
A FILM BY SHIV MEHTA

NEUROSIS

By

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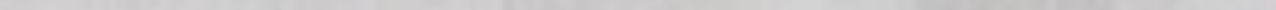
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SYNOPSIS AND EXPOSE

SYNOPSIS

MAYA HAD FINALLY STARTED TO REBUILD HER LIFE AFTER HER BEST FRIEND CALI DIED IN A CAR ACCIDENT TWO YEARS AGO. JUST AS SHE IS READY TO RETURN TO WRITING NEWS STORIES AND RECONNECT WITH FRIENDS CELIA AND MARCO, MAYA IS PLAGUED BY A VIVID NIGHTMARE WHERE CALI BLAMES HER FOR RUINING HER LIFE AND ATTEMPTS TO STAB HER. AWAKENING IN A COLD SWEAT, MAYA IS HORRIFIED TO SEE CALI, REALIZING THE NIGHTMARE HASN'T ENDED. DESPERATE, MAYA VISITS HER THERAPIST, DR. SHEILAH, WHO ADMONISHES HER FOR NOT PROPERLY PROCESSING HER GRIEF. MAYA'S PARANOIA INTENSIFIES, AND SHE DISTANCES HERSELF FROM EVERYONE. HER MOTHER CALLS DR. SHEILAH, REVEALING THAT MAYA AND CALI HAD BEEN WORKING ON AN EXPOSÉ ABOUT BILLIONAIRE NEIL JEFFERSON'S ABUSE OF HIS WIFE. MAYA HAD BACKED DOWN UNDER PRESSURE FROM HR, LEADING TO CALI'S RECKLESS CONFRONTATION AND SUBSEQUENT DEATH IN A CAR ACCIDENT. DR. SHEILAH REASSURES MAYA THAT SHE ISN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR CALI'S DEATH, BUT MAYA'S GUILT DEEPENS WHEN SHE RECEIVES A MYSTERIOUS PHONE CALL FROM CALI. MAYA'S HAUNTING VISIONS CULMINATE IN A FINAL CONFRONTATION WHERE SHE ACCIDENTALLY SHOOTS CALI DURING A STRUGGLE. PANICKED, MAYA CLEANS THE GUN AND FLEES, FINALLY LIBERATED FROM THE FEAR AND GUILT.

EXPOSE

MAYA WAS FINALLY PUTTING HER LIFE TOGETHER. TWO YEARS AGO, HER BEST FRIEND DIED IN A CAR ACCIDENT. MAYA WAS READY TO START WRITING NEWS STORIES AGAIN AND WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING CELIA AND MARCO AGAIN. MAYA FINDS HERSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WOODS AND RUNS INTO CALI WHO BLAMES HER FOR RUINING HER LIFE AND IS ABOUT TO STAB MAYA. MAYA WAKES UP IN A COLD SWEAT BUT SEES CALI REALIZING THE DREAM ISN'T OVER. THE NEXT MORNING, SHE GOES TO SEE HER THERAPIST, DR. SHEILAH. SHEILAH IS SURPRISED AND TELLS HER IT'S NOT APPROPRIATE TO BARGE IN. MAYA TELLS HER SHE SAW CALI. DR. SHEILAH CALMS MAYA DOWN AND POINTS OUT SHE IS NOT DOING THE WORK TO PROCESS HER GRIEF. THEN SHEILA SENDS MAYA ON HER WAY. MAYA TELLS CELIA ABOUT THE INCIDENT AND SHE FEELS BAD AND TRY TO MAKE HER COMFORTABLE. ON THE WAY TO THE BATHROOM, MAYA SEES CALI OUTSIDE AND MAYA FOLLOWS HER. MAYA TAPS HER ON HER SHOULDER AND FALLS TO THE GROUND. CELIA AND HR LIDYA FIND MAYA WHO IS CATATONIC. DR. SHEILAH IS CALLED AND MAYA IS TAKEN HOME. THE NEXT DAY, MAYA IS OUTSIDE IN HER YARD AND SEES CALI AGAIN. MAYA BECOMES EXTREMELY PARANOID AND DISTANCES HERSELF FROM EVERYONE.

