



4.4 Paths Between Sides

- Muhammad Adib Surani

After a successful break and run out, your opponent returns his cue to the stands with a smug expression. "Come on, let's get some fresh air," he says, ignoring your bewildered expression.

As soon as both of you are out of earshot, his expression changes. He grabs you by your shirt and bring his face close to yours. "You should never, *ever* touch other peoples' things. Mmmmkay?"

Before you get a chance to blink, he disappears with a swish. The only thing remaining in your mind is the deep scarlet of his eyes. Coloured contacts, no doubt, but the amount of hatred burning in them is unforgettable.

You return home to find your place ransacked, with Wendy nowhere to be seen. A new note is taped to the fridge.

D _____ S
E _____ Glum or tenacious (4) A
E _____ Agents (abbr.) (4) E
K _____ Incus (5) E
I _____ Buzzing sound from a fan (4) R

N _____ T
Y _____ Dad's dad (7) L
T _____ Whets (5) E
I _____ Fiber from alkenes (6) R
L _____ Inveigled; enticed (7) H
T _____ Cynic philosopher and Megarian schoolmaster (5) E

D _____ A
R _____ Feudal tenant in ancient Frankish kingdoms (4) E
E _____ Concludes (4) M
D _____ Chatting idly or excessively (7) S
A _____ Ego (4) G