

THE WINNERS

Written by

Samuel Thomas

LIGHTNING FROM THUNDERSTORMS BEGINS AS WE MOVE LOWER TO SEE HUMAN REMAINS IN THE DARK FOREST. OMINOUS SOUNDS PLAY OVER A BLANK SCREEN. A VERY DARK CLOUD APPEARS. WE HEAR THE VOICE OF AN UNKNOWN WOMAN SCREAMING AS WE SEE BLOODY HANDS ON A WALL. THEN A MAN APPEARS HOLDING A KNIFE WITH BLOOD DRIPPING OFF IT.

NARRATOR

This is the story of a well-known university that has produced high-profile personalities globally. This university is also here in The U.K. They have five students union camps, but there are two renowned camps. They are both named SUCCESS and WINNERS. Both camps engage in acts of cultism, but the winners are a lot more than that. Every year, just close to the student union elections, they sacrifice a virgin student slaughtered by their chosen SU Candidate, and all top profile personalities, including politicians, will witness that event. They will bathe in the blood of the virgin student to acquire power and prosperity. The clock is now ticking and, the Winners are desperate to find their next candidate that will defeat Cecilia of the Success Camp in the upcoming SU Election.

INT. DAVID & NISHA'S FLAT - DAY

An unidentified man wearing black gloves unlocks a door. He pushes the door slowly as he enters the flat wearing a black working boot. We slowly pull up to see that he is carrying a black box. He reaches for the wall socket as he turns on the corridor light and walks into the living room. He puts down the black box on a rug on the floor and opens the box as we see some hidden surveillance cameras.

INT. KABAB TAKEAWAY - DAY

Kabab man preparing chicken kabab in the kitchen as we see TOM, early twenties, wearing sunglasses, standing inside the kabab shop playing smooth puzzle toys. NISHA, 24, British, and DAVID, 25, British, walk into the kabab shop happily looking like a perfect couple holding each others' hands.

NISHA
What are you getting?

DAVID
What are you getting??

NISHA
I asked first.

DAVID
I guess you know what they say.

NISHA
What they say about, lady's first
is very sweet but not working here
today, David.

DAVID
Alright, Nisha.

David kisses Nisha as Tom stops playing his puzzle gazes at them.

DAVID (CONT'D)
Chicken doner with hot chili and
chips. No salad. Are you happy now?

NISHA
Yes.

INTERCUTS DAVID & NISHA'S FLAT

The unidentified man is installing a hidden camera in David and Nisha's bedroom.

INTERCUTS KABAB SHOP

Tom walks to the counter and picks up his food. He gazes at Nisha while going out of the shop, and David takes notice of him.

KABAB MAN
What can I get you guys?

NISHA
One chicken doner with hot chili
and chips. No salad and one lamb
doner with little garlic and salad.
No chili.

INTERCUTS

The unidentified man stands in the kitchen as he looks around. He walks back to the living room.

Picks up a wooden chair and then walks to the kitchen. He puts down the wooden chair and stands on it while installing the camera on top of the kitchen cabinet.

INTERCUTS

David and Nisha walk out of the kabab shop onto Haringey Green Lane holding their takeaways chatting.

EXT/INT. PUB - SAME TIME

Tom sits at the front porch of the pub playing with his puzzle. He lifts his head, sees David and Nisha walking towards his direction as they take a right turn up Burgoyne Road. Tom picks up his phone and sends a text message.

INTERCUTS

The unidentified man's phone beeps in his pocket in the bathroom. He stands on top of the bathtub. He takes out his phone from his pocket as he reads the text message.

TEXT MESSAGE

You need to leave right now!!!

The unidentified man jumps down dashes to the living room.

EXT/INT. DAVID & NISHA'S FLAT - SAME TIME

David opens the main entrance door. Hold the door for Nisha to walk through and then close behind him.

DAVID

Did you notice that the guy we met in the kabab shop was staring at you?

NISHA

(Looks surprise)No...he was?

DAVID

Yes, he was staring at you as if he knew you somehow.

NISHA

Maybe, but I do not know him.

INTERCUTS

The unidentified man walks out quietly as he tries to slam the door without making any noise.

DAVID (O.C.)
Are you sure, Nisha?

NISHA (O.C.)
You don't trust me?

DAVID
I do trust you. I wasn't very comfortable with the way he was staring at you.

NISHA
I understand. What we have is unique, and no one will take that away from us. Okay?

DAVID
Okay.

They stare at each other as they smile. As soon as David and Nisha want to kiss, the unidentified guy walks past them as they pause and feel shy and burst into laughter and continue walking.

