



BETWEEN STOPS

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

Written by
Story Dil Se Team
(storydilse.in)

LOGLINE: Eshan and Tina realize the station announcements are repeating the exact same conversation they just had, down to their private thoughts. As they search for a way out, they discover the platform is a temporal holding zone where only one of them is supposed to leave.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) | Character 1: Eshan (32)

LOCATION: An underground metro platform with cold white fluorescent lighting, a digital route board, and a train that never seems to arrive. The tunnel wind, distant echoes, and repeating announcement chimes create a surreal looped atmosphere.

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FADE IN:

INT. UNDERGROUND METRO PLATFORM - NIGHT

Cold white fluorescent lights. A near-empty underground platform. Digital route board flickers. Tunnel wind moans through the station. Distant echoes. A repeating ANNOUNCEMENT CHIME.

ESHAN (32), urban planner in a raincoat, grips a TRANSIT CARD. Rolled maps under one arm. A tablet in hand.

TINA (30), commuter in a denim jacket and sneakers, stands with a metro newspaper and earphones.

The board flashes: 2 MIN.

Then resets.

ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O.)

Next train platform par... next train platform par...

Tina rolls her eyes.

TINA

Lagta hai yeh station bhi overtime pe hai.

ESHAN

Aapko bhi notice hua?

TINA

Nahi, main bas underground hallucination enjoy kar rahi hoon.

Eshan looks at the board, then at his tablet.

ESHAN

Route logic ke hisaab se train ab tak aani chahiye thi.

TINA

Urban planner ho?

ESHAN

Unfortunately, yes.

TINA

Haan, dikhta hai. Aap log har cheez map mein sundar bana dete ho.

ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O.)

Aap log har cheez map mein sundar bana dete ho.

Both freeze.

TINA

...Maine abhi yeh bola tha?

ESHAN

Maine bhi.

Another CHIME.

ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O.)

Maine bhi.

Eshan steps closer, uneasy.

ESHAN

Okay. That is not normal.

TINA

Great. Mujhe bhi laga tha metro mein normal cheezein
hoti hain.

The wind rises. Their footsteps echo back half a second later.

Tina opens her newspaper. The same station ad repeats on every page.

TINA

Yeh kya hai?

ESHAN

Let me see.

He takes the newspaper, scans it, then his tablet. The screen glitches.

A hidden schematic appears:

TEMPORAL HOLDING ZONE

SINGLE PASSENGER RELEASE PROTOCOL

ESHAN

Nahi...

TINA

Kya?

He turns the tablet toward her.

ESHAN

Yeh station...

(beat)

Time mein stuck hai.

TINA

Wow. Metro aur bhi late ho gaya.

The announcement chime.

ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O.)

Kya main yahan se nikal sakta hoon?

TINA

Maine yeh bhi nahi bola.

ESHAN

Main bhi nahi.

ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O.)

Main bhi nahi.

Silence.

Tina slowly removes one earphone.

TINA

Mind-reading PA system. Fantastic.

ESHAN

It's repeating our thoughts.

TINA

Matlab ab main soch ke bhi safe nahi hoon?

ESHAN

Apparently not.

Eshan checks his transit card. The date flickers: TODAY. YESTERDAY. THREE YEARS AGO.

ESHAN

Mere card pe date change ho rahi hai.

TINA

Mere newspaper pe date hi nahi hai.

She holds it up. Blank.

Another chime.

ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O.)

Release candidate identified.

A beat.

ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O.)

Eshan.

Eshan goes still.

TINA

Kya?

ESHAN

It said my name.

TINA

Mera kyun nahi?

ESHAN

I don't know.

Tina's sarcasm drops. Real fear now.

TINA

Main bas office se ghar ja rahi thi.

ESHAN

Main bas station inspect karne aaya tha.

TINA

Haan, obviously. Aur main bas newspaper se time travel kar rahi hoon.

A beat. She looks at the hidden schematic again.

TINA (CONT'D)

"Only one passenger may exit per cycle."

ESHAN

Cycle?

TINA

Matlab koi toh yahan rehta hai.

The lights flicker. The tunnel brightens for one second—far away, a train light appears.

ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O.)

Board now.

Eshan instinctively steps toward the edge.

TINA

(softly)

Eshan.

He turns.

TINA (CONT'D)

Agar tum ja rahe ho... mujhe yahan chhod ke mat jao.

ESHAN

I'm not leaving you.

TINA

Station ko yeh samjhaana padega.

The train light grows. The air hums.

Eshan looks at his card, then at Tina.

ESHAN

Maybe it wants one of us.

TINA

Great. Very democratic.

A beat.

Eshan holds out the transit card.

ESHAN

Tum le lo.

TINA

Kya?

ESHAN

Maybe it's choosing by who holds the card.

TINA

Aur agar nahi?

ESHAN

Then at least someone gets to decide.

Tina takes the card.

The announcement chime.

ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O.)

Wrong candidate.

The train light vanishes. The platform shudders. Silence.

TINA

Well. That was rude.

A soft BEEP from Tina's card. An emergency door on the far side slides open.

Both stare.

ESHAN

It opened for you.

TINA

No. It opened for one of us.

She looks at him, shaken.

TINA (CONT'D)

You should go.

ESHAN

Why me?

She hesitates, then pulls a folded newspaper clipping from inside her paper. She unfolds it.

A headline: ONE LEAVES, ONE REMAINS.

Under it, a handwritten note: Aaj tum decide karogi.

TINA

I think... I was supposed to choose.

ESHAN

Choose what?

TINA

Who stays.

Eshan absorbs that. Then, unexpectedly, he smiles.

ESHAN

Urban planning ka basic rule hai—flow maintain karo.

He places his transit card into Tina's hand.

ESHAN (CONT'D)

Aaj tum jaogi.

TINA

Eshan—

ESHAN

Main yahan handle kar lunga.

TINA

Tum pagal ho.

ESHAN

Haan. But efficient.

A beat. She laughs through tears.

TINA

Main commuter hoon. Main wait kar leti hoon.

ESHAN

Nahi. Aaj tum move karogi.

Tina backs toward the open door, unable to believe it.

TINA

Agar main bahar gayi aur tum...

ESHAN

Don't look back.

She does look back.

The door begins to close.

TINA

Eshan!

ESHAN

Haan?

TINA

Agar tum sun rahe ho...

The announcement chime.

ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O.)

Agar tum sun rahe ho...

Tina freezes. Eshan does too.

TINA

It's still repeating us.

ESHAN

Then say something it can't.

Tina steps through the door.

TINA

I'm not leaving you.

Eshan's eyes soften.

ESHAN

Too late.

The door SLAMS shut.

A beat.

Silence.

Then, on the digital board:

ARRIVING.

Eshan stands alone on the platform, raincoat still damp, maps in hand, tablet dark.

The announcement chime.

ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O.)

Next train...

Eshan looks up, listening.

For the first time, the voice does not echo his thought.

ESHAN

(to himself)

Shayad ab main wait karna seekh gaya hoon.

FADE OUT.