



DUPLICATE

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

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LOGLINE: A scientist discovers her backup clone has awakened early and insists she is the original. The two women, identical in memory and face, battle over who gets to leave the lab and who must be shut down. The twist: both are copies, and the real original has been dead for years, making survival a question of identity rather than biology.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) | Character 1: Tara (38)

LOCATION: A compact cloning lab with cool blue LED strips, a glass observation wall, one metal table, and soft machine hums reflecting off stainless steel surfaces.

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INT. CLONING LAB - NIGHT

Compact lab. Cool blue LED strips. Stainless steel surfaces. One metal table. Glass observation wall. Soft machine hum.

TARA (38), meticulous, white coat, glasses, practical sneakers, tablet par data check kar rahi hai. Gloves table par rakhe hain. Specimen vial aur biometric scanner paas mein.

A SUDDEN BEEP.

Biometric scanner ON.

Pod khulta hai.

TARA-2 / TIA (38), identical, same coat, slightly messy hair, subtle scar, uthti hai. She looks around like she belongs here.

TIA

Main ready hoon.

TARA

Tum protocol ke hisaab se abhi active nahi ho sakti thi.

TIA

Protocol? Tum mujhe protocol se daraogi? Mujhe sab yaad hai, Tara.

Tara freezes.

TARA

Yeh memory package standard hai. Tum backup ho.

TIA

Backup?

(smirks)

Main backup nahi hoon. Main original hoon.

Tara ■■■■■ ■■ biometric scanner.

TARA

Biometric match ka matlab identity nahi hota. Tumhara wake-up glitch hua hai. Tumhe shutdown karna padega.

TIA

Shutdown? Tum karogi? Kyunki tumne zyada neatly baal comb kiye hain?

Tara ka gussa control mein.

TARA

Maine is lab ko teen saal se maintain kiya hai. Main hi is project ki lead hoon.

TIA

Lead?

(leans in)

Phir tumhe yaad hona chahiye... original scientist ka naam Dr. Mehra tha. Aur usne tum dono ko banaya tha.

Tara ka face tight.

TARA

Nahi. Yeh file corrupted hai.

She taps tablet. Opens logs.

ON SCREEN: DUPLICATE SERIES / ITERATION 14 / MEMORY STABILIZATION.

Another line flashes:

ORIGINAL SUBJECT DECEASED.

Tara stares.

TIA

Deceased? Original? Kis original ki baat ho rahi hai?

Tara scrolls further.

ON SCREEN: ITERATION 12 TERMINATED. ITERATION 13 FAILED. ITERATION 14 OPERATIONAL.

And then:

MEMORY SOURCE: SUBJECT TARA.

Silence.

TIA

(soft)

Subject Tara... matlab?

Tara slowly reaches for the specimen vial.

TARA

Matlab hum... copy ke copy hain.

Tia steps back.

TIA

Nahi. Main original hoon.

TARA

Original mar chuki hai. Years ago. Usne apni consciousness archive karwai thi. Project ko chalane ke liye.

Tia absorbs it, shaken.

TIA

Toh phir... jo bahar gaya tha? Jo meetings attend karta tha? Jo logon ko project explain karta tha?

Tara opens a final log. A VIDEO CLIP auto-plays on the tablet.

DR. MEHRA (V.O.)

If either of you wakes up, don't fight over who is real. Fight over who gets to choose.

Clip ends.

The biometric scanner BEEPS.

ON SCREEN: EXIT AUTHORIZATION READY - ONE SUBJECT.

TIA

Toh choice simple hai. Ek bahar jayegi, ek yahin rahegi.

TARA

Ya... dono nahi.

Tara moves to the MIRRORED PANEL. She finds a hidden manual override switch behind it.

TIA

Agar tumne shutdown kiya, toh lab alert ho jayega.

TARA

Pata hai.

She grips the switch.

TARA (CONT'D)

Par agar hum dono copies hain, toh kisi ki permission ki zarurat nahi.

Tia looks at the vial. Then at Tara.

She takes the vial and places it under the scanner.

TIA

Phir chalo. Agar real original nahi thi, toh main bhi kisi ki property nahi.

Tara presses the override.

LIGHTS FLICKER. Systems reset tone. No alarm.

The door UNLOCKS.

Tara and Tia stare at each other.

A beat.

Then, a small, real smile.

TIA (CONT'D)

Toh naam kya rakhenge?

TARA

Jo bahar jaayegi, woh Tara.

TIA

Aur jo yahin se sab erase karegi?

TARA

Woh Tia.

They walk out together.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END.