

# Rain in the rocks

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some one leaves as someone enters her life but it is still dark all around. The darkness grows like a monster both inside and outside her when someone holds her hand .but who is he and why has he come? is it to pull her more into the darkness or to bring her out of it.



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Rain in the rocks

## **Table of Contents**

Rain in the rocks Chapter 1

The girl who never smiled

THE RETURN

black to the memory

THUNDER AND LIGHTENING

# Rain in the rocks : Chapter 1

## RAIN IN THE STONES

### Chapter 1:"Will you dance with me?"

"Will you dance with me?" he said

"I am not a dancer."Ianswered bitterly trying to avoid his offer.

"What are you then?"he asked inquisitively.

This sudden question made me think.

"An artist"i answered after a while.

He smiled and then said"Then lets paint the rain with your colours".

I looked at him trying to figure out who he was even as he was dragging me into the rain that dropped like warm fire all around me.

We painted the rain all right .Painted it with fire from the sparks that emanated from between us each time our eyes collided and lashed at one another like the dark clouds that thundered above.

"What are you?"this time it was me asking the question.

I tried to search the answer in his eyes just as he focused them at me with vigour .

"Your inspiration"he answered simply.

That night the rain never stopped nor did the thundering sky.

Each time the sky broke down with the heart wrenching thunder his face came to me like the flash of a lightning .

It went on like this the entire night untill the flashes became a constant picture before my eyes that refused to disappear.

Next morning I woke up with a massive hang over.Last night I drank for the first time when the warm liquid went down my throat like a warm hand closing my eyes to the harsh cold reality.However this morning everything came back with a vengeance.

I closed my eyes when the sound of the phone ringing last night came to my ears like everything was retelling itself in front of me.

It was mom calling me.

I was surprised for I have never seen that name flashing in my cell phone for a quite some time now even if it was stored in it with a hope.She never called me after the night I decided to give up my studies and join animation.It was a decision that made me step out of the house at the age of sixteen and struggle my way into the world ahead.

I was at the party from my office and it was 2 o clock in the watch .

"Hello mom." I spoke after ten years.

"This is her neighbour"a strange voice answered.

She said something about her name but I did not pay much attention for I was very curious to know as to what was she doing with my mom's cell phone.

There was a silent beat that my heart missed for it knew even before my brain realized that there was something wrong.

"Your parents"the voice spoke again.

"The house was on fire while they were sleeping"she was barely making sense to my ears.

"We tried to put off the fire but we saw the fire to late.By that time the fire has gulped almost the entire house"she was barely breathing and her voice came out in small gasps.

I felt like i was grasping my way in the darkness desparately trying to understand what was in front of me.

"The fire brigade came in too late"she said silently.

The words came like cold water .

## Rain in the rocks

"Where are they?" I shouted terrified not really prepared to know the answer.

"Not in this world anymore." she replied softly .

"WHY?" I asked like a child who refused to face reality.

"I am sorry." she said appologetically and hang over.

I grabbed a glass of whiskey from over the bar forgetting my resolve never to touch hard drinks.

I went outside in the porch where it was raining heavily.

i gulped down whatever there was in the glass and looked at the sky as a single word repeated itself in my mouth "WHY?"

"CONGRATULATIONS" someone came from behind and shook my hand.

"Girl you have just earned the project of everyone's dream.i ENVY YOU" Anna my colleague and friend said with a smile.

I just stod there like a rock.

"I need to go now.It is getting late.Thought I would congratulate you once more before leaving."

she continued smiling.

She turned to leave when she suddenly turned back and looked at me smiling

"Guess you could call your mom and dad now?They will be proud believe me."she said holding my hand reassuringly.

The sky broke open it's breast in a blinding flash of lightning making me wish I could tear open mine too for they were caging a wild beast at that moment that threatened to come out and lash itself on the world destroying everything in the process.

I was busy burning my soul when I heard his voice.

"Will you dance with me?"

picture of the guy dancing with her in the rain.....

I was busy burning my soul when i heard his voice.

"will you dance with me?"

## Chapter 2: The girl who never smiled

### ***THE GIRL WHO NEVER SMILED***

I remembered the letter I had left in my bed before leaving the house, my home till then.

