

## Introduction

This is about a murder. A murder, that's committed in a continuation party of a reputed school. Everyone is in their party moods and a gunshot is heard. The shot was fired on the other floor than the one where the party was going on.

The rest is the aftermath. The repercussions of a murder, how the police becomes hyper active, how the media influences the shaping of a court case and a lot more.

Then there are the dates. The dates of the court proceedings which lead us to many different angles of the very same story. There are the angles of the two defense lawyers and there is the angle of the investigating officer.

This is where the story starts to unfold. We get to see a background, like a back story of all the popular faces at the continuation.

At a point, we are introduced to some unusual and unbelievable powers of the protagonist. He dreams.

Of course, everyone does that. No, but his dreams are reality. All the dreams he sees while sleeping during the day are those happenings where in reality he wasn't present in the past and sees them now with a clearer perspective.

He is still not present there, he just becomes someone else or something that was present actually. And sees everything that happened, clearly. This ability later helps him and his defense to shape the case and have quite a role in helping him win gradually.

We also see the defense of the opposition. He is a man with a lot of experience and caliber. He has won many cases and is one of the most successful lawyers the country has ever seen. He knows how to shape words. Knows how to play with words.

At the end, something comes as a clue out of some guessing work based on the protagonist's ability which we talked about. This something has shaken everyone. It is unexpected and unbelievable and at the same time it is the most logical. Most logical to prove right ones as right and wrong ones as wrong.

So this was it. This was the exact way how the following mystery takes shape.

## The Night of the Event

There was a feel of party everywhere around the Marina Club. The reason being Continuation Party of class 12 students of St. Louis Convent School being organized there. This place has a profound ambience of its own. People have always liked Marina. They have been here during most parts of their lives by now. Be it world cups, be it a grand anniversary party be it anything people have loved it for ages now. Started officially about 25 years ago, it still doesn't miss to stand apart. Maybe that's why the students chose this as the ideal place for something like continuation.

Everyone is in their party moods. Girls in their black and red dresses with obvious heels and boys in their slim-fitted attire add grace to the party. The DJ is doing as the crowd says and bartenders are there to serve the poison. Wham! A gunshot is heard. And literally all of them scared to death. They all run to find the place of the happening and discover their most popular friend with the dead body. Vivaan Ahuja, the popular guy for no good reason is scared and drunk at the same time. The dead body is of Samar Singhania.

Few seconds and the cops are here with the media following. They arrest Vivaan Ahuja and take the corpse for post-mortem studies. Few hours later, Varun Ahuja's good image gets bail for his son to be taken back home. And Mahesh Singhania files a case against Vivaan demanding life imprisonment accusing him of his son's murder.

"Be honest with me at least!" says Mr. Ahuja to his son, demanding an honest reply.

"I am, dad. And you need to help me get out of this!" is the reply.

"How is this possible for you to be there co-incidentally and not do anything to get out?"

"I don't know. And that's what I have been thinking all the while I was in jail".

"Alright then if you haven't done it and you are sure that anything ever done by you can never lead to this then I'm going to go for the best of the best lawyers in town to get you out of this shit!" says Mr. Ahuja, taking out his phone and calling his manager to look for a defense.

"I know he is the one! He is the damn culprit! He is the one who killed my son!" says Mahesh Singhania to his defense. "And even if he isn't then I don't care whoever it is! I want life imprisonment for Vivaan".

"What do you think you are saying Mr. Singhania?" says Albert d Souza, the defense. "How do you expect me to get Vivaan arrested even if he hasn't done anything?"

"Because I pay you to do so!"

“Look Mr. Singhanian, I can do that and I will do that for you. But first let’s find out who the real culprit is?”