INT. DAVID & NISHA FLAT'S/LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Shower running in the bathroom as we see a backpack and a SOCIAL JUSTICE LAW textbook next to each other on top of the dining table. Robert Mckee's book 'STORY', a script title page reads 'THE LONGEST NIGHT - WRITTEN BY NISHA PATEL - BSC (HONS)FILM PRODUCTION - THE UNIVERSITY' and canon 750d are on the red sofa in the living room. We now see David looking smart as he stands in front of the mirror in the corridor trying to wear his tie.

After a few seconds, Nisha walks out of the bathroom wrapped in a white towel. She sees David trying to do his tie.

NISHA
You're looking very smart today.

DAVID
Thank you. As you know, I'm doing my presentation today.

Nisha takes a few steps to help David with his tie.

NISHA
Yeah, I know. On the topic, the movement for social justice.

DAVID
Black lives matter.

NISHA
 (kisses David) Yes, it
 does. I'll bring your
 jacket.

Nisha walks into the room while David walks to the living room. Picks up his SOCIAL JUSTICE textbook and places it inside his backpack. Nisha walks out, holding a jacket as she helps David to wear it.

INT. UNKNOWN LOCATION - SAMETIME

On a big screen, we see David and Nisha in live surveillance camera footage as they do what they do at this time.

INTERCUTS

NISHA
 Now, you look like a social justice
 lawyer.

DAVID
 Is that so?

NISHA
 Yap and I cannot wait, and good
 luck with your presentation.

DAVID
 Good luck to you as well, on your
 first day of directing your student
 film, and I'm glad your team chose
 your script. It is a masterpiece.

NISHA
 I couldn't agree more.

They kiss.

DAVID
 See you on campus.

David picks up his backpack as he exits. Nisha trails toward him, and the door shuts, rushes to the window, and gazes at David through the window.

EXT. HARRINGAY GREEN LANE STATION - EVENING

A GOSPEL OAK to BARKING train comes to a stop. Buses and cars drive on the surface of the street in Harringay green lane.

EXT/INT. DAVID & NISHA'S FLAT - EVENING

David carries his backpack as he walks to the main entrance of the door. Takes out his keys and unlocks the door. He steps in as he stops to check out some letters on the letter trays in the hallway. He glances at each letter and finally finds a letter addressed to him. He then puts down the remaining letters. He continues to walk up the stairs onto his door. He opens the door and enters.

INT. HALLWAY/LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

David closes the door leading to the corridor as he walks towards the living room. He puts his backpack on the sofa, sits down, and takes out the letter from the white envelope.

We hear the voice of:

THE LEADER - WINNERS CAMP
(V.O.) (READING)

Dear Mr. Thomas, greetings! My name is Victor King. I am the leader of THE WINNERS. (David loses his composure in fright). Our brotherhood committee was impressed to learn about your background and your excellent academic performance. I know you might have heard many negative things about us, but I want you to know that all those rumors are lies. We are a vibrant brotherhood. Dedicated to improving the quality of education in this university and all over the world. We give over 500 worldwide scholarships to students each year. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join our brotherhood and to be our candidate for the upcoming student's union election. I am confident our members will be pleased to have you on board. I am hopeful that you will be pleased with the benefits our brotherhood offers. We will see you around campus and make contact in due course. Thank you for your time!
Sincerely, Victor King.

At this point, David has switched through his anxious and frightened state and is building up in rage. He rises, grabs his head, and screams out loud, banging the door.

His body begins to recline slowly toward the floor. David leans back on the door as he breaks down in tears.

INT. UNKNOWN LOCATION - SAME TIME

We now see David on a live CCTV surveillance on screen.

INT. DAVID & NISHA'S FLAT - NIGHT

A clock on the wall reads 2:15 am. David, tossing and turning in bed, gazes at the ceiling. Next to him is Nisha. She is staring at David. David rises and sits on the bed, having a profound thought. Nisha rises as she leans back on the wall.

NISHA

David, what is it that you are not telling me? Since you came back from Uni, you have not been yourself. What...

David walks out of the room and leaves Nisha befuddled.

TWO DAYS LATER

INT. DAVID & NISHA'S FLAT/ KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Nisha is preparing lunch. David walks into the kitchen without saying a word to Nisha. He picks up a glass cup and walks to the fridge as he pours water from the water dispenser. Nisha pauses as she turns to look at David. David finishes running the water as he walks out of the kitchen into the living room and sits next to the window on the dining table. There is a phone on the table. He tips his water as he looks through the window. Nisha, look confused in the kitchen. She takes a deep breath as she stops what she is doing and heads into the living room. She stops in front of furious David.