*Mom and Dad*

*I never thought I had to choose between my dream and my parents but now I had to decide. You have brought me in this crossroad. I know you people wanted me to be a doctor and I know the reason why. It is because that Dad had suffered from heart problem from a very young age and because we were not financially well off then we could not afford good doctors and hence his health had to pay the price. Both of you dreamt that one day I will be a doctor and will be the solution to your problem. I at that time wanted that too but not anymore. I do not know if by being a doctor I could have solved your problems but I certainly wouldn't have solved mine. I know I am being selfish by leaving you guys but both of you have left me with no choice.....*

Ahana

I came back to the present only to realize that they have again left me with no choice either.

Somehow I stumbled into the bathroom and found myself emptying up all that had been in my stomach into the basin. However it was not my first hangover but more the blow of my parents' death that made me weak. I looked up in the mirror to look at a ghastly figure standing with bloodshot eyes and dark circles but somehow I did not cry. Tears just could not find their way.

All these years I have hardened myself little by little for this rough world but today when the harsh morning light entered my room it felt like it had penetrated all those walls, burning my very soul.

I had no one to blame, no friend to cry on. Once I had left home I felt I have been betrayed by the two most closest people in the world and hence did never allow any one to come close to me. I had many acquaintances but no friends.

Except that stranger in the rain..... It was like I was in a trance when he came and dragged me. It was like I had given everything up and wanted to escape the reality when he provided me with a few minutes of an alternate mirage where there were this girl and boy dancing passionately in the rain and nothing had gone wrong in their world.

Behind there was a phone ringing but I just did not care. My world has suddenly become so small that it was choking me down.

I slumped into the bathroom floor.

"I don't believe this" I heard someone's angry voice.

I felt something cold beneath me. I slowly tried to open my eyes and move my body which felt like it had been beaten by some stick in several places. Then I looked at two large pairs of eyes looking down at me with contempt.

"Oh come on. Get out of my house you lousy old fagg" I shouted knowing those large pair of hideous eyes belonged to Anshuman and yes he was gay.

This guy was not really my friend but he certainly did consider himself one and would persistently and irritatingly continue to extend his hand of friendship and practice this obnoxious right over me which he thought he had because he was my friend. Sometimes I wanted to make friends but then again I was always afraid and not ready to take another chance but the fact that he continued to try in spite of my resistance sometime somehow grew into me and so yes he is the only close friend that I have.

"You know you are the only one who could call me that to my face and get away with it right?" he sounded furious now.

"Whatever" I muttered under my breath. I was past all caring now.

"Ahana get up and tell me what happened or I will pull you out of the bathroom in your sleeping suit and throw you out of the house just like that" the moron just could not shut up.

"This is my house you know that? Also what made you think I would tell you what is wrong with me. I will call the police and tell them that you are harassing me if you don't let me sleep right now." I spat back as loud as I can.

"That is it. You have tried my patience" he said and suddenly picked me up bridal style.

## Rain in the rocks

"Oh my god"what are you doing.I was completely horrified.

"Are you on drugs or something?"I was screaming with a full lung and kicking and punching him .It did not matter though for he was huge and a hunk.Girls drooled over him but he was just not inerested only I knew why.

He laid me in the bed and set me up with a glass of water.I was just about to open my mouth protesting when he gave me a death glare.Even though I did not consider him my friend right now his presence was comforting and I did not want to see him go .Of course the fool would not leave so easily either.

After I finished the glass he spoke softly"Do you want a demotion for you certainly could not go any higher than this in your career.I dont know people go into depression after achieving the one big goal in their life."

"You are never happy Ahana.You work so hard for the job .You are damn good at it to but no matter how much success you get I have never seen you happy .You have never smiled since the day I could remeber.You would just accept your success with a nod."he continued in his one big boring irritating monologue.

I did not speak .I just looked throught the window outside.I saw my parents out in the garden playing with a little girl dresses in alittle blue frock with bows tied to her ponytail.Dad was desparetly running after that kid but the kid just wont stop.The kid was running everywhere and my mom was sitting in the grass watching both of them, smiling.The kid suddenly fell .Dad ran to the kid picking her up holding her against his chest.THE kid looked up at Dad and smiled with all its teeth for the kid was not afraid .She had her dad holding her why would she?

That kid smiled all the time but I did not.

"Ahana"Anshuman brought me back to reality.

"What?"I asked irritated.

"I can understand something is very wrong.What is it?Tell me ."he pleaded.

I opened my mouth to tell my story for the first time and before I realized there were huge drops of water pouring from my eyes.

It rained after a long time.....

## Chapter 3: THE RETURN

### *The Return*

"Here." Anshuman said as he held my drawing book in front of me.