“I don’t care!” says Mr. Singhanian lighting up his Marlboro, “The thing is Ahuja group of industries is the only one ahead of Singhanian group. And I hate that. See, the point here is that if the only son of the owner of Ahuja group is in jail then that obviously will lead to a downfall in the company’s shares and brand value as well. That’s what I want. If the values are low for this year, then investors will not be interested in his company. But they’ll obviously go for the second best which will then by their investments become the first best”

“Okay I’ll do as you say. And don’t worry at all, we will win this for sure” says Mr. d Souza.

Mahesh Singhanian, the owner of Singhanian group of industries is not at all worried for who killed his son or the reason behind the killing. He just wants Ahuja industries to suffer. Albert on the other hand also doesn’t want to know the reason for such hatred Mahesh has for his son. But he asked an explanation for this but was denied and then he isn’t worried because he is getting paid for evicting Vivaan Ahuja so that’s what his focus is now.

Meanwhile, media reports start surfacing everywhere about the above stated case.

“Everyone knows Mr. Ahuja, a man with a heart of gold, a hardworking youth who started working at a very vulnerable age” says Raman Chandra, from his T.V. show- Live and Living.

“But we should also not forget Vivaan’s past events and his indulgence in crimes of all sorts” says a guest on his show.

Many such shows and discussion programs were aired on most of the new channels that day. Some declared Vivaan as culprit and some as a part of a bigger conspiracy. The day was finally over, but the night of this day was no easy on the two men whose names were no longer just big businessmen but now the offenders of crime for some or the other part of the country. Nobody knew the reality, except the victim and the guilty. But this is the magnitude of influence that media nowadays has on the minds of people. Imagine for a second- How can some display of colors affect a person’s thinking to this level? Sleeplessness of this night was much harsh on Vivaan Ahuja.

## **The Innocent but Guilty**

It was 2:00 am already and Vivaan was still awake. Thinking of what had happened to him in the last 36 hours or so. Time passed but no sign of sleep was on Vivaan's mind. As the clock turned to 5:00am, he fell asleep.

The day was perfect. The cold breeze blowing and the little warmth of the vanishing daylight as a mixture worked well for the clothes I had put on. Brown leather jacket and a pair of blue jeans with a very thin black tie placed a bit differently on the white shirt was my outfit. Had left for the Marina Club at around 8 in the evening. Said goodbye to dad and saw him advice not to drink and split.

Vivaan was asleep at 5 in the morning. All this which he sees now is his dream. Yes, just a dream.

Vivaan has this unusual power of seeing things with a clearer perspective when asleep during the day. He doesn't see anything much more than what has happened in the past. But now, he sees things with a clearer perspective and a sense that's necessary to make something out of visuals.

It was the 18<sup>th</sup> of January and the weather was not as cold as an 18<sup>th</sup> Jan. Reached there at 8:25 and was then involved in the preparations for the night which were almost done. At around 9:30, everyone had arrived and no one else was left to come. Partying was on full throttle till the gunshot was heard at 11:30pm. It was on the second floor of the Marina Club where no one was present at that time. The silence of the room was such that even the slightest of the sounds could be heard very clearly. This place turned into one with most girls' scared shouts at around 11:33. And I was the one with the dead body.

He had to make out well. Really well. Because when he was present at the party, he was drunk to his limit and couldn't make out anything then. But now he had his brain on his side.

When he woke up from this dream, he started to think about all of this. Firstly, he was sure that he had not taken more than two drinks but still he was quite drunk. Secondly, he was taken to that floor of the club by his group of friends and he did not want to go there on his own. And just at the moment when the realization came that a crime has been committed there, everyone arrived and the accusation started.

The time was 5 in the evening when he woke up and was thinking of what he had seen in his dream. Till the end of his complete realization of that night's happenings, it was time for dinner.

After having dinner, Vivaan plans to go to the crime scene. Plans to maybe catch a sight of something. Something which might help him to convey to his defense and that could probably prove him not guilty?

The Marina Club has been closed since that night and the "Do Not Cross" tape is placed around that place. Vivaan quietly dodges the two security guards to enter the club. It's already 2 in the night.