MAYA'S MOTHER CALLS DR. SHELIAH TO TALK TO MAYA, SHE AND CALI HAD WORKED ON A STORY ABOUT BILLIONAIRE NEIL JEFFERSON AND HOW HE ABUSES HIS WIFE MORA. THEY WERE READY TO PUBLISH BUT MAYA WAS WARNED BY HR AND BACKED DOWN WITHOUT TELLING CALI. THEN CALI PULLED UP TO HER DRIVEWAY AND ASKED HER WHY MAYA DIDN'T GO WITH THE STORY. MAYA TELLS CALI THE AGENCY WARNED HER AND TOLD HER SHE COULD LOSE HER JOB. CALI CALLS MAYA A COWARD BUT MAYA REMINDS CALI SHE NEEDS HER JOB AS HER FAMILY DEPENDS ON HER. CALI GETS UPSET AS MAYA DIDN'T TELL HER. CALI REVEALS SHE GOT FIRED TRYING TO GET THEIR STORY TO GO THROUGH. CALI JUMPS INTO HER CAR AND DRIVES AWAY RECKLESSLY. MAYA FINDS OUT THE NEXT DAY CALI WAS KILLED BY AN ACCIDENT. DR. SHELIAH TRIED TO COMFORT MAYA, SAYING THAT SHE DID THE RIGHT THING FOR HERSELF AND THAT SHE ISN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR CALI'S DEATH. THE NEXT DAY, MAYA'S DOUBTS AND FEARS GROW AS SHE RECEIVES A MYSTERIOUS PHONE CALL FROM AN UNKNOWN NUMBER, FROM CALI. MAYA SEES CALI AND TRIES TO HUG HER BUT CALI PULLS OUT A GUN. CALI BLAMES HER FOR RUINING HER CAREER AND PREVENTING A STORY FROM BEING PUBLISHED THAT COULD HAVE CHANGED HER LIFE AND SAVED MORA. MAYA AND CALI FIGHT AND MAYA ACCIDENTALLY SHOOTS HER. MAYA PULLS A CLOTH AND CLEANS THE GUN BEFORE RUNNING AWAY. MAYA FEELS RELIEVED AND FREE FROM HER GUILT.

CREATIVE VISION OF NEUROSIS

"NEUROSIS" IS A PSYCHOLOGICAL THRILLER THAT DELVES DEEP INTO THE FRAGILE BOUNDARIES BETWEEN REALITY AND ILLUSION, FRIENDSHIP AND BETRAYAL, AND LIFE AND DEATH. THIS FILM AIMS TO IMMERSE THE AUDIENCE IN A TENSE, UNNERVING ATMOSPHERE WHERE THE LINES OF SANITY ARE CONSTANTLY BLURRED.

PLOT SUMMARY

MAYA, A YOUNG WOMAN GRAPPLING WITH THE RECENT LOSS OF HER BEST FRIEND CALI, BEGINS EXPERIENCING HAUNTING VISIONS OF HER DECEASED FRIEND. THESE APPARITIONS ARE INITIALLY SUBTLE, CREEPING INTO MAYA'S PERIPHERAL VISION AND DREAMS, BUT GRADUALLY BECOME MORE VIVID AND INTRUSIVE. AS THE HAUNTING ESCALATES, MAYA'S SENSE OF REALITY BEGINS TO FRAY, LEADING HER TO QUESTION HER OWN SANITY. MAYA'S JOURNEY THROUGH THIS MENTAL LABYRINTH IS PUNCTUATED BY FLASHBACKS OF HER FRIENDSHIP WITH CALI. THESE MOMENTS ARE PORTRAYED WITH A WARM, NOSTALGIC GLOW, STARKLY CONTRASTING THE COLD, UNSETTLING PRESENT. THROUGH THESE FLASHBACKS, WE LEARN OF THE DEEP BOND THE TWO SHARED, AS WELL AS THE TRAGIC ACCIDENT THAT SUPPOSEDLY TOOK CALI'S LIFE.

