



THE UNSENT MESSAGE

A Emotional Drama 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: A father discovers an unsent voice message from his late wife on his son's phone and asks for help listening to it, but the son refuses to open a wound he has spent years sealing shut. The friend who brought the charger becomes an accidental mediator, revealing how much of the family's grief has been hidden behind routine. The twist is that the message was recorded for the son, not the father, and it contains a confession that changes the meaning of the mother's final years.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Arun (57)

LOCATION: A small kitchen at night, lit by the refrigerator glow, one overhead bulb, and the blue light of a phone screen. The table is cluttered with tea cups, a charger, and an old framed photo turned face down.

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INT. SMALL KITCHEN - NIGHT

Kitchen mein fridge ki white glow, upar bulb ki halki peeli roshni, aur table par phone ki blue light. Teen tea cups, ek phone charger, aur ek framed photo ulta pada hua.

ARUN (57), formal shirt mein, kaanpte haathon se cup pakde baitha hai.

KARAN (30), neat beard, phone ko stare kar raha hai.

RISHI (33), casual jacket, haath mein charger.

RISHI

Bhai, tera charger. Warna tera phone bhi tera mood ki tarah dead ho jayega.

KARAN

(sukhi hansi)

Very funny.

Rishi charger table par rakh deta hai.

ARUN

Chai thandi ho gayi.

KARAN

Main nahi peeta raat ko.

ARUN

Main bhi nahi peeta tha pehle.

Beat.

Rishi table par phone dekhta hai. Screen low battery pe blink karti hai.

RISHI

Waise, battery low hai. Main laga deta hoon.

Karan phone instinctively cover karta hai.

KARAN

Nahi. Main kar lunga.

Arun ki nazar phone screen par padti hai. Ek file dikh rahi hai:

"Ammi - Voice Msg - Unsent"

Arun ka haath ruk jaata hai.

ARUN

(softly)

Yeh... message?

Karan freezes.

KARAN

Papa, woh...

ARUN

Tumhari ammi ki awaaz hai?

KARAN

Mujhe nahi sunna.

ARUN

Main bas ek baar...

KARAN

Nahi.

Silence. Kitchen clock tik-tik.

RISHI

(halka, trying)

Acha, technically message kisi ka bhi ho sakta hai.
Spam bhi ho sakta hai. Emotional spam.

KARAN

Rishi.

RISHI

Theek hai, theek hai. Main bas charger wala insaan
hoon.

Arun cup ko ghumata hai. Haath kaanp rahe hain.

ARUN

Karan... bas sun lete hain.

KARAN

Kyun? Ab kya faayda?

ARUN

Faayda nahi.

(beat)

Bas awaaz.

Karan looks away.

KARAN

Maine sab band kar diya hai, Papa.

ARUN

Kya band kiya hai?

KARAN

Sab.

Rishi awkwardly sits on the edge of a stool.

RISHI

Yaar, family mein "sab" word ka use mat karo. Uske
baad khana bhi cold lagta hai.

Karan glares.

KARAN

Tum beech mein mat bolo.

RISHI

Main toh charger dene aaya tha. Ab mediator ban gaya hoon, mujhe promotion toh milna chahiye.

Arun slowly reaches for the framed photo, turns it a little, then leaves it face down.

ARUN

Tumhari ammi ko bhi silence pasand nahi tha.

KARAN

Unko silence nahi, peace pasand tha.

ARUN

Haan.

(beat)

Aur ghar mein peace kabhi nahi tha.

Karan's jaw tightens.

KARAN

Aap phir shuru ho gaye.

ARUN

Main shuru nahi kar raha.

(soft)

Main bas yaad kar raha hoon.

Rishi quietly plugs charger into the phone.

RISHI

Phone on ho gaya. Ab decision aap dono ka.

Karan snatches the phone, but Arun keeps his voice gentle.

ARUN

Ek baar. Sirf ek baar.

Karan's eyes are wet, but his face remains hard.

KARAN

Theek hai.

(beat)

Par agar sun liya na... phir main control nahi kar paunga.

ARUN

Control ka kya hai, beta. Zindagi ne kab rakha tha?

Rishi looks away, giving them space.

KARAN

Play kar do.

Rishi taps PLAY.

VOICE MESSAGE (V.O.)

(weak, intimate)

Karan... agar tu yeh sun raha hai, toh matlab main phir se himmat nahi kar paayi saamne bolne ki.

Karan's face changes.

VOICE MESSAGE (V.O.)

Main tere liye record kar rahi hoon. Papa ke liye nahi.

Arun looks up, shocked.

VOICE MESSAGE (V.O.)

Beta, mujhe maaf kar dena. Maine tere engineering entrance wale din tujhe roka tha. Tujhe us shehar bhejne se dar lagta tha... kyunki main jaanti thi ghar mein jo dard hai, woh tujhe tod dega.

Karan steps back, stunned.

VOICE MESSAGE (V.O.)

Aur haan... meri illness ka sach maine tumse chupaya. Papa se bhi.

(beat)

Mujhe laga agar tum guilt leke jeeyoge, toh main haar jaungi.

Arun's eyes fill.

VOICE MESSAGE (V.O.)

Arun... agar tum yeh suno, toh samajh lena—maine jo letters likhe the na, woh Karan ke naam the. Main usse kehna chahti thi ki woh apni zindagi jiyega. Tum dono ko ek doosre se bachane ki koshish kar rahi thi main.

A long silence.

The kitchen clock ticks.

Karan looks at Arun.

KARAN

Letters?

ARUN

(murmurs)

Maine nahi padhe.

KARAN

Kya?

ARUN

Mujhe laga... tumne doori bana li.

(beat)

Main bhi darr gaya tha.

Karan's anger collapses into grief.

KARAN

Main bhi.

Rishi quietly pushes the framed photo toward them. Arun turns it upright. A smiling woman in the frame.

ARUN

Tumhari ammi... humein dono ko samajh rahi thi.

KARAN

Aur hum...

He can't finish.

RISHI

Hum sab expert the chup rehne mein.

(soft smile)

Par aaj... thoda late hi sahi, sun liya.

Karan holds the phone closer.

KARAN

Play it again.

Arun nods.

ARUN

Is baar... saath mein.

Rishi sits. Arun and Karan sit opposite, but closer now.

VOICE MESSAGE (V.O.)

Karan...

The three men listen, the kitchen no longer cold.

RISHI

(very softly)

Charger toh lag gaya.

(beat)

Ab dil bhi shayad charge ho jaaye.

Karan gives a tiny, broken laugh through tears.

FADE OUT.