

Shut Up and Listen

a pitch-deck in the form of a rehearsal



Alysha



Victor

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Alysha sits at the table, waiting for Victor, at a fancy restaurant with high ceilings and chandeliers. There are large pillars in a large space, grand and elegant. Indiscernible time or location, past present or the future? She wears a glamorous gold dress with motifs that sparkle under the chandeliers and stares at the menu in front of her. She continues to look around. Victor walks in and immediately sits down.





"people huddle, they sit at their tables and keep their thoughts and conversations to themselves"

Introduction

ALYSHA

Isn't this a strange place?

VICTOR

(confused)

How do you mean?

ALYSHA

Well, we're all here, eating and drinking together. Somewhat civil, people mind their own, they sit at their tables and keep their thoughts and conversations to themselves, there's socially accepted behavior here between these walls --

VICTOR

I'm not sure I follow

Alysha looks at Victor for a few seconds as she decides whether she should further explain herself or leave Victor with this odd observation.

ALYSHA

Do you know what you want?
I'm hungry.

Disconnect

ALYSHA

How was your walk over?

VICTOR

Excuse me?

ALYSHA

You walked over here right?

VICTOR

Oh yeah, it was nice. It's a beautiful day today. Actually, you know one of my favourite times of day is right after sunset. When I'm done with work and I leave the office, it's just around the time the sun goes down. Blue hour, you know, the underappreciated brother of golden hour. The building and the street lights start to come on, everyone's walking back home. It's not quiet but there's a real sense of calmness in all of us ending our days together.

ALYSHA

That's beautiful.



"So anyway, how was your walk over?"

Disconnect

Ambient noise of the restaurant gets louder as Alysha thinks. Close up shot of Alysha's hands under the table. She holds her hands together and clenches them. Noise reduces immediately and Alysha comes back to the conversation.



ALYSHA

Doesn't this all seem a little
fake to you?

Victor looks confused.

ALYSHA (CONT'D)

It's oddly intimate of us. Like
we're pretty close to that couple
sitting over there. If we wanted
to, we could hear their entire
conversation and vice versa. But
when we leave here, it becomes a
completely different relationship
we have with each other.

VICTOR

Hmmm, I think I get it now.

ALYSHA

Do you?

VICTOR

(laughs)

Nope, not really.

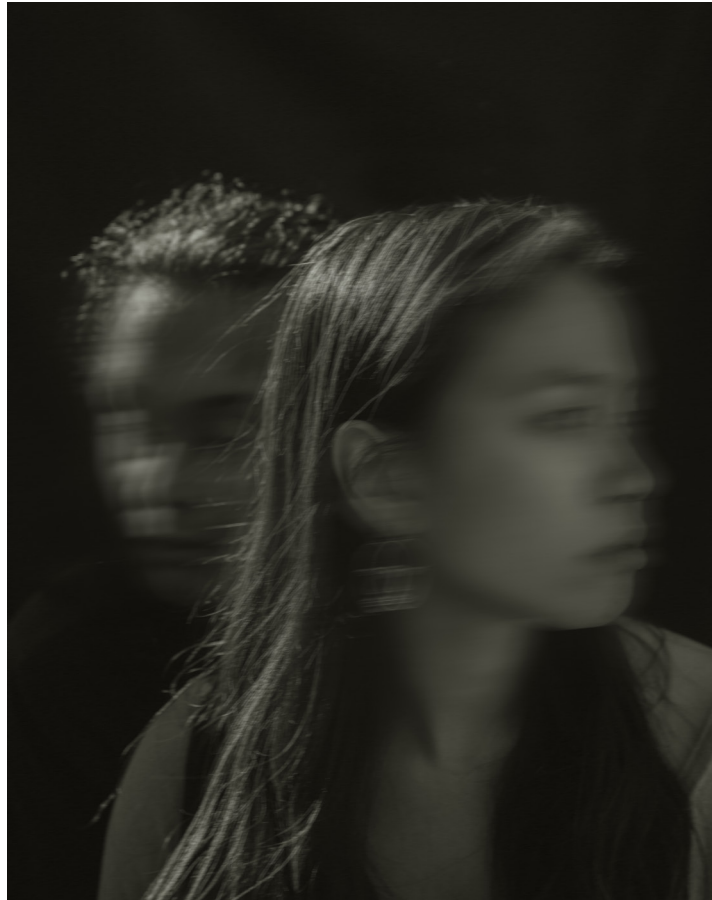
ALYSHA

(smiles)

That's alright, you can think
about it later.



