

## MOVIE TITLE:

# FRIENDLY STRANGERS

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### A) LOGLINE

This is a story of a girl who begins to recognize her inhibitions and accepts her challenge to overcome them with the help of her friends by giving it a chance and keeping her prejudices aside.

### B) THE STORY

The story begins with 13 year old Rem walking towards her school in the morning daylight. Rem being a skeptically guarded and cautious teen is always aware of the people around her but she walks with confidence to not attract unwanted aura of fear. She has a few selected friends whom she trusts. One of them is Charlene aka Charlie. Charlie is a jovial teen with a cordial reputation. Charlie often recalls of how Rem took time to open up but she respects Rem's notions of being guarded (almost as if she sees everyone as a stranger). Charlie envisions that there will be a time when Rem overcomes her inhibitions (belief that people are negative). Charlie and Rem are bench mates in class. Rem prefers to sit at the utmost corner of the class which is beside a window; and she takes the privilege of daydreaming when she feels that her lectures are boring. Rem usually sits in class during lunch breaks and enjoys her meal quietly. Rem also likes exerting herself on the sports field. On one particular day at the end of 'games period' in school, her coach instructs her and her classmate Mickey to restore the sports equipment back in the store room. She barely knows Mickey and only acknowledges him as her classmate. They get locked up in the store room and are forced to spend time together while collaborating to work towards escaping the room. In the midst of their time together, Rem learns that Mickey is claustrophobic. Rem gradually brings her guard down and opens up to Mickey. He teaches her the motto of *Them = You*. She realises that her inhibitions held her back which often shaped her opinions about people. She decides to give people chances henceforth, because she may stumble across opportunities like how she did the other day (locked up in the store room) with her new-found friend Mickey. Later they are rescued by Charlie and the school watchman. Charlie notices the enlightened change in Rem that she envisions. The story thus ends at this note.

### C) THE SCENE BREAKDOWN

- 1) A 13 year old school girl walking on the road. She looks at her watch and reads it as 6.30 am. Her eyes scrutinizes when a passer-by walks close to her. Her body stature isn't scared but skeptically guarded. She walks with confidence and dominant arrogance. Soundtrack in the scene are the sounds of school bell and student chatters increasing with her perspective along with her faint 'footsteps on gravel' sound being present constantly in background.
- 2) She can see the school gate. The camera frame involves her backview close to the right side of the camera and the school entrance in the background.
- 3) A hand grabs her shoulder. Camera zooms in on her shoulder as she stiffens and looks at the hand. She hears 'Good morning, Rem' in her ear. Camera zooms in close to her

face as she blinks and recognises the voice and rolls her eyes. Camera zooms out showing that she elbows her friend in the gut and wishes her back. Her friend Charlie is thus introduced in the camera frame.

