

Madman's Mindhunt

Vasudha Sikaria

## **Logline**

Two estranged friends try to find their way back to each other while uncovering the truth about the night that ruined everything they love in the first place.

## **Genre**

Sci-fi, family drama

## **Plot**

Mili and Sam's lives are turned upside down after the accident that changed everything. The power of the secrets buried with the dead forced Mili and Sam into a life they never wanted. It made them lose everything they hold most dear. Will uncovering these secrets fix everything that's broken? Or will ghosts of the past drive the estranged friends further apart?

The story is about two childhood friends who had become estranged.

One of their parents were research partners who died in a car crash. Sam's family moved away after that. Years later, recently orphaned Sam moves back into his childhood home to uncover the truth about their parents' research and the experiments that the parent had done on Sam and Mili, causing them to have superpowers. Both their parents are dead now and Sam has come to find the truth about the research. Both of them want to talk to each other but are terrified to approach the other person. the story starts with Mili's internal monologue which ends when she and sam finally meet. Together, they find out about the research, sam's telepathic power, and find their way back to becoming friends.

**Back story-** Mili and Samarth were in the car with Mili's parents and Samarth's father.

Suddenly, Mili's head started to hurt and naturally, the 10-year-old started throwing a fit. The commotion causes an accident, killing Sam's father and Mili's mother and causing permanent brain damage in her father.

Sams mother finds her husbands research and realises that he and his partner has experimented on their children with the prototypes of the chip. But both of them didn't know if their powers would manifest or not. They died because of the malfunctioning of the chip in the girl's brain. Angry and devastated Sam and his mother moved away after the accident leaving the girl to care for her damaged father.

Mili didn't know about the research and has spent her life believing that she just reads people well and blaming herself for ruining the life of her family and her best friend's.

### **Episode break down-**

1. The story starts by following Mili, who is going about her life, reminiscing. She believes that she is good at reading and understanding people, and people aren't who they seem. She blames herself for her parent's death and is sure that Samarth did as well. Samarth, her childhood friend, lost his father to the accident Mili accuses herself of moves back into his childhood home. Mili wants to talk to him but doesn't have the courage to. The monologue and the episode end when Mili and Sam come face to face with each other.

2. Sam realises that Milis perception of the accident is ill-informed. He proceeds to tell her the truth about the accident and their powers. Mili refuses to believe any of it and Samarth proves his power of telepathy, which leads Mili realises that she is a mind reader. Samarth informs her that the reason he moved back is that he needs her help understanding their powers. They go through their parents' research work to find answers. In the pile, they discover a photograph in which their parents and a lady were standing in front of their newly opened research facility.

3. Samarth and Mili embark on a search for The lady. She left the research facility 5 months before the chips had been installed in their brains. At Samarth's house, they discover more pictures of their parents and the lady, often a man would appear in the pictures with her as well. During dinner, Mili accidentally discovers an old magazine. A photo The lady's "husband" is printed on its cover. They finally have a lead to finding the person they have been looking for.

4. Recap in the past of the parents till the third researcher leaves. The Lady, Samarth's father and the girl's mother were scientists who used to work together. They were researching a

chip that can give your mind powers like mind reading, telekinesis, telepathy. The sole issue was that the chips could only manifest in an adolescent brain. The two parents offered their children to be lab rats, and The lady wasn't okay with it. Enraged, she quit her job and broke all ties with them.

5. They are sitting at The lady's home drinking the masala tea that she has offered them. They talk and laugh for a while but all of it abruptly ends when The lady's husband comes home. She asks them to leave before he can see them.

6. Mili reads The lady's thoughts and realises that her husband has something to do with the accident. But Mili and Samarth's investigation becomes more confusing further they go down the rabbit hole. They have a breakthrough when they realise that the husband's company now owns their parent's old research facility.

7. Mili comes across a secret storage unit under her father's name. A lot of information comes to light there. They acquire a chain of threat emails, plans and hints of some conflict that occurred around a similar time as the accident.