Alysha looks at a table across from her. There are four men drinking and enjoying their dinner. One of them has been looking at her and smiling every now and again. The food finally arrives. And they start eating.



Conclusion

VICTOR

Do you want to go grab a drink

ALYSHA

Can we just take a raincheck? I don't want the night to get too long, I have a 9 am meeting in the morning. And I should figure out what the hell I'm going to do with this pitch I've made.

VICTOR

Absolutely, I'll hold you to it though because I had a great time.

ALYSHA

Of course.

VICTOR

Well, get home safe and have a goodnight, I'll see you soon.

ALYSHA

Yeah, you too!

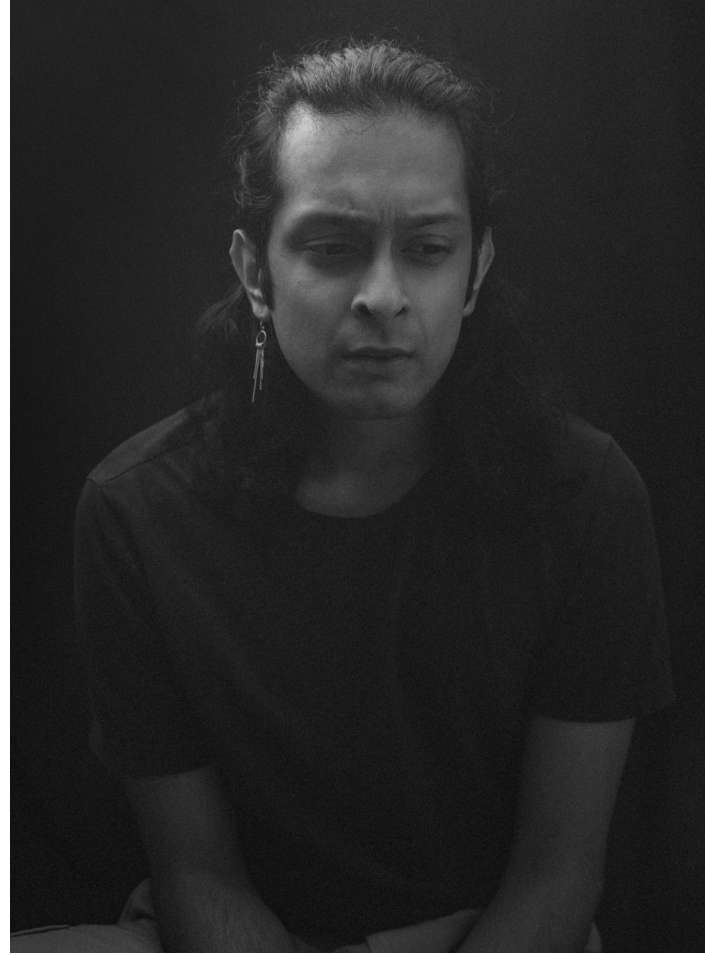
As both turn away to part ways, Victor takes out his airpods and puts them in. Victor takes his time, pulls out his phone and strolls towards home. Alysha starts to walk faster and both move out of frame.

Alyshas phone buzzes and a message from her sister (who lives with her) pops up: Where are you? Alysha replies: On my way home.

Shot cuts to Victor walking, listening to music as he passes by a few people. A woman passes with her head down as Victor faintly hears some man on the side catcall her. He scoffs at the man and continues on.

Shot cuts to Alysha walking, almost home she sees a few men standing at the street corner smoking cigarettes. She recognises one of them. It's the same man who was smiling at her at the restaurant earlier. As Alysha passes them, the man yells out 'damn girl, you are fine, give us a smile.' Alysha ignores the comment, pulls out her phone and walks faster till she gets home.

Realisation



There are far too many things that we, as men, take for granted and there are even more that we don't 'choose' to understand. The moral of the story?



Shut Up and Listen, Period.