

VORSCHLAG I

EXT. FINGERHUT HOUSE - DAY

A large modern house in the country, surrounded by land.

INT. LIVING ROOM. FINGERHUT HOUSE - DAY

In the living room. Mrs Fingerhut, prim, snobbish, middle-class, has been entertaining the
5 *assembled group for some time, as Fingerhut is late.*

The atmosphere is strained. Mrs Fingerhut's daughter Madelaine, Parvez, Minoo and their
son Farid - all in their best clothes - sit on hard chairs. Parvez is both terrified and
ecstatic to be there.

Mrs Fingerhut puts down a photograph album she has been showing everyone.

10 MRS FINGERHUT

Madelaine was a delightful girl.

(pause)

She still is, of course.

Madelaine and Farid, both uncomfortable, glance at one another.

15 PARVEZ

(smiling at her)

And a little bit plumpish at times ... as you said, twice.

MINOO

Rice is very good.

20 *Mrs Fingerhut looks bewildered.*

For reducing diet.

PARVEZ

Cricket is excellent. Farid was Captain. I warned, don't you ever go professional,
career is over in five years. Mrs Fingerhut - Hilda - this boy of ours, I can assure
25 you he is all-round-type; going whole hog, but not on field!

MINOO

Oh yes. But in garden?

PARVEZ

(to Minoo, sharply)

30 One minute.

(to Mrs Fingerhut)

At school he carried the prizes home. Now at college he is ... he is top student of
year.

MADELAINE

35 Not difficult.

Mrs Fingerhut looks at Madelaine, who scratches. Farid smirks. They sit there a moment:
tense.

EXT. FINGERHUT HOUSE - DAY

Fingerhut's chauffeur-driven car turns into the drive, stopping beside Parvez's battered
40 *taxi, which Fingerhut regards with aversion as he walks past it. The house dogs rush*
towards him, barking.

INT. LIVING ROOM. FINGERHUT HOUSE - DAY

PARVEZ

(hushed voice)

45 The Chief Inspector.

MRS FINGERHUT

(going to the door)

About time.

PARVEZ

50 The law never sleeps at night.

Looks at Farid, who is cringing.

Perhaps a career in the police could be guaranteed for you. Let me mention it
to Chief Inspector.

FARID

55 Papa.

PARVEZ

Leave the matters of business opening to me. Put on cheerful face - blast it! - this is
happiest occasion of life.

MINOO

(in Urdu, subtitled)

60

I want the toilet.

PARVEZ

(in Urdu, subtitled)

Not again. They'll think we're Bengalis.

65

MINOO

They couldn't tell the difference between a Pakistani and a Bengali. We're all -

Minoo is halted by the expression on Parvez's face.

Fingerhut grandly enters the room and looks around at everyone. Parvez goes to
him, kissingly.

70 CUT TO:

Fingerhut and Parvez together. Farid watches this, embarrassed and repelled.

PARVEZ

I will arrange all engagement party details personally. Our tradition is beautiful
in this respect.

75 *Fingerhut appears to make a face.*

You enjoy our food when I bring it personally to police station.

(leaning closer)

Chief Inspector, please inform me absolutely in confidence: Farid is top police material, isn't he?

80 FINGERHUT

Isn't he training to be an accountant?

PARVEZ

Law and order might be more reliable. Crime is everywhere out of control, wouldn't you confirm?

85 *Looking at Farid, who is cringing.*

My boy says the same.

FINGERHUT

He would know, would he?

CUT TO:

90 PARVEZ
(to Minoo)

Get camera. Now is moment!

CUT TO:

(to Fingerhut)

95 Please, sir, would a pose be all right for private use exclusively?
Fingerhut appears to nod.

(to Minoo)

Bring champagne, too.

Minoo pulls a camera and a bottle of champagne out of a bag.

100 CUT TO:

A photograph is being taken, by the chauffeur, of the whole group. Mrs Fingerhut stands next to Parvez, who has his arm around Farid. Madelaine is beside Farid. Minoo and Chief Inspector Fingerhut.

105 *We see all the faces. There is a flash. Other photographs, in other combinations. And finally, Parvez and Farid together - both drinking champagne, clinking glasses, Parvez laughing to himself.*

Titles in.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

110 *We cut inside the car and pull back from one of the photographs - now a little curled and yellowing. Then, Parvez's face, as he gesticulates, shakes his head and waves at other drivers; we see him singing to himself.*

Low on the track, an Asian radio station is playing Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, or something similar.

115 *Parvez is a Pakistani in his early fifties. He wears an old suit, scuffed shoes and inevitably looks scruffy. He is unshaven in places, his hair stands up, his askew tie is stained, his sweater unravelling. But he is a lively and engaging man with a lovely face.*



Illustration 1: Parvez and Minoo Illustration 2: Farid and Madelaine