8. The husband's company is responsible for the death of Mili and Samarth's parents. In the light of this new information, they try to reach out to the lady but realise that she was killed. The company murdered their parents as well in pursuit of the chip; now Mili and Sam are being hunted as well.

9. The company is chasing the two of them. After being ahead in the race only by minutes, they finally ended up escaping the manhunt.

10. The task force sent to get them finally catches up. Samarth is rendered unconscious in a fight. He wakes up in a fisherman's house but Mili is nowhere to be seen. The season ends with a shot of Mili getting tortured by the Company.

EXT. BUSY METROPOLITAN STREET/ CROSSING - LATE AFTERNOON

A busy Indian street where time waits for no one. People cross the road irrespective of the colour glowing on the traffic signal. The noise of the busy street and the horns that have become the background music to all our lives fades. MILI, 23, stands across the road, waiting for the perfect moment in order to be able to walk over.

It is a cooler and gloomier day than most but no one looks as cold as she does. Her cardigan sways in the slight wind and the beanie stop her hair from doing so.

MILI (V.O.)

It is almost as if I can taste their thoughts... Over the years, I have perfected the art of reading people.

MILI crosses the road. A man suddenly walks in front of her, making her come to a very brief halt.

A young girl, his daughter, is walking timidly behind him. She looks up at MILI apologetically.

MILI (V.O.)

(shakes her head & starts walking)

Now, I can differentiate the marionettes and the colossus. I can predict people's reactions. I can hear their thoughts as if they were my own... I think they are... The tiny whispers, reporting everything I desire to know about a person.

MILI turns into a small independent café.

CUT TO:

INT. INDEPENDENT CAFE - CONTD.

It is painted in pastel yellow.

Four other people are seated at the tables.

MILI (V.O.)

In my experience, people are  
ordinarily thinking about these four  
things.

Identity. Their own or about someone  
they wish they were.

She approaches the barista and inaudibly places her order.  
Then goes and sits at an empty table with a view of the café.

MILI (V.O.)

Sex, well, there is not much to  
explain about that, but it's not just  
the act of it but also about their  
sexuality and preference.

They think about their death—trying to  
map out the hows and whens and about  
killing people.

MILI takes out a small drawing pad and a pencil from her bag  
places them on the table and starts looking around.

MILI (V.O.)

And Love. Anything or anyone they love  
or the lack of it in their lives.

The barista calls out her name and looks at MILI, who in turn  
gets up to get her order of a coffee and sandwich. She scans  
the room as she sits down and sips her coffee.

MILI (V.O.)

Take people in this café as an  
example.

The couple in the corner is thinking  
about sex. The pretentious writer on  
her laptop is thinking about never  
being good enough, and the man in the  
blazing yellow hoodie is thinking  
about..... nothing.

Huh.

I am not even surprised.

MILI shrugs and opens an empty page in her sketchbook and  
starts mindlessly drawing the barista.

MILI (V.O.)  
I remember in school; my friends used  
to joke about me being a mind reader.

Really? Mind reading? What am I, a  
brown Edward Cullen? Jesus.

MILI makes a one-line drawing of the barista and sighs.

MILI (V.O.)  
Everyone has been so easy to read, to  
predict—everyone except him.

Yeah, okay, this internal monologue  
might be sounding like twilight, but I  
promise there is more to it.

I hope there is.

MILI finishes her meal, smiles at the barista and leaves.

CUT TO:

EXT. RESIDENTIAL COLONY ROAD- EVENING

MILI is walking slowly, deep in thought.

MILI (V.O.)  
This monologue is all I have now. A  
conversation with myself.

The longest I have spoken to anyone in  
years.

I started to lose all my friends as I  
became more skilled at reading people;  
some were fearful, and I realized the  
others weren't worth it.

Everything considered I didn't have  
one iota of regret about how things  
turned out.

A ball bounces towards MILI, distracting her from her  
thoughts.

Two kids run-up to her and the one that reaches the ball  
first starts giggling.

MILI (V.O.)  
It does get lonely, though.

