

INDIGO

Adapted from
"Collected Short Stories" of Satyajit Ray

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EXT.AVLAHALLI FOREST. OUTSKIRTS OF BENGALURU - AFTERNOON
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EXTREME WIDE SHOT of blue sky with contrasting bright white clouds floating freely.

CLOSE UP SHOT of a yellow flower growing on the side of the road. A bee flies and sits on the petals of that flower. A beat later a car swooshes by and sways the flower uncontrollably.

CAMERA SWISH PANS from flower to the car as it drives away. It looks like a brand new Alto LXI silver model.

EXTREME WIDE SHOT of the forest along with the same car we saw earlier.

TRACKING SHOT of the car as it runs PARALLEL to the camera. The title "INDIGO" is revealed at the top 2/3rd of the screen.

INT.ALTO CAR - SAME

("Kannada music" is playing in the background)
CLOSE UP of the driver from the back seat. There is only one person in the car. CAMERA PANS to reveal the radio from which the music is playing.

I/E.CAR - SAME

MEDIUM SHOT from outside the car looking inside the clear front windshield. We see a man in his late 20's, clean shaven, medium hair cropped to his right and wears a rounded thin frames. His name is SATHYA. The camera VIBRATES along with the movement of the car.

INT.CAR - SAME

MEDIUM SHOT of SATHYA from his left side. Phone starts to go off. He picks it up.

POINT OF VIEW reveals the name on the display screen. It's FARHAN.

Phone call conversation begins:

SATHYA
Tell me Farhan.

FARHAN(O.S)
Where are you now?

SATHYA
I am in Avalahalli trial. It will take another 3 to 4 hours rive, if it does not rain.

A sharp CLINKING sound is heard on Sathya's right. A rain drop has hit his car's window. Sathya rolls down the window.

SATHYA(CON'T)
Why did I open my mouth?

FARHAN(O.S)
WHat happened?

SATHYA
It's starting to rain now.

Sathya puts out his hand and feels tiny droplets strike his palm.

FARHAN(O.S)
Wow! You must be lucky. You have a very lucky tongue.

SATHYA
It only works at the time of crisis and always against me.

We hear Farhan laughing at the other end.

SATHYA(CON'T)
Hope it doesn't rain heavily soon.
(realizing his mistake)
I shouldn't have said that.

FARHAN(O.S)
Look don't worry. Just drive safely. Everything will be fine.
(sarcastically)
Believe me, it won't rain heavily as you said.

SATHYA
(Annoyed)
You are making fun of me aren't you? Okay, I hope your cottage will be in good condition when I come there and see it.

FARHAN(O.S)
Hey! This is my brand new cottage I built here. I worked hard for it.

SATHYA
(Sarcastically)
Don't worry nothing will happen. Everything will be fine.

FARHAN(O.S)
You know what. For safety, I will go to temple and come. Need to lift the bad omen off of my cottage.

SATHYA
Dude, you are very superstitious.

FARHAN(O.S)
 Whatever. Let me know once you
 reach. Bye for now.

Phone call conversation ends.

SATHYA
 (Looking outside)
 Nah. I won't rain. Everything is
 just in your head.
 (Cranks up the music)
 Just in your superstitious min_ _

CUTS TO:

EXT.HIGHWAY - MOMENTS LATER

CLOSE UP of the K.M stone showing KOLAR 300km away. Now the rain is pouring down heavily. Bright day is gone and is replaced with dull wet weather.

Camera FOCUSES on the stone at first and the car approaching from distance comes in the focus range gradually and a loud THUD is heard. The rear wheel tyre has gone flat. The car halts.

INT.CAR - SAME

CLOSE UP of Sathya staring at the steering wheel and smacking on it which accidentally honks and gives sudden jerk to himself.

(Music stops)

CUTS TO:

EXT. UNKNOWN LOCATION - EVENING

This road the car has halted looks different than highway. Its narrower and kachha. There are small pot holes filled with rain water. Thick trees surrounds him for a very long distance.

Sathya now sporting a raincoat has almost finished changing the tyre when a car passes by at a high speed splashing the puddle all over Sathya.

SATHYA
 (Yells)
 You idiot!

The car just goes on its way without acknowledging. Sathya in a fit of rage rolls the damaged tyre.

TRACKING SHOT of Sathya running too and fro from Dickey back to collecting tools. Finally he has placed everything in the back, slams the Dickey and runs to his driver side.

INT.CAR - SAME

CLOSE UP of Sathya igniting the engine but there is no roar of the engine.

SATHYA
(himself)
Come on, come on now.

He keeps turning the ignition again and again. The car won't start.

Finally Sathya gives up and just lays on his steering wheel in defeat.

