

TITLE - WHAT IS REALITY?

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INT. WHITE ROOM - NEITHER DAY NOR NIGHT

Rachit (18), dressed in a white hooded sweat shirt, white sweat pants, white shoes and socks, is sitting hunched over on a black plastic chair in the middle of a bright white room. He is staring at the floor.

The room has no features, no windows and no doors. It is illuminated just by a stark fluorescent light.

Rachit's hood covers his head and drapes over, hiding his face.

The light flickers and the scene changes to where Rachit now wears a black gown similar style to one you would see in a hospital. His head and feet are bare.

The scene flicks back and forth between the two alternate images of Rachit. Eventually stopping on him dressed in white.

At the sound of indistinct dull childlike voices, he raises his head and we can see his shadowy gaze. He looks around the room as if to find the source of the noise.

A peal of child's laughter seemingly coming from behind him causes Rachit to stand and spin around as if trying to see the child.

EXT. FIELDS - DAY

We follow behind two young boys (4), who are the same height, same hair color and are similarly dressed. We don't view their faces. They walk through the fields holding hands. BOY ONE gives out a laugh as he lets go of BOY TWO's hand and reaches out for a bird that has taken flight from a bush that they have disturbed. He captures the bird in his hands and holds it out in front of him. He laughs at the bird struggling to free itself from his hands.

INT. WHITE ROOM - NEITHER DAY NOR NIGHT

At the sound of laughter, hooded Rachit looks at his empty outstretched hands. He drops them down to his sides and slumps down back onto the chair.

The scene flicks back and forth between the two different Rachits, the one wearing the white hood and the other in the black gown, until it settles on him in the black gown.

EXT. FIELDS - DAY

Boy One starts to squeeze the bird until it chirps in protest. Boy Two swats at the first boy's hands trying to release the bird from his grasp.

BOY TWO
Stop it! You're hurting it! Let it go!

Boy One laughs and squeezes it even tighter.

BOY TWO
Let go! LET IT GO!

Boy Two yanks Boy One's hands apart and frees the bird allowing it to fly away.

INT. WHITE ROOM - NEITHER DAY NOR NIGHT

Rachit, in the black gown, mimics pulling apart another person's hand. He falls onto the chair and stares into space.

The scene flicks back and forth again between Rachit in the black gown and the white hood, until it stops on him in the white hood.

Rachit gets up and hunches down onto the floor and prods at the floor with one finger.

EXT. FIELDS - DAY

Boy One is hunched down with a stick in his hand. He seems to be poking something that is lying on the ground. The angle changes and we can see that there is a dead rat lying on the ground. Boy One has poked a hole in its stomach and the rodent's guts are starting to ooze out.

There is a crack of a broken stick behind him and Boy Two stands beside him looking down at the unfortunate creature.

BOY TWO
What are you doing? That's cruel.

Boy One shrugs and keeps poking at the animal. Boy Two grabs the stick out of his hand and tosses it away into the bushes.

Boy One gets up, and wanders off, unaffected by the incident or that his stick was tossed away.

Boy Two starts to dig a hole in the dirt beside the rat with his bare hands.

He grunts with his efforts.

INT. WHITE ROOM - NEITHER DAY NOR NIGHT

Rachit in the black gown is kneeling on the floor pretending to scrape at the concrete floor. He stops and mimics pushing something in, he then scoops the pretend soil over the spot and then pats the floor as if he has covered up the rat with soil.

The scene flicks from Rachit in the black gown to himself in the white hood. He gets up and starts pacing the room. He stops, and performs a handstand against the wall. His legs are bent over with his feet firmly planted against the wall.

EXT. TREE - DAY

Boy Two (10), is on the ground looking up at Boy One (10), who is hanging upside down, his legs are hanging over a tree branch.

Again we don't see their faces but they are similarly dressed. They start to give the impression of being twins.

BOY TWO

Come down! Come down now! Maaji
won't like it if you fall.

Boy One starting to swing back and forth, using his arms for momentum. He laughs at Boy Two's anguish.

BOY ONE

Don't be such a cry baby! I won't
fall.

He starts to swing harder and harder until one of his legs slips off and he is hanging upside down by just one leg.

Boy Two gasps.

BOY TWO

You see, you're falling! Stop it!
GET DOWN NOW!

Boy One laughs then with one last almighty swing throws himself off the branch and safely lands on his feet in the grass.

