



THE CALL BACK

A Pure Comedy 2-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by
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LOGLINE: Sameer keeps trying to impress Pooja by pretending he is calm, prepared, and creatively brilliant, while she systematically exposes every lie with deadpan precision. By the end, the “audition” turns out to have been a test for whether he can survive basic conversation.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) | Character 1: Sameer (26)

LOCATION: A tiny casting office waiting area with fluorescent lights, two plastic chairs, a water dispenser, and a poster-covered wall. The space is cramped, cheerful, and painfully awkward, perfect for an escalating comedy of impatience.

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FADE IN:

INT. TINY CASTING OFFICE WAITING AREA - DAY

Fluorescent lights buzz. Two plastic chairs. A water dispenser.
Poster-covered walls. Cramped, cheerful, painfully awkward.

SAMEER (26), slightly too-formal blazer, headshot folder clutch kiye baitha hai. POOJA (25), casual jeans, oversized headphones, clipboard in hand, desk ke paas khadi hai.

Sameer tries to look calm. Fails.

SAMEER

Hi. Main Sameer.

POOJA

Haan. Form pe likha hai.

Sameer smiles like that was a compliment.

SAMEER

Right. Of course. I'm... very prepared.

POOJA

Nice.

(beat)

Naam do baar kyun likha hai?

Pooja turns the clipboard toward him. Sameer sees his audition form.

SAMEER

Woh... creative emphasis ke liye.

POOJA

Same name, different spelling, dono galat.

SAMEER

Ambiguity.

POOJA

Correction fluid bhi ambiguity tha?

Sameer freezes.

SAMEER

Method acting.

POOJA

Form bharna method acting hota hai?

SAMEER

Industry mein... sab hota hai.

Pooja puts on a deadpan stare.

POOJA

Great. Silence act kar sakte ho?

SAMEER

Absolutely.

Pooja checks her watch. Then stares at him.

A long, awkward silence.

Sameer tries to hold it. His foot taps. His stomach GROWLS.

POOJA

Impressive.

SAMEER

Thank you.

POOJA

Pet ne bhi performance di.

Sameer coughs, embarrassed.

SAMEER

Main usually audition se pehle light nahi khata.

POOJA

Aur usually audition se pehle itna bolte ho?

SAMEER

Nahi. Bas jab main relaxed hota hoon.

POOJA

Acha.

(beat)

Toh abhi kya ho?

SAMEER

Main? Main toh... zen hoon.

Pooja looks at his jittery hands, straightened folder, stiff posture.

POOJA

Zen ka blazer version.

Sameer laughs despite himself.

SAMEER

Dekho, main bas yeh chahta tha ki aapko lage I'm easy to work with.

POOJA

Abhi tak lage ho?

SAMEER

Honestly?

(beat)

Nahi.

Pooja nods, like this is the first honest thing he's said.

Pooja

Good.

She flips the clipboard, points to the last page.

Pooja (CONT'D)

Read this.

Sameer takes the form, squints.

INSERT - FORM

"IF YOU CAN KEEP A NORMAL CONVERSATION FOR FIVE MINUTES, YOU MAY PROCEED."

BACK TO SCENE

Sameer

Yeh audition tha?

Pooja

Screening.

Sameer

For a role?

Pooja

For a human being.

Sameer is stunned.

Sameer

Toh main...

Pooja

Abhi tak pass ho rahe ho.

Sameer exhales, half relieved, half offended.

Sameer

Main samjha tha main impress kar raha hoon.

Pooja

Tum impress karne ki koshish kar rahe the. Woh alag cheez hai.

Beat.

Sameer decides to stop performing.

Sameer

Theek hai. Sach bolta hoon.

(beat)

Main nervous tha. Mujhe laga agar main cool dikhaun, toh chance better ho jayega.

Pooja softens, just a little.

Pooja

Chance toh tab bhi tha. Bas tumne usko monologue bana diya.

Sameer laughs.

Pooja takes off her oversized headphones and hangs them around her neck.

POOJA (CONT'D)

Okay. Final question.

SAMEER

Please, normal ho.

POOJA

Too late.

(beat)

Tum actually kaise ho?

Sameer thinks. Then shrugs.

SAMEER

Thoda awkward. Thoda overprepared. Aur thoda... genuinely acha banna chahta hoon.

Pooja nods, satisfied.

POOJA

That's usable.

She writes on the clipboard, tears off a slip, hands it to him.

POOJA (CONT'D)

Callback ke liye aana.

Sameer brightens instantly.

SAMEER

Seriously?

POOJA

Haan.

(beat)

Aur is baar blazer kam formal. Aur naam ek hi spelling mein.

Sameer grins.

SAMEER

I can do that.

POOJA

Dekhte hain.

Sameer stands, gathers his folder. He heads toward the exit, then turns back, trying one last cool line.

SAMEER

Main usually aisa nahi hota.

Pooja doesn't look up.

POOJA

Haan, pata hai.

(beat)

Isi liye toh tumhe call back kiya.

Sameer freezes, then laughs at himself as he exits.

Pooja smiles, shakes her head, and marks the clipboard.

FADE OUT.

THE END.