

NOTE: ALL DIALOGUE IS ORIGINALLY IN TELUGU

EXT. KOTAPADU - NIGHT

The rusty street light slowly turns on. A humble little sweet shop with walls and floors painted by a mixture of dirt and cow dung.

SRI, 32 bolts the door shut and walks away with an empty jug. KANYA, a 2 year old jersey cow, stands a few feet away from the shop. Her tail swats at flies on her back.

INT. SWEET SHOP- NIGHT

The street light dimly lights the inside of the shop through a glass-less window. RAJA, 8, donning a dirtied white wife beater jumps in through the window.

He looks around to see a few dozen steel pots. He walks closer.

The pot is full of spherical jaggery sweets, with sweet syrup covering them. Raja's eyes drown in awe.

He takes his shirt off and makes a bag out of it. He adds 6 sweets into his bag, then ties the ends of his shirt together, then secures the knot.

He walks back to the window and throws the bag to it, but it hits the wall and lands back on the floor.

He tries again, then again.

He sighs in annoyance, then takes a deep breath, examining the situation.

With the bag in his hand, he charges for the window and jumps, landing his hands on the window sill.

The door starts to unlock.

Raja lets out an exasperated yelp. He quickly tries to land his foot on the window sill.

The door opens.

He slips and falls onto the ground. The sweets fly everywhere.

SRI enters the shop, his jug is now full of water. He witnesses what happened. He grabs a stick from beside the door.

SRI
 (yelling)
 WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SRI charges towards Raja. Raja quickly grabs one sweet from the ground before dashing through SRI's legs.

SRI takes a moment to realize, then runs after Raja.

EXT. KOTAPADU - NIGHT

Raja runs towards Kanya and grabs her leash.

RAJA
 We have to run Kanya!

Raja starts to run and Kanya follows. The bell on her collar makes a loud ringing sound as they run through the village, Raja giggling with adrenalin induced excitement.

SRI runs after them, but lags behind massively.

SRI
 RAJA, GET BACK HERE!

Raja and Kanya run past a few steel vessels set up in a tower. Raja backtracks and pushes the tower over, blocking SRI's path.

SRI (CONT'D)
 COME BACK HERE YOU RASCAL!

The duo turns a corner, and opens the fence to a grassy backyard-looking area.

EXT. GRASSY FIELD- NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

RAJA
 Okay I'll see you tomorrow Kanya!

Go drink some water we don't run like that a lot. Raja pets Kanya behind her ears. Kanya nuzzles into his hands.

SRI (O.S.)
 YOU'RE A MENACE!

Raja quickly kisses Kanya on the forehead, then jogs away.

RAJA
 Bye Kanya!

Kanya stares at Raja as he runs away. She shakes her head, clearing her thoughts.

INT. RAJA'S LIVING ROOM- DAY

The sun rises as light fills this small mud house with turmeric colored walls. Raja sits on the floor along with his mother, SUNITA, 28.

Raja cleans up the remnants of the yellow dal on his plate with his fingers, then licks his fingers. Sunita pours water into his plate as he washes his hands.

SUNITA

It seems you were hungry today?

Raja vocalizes a "yes".

RAJA

Okay, I need to go now.

Raja hurriedly gets up and jogs to another room.

SUNITA

Where do you need to go so badly?

INT. RAJA'S ROOM- DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Raja runs into the bedroom, where a mattress lays on a thin piece of wood on the floor. He lifts up the mattress with all his strength and grabs his shirt/bag.

RAJA

Mohan's house. I uh, I have to get my notebook from him.

SUNITA (O.S.)

Okay. Be back soon, you have the exam on Monday.

Raja swings his bag across his shoulder and makes a swift escape for the exit.

INT. RAJA'S LIVING ROOM- DAY

Raja slips on his flip-flops then heads for the door.

RAJA

Okay! Bye ma!

He slightly opens the door before he sees SRI storming for the house. He quickly shuts the door and starts to run to his room. Sunita sees him.

SUNITA
What happened?

RAJA
Uh, I forgot-I forgot something.

Sunita confusedly stares at Raja. KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK. Sunita looks at the door and Raja runs into the bedroom. Sunita opens the door.

