

Jenga

Part 1 - Chumbak

Borivali ke Bunty aur Kandivali ki Babli ko iska katayi aabhaas na thha ki unka aaj ka din kitna khaas hone wala hai.

Apni nayi Firefox cycle pe style maarte hue, red signal ko green signal banaate hue, rickshaw, bus, truck, gaadiyon ki toliyon ke beech se cut pe cut maarte hue, Bunty ko intezaar thha Babli ke saath Borivali national park mein din bitaane ka. Babli ke liye, usne cycle ki rod pe ek alag, gaddedaar seat bhi lagwaayi thhi... kyunki Bumbai ke PG mein rehne waale aashikon ko kahaan mauka milta hai ki wo kareeb aakar, ek-dosre ki khushbu mein samaakar, akele sair pe niklein.

Up-down jaati bheed se lath-path local train ki kuchi hui romance ko palatne ka waqt aa gaya thha. Bunty ki Khushi chupaaye nahin chupp rahi thhi. Goggles, jo bhale hi local market se liya ho, par usmein style thha... aur Bunty ke mann mein, yeh aasha ki Babli ko wo pasandd aa jaayein... ki uske chehre se utaarkar Babli wo goggle pehen le, style jamaaye aur fir apne sapon ke raja ka

chehra waapas un goggles se sajaaye... usey dekhe, nihaare, aur kuchh toh aisa keh jaaye to aaj kya, poora hafta uska mann gud-gudaaye.

Babli bhi aaj ek tez bhaagti ghudsawaar si hawa pe sawaar thhi. Local train ki footrest pe khadi hokar, wo apne hawa mein behte baalon mein ishq ka har tinka batorkar, Bunty ko dene wali thhi. Aam-taur pe jise dishevelled ya 'bikhre baalon wala' look kehte hain, aaj usi look ke saath woh Bunty ke liye ek chumbak banna chahti thhi. Taaki bunty ki nazar na kisi aur cheez pe pade... na aur kisi par.

Baat toh milne ki thhi, saath ghoomne ki thhi, par dono ke mann mein ek hi sawaal thha. Kya yeh ghoomne ki, milne ki baat khud ghoomkar unhein kisi naye mod pe le aayegi? Kya aaj chumbak se ek darza oopar, choomne pe baat aayegi? Aur ho bhi kyun na? Aji, sab kuchh achha jo chal raha thha. Bumble dating app pe saikdon dating profiles to baaju sarka ke, mahino ki rat-jaggan aur salary ka khaasa hissa premium memberships pe luta ke, yeh dono aakhirkaar ek-dosre se mile thhe.

Bunty ko laga thha ki Babli 'Decent' aur 'Diva' ke beech kaafi umda tareeke se swing karti thhi. Beech-beech mein, kuchh aisa bhi pehen leti ki use babe kehne ka mann karta. Maano jaise teenon haathon mein laddoo... ya yunn kahein, ki ek haath mein pizza, ek mein Coke... aur teesre mein garlic bread... ab iss se addictive aur kya hi ho sakta thha! Aur saath hi, Babli ki wo kaayal muskaan bhi toh thhi, jispe na jaane kitne kookte koyal saahebaan meherbaan thhe. Par Babli ko toh sirf Bunty mein hi wo kadardaan dikha thha jo 'cool,' 'not-a-fool' aur 'civilized dude' ka sabse badhiya package offer kar raha thha. Zubaan se pakka, waqt leke khelne wala khilaadi... jiske saath romance se aage tak ki timeline maatr paanch minute lambi nahi, balki paanch mahine lambi, ya paanch saal, ya shaayad use bhi zyaada lambi khinch sakti thhi.

Na Bunty Bumbai mein bada hua thha, na Babli. Dono Naukri karne... aur apni azaadi kamaane... hazaaron meel door se Bumbai aaye thhe. Aur is be-rok-tok ke maahaul mein, ek doosre se milne pe dono ne apni pasand-napasand ka khul ke Izhaar kiya. Fir Churchgate station se Kandivali tak ka saath banne laga.

Uske baad, kayi dafaa Babli Borivali station tak Bunty ke saath jaati, aur fir Kandivali station waapas aati. PG waale poochhte toh keh deti, "Aaj boss ne rok liya... kya karoon...? Karna padta hai!" Par yeh koi kahaan jaanta thha ki aaj-kal Babli ka boss office mein baitha, corporate seedhiyaan chadhne ki koshish karta koi pyaada nahin, balki uska ashikana dil hai... jo na kisi bandish ko manta hai, na kisi ranjish ko!

