

dialogue draft

INT. CAR - DAY

The Pradhan family is driving to school early in the morning; a restless kind of silence follows.

Jaya, the 13-year-old daughter is sitting in the backseat with crossed arms and a grumpy face. She is fair, beautiful, with proud eyes. We see her sitting in a crooked position, as she suffers from cerebral palsy.

We see her struggling to get up and lean forward to whisper in her mother's ear.

Arpita Pradhan is a 38 year old, well put together woman. She anxiously hears Jaya mumbling in her ear while she drives the car.

Sulekha is a 20 year old caretaker, dark skinned; lean and half asleep. She is staring outside the window.

Rajal is a 43 year old well suited man playing on his phone.

ARPITA
(dramatically)
Tum kya so rahi ho Sulekha?

Sulekha turns her head in an alarming way. He looks up, clueless.

SULEKHA
(stammering)
na..Nahi didi

ARPITA
(shouts)
Toh pani pilao Jaya ko

She is scared to death. We see her quickly opening the bag and looking for the water bottle.

RAJAL
Arre uspe kyu chadh rahi ho, Jaya
khud bhi toh mang sakti thi

ARPITA
Tumse pucha kisi ne?...toh chup
karo!

RAJAL
Arre yaar... Tum chup karvati rehti
ho, mujhe hamesha...

(CONTINUED)

ARPITA
toh mat bola karo na bich bich mein

RAJAL
Par tum apni beti ko toh bolne diya
karo

Jaya has a helpless expression on her face.

ARPITA- VO
Koi tape nahi lagaya hai meine uske
muh pe

RAJAL- VO
encourage bhi toh nahi karti ho

Arpita looks in the rear view mirror with an aggressive face.

ARPITA
(shouts)
Jaya? kya meine mana kiya hai tumhe

RAJAL
Mera ye matlab nahi tha

ARPITA
(upset)
Yahi matlab tha tumhara..Jab dekho
mujhe blame karte ho har cheez ke
liye

RAJAL
(irritated)
Yar Hadh karti ho tum

ARPITA
(sarcastically)
Han sab meri hi galti hai

PAUSE

RAJAL
Jaya beta! Sabse baat karna huh
school mein.

ARPITA
Pehle hi din kaise karegi

RAJAL
Sab kar sakti hai vo..Heina?

(CONTINUED)

RAJAL
Karogi na baat sabse? Jaya?..

Jaya shakes her head in a NO

RAJAL
Arre Kyu?

JAYA
(with a strong lisp)
Kyuki mujhe bolna nahi ata hai

A deafening silence follows. Rajal and Arpita look at each other and then Arpita drives ahead.

EXT. SCHOOL GATE . DAY - CONTINUOUS

Children are walking inside the gate. Some are playing in the ground. Some boys are hitting each other in a fight.

Jaya is being wheeled inside the school by Rajal. She has a scared look, she quickly clenches on to her mother's dupatta and starts pulling it. Jaya worried face turns teary. She starts shaking her head in a No.

ARPITA
bettaaa...nahi jana hai kya?

Jaya shakes her head in a NO. Rajal pulls his head out of the car and stares at Arpita.

RAJAL
gande ideas mat do usse

ARPITA
Dekkho kitni dari huyi hai ..ese
lag raha hai jail bhej rahe hai
usse!

RAJAL
bhai sare bache jate hai jail..
matlab..school

Rajal puts his head back in the car.

RAJAL
Cmon Jaya, get up! get up get up

Rajal pulls her out and helps her sit on the wheelchair. Arpita stands there, holding the wheelchair with one hand and caressing Jaya's back with her other hand with a dramatic worried expression.

(CONTINUED)

JAYA
(turns around)
Mumaaa! Please Mummaa

RAJAL
TUMSE bhi choti height ke bache jaa
rahe hai school. Voh toh nahi ro
rahe.

ARPITA
Acha chalo na..hum bhi chatle hai
tumhare sath school! Theek hai?

JAYA
(sobbing)
Nahi Mummmaaaa..

RAJAL
Jaya! Cmon stop crying.

Hari, 58 year old man comes forward with a big smile and comes in their way.

HARI
(enthusiastically)
Goodmorning Maidum.

Hari looks down at Jaya's teary face.

HARI
Goodmorning choti maidum!

ARPITA
Yes, yes Good morning..

Arpita tries to wheel her inside but Hari comes in front of them and stops them with a hand gesture.

HARI
yaha se age, aap nahi jaa sakte hai

RAJAL
Kyu nahi jaa sakte hai?