VISUAL AND STYLISTIC ELEMENTS

"NEUROSIS" WILL EMPLOY A VISUALLY DISTINCTIVE STYLE TO REPRESENT MAYA'S DETERIORATING MENTAL STATE. THE FILM WILL UTILIZE A MUTED COLOR PALETTE FOR THE PRESENT, INTERSPERSED WITH VIBRANT, ALMOST HYPER-REAL COLORS DURING THE FLASHBACKS OF MAYA AND CALI'S FRIENDSHIP. THIS CONTRAST WILL EMPHASIZE THE CHASM BETWEEN MAYA'S MEMORIES AND HER CURRENT REALITY. CINEMATOGRAPHY WILL PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN CONVEYING THE FILM'S PSYCHOLOGICAL TENSION. CLOSE-UP SHOTS AND SHALLOW DEPTH OF FIELD WILL BE USED TO CREATE A SENSE OF CLAUSTROPHOBIA AND DISORIENTATION. THE CAMERA WILL OFTEN LINGER ON MAYA'S FACE, CAPTURING THE SUBTLE SHIFTS IN HER EXPRESSION AS SHE TEETERS ON THE BRINK OF A BREAKDOWN. LIGHTING WILL ALSO BE INSTRUMENTAL IN BUILDING THE FILM'S EERIE ATMOSPHERE. LOW-KEY LIGHTING, COMBINED WITH STRATEGIC USE OF SHADOWS, WILL EVOKE A SENSE OF UNEASE AND ANTICIPATION. THE HAUNTING VISIONS OF CALI WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A GRADUAL SHIFT IN LIGHTING, MAKING THE SUPERNATURAL ELEMENTS FEEL ORGANIC AND GROUNDED IN MAYA'S REALITY.

SOUND DESIGN AND MUSIC

THE SOUND DESIGN WILL BE INTRICATELY WOVEN INTO THE NARRATIVE TO HEIGHTEN THE TENSION. SUBTLE, ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLE SOUNDS WILL BE USED TO CREATE A SENSE OF PARANOIA, MAKING THE AUDIENCE QUESTION WHAT IS REAL AND WHAT IS IMAGINED. THE MUSIC WILL BE A MIX OF HAUNTING MELODIES AND JARRING, DISSONANT TONES, REFLECTING MAYA'S TUMULTUOUS EMOTIONAL STATE.

THEMES

"NEUROSIS" EXPLORES THEMES OF GUILT, REDEMPTION, AND THE COMPLEXITY OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS. IT EXAMINES HOW UNRESOLVED EMOTIONS CAN MANIFEST IN DESTRUCTIVE WAYS AND HOW THE MIND CAN BE BOTH A SANCTUARY AND A PRISON. THE FILM ALSO DELVES INTO THE IDEA OF PERCEPTION VERSUS REALITY, CHALLENGING THE AUDIENCE TO CONSIDER THE RELIABILITY OF THEIR OWN SENSES AND EXPERIENCES. IN "NEUROSIS," THE TRUE HORROR LIES NOT IN THE SUPERNATURAL, BUT IN THE HUMAN PSYCHE. IT IS A CHILLING EXPLORATION OF HOW OUR DEEPEST FEARS AND REGRETS CAN COME TO LIFE, HAUNTING US UNTIL WE CONFRONT THE TRUTHS WE WISH TO BURY. THE FILM AIMS TO LEAVE THE AUDIENCE QUESTIONING THEIR OWN PERCEPTIONS AND THE NATURE OF THEIR RELATIONSHIPS, LONG AFTER THE CREDITS ROLL.

CHARACTERS

SHELIAH HARPER, AGE 60.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

SHELIAH HARPER WAS BORN AND RAISED IN A SMALL COASTAL TOWN IN OREGON, WHERE THE SERENE LANDSCAPES AND CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY INSTILLED IN HER A DEEP APPRECIATION FOR HUMAN CONNECTION AND THE NATURAL WORLD. GROWING UP, SHELIAH WAS KNOWN FOR HER EMPATHETIC NATURE AND HER ABILITY TO LISTEN WITHOUT JUDGMENT. THESE TRAITS NATURALLY GUIDED HER TOWARDS A CAREER WHERE SHE COULD HELP OTHERS NAVIGATE THEIR EMOTIONAL LANDSCAPES. SHELIAH PURSUED HER UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES IN PSYCHOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, WHERE SHE GRADUATED WITH HONORS. HER PASSION FOR UNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE HUMAN MIND LED HER TO CONTINUE HER EDUCATION AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY, WHERE SHE EARNED A MASTER'S DEGREE IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY. DURING HER TIME AT STANFORD, SHELIAH FOCUSED ON COGNITIVE-BEHAVIORAL THERAPY (CBT) AND MINDFULNESS-BASED STRESS REDUCTION (MBSR), TWO APPROACHES THAT WOULD BECOME CORNERSTONES OF HER THERAPEUTIC PRACTICE. SHELIAH SPECIALIZES IN TREATING ANXIETY, DEPRESSION, TRAUMA, AND RELATIONSHIP ISSUES. SHE IS KNOWN FOR HER INTEGRATIVE APPROACH, COMBINING TRADITIONAL THERAPEUTIC TECHNIQUES WITH HOLISTIC PRACTICES. HER SESSIONS OFTEN INCORPORATE ELEMENTS OF MINDFULNESS, MEDITATION, AND EXPRESSIVE ARTS THERAPY, TAILORED TO MEET THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF EACH CLIENT.