FADES TO BLACK

The scene is once again FADES TO:

INT. CAR - FEW MOMENTS LATER

("Kannada hits" playing on the radio with lots of static noise).

Sathya is now lying down with his driver seat completely flattened out with a cigarette in his mouth. Outside, it is gradually getting darker and the rain is pouring down with all its strength. The sun is sinking in the horizon and the bats are flying above haphazardly.

The music slowly fades away and complete static noise is replaced with it. Sathya pops his head and looks at his radio and with one swift motion he jerks his seat back to its normal sitting position and checks his phone.

There is no signal.

Feeling hopeless and defeated, he opens the car and walks out.

EXT.UNKNOWN LOCATION - SAME

WIDE SHOT of Sathya jogs to the centre of the road with the car door still open. He tries to see anyone coming from a distance but he cannot make a guess as the fog is building up like a thick wall.

SATHYA
(Shouts)
Anyone out there? Please help me. I
am stuck here.

No response.

SATHYA(CON'T)
(Shouts)
Please...Anyone out there? I need
your help.

All we hear back is silence.

CLOSE UP of Sathya looking around and waiting for a response back at him. There is no help.

WIDE SHOT of his car standing at the edge and him in a frame. The rain does not want to give up on it's rage.

Now its darker than ever and the frogs are crocking to the beat of the rain.

Sathya walks back to his car and sits inside leaving the door open.

CLOSE UP of him taking out another cigarette and lighting it. He leaves a puff of smoke which accumulates and disintegrates after a short while.

POINT OF VIEW of smoke getting discharged and a small speckle of light switches on in just that moment. It is far away but it looks like a house light.

VERY CLOSE UP VIEW of Sathya who seems to be interested in the distant light.

He gets out of the car and looks in the direction of the light. Still not clear but sometimes the light starts to flicker.

This gives Sathya some confidence to pursue the light.

Sathya runs back and takes out his leathered suitcase from his dickey and a flashlight from his dashboard and proceeds to walk into the forest.

CAMERA TILTS UP from ground to the dark sky.

CAMERA TILTS DOWN like a TRANSITIONAL change from dark sky back to the ground but now there is a gigantic gate standing.

Sathya walks into the scene.

TRACKING SHOT from behind Sathya as he walks towards the gate.

EXT. LARGE GATE - FEW MOMENTS LATER

Now the camera is inside the gate and Sathya is behind the bars as he starts to BANG at the metal latch which is locked.

A beat.

An old man comes out.

VERY CLOSE UP behind Sathya and all we can see from that far is the silhouette of an old man.

OLD MAN

(Yells)

What do you want boy?

SATHYA

(Yells)

Do you know any nearby vehicle repair shop. My car has broken down due to the rain.

OLD MAN

(Yells)

There are no shops nearby.

(Pointing at a distance)

10km from here, you will find a small village. People might help you there.

The old man is about to close the door.

SATHYA

(Yells))

Wait! Can I stay here for a night? I have nowhere to go and it's cold out here.

Old man stares at Sathya. A beat.

SATHYA(CON'T)

I will even pay.

Old man grunts and disappears behind the door only to appear with an umbrella. He walks towards the gate.

CLOSE UP of old man's feature is visible now. He has a brown beanie cap over is which looks like a bald head. White overgrown beard and a thick spectacles with a shall around his neck.

OLD MAN

What are you doing on such a late night here?

SATHYA

I was going to Kolar and my car broke down on the way.

(Pointing towards his car)

It is just over there_ _

OLD MAN

Look son, it doesn't matter now. You have lost your way.

SATHYA

What?

OLD MAN

Way to Kolar is opposite of where you are going. You need to head back and take right after exiting the highway.

SATHYA

Okay. I have travelled to Kolar before but in this heavy rain I was unable to see properly.

OLD MAN

You youngsters always make quick decisions in this harsh times. Well, first get in. The rain is not going to stop for the whole night.

SATHYA

Thanks sir.

VERY CLOSE UP shot of the lock being unlocked.

Gate is opened and Sathya quickly rushes in and closes the gate behind him.

Both of them run towards Old man's small hut.

SATHYA

I am Sathya.

OLD MAN

I am Gurulingappa. I am care-taker of this estate.

SATHYA

This is a estate?

GURULINGAPPA

I don't blame you for not seeing the estate. It's dark and no street lamps around.

SATHYA

Can I stay in your house for a night?

GURULINGAPPA

(looking at his small hut)

Here? I only don't have place to sleep. You will sleep in the Bungalow.

SATHYA

Bungalow? What Bungalow?

GURULINGAPPA

What did you think? That huge gate is there to guard my broken down house. You are standing on one of the oldest Indigo plantation site.

Sathya looks around and fails to locate the Bungalow in this dark weather.

