

NIFTY

Written By
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Fade In:

INT. UNDERWATER/AQUARIUM - MID DAY

(Everything is the POV of a goldfish. His name is NIFTY.)

Water.

6 other goldfish swimming in the same aquarium with NIFTY. He likes the water. He likes the other fish. He has been in the same box for as long as he can remember. Home.

He swims back and forth. He likes the company. He can see other aquariums. Other types of fish in them. Neighbourhood.

There is always a man there when it's bright. He changes the water and feeds them. A lot of people come and most of them take some fish with them. Sometimes, he picks some fish and they never come back. To a better place, NIFTY hopes.

AASHA (Mid 20s, painting instructor, gentle soul, beautiful) walks in. She looks into the aquarium where NIFTY and his friends are. She is beautiful. She looks around for a while and then points at NIFTY. He's chosen.

A net is dipped in the water, big enough to fit him. He then tries to run away. Everything happens so fast. He feels dry. It's okay, he holds his breath for a while. The man does this often while changing the water.

This time, he ends up inside a small plastic pouch on a table. Home is right there. He can see the whole neighbourhood from there. He turns around to see huge hands of people. AASHA gives a bunch of long papers(money) to the man. She ties a red ribbon around the knot of the pouch. NIFTY is a gift.

She then picks up and slowly puts the pouch in her bag. Dark.

To a better place, NIFTY hopes.

CUT TO:

DARKNESS

Dark, loud and shaky, continuous whirring sound (bike engine running)

NIFTY hears sounds he had never heard before. It's dark, the pouch keeps bouncing. He's scared. He passes through traffic, vehicles, people shouting.

Suddenly it's not that loud or shaky, and the whirring sound stops, he can hear metal clanking and then footsteps. A door

opens, loud music. Two people talking. Sounds like a fight.
Music stops.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - MID DAY (DAY-1)

AASHA takes the pouch out of her bag. NIFTY is in a room.
This was not his neighbourhood, not his home.

SOPHIE (Early 20's, wild at heart, likes loud music, mostly electronic and takes mild drugs) and AASHA have been in a relationship for little over 3 years. They met at AASHA's studio. SOPHIE had enrolled for painting class but only attended a few days. She was trying to "find herself". They met a month later in a cafe and started talking. SOPHIE told AASHA that she was into girls. AASHA had felt like she had been waiting for SOPHIE all her life. It hadn't taken them long to fall in love after that.

AASHA gifts NIFTY to SOPHIE (who takes the pouch happily and pokes it to mock NIFTY)

AASHA

(annoyed by SOPHIE's
behaviour, muffled sound
heard from inside water,
dialogues almost inaudible)
Tetso nagar na bichara lai. Jhan
fishbowl khali nahosh bhanera
lyaideko. Please take better care
of NIFTY!

SOPHIE

Oho, yesko ta nwaran ni bhai
sakeychha! haha what kind of a
name is NIFTY?

Sophie turns the music back on, lowers the volume a little.

AASHA

(Opening the pouch)
What? He's cute and NIFTY is a
cute name.
(She smiles at NIFTY)

AASHA Drops NIFTY to a fish bowl. He can hear the music loud for a while as he drops. Dry. Hard to breathe. Then he lands inside the bowl, almost hitting the floor. The muffled sound continues.

NIFTY is happy to be able to move freely after a long time.
He tries to swim further, hits the glass of the bowl. Swims

towards the other end, no progress. This round aquarium is not as big as home.

He can see AASHA's face, close to the bowl, looking at him. Her face is distorted by the glass. She still looks bright and beautiful. As she moves away, he can see the view from his new home. It's a room with a large bed across the fishbowl, a door next to the bed, paintings on the floor, clothes lying all over the room. There is a long mirror on the right side of the room, next to it a long wooden ladder with clothes hanging on it. He can see the whole room from inside the bowl.

NIFTY looks around, there are stuff on the table next to the bowl. A photo frame of AASHA and SOPHIE. They look happy.

Among other things on the table in his sight, he sees a small wooden owl. Friend.

After NIFTY realises that there is not much water for him to move around, he settles. We now focus on SOPHIE and AASHA.

AASHA is trying to clean the room but SOPHIE spansks her, then they start fighting playfully. After a while they pause, and kiss passionately. They then move under the blanket. NIFTY turns towards the wooden owl. Calm.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - EVENING (DAY 1)

SOPHIE

(knocks on the fish bowl)

NIFTY!

NIFTY, staring at the owl, is startled and makes a quick turn towards the right, where the loud sound came from. He sees SOPHIE's face, a wicked smirk on her. She then turns towards AASHA who is on the bed, putting her clothes on.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Yeslai khana chai dinu pardaina?