MAYA THOMPSON, AGE 25.

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

MAYA THOMPSON WAS BORN IN NEW YORK CITY AND GREW UP IN A VIBRANT, MULTICULTURAL NEIGHBORHOOD THAT SPARKED HER CURIOSITY ABOUT THE WORLD FROM AN EARLY AGE. RAISED BY PARENTS WHO WERE BOTH AVID READERS AND STORYTELLERS, MAYA DEVELOPED A PASSION FOR WRITING AND UNCOVERING THE TRUTH. HER CHILDHOOD WAS FILLED WITH ADVENTURES ALONGSIDE HER BEST FRIEND CALI, WHO SHARED MAYA'S INQUISITIVE NATURE AND ZEST FOR LIFE. MAYA ATTENDED COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, WHERE SHE MAJORED IN JOURNALISM. DURING HER COLLEGE YEARS, SHE WROTE FOR THE UNIVERSITY'S NEWSPAPER, TACKLING A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS FROM LOCAL POLITICS TO HUMAN INTEREST STORIES. HER KNACK FOR FINDING COMPELLING ANGLES AND HER RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF TRUTH EARNED HER SEVERAL ACCOLADES, INCLUDING THE PRESTIGIOUS COLUMBIA JOURNALISM AWARD. THE SUDDEN LOSS OF HER BEST FRIEND CALI IN A TRAGIC ACCIDENT WAS A TURNING POINT IN MAYA'S LIFE. THE GRIEF WAS OVERWHELMING, AND MAYA FOUND HERSELF GRAPPLING WITH A PROFOUND SENSE OF LOSS AND EMPTINESS. FOR A TIME, SHE RETREATED FROM HER WORK, STRUGGLING TO FIND MEANING WITHOUT CALI BY HER SIDE.

CELIA CARPENTER, AGE 29

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

CELIA GREW UP IN A SMALL TOWN, WHERE SHE WAS KNOWN FOR HER LOVE OF BOOKS AND WRITING FROM A YOUNG AGE. HER PARENTS, BOTH TEACHERS, ENCOURAGED HER TO PURSUE HER PASSIONS, LEADING HER TO STUDY JOURNALISM AT A WELL-RESPECTED UNIVERSITY. DURING HER COLLEGE YEARS, SHE MET MAYA, AND THE TWO QUICKLY BECAME INSEPARABLE. CELIA HAS AN INSATIABLE CURIOSITY THAT DRIVES HER PASSION FOR JOURNALISM. SHE IS ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE NEXT BIG STORY, WHETHER IT'S A LOCAL HUMAN INTEREST PIECE OR A BREAKING NEWS EVENT. DESPITE BEING A JUNIOR JOURNALIST, CELIA'S DETERMINATION AND WORK ETHIC OFTEN SET HER APART. SHE'S KNOWN FOR HER PERSISTENCE, NEVER GIVING UP UNTIL SHE UNCOVERS THE TRUTH. CELIA HAS A NATURAL EMPATHY THAT MAKES HER EXCELLENT AT CONNECTING WITH SOURCES AND UNDERSTANDING THEIR STORIES ON A DEEPER LEVEL. CELIA IS FIERCELY LOYAL. SHE IS ALWAYS THERE TO SUPPORT AND DEFEND THEM, ESPECIALLY HER BEST FRIEND, MAYA.
