



THE WRONG PATIENT

A Emotional Drama 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by
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LOGLINE: Manav has come to tell his wife that his mother's diagnosis is worse than they expected, but Ira reveals she already knows—and has been hiding her own diagnosis to protect him. When Naina overhears both secrets, the three finally confront the years of silence between them, ending with a fragile decision to stop pretending they are okay.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Manav (45)

LOCATION: A quiet hospital waiting room with pale walls, plastic chairs, a water dispenser, and soft evening light coming through blinds. The setting is still and emotionally charged, with distant announcements and the occasional trolley wheel in the corridor.

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FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - EVENING

Pale walls. Plastic chairs. A water dispenser hums softly in the corner. Evening light cuts through the blinds in thin stripes.

A distant ANNOUNCEMENT crackles over the PA system. Somewhere in the corridor, a trolley wheel SQUEAKS past.

MANAV (45), in a crumpled shirt, sits hunched on a chair. A medical file is clenched in his hand.

IRA (43), composed but brittle, stands near a chair. A hospital visitor badge hangs from her bag.

NAINA (68), dignified and frail, sits in a wheelchair, spine straight, eyes sharp.

A beat.

Manav opens the file. Closes it. Opens it again.

IRA

(dry)

File ko dekh rahe ho ya usse dhamka rahe ho?

Manav almost smiles. Almost.

MANAV

Maa ki report...

(stops)

Doctor ne bola hai, jo hum soch rahe the... usse zyada serious hai.

Ira looks at him. No reaction. Just a small tightening in her jaw.

MANAV (CONT'D)

Maine isliye abhi tak nahi bataya. Main... tumhe aur todna nahi chahta tha.

IRA

(softly)

Aur mujhe bachane ke chakkar mein tumne khud ko akela kar diya.

Manav looks up.

MANAV

Tumhe kaise pata?

Ira reaches into her bag, pulls out a tissue, places it beside the water cup.

IRA

Main andhi nahi hoon, Manav. Reports, half-heard conversations, nurse ka woh face...

(beat)

Sab samajh aa gaya tha.

Manav stands, agitated.

MANAV

Toh bola kyun nahi?

IRA

(holding it together)

Kyunki main tumhe aur ek tension nahi dena chahti thi.

Manav laughs once, bitterly.

MANAV

Wah. Family ka official policy hai kya? "Sach chhupao, pyaar bachao."

Ira flinches, but stays calm.

IRA

Tum bhi toh wahi kar rahe the.

Silence.

Naina clears her throat.

NAINA

(dry, lucid)

Dono ka drama ho gaya ho toh main kuch bolun?

Manav and Ira freeze.

Naina leans forward a little in the wheelchair.

NAINA (CONT'D)

Main buddhi hoon, bahri nahi. Tum dono ki whispering se pehle hi samajh gayi thi.

MANAV

Maa...

NAINA

Nahi, pehle meri baat suno.

(beat)

Tum dono itne saal se ek hi kaam kar rahe ho. Ek dusre ko bachane ke naam pe sach se bhaag rahe ho.

Ira looks away, ashamed.

IRA

Hum bas...

NAINA

Bas kya? Theek hone ka natak? Sab sambhal lenge ka natak?

Manav's eyes fill.

MANAV

Main toot raha tha, Maa. Aur Ira ko dekh ke lag raha tha... agar main bol diya, toh woh bhi toot jayegi.

Ira finally speaks, voice trembling.

IRA

Main already toot chuki hoon, Manav.

Beat.

Manav turns to her.

IRA (CONT'D)

Mere doctor ne bhi diagnosis diya hai. Maine chupaya.

Manav is stunned.

MANAV

Kya?

IRA

Kyunki tumhari maa, tumhara kaam, hospital, ghar, bills... Main tum par ek aur load nahi banna chahti thi.

MANAV

(hurt)

Load?

IRA

Haan, load.

(beat)

Pyaar kabhi kabhi load hi hota hai, Manav. Bas hum usse gift bol dete hain.

That lands.

Naina closes her eyes for a moment, then opens them.

NAINA

Bas. Ab kaafi.

She reaches for the tissue box on the side table. Her hand trembles, but her voice doesn't.

NAINA (CONT'D)

Main treatment continue karungi. Lekin ek shart par.

Manav and Ira look at her.

NAINA (CONT'D)

Ab is room mein koi kuch chhupayega nahi. Na report, na darr, na dard. Samjhe?

Manav nods, tears finally falling.

MANAV

Samajh gaya, Maa.

Ira wipes her eyes, angry at the tears, not ashamed.

IRA

Samajh gayi.

Naina nods once, satisfied.

NAINA

Achha.

(beat)

Ab koi hero banne ki zarurat nahi. Water do.

Manav quickly grabs the cup from the dispenser, fills it, and hands it to her.

Naina takes it. Their fingers brush.

The PA ANNOUNCEMENT crackles again, indistinct.

The three sit in the thin evening light—no longer pretending.

The medical file lies open on the table.

The visitor badge hangs still.

FADE OUT.