**Kickboxer – synopsis**

*Genre: Motivational /biography / strong woman centric drama*

Pratyusha was the daughter of a Bengali couple living in Dhubri, Assam. During the riots where Bengalis were driven out of Assam, her parents were killed, and she survived dramatically (age 4) when an Assamese couple claimed her to be their child. She grew up among her Assamese parents among the nature. She loved nature and the Brahmaputra. She got lessons to love nature and the wildlife, from her teacher Mridul (40) who became her source of information about the world.

During the uprising of the Kamtapuri (KLO) militancy (details of the KLO agitations), Nibir (18), her younger brother from her Assamese parents, got drawn into the ideology of the Kamtapuris and became part of the movement. The police often raided her house for information of her brother Nibir, picked up her father, tortured him, and made him paralysed. On another occasion, the police entered their house and raped her, getting no information of her brother. She developed bitter hatred towards the police and wanted to learn martial arts for self-defence. Her teacher and mentor Mridul, who was 20 years elder, took her to a karate training unit and enrolled her. She started taking lessons of karate and kickboxing. The flashbacks of her rape generated her rage which make her wake up in the early hours and go practicing.

She develops closeness with Mayur (27), a fellow student in her martial arts class. He works as a cabin crew with a private airline company. Their friendship grows as they start spending more and more time together. He talks about his travels; encourages her to start dreaming of going to exotic places of the world together. But Pratyusha says is not ready to marry him yet. She is ready to stay with him as a good friend and if there is loyalty between them, she will consider marriage. Mayur flies between different cities as a part of his professional activity.

After her lessons, in her quest for employment opportunities with kickboxing, she discovers kickboxers are in much demand in Thailand, where they perform every day before an audience. She applies for passport and leaves for Bangkok, from where she moves to Pattaya. She befriends a ladyboy prostitute Jodie (30) who becomes her first friend in Thailand. Jodie introduces her to a bar owner on Walking Street, Pattaya, who runs a kickboxing club in a pub. *Describe the kickboxing and excitement around it in Thailand.* Sex industry is rampant in Pattaya and it is difficult to avoid the customers who keep giving her offers to join the sex industry and prostitution. She avoids as far as possible. In Pattaya, she has a chance meeting with a girl from Meghalaya who had visited as a tourist with her husband. This girl is a common friend of Pratyusha and Mayur and is also a cabin crew in the same airline where Mayur works. Pratyusha’s world starts falling apart when she hears Mayur has a wife in Mumbai, about whom he had never told her. Pratyusha locks up herself for 2 days; then accepts an invitation from a customer who visits her bar, to have paid sex with her. She does not enjoy it but feels the satisfaction of doing justice to Mayur.

Pratyuisha takes a few steps back to rethink what she wants to do with her life. She seeks happiness, but she does not know where happiness can be found. She decides to take a week’s break from work and travel Thailand with her friend Jodie. They travel across Thailand and have jun. As she discovers life in Thailand, being an animal and nature lover, she cannot accept abuse of animals in the country for pleasing tourists. She joins the protests against display of captive tigers to tourists for money in Thailand and becomes the face of the protests. She is dead against displaying tigers to tourists for selfies in the tiger temple. She keeps travelling between Thailand and Guwahati and during one such trip she was requested to carry the luggage of her employer’s friend. She gets caught by the narcotics and customs at the airport for carrying drugs in her luggage. She breaks down and says it is a plot by the owners of the tiger temple who planted drugs in her luggage. Her arrest makes news and the news reaches India and is noticed by her mentor Mridul.

Meanwhile Mridul is leading a protest and movement in Assam against building a railway track through a jungle which happens to be a popular elephant corridor. If the railway is built, it will result in death of many elephants by collision with trains, but the railway ministry is adamant to go ahead with the project which will shorten the railroad by almost 70 kilometers. Mridul faces arrest under anti nation and terrorism laws.

In Thailand jail Pratyusha faces hardships, abuse, and defends herself using her skills of martial arts and self-defence.