He had always had interests in crime investigation and from his knowledge of the Internet and different crime shows; he has learned the act of taking finger prints and matching them later. So this is his entire plan. He would go to the crime spot and take with him all the finger prints. He takes all the finger prints and with the same quietness walks out of the club and goes home. He also plans to get finger prints of his best friends who were not on his side when the police arrived but had taken the other side now.

The place which was once the light of the town is now shut for the common public and people were seen remembering it and feeling of nostalgia was everywhere around the town.

There is a safer side in the story and as of now, Vivaan is not a part of it.

## The Other Side

Vivaan did not sleep that night and kept thinking and planning.

Thinking about what actually happened to him and planning his further moves. Or statements maybe. Maybe he planned how he would face the opposition lawyers? Maybe he thought how he would explain his role in the case to his defense some day? Maybe he was wondering how good his defense would be? And what not?

He sleeps the next whole day. And this day, he saw his girlfriend in his dream. She has long hair, with streaks in between. Around 4-5 strands he sees are shining differently. While dreaming, he remembers telling her one day, "You will look the best in an entire blonde look" while gently caressing her hair.

"Then maybe someone else takes me away from you?" she replies while teasing him.

But this is not this dream. I shouldn't think of all this. What she actually did to me is true. What side she chose to stay on to is the only truth that I should be aware of now. All that caressing and love is past now. Vivaan literally wiped his forehead, during sleeping, to remove all the sweat including the thoughts of her girl.

In this dream, she is seen taking the other side. The side chosen by most people. Because this group just knows Vivaan as a man who has been involved in all the possible bad things there in this world. Be it drugs, be it trafficking, be it everything Vivaan has done in the near past.

Manya, Vivaan's then girlfriend is seen taking the cops' and the media's side while shaping a story. "We all were partying downstairs. Then there was this gunshot and we hurried to come up here. Here I saw Vivaan, who I was looking for all the time during the party", she is seen by him now. She is telling the journalists that Vivaan was not anywhere to be seen during the party. Which is obviously not true.

He was present there all the time. He was drinking and dancing also. He was out of the scene just a few minutes before. But she lied.

This shattered Vivaan in the first place. But then he thought maybe he was wrong when he chose her. Maybe she was not even worth his love which he had given to her all the time. Maybe all the time he had spent with her was a waste altogether? Maybe.

The most heartbreaking for Vivaan was when his group of friends also went against him. They were namely- Adi, Jay, Hardy and Shivansh. Adi and Jay were the best of friends. This group was complete with Vivaan as a part but now just four of them are here. Five of them were like the best buddies for each other.

There have been a lot of happenings in the past few years at school. It was at the beginning of class 11<sup>th</sup> that the five met for the first time. And by the first three months they were the best of friends. Since then they have been part of most activities denied by the law or considered illegal. The first such was a case of human trafficking and the last such was selling drugs at a rave.

But now, the four were on one side and Vivaan was on the other side. And as most people saw Vivaan at the crime scene, they all believe that being on his side will do no good. So they chose the other side and so did most people at Marina, that night. Meanwhile, there are a lot of media reports waiting to be seen by Vivaan that day.

It's a crime show now. And the editor in chief is present here, talking about Vivaan's past involvement in all sorts of crime.

Vivaan has earlier been arrested for cases such as drug smuggling and trafficking of girls and he was also found guilty by the court but always managed to get away because of his dad. Everyone knows that it's Varun Ahuja's image that works well for Vivaan and helps him nearly always in getting out of such cases.

Interviews of the people present at the party that day also surfaced in news reports. Many of his classmates said that his past explains his present and his present will later explain his future.

He was thinking of all this when weeks passed. He went completely into himself these days. Was not talking to anyone, was not taking any calls, wasn't seeing DM's and wasn't even sleeping actually. Maybe he was worried how to get himself out or how to blame someone else or both maybe. His dad suffered a great loss in shares due to the much expanded controversies around Vivaan. He was almost bankrupt.

