



The Dream come True

Characters: Alysha, Vijay, Vijay's Father, Ben, Miss Lam, Doctor, Nurse

Synopsis: Vijay's has always dreamt to become a great poet but his father wants him to do medicine, a dream he has had for a long time. The results are out and it's time to decide. Whose dream will come true, Vijay's father's, his own... or both of their dreams?

Scene 1 Reprise

Father: Have you seen what was written in the newspaper to-day?

Vijay: About what?.

Father: Listen. (SFX: Rustle of newspaper. Reading aloud) Yearly HKGEE result will be released tomorrow morning. The Examination Department has revealed that candidates this year have done slightly better in languages when compared with last year's result. Each year there are students who straight As (stops reading) and I hope you'll be one of them Vijay.

Vijay: Dad! What if I get all E's?...

Father: Vijay, what are you talking about? E's? You won't get any E's... or any B's C's or D's! I hope you'll only get As and go on to study medicine and become a famous doctor! You know you've wanted to be a doctor ever since you were three. You're my brightest child with the greatest potential. Alysha let us down by becoming a journalist...

Vijay: Okay... can we... um... change the subject now please.

Father: Change the subject?! This subject is your life Vijay and that will never change. Becoming a doctor has always been your dream!

Vijay: It hasn't Dad... not MY dream... it's always been YOUR dream!

Father: Nonsense.

Vijay: (Pause) Father... I want to be a poet.

Father: WHAT?! A POET?! Vijay... please be serious.

Vijay: And I want to study literature.

Father: Vijay! You're my only hope! You've got to bring honor to our family

name! How can you do that if you study literature! Now I don't want to discuss this matter again. I pay for your education and all I want in return is for you to study hard and get good grades.... you can't decide.

Brief music

Ms Lam: Vijay, what's wrong... why are you sitting in the school gym all by yourself?

Vijay: I just want to be alone Miss Lam.

Ms. Lam: What's the problem Vijay? Tell me... maybe I can help.

Vijay: (Sighs) It's my dad... he doesn't understand.

Ms Lam: Understand what?

Vijay: He wants me to go on to study medicine... and I don't want to.

Ms. Lam: So what do you want to do Vijay?

Vijay: Literature.

Ms. Lam: So what's wrong with that?

Vijay: My Dad won't let me... he says I have to study medicine because HE is paying for my education and I don't have a say in it.

Ms. Lam: Vijay, you have to stand up for yourself. Speak to your father and tell him how you feel.

Brief music

Father: It's already 6 o'clock, and there's no sign of Vijay. Alysha, where is Vijay?

Alysha: Maybe he's... you know... upset about that quarrel you had with him Daddy.

Father: It wasn't a quarrel.

Alysha: You know Daddy...Vijay loves literature.

Father: I'm not saying literature is bad Alysha, all I'm saying is that is not good for Vijay to go into a profession which is not meant for him. He's a smart boy and he's got lots of opportunities to do something much better than ... (scornful) poetry.

Mother: Where is that boy?! Why isn't he home?! I hope he hasn't been robbed or got knocked over by a car!

Alysha: Mum... calm down. Vijay's isn't a child! He's nearly 18!

Mother: Vijay's barely 17 Alysha! He's just a boy! Husband...you've been pushing him too much and too far...you should be more understanding

and supportive towards him... You shouldn't shout at him the way you did last night.

Father: Supportive? Didn't you hear him woman?! He wants to become a poet!... a good for nothing poet! You want me to support THAT?

Alysha: But Dad that's what Vijay wants... you should try to understand him.

Father: That's not what he's meant to be Alysha! Since a little boy he was always going to become a doctor... a good decent doctor.

Alysha: But Daddy...

Father: (Interrupts) Alysha... I hope it wasn't YOU who's put these crazy ideas into Vijay's head.

Alysha: No... no it wasn't....

Father: I hope not because if I found out it was you I shall be furious! It's bad enough having a daughter of mine studying journalism without her telling her brother o become a good for nothing poet!

(SFX: Door bell rings)

Mother: Vijay! At last!

(SFX: Opening door)

Vijay: Hello Mum.

Mother: Where have you been son? Your dad has been have been worried sick about you.

