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Murky waters

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Statement

Three little Cons (working title) is a story of three young boys who grow up in an environment of political and social uncertainties in a northern province of India (Kashmir) during 1970 to 2000. Having witnessed and grown in the same period I felt it would be worthwhile to write a screen play and depict the lives of three boys who belong to different spheres of life with varied goals. The local film industry at this particular region is still in infancy, no such effort has been made to make a film depicting rather contemporary lives of people. The story would be completely fictitious but would have elements and references from the real people and events. I am starting with a broad outline which may go well beyond ninety pages of writing. My effort will be to contain it within ninety pages and let the story evolve organically, and having more scenes and events would enable me to eliminate and cut scenes which may seem irrelevant and not flowing with the story rather than confining myself to a shorter and crisper outline. The premise I am working towards would be, oppression leads to rebellion and education pays in the end.

While writing the script my another goal would be to look for possible investors to produce this film after completing the degree.

Synopsis

Feature Length Screenplay
Three Little Cons (working title)

Three Little Cons (working Title) is the story of three young boys who live in the northern mountainous state of India (Kashmir). The Story revolves around their lives and how they overcome their hardships of daily life acting together. On personal level all of them have troubled childhood, but as soon as they realize that by acting together they can overcome many adversities, they give hard time to fellow child gangs and bullying older boys. The story told in a non-linear pattern reveals the life of MUZ, ALI and AMAN, Starting from their very childhood over a span of thirty odd years. The three little cons is the life of these three characters since 1970.

Ali, Aman and Muz grow up among hostilities at home, outside and in the times of political turmoil and chaos, which affects their personality buildup. They have dreams. Ali wants to fly to Russia to study medicine. Muz wants to make lot of money and own expensive cars. Aman wants to be a singer. The hostile environment inside and outside their homes create a lot of hurdles. In the process of taking revenge, and hostile political environment they lose sight of their goals and their priorities change.

Background and character sketch

MUZ is short tempered and has flair for cars. His father is a motor mechanic. Muz steals cars from his father's garage. His father lands in trouble with customers and Muz gets his share of beating. He is fan of Hollywood movies and when he is not driving his two friends in cars from his father's garage, he watches Hollywood movies. He contemplates robbing banks, stealing cars and making a lot of money. He loves American way of life, which he sees in movies. He owns a pistol at a very young age, which he brought from black market.

AMAN Loves music, he plays guitar. He goes to local television channels for his musical recordings and plays and sings for his friends. He is soberer of the three. He is very poor. Aman's parents died early and his two elders brothers have abandoned him. He lives with his two sisters, the elder one who is crippled due to Polio and a younger sister. He wants to earn money to marry off her younger sister and take her other sister for treatment. He is usually embarrassed due to his poverty and puts on Jazzy clothes and fake jewelry to hide his poverty. He falls in love with a girl. The girl belongs to very rich family and hence her parents give him a very tough time.

ALI is shy, intelligent and cunning. He is quieter of the three. He loves girls, glamour and booze. He is most troubled of them all. He is sexually assaulted by older boys and constantly fights them and at home he has to face bad mouthed, hot-tempered father, who takes all his frustrations on his kids. Ali always says he is born at wrong place and to a

wrong father. His ambition is to leave his home and fly to Russia. He is saving his money to pay an agent who arranges for admission for local kids in medical schools in Moscow. He also joins local communist party to make it to Russia.

As Ali, Muz and Aman grow, they start pursuing their goals. Their childhood insecurities are fast vanishing. They overcome lots of them and are growing into independent and fearless young men. They remain very loyal to each other. An untold secret binds them together. They had once talked an older boy GUL into the river and pushed him into the water, knowing he cannot swim. Gul was a pedophile and was after Ali.

Time passes, it is 1990, and Things are changing fast. There is boom of satellite television channels and changing life styles and on the other hand insurgency is brewing among young men. There is chaos.

Aman continues doing well with his music. He has started to make some good money. His sister is engaged but he is not happy. He is having trouble with his girl friend because of her parents. He is insomniac and highly dependent on sleeping pills. Once he visits his sister in hospital, the doctor there insists on his check up, his blood pressure is very high and he is admitted into the hospital for further investigation. In two days he is declared to have renal failure.