Everyone has been wrong in some or the other way at some or the other part in their lives. And most of them admit it now but didn't admit then that yes it was I who was at fault. Maybe the guilt is heavy then. Time heals the weight. It reduces stress and also gives a feeling of satisfaction when realization is done. So why don't we realize at that very point of time? If people do realize then, then a lot of time invested in making them realize will not be wasted and the person can invest that somewhere else. Realization of something also instills a feeling of maturity and sympathy for the victim of your deed. Still we don't. In spite all the resulting benefits, we don't realize then. This is because the moment when a crime is done, at that time the weight of the guilt is more than the satisfaction of the realization. Also, at times there's a fear of hurting the other person's feelings so much that realization has no scope. But in this case, hurting has a multiplication in its magnitude when realization comes later.

Vivaan was a great thinker. And he was thinking of all of this. It was he who was involved in all bad deeds in life and was kind of trapped. Karma hits badly and Vivaan realized this.

All this was going on and the first date of the case arrived with curiosity for the country.

## **The First Judgment Day**

This was the day most people had been waiting for. The whole nation wants this to be done because they have been talking about this all their previous weeks. They have seen it in the news, heard it in the radio and read it in papers. And they were eager for this day to finally come.

The setting of the court was not that great. It was a District & Sessions court in Delhi where this case had its first date. There were 53 cases that day and this was the first one. No one had known that this one would take all the time of that day's proceedings.

"My client, your honor, is a hardworking man who has earned all of his wealth by himself. He wanted nothing more in his life when this good-looking Vivaan who is a killer in reality took the most important part of Mr. Singhanian away" said Mr. d Souza as the starting statement of his case. "From the court I only demand justice and nothing else, your honor" he sits down.

Albert d Souza, was one of the most successful lawyers in India and also one of the most corrupt ones. He had lost just nine of the 65 cases he has done. His career, spanning a massive 30 years, he has taken the highest amount of wins among all the other lawyers here. He plays with the case and also has an evil sense of one-liners and flaunts his French accent which he has got to learn very recently. So the flaunting is necessary.

"Your honor, my client, Mr. Varun Ahuja is one of the most successful businessmen of this country. He is a self-made and self-established man of great reputation and respect in the society. He has had no cases against him in his entire career of 25 years. How can you expect a man like him to raise his son to be a killer?" says A.K. Sharma, the defense of Varun Ahuja.

Arun Kumar Sharma also was a greatly famous and young lawyer with a more realistic approach towards everything. He doesn't play much with his words but works on evidences and facts to prove his point. He has been compared to Albert d Souza for winning 20 out of 24 cases in his career. His fees is also as high as Mr. d Souza and he is also corrupt like him. But there's some difference.

"Shine some light, your honor because my worthy colleague, Mr. Sharma, doesn't fondly remember how Vivaan Ahuja's character has been in the past two years. And as they say, once a liar, always a liar" is the reply from Albert d Souza.

"But that should not mean anything and we should not declare him guilty without any discussion about this event. Your honor, I agree that Vivaan has not had a good past due to his involvement in cases of smuggling of drugs. I also agree that it was this only court where he was found guilty and punishment was also given here. But this is my point. This court has found him guilty in the past but in this case, Mr.



Albert d Souza wants a direct punishment which I feel is not right for the prestige of this place of justice” says A.K. Sharma.

“I never said that, your honor. Even I feel that it would not be right to declare him guilty straightaway but I am just saying that a boy like Vivaan, who has been involved in such cases in the near past, can easily commit a murder. So I only want justice, my lord, and nothing else”, said Mr. d Souza.

Many such exchanges took place that day in the courtroom and both the defense lawyers were in their best form when they were accusing each other’s clients. This case was important not only because of Mr. Ahuja and Mr. Singhanian being a part of this, but also because of Mr. d Souza and Mr. Sharma.