INT. WHITE ROOM - NEITHER DAY NOR NIGHT

Rachit in the black gown is staring up at the ceiling. His face shows his anguish.

BOY TWO (OS)
Don't do that again, you could have
fallen. If you do it again I'll
tell, and Maaji will be angry.

BOY ONE (OS)
Ha, ha!

The scene flicks back and forth again between Rachit in the black gown and the white hood; stopping on the white hood.

EXT. FIELDS - DAY

We are following Boy One and Two who are running through the fields. Boy Two is trailing after Boy One when he stumbles over an exposed root and falls, skinning his knee.

Boy One runs ahead unaware that the other boy has fallen over.

Boy Two looks up and stretches out his hand towards Boy One's receding back.

BOY TWO
Wait! WAIT!

INT. WHITE ROOM - NEITHER DAY NOR NIGHT

Rachit in the black gown is on the floor holding onto his knee with his hand outstretched.

He shakes his head as if to clear it. He lets his hand fall and slowly pulls himself up from the floor and drops down onto the chair. He stares down at the floor.

The scene flicks back and forth between Rachit in the black gown and the white hood, stopping at the white hood.

Rachit jumps up from the chair. He mimes as if he is pushing something over. He leans over as if to watch it fall.

EXT. WELL - DAY

Boy Two is screaming as he falls down into the well.

He looks up to see Boy One, staring down into the well, his face rendered featureless by the bright sunlight behind him.

From Boy One's perspective, he sees a large splash as Boy Two falls into the water. When Boy Two bobs up, Boy One has disappeared.

INT. WHITE ROOM - NEITHER DAY NOR NIGHT

Rachit, in the black gown, is mimicking trying to claw his way up the well's wall. When suddenly he stops and looks around. He goes to a corner of the room and sits down with his back against the corner and his knees pulled up against his chest.

The scene flicks back and forth between Rachit in the black gown and the white hood, stopping on the white hood.

EXT. FIELDS - DAY

There is a stump and cut firewood stacked in a pile in the middle of the field. There is an axe lodged in the stump.

Boy One (14), yanks out the axe and brandishes it over his head. He lets out a primal scream and runs off into the field.

Boy Two (14), is panting heavily running through the fields. We follow him as he pushes his way through the tall stalks of the field's crops. They close up behind him, covering his path. He struggles his way through, nearly reaching a large tree at the edge of the field.

Boy One screams, and the swishing sound of the axe being thrown through the air above Boy Two's head causes him to fall to the ground and lay flat.

Boy Two looks up to see the axe quivering, lodged in the trunk of the tree.

INT. WHITE ROOM - NEITHER DAY NOR NIGHT

Rachit, in the white hood, screams his anguish. He smacks his fists against a wall.

The scene flicks back and forth between Rachit in the white hood banging his fists against the wall, and dressed in the black gown banging his head against the opposite wall.

The scene stops on the Rachit wearing the white hood. He looks at his fists which are now bruised and marked with small rivulets of blood. He wipes his fists against his pants and leaves smears of blood.

EXT. TREE - DAY

Boy One has Boy Two tied face on to the tree trunk. Boy Two's arms are wrapped around the tree and his his hands are tied together with rough rope.

Boy One steps back and picks up some small stones that are stacked in a pile on the ground.

Again we cannot see the boy's faces but they are the same height and are similarly dressed.

Boy One throws a stone at Boy Two. It misses and he grunts when it falls beside the tree.

He tosses another one and it hits Boy Two on the back of the calf leaving a small mark.

BOY ONE

One.

BOY TWO

Ugh!

He tosses another stone a bit harder and it hits Boy Two on the back of the knee, scratching it.

BOY ONE

Two.

BOY TWO

STOP! STOP!

Boy One takes another stone and throws it, it bounces off Boy Two's backside.

BOY ONE

Three.

Boy Two starts to wiggle. He pulls against the rope and it rubs some bark off the tree.

BOY TWO

STOP IT! PLEASE! STOP IT!

Boy One pauses.

BOY ONE

Rats! I can't remember what I'm up to. I'll have to start again.

Boy Two wiggles even more, causing his wrists to chafe from the rough rope.

(CONTINUED)

BOY TWO

NO! NO! YOU WERE UP TO FOUR! FOUR!
DON'T, DON'T THROW ANYMORE! LET ME
GO, PLEASE!

