



THE WAITING BENCH

A Horror/Supernatural 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by
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LOGLINE: A doctor and attendant argue over why a woman is sitting alone in the waiting room when no patient has been admitted. The woman never blinks, never drinks water, and keeps asking for the same name that no one in the hospital recognizes. The twist lands when the doctor realizes the name belongs to a patient who died in this very room a year ago—and the attendant has been speaking to her for weeks.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Dr. Aditya (42)

LOCATION: A nearly empty hospital waiting room at 2 a.m., lit by cold fluorescent tubes and the occasional flicker from a corridor beyond.

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FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - 2:00 A.M.

Cold fluorescent tubes buzz above a nearly empty waiting room. A WATER DISPENSER hums in the corner. A WAITING BENCH sits under a flickering corridor light.

DR. ADITYA (42), wrinkled scrubs, exhausted face, ID badge hanging loose, storms in with a stack of hospital FILES.

Behind him is RAMESH (50), thin, watchful, carrying a THERMOS and a heavy bunch of KEYS.

On the bench sits PALLAVI (34), rain-soaked sari clinging to her, pale, still, unsettlingly calm. Her eyes do not blink.

DR. ADITYA

(irritated)

Ramesh, yeh kaun hai? Kisne allow kiya isko yahan baithne?

RAMESH

(careful)

Sir, main toh bas ward round ke baad dekha... yahin thi.

DR. ADITYA

"Yahin thi" ka kya matlab hota hai? Hospital waiting room hai, lounge nahi.

Pallavi slowly turns her head.

PALLAVI

Arjun kahan hai?

A beat.

DR. ADITYA

Kaun Arjun?

PALLAVI

Arjun kahan hai?

Ramesh looks away. Aditya notices.

DR. ADITYA

Ramesh?

RAMESH

(shrugs, too quick)

Mujhe nahi pata, sir.

Aditya drops the files on a chair and walks to the file rack.

DR. ADITYA

No admission, no patient, no record. Simple.

PALLAVI

Arjun kahan hai?

DR. ADITYA

(dry)

Madam, yeh hospital hai ya aapka ringtone?

A tiny, uneasy almost-smile from Ramesh. Pallavi does not react.

Aditya opens drawers, pulls out old registers.

DR. ADITYA

Naam batao. Form fill karna padega.

PALLAVI

Arjun kahan hai?

DR. ADITYA

Aap paani logi?

Pallavi stares at the WATER DISPENSER, but does not move.

PALLAVI

Arjun kahan hai?

Ramesh sets the thermos down, uneasy.

RAMESH

Sir... aap chhod dijiye na.

DR. ADITYA

Chhod dunga? Yeh aurat kaun hai? Kya problem hai tumhari?

Ramesh falls silent.

Aditya finds an old CASUALTY REGISTER and flips pages.

DR. ADITYA

(muttering)

One year old files... yeh kahan se?

RAMESH

(low)

Sir, woh page mat kholo.

Aditya freezes.

DR. ADITYA

Kya bola?

Pallavi tilts her head, listening.

Aditya turns the page.

INSERT - CASUALTY REGISTER

ARJUN MEHRA

Brought in late. Declared dead before admission.

Aditya's face drains.

DR. ADITYA

Arjun... dead before admission?

Ramesh closes his eyes.

DR. ADITYA

(to Ramesh)

Tumhe kaise pata tha is naam ka?

RAMESH

(voice shaking)

Sir... woh aayi thi. Har kuch hafton mein.

DR. ADITYA

Kaun aayi thi?

Ramesh gestures to Pallavi without looking directly at her.

RAMESH

Yeh.

Silence.

Pallavi finally stands. Her sari drips onto the floor, though she seems strangely dry under the fluorescent light.

PALLAVI

Main us din uske saath thi.

DR. ADITYA

Kaun sa din?

PALLAVI

Jab woh yahin tha. Main bhi yahin thi.

The corridor light FLICKERS.

Aditya grips the file.

DR. ADITYA

Tumhara naam?

Pallavi looks at his ID badge.

PALLAVI

Aapko yaad nahi?

A beat.

RAMESH

(almost whispering)

Sir...

DR. ADITYA

Bol.

RAMESH

Us raat... Arjun ko laaya gaya tha. Aap late the. Jab tak aap aaye, sab khatam ho chuka tha.

Aditya stares at him.

DR. ADITYA

Tumne mujhe bataya kyun nahi?

RAMESH

Maine bataya tha. Par aapne file close kar di thi.

A beat. Aditya remembers.

DR. ADITYA

(quiet, shaken)

Companion ka naam...

RAMESH

Unidentified likh diya gaya tha.

Pallavi steps closer to the bench.

PALLAVI

Main wait kar rahi thi.

DR. ADITYA

Kis ka?

PALLAVI

Arjun ka.

She looks at the floor near the bench.

A small hospital TOKEN lies there.

Aditya bends, picks it up.

INSERT - TOKEN

ARJUN.

Aditya's hand trembles.

DR. ADITYA

Yeh token...

PALLAVI

(softly)

Uska tha.

Ramesh backs up a step.

RAMESH

Sir...

The corridor flickers again.

For one brief second, the bench seems to hold TWO SILHOUETTES beside Pallavi.

Aditya blinks.

Now only Pallavi remains.

PALLAVI

Arjun kahan hai?

Aditya cannot answer.

Ramesh lowers his head, ashamed.

DR. ADITYA

(barely audible)

He died here...

Pallavi's expression does not change.

PALLAVI

Toh phir... Main kis ka wait kar rahi hoon?

A long, icy silence.

The fluorescent buzz grows louder.

Ramesh slowly picks up the thermos.

Aditya looks at the bench like it has become a witness.

RAMESH

Sir... Kuch log mar ke bhi wait karte hain.

Aditya turns to him, horrified.

DR. ADITYA

Weeks se tum isse baat kar rahe the?

Ramesh does not answer.

Pallavi sits back down on the bench, perfectly still.

PALLAVI

Arjun kahan hai?

The corridor light FLARES.

SMASH TO BLACK.

END.