



FREEZE FRAME

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

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LOGLINE: Neil discovers that every photo he takes of Tariq captures a different version of the same man: confident, terrified, married, divorced, even dead. Tariq claims he has seen the same thing in mirrors since morning and begs Neil to stop taking pictures. The twist reveals the camera is not predicting the future—it is showing the lives Tariq has already lived in alternate timelines.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) | Character 1: Neil (31)

LOCATION: A small bridal suite before the ceremony, lit by soft golden daylight from a window and a vanity bulb mirror, with wedding décor waiting untouched.

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FADE IN:

INT. BRIDAL SUITE - DAY

Soft golden daylight window se aa rahi hai. Vanity mirror ke bulbs warm glow de rahe hain. Room mein wedding décor untouched: phool, ribbons, invitation card, ek sherwani bag.

NEIL (31), casual shirt, camera strap, rumpled trousers, camera check kar raha hai.

TARIQ (31), sherwani mein, flower garland half-worn, watch baar-baar dekh raha hai.

NEIL

Thoda seedha khade ho jao. Bas ek confident look.

TARIQ

Confident? Main to abhi decide kar raha hoon ki main is shaadi mein hoon bhi ya nahi.

Neil smirks, camera lift karta hai.

NEIL

Very funny. Mirror ke paas aa.

Tariq mirror ke paas jaata hai. Neil framing set karta hai.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Chin up. Haan. Perfect.

CLICK.

Neil camera screen dekhta hai. Uska face change.

On screen: Tariq looks composed, almost regal.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Hm. Good.

Tariq relax hota hai.

TARIQ

Dekha? Main natural hoon.

Neil takes another shot.

CLICK.

Neil screen check karta hai. His eyes narrow.

On screen: Tariq looks pale, anxious. A dark shadow near the watch.

NEIL

Weird.

TARIQ

Kya weird?

NEIL

Light. Kuch nahi.

Neil takes more photos, faster.

MONTAGE - CAMERA SCREEN IMAGES

- Tariq as a confident groom.
- Tariq terrified, sweating.
- Tariq in a wedding hall, garland fallen, hollow-eyed.
- Tariq in a hospital bed, eyes closed.

END MONTAGE

Neil freezes. He checks the memory card, then the screen again.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Yeh... yeh glitch hai.

TARIQ

Nahi.

Neil looks up.

NEIL

Kya matlab nahi?

Tariq stares at the mirror, not at Neil.

TARIQ

Maine subah se yahi dekha hai.

Neil steps closer.

NEIL

Kahan?

TARIQ

Mirror mein.

(beat)

Kabhi main dulha hota hoon. Kabhi koi aur. Kabhi main khush hota hoon. Kabhi main already toot chuka hota hoon.

Neil tries to laugh it off.

NEIL

Tu serious hai?

TARIQ

Kaash mazaak hota.

Neil raises the camera again.

TARIQ (CONT'D)

Nahi. Bas.

Tariq grabs the camera barrel.

TARIQ (CONT'D)

Please. Mat dekh mujhe.

NEIL

Camera se darte ho?

TARIQ

Haan.

(beat)

Aur mirror se bhi.

Neil lowers the camera.

NEIL

Tujhe lagta hai ye future dikhata hai?

TARIQ

Future? Nahi. Ye woh sab dikhata hai jo main pehle bhi jee chuka hoon.

Neil confused.

NEIL

Alternate timelines?

TARIQ

Shayad. Ya main har baar wahi galti repeat karta hoon.

Neil looks at the invitation card on the table. He picks it up.

INSERT - WEDDING INVITATION

The names: NEIL and TARIQ.

Neil's breath catches.

NEIL

Yeh...

He turns the card. Same date. Same venue.

NEIL (CONT'D)

Impossible.

Tariq finally turns to him.

TARIQ

Nahi. Yeh bas yaad dila raha hai.

NEIL

Kya?

Tariq gestures to the mirror.

TARIQ

Ki hum yahan pehli baar nahi aaye.

Neil stares at him, shaken.

He opens the memory card on the camera.

ON CAMERA SCREEN - LAST FILE

A photo of this exact room.

Tariq in sherwani.

Neil in frame, holding camera.

Same light. Same mirror.

Neil looks up, stunned.

NEIL

Main... photo mein tha?

TARIQ

Haan.

(softly)

Har baar.

Tariq looks into the mirror.

For a moment, his reflection shows different versions of him: groom, runaway, broken man, corpse-like stillness.

Neil steps back.

NEIL

Camera future nahi dikha raha...

TARIQ

Haan. Ye lives dikha raha hai. Jo main already jee chuka hoon.

A distant WEDDING SHEHNAI drifts in from outside.

Neil lowers the camera completely.

NEIL

Toh ab?

Tariq adjusts his watch. Straightens the garland.

TARIQ

Ab ek photo mat lena.

(beat)

Shayad iss baar hum finally wahi jee lein jo pehle kabhi jee nahi paaye.

Neil looks at him. Then at the camera.

He slowly turns the camera OFF.

Silence.

The mirror bulbs hum softly.

Tariq and Neil stand in the warm light, both frozen between timelines.

FADE OUT.

THE END