HARI
Humko beja hai na principal ma'am
ne. Hum le jayege inhe class

ARPITA
ye baat tak nahi karti hai kisi se.
Aapke sath kaise chali jayegi?

(CONTINUED)

HARI
Rules rules hai maidum.

Rajal bends down to talk to Jaya

RAJAL
Jaya.... bete will you go inside?

Jaya sobs and shakes her heads in a NO. She holds on to Arpita's dupatta tightly.

JAYA
(sobbing)
NAHI nahi jana hai mujhe!

Children playing in the ground start turning around to see this drama. Some are staring.

ARPITA- VO
That's it. I'm calling the
principal. Aap nahi rok sakte hai
hume ese

Jaya looks at them and then back at Arpita who is on the phone.

JAYA
mummma..sab mazak udayege na mera

RAJAL
Tum overthink bohot karti ho yarr!
Just go for it!

Jaya starts pulling her dupatta again.

JAYA
Nahi na mummma..Mujhe ghar jana hai

Hari puts his hands on his waist helplessly.

HARI
Ghar kyu jana hai? Kon hai ghar pe?

Jaya looks up at her parents.

RAJAL
Hum toh office jaa rahe hai bhai

Jaya thinks for a few seconds. The school bell rings.

HARI
dekho ghanti baj gayi..

(CONTINUED)

RAJAL

Jaya I promise you tumhare bohot
sare friends banenge..Heina?

As Jaya stares at Rajal, he looks up at Hari.

HARI

Haaan!... Chalo chalo..bye boldo

Hari quickly takes control of the wheelchair and starts
wheeling her.

JAYA

(squels)

Mummaaa

Jaya turns around to look at her parents with a sad face.
Rajal is smiling wide with pride. He looks at Arpita's
scared face waving back at Jaya.

INT. CLASSROOM. DAY

A classroom full of ninth graders chattering.

Jaya sits there anxiously looking around the class.

Karan is a enthusiastic first bencher sitting with his gang
of boys.

Karan is narrating a story while the other two are
listening, his desk partner is busy looking at Jaya. Karan
smirks and gives a tight slap at the back of his head. They
all burst into a mean laugh. Boys reaction

TEACHER

(claps twice)

Okay we'll be introducing ourselves
with an adjective that best
describes us. But the rule says
that it should only start with the
first letter of your name!

Children start talking among themselves. Some whisper in
each others ears. Jaya feels nervous alone.

TEACHER

Let me go first! My name is I am
Perfect Pushpendra. Well, it can
also be pretty poignant or even
persistant. But I think "perfect"
sums it up nicely.Right?

(CONTINUED)

Two boys seated next to Jaya look at each other with a side eye

BOY
GHANTA!

The other two boys laugh with closed mouths!

TEACHER
Okay now, Let's start with
welcoming our new student. Jaya!

JAYA
(looks around anxiously)

The whole class turns around to look at Jaya. She gulps in hesitation and stares at the teacher with a dumb struck face.

TEACHER
Jaya?

JAYA
(SAYS IT WITH A LISP)
My name is Jittery Jaya.

TEACHER
Oh sweetie, you don't need to be
jittery. Right class? C'mon tell us
something about yourself

JAYA
I like to swim

KARAN
(mimicks Jaya)
My name is Jaya...I like to Swim!

CLASS
(laughs)

TEACHER
Stop laughing class..And Karan that
is exactly the kind of behaviour
that I won't be tollerating!

Karan and his gang are trying to control their laughs.

TEACHER
Students! Jaya is a "Special child"
And I want you all to help her.
Okay?

Students nod.

(CONTINUED)

TEACHER VO

So, Girls it's your duty to take her to the washroom and have lunch with her. And the boys should take her to the library and computer class. Done?

We see the children looking back at Jaya. Chattering amongst themselves. Some of them are nodding.

TEACHER

Students tell me.. will you do this?

CLASS

YES MA"AM!

TEACHER

Good! Now who's going next?

Jaya's face falls she clenches onto her uniform, and presses her teeth in anger and anguish.

EXT. PLAYGROUND. DAY

Children are playing in the breaktime. Some students are eating their lunch together. They are sharing their tiffins and talking to each other.

Jaya is standing amongst a group of five girls. They all are talking amongst themselves while Jaya stands with them in a circle.

They girls stare at a handsome boy playing. He turns around and smiles. The girls giggles and start talking amongst themselves again. Jaya tries to say something but it remains unheard.

She looks disheartened, she looks around and sees Hari sitting in a corner alone. Bored to death.

CUT TO

INT. CLASSROOM. DAY

Jaya is in class; she is struggling to write in her notebook. She looks around the class. All students are writing fast. She has a helpless face.