AASHA

(getting dressed)

Last time ko food baaki hola ni.

I'll bring some more later.

SOPHIE then looks under the table.

SOPHIE

(OC)

Yeah, alikati raichha.

She pours some fish-food in the water. NIFTY rushes to eat.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - EVENING (DAY 8)

The screen is a bit pale, suggesting that the tank is getting dirty. SOPHIE is lying on the bed using her laptop, electronic music playing. Speakers on the floor. Clothes and food wrappers everywhere, used glasses, bowls.

AASHA opens the door, SOPHIE gets up, hugs. AASHA Makes a remark about the mess in the room. After a small discussion, they both start cleaning. AASHA does most of the work.

A soft, melodious music is playing on the speakers. AASHA's choice.

SOPHIE gets an idea. She wants NIFTY to enjoy the music too, so she puts the speakers next on the bowl on the table and switches her phone with The music is loud, it shakes the bowl and the water inside it. AASHA stops the music, puts the speakers away. SOPHIE doesn't like it. They fight. NIFTY looks at the owl.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - NIGHT (DAY 10)

It's late at night, lights off. NIFTY can see the light from the vehicles passing by outside. The light passes from one side of the room to the other. NIFTY likes to follow the light by turning his body, sometimes even swims from left to right. Too bad the bowl does not have a lot of space to swim.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - MORNING (DAY 12)

The water has gotten paler. SOPHIE is in the bed, asleep. A knock on the door wakes her up. She goes back to sleep. Another knock. She gets up hesitantly. It's AASHA. She steps in with a bag full of stuffed paper bags and a wooden easel.

AASHA

I brought breakfast!

SOPHIE rushes back to sleep. AASHA puts the bag and the easel down, then hops on SOPHIE's back and jumps under the cover. NIFTY looks at his friend, the owl.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - MID DAY (DAY 12)

AASHA is on the left side of the room, sitting on a chair, painting on a canvas supported by the easel she had brought earlier. SOPHIE is on the floor, rolling a joint. They're quiet. They both have headphones on. NIFTY makes turns on the bowl. He's starting to like this place.

We intercut to AASHA and SOPHIE smoking together, talking, with a coffee mug in each their haand.

Intercut to Both of them dancing to a groovy rock beat.

Intercut to them making out on the bed, passionately. It's darker now but the lights are off. The rock music on the speaker intensifies.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - EVENING (DAY 12)

DARK. It's almost time for the moving lights on the ceiling. SOPHIE's phone rings, AASHA gets up, turns the bedside lamps on and gets dressed while SOPHIE's talking on the phone.

After hanging up, SOPHIE tells AASHA that her ex boyfriend from high school is back in town.

SOPHIE

Maile talai Pranav ko bareyma
bhannai birseko. Aile farkeko
raichha. Facebook ma kura bhako
thyo asti. I invited him to smoke
up. haha. You're okay with this,
right?

AASHA

(a bit hesitant)
Of course! kaile aauna lako?

SOPHIE

Parsi tira?

AASHA

...Okay..

SOPHIE

(teasing AASHA)
You sound a little jealous.

AASHA

(leaving)
Shut up!

SOPHIE
(yells, AASHA has left)
I LOVE YOU!

AASHA opens the door.

AASHA
I love you more.

AASHA leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - EVENING (DAY 16)

The water has gotten even paler. Dirt floating in the water.
The room is empty. SOPHIE had left in the morning.

SOPHIE opens the door from outside and enters, she's followed by PRANAV (Early 20's). He walks in, checks himself out in the mirror, fixes his hair and sits on the side of the bed next to SOPHIE. She takes a box out and starts working on a joint. Pranav notices the easel.

PRANAV
Timi painting ni garchhau ki kya ho?

SOPHIE
Ae haina, mero girlfriend ko ho.

PRANAV
(clears throat loudly,
smiles)
Girlfriend, huh?

SOPHIE
Fuck you PRANAV.

PRANAV
Your fish is cute!

SOPHIE
Yeah, his name is NIFTY.

PRANAV
NIFTY re? Why NIFTY?

SOPHIE
Khahi, AASHA le rakheko naam ho.

PRANAV walks close to the bowl. Knocks on the glass of the bowl. It's loud.

PRANAV
 Hello NIFTY!
 (PRANAV looks at the wooden
 owl)
 Malai owl haru atti creepy lagchha
 yar.

PRANAV picks up the owl and holds it in his hand.

Knock on the door.

SOPHIE
 Ko ho?

AASHA
 Ma!

SOPHIE
 lock gareko chha, use your key!

AASHA unlocks the door from outside and walks in.

AASHA
 (to PRANAV)
 Oh hi! Nice to finally meet you.
 SOPHIE le timro bareyma sunako
 thyo.

