards)
Nothing.

RANI
Look at me.

Piku looks at Rani. He gets blushed in fear.

RANI
Give me that book.

Piku slowly gets the book out of the bag. Rani snatches it. She looks at the cover. Then notices him and smiles within, but does not reveal it to Piku. She returns the book.

RANI

Reference book?

Piku gets surprised and relaxed and looks at her and speaks hurriedly as if he just discovered the way to be smart.

PIKU

Yes yes. Biology reference book.

Thunder roars outside.

CUT TO.

EXT-DAY(AFTERNOON)-ALLEY

The sky is cloudy. Thunder roars, and it starts raining. Rani comes with an open umbrella on her head. She is coming from school. A dirty dress-clad child, who appears to be a slum dweller, suddenly rushes in and spreads her palm for begging. Rani gets startled for a moment.

BEGGAR CHILD
Akta taka, dao na. Akta taka, sakal theke khaini kichhu. (Give me one rupee, please. I have not eaten anything since morning.)

The child beggar catches her sari softly. Rani gets

annoyed.

RANI
Dhat. (Beat it)

She pays him a coin. The child goes away, and Rani comes forward. She looks ahead at a stranger's eye. His eyes glitter. He smokes a cigarette without touching it with his fingers. Rani frowns and sweeps her eyes away like a sword and crosses him. The eyes of that stranger follow Rani. He puffs the cigarette twice again without touching it with his fingers. Then he comes two steps forward towards Rani and leans on a lamppost. It rains cats and dogs. On the other side of the alley, we see a

silhouette of a girl in school uniform and carrying a school bag. The stranger looks back and gets upright. When she comes closer, we see it is Subarna. She notices the stranger innocently, feels uneasy, and looks ahead downward. Suddenly the stranger comes in and stands in front of her, blocking the way. The umbrella rotates both ways in the greed for sex.

STRANGER
Where are you going alone?

SUBARNA
I am going home.

STRANGER
Let's go for a walk.

SUBARNA
I can't go now. I have tuition. I have to go home.

Subarna's heart beats heavily. The stranger moves closer to her.

STRANGER
You look so nice today. Come close, please.

He throws the cigarette away. His umbrella falls on the road. He grasps Subarna's shoulder to pull her close, and we see his back portion. Just at this moment, we hear footsteps come and stop.

RANI
Subarna.

He leaves Subarna and picks up his umbrella. Subarna throws her umbrella and rushes to Rani. She puts her head on her breasts and weeps. Rani consoles her by putting her palm on her head. The stranger gets another cigarette from his pocket and puts it in between his lips. Rani and Subarna walk away. The stranger picks up Subarna's umbrella and lights up his cigarette.

STRANGER
Hello madam.

Rani turns back. He comes close with the umbrella. He gives the umbrella while Rani almost snatches it. He

looks at Rani's slim waist and smiles lecherously.

STRANGER
Believe it or not, madam, you look sexier than your student.

Rani slaps hard on his cheek immediately. Subarna waits behind in fear. The cigarette flies off his lips. It falls on the rainwater on the road and stops burning.

RANI
If you say another word, I will beat you with my shoe.

Rani comes to Subarna and holds her in her arm. They walk away. The guy looks here and there, rubbing his

cheeks.

STRANGER

Fucking feminist.

CUT TO.

INT-DAY(AFTERNOON)-TERRACE

It is raining outside. Piku practices push-ups in his bare body. He perspires continually and looks sexy.

CUT TO.

INT-DAY(AFTERNOON)-RAJAT'S BED CUM TV ROOM

Beside a window, Indrani reads a film magazine, lying face-down on the bed. Rajat comes in and touches her locks affectionately. Indrani smiles.

INDRANI
What?

RAJAT
I want to love you.

INDRANI
(jokes)
How silly of you.

And at once she turns and lies supine. Rajat does not waste time and lies on her

breasts and cuddles her. Indrani smiles like a chirpy bird. He proceeds to kiss her. With her fist, Indrani grasps his hair.

INDRANI
Piku is home now.

RAJAT
I know, honey. He is busy with his push-up. He won't come down now.

CUT TO.

INT-DAY(AFTERNOON)-TERRACE

Piku wipes sweat from his forehead with his fingers.

CUT TO.

INT-DAY(AFTERNOON)-STAIR

He comes down the stairs.

CUT TO.

INT-DAY(AFTERNOON)-RAJAT'S BED CUM TV ROOM

He comes in and stops by the door, wondering. He notices Rajat and Rani cuddling each other. Suddenly, the telephone, which is kept there by the bed, rings. Piku looks at it.

CUT TO.

INT-DAY(AFTERNOON)-RANI'S BED CUM TV ROOM

Rani puts down the receiver and thinks for a while. She goes to the window. She sees a dry leaf fall off a branch of a shrub. She turns back again. She comes in front of the fridge and opens the door. She picks a chocolate stick; unwraps and puts it into the mouth. She sucks it for a while. Then she stops sucking for a moment and thinks. She closes the fridge. Again, she sucks the chocolate twice and goes to the telephone. She dials Piku's number.