Muz's mother commits suicide by jumping into the river in the middle of the night. She had psychological disorder. Muz blames his father for that. Muz is also busy stealing cars and robbing banks. He joins insurgency and climbs the ranks very fast for his ruthlessness and flair for shooting. He is feared by people and has reward on his head. He gives slips to police and makes inroads into police departments by huge bribes, so police also keeps away from him. Once he killed a police officer's son, the police gets after him and is caught.

Ali has given up the idea of going to Russia. He is a party lover and enjoys company of girls. He is alcoholic and has cocaine addiction. And if he gets in trouble, he would take Muz's help to straighten people up. He is the one with college education and would offer advise to his friends, Muz and Aman.

Ten years later, Muz is released from prison on parole after he agrees to turn into witness against his comrades. Ali and a schoolteacher talked him into doing this., Muz marries and had a son. He is a changed man. He would spend most of the time with his kid. A small boy who had seen him killing his father later ambushes him, He dies on the way to hospital.

Aman has a kidney transplant, his brother donates him the kidney after Aman withdrew his claim on family inheritance. The money he had saved for his sister's treatment was used for his kidney transplantation. He dies of acute infection later.

Ali survives the testing times, he works on a tourist shop and adopts Muz's son. He has a son of his own. They are named Muz and Aman.

Treatment/Story outline

Feature Length Screenplay
Three Little Cons (working title)

It is summer of 1995, Some top leaders of India have arrived to inaugurate the railway line which will run across the valley. People talk about the validity of the railroad. ALI, 30, is watching the hustle and bustle from a distance.

Ali, begins to narrate the story. “Time flies, This is the place I grew up, I have seen good bad and ugly days here.”

20 years back, ALI, MUZ and AMAN playing soccer, The ground is full of kids, some older boys arrive in the field, there is chaos and boys run away as the older boys start bullying them. Among the older boys is GUL. Gul is a Pedophile and is after Ali. Ali fights back. It was after the intervention of the local schoolteacher NOOR, Ali gets away.

Ali continues in Voice over, “I am sure other boys too suffered the same treatment but nobody would talk about it because of the shame associated with being sexually molested.”

School day, Muz is getting beaten by Gul’s gang, the crowd is cheering. Ali joins in, They are both humiliated by Gul and his gang. After they are allowed to leave, Aman comes to their rescue, washes their wounds before they go home.

Ali continues in voice over, “This is how we became friends, from then three of us fought them together, soon we were famous in the neighborhood, it was pay back time.”

There are Several more encounters with Gul’s and other kid gangs. Together Ali, Muz and Aman are able to beat them away, they start using sharp edged weapons.

Ali goes home, his cloths are torn, His father thrashes him, complaining, is this why he is paying for his school, to come home clothes torn. Soon his father starts beating other kids and his wife.

Ali’s Voice over, “I always thought I have been born at a wrong place and to a wrong father. Aman and Muz’s life is no better.”

Aman’s life is revealed. He is an orphan. His brothers treat him shabbily. But he is very close to his sisters. He fights with his brother who has spoiled his guitar and leaves home swearing.

Aman goes to Muz’s home and Muz is having argument with his father. Muz has crashed the car, which he stole from his father’s garage. Muz and Aman leave in the same car and are joined by Ali.

Gul is driving in his car, Muz and his friends challenge him for a race . He agrees. Muz is certain to win the race but Ali asks him to slow down and let Gul win the race.

Ali's vice over, "This is how I decided to take my revenge. The same night we treated Gul with lots of beer and talked him into coming for fishing with us He didn't know how to swim."

Ali, Muz, Aman and Gul are fishing in a boat in the middle of the river. Ali signals to his friends. They put the entire weight on one side of the wooden boat and boat flips in the gushing water. Three of them swim back to bank leaving the boat and Gul behind.

They decide to stay at Muz's home. They see police car and some crowd outside. They hurriedly try to make a turn and leave the scene, but another police car comes in their way and they hit the curb. Hearing the bang Muz's father comes running toward the car. Ali and his friends are sweating thinking it was about Gul. But contrary he tells Muz his mother is missing and if he has any idea where she might have gone.

The police fishes out bodies of Gul and Muz's mother from the river. After few days of police investigation these are treated as suicides and the case is closed. Muz starts to have strained relation with his father. He blames his father for his mother's death. This incident makes Muz more violent. He beats up guys and buys a pistol from black market.

