

Made In India
Vighnesh Mehrotra

Written By Vighnesh Mehrotra

+1917-478-9181
vm1582@nyu.edu
94 East 4th Street,
New York, NY.
10009

1. EXT. NEWARK AIRPORT -- MORNING

It's 7:00 am, an uncommonly sunny day in November. ROHAN wears a puffy yellow jacket, a white t-shirt, a pair of new blue jeans, and red Nike Air Jordan 1s on. Rohan steps out of Newark Airport takes a deep breath and glances at his phone to check the whereabouts of his Uber. He promptly tries to walk back into the airport.

AIRPORT SECURITY

Sir, you can't go in there.

ROHAN

No, I need to get to my Uber.

AIRPORT SECURITY

The Uber would be outside, sir.

ROHAN

No, I know but I need to get to the pickup point through the terminal.

AIRPORT SECURITY

Sir, you'll have to walk down to it. I can't let you in.

ROHAN

Okay, sorry.

Rohan looks left then right, checks his phone, picks up his bags, and with some hesitation walks to his left offscreen.

2. EXT./INT. FINEST DELI QUEENS -- MORNING

We cut to UMAIR walking into a deli in Queens. He's wearing his trusty dark green jacket, an off-white Velvet Underground graphic tee, a ragged pair of grey jeans, a leather bracelet and black boots. The deli is mostly empty with just the cashier and a guy behind the sandwich counter. Rohan saunters upto the sandwich guy.

UMAIR

A bacon, egg and cheese.

The guy nods. UMAIR reaches for one of the two pots of coffee, he checks if it's decaf and affirming that it's not, he pours himself a cup.

SANDWICH GUY

Bacon, egg and cheese.

Umar reaches for the sandwich, hesitates.

UMAIR

Hey, is the bacon halal?

The sandwich guy is baffled by the question

UMAIR

Just messing with you.

He removes the aluminum foil wrapping and takes a big bite. He walks to the cashier, takes out a crumpled 5 dollar bill, slaps it on the counter, and salutes the cashier on his way out.

SANDWICH GUY

Do they do halal bacon?

The cashier while setting up his counter

CASHIER

Shut up, Naseef.

3. INT. CAR ON HIGHWAY -- MORNING

Cut back to Rohan. Rohan is sitting in the backseat of his Uber.

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ROHAN

It's my first time out of India.

Uber driver offers a polite nod

ROHAN-

(awkwardly) Decided to go straight to
the Big Apple

Nods again

ROHAN

Seems like a fun city

Smiles and nods

ROHAN

Cool that's (pauses) cool

4. INT. GOLDEN DRAGON CHINESE RESTAURANT -- DAY

Cuts to Umair working at a Chinese Restaurant. Candace the owner/manager of the establishment is a middle-aged Chinese lady. She is five feet tall but carries herself with the bravado of a person who is seven-feet tall. Umair is checking items in the cold storage as Candace observes.

CANDACE

Bok Choy?

UМАIR

Yup

CANDACE

Short rib

UМАIR

Yup

CANDACE

Did you pick up the MSG?

UМАIR-

(hesitates) Yeah no

CANDACE

Yeah or No?

UМАIR

No MSG

CANDACE

Can't be a Chinese restaurant without
MSG! GET THE MSG! (begins to walk out)

UМАIR-

(Under his breath) Learn to cook, you
won't need MSG

CANDACE-

(accidentally closes the door to the
cold storage on her way out)

UМАIR-

(Sniffs the short rib) Should've said
nope

5. EXT. SOHO HOTEL -- DAY

Cut to Rohan struggling with the car's trunk.

UBER DRIVER

You gotta press the button

ROHAN

What?

UBER DRIVER

The button

ROHAN

Where?

UBER DRIVER

Forget it.

The Uber driver steps out of the car and walks to the trunk. While glaring at Rohan he presses the button. He helps Rohan take out his bag.

ROHAN

Thank You!

The driver waves him off. Rohan notices his laces are undone. We see Rohan kneel down...

Dissolves to

Umair tying the laces of his black boots next to a sewer cap. On the sewer cap in big bold letters is written 'MADE IN INDIA'. We focus on the sewer cap as we see Umair get up and walk away.

6. INT. HOTEL ROOM -- DAY

Rohan is sitting on his hotel bed. It is a nice, spacious room at a middling hotel in SoHo. We hear his phone ring as he picks up a WhatsApp video call from his parents.

ROHAN'S DAD

You've reached?

ROHAN

Yes, papa.