- 4) As Rem elbows her, Charlie laughs and sighs (camera zoomed on her) recalling how Rem took time to open up and become her closest friend. **Description will be given in scene elaboration.**
- 5) Charlie pats Rem's shoulder with affection (her face showing the warmth emotion).
- 6) They sprint on the stairs and in the background morning announcement is heard.
- 7) They enter from the right door of the class and take the seat on the first bench of the cornered row. Rem sits at the utmost corner of the class; her spot is beside a window. Charlie sits beside her while she is chattering with the neighbouring girl (perspective sound for Rem as the background soundtrack).
- 8) The scene now shows time lapse with each class period. Different teachers come in at different class periods. Between each teacher, the camera either shows the class standing and wishing the teacher or Rem's point of view of putting the class room contents (books or pens) on the table or Rem looking out the window and daydreaming.
- 9) The students are now jumpy on their seats (camera frame from Rem's point of view). Bell rings and the students hurry to go out of the class and the student chatter noise increases. The teacher is shown packing her belongings and leaving the room in a slow pace. Rem is shown waiting for the teacher to leave. Background sounds are students talking about what they brought for food or students copying down the notes they missed during the class hours.
- 10) During this recess time Charlie holds Rem's shoulder signalling that she could join her outside, but Rem smiles and shakes her head, signalling her to go and that she would like to sit in the class and eat (holding the tiffin protectively). Charlie nods and waves as she goes outside the class.
- 11) Camera zoomed in on the tiffin contents. Camera zooming out slowly as Rem slowly begins eating her tiffin contents. She takes her first bite of the hot dog and chews with delight.
- 12) By then a boy, her classmate enters. She tries to recall his name (blank expression on her face) and then she remembers that he is called Micky (her inner voice as background sound).
- 13) He smells the hot dog and makes a smacking sound with his lips and looks at her. She gazes at him with a blank stare, still holding her food near her mouth. He smiles at her, nodding a polite hello and she responds with a grim smile.
- 14) She resumes her eating. She hears the boy fidgeting with something on his desk across few benches and then walking out of the room.
- 15) Class periods go on showing different teachers coming in and going. Then the bell rings and the camera frame shows Rem exiting the door with the timetable of the class being zoomed in, highlighting the part that shows the current class period is games.
- 16) Rem and Charlie walk to the Throw ball court. They spend their time playing throw ball with the students of their class and Micky as well (time lapse showing different actions while playing the game with the coach's instructing whistles as the background sound).
- 17) The coach instructs Rem and Micky to take the sports equipment back to the store room as their classmates begin to retrieve and the rest of the school students begin to

leave (with the last school bell ringing and noise all around as students leave in the background).

- 18) Rem sighs and carries her share of equipment.
- 19) While walking up the stairs, Micky introduces himself whilst juggling to balance the things he is carrying. Rem replies that she knows his name and introduces herself in a monotonous way. He says an exaggerated Ok.
- 20) They walk up the store room. He kicks the jammed door open and gestures Rem to walk in, but she shakes her head and gestures him to go in first. Micky's eyes seem surprised but he maintains his cool and shrugs while walking in the door.
- 21) The store room door is creaky (sound is heard). As Rem walks in the door, she forgets to put the door stopper (as the camera zooms in on the door stopper). Door begins to shut behind her.
- 22) Micky throws his things down and rush to stop the door from closing, but he is too late as the door is now closed.
- 23) Rem makes an 'Oops' face, and keeps the equipments in the rightful place.
- 24) Micky's claustrophobic attack starts. Rem pauses and sceptically looks at him. She recognises it that it's real and searches for the window. It is in the corner of the room. She rushes to open it. She then pulls Micky to the window and tries to calm him down by rubbing his back. Worried expression is seen on her face.
- 25) After he seemed calm he thanks her. She gives a quick smile and nods. She attempts to open the door while Micky is still standing near the window.
- 26) They have an interesting time there where they get to know each other merely on basis of humanity and friendship. Where Rem learns to interact and accept the idea of 'Strangers are not what she thought people would be like'. **Description will be given in scene elaboration.**
- 27) Charlie and the school watchman open the door and rescue the two.
- 28) Charlie hugs Rem protectively and holds Micky's shoulders while asking if he is alright. He smiles warmly and nods.
- 29) Micky sees Rem smiling from the corner of his eye (camera zoomed in on his face with Rem in the proximal background). He jerks his head to her and she tries to hide her smile. He makes a 'caught you' gesture and she rolls her eyes.
- 30) While walking out the door Micky gestures Rem to go first. She smirks and punches his shoulder and walks ahead. Micky rubs the area of his shoulder and laughs.
- 31) All this is happening front of Charlie (camera zoomed in on her with Mickey's chuckling sound in the background). She looks surprised and confused. She sees Rem laughing.
- 32) Charlie smiles knowingly (camera zoomed in on her face) that her friend has begun accepting people as not entirely strangers.
- 33) The end frame will be Rem and Micky laughing, Charlie positioned between them and smiling warmly to Rem. The watchman locking the door behind them. And the three students walking towards the paused camera frame.