Samarth, Sam. He used to be the one person I could say anything to. But he moved away with whatever was left of his family after the accident that devastated mine as well.

MILI walks up to a house and stops to look at it. She notices the car in the driveway and starts backing away.

She then walks towards the hidden door covered by a canopy of trees and bushes across the road.

EXT. SECLUDED PARK- CONTD.

The door leads to a secluded clearing that the locals maintained. MILI goes and sits on the grass.

MILI (V.O.)  
Sam and I found this clearing when we were kids. It was a magical forest in the middle of the humdrum for us. More people have stumbled across it since and made it into a park.

She looks up at the pink sky and sighs.

MILI (V.O.)  
We had a connection no one could explain. Our parents thought we were dating at some point, oh the uproar that caused.

I have always considered my parents to be relatively less orthodox people, but dating before marriage was still off the table.

MILI falls back into the grass.

MILI (V.O.)  
We weren't lovers, but we were meant for each other.

He was the score, and I was the moving image of a sad and beautiful indie film.

After all these years, I can only hope  
Samarth had felt the same way.

She closes her eyes and listens to the chirping of the birds quickly turn into the sound of crickets. It's getting extremely dark now and the hoard of misquotes feasting on here has become unbearable.

She gets up, dusts off her pants and itches her exposed ankles. She then picks up her bag and walks into the darkness, in the direction of the gates.

MILI (V.O.)  
I can already hear him laughing about  
me being a "mind reader." He moved  
into his parents' abandoned house a  
month ago, but I haven't met him yet.

I am terrified of the things we will  
have to talk about.

The things I have tried so hard to  
forget.

EXT. ROAD OUTSIDE HER HOUSE- CONTD.

MILI briefly stops at the house she stopped at before and  
notices the car is now gone.

MILI (V.O.)  
Some things I still don't understand,  
maybe I never will.

She hangs her head and walks towards the house beside it.

MILI (V.O.)  
I have had so many made-up  
conversations with Sam in my head. I  
have tried creating Taylor Swift's you  
belong with me video to try to get him  
to approach me, but none of it has  
worked.

MILI is looking for her keys in her bag in the dark.

MILI (V.O.)  
I know my pop culture references are  
that of a 40-year-old. But most faces  
are lost on me.

A car pulls up into SAM'S house. He parks it and gets out of the car. So does a woman. They are laughing very loudly.

MILI (V.O.)  
As good as I am at reading people, I  
am just as bad at forgetting their  
faces.

MILI enters her house and locks it behind herself quickly.

INT. MILI KITCHEN- EARLY MORNING

MILI is in her kitchen, making some ginger CHAI. She is looking out of the window at SAMARTH's house. The tea is boiling.

MILI (V.O.)  
I am starting to wonder if he  
remembers me at all.

Or maybe he is trying not to disturb  
the dust of the past either. It took  
so long to settle sometimes I wonder  
if it even did.

MILI strains her tea into a large mug and goes and sits on her table. The clocks read 7 am. MILI pulls out her sketchbook.

MILI (V.O.)  
I love drawing people. I think that  
gives me clarity. The voice in my head  
is always easier to comprehend.

Sometimes I feel Samarth is the voice  
inside my head. It's slightly....  
distant and worked up.

As I said, it sounds just like him.

Her table is right beside the window. She can see SAMARTH in his house, working on his table. He also has a steaming mug kept beside his laptop. MILI starts sketching him.

MILI (V.O.)  
If only he knew how much I wanted to  
reach out to him.

SAM LOOK AT ME.

Right then, SAMARTH looks directly at MILI's window. He looks extremely confused. MILI ducks under her table as a reflex.

MILI (V.O.)

Man, he has good timing. It almost felt as if he heard my thoughts. Lol. I am a mind reader and he is telepathic it seems.

MILI sits up on the table and looks at SAMARTH

MILI (V.O.)

He looks so sad; it breaks my heart.

I know he isn't the same boy anymore. Not after that night. How can I even expect him to be?

How can either one of us find our way back from the guilt of surviving an accident no one else really did.

How will he forgive me for killing everyone?