INT. CLASSROOM. DAY

We hear the school bell ring. Children packing their things and leaving the classroom.

A bunch of boys are throwing the ball around and it hits Jaya. her whole body makes a jerk, she is startled. She starts to bend over to pick the ball when one of boys quickly comes and takes it.

Jaya opens her mouth to say something but he has already left and resumed his game.

All students are leaving in groups; Jaya sits there staring mindlessly at the floor with a numb face.

HARI

Yaha dahi ki tarah kya jami huyi
ho? Ab nahi jana ghar?

Jaya keeps her bag in her lap and tries to wheel herself out.

Hari quickly comes forward and starts wheeling her out.

EXT. SCHOOL GATE . DAY - CONTINUOUS

Rajal waves hello and crosses the road. Jaya and Hari stand by the gate.

RAJAL

Aur fir? Mazze aye?

JAYA

(annoyed)

Mein yaha nahi aungi..KABHI NAHI
AUNGI!

HARI

par Kyu?

RAJAL

kisi ne kuch kaha kya?

HARI

Nahi sir...bohut ae badiya bache
padhte hai yaha

JAYA

GHANTA!

(CONTINUED)

RAJAL

Jaya! Ese baat karte hai badho se?

Rajal takes her pink bag and bottle. He looks at Hari

RAJAL

bhai saab Pehle hi din ye sab seekh
gayi..age pata nahi kya kya hoga.
huh?

Hari breaks into a soft laugh, while Rajal starts wheeling her out.

EXT. SCHOOL GATE . DAY - NEXT MORNING

The school bell rings, all kids run back to classes in lines. He waits for Jaya to come. He anxiously looks at the watch. He peeps outside the gate, and looks around.

After a while he decides to lock the entry gate. As he begins to put the lock, Rajal and Arpita knock at the gate.

Hari quickly unlocks the door and lets Jaya inside. He grabs her bag and bottle, Rajal and Arpita apologise and wave goodbye. Jaya rolls her eyes and exhales in dismissal.

HARI

Kehte kehte hai na koshish karne
vallo ki har nahi hoti

JAYA

han bas bezti hoti hai

Hari laughs and wheels her inside in excitement.

INT. CLASSROOM. DAY

On a classroom blackboard, the teacher writes with chalk.

TEACHER

(WRITES AS SHE TALKS)

when we add 5 x by 3 x minus 3 with
6 by x plus 2. We will..

Karan looks at the board and moves his pen trying to act smart.

KARAN

(thinkingly)

get 5x square plus 10 x plus 18 x
minus 18

(CONTINUED)

TEACHER
well yes, because we multiplied $5x$
with..

Karan folds his hands in pride.

KARAN
And the denominator sums up to $3x^2$
square plus $6x$ minus $3x$ minus 6

The teacher writes on the board as he dictates the answer.
She turns around with an irritated face. A student stares at
the blackboard with sleepy eyes. A girl tears her page in
anger

KARAN-VO
Which obviously cancels down to $5x^2$
square plus $28x$ minus 18 divided by
 $3x^2$ square plus $3x$ minus 6

She keeps her left hand on her waist and stares at Karan.

TEACHER
Right! but what if I say that this
equation equals to 5 by 3 . Then
what will be the value to x ?

Children start scribbling their notebooks. Karan starts to
do mental maths with his wierd hand gestures.

JAYA- VO
 8 by 23

Karan turns around in shock. The teacher quickly turns to the
back of the book to check for the answer.

TEACHER
 8 by 23 is correct. Excellent Jaya.
That was really fast. Now lets see
how we got that answer...

Jaya smirks at Karan.

INT. CLASSROOM. DAY - SAME DAY

Jaya take out her lunch with utmost difficulty. She opens it
after the fourth try. Jaya exhales.

JAYA
this is exhausting

She starts eating when we hear a knock.

(CONTINUED)

HARI
(eager)
Arre Tum yaha baithi ho! Voh vaha
wait kar raha hai tumhara

JAYA
kon?

HARI
Vitamin D aur kon?

Hari takes charge of her wheelchair handle. Jaya looks surprised and confused.

JAYA
That has to be the worst joke, I've
ever heard

Hari has already wheeled her out of the class.

EXT. SCHOOL GROUND. DAY

She is visibly annoyed that he forced her to come out of the classroom and have lunch. Jaya sits there in the sun staring at all other children. We see a boys team a girls team playing football.

JAYA
(sarcastically)
Footbaal khilane laye ho?

HARI
Aur kya!

JAYA
aap... Sarcasm nahi Jante ho kya ?

