

CHANGE (IN THE HOUSE OF COWBOY CATS)

Written by

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1 INT. HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

RAJ, messy hair, overalls, sits in front of an empty canvas. He brings up a brush to the canvas, but puts it down.

RAJ
(sighs)
Nothing...

QIAO LING, smart casual, kempt appearance, walks in the room.

QIAO LING
Having trouble Raj?

RAJ
Qiao Ling... You're home. Yeah.
Nothing. Nothing's coming out.

QIAO LING
Aw, baby, you need to take a break.
Let's have dinner.

Raj smiles, nods.

2 INT. DINING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Raj and Qiao Ling are eating dinner.

QIAO LING
Raj, we need to talk.

Raj chews and swallows a piece of meat.

RAJ
Okay.

QIAO LING
(sighs)
Do you think, that maybe the reason why you can't think of anything to draw is because... the only art you've seen in years is the cowboy cat painting?

RAJ
This painting?

Raj points to the painting behind him, a cowboy cat.

QIAO LING
Yes, the painting you've hung up in our dining room. And bedroom. Every room.

RAJ

Why? It's my favourite painting.
You know that.

QIAO LING

Yea, but, won't looking at
different artpieces inspire you?

RAJ

This painting inspires me. It's
perfect. It's delicate and full of
exuberance. Besides, I've painted a
ton of things inspired by it.

QIAO LING

I know.

(beat)

But don't you think it's crazy?!
You don't look at any other art.
Not just paintings. Songs, movies,
hell, you won't even watch TV! The
only thing on your social media is
a daily reposter of that damn
painting!

(sighs)

That cowboy cat may be perfect,
but, why are you limiting yourself?
You could paint so much more.

RAJ

Honey... It's okay. It's just an
art block. I'll get back to normal
soon enough.

QIAO LING

Raj, you don't get it. What if this
is it? What if you can't paint
anymore?

RAJ

No-

QIAO LING

What if?!

(beat)

I loved watching you paint. It's
your hobby, your passion. I just, I
don't want you to lose that.

FADE TO BLACK.

3 INT. HOME OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Raj is pacing around the room. He stops, looks at his empty canvas. He gets a notification, "Cowboy Cat Daily, 1 new post", opens phone. Cowboy cat, he smiles. He looks at empty canvas again, back to phone. Clicks on profile of post, says 'ARTIST RUNS ACCOUNT'. He clicks on 'contact', and calls.

FADE TO BLACK.

4 INT. RICHARD'S HOUSE - DAY

RICHARD, 35, smart appearance, shirt and pants, clean cut, sits on a couch. On an opposite couch, Raj sits.

RAJ

Thanks for meeting with me,
Richard. I'm a really big fan of
your work.

RICHARD

No problem, I'm always down to meet
a fan. Now, what did you want to
talk about again?

RAJ

Well, see, I'm an artist myself and
I've been... struggling with
painting anything recently.

RICHARD

Been there.

RAJ

My girlfriend thinks it's because I
don't consume any art other than
your cowboy cat painting. But that
used to be enough.

RICHARD

Wow.

RAJ

Yeah, so I was wondering, as a
fellow artist, why haven't you made
different paintings?

RICHARD

First, let me ask you why you love
my painting so much?

RAJ

Oh, well, It's pleasant. The first time I saw it, I was also going through an art block. It was a time when I thought everything I had to do was serious, and had to make the audience think hard.

(beat)

In the midst of all that, while not being able to paint anything, I saw it. And I cried. The joy and the care that I felt the author put into it made me realise... art didn't have to be so serious. It could be fun.

RICHARD

I'm glad you felt that way. My answer to your earlier question is that I felt the exact same you feel. I hit a peak when I painted it. It is my magnum opus. And I don't think I could do it again.

RAJ

...Wait. That's it?

RICHARD

Yes, I don't think I could do better. So, I don't.

RAJ

What? That just sounds like...you're... you're afraid.

RICHARD

No... That's different-

RAJ

Yes, you're just afraid to paint anything new. And I... I'm afraid too. I'm afraid.

CUT TO: BLACK

5 INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Raj sits in front of the TV with a remote in hand. He struggles, and turns on the TV. He flashes through channels, smiles. Qiao Ling walks in.

QIAO LING

Raj...?

RAJ

Hi.

She sees the TV.

QIAO LING

Oh my God...

She hugs him, he hugs her back.

RAJ

You wanna watch some TV?

She nods.

THE END.