

HEAR NO EVIL

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&

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SCENE 1:

FADE IN:

We are in a dense forest, mid-day, and hear FOOTSTEPS on the leaves and sticks on the forest floor. Our POV is one of the people walking.

We PAN OUT to reveal two children, ages 8-10, a boy, AJANI and a girl, EBELE, walking side by side. AJANI is the same height as EBELE and is wearing a faded t-shirt and shorts. EBELE is wearing similar clothing. She has long, braided hair, and AJANI'S hair is quite short. They are both Nigerian.

AJANI

Just a little bit further, there is this clearing, with no trees.

EBELE

Why are there no trees?

AJANI

I dunno, there just aren't. There's some trash or old parts of things as well, it looks like an old airplane or something, but just the wing.

EBELE

Hmm

EBELE picks up a nearby stick, and holds it out, bumping into trees and branches as she walks. The two walk in silence another few minutes until they reach a CLEARING, about 500 ft by 500 ft, where only grass and some bushes grow.

EBELE

You know we have gone too far again, they will come looking for us Ajani.

AJANI

I know I know a little bit further. I don't really want to do any more chores today, do you? Chipu was disturbing me anyway.

EBELE

No, but I don't want to get into trouble today.

AJANI sprints ahead into the clearing, and rolls around in the grass. EBELE laughs and follows suit. Ajani gets up and starts walking around the perimeter of the clearing, stopping at a bit of debris in the shape of an airplane wing.

AJANI

(pointing)

Look, see over here. Looks like an old plane wing or something, doesn't it?

EBELE approaches the wing and crouches down to investigate.

EBELE

It does. Isn't that strange? What is this doing here, have you ever found the rest of the plane?

AJANI

Nope.

AJANI lays down in the middle of the clearing, and EBELE joins him. The two look up into the sky and watch some birds fly over head.

AJANI

Chipo can be so mean. I'm tired of him always getting away with everything and blaming me for everything.

EBELE

Next time he does that give him a knock on the chin and tell him he can't bully you. Tell him it's not gonna be like that anymore.

AJANI laughs at EBELE and then focuses back onto the sky. We see the bright sun shining down on them, making it difficult to see clearly. Fade out from the bright sun filling the screen.

FADE OUT:

SCENE 2:

FADE IN:

We see the two of them from afar, then slowly pan closer. They are silent, EBELE is taking a nap. AJANI's face looks confused, with his eyes toward the sky.

AJANI

What is that?

EBELE opens her eyes.

EBELE

What?

AJANI

In the sky, looks like a bird
that's getting bigger.

The two of them stare in silence at the sky, as an OBJECT falls, getting larger as it gets closer to the ground. EBELE shoots up onto her knees, looking above.

EBELE

Get up! Go back in the forest!

AJANI

Why?? What is it??

The two of them scramble to their feet as EBELE makes for the forest edge of the clearing.

EBELE

Yes! Quickly, that thing is only
getting bigger and it's coming
down right here! What if it's
another airplane wing!

AJANI

Okay! Okay!

They reach the cover of the trees, and turn around to hear a loud buzzing sound, and after about six or seven seconds a SATELLITE about the size of a large refrigerator, dramatically crashes onto the ground, sending debris everywhere. It is emitting an incredibly loud buzzing sound, that forces AJANI and EBELE to cover their ears, with pained expressions on their faces. The sound continues for a few more seconds and the two children look at each other, their faces contorted with pain. Almost in unison, they pass out and collapse on the forest floor. A few seconds later, the sound stops and all is quiet again in the forest. The two children remain unconscious.

FADE OUT:

SCENE 3:

FADE IN:

Same POV from SCENE 1. We are in a dense forest, behind SIX VILLAGERS, men and women, walking and shouting.

VILLAGER 1 WOMAN

Ebele!

VILLAGER 2 MAN

Ajani!

VILLAGER 3 MAN

They might have gone into the clearing, we all heard that crash, maybe they went that far in to see it.

VILLAGER 1 WOMAN

They better not have. I have told them again and again it is too far!

VILLAGER 2 MAN

Ajani! Ebele!

VILLAGER 3 MAN

(pointing in the distance to the clearing)

Look! There!

VILLAGER 1 WOMAN

Ebele! Ebele! No, no no!