ROHAN'S MOM

Beta (Son), You were supposed to message us when you LANDED.

ROHAN

Yeah I know Ma. I'm sorry.

ROHAN'S MOM

Doesn't matter. You settled in na?

ROHAN

Yeah Yeah all good here.

ROHAN'S MOM

Did you eat?

ROHAN

-Not yet

ROHAN'S MOM

Finish the food I packed in your bag?

Rohan looks at the trash can where we can see a bit of the plastic bag poking out.

ROHAN

Yeah yeah finished it.

ROHAN'S MOM

Good. Then it's good.

ROHAN'S DAD

Is your SIM card working?

ROHAN

Yes

ROHAN'S MOM

Then beta you unpack and rest for a bit.

Rohan leans back and stretches out on the bed. We see an inverted view of the outside world. a billboard for Manhattan mini storage with the guy on the board pointing up. The board says "Transform your sad, tiny, cluttered apartment into a sad, tiny, uncluttered apartment." The building in between obstructed the billboard so all we can see is "Transform your sad, tiny". Rohan gets up, takes out the packet from the trash can, looks inside and promptly drops it back in. He grabs his backpack and steps out of the hotel room.

7. INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT -- AFTERNOON

Cut to Umair chewing gum and chopping onions.

LOU-

(Thick Jersey accent) Ay ain't chewing gum banned in your culture, Omar?

UMAIR

That's singapore Lou.

LOU

Sick.

CANDACE

Where are we on the onions?

UMAIR

Between the third and fourth layer.

CANDACE

You Americans and your jokes.

Umair wants to interject but lets it go and keeps chopping.

LOU

Say where'd you get so good with the
knife, kid? Personal experiences wink
wink (tries to wink fails miserably).

Umair ignores him and finishes chopping up his onions. He
washes his hands, spits out the gum and then pats Lou on
the shoulder as he begins to head out.

UMAIR

Candace, I'm heading out.

CANDACE

Wait where are you going?

UMAIR

Home

CANDACE

Did you finish the prep?

Umair nods

CANDACE-

(Hands him a 20 dollar bill) Don't
come in next week. Lou's bringing a
friend

Umair leans back and looks at Lou jamming out in the kitchen
while doing dishes.

UMAIR

So I'm out of a job?

CANDACE

No. If Lou's friend worse at chopping
onions then you can come back. (She
shakes her hand with the 20 dollar
bill)

Umair grabs the bill pockets it and walks out without a word.

8. INT. FANCY COFFEE SHOP -- AFTERNOON

Rohan hands the cashier at a fancy coffee shop in SoHo a 20 dollar bill.

CASHIER

Card only.

ROHAN

Oh sorry.

The people in the line behind Rohan getting increasingly frustrated

ROHAN

Do you guys take Indian cards?

CASHIER

Is it a Visa or MasterCard?

ROHAN

Let me check

RANDOM GUY IN LINE

Jesus Christ

ROHAN-

(looking back) Sorry. (Checks his cards) Uhh yeah. Here you go. (fumbles and drops his card)

RANDOM GUY IN LINE

Goddammit

ROHAN

Sorry. This should work.

CASHIER

Would that be all sir?

ROHAN

Yes. (Gets his card back) Thank you!

CASHIER

Next.

Rohan steps to the side of the line. Sits down at a table. Tries to take a napkin out of a napkin dispenser, accidentally takes out 15.

ROHAN-

(To himself) This really could be more

efficient.

He takes a photograph of the dispenser and adds it to his For the family folder.

RESTAURANT WORKER

Number 6 for Ro-Roan

Rohan is obliviously trying to jam the napkins back in.

RESTAURANT WORKER

Roan? Burger for Roan?

RANDOM GUY IN LINE

Pal, your burger.

ROHAN

Oh sorry. Thank you.

Grabs his burger from the worker apologizes profusely and sits back down at his table. He unwraps the burger and spreads the wrapper out on the table. He takes a photograph and lifts the top bun to reveal the avocado. He takes a big bite and a chunk of avocado falls splat on his jeans. He looks around and quickly scoops it up and stuffs it in his mouth.

RANDOM GUY IN LINE

Wow.

Rohan looks down, finishes up his burger, and leaves the restaurant. He pulls out his phone and checks the notes app. On it we see a bucket list. He checks off the first two items. First item- a) Burger Check b)Avocado two checks c)Times Square d)Central Park followed by a number of other items. He adjusts the straps of his backpack and walks forward.

