

Appendix

Vignette

Nina, age 17, is seen by a close family friend kissing her boyfriend on a movie date. Usually she is careful to tell lies, such as “I am going to work,” to hide the relationship. Her father often asks the brother to follow her places, and he constantly checks on her whereabouts.

When the family friend reports the kiss, Nina’s father confronts her for the behaviour and then blames Nina’s mother for failing to keep an eye on her own daughter. The father starts yelling about his daughter wearing makeup and running around with boys, and claims that this Western lifestyle brings shame. Nina’s brother agrees with their father and threatens to kill the boyfriend. The father slaps Nina across the face, saying, “What kind of daughter are you; how will I face the community? You have disrespected me and disgraced this family. I wish you were dead.”

Out of fear Nina escapes to a friend’s place where she is encouraged by the friend’s parents to report the incident to the police instead of eloping with her boyfriend. When the police arrive at her family’s home, the brother says there should be no concerns as the family is discussing preparations

for his sister's wedding. The mother calls Nina's cell phone and begs her to come home to avoid further community accusations. The mother tells her to end the current relationship because her father is planning her marriage to another man from a conservative family. Under pressure, Nina agrees to the forced marriage, and tries to defend herself by saying everything is based on rumours.