GURULINGAPPA

(Laughing)

What are you looking for? The Bungalow?

Sathya nods.

GURULINGAPPA

I will take you there but first tell me do you have bedsheets and covers?

SATHYA

No.

GURULINGAPPA

Okay. Wait here. I will bring some.

Gurulingappa rushes in his hut.

Sathya walks to the left edge and tries to see through the darkness.

CRANE CAMERA lowers to Sathya's face when a loud thunder clap along with lighting reveals a humungous building standing in front of him.

GURULINGAPPA(O.C)

Here take this.

Sathya turns around and takes bed sheet and covers from Gurulingappa.

GURULINGAPPA(CON'T)

Put it under your jacket, so it won't get wet walking until the Bungalow.

Sathya puts under his front jacket near his belly making him look like a pregnant woman.

GURULINGAPPA(CON'T)

You put it there uh. Okay lets go.

Sathya with covers and suitcase and Gurulingappa with umbrella in one hand and lantern in another, both of them run.

EXT. BUNGELow ENTRANCE - SAME

GURULINGAPPA(CON'T)

Look, you seem to look like a descent guy in trouble, thats why I am allowing you to stay for a night. So don't steal anything inside.

SATHYA

Oh no sir. I just need a place to stay. You have given me the opportunity. It won't look nice stealing from you. You will see sir_ _

GURULINGAPPA

Okay, okay enough. You talk too much. Just be on your way tomorrow morning.

SATHYA

Yes. Sure. Thank you.

INT. BUNGELow STAIRWAY - SAME

TRACKING SHOT of two people walking up the big stairway. Everything looks empty in there.

SATHYA(CON'T)

Who lives in here?

GURULINGAPPA

My Malik. He has gone to Mumbai for a business. He owns a very big textile and garment business.

SATHYA

He must be making a lot of money then. But I guess he doesn't like to spend much.

GURULINGAPPA

What do you mean?

Sathya looks around the empty space and Gurulingappa follows.

GURULINGAPPA(CON'T)

(Laughs)

Oh! This is actually his guest house. Rarely he comes here to stay. Even if he comes he just takes up one room to live in.

(Coughs)

He is planning on renovating and selling this Bungelow next year. Until then, I am the king here.

INT.BEDROOM,2ND FLOOR - SAME

GURULINGAPPA(CON'T)

This will be your place to sleep
for a night.

Sathya moves towards the light switch and clicks it. Nothing happens.

GURULINGAPPA(CON'T)

Do you think the place where he
rarely visits would pay electricity
bill?

SATHYA

I know. Just wanted to give it a
shot.

GURULINGAPPA

(Laughs)

Take this lantern, you will need
it.

SATHYA

How will you go back without the
light?

GURULINGAPPA

I have been in this house even
before you were born. I know every
look and corner of this Bungelow
and can guide you with my eyes
closed son. Now it's getting late.
You take rest.

Gurulingappa exits the scene.

CUTS TO:

INT.BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sathya steps out of the bathroom with toothbrush and a water
bottle in one hand and lantern in another. He places the
lantern on the floor and gets on the cot which is now
covered in bed sheets and cover.

WIDE SHOT of the dark bedroom with blue light seeping
through the only window near a desk.

It is still raining and the tapping on the window glass can
make anyone go drowsy.

CLOSE UP of Sathya from above who has already fallen asleep
from tiredness.

Camera SLOWLY DOLLYS in on Sathya's face. We can see his
eyeballs are moving within.

Except for the TAP noise coming from the window, everything seems to be quiet.

INT.BEDROOM - FEW MOMENTS LATER

TRACKING SHOT of a water droplet sliding down on the window. The weather has calmed down.

Camera PANS to the bed.

A beat.

We start to hear a very violent barking from outside the door.

Sathya wakes up in a jerk.

He is still in a drowsy state at first but once he hears the second set of bark he is fully awake.

SATHYA

When did a dog get in?

The intensity of the barking gets louder and louder everytime. Sathya is now holding his ears and is scared.

Then whatever is outside starts to collide with the door BANGING. The dust on the door falls off from the force.

Sathya freezes in fear. He doesn't know what to do.

The banging keeps going on until you think the door is going to give away.

As abruptly did the barking started, the banging also stopped. Now its quite again.

FULL SHOT of the bed post. Sathya is still frozen. He just stares.

A beat.

Sathya gets up slowly and heads to the door. He first places his ears onto the door. He doesn't hear a sound.

CLOSE UP of Sathya just staring at the door.

SATHYA

(Shouts)

Who is there?

No response.

SATHYA(CON'T)

(Shouts)

I have a gun with me. Don't play around or I will use it.

A beat.

CLOSE UP of Sathya unlocking the latch and slowly opening the door. He peers outside and is shocked by the sight.