



THE BORROWED VOICE

A Sci-Fi/High-Concept 2-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by
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LOGLINE: Manav volunteers to test a device that can copy one human voice perfectly, but the scientist says it can also store the emotions attached to it. As the recording session continues, Manav hears a voice on playback that reveals thoughts he never spoke aloud. The twist: the device has been recording not his voice, but the voice of the version of himself he will become if he leaves the room.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) | Character 1: Manav (25)

LOCATION: A small recording studio with foam panels, a single desk lamp, glowing audio meters, and complete isolation from the outside world.

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FADE IN:

INT. SMALL RECORDING STUDIO - NIGHT

Foam panels. Single desk lamp. Glowing audio meters. Complete isolation.

MANAV (25), black T-shirt, headphones, lanyard, portable recorder in hand, stands near a MIC.

DR. IYER (58), lab coat over formal clothes, reading glasses, calm clinical stare, sits at an AUDIO INTERFACE.

DR. IYER

Ready?

MANAV

Sir, main sirf voice test kar raha hoon. Brain surgery nahi.

DR. IYER

Aaj dono same cheez lag sakte hain.

Manav smirks. Dr. Iyer slides over SCRIPT PAGES.

DR. IYER (CONT'D)

Read exactly as printed. No improvisation.

MANAV

Sound engineer hoon, sir. Improvisation meri jaan hai.

DR. IYER

Phir aaj jaan ko mute rakho.

Manav puts on headphones. Dr. Iyer arms the device. Waveform monitor wakes up.

DR. IYER (CONT'D)

Take one.

MANAV

(into mic)

One. Two. Three. Testing.

Meters jump. Clean signal.

DR. IYER

Good. Again.

MANAV

Again.

DR. IYER

Not that word. The script.

Manav glances at the page.

MANAV

(into mic)

The river remembers the shape of stone.

DR. IYER

Excellent.

MANAV

Aapko poetry pasand hai?

DR. IYER

Mujhe data pasand hai.

MANAV

Dangerous hobby.

Dr. Iyer ignores that. Presses PLAYBACK.

A beat.

From speakers: MANAV'S VOICE, but deeper, slightly older.

VOICE (V.O.)

Agar main yahan se bahar gaya, toh main phir se wahi
aadmi ban jaunga jo sabko sunta hai, khud ko nahi.

Manav freezes.

MANAV

Yeh maine nahi bola.

DR. IYER

Echo artifact.

MANAV

Sir, echo mein thoughts nahi aate.

Dr. Iyer watches the waveform.

DR. IYER

Record again.

Manav swallows, leans in.

MANAV

(into mic)

Testing. Again.

Playback starts.

VOICE (V.O.)

Tu hamesha sound se bhaagta raha hai, Manav. Kyunki
silence mein tera khud ka version zyada loud hai.

Manav yanks off headphones.

MANAV

Bas. Stop.

DR. IYER

I can stop the session. I can't stop the truth.

MANAV

Truth? Ya aapka experiment?

Dr. Iyer leans back, measured.

DR. IYER

Voice copy nahi hoti, Manav. Intention map hota hai.
Jo tum bolte ho, uske peeche ka tum.

MANAV

Matlab future prediction?

DR. IYER

Nahi. Aaj ka consequence.

Playback clicks on by itself.

VOICE (V.O.)

Main jaunga, aur phir bolunga ki main busy tha. Main
ruk jaunga, aur phir bolunga ki waqt nahi tha.

Manav is hit hard.

MANAV

(quiet)

Mujhe laga tha main yahan test karne aaya hoon.

DR. IYER

Aur?

MANAV

Shayad escape karne.

A long beat.

DR. IYER

Then don't.

Manav steps to the mic. Removes script pages. Breathes.

MANAV

(into mic, raw)

Haan, main darr raha hoon. Haan, main change chahta
hoon. Aur haan... mujhe khud ki awaaz se bhi darr
lagta hai.

Waveform becomes jagged, alive.

Dr. Iyer watches, almost human now.

DR. IYER

Again.

MANAV

Nahi. Is baar asli.

Playback suddenly triggers.

VOICE (V.O.)

Agar tum yeh sun rahe ho, toh matlab tum abhi tak
room mein ho.

Silence.

A soft CLICK.

The door lock disengages.

Manav and Dr. Iyer exchange a look.

MANAV

Future version ka attitude bhi kaafi irritating hai.

For the first time, Dr. Iyer almost smiles.

DR. IYER

Means it's working.

Manav pockets the recorder, turns off the mic.

MANAV

Nahi, sir. Abhi start hua hai.

FADE OUT.