

ITTEHAD

by

Vighnesh Mehrotra

Written By Vighnesh Mehrotra

94 East 4th Street, Apt. 402

New York, NY. 10003

+9174789181

1 EXT. LAW FIRM - AFTERNOON 1 FADE TO:

A vada pav (Indian Burger). A man splashes some green chutney on it.

SAMEER

Lal chutney daal (Put some red  
chutney)

There is a splash of reddish-orange chutney that causes the green chutney to spill. Sameer, 30s, short and stubby, walks over to a bench and starts eating his vada pav. He focuses on the busy Mumbai cross-section, and his thoughts are drowned out by the blaring horns. Raheel, his friend/lawyer 30s, tall, skinny taps him from behind..

RAHEEL

Chal, (come) she's here.

Sameer finishes up his vada pav, wipes his hands on his handkerchief, and follows Raheel inside.

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2 INT. LAW FIRM - BOARDROOM - AFTERNOON 2

Sameer and Raheel walk into the boardroom. Sameer's sister Aabha, late 30s, short, graceful and her lawyer mid 50s, tall, well-built are waiting for them inside. Stereotypical long glass table and faux leather chairs. South Mumbai skyline visible through the full-length windows.

AABHA'S LAWYER

Glad you could join us. I am Ravi. And  
as I said to Aabha, I am terribly  
sorry for your loss.

Sameer nods and sits down.

SAMEER

Thank you. Hello Aabha.

Aabha nods politely as Raheel pulls back his chair and sits down.

RAVI

You are all busy young people, so I  
will get straight into it. The manager  
of your father's estate sent me his  
will with instructions to read it in  
front of both of you

Aabha looks straight at Sameer as Sameer shifts in his seat. Ravi, after taking a look around the room, opens the sealed envelope and

begins reading.

RAVI

Aabha and Sameer, take care of yourselves. Below is a list of my assets. Divide them amongst yourselves. (looking around) I am now going to read out the assets.

Aabha drowns out Ravi's voice as she stares emptily at the ceiling.

DISSOLVE TO:

3 INT. HOUSE IN AMRITSAR - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK) 3

Aabha stands behind a curtain while Sameer plays with his toys in their room, and Aabha's parents fight in the living room. Aabha notices a ring of condensation on the coffee table as the words are getting louder.

Sameer leaves his room and heads toward his mother. Before he can come into their view, Aabha grabs his arm and yanks him toward her. They turn towards their room as they hear the sound of glass SMASH against the wall.

CUT TO:

4 INT. LAW FIRM - BOARDROOM - AFTERNOON 4 Ravi notices the silence in the room.

RAVI

How about we take a short break?

Sameer nods. Ravi stands up and points Raheel and Sameer towards an empty office they can use.

RAVI

Aabha, what are our top priorities?

AABHA

Just the house in Amritsar.

RAVI

What about the properties in London?

AABHA

The house is fine.

RAVI

There are quite a few assets here.

AABHA  
He can have them

RAVI  
Alright, then let's give the things  
we don't want out first, so we can  
have a stronger claim to the house.

Aabha nods. Raheel knocks on the door.

RAHEEL  
Are you guys ready?

Yep RAHEEL  
RAVI  
Sameer (motions him to come

inside) Everybody gets settled in.

RAVI  
Since your father did not leave  
us with many directions, how  
about we start sequentially?

SAMEER  
No, let's talk about the house

RAVI

Sameer..

.

RAHEEL

Which house are we talking about?

SAMEER  
She knows the one (nods at Aabha)

AABHA  
What about it?

SAMEER  
Who gets it?

AABHA  
That's what we have to decide.

SAMEER  
Oh is that why we're here?

AABHA  
Childish as ever

SAMEER

Jealous?

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RAVI

If I might step in

The siblings nod, Raheel gets increasingly uneasy.

RAVI

We all want to talk about the house,  
but perhaps talking about the other  
assets might help get us in the  
groove.

RAHEEL

That seems fair

Aabha raps a note on the table with her fingers; Sameer finishes the note. Ravi and Raheel discuss the Volkswagen while Sameer gets up and gets himself a glass of water.

DISSOLVE TO:

5 INT. HOUSE IN AMRITSAR - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK) 5

Sameer's mother shields Abha and him with her left arm and clutches a serrated knife with her right. She weeps as their father takes a sip of water and steps towards them.

SAMEER'S MOM

(Hysterically) Jao Yaha Se! (Get out  
of here) Pass aaye mai maar daalungi!  
(If you come closer I'll kill you)

Their father smiles and steps forward. Their mother lunges at him and grazes his left arm which starts to bleed. The father takes a step back. He throws a ceramic plate at the mother, she ducks. He advances and tries to grab the knife from her hand.

SAMEER

Mumma! (Mom)

The kids clutch their mother's saree (Common Indian Ethnic Wear). The mother struggles with the father for the knife and leaves a large gash on his palm.

SAMEER'S MOM

(Weeping) Mai tumhare ped padti hun,  
jao yaha se (I am begging you please  
leave)

The father grabs her by her shoulders and pushes her back. He grabs Aabha's arm and attempts to drag her away.

AABHA

(Shrieks) Papa chhodo mujhe! (Dad let  
me go)

If you want to read more of this piece please email me at [vm1582@nyu.edu](mailto:vm1582@nyu.edu). Thank You!

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