CUT TO.

INT-DAY(AFTERNOON)-RAJAT'S BED CUM TV ROOM

Rajat, lying on Indrani in the same way, kisses her. Piku peeks through the hinge gap of the door. The telephone rings. Rajat gets up. Piku counts one-two-three. Indrani again picks up the magazine and turns to lie face down. Piku rushes to the telephone to reach before Rajat gets there. He picks up the receiver. Rajat looks at Piku and then looks at Indrani. Indrani looks at Rajat too with a light frown of doubt. Rani speaks from the otherside.

CUT TO.

INT-DAY(AFTERNOON)-RANI'S BED CUM TV ROOM

Rani gets the chocolate stick out of his mouth. Piku speaks from the other side.

RANI
Have you done home tasks?

PIKU
No, I mean…

RANI
It's okay. Can you just come down to me right now, 'coz I won't be able to teach you tomorrow?

CUT TO.

INT-DAY(AFTERNOON)-RAJAT'S BED CUM TV ROOM

Piku speaks over the telephone.

PIKU

Yes, I am coming?

Piku puts down the receiver. Indrani lies on the bed, and she turns to ask Piku.

INDRANI

Who called?

PIKU

Rani Madam. She's calling me now.

INDRANI

She will teach now?

PIKU

Yes.

INDRANI

Then go now and try to come back early.

CUT TO.

INT-DAY(AFTERNOON)-RAJAT'S BATHROOM

Piku comes in the bathroom. He applies a facewash on his cheeks and washes it off.

CUT TO.

INT-DAY(AFTERNOON-PIKU'S STUDY

Piku puts a red shirt on the bed. He picks up a deodorant from the drawer of his table and sprays it on his bare body. Then he puts on the shirt.

CUT TO.

EXT-DAY(AFTERNOON)-ROAD

Piku is just about to ride his bicycle, but he stumbles once. He has books on the metal carrier. Then he rides the bicycle and moves away. The chain gets derailed from the sprockets of the chainwheel. He again gets down from the cycle. He tries to put the chain on the sprockets. He runs the cycle at more than normal speed and stands up, leaving the seat, so that he can put more pressure on the pedals. His face looks happy. A dog barks suddenly, and he looks at it. He was just about to hit a coming rickshaw, caring for an old woman. Somehow he manages to skip the vehicle.

The old woman turns behind to look at him. He gets in front of the gate of Rani's house. He stands the cycle and takes the books. He stops suddenly when he just wants to open the gate. He notices that Rani is crazy kissing Anol. She jumps onto Anol's lap, while Anol holds her tightly, and both move towards the bed. Piku opens with a jerky sound so that Rani hears.

CUT TO.

INT-DAY(AFTERNOON)-RANI'S BEDROOM

Rani jumps down from Anol's lap. Anol pulls her once. Then again leaves.

RANI
Piku is there. Wait a second.

CUT TO.

INT-DAY(AFTERROOM)-RANI'S VERANDAH

Rani comes in and speaks to Piku. Rani looks at him. Piku looks downwards.

RANI
Piku, I am really sorry. Anol's just arrived. Come tomorrow.

Piku nods his head slightly and turns back and opens the gate again. Rani looks at him and walks a step forward. Piku rides on the bicycle and goes away. Rani looks unmindful for a moment. Then she sighs and smiles simultaneously.

CUT TO.

INT-DAY(AFTERNOON)-RANI'S BEDROOM

Rani comes in and looks around, and nowhere has she noticed Anol. She shouts.

RANI
Anol. Where are you?

The shower in the bathroom is turned on, and Rani hears the sound, while Anol replies from the bathroom.

ANOL
Here I am, honey.

Rani rushes to the bathroom and knocks heavily with her fist.

RANI

Open the door, please. Let me in.

Rani hears the sound of unlatching the door, and the moment the door gets a bit open, she pushes into the bathroom. She shouts in pain as if Anol has bitten her, and then she laughs like a chirpy bird.

CUT TO.

INT-MAGIC HOUR-PIKU'S STUDY

Piku opens the drawer in his table and gets the diary of poems.

CUT TO.

INT-MAGIC HOUR-RAJAT'S KITCHEN

Piku picks up a matchbox which is kept just by the gas oven.

CUT TO.

INT-MAGIC HOUR-STAIRCASE

Piku climbs up the stairs hurriedly.

CUT TO.

EXT-MAGICHOUR-ROOFTOP

Piku throws the diary by a little red-rose tree that has been grown on a garden tub.

He lights up a matchstick and starts burning the diary. Piku looks at it continuously. The diary slowly burns, and the fire intensifies. Piku does not shift his eyes to avoid smoke. Slowly tears come in his eyes.

CUT TO.

EXT-MAGICHOUR–THE PALACE OF COOCHBEHAR

Then we see small insects moving swiftly in the lake water on the reflection of the gloomy sky. We see the palace from a low angle by the lake, which is part of a garden of the palace.

The End.