

THE SINNER

Synopsis :Set in Global Economic Crisis Era (2007-08), Victor, an unemployed man goes for an interview for a mysterious job. He faces Karen, a recruiting officer who is so dominating that his questions lead to an unexpected revelation of Victor's dark past.

Legends:Narrator Victor (2015), Victor (2008), Karen

SCENE 1: EXT | CHILDREN'S PARK

A man is sitting over a bench.

Narrator

To love is not a sin. Me, you, we don't choose our feelings. There are instances in your life which bring out the inner wild animal and then you're okay with it because that little wild animal becomes a part of you and it deserves to be sympathized with and you two can keep your little secrets. Until someone disturbs the inner decorum. They identify your animal, sympathize with it more than you do, nourish it, make it their pet and then show it what it is and show you what you are. And you are left shattered, lonely. But does the animal inside you really die?

SCENE:2 INT | VICTOR'S HOUSE

Victor is drinking his coffee and reading the newspaper lying on the table next to him

Narrator

2008.Global Economic Crisis.I had graduated in April last year and I had been unemployed for one year and seven months.I had kept looking for jobs, Newspaper Ads. No success. It was 15th of February, 2008. I came across this ad in the newspaper.

Recruiter: Mystic Co.

"Looking for HONEST Employees. Excellent pay. Light Job."

Job Profile : ---

(CONTINUED)

Time: 09:00 AM

Venue: B-32, Mystic Co. ,Victoria Street, Bangalore-47

Cuts the newspaper ad.

Narrator

2008. Handful of jobs and too many takers. The competition had grown so fierce that hiring itself was a task. That's where they came in, the recruiters. These companies acted as recruiters and guaranteed to pick up the best from the lot. Mystic Co. was one such firm. You wouldn't know who would actually hire you until you clear the recruiter firm's job interview. The more they grilled the aspirants the better was their market value and heftier the sum they collected from their clients, that is, the companies which actually hired us. Middlemen! Bastards! These sons of bitches were the only ones who were doing well even during the Crisis.

Pauses.

And Mystic Co. was one the best recruiters in the market. There were too many rumors on the streets about their grilling methods. I knew this would be tough.

SCENE:3 INT | DARK ROOM

Victor looks nervous. A man walks and sits over next to him.

NARRATOR

Next thing I remember I was sitting in this room with this heavy guy. Everything else, Dark. Pitch Black. This guy introduces himself as the Chief Recruiter. I don't recall his name though.

K

Karen (inaudible) Chief Recruiter.

shakes hands

Honesty is the highest form of intimacy.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

K (cont'd)
At this firm we accept anything but
dishonesty. And you are?

VICTOR
Victor Jose.

K
Again?

VICTOR
Victor Jose.

K
Say again

VICTOR
Victor Jose.

K

Shouts.

Say it again Victor. At this firm
we accept anything but dishonesty
and you are?

VICTOR
Victor Jose. I will be honest Sir.

K
Well, Okay Victor. We will see.
Welcome to Mystic Co. Now let me
tell you one thing. You tell a lie,
you're outta here. Do you get what
I am saying?

VICTOR
I do. Yes sir.

K
Louder.

VICTOR
Yes sir.

K
Okay, Victor then we shall begin
with the interview. Not a lie, Okay
Victor?

VICTOR

Thinks and nods.

K
What is that?

VICTOR

(Loud enough, laughs)
Yes Sir.

K
Is this funny to you? Am I funny
Victor?

VICTOR
(Nervous) No Sir.

K
You're not supposed to laugh
Victor. You're not supposed to
laugh you pigfuck (louder). Say it
again.

VICTOR
I 'll be honest and I won't laugh.

K
stares, crooked smile

NARRATOR
By this point of time I had known
it won't be easy to face the rest
of the Interview. I had heard
stories and I could see which way
it was leading.

K
Okay Victor.
(stops. Looks at the papers.)
So tell me Victor what is the most
important thing for you right now?

VICTOR
This job.

K
You sure?

VICTOR
Very sure sir.

K
Say it again.

VICTOR

Yes sir.

K

Say it again.

VICTOR

This job is the most important thing for me right now.

K

So, you won't back out?

VICTOR

Back out of what?

K

(shouts)

This job interview

VICTOR

NO Sir.

K

Okay Victor. Then we shall start with the series of questions we have here. Just answer honestly. You know how much we love honesty Victor. Don't you?

VICTOR

Yes Sir.

Pause)

K

Are you a good listener?

VICTOR

(thinks, tilts his head)

Yes, Sir.

K

Are you thoughtful of your remarks?

VICTOR

Yes.

K

Do you consider yourself fit for the job?

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR
Yes Sir.

K
Both mentally and physically?

VICTOR
Yes Sir.

K
Are you sick Victor?

VICTOR
Laughs.
No Sir.

K
You look like a physically fit person Victor. Are you S-I-C-K sick Victor, mentally?

VICTOR
No, Sir. I wonder what makes you say that?

K
Explodes.
You Pigfuck! It is my job to ask and yours to answer. Don't act smart.

Just answer what you're asked or get the fuck outta here. Understand?