#### **D) SCENE ELABORATION**

**Scene 4-** *Rem elbows her, Charlie laughs and she sighs (camera zoomed on her) recalling how Rem took time to open up and become her closest friend.*

The scene environment is hazy. The background sound is silent. On the first day of school during noon time at the games period, coach instructs Charlie and Rem to get the

heavy nets and balls from the store room. Rem and Charlie look out for each other at each footstep while carrying the equipment and guide each other to move forward safely so that they don't trip and injure themselves. Rem's face is shown to be amazed towards her realization of how they work well. Time lapse is shown with Rem and Charlie growing closer as close friends starting with being sport buddies during the games period over days- few actions while playing the game will be shown where they save each other's throw ball shots and catches. Charlie later recalls the time when she put her arm around Rem for the first time and senses Rem getting tensed; to which Charlie withdraws her arm instantly. The next scene she recalls when Rem sits comfortably close to her and shares her tiffin with her during recess.

Charlie then comes back to reality as Rem pulls her arm and sprints up the stairs to go to the classroom on the first floor. Both hunch to balance their heavy bags on their backs while they skip the steps of the stairs with the grey uniform coats and skirts flying with their speed. The background sound is the school bell ringing and the morning announcement on the intercom is heard.

**Scene 26-** *They have an interesting time there where they get to know each other merely on basis of humanity and friendship. Where Rem learns to interact and accept the idea of 'Strangers are not what she thought people would be like'.*

Rem attempts to open the jammed door, Rem gives up and quietly walks up to the window and sits below it. The room is dim and the only source of light is coming from the window beside which Mickey is standing. Mickey's face changes slowly from calm to worry as he ponders on why Rem sat below the window. He looks at her questioning and she merely shrugs. He rushes to the door and starts banging and screaming for help. Rem sees Mickey sweating profusely as his shirt gets damp minute by minute. After a while she walks up to him in irritation. Mickey stops banging the door as a hand catches his arm. He looks up at Rem's face frantically. Rem's face softens as she sees Mickey's frantic face. She tells him to wait for Charlie as she would soon realise that Rem was missing and that banging would jam the door even more. She gestures him to sit beside the window. He asks her that how she can be so sure. She merely replies that he should trust her faith even though they are strangers. Mickey closes his eyes out of acceptance and agrees that he would trust her as a friend. Rem's head snaps up to the word friend. She denies that they are friends and debates that they are merely strangers from the same class. Mickey's eyes are still closed but he nods silently. Now they are conversing in whispers. He comments that initially even close friends are strangers and this was just the beginning of their circumstantial friendship. He gives her the example of how she got close to Charlie and of how she believed that Charlie would come to rescue them. He then softly says that there was no harm to accept more friends in one's lives even if one is scared that they could leave them because they at least had the courage to give a chance to friendship. The realisation hits Rem and it can be seen on her face. Rem sits quiet for a while and looks up at Mickey whose eyes are still closed. She pats on his

shoulder, assuring him that everything would be fine and they would be set free soon. She starts with small talks about sports and teachers to distract him and it works. Mickey actively starts responding to her. After a point, she gets up and holds her hand forward to help him up. He takes her hand and stands up. She softly mentions *friend* as she helps him up. She playfully mentions to Mickey that as they are friends now and that he should know at times she could become a boisterous friend too. And he simply smirks to that. They walk up to the door and try pulling it open together. Distant sounds of footsteps can be heard. Mickey begins screaming for help again. Rem looked at him for a while and joined in. Suddenly hurried footsteps were heard. Both Mickey and Rem fall quiet. Charlie's muffled calls for Rem can be heard. Rem calls her back with more energy than her prior screaming. Door is now opening with a harsh creaking sound. Rem and Mickey both move backwards as dust starts falling upon them. The school watchman was pushing the heavy door. Charlie steps in with squinted eyes and rushes to Rem as soon as she notices her. Both Rem's and Mickey's uniform are seen to be dusty.