

**DARK**

**SILENCE**

**S**he was sleeping in her bedroom. Suddenly she heard some kind of sound in that pindrop silence. She stood up and moved towards the switch board. As she turned fan off and moved to door, she heard a cranking noise as she saw the fan was spinning. She ran to next room. After a while she fell asleep.

Mrudhu was a twenty two year old brahmin girl from Uduppi. She was a struggling singer who lived at Delhi. She really wanted to build her life by own. As she belonged from a wealthy family her parents were against her dream. She was a quite conserved girl, who never lost her culture even in her bad times. She was very simple girl. She always weared salwar and said that it suits her culture. She had beautiful long hair. Time travelled quite fast and it was almost six month. She lived in a rented flat at second Jawaharlal nehru street. Her voice was so melancholic.

Her house was the only house on that street where someone lived. Sometimes she would take a walk to her best friend's house on next avenue. Her name was Charlotte D'souza. Charlotte and Mrudhu were college mates. Charlotte lived with her brother Monty who was a mechanic. He plays guitar very well.

It was a month since Charlotte left her place for a trip with her boyfriend. She came home in such a happiness and drunk. Because her boyfriend proposed her and they were engaged. But she didn't knew what disaster gulped her best friend.

Mrudhu was napping on her couch. She heard some kind of noise. It was a weeping, weeping of a woman. Suddenly her door shut BAM! She startled. So quick a melancholic tone filled the whole room. She saw a shadow on the wall. She moved towards the wall. He felt someone's presence on her behind. She turned and AHHHHH!!!!!!

The very next day Charlotte was in search of Mrudhu. Charlotte often times tried her number, but it was busy. Charlotte was scared because Mrudhu never turns her phone off. As time was passing Charlotte realised that it was getting dangerous. She ran to Mrudhu's home. The door was open. This scared her alot. When she entered she saw blood over everywhere. And she saw a dead pigeon. But she heard someone's mumbling. It was noone else Mrudhu. Charlotte's face turned red as she was filled with anger. She pushed Mrudhu "where the heck were you? i called you a thousand times. You bitch! you scared the shit out of me" Suddenly she noticed what Mrudhu was preparing. It was chicken. Charlotte laughed and

said "Hey, just pinch me. Am I dreaming? You... with chicken." Mrudhu replied with a smile "It is not wrong to try something new nah? hey, I want to do some shopping. Could you help me?" Charlotte said with a smile "Sure. At my place on sharp 3. Don't be late."

Charlotte was waiting. But the sight of Mrudhu shocked her. She was entirely different. She was wearing a short skirt with a peasant blouse. She cut her hair and it was blonde. She asked Charlotte about her new makeover. Charlotte found it pretty cool & a bit weird because, this was the first time she saw Mrudhu like this. But her behavioral changes on out there. She was not anymore that simply humble girl. SHE WAS .....CHANGED.

Since then Charlotte was too obsessed about Mrudhu. She followed Mrudhu. She found out that there was someone else living on her street except her. It was an old woman. Mrudhu entered her house without any hesitation. She treated Mrudhu like someone pretty close. Mrudhu called her 'granma'. This was a bit odd for Charlotte. But what she wasn't expecting was happening on there.

One day Charlotte went to Mrudhu's place. She was making over. Charlotte asked "hey, where are you going?" Mrudhu replied with an ignoring expression "That's none of your business & don't be so curious about me". Charlotte was stunned and she didn't had anything to speak. She ran out from there and went straight to that old woman's home. The door was open. She entered after confirming no one was there. It was a bit old fashioned hall. There were pictures all over the wall. It was someone who was similar to her. She thought for a moment. It was just like new Mrudhu, with blonde short hair and a modern-ish. She took one picture of that girl in her phone. Suddenly she heard a shout. It was that old woman. She asked "who the hell are you? & what are you doing in my house, you thief?" Charlotte replied "Oh ma'am, mind your words. I am not here to steal anything. Perhaps I have come here to ask you something. What have you done to my friend Mrudhu? Tell me" The old woman's face turned white as if she had heard something that she was scared of. She yelled "Get out from my house. Don't ever try to breakthrough my place." Charlotte was not going to shutdown. She started collecting every possible information about that old lady & that girl in that picture. Her name was Susan & she was about Mrudhu's age. She lived on Mrudhu's same street with her grandparents. Her grand dad didn't love her because while giving Susan birth her mom died. She struggled a lot. But two months before she passed away in an accident. It was a terrible thing.

One day Charlotte wanted to tell Mrudhu about all this. She saw Mrudhu going to that woman's home. Charlotte waited for almost 5 hours. Charlotte was scared. She knocked door, but the door was locked. She called cops. Cops came in. When they turned the knob it was open. Charlotte was shocked. There was all smell of something bad. Something like rotted meat. The cops were searching all over. "Sir, I found it" Constable shouted. There was a dead body. It was looking ugly and surrounded by flies. Charlotte was about to vomit. She was murmuring "How could it....?". She ran to Mrudhu's house. It was so....empty. She was stunned. She called her brother. He came in rushing. "Hey, what happened? Why are you scared? And what the heck are you doing in here?" Charlotte replied with fear "I don't know what to do? Mrudhu is missing from about 5 hours and the old woman whom she was with found dead on her own home." Monty replied "Mrudhu..? Have you gone mad? Are you drunk? What the hell are you talking about?" Charlotte was in shock. "What? She lives here. I just saw her a few hours before. Please.... Understand me. We have to report" Monty was confused "She passed a month away when you were out with your boyfriend. She was killed by some sort of black magic. Turn on the light and look, there are all weird signs on all over wall". Charlotte turned light on and Monty was right. He continued "It was such a brutal murder! I tried to call you. But, you were out of reach. Police said she had some kind of relation with the girl next door. They were both singers, nah? Some also say that that old woman was using dark spirits to convert Mrudhu's soul into Susan's. But, what I am not understanding is you? How could you see her 5 hours before if she doesn't exist in the world for

about one month?"Charlotte was lost."I.....I am confused.What are you saying?! don't like these type jokes.Just stop it!".Monty replied"what on earth should i joke about something like this?Maybe you are mistaken."Charlotte was now all blank.She screamed and ran out to street.She saw Mrudhu out there.Mrudhu was mumbling something....??.She looked at Charlotte and smiled.Suddenly a car passed by.Charlotte realised that she was alone on there.She sat down.She was broken.She was whispering"Mrudhu.....Mrudhu....."

Now,after nine years in the cell of mental asylum she is alone in that darkness.There in that deep silence there was only one word was left on her lips Mrudhu.....

***Written by,***  
**Swathi**