



THE MEMORY LEASE

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

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LOGLINE: Ishan wants to delete one painful memory to save his marriage, but Aditi warns him that the memory is linked to a much larger event he has forgotten. As the session begins, they both discover that the memory he came to erase is actually hers too.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) | Character 1: Ishan (33)

LOCATION: A compact memory clinic office with soft blue ambient lighting, holographic interface reflections, and a single reclining chair facing a desk. The room feels clean, futuristic, and emotionally sterile, with a faint pulse from unseen machines.

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FADE IN:

INT. MEMORY CLINIC OFFICE - NIGHT

Soft blue ambient light. A compact, emotionally sterile room. A SINGLE RECLINING CHAIR faces a sleek desk. Holographic reflections drift on glass walls. A faint machine pulse hums somewhere unseen.

ISHAN (33), black hoodie, smart glasses, restless and sleep-deprived, stands near the chair like he wants to leave but can't.

ADITI (31), white coat over casual clothes, tablet in hand, neural headset hanging from her wrist, studies him with clinical calm.

ADITI

Aapko sure hai?

ISHAN

Sure hota toh yahan kyun aata?

ADITI

Log aksar yahi bolte hain.

ISHAN

Main logon jaisa nahi hoon.

Aditi looks at him. Deadpan.

ADITI

Haan. Isliye to aap sleep-deprived ho.

Ishan almost smiles. Almost.

ISHAN

Ek memory delete karni hai.

ADITI

Delete nahi. Lease.

ISHAN

Same cheez.

ADITI

Nahi. Lease ka matlab hai reversible.

ISHAN

Mujhe reversible nahi chahiye.

A beat.

Aditi taps her tablet. A MEMORY FILE opens in hologram: INCIDENT – DOCK 14 – 11:47 PM.

Ishan freezes.

ISHAN

Ye kya hai?

ADITI

Aapki file.

ISHAN

Main bas itna yaad hai ki...

(searching)

pani tha. Static. Aur...

ADITI

Aur?

ISHAN

Ek awaaz.

Aditi's eyes flicker. She hides it.

ADITI

Kiski?

ISHAN

Pata hota toh yahan baitha hota kya?

Aditi gestures to the reclining chair.

ADITI

Baith jaaiye. Neural mapping ke bina erase possible nahi.

ISHAN

I told you, erase nahi. Lease.

ADITI

Aapke case mein term important hai.

Ishan sits in the chair with a tired sigh.

Aditi takes the neural headset from her wrist and approaches. Professional. Controlled.

ADITI

Main headset fit kar rahi hoon. Agar discomfort ho, bolna.

ISHAN

Mere marriage se zyada discomfort nahi hoga.

Aditi pauses. That lands.

ADITI

That bad?

ISHAN

It's not about bad.

(beat)

It's about silence.

Aditi softens, just a little.

ADITI

Okay.

She places the headset on his temples. Blue light intensifies.

ADITI (CONT'D)

Main anchor questions poochungi. Naam.

ISHAN

Ishan.

ADITI

Age.

ISHAN

33.

ADITI

Anniversary.

Ishan blinks.

ISHAN

Why would you ask that?

ADITI

Anchor.

ISHAN

Sixteen June.

Aditi notes it down.

ADITI

Wife ka naam?

ISHAN

Rhea.

A tiny beat.

ADITI

Good.

ISHAN

Good? That sounded fake.

ADITI

I'm a specialist, not a poet.

The headset emits a soft CHIME. Holographic fragments bloom in the air.

A DOCK. RAIN. A BROKEN POD. SIRENS.

Ishan's breathing changes.

ISHAN

Wait...

ADITI

Stay with it.

A female silhouette appears in the memory stream.

ISHAN

That voice...

ADITI

What voice?

ISHAN

Tumhari.

Aditi goes still.

ADITI

No.

The stream glitches. A white coat flashes in the memory.

Ishan squints.

ISHAN

That's you.

ADITI

Impossible.

ISHAN

Main jhooth nahi bol raha.

ADITI

I'm not saying you are.

She checks the tablet. Her fingers tremble once—barely.

ADITI (CONT'D)

Dock 14... this file is linked.

ISHAN

Linked to what?

Aditi swallows.

ADITI

To me.

Ishan sits up slightly, headset still on.

ISHAN

Tum us raat wahan thi?

Aditi avoids his eyes.

ADITI

There was an emergency transfer.

ISHAN

Aditi.

ADITI

Memory-trace project. Experimental.

ISHAN

Mere clinic me aake mujhe project mat becho.

ADITI

I'm not selling anything.

(beat)

We were storing memories after an accident.

ISHAN

We?

Aditi looks at him now.

ADITI

Haan. We.

The memory stream sharpens. Aditi's face appears inside it, younger, terrified, reaching for something.

ISHAN

Why can I see you?

ADITI

Because you didn't just forget it. You split it.

ISHAN

Kya?

ADITI

To survive.

The hologram glitches again. A hand. A fall. Ishan pulling someone up.

Aditi.

ISHAN

Main tumhe bachaya tha?

Aditi can't answer immediately.

ADITI

Yes.

Ishan stares.

ISHAN

Toh main erase kyun karwana chahta tha?

Aditi taps the tablet. A hidden layer unlocks. Another name appears: RHEA.

Ishan's face drains.

ISHAN (CONT'D)

No.

ADITI

I think your wife knew.

ISHAN

Kya pata tha?

ADITI

That you were carrying a memory that wasn't just yours.

ISHAN

Tum kya bol rahi ho?

ADITI

You didn't come here to save your marriage. You came here to erase the last honest conversation you had with her.

Ishan's jaw tightens. The truth hits hard.

ISHAN

She said if I delete it, I delete us.

Aditi looks at him, quiet.

ADITI

And you still came.

ISHAN

Because I was tired.

(beat)

Tired of remembering what I did. Tired of not remembering what I lost.

A long silence. The machine pulse fills the room.

ADITI

There's more.

She scrolls. The memory file expands.

A final fragment: Aditi, in the same memory, holding a tablet, saying something to Ishan.

ADITI (CONT'D)

I was there.

ISHAN

You already said that.

ADITI

No. I mean... I was there. In the accident. In the memory. Maybe even before this job.

Ishan removes the headset.

ISHAN

Then why don't you remember?

Aditi laughs once, hollow.

ADITI

Because apparently hum dono ka dimaag same disaster se deal kar raha hai.

Ishan stands. The chair creaks.

ISHAN

Main delete nahi karunga.

ADITI

Good.

ISHAN

Agar sach mar gaya, toh marriage bhi fake ho jaayegi.

Aditi gives a small, real smile.

ADITI

Lease cancel karni hogi.

ISHAN

Kya?

ADITI

Memory lease.

(beat)

But warning hai. Jab ye wapas aayegi, sabse pehle aap apne aap se milenge.

ISHAN

Aur tum?

Aditi looks at the tablet, then at him.

ADITI

Shayad main bhi.

She saves a note on the file.

ON TABLET: DOCK 14 – RESTORE PENDING.

Ishan heads to the door, then stops.

ISHAN

Aditi...

ADITI

Hm?

ISHAN

Tumhe yaad aaya?

Aditi looks at him, honest and unsure.

ADITI

Nahi.

(beat)

Par enough hai.

Ishan nods. For the first time, he looks lighter.

The machine pulse continues. Blue light hums around them like a memory that refuses to die.

FADE OUT.