INT. RAJA'S ROOM- DAY (CONTINUOUS)

Raja makes it into his room and stands motionless, taking short and quick breaths.

SUNITA (O.S.)
Oh, Sri Gaaru. How are you?

Raja peeks over the wall.

SRI
Uh, I'm fine but your son is a pain
Sunita.

SUNITA
Raja? Why what did he do?

Raja looks around for an exit, then spots a window above the mattress.

SRI (O.S.)
Last night I found him in my shop,
just destroying everything!

SUNITA (O.S.)
What?

The voices outside get quieter as Raja charges for the window and grabs onto the window sill.

SRI (O.S.)
Yeah, it was a nightmare. Please
teach him some manners or I will
have to. I had to throw away a kilo
of jaggery.

The voices murmur more until the door SHUTS, and just as Raja makes it onto the windowsill.

SUNITA (O.S)
(yelling)
RAJA!

Sunita barges into the room and sees her son on the windowsill with his shirt fashioned into a bag.

Sunita stares at Raja.

Raja stares at Sunita.

INT. RANVEER'S LIVING ROOM- DAY

Raja winces in pain as Sunita drags him by the ear towards the center of the room.

RAJA
Ah, aaah, ma it hurts-

She sits him down on the floor and lets go.

SUNITA
What were you thinking? Going into Sri's shop and stealing? That's what I raised you to do? Steal?

Raja's guilt ridden eyes stare at the floor.

SUNITA (CONT'D)
Listen. Look at me when I'm speaking to you.

Raja slowly looks up.

SUNITA (CONT'D)
Why did you steal?

Beat.

RAJA
Kanya likes Sri's sweets.

Sunita stares at Raja in disbelief. The anger in her face is washed away as she covers her eyes with her hands.

SUNITA
Oh God please protect this child.

Sunita takes a deep breath and looks at her son. She bends down to his level.

SUNITA (CONT'D)
Raja, she's not yours. You know
this.

RANVEER
She likes me so much-She loves
those sweets so much I just wanted
to give her one.

SUNITA
I know she does, but come on Raja.
You can't steal.

Raja looks back down.

SUNITA (CONT'D)
Will you promise to say sorry to
Sri?

Raja nods.

SUNITA (CONT'D)
And take it easy with Kanya?

Raja nods again. Sunita smiles, then rustles his hair.

SUNITA (CONT'D)
Okay, now go get the notebook.

Raja looks up. Sunita winks at him. Raj cheekily smiles.

EXT. GRASSY FIELD- DAY

Raja takes out the jaggery sweet from his bag and feed it to
Kanya. Kanya eats.

RAJA
It's good right?

He pets her with her other hand. She finishes eating. Raja
hugs the side of her, and Kanya licks his face. Raja laughs
with joy.

The gate to the field opens. Raja looks around to see RAO,
23.

RAO
Raja, oh raja.

Rao walks to Raja and squats beside him and raises his hand,
asking for a high five.

RAJA
Rao Annaya!

High Five.

RAO
You'll never leave this cow alone
huh?

Raja looks at Kanya.

RAJA
How can I? Kanya's my best friend.

A grim and guilty expression washes onto Rao's face. He takes a deep breath.

RAO
Someone is coming into the village
today.

Raja starts to feed Kanya hay and doesn't respond to what Rao says.

RAO (CONT'D)
Rich business man. He's moving into
the village.

Raja momentarily looks at Rao.

RAJA
Big business man? Why is he coming
here?

Raja looks back at Kanya.

RAO
He bought some farmland. Rich men
become fed up with the business
side of things.

Raja is still unfazed.

RAO (CONT'D)
They realize sooner or later that
life here is the way to be.

Rao looks at Raja petting Kanya.

RAO (CONT'D)
Raja.

RAJA
(still petting Kanya)
Yeah?

Beat.

RAO
He bought Kanya from me.

Raja looks at Rao, his face immediately reddens.

RAJA
How can he buy her, she's mine!

RAO
He's giving me 15,000 for her Raja,
I need it.

Raja gets louder.

RAJA
No, you can't sell her, she won't
go. She'll stay with me.

He turns to Kanya.

RAJA (CONT'D)
You want to stay with