

Shillong Times

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Adapted from the novel
Shillong Times: A Story of Friendship and Fear
by
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FADE IN:

TITLE CARD: SHILLONG, INDIA - EVENING

TITLE CARD: 2019

EXT. NH40 HIGHWAY - AFTERNOON

A lone yellow and black taxi winds down the scenic highway. An August sun glows in the distant sky.

A roadside milestone reads: **Shillong 100 kilometres**

A LOCAL herding a flock of sheep blocks the road, bringing the taxi to a halt. He is no hurry.

DRIVER, a middle-aged man peeks out of the window.

Note: he speaks in local language.

DRIVER

EH!!! Hurry up will you?

A MALE VOICE comes from the back seat.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

What happened driver?

This is DEBU, 40s, a youthful face with salt and pepper hair.

DRIVER

(broken English)

Nothing sir. These locals, they will never change.

The flock clears the road, the driver picks up speed.

Debu, leans back and looks out of the window. A Sherlock Holmes book rests on his lap.

DEBU

You think we can make it by sunset?

DRIVER

I'll do my best, sir. Shillong your home, sir?

DEBU

Used to be. Not anymore. Moved to Kolkata in 1988.

Pause.