



AFTER THE APPLAUSE

A Emotional Drama 2-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by
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LOGLINE: Siddharth returns to the theater to rehearse one final monologue, but only Aman is there to help him. What begins as a rehearsal becomes a confrontation over legacy, failure, and the cost of living in someone else's shadow. The twist is that Aman is not just an assistant—he is Siddharth's son, kept secret to protect both their careers.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) | Character 1: Siddharth (43)

LOCATION: An empty theater stage after a show, with one spotlight still on, dust in the air, rows of dark seats, and silence hanging where applause used to be.

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FADE IN:

INT. EMPTY THEATER STAGE - NIGHT

Ek hi SPOTLIGHT stage ke center par jal rahi hai. Dust particles hawa mein chamak rahe hain. Dark seats ka samundar. Silence.

SIDDHARTH (43), silk kurta, scarf ek shoulder par, cane ke saath stage par khada hai. Uske haath mein script pages hain.

Aman (27), plain T-shirt, jeans, notebook aur marked pages ke saath side se aata hai.

AMAN

(softly)

Show khatam ho gaya, Sir.

SIDDHARTH

(without looking up)

Show khatam hota hai. Stage nahi.

Aman halka sa smile karta hai. Notebook kholta hai.

AMAN

Aapki last monologue rehearsal ke liye main ruk gaya tha.

SIDDHARTH

Bohot meherbani.

(beat)

Cue de.

Aman script dekhta hai.

AMAN

"Aaj main jo hoon..."

Siddharth line bolta hai. Pehle shaky, phir controlled.

SIDDHARTH

Aaj main jo hoon, uske liye main ne jo chhoda...

AMAN

(prompting)

...woh bhi yaad rakhna padta hai.

Siddharth rukta hai, Aman ko dekhta hai.

SIDDHARTH

Tu assistant director hai ya judge?

AMAN

Dono ka kaam same hota hai. Galtiyan dekhna.

Siddharth huff karta hai, phir line continue karta hai.

SIDDHARTH

...woh bhi yaad rakhna padta hai.

Beat.

SIDDHARTH

Tumhara naam?

AMAN

Aman.

(beat)

Aur aaj raat bas helper.

SIDDHARTH

Helper log hi theatre ko zinda rakhte hain.

Aman notebook mein kuch mark karta hai.

AMAN

Aajkal theatre ko log nahi, sponsors zinda rakhte hain.

Siddharth hansi dabata hai.

SIDDHARTH

Bahut gyaan hai.

AMAN

Jo shadow mein kaam karte hain, unhe light ka price pata hota hai.

Siddharth thoda chubhta hai. Seedha dekhta hai.

SIDDHARTH

Itni filosoify kahaan se aayi?

AMAN

Rejections se.

(beat)

Aur kuch purane logon se.

Siddharth line bhoor jaata hai.

SIDDHARTH

Agli line?

AMAN

(quietly)

"Main laut aaya hoon."

SIDDHARTH

Main bhoolta nahi hoon.

AMAN

Aap bhoelte nahi.

(beat)

Bas jo yaad rakhna chahiye, woh nahi rakhte.

Silence.

Siddharth cane ko stage floor par thoda zor se tikata hai.

SIDDHARTH

Kya bol raha hai tu?

Aman kuch seconds tak use dekhta hai. Phir notebook ke beech se ek purana folded script page nikaalta hai.

AMAN

Yeh pehchaan rahe ho?

Siddharth page dekhta hai. Uske chehre ka rang utar jaata hai.

SIDDHARTH

Yeh... old production ka page hai.

AMAN

Haan.

(beat)

Aapka favourite dialogue bhi ismein tha.

SIDDHARTH

Tumhe kaise pata?

Aman page kholta hai. Us par ek faded marking.

AMAN

Kyunki bachpan se sun raha hoon.

Siddharth stunned.

SIDDHARTH

Bachpan?

AMAN

(steady)

Haan. Bachpan. Jis bachche ko aapne kabhi stage ke piche bhi dekhna avoid kiya tha.

Siddharth ka grip cane par tight.

SIDDHARTH

Kya bakwaas kar raha hai?

Aman notebook band karta hai.

AMAN

Bakwaas nahi.

(beat)

Main Aman hoon. Aur main aapka beta hoon.

Silence hits hard.

SIDDHARTH

(shaken)

Nahi.

AMAN

Haan. Maa ne naam badla, shehar badla, aur aapne career bachaya.

SIDDHARTH

Maine...

AMAN

Aapne chuppi choose ki. Us time ke liye sahi hogi. Mere liye nahi thi.

Siddharth ek kadam aage badhta hai, phir ruk jaata hai.

SIDDHARTH

Tu aaj bata raha hai?

AMAN

Aaj pehli baar aapke saamne khada hoon. Assistant ke roop mein.

(beat)

Beta ke roop mein nahi.

Siddharth ki aankhon mein guilt.

SIDDHARTH

Main nahi jaanta tha...

AMAN

Aapne puchha nahi.

Beat. Spotlight hums softly.

SIDDHARTH

Tera talent... Teri line delivery... Sab...

AMAN

Aap jaisa hai?

SIDDHARTH

(softly)

Haan.

AMAN

Ghalat mat feel kijiye. Surname hota to zindagi aur hoti. Talent to tha. Bas entry pass nahi tha.

Siddharth script pages ko dekhta hai, phir Aman ko.

SIDDHARTH

Main ne fame bachane mein ek beta kho diya.

AMAN

Beta khoya nahi jaata.

(beat)

Bas choose nahi kiya jaata.

Siddharth ko yeh line lagti hai. Uske haath kaanp jaate hain.

SIDDHARTH

Main sorry bolne ke layak bhi nahi hoon.

AMAN

Sorry se years wapas nahi aate.

SIDDHARTH

Toh kya chahiye?

Aman usse dekhta hai. Long beat.

AMAN

Sach.

Siddharth slowly cane side mein rakhta hai. Script pages kholkar ek gehri saans leta hai.

SIDDHARTH

(to himself, then to Aman)

Theek hai.

Woh monologue dobara shuru karta hai, par is baar character ki tarah nahi, apne aap ki tarah.

SIDDHARTH

Main jo tha... woh stage ne banaya. Main jo hoon... woh meri chuppi ne.

(beat)

Aur jo main khona nahi chahta tha... woh mere saamne khada hai.

Aman ki aankhon mein tears, but controlled.

SIDDHARTH

Main ne applause ke liye ghar ko andhere mein rakha. Aur andhera itna lamba ho gaya ki chehre pehchaan mein nahi aaye.

Silence.

SIDDHARTH

Main late aaya. Par agar ek mauka ho... toh main aaj bhi yahin hoon.

Aman notebook ko dheere se band karta hai.

AMAN

Rehearsal ho gayi.

SIDDHARTH

Aur baaki zindagi?

AMAN

(looking at the empty seats)

Wo bhi shayad ab script mein likhni padegi.

Dono ek dusre ko dekhte hain. Koi hug nahi. Koi big resolution nahi.

Bas ek sach.

FADE OUT.