

EXTRACT

dark side

By

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Cast

KUSH a mountain climber

VIHAAN his brother

PRANITA their sister

Time

Early morning.

Settings

Attic.

Attic. Day.

Black. We hear “Money” by Pink Floyd from the album ***The Dark Side of the Moon***.

Lights come up on **KUSH** sitting on a chair, he holds the album cover in his hands.

VIHAAN enters. He stops when he sees his brother. They look at each other. **KUSH** goes to a record player in the corner.

VIHAAN: It’s okay. Leave it on.

KUSH: I’ll just turn it down.

KUSH TURNS THE MUSIC DOWN.

KUSH: Dad’s favourite. I forgot how many of these old records he had.

VIHAAN: He loved them.

KUSH: Rock on.

BEAT.

VIHAAN: Didn’t realise you were up. Do you want something to eat?

KUSH: Later.

VIHAAN: How are you feeling?

KUSH: Tired.

VIHAAN: How long was the flight?

KUSH: Long.

VIHAAN: Where were you again?

KUSH: K2.

VIHAAN: Where is that again?

KUSH: Pakistan. China. Depends who you ask.

VIHAAN: I'm asking.

KUSH: We went up from the Chinese side. The *harder* side. So China.

VIHAAN: Why do they call it K2?

KUSH: Killer two.

VIHAAN: What?

KUSH: It has the second highest fatality-to-summit ratio.

VIHAAN: Which has the first?

KUSH: Annapurna.

VIHAAN: Where's that?

KUSH: Nepal. Are you actually interested in any of this?

VIHAAN: Sure. Why is it really called K2?

KUSH: Good old Tommy Montgomerie.

VIHAAN: Who?

KUSH: He was a surveyor from the Great Trigonometric Survey, the Brits, rah rah, all that. He found these two mountains and labelled them K1 and K2. Later he found out K1 was known locally as Masherbrum.

VIHAAN: And the other one?

KUSH: It didn't have a name. Too remote. They couldn't see it from the ground. So K2 stuck. Some people called it Godwin-Austen or Chhogori but I prefer ...

VIHAAN: K2. Doesn't anybody ever climb the other one? Masher ...

KUSH: Masherbrum.

VIHAAN: Yeah.

KUSH: Why?

BEAT.

VIHAAN: So what was the cause this time? There's always a cause isn't there.

KUSH: MND. Motor -

VIHAAN: Nueron Disease. I know. One of the conditions dad didn't suffer from. How did it go?

KUSH: Good.

VIHAAN: A success?

KUSH: Yep.

VIHAAN: Raise some money?

KUSH: A bit.

VIHAAN: Cool. (BEAT) You don't talk a lot these days. I mean you're very minimalistic with your words.

KUSH: Did I ever?

VIHAAN: Once.

KUSH: Unlike you.

VIHAAN: At least I speak.

KUSH: There's not a lot of need for words.

VIHAAN: Really?

KUSH: Up there. On the mountain.

VIHAAN: But there are other climbers right? (MAKING QUOTATION MARKS WITH HIS HANDS) *On the mountain*. You're not climbing alone. You need to communicate with them ...

KUSH: Signs.

VIHAAN: What?

KUSH: We use signs. Up there – you can't hear each other. Words don't work.

VIHAAN: But you're not on the mountain now.

KUSH: True.

BEAT.

VIHAAN: You know I had actually forgot ...

KUSH: Forgot what?

VIHAAN: How much of a wanker you are.

KUSH: Thanks, bro.

VIHAAN: You're like a character on Succession.

KUSH: What's that?

VIHAAN: A series on HBO. You should watch it. It's about a really fucked up family. Two brothers, one sister. Dead dad. Almost dead dad.

KUSH: (LAUGHS) Just like us.

VIHAAN: Except they have a lot more money.

KUSH: If they have a lot of money then they are definitely not like us.

VIHAAN IS SILENT.

KUSH: And you know what I had forgotten – how much of an uptight dick you were.

VIHAAN: Thanks, bro. (BEAT, LEAVING) Anyway, thanks for coming. Dad would be honoured by your presence.

KUSH SNIGGERS.

VIHAAN: What?

KUSH: You always do this. And you say I can't communicate.

VIHAAN: Tell me.

KUSH: Whenever you hear something you don't like you just throw your toys out of the cot and storm out.