



SIGNAL LOST

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

Written by
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LOGLINE: Neel and Mira take shelter from the rain and discover that every time they speak, the radio inside the shelter predicts their next sentence exactly three seconds early. The twist is that the predictions aren't forecasting the future—they're replaying a conversation that already happened somewhere else, in another timeline.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) | Character 1: Neel (35)

LOCATION: A small hilltop bus shelter at night, surrounded by fog, with a broken streetlight casting cold blue-white pools of light. The shelter's glass panels reflect the dark sky, and a distant radio hiss fills the silence.

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FADE IN:

EXT. HILLTOP BUS SHELTER - NIGHT

Tez baarish. Fog ne poore hilltop ko swallow kar liya hai. Ek BROKEN STREETLIGHT blue-white pools mein light gira raha hai. Glass panels par dark sky ka reflection hil raha hai.

SHELTER ke andar ek purANA RADIO faint hiss kar raha hai.

NEEL (35), rain jacket mein, helmet under arm, phone screen ki roshni mein face lit, daudta hua shelter mein ghusta hai.

NEEL

Arre wah... free AC, free rain cover.

Radio se, usse teen second pehle:

RADIO (V.O.)

Arre wah... free AC, free rain cover.

Neel rukta hai.

NEEL

Kya?

RADIO (V.O.)

Kya?

Neel stunned. Phone ka screen uske haath mein glare kar raha hai.

MIRA (34), wool coat aur scarf mein, haath mein small radio aur star chart liye, already shelter ke kone mein khadi hai. She watches him, equally unsettled but trying to stay calm.

MIRA

Tumne bhi suna?

Radio, pehle:

RADIO (V.O.)

Tumne bhi suna?

NEEL

Haan. Matlab... abhi suna.

Radio, pehle:

RADIO (V.O.)

Haan. Matlab... abhi suna.

Mira Neel ko dekhti hai. Neel Mira ko.

MIRA

Yeh delayed echo nahi hai.

Radio, pehle:

RADIO (V.O.)

Yeh delayed echo nahi hai.

Neel apna phone nikaalta hai, recording on karta hai.

NEEL

Theek hai. Main record kar raha hoon.

Radio, pehle:

RADIO (V.O.)

Theek hai. Main record kar raha hoon.

NEEL

Nahi, maine abhi bola.

RADIO (V.O.)

Nahi, maine abhi bola.

Mira ki hans nikalti hai—nervous, involuntary.

MIRA

Tumhari timing kharab hai ya universe ki?

Radio, pehle:

RADIO (V.O.)

Tumhari timing kharab hai ya universe ki?

NEEL

Universe ka customer care number hai kya?

Radio, pehle:

RADIO (V.O.)

Universe ka customer care number hai kya?

Mira star chart kholti hai. Neel uske chart ko dekhta hai.

NEEL

Aap scientist ho?

Radio, pehle:

RADIO (V.O.)

Aap scientist ho?

MIRA

Astronomy lecturer.

Radio, pehle:

RADIO (V.O.)

Astronomy lecturer.

NEEL

Achha. Toh aap batao—yeh kya hai?

Radio, pehle:

RADIO (V.O.)

Achha. Toh aap batao—yeh kya hai?

Mira radio ko uthakar dekhne lagti hai. Hiss aur strong ho jata hai.

MIRA

Isme koi power nahi lag rahi.

NEEL

Toh phir bol kaise raha hai?

Radio, pehle:

RADIO (V.O.)

Toh phir bol kaise raha hai?

Silence. Baarish ki tapping.

Neel phone screen par recording wave dekh raha hai. Waveform glitch karta hai.

NEEL

Main prove kar dunga.

Radio, pehle:

RADIO (V.O.)

Main prove kar dunga.

MIRA

Tum prove nahi, panic kar rahe ho.

Radio, pehle:

RADIO (V.O.)

Tum prove nahi, panic kar rahe ho.

Neel glare karta hai.

NEEL

Main panic nahi kar raha.

Radio, pehle:

RADIO (V.O.)

Main panic nahi kar raha.

Mira finally smirks.

MIRA

Haan. Bilkul normal ho.

Radio, pehle:

RADIO (V.O.)

Haan. Bilkul normal ho.

Neel suddenly looks at her.

NEEL

Yeh line... aapne boli thi?

MIRA

Nahi.

Beat.

Radio, pehle:

RADIO (V.O.)

Nahi.

Mira freezes.

MIRA

Abhi... usne sirf adha bola.

Neel stares at the radio.

NEEL

Matlab yeh future nahi bol raha.

MIRA

Haan.

(beat)

Yeh... repeat kar raha hai.

NEEL

Kya repeat?

Mira star chart ke ek point par finger rakhti hai.

MIRA

Koi aisa signal jo already kisi aur jagah se aa chuka hai.

NEEL

Another station?

MIRA

Another timeline.

Neel laughs once, disbelieving.

NEEL

Main bas ek delivery rider hoon.

MIRA

Aur main bas stars padhati hoon.

(beat)

Fir bhi hum dono yahan phans gaye.

Radio hiss suddenly sharpens.

RADIO (V.O.)

Agar tum sun rahe ho, toh abhi mat mudna.

Neel aur Mira ek saath pichhe mudte hain.

Kuch nahi. Sirf fog. Sirf glass mein unka reflection.

Phir radio se Mira ki awaaz—thodi different, thodi thaki hui:

RADIO (V.O.)

Neel, agar tumne yeh suna...

(beat)

...toh woh version pehle hi chala gaya.

Neel aur Mira ek doosre ko dekhte hain. Dono ke chehre par fear se zyada realization hai.

NEEL

Version?

MIRA

Haan.

(small breath)

Is shelter mein hum pehle bhi aaye the.

NEEL

Kaun "hum"?

Mira apna star chart fold karti hai. Uske haath kaanp rahe hain.

MIRA

Shayad... kisi aur raat mein.

Neel phone par map open karta hai. Screen glitch. Ek ADDRESS flash hota hai, same shelter location, marked CLOSED ROUTE.

NEEL

Mere app pe ye route... dead hai.

MIRA

Mere chart pe ye point... theory tha.

A beat. Rain louder.

NEEL

Toh hum ab kya karein?

Radio, pehle:

RADIO (V.O.)

Toh hum ab kya karein?

Mira Neel ko dekhti hai. A small, strange smile.

MIRA

Jo bolna hai... soch samajh ke.

NEEL

Kyun?

Radio, pehle:

RADIO (V.O.)

Kyun?

Mira exhale karti hai.

MIRA

Kyunki shayad koi aur bhi sun raha hai.

Radio crackles. Then, clear:

RADIO (V.O.)

Ab jo bhi bolo, woh yaad rakhega tumhe.

Neel softly smiles. He lowers his phone.

NEEL

Theek hai.

Radio, pehle:

RADIO (V.O.)

Theek hai.

A long beat.

Mira and Neel stand in the cold blue light, no longer trying to outsmart the sound.

MIRA

Tumhara delivery ab kis ke paas hai?

NEEL

Pata nahi.

(beat)

Shayad... kisi aur Neel ke paas.

Mira looks up at the dark sky reflected in the glass.

MIRA

Aur mera lecture?

NEEL

Shayad kisi aur Mira ne de diya hoga.

They share a quiet, impossible laugh.

The radio hiss continues—like a conversation already lived somewhere else.

FADE OUT.

THE END