I looked up at him and knew what he wanted me to do.

I took the pencil out from my bun and started to scratch something in the book.

"It is not bad to live your dreams Ahana and we being animation artists, our dreams are not easy." he said in a monotone.

I simply looked at the book where my hands continued to scratch more lines.

"We all have fought with our family at some point of time to make them believe that we can make our future in this direction of work" Anshuman continued to try to take away my guilt.

"Fought and gone back" I said silently.

"They have always been in my mind no matter how far I went from them. I always had a hope that I will return" I said as I looked at Anshuman who sighed knowing in spite of all his attempts he could not take the guilt away.

"How do you know him?" Anshuman asked suddenly.

I saw him staring at my drawing book. I looked down to see my sketch. Those lines I was sketching have organised themselves into a face. Even I did not realize it until now.

It was the stranger I had met in the party.

Suddenly the phone started ringing.

"That thing just won't shut up." I groaned.

"I will get it" Anshuman said.

I heard him pick up the phone in the hall.

"Yes this is Ahana Banerjee's house" Anshuman spoke.

"Police?" he asked startled.

Then he came back into my bed room and handed the cordless to me.

"You need to take this one Ahana" he said seriously.

"What are they going to arrest me now?" I asked sarcastically.

"Might as well do that" I muttered in an undertone as I took the phone.

## Rain in the rocks

"Ahana Banerjee."I heard a curt voice from the other end ask me.

"Yes."I replied trying to pull my former confidence and strength in my voice.

"This is officer Avinash Pande from the Kolkata Police Department".

"I think you are aware of the situation under which your parents died ?"he asked.

"Yes I am."I replied wondering what in the world is this man trying to get at.

"Well do you know that the fire that burned your house and your parents was not an accident but put on by someone deliberately?"he asked suspiciously.

"What?"I cried out loud.

I could feel the my blood rushing upto my head.

"I was wondering if you could come to kolkata and meet us at the Kolkata police station.We have to investigate the matter thoroughly and hence we will be needing all the information we can get.I am hoping you will be able to provide us with some information."he finished

My blood by that time was boiling like hot lava.I wanted to kill the person who did this.Who took away my opportunity to return back home.Before this I just wanted to drown myself,throw myself off a cliff , but now I will not die alone .Even if it is the last thing I will do I will take him with me to hell.

"Miss Ahana, also we have been able to retrieve some of the stuffs from the house.it might not be worth much but I think you should have a look at it"his voice brought me back to reality.

"I will come right away Officer"i replied curtly.

I had job to be done and no matter what I do I will see the end to this.

Mumbai was drowning in the floods of rain water when Anshuman's bike somehow managed to pass through between the heavy traffic and brave the clogged roads to reach the station.

I had packed right away and left for the station.I did not want to take anymore help from Anshuman but getting a cab in this whether was very difficult and hence I hoped onto his bike for a ride to the station.

I hopped into the train to Kolkata .I was finally returning home .Only this time there was just no home waiting for me there.Just some burnt ashes.

Anshuman sat beside me ,placing a bottle of water and some food in my hand before the train would start.

"I don't know what is going on Ahana but I really don't have a good feeling about it."Anshuman said to me looking tensed.

"There is nothing good going on Anshuman hence you dont feel good but things just cannot get worse for me anymore.I have already reached the bottom."

"Whoever have done that to your house Ahana is very dangerous.Don't do something foolish in your hunger for revenge."he warned.



## Rain in the rocks

"You will come back to Mumbai safely .Won't you?"he questioned more to himself than to me.

"There is no back for me Anshuman.It has been burnt .Now I just need to keep moving ahead till I meet the person who has done this."I replied.

The train was about to start.Anshuman hoped out."You wont be making a girlfriend during the time I will be gone honey .Will you?"I called out to him through the window hoping to lighten the mood.

I could see him crying when a small smile crept up his lips.

"You wish"he said smiling.

"Friend I will see you soon .Don't worry"I said aloud as the train started its journey....

## Chapter 4: black to the memory

### **Black to the memory**

The house stood like a black ghost of the colorful memory that I once called home.

No civil person was allowed to enter the house .It was secured and protected by the police and the whole site was still under investigation .

There were still charred black remains scattered everywhere .A certain black flake of burnt something flew with the wind and settled in my hand .When I tried to catch it ,it crumbled into nothing only leaving nothing behind but a black mark in my hand.There is nothing left for me in this place.I turned away.