The group of people run toward the nearby clearing, finding EBELE and AJANI lying down just outside the clearing. VILLAGER 1 WOMAN rushes to EBELE'S side, and picks up her head gently, calling her name.

The others stare at the middle of the clearing in awe at the massive structure and debris that surrounds it. VILLAGER 2 MAN sits next to AJANI, crouching down, in tears.

Almost in unison, AJANI and EBELE open their eyes to all the commotion around them. The villagers gasp and clutch their chests in relief.

VILLAGER 1 WOMAN

Ebele, are you ok?

EBELE

(looking around confusedly, touching her head)

Yes, mama, I am ok.

VILLAGER 2 MAN

Ajani, my son, what happened?

AJANI

(takes a deep breath and
looks around him, touches his
chest and legs)

We, well. We saw that thing fall,
and Ebele and I, we just fell down
from the sound it made. But, I'm
ok Daddy. Really, I am.

AJANI'S DAD and AJANI hug, as well as EBELE'S MOM and
EBELE.

EBELE'S MOM (VILLAGER 1 WOMAN)

What in God's name were you doing
out here? Playing? We tell you not
to come in this far. What if you
were crushed by that thing?

EBELE

Mama no one knew that thing would
fall here today, we were just out
here playing. Ajani wanted to show
me the clearing. We're sorry.

AJANI'S DAD (VILLAGER 2
MAN)

I'm happy you are ok, but you dare
not come to this place again you
hear me??

AJANI

Yes, of course Daddy. I'm sorry.

AJANI'S DAD

What happened to you, you, just
collapsed? Fainted? Why??

AJANI

Yes, we just, just collapsed. The
sound...it.

EBELE

(interjecting)

Hurt.

Everyone looks into the clearing again. EBELE and AJANI
stand up, and the whole group slowly approaches the
SATELLITE and look around it.

EBELE'S MOM

Don't touch it! Come, you two.
Let's go.

(pointing to the other
villagers)

You three, stay and take a look.
Yes?

EBELE'S MOM motions for three of the villagers to stay,
while she waves AJANI and AJANI'S DAD over to her.

EBELE'S MOM

We need to get you two home, and
looked at.

EBELE, AJANI, EBELE'S MOM, and AJANI'S DAD, along with
another VILLAGER begin walking back through the forest,
while three VILLAGERS stay in the clearing to investigate
the fallen SATELLITE.

FADE OUT:

SCENE 4:

FADE IN:

Sitting around a table are AJANI, and his family (CHIPO,
AJANI'S MOM and DAD). The room is simply adorned. We watch
the family eat in silence for a few moments. AJANI'S DAD
then stares at CHIPO, with a stern expression.

AJANI'S DAD

(To AJANI'S MOM)

They were able to take much of the
wreckage, parts, and some of the
technology could be useful to us.
Just crazy. That spot is
dangerous. The government must
investigate why things keep
falling right from the sky.

AJANI'S MOM

Seriously.

(to AJANI)

Ajani seems fine though?

AJANI

Yes mama, I am fine.

The four of them eat in silence for a few moments.

AJANI'S DAD

Chipo, what were you doing outside Paki's house today? Waiting by the door?

(after a beat)

We told you he is trouble and you should not be mixing with that boy.

CHIPO is a teenager, with a strong build, and mischievous eyes.

CHIPO

(with a sigh)

I'm sorry sir, you will not see me there again.

AJANI's DAD looks at CHIPO with a blank expression, closely watching his son, while CHIPO just looks down at his dinner. AJANI's MOM looks at CHIPO, then to AJANI's DAD, then back to her dinner.

AJANI'S MOM

Ajani, how is school going?

AJANI

Good mama, good.

(looking from his mom, to CHIPO, then back to his mom, and back at CHIPO for a few beats. Then he blurts out)

Chipo is going into business with Paki!

AJANI's MOM and DAD explode with exclamations and shock thrown in CHIPO's direction.

CHIPO

Ajani! What are you talking about??

AJANI'S DAD

Is that true??

AJANI'S MOM

How long has this been going on, hmm?? I knew you were up to something.

AJANI

It's true, I could hear him talking about it with Paki, he was

speaking so loud, and I could hear him.

CHIPO

Hear me? Hear me, huh? I was inside Paki's house. How could you hear us?

(after a beat)

You were spying on us, weren't you?