Boy One contemplates the request. He juggles another stone in his hand.

BOY ONE

NO! I told you five and that's what
you're going to get.

He swiftly throws another stone and it hits Boy Two in the arm. The stone cuts him and blood trickles down and drips onto the bare dirt.

BOY ONE

Four.

Boy Two senses that the next stone could really hurt. He wriggles even more and starts turning his head side to side.

BOY TWO

NO! NO! PLEASE DON'T! PLEASE....

Boy One reaches down and selects the largest and pointiest stone from the pile. He feels its sharp edges and gets ready to throw aiming at Boy Two's head.

BOY TWO

PLEASE! NO!

Boy One throws the stone. Boy Two screams.

BOY TWO

NOOOOOOOOO!

INT. WHITE ROOM - NEITHER DAY NOR NIGHT

Rachit in the black gown is standing with his arms outstretched against the wall. Suddenly he crumbles to the ground holding the back of his head. When he takes his hand away there is blood on his palm.

The scene flicks back and forth from Rachit crumbled on the floor looking at his bloody palm to the white hooded boy standing over him. Rachit looks up.

RACHIT (BLACK GOWN)

ENOUGH!

Rachit slowly stands. He seems to pull himself together and his stance changes from a submissive pose, to one that has a domineering bearing.

He goes over to the black chair and centers it in the middle of the room.

EXT. TREE - DAY

The tree has a rough rope thrown over its branches with a loop tied on one end. The rope has been securely tied to the tree branch. Below the loop is a plastic black chair.

Boy One is standing on the chair with his neck through the loop. His hands are tied behind his back. Boy Two is standing beside the chair brandishing a roughly hewed piece of plank that has rusty nails nailed through it. We see the nails poking out the plank's side.

Now we can clearly see the boy's faces. They could be twins, but the petrified expression on Boy One makes him look oddly dissimilar to Boy Two, who is wearing a mask of revenge and blood-thirsty control on his.

There is blood running down the legs of Boy One.

BOY ONE
NO! DON'T! PLEASE, PLEASE DON'T!

Boy Two steps back and lifts his leg to kick at the chair. He swings his leg back and forth getting closer and closer to the chair legs with each count.

BOY TWO
One!
(beat)
Two!

Boy One screams in anguish.

BOY ONE
NOOOOOOOO!

BOY TWO
Three!
(beat)
Four!

BOY ONE
NOOOOOOOOOOOOOO! DON'T! I BEG YOU,
PLEASE DON'T.

Boy Two doesn't heed Boy One's pleas. He snarls and pulls back his leg to make the kick.

(CONTINUED)

BOY TWO
FFFFFFIIIIVVVVV.....

INT. DARK BEDROOM - NIGHT

The bedroom is dark; there is no light or color other than a bright white light streaming out from the computer monitor on the desk.

In the room the bed is unmade and there are empty packets of crisps and soda cans stacked on the desk and the floor. Clothes are strewn over most surfaces and there are muted sounds of music and laughter that appear to be coming from outside the room.

Rachit (18), is sitting in front of the flickering monitor. His face is lit up by the screen as he stares closely at it as he types onto the keyboard.

He does not hear a loud knock on the door.

MAAJI(OS)
RACHIT!

When he does not acknowledge she hammers on the door again.

MAAJI(OS)
RACHIT!

When there is no answer, MAAJI (Mother) opens up the door and peers in. She gropes for the light switch, flicking it on and off, startling him.

He quickly minimizes the screen and pulls off his headphones. The muted sound of heavy music thumps through the pads, but it is overpowered by the sounds of music and laughter coming from other parts of the house.

MAAJI
Dinner time.

Rachit looks up.

MAAJI
Your brother Ranjeet is here.

Rachit's twin brother sticks his head into the room.

RANJEET
Hey bhai.

Rachit swallows a bit nervously.

(CONTINUED)

RACHIT

Hey.

(beat)

Okay, I'm coming Maaji.

He turns back to the monitor.

MAAJI

NOW!

RACHIT

Okay! Okay!

His mother leaves the room with her arm around Ranjeet.

Rachit turns back to the monitor and maximizes the scene of the white hooded figure standing on the chair with the rope looped around his neck.

He taps on the keyboard and closes down the program.

When he gets up to leave, the scene flickers from him dressed in his jeans and tee shirt to him wearing a black gown then back again.