

THE LIGHT CATCHER



SCENE-BY-SCENE SYNOPSIS

SCENE ONE

The story begins with a TV interview of an award-winning female photographer, Kanika Suman, who has captured black and white portrait photographs of women from all over the world. In the interview, Kanika reveals how photography is connected to her since she was a child. In flashbacks, we see glimpses of her mother who suggests that she isolate herself from the world. Finally, the interviewer asks her which one of her photographs is her favourite, to which she playfully replies that she will reveal her answer later.

SCENE TWO

One by one, Kanika narrates the stories of the people she photographed. An Ethiopian woman who works as a janitor, quarrels with her colleague due to the workload and is angry with her because of her relationship with their boss. Meanwhile Kanika finds beauty in her dark complexion, which makes the Ethiopian woman erupt with joy. But the question that rises with this incident is: do we all really see and understand the beauty of the Ethiopian woman through Kanika's point of view?

SCENE THREE

Next, we see Kanika's experience at the passport office. The passport officer, with his typical Indian mentality, finds it hard to believe that a female photographer can and has travelled worldwide.

SCENE FOUR

We see a small episode in Haryana between Kamal and Suhani. Kamal is a police officer dedicatedly searching for a thief. She crosses paths with an innocent little girl, Suhani, who engages with Kamal in a conversation, creating a pure and unconditional bond between them within no time.

SCENE FIVE

Kanika then presents the story of a girl wearing a hijab: Nafisa from Lahore. Kanika talks about her own stereotypes about a girl like Nafisa. However, Nafisa is not only innocent and good at heart but also full of life. Then we learn how Kanika sees light. As a living being. She explains that light is the strongest source of energy and everything we do, revolves around it.

SCENE SIX

The next story we hear is of Alejandra, a model from Venezuela who wants to have her nude pictures taken. Kanika initially looks at the model's side profile and describes her curves and the beauty of her breast. As the model turns towards Kanika, she sees how contradictory the other half of her body looks. It is completely flat unlike her other breast. Alejandra tells Kanika her breast cancer story and requests her to publish it because she wants the world to know her story under the caption, 'Nothing and Everything'.

SCENE SEVEN

Andres, Kanika's assistant in Venezuela tells her that Alejandra's cancer story is a lie, and that the model's breast was removed after an augmentation surgery went wrong. He also says that a majority of Venezuelan women undergo this surgery by choice. Kanika is devastated after knowing that she was lied to. But at the end she decides to publish the story anyway because she believes that every person has a different tragedy and a different way of coping with it.

SCENE EIGHT

Kanika's next subject is a North Korean woman blessed with a beautiful family, a good home and a happy life. She responds to Kanika's questions and she captures all of her reactions. Kanika asks her out of curiosity, 'Do you feel free in your country?', a question that she is forbidden from asking. After Kanika publishes this series of photographs, The North Korean woman's account vanishes from social media. Kanika is disturbed by thoughts of whether her art supports people's lives or just plays with them. Whether her camera makes their lives shine bright or just sucks all the light out.

SCENE NINE

Kanika gives us a reminder of her favourite photograph and starts talking about her mother's past. She tells us how beautiful her mother was until she got Leucoderma. Her mother then isolated herself from the world and accepted her life the way it was. She also suggested Kanika lead a similar life. Her intention behind it was to protect her daughter from the cruelty of the world. Kanika, however, never approved of living her life in isolation but she still manages to remain out of the limelight.

SCENE TEN

In the end Kanika tells us about the day she visited Bangalore for a theatre festival. While she is sitting in front of a window, there is an abrupt power cut. She observes patches of sun rays on her face and skin, making a pattern of light and shadow. In this moment she thinks about what her past, future and present are. She then reveals that that is her favourite photograph. She captures the moment but not with a camera!