PRANAV
 Nice to meet you too.

They have the awkward-handshake-hug situation. PRANAV puts the owl down on the floor. NIFTY wishes he hadn't done that.

Intercut to them sitting on the floor, smoking.

SOPHIE
 So PRANAV, Kaile farkinchhau ta
 aba?

PRANAV
 Yo Monday ko flight chha.

AASHA
 (shocked)
 Really? Malai nai tha thiyena.

Intercut to Pranav Leaving.

Intercut to AASHA and SOPHIE sitting on the side of the bed. SOPHIE touches AASHA's hair. AASHA puts SOPHIE's hand down and tells her that she's tired and gets up.

AASHA (CONT'D)
 (looking at NIFTY)

NIFTY ko paani change garnu
pardaina? Teti ta afai garna
sakchhas ni.

SOPHIE

Hya malai audaina k, maile
najanera mardey bhane?

Intercut to AASHA dipping a net and putting NIFTY in a large bucket. NIFTY swims around the large space. He feels free.

Intercut to AASHA dipping the net in the bucket and putting NIFTY back into the bowl. The water is clean and the room is clear. Then AASHA looks at NIFTY and smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - EVENING (DAY 17)

NIFTY is looking at the photo frame on the table next to the bowl. SOPHIE is getting ready to go out. She has put on a black dress. She's putting on some makeup. Electronic music on the speakers. She looks at NIFTY, she gets one of her crazy ideas to play with NIFTY. She comes towards the table and puts her phone next to the photo frame.

She draws two eyes on the fish bowl with her red lipstick. She puts on a significant amount of lipstick on her lips and kisses on the bowl forming a face there. She then picks a small mirror from under the table and shows it to NIFTY. This is the first time NIFTY is looking at himself.

Intervut to SOPHIE leaving the room. It's quiet. The room is messy and no one is there. Calm.

He hears someone unlocing the door. It's SOPHIE. She had realised that she left her phone in the room. She comes in and looks on and around the bed. She's standing there trying to remember where her phone is.

NIFTY feels a loud rhythmic vibration right next to the photo frame. He turns. It's the phone. Sophie grabs the phone but she knocks the frame off the table.

SOPHIE

Fuck.

She picks up the frame, puts it back on the table. She walks towards the door but looks at the mirror one last time before leaving. She fixes her hair and goes out the door.

She leaves the bedside lamp on.

NIFTY looks at the photo frame. It's cracked.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - NIGHT (DAY 17)

The room is dark except the part lit by the bedside lamp that SOPHIE left on. NIFTY is looking at the lights on the ceiling and swimming across the bowl.

SOPHIE tries to open the door with her key from outside but it gets difficult because she is drunk. She's with PRANAV who is equally wasted. They laugh. After trying a few times, she finally opens the door. Pranav kisses her at the door, she kisses back.

NIFTY can see their silhouette under the door. They quickly move to the bed. They proceed to take off their clothes while NIFTY looks up to the light in the ceiling.

CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - MORNING (DAY 18)

SOPHIE and PRANAV are lying on the bed. Clothes everywhere. Mess. Knock on the door. SOPHIE gets up, looks around, then looks at PRANAV under the blanket. She wakes him up and tells him to get dressed.

SOPHIE

No! No! No! No! What have I
done!!!

SOPHIE gets dressed in a hurry, but AASHA opens the door with her key and enters. Everyone freezes for a moment. AASHA comes in and sits on the floor with her hands on her forehead.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Please! I was drunk, I made a huge
mistake, please don't get mad at
me. Please! Please! Please! It
didn't mean anything.

PRANAV gets dressed in a hurry and awkwardly walks out. As soon as he leaves, AASHA closes the door. Then they have a huge fight. NIFTY is a bit scared by all the noise. He looks at the spot where the wooden owl used to be. Then he turns to the photo frame on the other side. At this point, both of them are yelling their lungs out.

AASHA

That's it. We're done.

AASHA leaves. SOPHIE then starts throwing stuff around. NIFTY tries to swim backwards but couldn't get very far. He can see SOPHIE moving towards his table, throwing everything

she finds. She knocks the fishbowl with her hand along with the other stuff on the table.

NIFTY doesn't want to move but the bowl is pulling him down towards the floor. Everything is falling down. The bowl hits the ground and the glass shatters. NIFTY starts to move his body against the floor. Dry. Hard to breathe. He can see the wooden owl on the floor in front of him, lying on the ground. His vision is fading, so is his energy to jump. Everything is almost dark. Then, NIFTY sees a figure running towards him. AASHA heard the glass breaking and rushed inside but as she gets to him, it gets completely dark.

CUT TO:

BLACK

Credits.