Vijay: (Sarcastically) Yeah right.

Father: You! Come here!!

Vijay: (annoyed) What is it this time Dad? More medicine?

Father: (With intense bitterness) Is this how you talk to your parents? Is this what have you learned from your schooling?

Vijay: I'm going to my room.

Father: Stay where you are! I'm talking to you! Do you hear me!

Vijay: (Coldly) I don't want to talk and I don't want to listen to anything either.

(SFX: A plate thrown and smashes)

Alysha: Dad! Calm down! You'll have a heart attack.

Father: I'll teach you a lesson my boy!

Mother: Husband... please... leave the boy alone! And look you've broken one of the plates from the dinner set Auntie Rabindra bought for us last Diwali! What will I say to her now?!

Father: (To Vijay) How dare you talk to me like that Vijay! How dare you disobey your father! I know what's best for you... You know nothing... do you hear... nothing!

Mother: Enough... leave the boy alone, he's had a tough day at school and he needs his dinner. C'mon Vijay, you must be hungry, Alysha help me get the food from the kitchen.

Alysha: Okay Mum.

Vijay: I'm not hungry. I've already eaten...I just wanna go to my room.

Mother: O.k. Vijay. Go and take some rest... you must be really tired. Call me if you need anything.

(SFX: Door closing)

(Pause)

Father: You treat that boy as if he were... a baby!

Alysha: Here's the curry Mum.

Mother: Put it there Alysha... and pass your father another plate.

Father: (Angry) I don't need a plate!

Mother: Husband please... sit down.

Father: Eat without me! I'm not hungry either!

Alysha: I am... so does anyone mind if I start?

Father: Did you hear the way he talked to me?! Is that what I deserve? I work day and night to pay his school fees and is this the way he repays me?!

Mother: Husband! Don't be angry with Vijay...he's your son and he's SO young... you know youngsters are rebellious and say things they don't mean.

Father: Youngster! Huh! When I was in his age I had to help my father out with his business AND study at the same time... nobody pampered me and called me a youngster... I just had to get on with it!

Mother: You were a filial son and now you are an excellent father. And Vijay has taken after you.

Father: Huh! I wish he had!

Mother: He's a very obedient and understanding boy and he does well at school.

Father: Are you sure? We don't even know what grades he got! Alysha! See if his grade slip is in his school bag...

Alysha: Dad... I don't think it's right to search Vijay's bag without his permission... maybe we should...
Father: Quiet Alysha! Does a father need to ask his son for permission to see his results? Now find that grade slip!
Alysha: OK Dad.

(SFX: noise of unzipping the bag)

Alysha: Here it is.
Father: Here give it to me!!! (SFX: noise of paper unfolding) WHAT? He got a C in Physics! What's happened to him!... How can he get a C in Physics! That's terrible!
Mother: But look at his other subjects husband.... all A's! It's unbelievable! He's even got an A in English!
Alysha: Wow! I only got a B. See dad! We should be proud of him!
Father: Of getting a C in Physics? That's a disaster! How can he enter medical school with this C! It's utterly shameful to bring this C to our family! He'll have to retake Physics next year... and get an A!
Alysha: But dad, maybe he's already tried his best...
Father: Or maybe he has deliberately tried his worst! Where is he?! I want a word with him about this!
Mother: Leave him now husband... he must be exhausted!... He must have gone through a lot today ... he needs to rest... we can wait till tomorrow...
Father: (Angry) That boy owes me an explanation! And he'd better be ready to give me one! A C in Physics! He's brought shame on himself and his family and I want to know why!

Scene 2

Mother: Husband... can you switch off the light? I can't sleep when the light's on.

(SFX: Flapping newspapers)

Father: I'm reading the paper!
Mother: Really? Then maybe you can tell me how you manage to read it when it's upside-down!
Father: (disturbed) Anjali... how can you possibly sleep with so much trouble

in the family

(SFX: More flapping sound of newspapers)

Mother: You know it's already 1:30... you should rest...

