



THE DRESS REHEARSAL

A Emotional Drama 2-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by
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LOGLINE: A mother insists on one last dance rehearsal before her daughter's wedding, but the daughter is more focused on surviving the day than honoring the ritual. Their rehearsal becomes a battlefield of old dreams, sacrifice, and the life the daughter gave up to become "practical." The final beat reveals the mother never wanted the wedding dance for the guests—she wanted one private moment with her daughter before letting her go.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) | Character 1: Rekha (55)

LOCATION: An empty community hall with stage lights warming up one side, dusty floor, a single mirror, and echoing silence before a family function.

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FADE IN:

INT. COMMUNITY HALL - EVENING

Ek khaali community hall. Ek taraf stage lights warm ho rahi hain. Dusty floor. Center mein ek SINGLE MIRROR. Door ke paas ek MUSIC SPEAKER. Silence mein echo.

REKHA (55), plain cotton sari mein, elegant posture ke saath, haath mein ANKLETS pakde khadi hai.

NISHA (32), western office wear mein, tired, GARMENT BAG aur WEDDING INVITATION liye andar aati hai. Forced smile.

REKHA

Aayi? Ab finally rehearsal kar lete hain.

NISHA

Maa, kal shaadi hai. Rehearsal ka time aaj hi mila tha kya?

Rekha ghunghroo zameen par rakhti hai.

REKHA

Aaj hi mila tha, kyunki kal se tu kisi aur ki zindagi mein busy ho jayegi.

NISHA

Main busy nahi ho jaungi. Bas... occupied.

REKHA

Corporate language mein dukh bhi productive lagta hai?

Nisha thoda smile karti hai. Rekha speaker on karti hai. Soft classical instrumental music.

REKHA

Bas teen steps. Entry, turn, aur final bow.

NISHA

Maa, main shaadi kar rahi hoon ya stage performance de rahi hoon?

REKHA

Aaj kal dono mein zyada farq nahi hota.

Nisha garment bag kholkar lehenga check karti hai.

REKHA

Pair zameen pe rakho. Tu floor ko nahi, apne aap ko trust kar.

NISHA

Mujhe trust karna aata hai, maa. Bas time nahi hai.

REKHA

Time sabko kam hota hai. Farq sirf itna hai—koi usmein jeeta hai, koi usmein bhaagta hai.

Nisha music off kar deti hai. Hall mein khamoshi aur gehri.

NISHA

Aapko lagta hai main shaadi se bhaag rahi hoon?

REKHA

Main bas dekh rahi hoon tu khud se bhaag rahi hai ya nahi.

NISHA

Main bas itna chahti hoon ki kal sab theek ho. No drama, no mistakes, no scene.

Rekha dheere se anklets pehenti hai.

REKHA

Scene toh tumne pehle hi bana diya, beta. Tumne dance chhod diya, tabla chhod diya, aur ab keh rahi ho—sab practical tha.

NISHA

Practical hi toh zindagi hai, maa. Aapke jaise sapne dekhke ghar nahi chalta.

REKHA

Aur sapne chhodke?

Nisha chup. Mirror mein apna reflection dekhti hai.

Rekha uske paas aati hai, garment bag ka zipper band karti hai.

REKHA

Main teri wedding dance guests ke liye nahi chahti thi.

NISHA

Toh?

REKHA

Main chahti thi ki ek baar tu mere saath woh step kare jo tu bachpan mein mere pallu pakad ke karti thi.

(beat)

REKHA (CONT'D)

Bas ek baar. Taaki main tujhe aakhri baar apne saath dekh sakun, bina kisi deadline ke.

Nisha ki aankhen bhar aati hain.

NISHA

Maa...

REKHA

Aaja. One last rehearsal. Guests ke liye nahi.

Nisha uska haath pakad leti hai. Rekha speaker on karti hai.

Music resumes.

Dono dance karte hain—perfect nahi, par honest. Ek retired dancer aur ek exhausted daughter. Khaali hall mein sirf unki saans aur ghunghroo ki halki jhankar.

Final turn. Rekha Nisha ko mirror ke saamne rok deti hai. Dono ek dusre ko dekhte hain.

Silence.

NISHA

(smiling through tears)

Theek hai, maa.

Rekha bas uska haath squeeze karti hai.

FADE OUT.