9. EXT. LOWER EAST SIDE STREET -- EVENING

Cut to Umair and he's walking down the Lower East Side. On a stoop we see a couple of people sitting smoking pot. They wave to Umair. JAY, a 20-something man with a Supreme hoodie, a Nets snapback, a sparkly, a bit too sparkly gold watch and white sneakers is one of the guys smoking.

JAY

Yoooo, what's up U U?

JAY'S FRIEND

U U?

JAY

Undocumented Umair (snickers)

UMAIR

Oh you know the same, Jahangir

JAY

It's Jay U U

UMAIR

Okay, Jay-hangir.

Jay's friends laugh.

JAY

Man, you always act funny.

UMAIR

Not a good actor.

Umair keeps walking. Jay gets up

JAY

Where yo going? Stay, chill with us.

UMAIR

Nah, have to get home.

JAY

You've changed for real.

UMAIR

You know I haven't.

JAY

Then come on (To someone else) Yo,
pass it here (grabs a joint).

UMAIR

I'll take it to go.

JAY

Do I look like a McDonald's?

UMAIR

You've got the cap.

JAY

There you go again, acting funny.
(pauses) Well shit, take it. We
have to hang soon, homes.

UMAIR

Sure Watson. (pockets the joint and
waves off Jay)

JAY

But no, deadass you good?

Umair

Yeah you know same old same old.

Jay daps up Umair and sits back down on the stoop. Umair walks
away towards Essex Street Station

JAY'S FRIEND

Why he call you watson?

JAY

I don't know, he on some shit. 2 puff
limit pass it on. (gestures to his
friend to pass the joint)

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10. INT. ESSEX STREET STATION -- EVENING

We see Rohan going down the steps of an empty subway station. A rat passes in front of him, Rohan steps back, looks around to see if anyone caught that. Seeing no one, Rohan hesitantly moves forward. He has to take the F train and sees an F train coming, blissfully unaware if it's going uptown or downtown. He gets on the train, which has one passenger on the carriage next to his and a homeless guy lying down on the seat in front of him. Rohan places his bag next to him, and grabs the railing next to him, he sees the homeless guy scratch his crotch and rest his hand on the railing. Rohan instantly lets go, takes out his sanitizer and furiously rubs his hands. He looks down to the other carriage and sees the guy with his headphones on, smoothly head banging, Rohan leans back. The train stops at Essex Street Station. Rohan steps out of the train to see if he's heading in the right direction. He looks around the station trying to find someone who can help or a map of directions but to no avail. As Rohan turns around to get back to the train, the doors close on his face. Rohan thinks he can get the next one but then his eyes zero in on his bag. He starts freaking out trying to get the homeless guy inside to wake up but the guy shrugs him off and the train starts moving. Rohan looks around and sits down on the steps that lead out of the station as he begins to break down.

ROHAN-

(To himself) (He wipes his nose) Hai Raam! (Oh God) Ab mai kya karunga, sab kharab hogaya, mai kya karunga. Amma yaar sab kharab ho gaya bhak bhak kya karu kya karu. (What'll I do, everything's ruined, what'll I do. Oh man, everything's ruined, shit, shit, what'll I do)

UMAIR-

(Who's been sitting a couple of steps

above Rohan) Chup kar chutiye! (Shut up idiot) At least change the words or the tone. Learn how to cry dumbass.

ROHAN

You know Hindi?

UMAIR

A little bit.

ROHAN

Indian?

UMAIR

Pakistani

ROHAN

Oh.

UMAIR

Normal Indian reaction.

ROHAN

No sorry, I didn't mean that.

UMAIR

Yeah, sure.

ROHAN

No seriously.

UMAIR

So why is this Indian weeping? Wife left you? Lost someone? Lost a cricket match?

ROHAN

No. Thank God No. And hopefully not.

UMAIR

Then?

ROHAN

I lost my backpack. (wipes his eyes)

UMAIR

And you're weeping (pauses looks around) on the steps (pauses) of an empty train station?

ROHAN

Yeah

UMAIR

I don't know, was it an expensive bag?

ROHAN

Yes, no it had...

UMAIR

Is it a yes or no?

ROHAN

No, it had my passport, my money, my everything.

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UMAIR

Oh, that's rough buddy. Well (gets up) have fun with that.

ROHAN

No wait, I need help.

UMAIR

Yes you do. (keeps walking)

ROHAN-

(Gets up and walks after him) I mean, can you help me?

UMAIR

No, why?

ROHAN

What do you mean why? I need help and you seem like a nice guy.

UMAIR

Really? What about me screams nice?

If you want to read more please email me at vm1582@nyu.edu. Thank you!