Barhaal, Borivali station aate hi, rukti train se Babli jhat kar koodi aur bheed mein yunn gaayab hui, maano woh kabhi wahaan thhi hi nahin. Fir achaanak, woh foot-over-bridge ki seedhiyon pe dikhaaye di. Uski saansein aur kadmon mein aaj gazab ka taal-mel thha. Train ride bhale khatam ho gayi ho, wo abhi bhi hawa se baatein kar rahi thhi... maano kisi jaaduyi kaleen ne train ki jagah le li ho. Kyunki uske paas ek uddeshya thha. Jitni jaldi ho sake, woh Bunty se milna chahti thhi. Kyunki yeh Bumbai ki subah thhi... ko pal-dar-pal apni khaamoshi ka libaas utaar rahi thhi. Subah ke 6.30 baj chale the. Aadhe ghante mein Borivali National Park mein roz sair karne waalon ki ta-umrr bheed jamaa

hone wali thhi. Yeh aadha ghanta shaayad Babli ke liye is poore saal ka sabse ahem aadha ghanta thha. West Borivali se east Borivali tak ka yeh safar maano uske liye laal-cheentiyon ki dankon pe se hoke chalne baraabar thha. Waise toh laal rang use pasand thha, par aaj wo poore safed libaas main aayi thhi... maano swarg se utri koi pari ho. Ya yunn kahein, Bunty ki babe.

Highway cross karne ke pehle hi usey Bunty dikh gaya. Usne zor se haath hilaakar "Hi!" kaha. Bunty ne bhi apne haath failaaye, aur entry gate se thoda aage aake uski or ho liya. Mann to kar raha thha ki zor se pakad ke gale lagaa le, par use khayal thha ki Babli ko bachpan mein hue yon-shoshan ke kaaran tight hugs fande jaise lagte thhe. Isiliye khud bhi bas "Hi!" bolkar hi kaam chala liya. Ladka achha jo thha. Shaayad yahi wo wajah thhi ki itni khoobsoorat ladki uske jaise aam dikhne waale ladke ke saath thhi...! Mann mein yeh sab udhedbun liye, Banti ne paas aati Babli ko ek high-five diya. Ek taara chamka, jabki raushni ho chuki thhi. Babli ko samajh aa gaya ki Bunty usey paane ki latt mein itna madhosh nahin ki uski baare mein na soche. Babli ke mann mein

behti samvednaaon ne thoda zor ka rukh kiya. Uss pal mein, yeh aam dikhne wala Bunty, use kaafi aur pyaara lagne laga.

Dono ne us sankrey round gate se entry li, ticketein katwaayi aur sair pe chal pade. Babli ne uski cycle ko dekha, fir seat ko. Aur poochha, "Yeh cycle kyun leke aaye ho? Tum aage-aage aur main peeche-peeche, iske liye?" Bunty hansaa aur bola, "Nahi... nahi! Socha thha tumhein shaayad cycle ride pasand aayegi... Isiliye..." Babli ne fir se sawaal ka maanjha chhoda, "Aur yeh kya hai. Bachhon wali aagey ki seat. Yeh kyun lagwaayi?" Bunty ko laga ki seedhey keh de, "tumhaare liye"... par is baar bhi use apne mann ke kautuhal ko dabaakar, aaraam se kaha... "Kya pata, koi tendua peeche pad jaaye toh. Hum dono ko fir saath hi bhaagna hoga na! Tum chala lena, main is bachhe wali seat pe baith jaaonga!" Babli zor se hans padi, aur boli, "Baat... ghuma rahe ho!" Ek khaamoshi si chaa gayi. Par is khamoshi ke unkahe bol in dono aashikon ke badhte dil ki dhadkanon mein zor se sunaayi de rahe the.

Dono kaafi door aa gaye thhe. Aas-paas log bhi zyaada nahin thhe. Khamoshi todte hue, Banti ne Babli ki taraf dekha aur kaha, "Kaisa lag raha hai tumhein.... Mere saath... aur is stepni ke saath..." Babli ne chat jawaab diya, "Achha na laga hota, toh kya aati tumhaare saath itni door! Aur yeh stepni toh bhaingi hai. Humaare beech nahin aayegi!"

Cycle bhaisaab ko is samay thoda gussa aaya. Arey bhai, kuchh der pehle tak toh kya chamkaa rahe thhe...! Aur ab stepni... aur fir bhaiga bhi keh diya...? Chakke mein bas halki si toh taal thhi. Uske liye, itni bezaati? Baat kuchh sahi nahi lagi janaab! Ab stepni hoon... toh kabaab mein haddi bhi ban jaata hoon!" Aur sarsaraate hue, ek kadak ke saath, cycle ne rastey pe pade pattharon ko pehle aankh maari... aur fir apni chain sataak se tod di...!