As we know that on the very first date, no evidences or facts are presented but the case is either accepted or rejected by the court. The whole day passed with accusation going on and then the judge said the acceptance statement.

“Listening to the point of views of both the defenses, the court is willing to accept this case with all the further proceedings going on from here. No one related to this case is allowed to leave the town till the completion of the case. Adjourned” saying this, the judge gave the next date.

The next date was two months later as you might have made up in your mind because of the 53 cases on that single day. Now imagine how many cases are there every day for the judiciary. This is the condition of the Judiciary now. There are so many cases pending, some are of small duration and some are of large no. of accusations with them. Some involve the poorest, who can’t even afford a good lawyer and some are those which have Albert d Souza. But still, somewhere in the minds of the common people there is still some faith for the judiciary because maybe that’s the reason for so many cases still pending.

## **Investigations and Investigator**

Parallel investigations were going on after the acceptance of the case. Rajveer Shikhawat, the main investigating officer in this case is at the Marina Club, doing his job.

“When was the booking made for this place for the 18<sup>th</sup> of Jan?” he asks.

Rajveer is a man most people of the town recognize. He is not corrupt in any way, he does the investigation with all his blood and sweat and gets the guilty convicted. He is tall and sports a beard.

“The booking was done a month ago, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Dec. Vivaan and Adi both had come together to make the booking” said the Bartender.

“Did you see any kind of rifts between them on the night of 18<sup>th</sup> Jan?”

“No, they seemed like best friends. They had danced together, Adi sir also bought drinks for Vivaan sir” he replied.

The further explanation given by the bartender included previous account of all meetings between the five best friends and also showed the CCTV footages of some of these meetings to Rajveer.

Rajveer comes back to the police station. Forensic expert Dr. Robert is waiting for him. He greets him with a hello and asks, “Found some evidence at the crime scene?”

“No sir, not even a single fingerprint was found on the dead body. But there was a mark of a gunshot on the wall right behind the dead body”

Dr. Robert and Rajveer, friends for many years now don't have any official informal meetings. They only meet in relations to the cases they are working on it and very professionally talk about the cases only.

Yet they have now become kind of best friends due to this professional talking for years.

“Oh” exclaims Rajveer.

“But sir, three different finger prints were found at different spots in the room where the body was found”

Rajveer asks him to identify the finger prints and let him know as soon as possible. He then goes to a coffee shop where he had arranged a meeting with the group of friends.

“Vivaan was the most popular face in your school, right?” he asks

“Yes sir, but mostly with the girls only” Adi replied.

“What do you mean?”

“Sir, he was never a part of our group. We always maintained a distance from him because of his involvement in the drug smuggling and other cases. Girls liked him because of the money he could spend on them and he was good-looking at the same time” was the reply.

“So what kind of friendship you guys had with Vivaan?”

“Sir we were not even friends, but just acquaintances.” Jay said.

“What about Samar, Samar Singhania?” Rajveer asked.

“Sir he was a friend” said Hardy.

Rajveer once had a thought that the main culprit has to be one of these four boys. Their answers seemed different and their behavior was different. Before going on to any conclusions, he thought to once meet Vivaan in person. He had later asked the group of friends to give him the account of the night and it was the same as known by most part of the country now.

Meanwhile, Vivaan had stopped seeing any more dreams and was also not planning anything. He just passed the days waiting for the date of the case and maybe praying as well. His nights were sleepless and so he was taking pills to sleep better.

He entered the coffee shop and Rajveer Shikhawat is already waiting for him.

“What kind of friendship you had with Adi, Jay, Hardy and Shivansh?” the first question.

“We were best friends. Everything we did together. Even on the night of the party we came in together” Vivaan said.

Now the obvious one, “Did you have any personal issues with Samar Singhania?”

“No”

“Did Adi, Jay, Hardy or Shivansh have some?”