AJANI

No! I wasn't. I was sitting here at home and I could hear you very well. Couldn't you hear him Mama? It was when you were at the market, on the same road as Paki's place.

AJANI'S MOM

(still exasperated about CHIPO, but focuses her attention on Ajani)

No, no I did not hear him.

(confused)

What do you mean you could hear him from here at home? I am not happy with you Chipo, but Ajani, are you lying?

CHIPO

He's lying! I am not going into business with Paki. How can you believe him?

AJANI's MOM and DAD both looked concernedly at their sons, unsure who to believe. AJANI looks directly into his parents' faces, and at CHIPO. CHIPO does not meet anyone's eyes for more than a second.

AJANI'S MOM

(to CHIPO)

I'm going to keep a closer eye on you, boy. Paki is a thug, and he's in bad business with people who rip off honest workers at the market.

CHIPO

Mama, I'm not...

AJANI'S MOM

(interrupting)

He may promise you money, but you need to think hard about what kind of man you want to grow into being. True or not.

CHIPO

(convincingly calm)

I will mama, I will. I promise you I'm not doing business with him.

CHIPO looks at AJANI with daggers in his eyes. AJANI has a furrowed brow, and doesn't look at his family again during dinner.

AJANI'S MOM

Now, Ajani. I don't know why you are saying you could hear Chipo if he was inside Paki's house. It's impossible, and it makes it sound like you are lying son.

AJANI

Mama, but I hear everything now.

AJANI'S MOM

What do you mean, now?

AJANI

I don't know. I think since that crash and when you found us passed out.

AJANI'S MOM and AJANI'S DAD look concerned and confused at AJANI. CHIPO looks at AJANI with contempt, and a bit of confusion.

AJANI'S DAD

My son, this is confusing. You must stay inside and keep resting. I know it's been a few days, but you are not making much sense. And I don't want to think you are lying.

AJANI

I'm not lying. I promise.

The four of them pick at their food a few more minutes, all of them concerned or lost in thought, and the camera fades out.

FADE OUT:

SCENE 5:

FADE IN:

Children from the village are playing football(soccer) in a field. AJANI and EBELE are among them, both on the same team. After running around the field for a while, making plays, and scoring points, EBELE stops to catch her breath, focussing intently on the opposite side of the field where the opposing team is talking strategy in a huddle. AJANI joins her.

AJANI

Hey.

EBELE

(keeping her eyes on the
opposite side of the field)

Hey.

AJANI

I haven't seen you much since our
visit to the forest. How are you?

EBELE

(interrupting)

Shhh.

AJANI

(looking where EBELE's eyes
are focussed)

What?

(looking back at EBELE, then
back to where she is looking)

Are you listening to them?

EBELE

(looking at AJANI)

They are going to try and knock
Ada down. Look, see how she is out
of breath? She cannot play defense
there anymore, I'm going to tell
her.

EBELE starts to move away, looking for an agreement from AJANI, but he merely stares at her, the wheels in his head spinning.

EBELE

Come on!

AJANI

(not moving, and with a
serious tone)

How did you know that?

EBELE

(considering AJANI's serious
tone)

I just know that's their style,
playing rough, you know? I can't
let that happen again.

AJANI

Could you hear them all the way
across the field?

EBELE

A little bit, yes.

AJANI

I can hear people speaking from
far away too.

EBELE

(thinking on AJANI's
statement, and considering
her options)

I can actually hear a lot. I can
hear everything.

AJANI

(excitedly)

Me too!

(with a sense of wonder)

You know, I think it's been since
that crash we saw. Hearing
everything, you think?

EBELE

(looking at AJANI for a beat,
thinking)

Yeah...yeah. I've thought that
too.

(whispering almost)

I haven't told anyone.

(with a bit of fear)

I don't understand it.

EBELE and AJANI look at one another for a moment or two,
then hear their friends calling their names to return to
play.

EBELE

(snapping out of her thoughts)
Let's go and warn Ada, okay?

AJANI

Okay, let's do it.

EBELE

(with slight concern)
Hey, so this is our secret for
now? We can talk about this later.

AJANI

You got it.

AJANI and EBELE smile at each other, and then run to the rest of their team. They huddle together to talk, and they warn ADA of the other team's plan. They then all continue to play, with a close up on EBELE's face, pleased with herself, and then a close up on AJANI's face, looking happy and relieved as well.

FADE OUT: