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Revelation

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The doorbell rang third time but Shruti was too tired to get up and open the door . After a dreary tiresome day she feel bogged down with the same monotonous routine of her life and to add more to her pessimistic mood she was alone at the home. Her four years old son was vacationing at her parents' home. She could feel the tenderness in her joints which refused to cooperate with her body. But knowing that there is nobody except her to answer the doorbell , she dragged herself and opened the door. she was surprised to see her husband Viraat standing at the door. He entered the house with a grumpy face complaining for Shruti's late response. She asks,' "how come you arrived so early today...and to this came a curt reply ,"guess I have committed a big mistake by coming early and therefore, should go back". Shruti immediately confessed for her stupid expression and said," I didn't mean that, in fact, I am very happy today for this lovely surprise". Shruti has always been complaining her husband all these seven years of their marriage for never spending any quality time with her. Earlier she considered that couples in arranged marriages take time to understand each other but she was disappointed when things continued to be the same even after the birth of their son Shivam.

As a wife sometimes she thought that she has failed to understand Viraat ,who was a gentle and kind- hearted man and a more devoted son and a dutiful and loving brother above all. But as a husband he was slightly introvert. He never shared any secrets or details related with him or his professional life with Shruti. But he was always been a patient listener to all the complaints and detailed account of the happenings in the entire day at home or outside, related to Shruti and Shivam. Moreover, whenever Shruti was nervous or worried regarding anything as her nature was most of the time , it was Viraat who use to calm her down by saying so many practical things and by giving her an entirely new perspective of thinking about that problem so that it no longer remained a problem anymore. Shruti was always dependent on her husband's opinion more than anyone else. She was never able to act or take any decision without his advice. Just like any devoted housewife her life revolved around her child and her husband- his career. his health, his problems, his happiness and his needs. Thus, she fulfilled all the criterions of a good wife as she was a dutiful wife and mother, for her, the family is the topmost priority in her life and above all she was beautiful and intelligent and well qualified and educated.

She hurriedly rushes to the kitchen to make Viraat's favorite mango shake which he was very fond of drinking. As her usual routine she kept on talking with Viraat from the kitchen with that little louder pitch and kept dropping in the bedroom in between from time to time if something was not audible to him. Shruti was very talkative and expressive both as a mother and as a wife. But Viraat as usual was busy

on his phone and even if not busy replying, in his usual monotone.... Hmm or Na.... Finally Shruti entered with a tray of fresh mango shake glass and sat beside Viraat continuing her usual chat regarding the progress and the proceedings of whole of the day. She asked Viraat whether he called up Shivam or not today as he was asking about him. But Viraat said that he didn't get the time in the whole of the day. Actually this was an excuse of not having to interact with the parents of Shruti. The fact was Viraat's family never treated Shruti's family with any respect, forget about formal hospitality. Their behavior with Shruti was also not very cordial since from the very initial days of her marriage . Their only motive was to see Shruti work like a maid servant with no hopes, desires or even a claim for little self-respect and love. Things turned so much turbulent many times but Viraat despite of being aware of all the facts never supported or stood by his wife's side. Shruti earlier use to get very upset with the disinterested behavior of Viraat towards her. But later as time passed, she tried to maintain the balance of her domestic life by starting to believe that Viraat keeps silent and ignores everything as he wants to maintain peace at any cost. But his silence has some other reason also which Shruti could never even think about in her dreams. Sometimes she felt Viraat too distant and sometime like he is her true better-half only. To her Viraat was a total enigma sometimes as his nature was quite unpredictable. Viraat as a father was a caring and adorable person. He shared an unusual bond with his son which was delightful and magical. Shruti was content with the fact that Viraat is a dutiful father. She has somehow compromised with all the gloomy and negative in her life for the sake of her small domestic world. Everytime something bad happens in her life, she tries to balance it by a strange kind of mutual understanding with herself that all will be well one day and that she should never give up her effort at any cost. For this she blindly trusted her husband. She was sure that Viraat will never let his domestic family suffer even in the most adverse of situation. But what she could not sense was the impending disaster which she could not see or probably didn't want to see.

She had no idea of that today's night is going to change her life forever....for good or bad who knows as she finished the household chores before retiring to bed she saw Viraat has already slept shattering her hopes of spending some good time together as usual. Inwardly, she could feel the pricks of his disinterestedness and coldness even when Shivam was also away and there is no drab normal routine to follow. Suddenly the phone's screen flashed with a message beep which disrupted her thoughts and she saw those words which she thought she misread. But guess destiny today wanted all her doubts to be cleared and all her questions to be answered. She could not believe the messages which flashed one after the other. It felt to her as if a dagger has been stabbed right in the middle of the heart and she could feel that waves of pain slithering all across her body. Her body shivered and she was barely able to speak or move. She was not ready to believe that it's not a dream and that she is awake. It was a truth that has revealed on her maneuvered domestic life as a thunderbolt clearing all the hazy and dark clouds with a sudden flash of light. Viraat is having a deep and serious love affair with some other lady who worked in his office .

A question arose in her mind WHY? For her it was a question on her individuality, a question on her loyalty, a question on her faith and blind love for Viraat. It changed something inside her as she saw her husband sleeping comfortably with no traces of guilt on his face. She takes the phone in her hand, goes out and closes the door behind her in silence...with a deep thinking as now everything was crystal clear and there was no obscurity. There was something smouldering with in her during all these years yet she ignored this, by considering her only as responsible for it. Her eyes splurged a stream of tears along with a tumult of unbearable pain and agony which were long repressed within the deep recesses of her heart. A sudden jolt shakes her out of this delirium and she gets up with a flash of lightening.....as a sound echoes within her, it's enough, it's over.....no more now....but what will happen to Shivam? His life, his future? Clueless and completely frazzled, multiple array of thoughts arise within her mind like the incessant waves unfurling at the shore one after the other. She stands there frigid like a statue as she experiences a sudden darkness in front of her eyes and suddenly the doorbell ringsas it is dawn outside.