“No” Vivaan replied.

“Tell me exactly what had happened on that night?”

“We were partying and then Adi gave me two drinks and then took me to the second floor of the club. I asked him why, he said someone is waiting for me. I was drunk to hell and could not make it then. But after I had been in the room on the second floor for a few moments, I had made out that I am with the dead body and everyone is there. All my classmates, some police officers and some news reporters as well. The rest you know, sir.”

Rajveer, now even more confused, thought from both sides of the story. On one side, there is the group of friends who are lying a lot. On other side is Vivaan who has had a bad record in the past but is constantly playing the victim in this case which is very strange and so, he isn't sure who the real culprit is.

Days had passed and then another date was there already. Already waiting to shock some.

## The Second Date of the Case

Albert started, "Your excellence, there are a lot of police investigation also going on parallel. I have a strong feel that someone from the police department is playing from both sides and is helping to destroy the evidences. For some questioning, I would like to call Mr. Rajveer Shikhawat in the witness box please.

"Mr. Shikhawat, who do you think is responsible for destroying the evidences related to this case?"

There was silence for a while. For a few seconds. Rajveer was angry inside but calm outside. Angry because he himself was worried for the finger prints now and this accusing on him, this angered him even more. He then gathered some breath.

"No one in fact no evidences have been destroyed in this case and I am making sure nothing like that ever happens" said Mr. Rajveer.

"But what about the finger prints on the body of Samar Singhania?" Albert asked.

This shocked Rajveer. How did he get to know about all this? Is he also aware of the person who has done it?

"Mr. Rajveer, don't think that what you hide from one person can be hidden from the rest of the world"

"Mr. Rajveer, do you agree that you have no finger prints from the body of Samar Singhania?" the judge asked.

"Yes, your honor I agree" replied Rajveer.

"Then how can you think of hiding this from the court?" judge said.

"I am sorry your honor. I thought I would be the one blamed for that"

"Of course you will be blamed because even if you haven't done it, someone from your department has done it or someone's negligence has" Albert said.

He continued, "Now tell me who is responsible for doing this?"

"The guard who was there at night duty was the only one present that night and according to him he didn't see anyone getting in the Marina" Rajveer replied.

"No, your honor! It was Vivaan Ahuja! It was he who had taken the finger prints" Mr. d Souza yelled.

“Your honor, my worthy colleague, Mr. Albert is accusing my client for something which he cannot make any use of. I would like to ask Albert that what use a school boy can make of finger prints” Mr. Sharma spoke up.

“Well, if you ask me, then I would say Vivaan did it because it was his finger print which he wiped off”

“Your honor, Mr. Albert is again making false accusations against my client and this could amount to another lawsuit against him” Arun was furious this time.

The Judge interrupted, “I don’t know who has done it. Mr. Shikhawat, I want you to dig into this and find out who has done it as soon as possible” judge said.

There were a lot more happenings in court that day. Albert had once again tried to convince that it was Vivaan.

“Your honor, I think only Vivaan could have done this because he was the one found with the dead body at the crime scene and maybe it was his fingerprint that he actually wiped off”

That night, there were reports in the media about the involvement of Vivaan Ahuja in wiping off the finger prints off the dead body. That day in court, Albert d Souza demanded from the court that if Vivaan is involved in removing the finger prints, then he should be also tried for life imprisonment to which the judge had replied that since he is not 18 yet and due to this he cannot be tried for a punishment like this. The judge later warned Albert to be in his limits and not accuse someone so much. To this Albert also apologized.

## Further meetings

Both the defense lawyers are meeting their respective clients in different places. Mr. Sharma is meeting Vivaan and Mr. d Souza is meeting Adi, Jay, Hardy and Shivansh.

“Two coffees without sugar”

“Seven coffees please”

Albert: Give me the exact account of that night what exactly did you see what exactly happened with you clearly.