"In the beginning we thought it was an accident" officer Avinash Pande explained to me .I was in the Kolkata Police Station trying to figure out what was going on in my life and put the pieces of the puzzle together.

"However we were carrying on our routine searches of the entire place when we got evidences that the fire might have been deliberately lit and not accidentally"he concluded.

"Where are my parents?"I asked with a mirage of a hope .Hope that was still holding back the flood of emptiness.

Officer Avinash sighed deeply."Their bodies have gone for postmortem in the forensic lab ."he stopped abruptly .He looked like he was trying to frame the words he wanted to say further.

"Their bodies were burnt beyond recognition.The bodies were found in their bedroom .Probably they were deep in their sleep when this happened .Also their windows were all closed because of the winter.So the carbon monoxide might have killed them even before they could wake up."he finished in one breath.

It was bodies to him but these bodies were my parents.

I was listening to him like it was a story for it sure did not feel like it has happened in reality ,in my own life.I heard but my brain hardly processed any of the information .He was describing to me the death of my parents.How could this possibly be true.

However I forced myself to sit there and listen to every word he spoke for I desperately needed to know who has done this.

"Your neighbour Mrs choudhury identified them by their clothes , the rings in their hands and some jewellery they were wearing."he said and looked at me like he was expecting me to breakdown any moment now. I did not deserve to break down .I did not deserve to cry and let out my pain.I deserved every bit of this intense suffering ,every bit of this guilt that was slowly chewing my insides. I had deserted them when they were alive ,severed all connections with them .They must have felt my need at some points in their life when I was nowhere near them.They loved me yet I forced them to live without me now God is forcing me to live without them.This pain was a constant reminder to me of all the times they needed me and I was not there.

"Miss Banerjee" Avinash Pande called out loud.

I shook out of my internal loathing and decided to do whatever it takes to find out who did this to my parents even if it is the last thing I ever do .

"I need answers officer" I finally said yielding my dominant tone at the officer.

"All you are providing me is with more questions" I spoke in a firm voice.

Officer Avinash seemed taken aback at my firmness for a moment but he quickly recovered .

"What made you think the fire was deliberate?" I asked waiting for his reply impatiently. Somehow I was feeling time was running out.The more I take time to reach that person the more it will be difficult to catch him.He was getting out of my reach.

"There were signs of breaking into the house through the kitchen window"he replied silently.

" We did not find any footprints or any finger prints inside the house for it was impossible to get any print in a house burnt so badly"he added.

"However we did find a pair of faint footprint towards the house through the backyard .Interestingly there had been three pairs of footprints leaving the house ,also through the backyard .There also had been some tire marks of a jeep in the road behind the house." Avinash Pande described me the evidences with a hint of glimmer in his eyes.It probaly must be one of the interesting cases of his life.However it was the one most devastating case of my life.

## Rain in the rocks

"You will do whatever it takes to get to the end of this and find out the person who had done this." I ordered him getting up from the chair for it was time to leave.

"I will give you whatever green you need ." I said leaning in a little closer .

"However if I don't get any results I will destroy you" I added saying each word distinctly and with equal vigour. I needed him to know that Ahana Banerjee was not someone he could fool around with.

"Miss Banerjee ,the only green I love and appreciate is those of the plants and trees that give my eyes calmness and my lungs oxygen" Avinash Pande said with a soft smile. He looked calm and composed.

It was my time to get surprised for there were not many that could stand before Ahana Banerjee and answer her back daring her in the eye.

"However I do assure you that I will do my job with my best efforts and will not rest till I find out who has done this." he continued.

"I will do this for it is my job and not an obligation nor a favour. " he finished as he shook my hands with his promise....

I KNOW THE CHAPTERS ARE GETTING SHORTER BUT THIS IS ALL I COULD MANAGE BETWEEN STUDIES AND TESTS...I AM HOPING TO MAKE LONGER CHAPTERS IN THE FUTURE THOUGH...

## Chapter 5: THUNDER AND LIGHTENING

### THUNDER AND LIGHTNING

#### IN ANOTHER PLACE (POV OF AN UNKNOWN PERSON)

"We need to kill the girl" I said in my commanding tone. My eyes were looking at the picture of the girl. Her pictures in the house that I have burnt were more lively. This one had a fire of anguish in them.

I looked up at the gang of members that I lead, all sitting around looking at me waiting for my order.

