



THE CALL THAT WASN'T

A Sci-Fi/High-Concept 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: A call center worker receives a call from a woman who insists she is speaking from tomorrow, and his supervisor thinks it is a prank. As the call continues, the woman predicts tiny events in the room with impossible accuracy, forcing both men to question reality and their own memories. The twist reveals the call is being routed through a machine that records voices before they are spoken, and the woman is the worker's future self trying to stop a fatal mistake.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Eshan (31)

LOCATION: A small call center pod at night, lit by monitor glow, neon signage outside, and the hum of air conditioning.

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FADE IN:

INT. SMALL CALL CENTER POD - NIGHT

Monitor glow. Neon signage ka blue-pink reflection glass par. AC ka continuous HUM. Ek cramped pod: ESHAN (31), headset pehne, polite smile on; MUDIT (29), clipboard aur coffee cup ke saath, tired but alert.

Eshan ek call handle kar raha hai.

ESHAN

(pleasantly)

Thank you for calling. Main aapki kaise help kar sakta hoon?

Mudit peeche se clipboard par kuch tick karta hai.

MUDIT

(low, to Eshan)

Smile thoda kam rehearse kar yaar. Robot lag raha hai.

ESHAN

(without breaking smile)

Night shift mein robot hi kaam aate hain, sir.

Eshan ke headset mein sudden static.

RHEA (V.O.)

Left side pe jo pen giraane wale ho... mat uthana.

Eshan freeze.

Pen desk se girta hai. Tap.

Mudit eyebrow raises.

MUDIT

Kya hua? Free prank call?

ESHAN

(quiet)

Sir... usne pen predict kiya.

MUDIT

Coincidence.

RHEA (V.O.)

Coffee spill bhi hoga. Aur tumhara supervisor bolega coincidence.

Mudit ka coffee cup slip hota hai. Coffee desk edge se thodi si girti hai.

MUDIT

(stunned)

Okay. That's... weird.

ESHAN

(into headset)
Hello? Aap kaun bol rahe ho?

RHEA (V.O.)

Main Rhea hoon. Kal se call kar rahi hoon.

Mudit snorts.

MUDIT

Kal se call kar rahi hoon? Wah. Creative.

RHEA (V.O.)

Mudit, tumhari coffee ka lid ulta hai. Aur Eshan ka monitor corner mein dead pixel aane wala hai... ab.

A tiny dead pixel pops on Eshan's monitor.

Silence.

MUDIT

(clipboard down)
Okay. That's not coincidence.

ESHAN

(careful)
Aapko mera naam kaise pata?

RHEA (V.O.)

Kyunki main tum hoon. Thodi der baad wali version.

Mudit laughs once, disbelieving.

MUDIT

Bas. Enough. Main IT ko call karta hoon.

RHEA (V.O.)

IT ko call mat karo. Woh log already is call ko log kar chuke hain.

Mudit flips open the call log on the monitor.

On screen: SAME TIME STAMP. SAME CALLER ID. But one blank voice-note entry.

MUDIT

(frowning)
Yeh entry already hai...

RHEA (V.O.)

Because this call pehle record hua tha. Bolne se pehle.

Eshan leans in, shaken.

ESHAN

Main... main aisa kuch yaad nahi kar raha.

RHEA (V.O.)

Yaad nahi karoge. Tum log memory ko call log samajh ke overwrite kar dete ho.

Mudit, now serious, starts scanning the log.

MUDIT

Agar yeh prank nahi hai, toh proof de.

RHEA (V.O.)

Eshan ke left wrist pe scar hai. School mein cycle se.

Eshan instinctively covers his wrist.

RHEA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Aur usne aaj subah apni maa ko call karne ka plan banaya tha. Kiya nahi.

Eshan's face drops.

ESHAN

(whisper)

Kisi ko kaise pata...

RHEA (V.O.)

Kyunki kal tumne call nahi kiya tha.

Beat.

MUDIT

(slowly)

Kal? Tum future se ho?

RHEA (V.O.)

Haan. Aur tum dono ko ek machine band karni hai.

Mudit points to the locked basement access panel on the wall.

MUDIT

Woh voice optimization unit?

RHEA (V.O.)

Wahi. Jisne calls ko future ke microseconds se route karna shuru kiya. Voices bolne se pehle pakad leti hai.

ESHAN

Matlab... yeh call pehle se...

RHEA (V.O.)

Haan. Isliye main tum tak pahunch paayi.

Mudit opens a hidden admin screen on the monitor. A routing path flashes. A warning: FATAL MISROUTE PENDING.

MUDIT

(reading)

Emergency line... reroute... tomorrow morning.

Eshan goes pale.

ESHAN

Tomorrow morning kya?

Rhea's voice softens.

RHEA (V.O.)

Tumhari maa ka call. Woh help maang rahi hogi. Agar tumne line kaat di... ambulance late ho jaayegi.

Eshan can't breathe.

ESHAN

Nahi...

RHEA (V.O.)

Tumne pehle bhi yahi galti ki thi. Iss baar mat karna.

Mudit looks at Eshan, then at the log, then at the machine access panel.

MUDIT

(to Eshan)

If this is real... then do it now.

Eshan's hands tremble. He takes off the headset. For the first time, the smile is gone.

ESHAN

(into phone, dialing)

Maa...

He puts the call on speaker. A faint ring tone.

Rhea's voice starts to distort.

RHEA (V.O.)

(fading)

Good. Ab sun lena.

Mudit watches the routing screen glitch. The blank log entry fills in with Eshan's name and a future timestamp.

MUDIT

(astonished)

Eshan... your name is on the log. From tomorrow.

RHEA (V.O.)

Main customer nahi thi. Main warning thi. Main tumhari aane wali yaad hoon.

The phone rings. One more time.

Eshan stares at the glowing screen.

RHEA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Call mat kaatna. Is baar sun lena.

The line goes dead.

A beat. AC HUM. Neon flicker.

Eshan finally answers the incoming call.

ESHAN

(soft, to himself)

Haan, Maa.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END.