NISHA

(angry)

I can't take this anymore, David. What have I done to you to deserve this silent treatment? It's been two days since you haven't said a word to me. I have tried all I can for you to talk, but you keep on ignoring me. What is going on, David? Please, speak to me.

No responses from David.

NISHA (CONT'D)

That's what I thought. Since you have made up your mind not to talk to me, I think I have also made up my mind to leave and, today will be the last day you will see my face. Goodbye, David.

Nisha takes a few steps to the door. David reaches out to stop her.

DAVID

Wait!

Nisha stops. David walks toward her.

DAVID (CONT'D)

It is a lot for you to take in.

NISHA

(Turns to face David)

Try me.

David looks intently at Nisha as he takes out a letter and slowly gives it to Nisha. Nisha opens the letter, and as she reads, she stares in disbelief. Her hands start shaking as we hear a voice-over of herself and Victor King.

NISHA (V.O.)

I did not know I was dating a cult leader all these years.

VICTOR KING (V.O.)

I don't know what you heard, Nisha, but we are not a cult group neither am I a leader of a cult.

NISHA (V.O.)

Stop lying to my face. The news is everywhere. It's over, Victor King.

Nisha sits down quietly on the red sofa having deep thoughts. David sits next to her.

NISHA

Why didn't you tell me before?

DAVID

I thought I, can handle it myself.

NISHA

No, you can't. Neither do I. The winners are more extensive than us, and they always get what they want. We must do something.

DAVID

Something, like what?

NISHA

I think we should involve the police.

DAVID

The Police are not an option, Nisha.

NISHA

Do you have a better idea?... I guess not. They're all we got.

DAVID

No!

(stands up)

They have eyes everywhere, and they'll kill us.

INT. UNKNOWN LOCATION/CCTV - SAMETIME

On the surveillance CCTV on screen, we see Nisha rising and moving toward David. She holds David from the back and lays her head on him.

INTERCUTS

NISHA

We have to try, David. I am worried about you.

David turns, facing Nisha.

DAVID

So do I.

NISHA

The winners are dangerous. You can't join them. Please, let's call the Police. They'll protect us.

DAVID

No, they'll not.

NISHA

Why are you so sure?

DAVID

Because they have them on their payroll.

NISHA

Well, I'm going to call them.

Nisha reaches for her phone on the dining table as David grabs the phone before she does.

DAVID

I'm not going to allow you to do that. Maybe, you're the reason why I am in this mess. Now you feel guilty about it, and you want to put my life in danger.

NISHA

I am trying to help you, dumb ass, and this has nothing to do with me. I didn't ask my ex, Victor, to send you that letter... Maybe you do this to yourself to become the best student in your department. You can keep the phone. I'll walk to the police station.

David grabs Nisha trying to stop her as Nisha fights to go.

NISHA (CONT'D)

Leave me alone! Leave me alone! If You don't let me go, you'll regret this, David and I don't think you want our neighbors to call the Police.

David lets go of her as Nisha walks off angrily, leaving David worried.

EXT. BURGOYNE ROAD - EVENING

Tom leans back on a wall in a passageway playing with his puzzle. He wears dark sunglasses. Nisha appears as she walks past Tom.

TOM

You sure you wanna do that, Nisha?

Nisha stops, looking startled.

NISHA
I beg your pardon?

TOM
I said if you are sure you wanna do
that.

NISHA
Do what?

TOM
Go to the Police?

Nisha stands silent and stunned. She is trembling with fear. She turns to see a black guy wearing dark sunglasses staring at her.

TOM (CONT'D)
That's what I thought...You're
shaking.

NISHA
(nervously)
What do you want? Please, don't
hurt me.

TOM
I'm not going to hurt you, love,
but I'll if you push me. And I'll
hurt every single member of your
family. I guess your dad is still
doing uber, huh? And he lives with
your mum and disabled brother at 89
Higham Road.

Tears roll down Nisha's eyes.

TOM (CONT'D)
Maybe we can help each other, and
your family will be off our radar.
Convince your boyfriend to join us.
Let's make The University a better
place. I'll be in touch...By the
way, Victor misses you, Nisha.

Tom walks off with the other black guy leaving Nisha to break down in tears.

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAMETIME

David stands close to the window staring through and then his landline rings. He is startled by the sound of it.

Turns slowly to look at the phone as the phone stops ringing and then the doorbell rings. David is frightened as he heads to the window staring through, and then Nisha's phone rings. He turns sharply to look at the phone on the table as we read NO CALLER ID. He stares at the phone nervously. A key turns in the lock at the door as if someone is trying to get in. David's eyes are wide open as if he has seen a ghost looking at the door. The screen goes black.

TO BE CONTINUED