"Even if the police do rest the case she will not. The more days we allow her to breath, the closer she will come to finding the truth." I spoke in my most serious tone.

"You are right" my second in command Shatrughan said in agreement as did all the other members of the gang

.

"We are not just gang members but also eminent personalities in the societies. We have a reputation to keep. Keep at any cost. The truth about that night should remain buried deep in the ashes of the house never to be found again." Shatrughan concluded sounding desperate as were we all.

"What do you say about sending some of our men to silence her into grave?" Shatrughan said asking for my permission.

"No, I don't want any mistake. I will personally go and do what has to be done." I said silencing him.

"Already you have put yourself in much risk by burning the house by yourself. If the police finds any kind of fingerprint or other evidence you will be in danger." he said refusing to be silenced.

"You don't need to do all these ground jobs. We have people to take care of all these business and if you still have doubt I will go with them And ensure the job is done." he continued

"You know there is a reason why I am the leader of this group and you are the second in command" I said in my alpha tone giving Shatrughan a death glare. Sometimes people needed to be reminded about their position here.

"Your job is to silently follow the orders I give and not to order me to take decisions." I said unleashing the voice that made them all bow down before me.

Shatrughan looked down and so did all the others. If anyone else had any problem with my decision none of them would have the courage to contradict me now.

"That girl will have to die and die in my hands." I said with finality.

I needed air. I went up to the terrace. Evening was spreading its wings. The red ball of fire seemed like a soft blanket enveloping my eyes in its serenity. I closed them letting the calmness of the sunset seep into me and when I did close them I saw like a blinding flash that night.

That night in the rain. She was wearing a blood red colour dress. Her hair was let open flying everywhere with the howling wind. She was standing alone in the veranda outside the party. Her stillness a contrast to the lashing wind and thundering clouds. Her hand was extended outside catching the droplets of the rain.

"Will you dance with me?" I asked not really in control of myself which hardly ever happened.

She turned and when her eyes did set on me there was lightning in them as there was thunder in my chest.

.....

#### BACK IN KOLKATA

"Ahana how are you doing?" Anshuman asked softly over the phone.

I was standing in front of the Ganga river watching the sun set in its blood red hue among the dense water of the river.

"I don't find them in the stars Anshuman." I said to him hoping he might have some answer.

"What are you talking about Ahana?" Anshuman sounded taken aback.

I sighed deeply letting it flow with the wind that flew towards the river and join many others in their hopeless plea.

"Oh" he exclaimed suddenly realizing what I have said.

"Ahana they are with you, your parents. You don't need to find them anywhere. They are in every word you speak, in every breath you take, in every beat your heart pumps, in every thought you think." Anshuman's

## Rain in the rocks

words came as a fairytale that mesmerized the child who previously thought there were no fairies.

I could feel a tear drop roll and fall into the ground.

"How is the investigation going?"he asked suddenly."Are they any closer?"

"Not much yet but Inspector Avinash who is incharge of the investigation seems a capable man and is doing whatever it takes to find out the truth."I said recovering myself.

"Anyways I am not going to rest untill they give me answers. I keep going to the police station trying to learn new updates about the case."I said

Suddenly I remebered something ,"Do you know my phone is being tapped by the police?"I asked him.

"What?"He sounded a bit startled.

"Inspector Avinash claims that whoever have done this might try and contact me threatening me to close the case ."Isaid amused.

"oh"he said simply and remained silent for sometime.

I had not noticed before drowned in my oen state of vaccum.Anshuman did not sound his usual cheerful self today.Infact he sounded a bit forlorn.

"What happened to you man?"I asked concerned.I startled myself with the concern ,for my lack of interest in making friends have never given me the opportunity to be concerned about anybody other than myself.

"Nothing."Anshuman was just into monosyllables now.

I was on the verge of cracking another gay joke but decided against it.That maynot be the best thing to cheer him up.

"you know what I have just unfriended you from my list"I said finally.

"Girl you are one stubborn ass,"he said.

Ok that was insulting .I was only trying to help him.This friendship thing is frustrating.

"Ok whatever " I said ready to hang up the phone.

"Wait"he spoke sounding desperate.

"I will tell you when I meet you in kolkata and you will let me come to kolkata in return to help you"he said in one breath.

"Deal?" he asked again.

This guy should have been in business making a deal out of everything.

Never the less because I am such a saint ,I wanted to help him so I guess it would only be fare if I let him help me.

"Deal "I said

Rain in the rocks

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