Vivaan: Everyone was in the party mood and then I remember being present at the room on the second floor with everyone doubting me.

Jay: We heard the gunshot and then went upstairs to see what had happened.

Albert: Be honest and tell me have you done it?

Vivaan: No! Please understand this. I haven't and I can help you in whichever way you want me to.

Sharma: OK. I'll do my best I can.

Albert: You all rest assured and don't act smart to anyone. Just tell the truth to me and tell the others what I tell you to.

The meetings were over and thereon both the defense lawyers had to work hard to make their case strong. Both had a fair idea of their future planning.

Albert had a good point in Vivaan being present at the place of the murder. Arun on the other hand had to shape his words well. He had by now, known from Vivaan that his drink was adulterated with some drug which gave him hallucinations and so he wasn't really aware of what was going on around him for a few seconds.

The next date of the case was two months later.

Weeks passed. The date was of 5<sup>th</sup> May and there was only one reason to celebrate and that was Vivaan turning 18. And that's why everyone wanted to but could not celebrate such an important day. Vivaan himself was very worried about the case and scared also because now he can be given a life imprisonment if found guilty.

The next date of the case was very near. It was actually the very next day and everyone was present at the court.

The net result of this date was that since Vivaan Ahuja was 18 now, the judge reminded him that he can be tried for life imprisonment.

Another big event in this hearing was the main arguments put up by both the defenses.

“It’s clear from his presence at the murder sight that he is the culprit and he has killed Samar” Albert started.

“And it’s also clear that something was there in Vivaan’s drink which could have led him to do this” AK replied.

To this Albert had no clue what to say. This had happened to him for the first time in his entire career when he was falling short of arguments. But, with experience he had acquired the art of forming arguments with mere foreplay of words.

“So you say that his drink was adulterated. And this could have been done by him only so as to prove that he was under the influence of drugs” Albert said.

This shocked Sharma. He was not expecting such a reply from him. And he gasped on his breath in a few seconds and accepted his defeat at that hearing as Albert was a much experienced person. But he also managed to put a number of accusations on the four best friends.

Both the defenses have now had a fair idea of each other’s capabilities. Each other’s reach for words. Each other’s reality. Everything was clear in just a few dates.



## Some more Investigation

Rajveer Shikhawat has now started his investigation from a very lay level. After that date of the case, he appointed two of his trusted guards at the crime scene. Forensic expert had found out and told Rajveer that Vivaan is the one who has taken all the finger prints from the dead body. So Rajveer knew that if he now asked Vivaan then he would obviously deny because he did the same thing at the court. Hence, he did not ask him about that.

He now went to the St. Louis Convent's School to dig deeper into this case.

"Ma'am, tell me something about this group of friends" Rajveer asks from the class teacher of Vivaan.

She has been their class teacher since the beginning of class 11<sup>th</sup>. St. Louis Convent had this habit.

To have the same class teacher in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. This was good. Really very good. So that the teachers and students become all the more frank and friendly with each other. And that the teachers could help the students in their personal lives also.

"This group was basically the one of the riches" she said.

She went on, "All five of them were good in studies but were equally known by the other students for all the bad reasons. They did everything like best friends they partied every week, used to sit in the class nearby each other"

"Did you do something to stop them and their involvement in all the bad deeds?"

"No, because all were really good in studies and whenever I called their parents, they said if my child is doing good then you don't need to worry about other things. On the 14<sup>th</sup> Jan was last such meeting and I had given them the last warning about rustivating them if they were found involved in any more activities of this kind"

"Were there any rifts between Samar and this group of five?"

"Only minor ones and even if there were, then teachers hardly get to know any such things in school, but most teachers have seen Samar as friends with the group of five" replied the physics teacher.

"Thank you, ma'am for you co-operation and I might need to contact you again so I request you to please be in the town till the investigation completes" said Rajveer and went out of the fifth room after seeing the Principal.

"Sure"

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