

The Bridge

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The Bridge

FADE IN:

1 EXT. PETROL STATION - NIGHT

1

It is late on a cold winters night on an empty motorway. The lights of a 24-hour petrol station glow intensely and cut through the mist. Like most stations open all night it has a decent selection of groceries for nocturnal customers including alcohol, which is sold till eleven.

A blue BMW drives through the petrol pump area and heads straight for the parking lot just outside the station. The car comes to a stop and the ignition is switched off. The driver door opens to reveal TARIQ (mid 20s). He is wearing a worn out suit and his hair is messed up. He heads for the entrance.

2 INT. PETROL STATION - NIGHT

2

Tariq enters the petrol station and checks his watch. It is 10:37. He heads for the alcohol section. There is another customer by the counter (mid 20s, leather jacket). Both he and the guy behind the till stop and stare at Tariq before returning to their transaction. Collecting his change the man leaves.

Tariq picks up a bottle of vodka and checks the alcohol volume. He looks to the guy behind the till (IBRAHIM late 30s).

TARIQ

Is this the strongest stuff you have?

IBRAHIM

I'm not sure sir I don't drink.

TARIQ

Neither do I, at least most of the time. This looks good though.

He picks up the vodka and heads for the counter. Placing the bottle on the counter, Tariq picks up a random selection of chocolate from the shelves next to him.

TARIQ

Can I also have a pack of ten Marlboro Lights?

Ibrahim hands him a couple of plastic bags and then turns to get a pack of ten Marlboro Lights from behind him. Before he comes back to the counter Tariq changes his mind.

TARIQ

Actually make it twenty. And can I have a lighter as well please? The best one you have.

Ibrahim turns and gets a pack of twenty Marlboro lights. He then

(CONTINUED)

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2 CONTINUED (2)

moves across the back wall where huge selections of lighters are housed in various boxes. He picks the best one and comes back to the counter. By this time Tariq has packed all his stuff into bags.

IBRAHIM

Anything else sir?

TARIQ

That is all my friend.

IBRAHIM

That is £24.50.

Tariq hands him a credit card. Ibrahim swipes it. The receipt comes through without any problems. Tariq signs.

IBRAHIM

Thank you sir.

TARIQ

Thank you. Have a good night.

Tariq heads for the exit.

3 EXT. PETROL STATION - NIGHT

3

Tariq heads for his car, lighting a cigarette on the way. He unlocks it with his remote key. Opening the door he pauses. To his left is an overpass. The road that exits the petrol station heads straight for it and there is a path for pedestrians.

Tariq looks at his car and then back at the bridge. Taking a long drag from his cigarette he chucks the bag of chocolate into the car, locks it and heads towards the bridge.

4 EXT. OVERPASS - NIGHT

4

The overpass has a single lane for each side of traffic. There is a narrow footpath on either side. It is well lit. Underneath, the motorway is almost deserted with the occasional car driving by.

Tariq approaches the overpass, still smoking his cigarette and carrying the alcohol in his left hand. He walks to the centre of the bridge and leans against the ledge. Taking the vodka out of the bag he proceeds to take large mouthfuls. His cigarette is finished and he chucks it over. Putting the bottle to one side he lights up another one.

Taking a long drag he closes his eyes and enjoys a moment of silence.

Suddenly he is disturbed.

(CONTINUED)

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4 CONTINUED (2)

VOICE

Hello there!

Tariq is startled and misses his exhale. He is now coughing away. Turning towards the direction of the voice he sees the same man who was at the counter when he entered the petrol station. He is in his mid 20s and is wearing a leather jacket. He looks Italian but the accent does not match.

MAN

I couldn't help notice you up here and thought I would say hi.

TARIQ

I'd rather be alone.

MAN

I'm sure you would but sometimes it's better to talk about these things.

Tariq says nothing.

MAN

My name is Seth. What's yours?

Tariq pauses for a moment.

TARIQ

Tariq

SETH

Nice to meet you. Do you mind if I join you up here?

TARIQ

I suppose not.

Seth comes over next to Tariq and leans against the ledge.

SETH

Do you mind if I have cigarette?

Tariq gives him a cold look, takes a cigarette out for himself and then hands him the pack.

TARIQ

Help yourself.