VICTOR
Yes Sir.

K
Are you mentally fit?

VICTOR
Yes Sir.

K
Is your life a struggle?

VICTOR
No.

K
Is your life a struggle?

VICTOR
No.

K
Is your life a struggle?

VICTOR
Yes.

K
Do you find it easy to be fair?

VICTOR

Thinks, tilts his head
Umm... No.

K
Are you a good team-worker?

VICTOR
Yes, Sir.

K
How do you know?

VICTOR
Sir, I was a part of...

K

Ignores, Interrupts midway
Do you find interest in your
co-workers?

VICTOR
Yes.

K
Do you find interest in your
co-workers?

VICTOR
Yes.

K
Sexually?

VICTOR
(Strongly)

No.

K
Are you concerned with the
impression you make?

VICTOR
Yes.

K
Okay. Thanks. You may leave.

VICTOR
What? That's it? I had heard
stories. Do I have the job?

K
No. That's it for you. You think
too hard. You interrupt. You are
ambivalent. You're concerned more
about your image. More than honesty.

VICTOR
No, No, No... I really need this
job. You gotta ask me more
questions. I am ready. Come on,
please.

K
Okay. Could you answer the next
series of questions without
blinking your eyes? Without Fear?

Without reluctance?

VICTOR
Yes. Yes. Yes..

K
Answer as quickly as you can.

VICTOR
Yes.

K
Okay. Starting now, you're not to
blink. If you blink we go back to
start.

VICTOR
(Blinks)

K
Infringement. You blinked.

VICTOR
Tries very hard to open both we eyes. Uses his hands to open
the eyes wide.

(Pause)

K
Are you mentally fit?

VICTOR
Yes

K
Do you show interests in your
co-workers?

VICTOR
Yes.

K
Sexually?

VICTOR
Depends.

K
Depends on what?

VICTOR
Man or woman.

K
Do you like men?

VICTOR
No.

K
Do you like children?

VICTOR
Yes.

K
Sexually?

VICTOR

(Blinks, breathes heavily)

K
Infringement. You blinked.

VICTOR

shouts.

Fuck!

(Slaps himself three times)

K
Back to the start. This is your
last chance Victor.

VICTOR

Breaths heavily. Then uses his hands again to keep his eyes
wide open.

K
Are you mentally fit?

VICTOR

(looks numb and confident)
No.

K
Do you like men?

VICTOR

(looks numb and confident)
No.

K
Do you like children?

VICTOR
(looks numb and confident.)
Yes.

K
Sexually?

VICTOR
(looks numb and confident)
Yes.

(CONTINUED)

K
Are you lying?

VICTOR
No.

K
Have you had sex with anyone inside
your family?

VICTOR
Yes.

K
Who?

VICTOR
My cousin Jasmine.

K
Are you lying?

VICTOR
No.

K
Are you a liar?

VICTOR
Yes.

K
How old were you?

VICTOR
19.

K
How old was she?

VICTOR
11.

K
How many times have you had sex
with Jasmine?

VICTOR
Once.

K
Where is your dad?

VICTOR
I don't know. We don't talk.

K
Is that because of that incident?

VICTOR
Yes.

K
Where is your mother?

VICTOR
(Doesn't blink. Stares. Says
nothing.)

K
Where is your mother?

VICTOR
Loony Bin.

K
Is she a mental patient?

VICTOR
Yes.

K
Is she psychotic?

VICTOR
(shouts)
Yes.

K
Do you still talk to Jasmine?

VICTOR
(shouts)
No.

K
Why not?

VICTOR
(shouts)
Because my uncle won't let me.

K
Have you tried to kidnap her?

VICTOR
(shouts)
No.

K
Will you kidnap her?

VICTOR
I may.

K
How come you have had sex with her?

VICTOR
I love her. She loves me too. I have seen her growing in front of my eyes. I took care of her. I will take care of her. I 'll marry her and we will elope. Somewhere far from this insane world. She is a my little flower. And I deserve to smell my flower. I fed her. I own her. She is so beautiful. I deserve her more than anyone does. She is my soul-mate. We belong to the same family, that's not our fault. I am not a pedophile. She'll be the same to me even if she is a two year old kid or a hundred year old woman. She will be my lover & I will be her lover.

K
(Reaches out to hold his hand.)
Do you really love her?

VICTOR
(Cries)
Yes.

K
Do you think she loves you?

VICTOR:
(Cries)
Yes

K
Does she love you?

VICTOR
(Cries, blinks)
(Silence prevails for a couple
of seconds.)

K
You're hired. National Crime
Bureau.

CUT TO

SCENE 1:EXT| CHILDREN'S PARK

NARRATOR
As it turned out, the whole room
was wired and the guy was an agent
from the National Crime Bureau, a
secret Government Agency which
worked under the name Mystic Co.

Jail-term. Seven years. I have
served my time. I am free. I tried
doing everything I could to find
her. Found no trace of her.
Jasmine, love of my life. No
regrets. There is Ana. She visits
this park every evening. It's about
time.

(Looks at his watch)
What a beauty! Jasmine comes back
to my life every time Ana sits on
my lap. Ana! What a beauty!