HARI
Tum satta lagana janti ho?

Jaya makes a confused face.

JAYA
satta lagana banned hai

HARI
Voh to crorepatiyon log ke liye

JAYA
The Law is same for everyone

(CONTINUED)

HARI
tum ladkiya bohot sochti
ho yaar..isiliye dekhna ye
match bhi har jaogi

JAYA
Oh please! AAPKE ye loser
boys ki team harne wali hai

HARI
Achiya betiya! Theeek hai! Dekhte
hai! decide karlo tum... konsa gana
gaogi?

JAYA
Gana? konsa gana?

HARI
Har gayi toh gana gana padega

JAYA
(mutters)
bolna toh ata nahi hai, gana
gavayege mujhse

HARI
Arre GOAL! Goal hogaya! dekha
tumne? goal pad gaya hai bahi

Jaya gets worried. The boys are charging towards the goal post, when a girl catches hold of the ball and starts charging towards their goal post.

JAYA
Casatta bohot pasand hai mujhe

Hari looks at her with a side eye and a half smile.

JAYA
(shouts)
GOAL!

HARI
Abbe yaar..iss motalle ko kyu
banaya hai goally. Hil hi nahi raha
hai ye

Jaya slowly turns to him and smirks. She runs her eyes up and down and gigles.

HARI
Kya kheer kheer kheer kar rahe ho?
Match pe dhyan do!

She spots a group of mean girls laughing at her and whispering in each others ears. They all signal a heart sign. Jaya gets frustrated while Hari is busy watching the game with utmost enthusiasm.

JAYA
mujhe class jana hai
(offended)
kiyu?

JAYA
koi kaam dhanda nahi hai aapko?

HARI
Yahi toh kaam dhanda hai humra

JAYA
koi khelta hai kisi watchman ke
sath?

HARI
Tumko Nahi baithna hai humre sath
beta?

JAYA
NAHI!

Hari looks at her with a straight face. Jaya is annoyed.

EXT. SCHOOL GATE . DAY - CONTINUOUS

The school hours have ended and Hari is at the gate wishing the teachers "good afternoon". The two teachers walk by without noticing him.

He stands there lonely, and leans over to the wall. He waves goodbye to kids but they ignore him and walk ahead.

Jaya is noticing this from afar. As the teacher wheels her closer to the gate. She stares at him while he tries to avoid eye contact.

EXT. SCHOOL GATE . DAY - NEXT MORNING

Jaya enters the school gate with Arpita. She looks around to find Hari. He stands there in the corner.

Jaya waves at him, and he waves back. She holds her ears and signals sorry. Hari smiles.

She lights up to see Hari walking towards her.

(CONTINUED)

HARI
Rahiman dhaga friendship ka man
todo chatkaye

JAYA
Aap kitne tum dramtic ho, Please
chup ho jaye.

Hari smirks.

EXT. PLAYGROUND. DAY - MONTAGE SEQUENCE

At recess, Hari is standing; leaning both hands on Jaya's wheelchair. Jaya and Hari are eating ice creams while watching the game.

Hari's ice cream drips down to Jaya's face. She gets mad and yells at him. Hari breaks into a laugh. She hits him with her little hands.

INT. CLASSROOM. DAY - MONTAGE SEQUENCE

In the hallway Hari is walking outside Jaya's classroom. He looks at her and peeps inside her class.

Jaya raises her hands with all the other students and answers the question.

Hari smiles at her enthusiasm.

EXT. SCHOOL GATE . DAY - MONTAGE SEQUENCE

In th morning Jaya comes smiling. Hari and Jaya do tha classic fist bump. While Hari does a namaste, Jaya dabs. Hari tries to copy the dab.

INT. LIBRARY. DAY

In the library Hari is reading "BAL BHARTI". He recites a poem dramatically. Jaya listens with a bored face with her hands on her head.

JAYA
Kya? Matlab kya hai iska

Hari smiles and reads ahead.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY. DAY

When the school gets over. Everybody is walking in the corridors. Hari and Jaya make their way and run in the corridors with excited smiles on their face. Students stare at them as they pass by.

A teacher catches them and stops them. Hari and Jaya's happy faces turn into worried faces. The teacher scolds them. She signals him to take her to class. As she leaves, Jaya does her impression of her scolding. Hari and Jaya burst into a big laugh.

INT. CLASSROOM. DAY- YEAR LATER

Jaya's parents are sitting across the teacher. On the board it's written "PARENT TEACHER MEETING"

TEACHER

Your daughter has impressed me the most. She is a brilliant Brilliant child.