SETH

You got a lighter?

Tariq takes the lighter out of his pocket. Seth lights up and takes a few drags. He hands the lighter back to Tariq who also lights up. There is a moment of silence.

SETH

So what's the plan? Are you going to jump off?

(CONTINUED)

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4 CONTINUED (3)

TARIQ

Yep.

SETH

Why?

TARIQ

It isn't any of your business mate.

SETH

I'm curious.

TARIQ

Why do you care anyway?

SETH

I don't. But I figured that if you were going to jump you probably won't be needing your car.

TARIQ

Excuse me?

SETH

What's the big deal man? You're going to die so why not give me your car. While you're at it you might as well give me that coat as well. That is a nice coat.

TARIQ

Are you a junkie or something?

SETH

Not at all. I just like your car. What's it to you? You're going to be dead.

TARIQ

I suppose you're right. You can have it. But only once I jump. And I'm keeping the coat.

SETH

That's cool with me but hand me the keys before you jump.

TARIQ

Fine with me.

They both take long drags on their cigarettes. Tariq grabs the vodka and takes a few big mouthfuls. There is a short pause.

SETH

So why are you doing this?

Tariq gives him a cold stare.

(CONTINUED)

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4 CONTINUED (4)

SETH

Oh come on, I am interested. Never met someone who wanted to kill them self.

TARIQ

If you must know, it's because of a girl.

SETH

God damn it bro. Girls really do push guys over the edge don't they? And they think we don't have feelings. Did she dump you?

TARIQ

She hasn't dumped me.

SETH

What's the problem then?

TARIQ

She and I can't be together.

SETH

Is she underage?

Tariq gives him another cold stare.

SETH

What? I'm just firing ideas here.

Tariq takes a large mouthful of vodka.

TARIQ

She is black.

He takes another mouthful.

TARIQ

She's an Afro-Caribbean girl . And I'm in love with her.

He takes a drag of his cigarette.

SETH

What's the big deal there?

TARIQ

My family will never allow it. I've had to see her in secret. If my parents ever found out, they would crucify me.

SETH

I thought you British Asians would have more liberal families.

(CONTINUED)

The Bridge

4 CONTINUED (5)

TARIQ

Wait a minute how did you know I was...

SETH

Intuition.

TARIQ

Anyway, yeah, back at home there are more rules and my family are more liberal. Actually liberal is the wrong word. They are more normal.

SETH

So that kind of thing is seen as insane?

Tariq takes another mouthful of vodka.

TARIQ

Pretty much. Some things just don't mix.

SETH

So there is no hope?

TARIQ

No hope amigo. No hope in hell.

SETH

What about this girl? Have you thought about her? Are you seriously going to leave her in the dark?

TARIQ

Of course I have. But she does not know how I really feel yet. This is the best thing to do.

Tariq takes another mouthful of vodka and then a long drag on his cigarette.

SETH

So you want to go through with this?

TARIQ

Yep.

SETH

Excellent.

TARIQ

What?

SETH

I want to see you jump. It's going to be an amazing experience.

(CONTINUED)

The Bridge

4 CONTINUED (6)

TARIQ

Whatever gets you off.

Tariq takes another big mouthful of vodka and then puts the bottle on the side. He approaches the ledge and makes his first moves to go over.

SETH

Have you thought of other ways?

TARIQ

I don't have the guts to slash my wrists and every time I try and drown myself I just float back to the top. Drinking myself to death was an option.

SETH

How about pills?

Tariq looks at him in a confused state.

SETH

Pills are good. There is no pain. You just swallow them and melt away in your sleep.

TARIQ

This is better.

SETH

Not really. At this height there is no guarantee that you will die. Your hips will just shoot up into your ribs and you'll be left praying a passing car finishes you off. They might and they might not. They might even take you to hospital. You'll live the rest of your life in a wheelchair.

TARIQ

Will you just shut up?

SETH

I'm only being honest with you. I want to see you die, not suffer. If you don't go all the way it then falls on my conscience.

TARIQ

I'll go headfirst and maybe wait for a car to come by.

SETH

That is very tricky to do and think about the driver in that car. What if you kill them as well? Also have you thought about God?

(CONTINUED)

The Bridge

4 CONTINUED (7)

TARIQ

I'm not religious.