Father: Anjali, never have I felt so upset! I don't understand! When Alysha insisted on studying journalism I felt sad because I thought I'd failed in helping her get the best education! And now, again, ...it's Vijay...you know he's our smartest child... he's a gifted boy Anjali.... I want to give him the best education too but...(sigh)...I don't want to see him throw away his prospects by studying literature!

Mother: Maybe letting him study what he wants is the best option. It's true Vijay is gifted... but let him explore those gifts in his own way.... He's set his heart on studying literature and there's nothing wrong with that... I mean he's not going to be bank robber or... a drug addict!

Father: Anjali, you don't understand. The problem is not the profession... it is in the fact that Vijay himself doesn't know what's best for him! That's why I should help him... guide him... show him the way... if I don't... he'll ruin his future.

Mother: I just think you're taking this ail a bit too seriously husband... you really shouldn't be too hard on him.

Father: There's no point talking to you about this Anjali... you only look at things from a mother's point of view... as if he were a little boy... I think I'll take care of this problem myself... I'll make him study medicine at University whether he likes it or not. (sounds tired)

Mother: (Sighs) You need some rest now will you please switch off the light so we can both get some sleep.

Father: (Sighs) Very well. (SFX: noise of switch) Good night Anjali.

Scene 3

(SFX: Father moans aloud in sleep)

Father: (Breathes fast like he is running) No... no... don't...

Mother: (Nervously) What's happened? Are you o.k.?

Father: No Vijay, no... you mustn't... Come back...

Mother: Husband wake up!

Father: Oh god! Where am I? Where's my Vijay?

Mother: You're soaking wet? What's wrong? Why were you calling out Vijay's name?

Father: Anjali, I had such a bad dream.

Mother: Here drink some water and calm down. (SFX: Drinks) Now tell me... what happened... what did you see?

Father: (Panting) I...I saw Vijay...

Mother: And?...what else?

Father: He was... dead.

Mother: (Interrupts) Oh God! Don't say such things.

Father: He'd committed suicide... He threw himself out of the window... and then I saw dark clouds and Vijay was there sitting cross legged in the clouds... I called him... shouting out his name... but... he just sat there... with his back to me... he refused to turn round no matter how loudly I called his name...

Mother: Husband calm down you know you shouldn't be so upset.

Father: What do you mean?

Mother: It's good to dream someone is dead... (slight laugh)... it's a positive omen! People say that when you see someone dead in a dream, he actually prospers in real life!

Father: But my heart is pounding very fast, I need to see Vijay now...

Mother: You can't... he's sleeping.... it's five in the morning.

Father: I don't care what time it is... I just want to see if he's okay.

Mother: But...

(SFX: Door closes)

Mother: (To herself) He should let the boy sleep.

Father: (Hysterically, from outside) Oh My Vijay!

(SFX: Door opens)

Father: Anjali!

Mother: What's happened?

Father: Anjali.... Vijay's not there! Vijay's not in his room!

Mother: What?!

Father: Where's he? Where did he go?

Mother: Did you check the bathroom?

Father: Yes... not there!

Mother: Husband... why are you looking out of the window?
Father: Checking something... Anjali, go and wake up Alysha, quick!

(SFX: Opens door)

Mother: (Calling) Alysha! Alysha wake up and come here!
Alysha: (Sounds sleepy) (yawns) What's happened? What're you doing?
Mother: Alysha, Vijay is missing!! Do you know where he is?
Alysha: Vijay?...no...

(SFX: Telephone rings)

Alysha: I'll get it. Hello?
Vijay: Alysha...
Alysha: Vijay? Where the hell are you? Mum and Dad are going crazy....
Vijay: I don't have time to talk right now. Alysha... do me a favor. My result slip...
Alysha: Vijay, Dad has been worried half to death... He thinks you're....
Vijay: Alysha! Please don't tell dad! I'm going to register at another school but I don't know why my result slip's not in my bag...
Alysha: WHAT! You're going to register with another school! But dad said....
Father: (Shouting) Alysha! Is it Vijay?
Alysha: Um... yes.
Father: Give that phone to me.
Alysha: But....

(SFX: Dad seizes the phone)

Father: (Barking uncontrollably) Vijay? Vijay! Is that you! Answer me! Where are you Vijay?... where are you?! Speak up Vijay I Vijay...!