The school cracks down on drugs. Muz and Ali are caught with selling drugs. They are expelled from school but the schoolteacher Noor intervenes, they are retained in the school with a strict warning.

Ali gets the beating of his life from his father after school informs him of the Ali's drug possession. He confronts his father and leaves home.

five years later, Aman and Muz rough up boys in college. Muz shoots a boy in the leg. Police looks for Muz in the college. He drops out from the college along with Aman and goes into hiding.

Ali continues the college, he is roughed up by police to tell them about Muz. He joins local communist party.

Aman continues with his music recordings. During a live performance in a school, a girl Ruby falls for him and they start dating.

Muz robs two banks in a week. He is shot in the leg in his second robbery. Police is after him and with the help of an informant he is arrested. He is beaten mercilessly in prison.

Ruby's parents warn Aman to stay away from Ruby. He starts to lose sleep. He becomes depressed and addicted to sleeping pills.

Satellite television invades the region, people are glued to the television sets. At the same time there is outbreak of insurgency against the government in the region. The group demands freedom from India. There is chaos and killing.

Muz meets a group of insurgents inside the prison. He plans prison break with them. Ali smuggles in Chloroform inside the prison, the guards are over powered. There is shooting inside the prison. The guard and two insurgents are killed. Muz and few insurgents manage to escape.

Outside, Muz shoots the informants. He becomes trigger-happy. He takes orders from the group commander and shoots at police and kills their rivals. He usually hides at Aman's place.

Ali continues with his drug addiction and is having orgy parties. Muz fixes things for him when he gets into trouble as the insurgents ban the alcohol and drug consumption.

Aman admits his crippled sister in the hospital. He deposits the money he has earned for her treatment. Aman passes out in the hospital and is taken for checkup. His blood pressure is very high and is admitted for further investigation. He is diagnosed with renal failure.

Ali graduates and his schoolteacher Noor arranges him a job at a tourist shop. His father dies of a heart attack. He works hard to provide for his siblings after his father's death.

Muz is climbing the ranks among insurgents for his ruthlessness. Schoolteacher Noor confronts him and tries to reason with him, but he even threatens him. In the mean time he kills a police officer's son. Police announces a reward on his head. He is arrested.

Ali gets himself admitted into a de-addiction center.

Aman is operated for kidney transplantation. He dies of acute infection.

There is a train whistle, train is moving at full speed . Schoolteacher Noor puts his hand on Ali's shoulder. Noor tells Ali it is time to move on.

Insurgency is losing its strength. Lots of insurgents are killed in police encounters. School teacher Noor and Ali make Muz agree to a deal police has been offering him. He will get a parole and lesser sentence if he agrees to cooperate with police. Soon police arrests lot of his accomplices and captures huge arms cache with his help. He is released on parole. Outside, Muz starts a new life. He marries and has a son in the first year.

A young boy who had witnessed Muz killing his father ambushes him. He along with his wife is killed on way to the hospital. Ali gets the phone call and he rushes to the Hospital. He cries a lot.

Five years later. Ali has adopted Muz's son now named Aman and has a son of his own named after Muz. Ali continues in voice over " I am the only lucky one alive, Muz And Aman didn't make it. Ali and two kids play soccer and in the back ground we see train running in full speed.

Timeline

Feature Length Screenplay
Three Little Cons (working title)

Credit Break up

Fall 2009: 4 Credits, Winter 2010: 4 Credits, Spring 2010: 4 Credits,
Total Credits: 12

[illegible]

Budget

Feature Length Screenplay
Three Little Cons (working title)

Item	Quantity	Unit Price	Total	In kind	Actual
Paper Supply	10	\$5.00	\$50.00	\$20.00	\$30.00
Research (Approx.)	—	—	\$300.00	\$0	\$300.00
Telephone /Internet (Approx.)	—	—	\$400.00	\$0	\$400.00
Printer	1	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0	\$200.00
Additional toners	1	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0	\$100.0
Writing Software	1	\$140.00	\$140.00	\$0	\$140.0
Binding Supplies	10	\$20.00	\$200.00	\$0	\$200.0
2 Hrs. Voice Actors Service	10	\$100.00	\$1000.00	\$300.00	\$700.00
Script Reading Supplies	1	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0	\$300.00

Total: \$2,170.00

Grand Total: \$2,490.00