ARPITA

That's great

Arpita looks at Rajal. Rajal looks at her with wide eyes and an impressed face.

Jaya is outside the classroom, in the hallway listening to the conversation. She smirks in pride.

TEACHER

My only concern is that she lacks some serious social skills.

Arpita looks confused.

RAJAL

Esa nahi hai ma'am voh try karti hai..

TEACHER

No she's not trying! The only person she talks to is OUR WATCHMAN. Do you know about this?

ARPITA

Ya

Rajal and arpita share a look.

(CONTINUED)

TEACHER- VO
Aapko theek lagta hai ye?...Well,
anyway it doesn't matter now, I
hear he's leaving!

ARPITA
He LEAVING!

RAJAL
Par kyu

TEACHER
God knows why!

TEACHER
Trust me its a good thing! This
will push her to make new friends
IN her class. Don't you think?

Jaya gets angry she looks down the hallway. In frustration she tries to push the wheelchair. She fails and tries to stand.

She leans on the wall and stands up. She begins to walk in her crooked way. She tries to balance her legs and takes a few steps in frustration. She falls down on her face, with clenched eyes. A few students circle around to pick her up.

EXT. SCHOOL GATE . DAY - CONTINUOUS

Jaya's parents and Jaya walk towards the gate. Jaya has a bandage on her forehead. Hari sees them coming, he has a worried expression.

HARI
ye konsa dangal karke ayi ho?

RAJAL
Bas..Tumhare jaane ki baat sunke
nikal padi ye daudne

HARI
Ab tum bhaga dhodi karne lagi?

JAYA
Kyu mein nahi bhag sakti?

HARI
(exhales)
Bhago bahi bhago, humare toh ab
sustane ke din agaye hai.

Hari streches his arms and exahales.

(CONTINUED)

JAYA

Bhaiya aap kya sach mein jaa rahe ho?

HARI

Arre hum batane valle the tumko!
Apne gaon mein ek dukan le liye
hain. Abse aram se pasarenge kursi
pe ..

JAYA

sirf apne bare mein sochte ho na
aap!

HARI

Arre tumko toh khush hona
chahye..abse koi chidayega nahi
tumhe

JAYA

koi farak nahi padta mujhe unse

HARI

Padna chahiye! Yah! toh tumhare
dost hai

JAYA

Aap dost nahi ho mere?

HARI

toh kya zindagi bhar mujhse hi
batiyaogi?

JAYA

Aur kya

HARI

Beta yah! time hai...naye dost
dhundne shuru kardo

JAYA

Mein kyu dhundu? Un sab ko mujhse
baat nahi karni hai toh na kare!

HARI

Tumhe kaise pata unhe nahi karni
hai?

JAYA

Sab haste hai hai mujhpe class
mein! Meine bataya tha na..

(CONTINUED)

HARI

Arre Gadhi! jo special hote hai na,
unki hi acting hoti hai. Amitabh
Bachan ki mimickery nahi sunni?

JAYA

Koi special veshal nahi hu mein!
Bas aapko hi lagata hai esa

HARI

log tumhe jante nahi hai isiliye
unhe idea nahi hai ki tum kya
cheez ho

JAYA

Mujhe koi aur friend nahi chahiye,
aap ruk jao na

HARI

Mujhe jana hi padega beta..Tumhari
jaisi humko bhi ek gudiya huyi ha.
Uske liye jana padega? ki nahi
jana padega?

Jaya stares at him.

JAYA

Jao.. Acha hi hai..Tumhari second
hand shayari se chutkara milaga
mujhe

HARI

**Apne khayal rakhna. Jada ice cream
mat khana, warna har jagah khasti
firti ho tum.**

Hari messes her hair with love. Rajal wheels her out. Hari's
face falls. Jaya looks back and waves. Hari waves back with
a big smile.

EXT. SCHOOL GATE . DAY - NEXT MORNING

Rajal wheels Jaya to the gate. Jaya has worried expression.
The place where Hari used to stand everyday waiting is now
empty.

INT. CLASSROOM. DAY - SAME DAY

In a quiet class, children are taking out books from their bags. A student is flipping the book in lazily.

TEACHER

Turn to page 256, we're starting
the sixth chapter.

Rhea, is a clumsy; doe eyed child sitting in the next row alone. She is looking through the books in her bags with a scared look. She looks around worried. She keeps her bag down.

Her empty desk catches Jaya's attention. Jaya extends her shaking hand and pokes Rhea. Rhea looks at her confused. Jaya signals her to come sit with her and share the textbook. Rhea gets up and sits next to her. She smiles at Jaya and start reading the book.