In India Mridul is transported as an undertrial, from a jail in Assam to the jail of another state as his trial is moved to another state, where cut off from his followers, he will be emotionally and morally turned into a vegetable. On the way to be transported in a prison van, the prison van is stopped by KLO militants who kill the policemen and free the prisoners. The men were led by Pratyusha’s brother Nibir who was missing for years. Mridul stays in the jungle hideouts with Nibir and the Kamtapuri militants for 3 days; they have political and philosophical talks about the problems of the Koch Rajbanshis and the oppression from the Indian army and police. Nibir has married a comrade. *(show life of the militants in the jungle).*

After 3 days, Mridul secretly travels to New Delhi in disguise, where he gets legal help and the best lawyer arranged by Rohit Gandhi *(he should be just like Rahul Gandhi; have changed the name to Rohit Gandhi in the script),* the top Congress leader who has political interest to project Mridul as the Congress candidate and leader against the ruling party of Assam. He promises to sort out the legal charges against him in Assam.

Facing hardships, when Pratyusha is almost running out of hope in the Thailand prison, a prison guard informs her someone has arranged bail for her and had come to take her out along with the consul general of India. It was Mridul, her mentor and the consul general of India waiting for her. Out of the prison, Pratyusha visits her home in Thailand before leaving for India and collects some proofs she had been collecting against the tiger temple of Thailand. In a press conference in Bangkok, organized by Mridul, she publishes the proofs and photographs of 40 dead tiger cubs in a freezer of the tiger temple, meant for trafficking to China where tiger parts are consumed as part of superstition. Following this, the tiger temple was raided and closed.

Pratyusha and Mridul returns to India, where Mridul encourages Pratyusha to participate in the national kickboxing championship held in New Delhi as a participant from Assam. Pratyusha wins the national championship and qualifies for the Asian championship to be held later in the year in South Korea. She practices for the Asian championship when an old memory bothers her. The visuals of her rape come back to her.

She writes to the sports ministry of Assam to arrange for her security and police protection. When the police officer in charge of the local police station comes to meet her, Pratyusha remembers the face of her rapist. She records a spicy conversation with him which she lures and tricks the police officer into; later lodging a complaint of sexual offense against the police officer, revealing her recording. It creates a furore and the officer is suspended. It also creates bitterness between her and the police, who start trying to locate who her close associates are.

Becoming vindictive the police revive the closed legal case against Mridul and announce him as a fugitive. Mridul is killed by the police, in a fake encounter just a day before Pratyusha was to leave for South Korea for the Asian Championship. With a broken heart Pratyusha realizes the constant source of her encouragement and inspiration, her mentor Mridul was no more with her in her biggest battle. She faces the different rounds of kickboxing fights alone and ends up as a runner up in the final.

She returns to Assam and relocates to Guwahati. She brings her mother and paralysed father with her. Being a pride and now an ambassador of Assam, she sets up a kickboxing training academy in Guwahati, on a land she gets from the government, alongside being a social activist. She negotiates with the government for the rehabilitation of the KLO militants, visits the jungles of Assam during her weekend offs, to see the nature and wildlife. She visits Maneka Gandhi in New Delhi and then the union railway minister, pleading not to set up the railway track along the elephant corridor. She says, it was the wish of a person she respects the most.

Social gatherings are now quite common in Pratyusha’s life and she becomes friendly with a senior television journalist, Silmi, who invites Pratyusha to her show for a live chat before the national audience. In the live television show, Pratyusha talks of her life from childhood till now; speaks of her struggles and hardships and how some corrupt police officers murdered her mentor in a fake, dressed up police encounter, when he was not a fugitive. Following the television show, the corrupt police officers face the wrath of the common people from the social media, and under the pressure from the government, they are suspended and face trial.

Pratyusha gets busy with her kickboxing academy, where she trains young boys and girls how to become tough; how to face life. She names her academy *Mridul Academy of Kickboxing and Martial Arts*. She nurtures the hope that her brother will lay down arms and come back to the mainstream, and become part of her family again. She finds a good friend in Silmi, the television journalist. Together they take up new challenges, take up social work together, and during their weekends, they would cut themselves off from the civilized world, to get lost among nature.