(SFX: From the phone: big bang, shrilling sound of car tyres. Car crash. Phone disconnected)

Father: Vijay? Vijay... what's happened... my god what's happened...speak up Vijay!.. Vijay, can you hear me?
Mother: What's wrong? Why are you looking like that? (frightened) Where is my son...?

Father: (Hysterical) Vijay...Vijay!!! Do you hear me son... Vijay?
Mother: (Sobbing) What's happened?... where is my Vijay?
Alysha: Dad what's wrong?
Father: (Worried) I heard terrible sounds... like a car crash.
Mother: Oh my god no! No!
Father: Alysha, did Vijay tell you where he was?
Alysha: No dad... He was going to... but you snatched the phone from me...
Mother: (Hysterical) Where is my Vijay? (pause) (sobbing) Why aren't you saying anything...where is he... is he alright?

Interval

Scene 4

(SFX: Phone rings)

Father: Hello? Is that you Vijay?
Nurse: Hello, can I speak to Mr. Goolarabani, please?
Father: Speaking.
Nurse: Sir, is this Mr. Vijay's father?
Father: Yes, that's me... who is this?
Nurse: I'm calling from Saint Alexandra's hospital. Your son Vijay has had a slight accident.
Father: Accident! Is he o.k.? Is he hurt?
Nurse: Well.... He's better than he was when he first came in.
Father: What happened? Was it a car crash?!
Nurse: Yes... he's been admitted... you should come and see him..
Father: Which ward is he in?
Nurse: Ward E, which is located on the 5th floor.
Father: O.k. I'll be there immediately. Thanks

(SFX. phone button pressed to indicate end of call)

Scene 5

Father: Excuse me, could you please tell me where ward E is?
Nurse: It's right over there, just walk straight and then turn left
Father: Thanks..

(SFX: noise of footsteps)

Mother: There he is... Vijay, my dear... are you ok?
Vijay: Hi mom...
Doctor: Hi, you must be Vijay's father?
Father: Yes.
Doctor: Well your son is indeed a very brave boy... and a lucky one too.
Mother: Doctor, is there anything serious?
Doctor: No, of course not... you need not to worry Madam, he is perfectly fine...he's just got a bruise on his thigh, but that should be fine in a few days. Ah... Mr. Goolarabani....
Father: Yes?
Doctor: I would like to have a word with you. Maybe we could leave Vijay and his mother for a few minutes

(Pause for a few seconds)

Father: Yes, doctor... what's the matter?
Doctor: It's about your son, Vijay. Mr. Goolarabani, do you know how your son had this accident?
Father: Well... yeah... actually I was on the phone the phone with him when he had this accident.
Doctor: Well, Mr.Goolarabani, I talked to your son and it seems like he is under a lot of stress, and that is in fact one of the causes of his accident
Father: But doctor, what can we do... if he continues to live with stress, how will he go on. Can you give him some tablets would help cure him?
Doctor: I'm sorry Mr. Goolarabani... that is something I cannot cure. As a doctor, I can only cure the bruises and the physical pain your son has on his body.... If you want him to get better, you've got to think about his emotions.
Father: What do you mean doctor?
Doctor: Vijay has told me everything. As a doctor, my only advise to you is that you allow your son to do as his pleases. I understand your reasons for choosing medicine as his career, but frankly speaking, as a doctor, I am helpless and cannot do anything to solve Vijay's problems.
Father: But...but
Doctor: If you insist that your son studies medicine, he may end up being a

good doctor but psychologically he will never be the same. I hope you understand what I mean.

Father: I think I do, doctor... anyway... thanks for the advice... can I go and talk to Vijay now?

Doctor: Yes, but please don't be so hard on him.

Father: Yeah.

(Pause for a few seconds)

Father: Vijay..

Vijay: Yes, dad... .Dad, I'm sorry...

Father: It's o.k. dear... Just take it easy... Ah, Vijay...

Vijay: Yes, dad.

Father: About your future, I've decided to let you choose what you want to do...

Vijay: Really dad... do you really mean it?

Father: Yes, my son...you are more precious to me than my desires...

Vijay: Oh, dad... I love you... I knew you would understand...

The End