SETH

Regardless, I still think you should consider your method of bailing out.

TARIQ

This is the best way.

SETH

I have some pills at home you know.

TARIQ

What?

SETH

Yeah, I got pills at home. You can take as many as you like. Be much easier than this. We'll take your car if that's okay.

5 EXT. AN EMPTY ROAD - NIGHT

5

Tariq's BMW burns rubber down a long stretch of empty road. It suddenly slows down and screeches into another road and then accelerates again.

6 INT. BMW - NIGHT

6

Seth is at the wheel. Tariq looks terrified in the passenger seat. He has the bottle of vodka tucked firmly between his arms.

SETH

This car is amazing!

TARIQ

Will you please slow down? I'm feeling a bit woozy here.

SETH

Relax you just had a bit too much to drink. We're almost there.

7 EXT. SETH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

7

The BMW comes to an abrupt halt just outside a modest suburban house. Seth steps out of the car and goes to help Tariq out.

(CONTINUED)

The Bridge

7 CONTINUED (2)

SETH

Get up. We're here.

Tariq turns his eyes to the house.

TARIQ

You live here?

SETH

Yes, but not alone. Got three housemates but they have gone to Europe for the weekend.

He helps Tariq make his way to the front door. He is still carrying the bottle of vodka and struggles to keep his balance. Seth fails to slow them down and the two of them bump their heads on the door.

SETH

Jesus man! You are fucking drunk aren't you?

TARIQ

I hope you are being rhetorical.

Seth leans Tariq against the wall and searches for his house keys. Rummaging in his pockets he finally finds them. He opens the front door.

SETH

Come inside you drunk bastard.

Tariq struggles to get inside. Seth closes the door behind him.

8 INT. SETH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

8

The two of them stand in the hallway. The house is very tidy and is well furnished.

SETH

You go and sit down in the T.V room.
I'll be down in a second.

Tariq nods his head and heads for the T.V room. Seth goes upstairs.

9 INT. TV ROOM - NIGHT

9

Tariq slouches on a sofa in the TV room. He takes a few more mouthfuls of vodka.

The Bridge

10 INT. SETH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 10

Seth goes through his bedside draws and finds a bottle of pills. He heads out of his room and but pauses for a moment at the door.

11 INT. TV ROOM - NIGHT 11

Tariq is still slouching and looking very drunk. He can hear Seth running down the stairs. He enters the room and pulls a chair next to him and hands him the pills.

SETH

There you go.

Tariq examines the bottle. The pills are green in colour.

TARIQ

Will this kill me?

SETH

If you take enough of them and the vodka will definitely help. Don't think you're meant to take them with alcohol.

Tariq does not hesitate. He takes a handful of pills, shoves them into his mouth and almost immediately washes them down with some vodka. He almost chokes in the process.

SETH

Easy there Tariq. I think that will do the trick.

TARIQ

How long will it take?

SETH

Not sure. I never take those pills.

TARIQ

You must have some idea.

SETH

Twenty minutes.

TARIQ

God damn it.

SETH

You don't mind if I watch do you?

TARIQ

Knock yourself out. You sick bastard.

Tariq takes another mouthful of vodka and sits back.

The Bridge

12 INT. TV ROOM - NIGHT (FIVE MINUTES LATER) 12

Seth sits patiently. Tariq is looking at the ceiling in deep contemplation.

SETH
How does it feel knowing you are going to die?

TARIQ
What?

SETH
Knowing you are going to die.

Tariq says nothing but panic is beginning to set in his face.

13 INT. TV ROOM - NIGHT (FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER) 13

Tariq is very animated and is scurrying all around the room in a panic. Seth is still sitting in the same seat.

TARIQ
What have I done?

SETH
You wanted this.

TARIQ
Not any more. What the fuck have I done?

SETH
It's too late now. You'll be out soon.

TARIQ
I feel weird.

SETH
Must be the pills.

TARIQ
Oh my God, I'm going to die.

SETH
That's the idea.

TARIQ
I can't die. This is wrong. Why the hell am I doing this?

SETH
The black chick, remember?

(CONTINUED)

The Bridge

13 CONTINUED (2)

TARIQ

Hayley...