Dono ne pehle tooti chain ke taraf dekha, aur fir ek-dosre ke. Ek Chanchal hansii mein dono sarabor ho gaye. Babli ko toh bas mauka chaahiye thha, Bunty ko chhedne ka. Usne pat se kaha, "Ab tendua kya, kutta bhi peeche padega toh sau ki speed se

bhaagna padega!” Is baar Bunty ne mann ka izhaar kar hi diya, “Doosra option hai ki hum dono datt ke khade rahein, saath-saath. Aur is cycle se tendue ki been baja daalein.” Yeh keh ke usne cycle dono haathon se uttha li, maano Hercules ki aulaad ho. Par kyunki wo waastav mein, sirf ek school teacher ka ladka thha, who thoda ladkhadaya. Aur usi samay, Babli ne cycle ka ek hissa pakad liya. Wo use ek-tak dekh rahi thhi. Corporate life mein, competition ko baaju karne waale Bunty Sharma, ab sharma rahe thhe. Kya kare, kya na kare, yeh sochkar uska gala sookha jaa raha thha. Atkheliyaan shuru ho chuki thhi. Pyaar ki lehrein apna rukh badal rahi thhin.

Aage pandrah minute mein jo kuchh hua, wo kehne ki zaroorat nahin. Bas samajh lejiye, ki teer theek nishaane pe lagaa thha. Aur zindagibhar ke saath ka sapna in dono ke saath miltey haathon se buna jaa raha thha. Subah ki oss ki har jhoolti boond inke pyaar ka aaina ban chuki thhi. Aur ab tak yeh aaina saaf thha. Ispe koi chhentein nahin thhe. Waqt ki dhool nahi thhi. Thhi toh sirf chamak, ek nayi shuruaat ki.

Saath baithe lag-bhag dedh ghanta ho gaya thha. Bunty to weekend pe bhi kaam thha. Aur Babli ko aaj, Saturday ko, kisi bhi tarah apna gas connection lagwaana thha. Isiliye dono ne waapas jaane ka rukh kiya. Par choonki, andar ka udweg abhi bhi jal raha thha, toh unhone return journey mein thoda aur adventure add karne ka socha. Sankri galiyon aur oonche-neeche teelon se hokar, woh apne ishq ki is subah ko aur yaadgaar bana rahe thhe. Haath mein haath daalkar, ek-doesre ko sahara dete, saath mein cycle ghaseet-tey who chal pade. Har kaantey se Bunty, Babli ko bachata... aur har chadhaayi pe Babli, Bunty ki taakat banti aur cycle ko dhakka deti. Aisa lag raha thha, ki dono ke is subah ne barabari ke saath ke taraazoo pe bilkul baraabar rakkhha ho.

Chaltery-chaltery kuchh bees minute ho gaye honge ki Bunty ne Babli ka haath zor se pakad ke use peeche kheench liya. Choonki dono ke beech bharosa ban chuka thha, Babli khaamoshi se Bunty ke paas aa gayi. Par jab usne Bunty ka chehra dekha, toh dekha ki wo sunn pad chuka thha. Bilkul Safed. Maano kisi ne

saara khoon nichod liya ho. Uska haath thaamtey hue, Babli apne pair ki ungliyon pe khadi hui. Aur fir khadi-ki-khadi reh gayi.

Saamne ek tendua thha, jo unhein tik-tiki lagaaye dekh raha thha. Par Bunty aur Babli tendue ko dekhkar utna nahi sakpakaaye thhe, jitna yeh dekhkar ki uske moonh mein kya hai. Banti aur Babli ke haath, fansey hue tala-chaabi banker reh gaye thhe. Lekin tabhi, phone ka WhatsApp bajaa. Aawaaz sun, tedua, apni trophy moonh mein dabaaye, bhaag khada hua.

Babli ne turant apna phone nikala aur number dial kiya. Aur stabdh khade Bunty ko, poori zor se kheenche hue khule rastey pe le aayi. Wahaan kuchh log jogging se laut rahe thhe. Sadak ke kinaare bane pavement pe Bunty ko baithaakar, uska haath thaame hue, Babli phone baat karne lagi. Par Bunty ko kuchh sunaayi nahin de raha thha. Uske dimaag mein sirf woh thha, jo usne abhi-abhi dekha thha. Pattharon pe base is aadi-kaal ke jungle mein... ab wo khud ek patthar ki dali ban chuka thha.