Seth gets up to try and calm him down.

SETH

Whatever. Look just calm down. Won't be long now.

TARIQ

I can't die Seth. I can make things work out with her and me.

SETH

It's too late for that. You are going to die.

TARIQ

Don't say that. We still have time. You can take me to a hospital. They can pump my stomach out. You have to help me.

SETH

What's done is done.

Tariq lunges for Seth and holds him against the wall.

TARIQ

I'm begging you Seth. Please help me. You have to get me out of this. I love her. I'm crazy about her and nothing is going to get in the way of that. I know she feels the same.

Seth breaks free of Tariq's hold.

SETH

All right man, just take it easy. I'll take you to the fucking hospital.

14 EXT. SETHS HOUSE - NIGHT

14

Tariq's BMW screeches towards the open road leaving a massive skid mark.

15 INT. TARIQ'S CAR - NIGHT

15

TARIQ

Drive faster.

SETH

I'm going as fast as I can.

(CONTINUED)

The Bridge

15 CONTINUED (2)

TARIQ

I'm dying here.

SETH

I know you're dying you fucking idiot.
And whose fault is that huh?

TARIQ

Look just please take me to the
hospital.

SETH

I'm taking you to the fucking hospital.

16 EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

16

The BMW comes racing through to the entrance of the Accident and
Emergency ward. Seth gets out and drags Tariq out of the car.
Tariq is now almost unconscious.

SETH

Come on you bastard. How much do you
love this girl?

Tariq murmurs in his drunken dribble.

TARIQ

More than anything in the whole world
man. She is my treasure. I would do
anything for her.

Seth struggles to drag him to the main doors.

TARIQ

I'm dying Seth. I'm dying and I never
told her how much I love her.

SETH

You're a fucking idiot. If you loved
her so much you should have screwed the
rest of your family. True love is all
that holds us in this world.

Seth gets Tariq to his feet.

SETH

Now listen to me. You get in there and
tell them what has happened to you.
They'll sort you out.

He turns to leave Tariq to it. Tariq grabs him by the shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

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16 CONTINUED (2)

TARIQ

Thanks man.

SETH

Hey fuck you all right. I wanted to see you die and I demand a refund. I guess the car will do nicely.

Tariq has a sudden injection of energy.

TARIQ

Wait a second.

Seth pushes him away.

SETH

Will you hurry up before you die?

Tariq turns towards the main doors and begins to stumble in. Seth suddenly remembers something and rushes towards him.

SETH

I forgot to give you this.

He forces a folded piece of paper into Tariq's jacket pocket. Tariq has no idea what is going on.

SETH

See you around Tariq.

He gives him a pat on the back and walks away. The automatic doors open and Tariq stumbles in. Seth gets into the BMW and drives away.

17 INT. HOSPITAL WARD - DAY

17

Tariq awakens in a hospital bed. He has a severe hangover but appears to be still alive. A doctor comes over to see how he is.

DOCTOR

How are we doing there?

TARIQ

I feel really ill.

DOCTOR

A lot of heavy drinking will do that to you.

TARIQ

What about the pills?

(CONTINUED)

The Bridge

17 CONTINUED (2)

DOCTOR

What pills?

TARIQ

I had a whole lot of sleeping pills.
That's why I came here.

DOCTOR

All we found were tic tacs, at least
thirty of them.

TARIQ

TIC TACS.

18 INT. SETH'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

18

Seth stands by the door of his bedroom. He heads back to the desk and empties the bottle of pills onto it. He then opens one of the desk drawers and takes out a pack of tic tacs. He refills the bottle with them and then heads out of the room.

19 INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

19

Back to Tariq.

TARIQ

That lying bastard. What about the
paper? He left a piece of paper in my
coat.

Tariq sees his coat hanging behind one of the chairs next to his bed. He points to it and the doctor checks the pockets. He finds the paper and hands it to him. Tariq unfolds it to reveal a crudely drawn smiley face with a very cheesy grin. He pauses.

DOCTOR

There is someone here to see you.

Tariq looks up and sees Hayley standing next to the doctor. She has tears in her eyes. The sight of her makes Tariq break down. He sits up. She comes closer. They hug each other.

SETH

(V.O)

True love is all that holds us in this
world.