



AUNTIE'S TIME MACHINE

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

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LOGLINE: Jaya claims she has built a time machine from discarded appliances, and Sana is determined to prove it is just a scam. When Tia accidentally activates the device, the three women begin receiving messages from their own future selves about a family breakup they have not yet caused. The twist: the machine works only once, and it forces one of them to choose between preventing a tragedy and preserving the reason they became a family.

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

LOCATION: A cluttered garage or storage room lit by a single hanging bulb and a desk lamp, filled with wires, old suitcases, and a strange homemade machine made from scrap parts. The cramped space keeps the sci-fi concept grounded and shootable.

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FADE IN:

INT. CLUTTERED GARAGE / STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

Ek single HANGING BULB jhool raha hai. Neeche DESK LAMP ka yellow cone. Wires, old suitcases, circuit boards, scrap appliances. Beech mein ek HOMEMADE MACHINE – mixer, radio, toaster aur fan ka Frankenstein.

AUNTIE JAYA (57), practical kurta-pajama, haathon par grease, machine ko final tap deti hai.

SANA (31), neat shirt, analytical eyes, cross-armed khadi hai.

TIA (19), streetwear, phone camera ON, sab record kar rahi hai.

TIA

(■■■■ ■■ ■■■)

Okay guys, live nahi, but almost live. Meri auntie ne garage mein Time Machine bana di hai.

SANA

Auntie, yeh time machine nahi hai. Yeh electrical hazard hai.

JAYA

Arre wah. Engineer madam ne diagnosis de diya bina patient dekhe.

Jaya machine ke side panel par ek screw tight karti hai.

JAYA (CONT'D)

Ye machine discarded appliances se bani hai. Pure desi science.

SANA

Desi science mein safety switch bhi hota hai.

JAYA

Hota hai. Bas abhi hidden hai.

Tia suppressing a laugh. Sana machine ke circuit board ko inspect karti hai.

SANA

Yeh circuit board market ka hai. Aur yeh wire—

JAYA

Jugaad ka hai. Innovation ka blood hai.

SANA

Aapka blood pressure hoga.

Tia snorts. Jaya points at a suitcase.

JAYA

Us suitcase mein calibration notes hain.

SANA

Ya aapke purane sare kapde.

JAYA

Dono. Multi-purpose.

Jaya proudly flips a switch. Machine HUMS. Bulb flickers.

TIA

Oho. Sound design acha hai.

SANA

Sound design? Auntie, yeh transformer ka cry for help hai.

Jaya grins.

JAYA

Dekhna. Abhi time thoda sa fold hoga.

SANA

Time fold nahi hota, Auntie. Time pass hota hai.

Suddenly TIA adjusts her phone angle, steps back—her elbow nudges a LOOSE WIRE.

TIA

Arre—

The machine SPARKS.

The bulb FLARES. A suitcase lid POPS open by itself.

All three freeze.

Their phones VIBRATE at once.

INSERT - PHONE SCREENS

Unknown Number:

Mat roko. Agar tumne use roka, toh hum kabhi family nahi banenge.

BACK TO SCENE

TIA

Okay... that's creepy.

SANA

Who texted us?

JAYA

Mere contacts mein aisa drama nahi hota.

Another vibration.

INSERT - SANA'S PHONE

Unknown Number:

Tu sach bolne se daregi, aur isi wajah se sab tootega.

INSERT - TIA'S PHONE

Unknown Number:

Camera band mat karna. Truth dekhna mushkil hoga.

INSERT - JAYA'S PHONE

Unknown Number:

Machine sirf ek baar chalegi. Aur jo bachaega, woh khud ko kho dega.

BACK TO SCENE

Silence.

SANA

Yeh prank hai?

TIA

Main record kar rahi hoon. Kasam se, prank nahi hai.

JAYA

(softening)

Mujhe bhi lag raha hai... prank nahi hai.

Sana looks at Jaya, suspicious but shaken.

SANA

Aapne kya kiya hai?

JAYA

Maine? Maine bas ek machine banayi.

SANA

From scrap parts?

JAYA

And regret.

That lands.

TIA

Wait. Future messages? Like actual future?

SANA

Impossible.

JAYA

Impossible cheezein hi toh invent hoti hain.

A beat.

SANA

No. I need logic.

Sana grabs the circuit board, checks connections.

SANA (CONT'D)

Power source unstable hai. If this is a hoax, it's a very expensive one.

JAYA

I never said cheap.

Another message buzzes on all phones.

INSERT - PHONE SCREENS

Unknown Number:

Family breakup tumhari galti se nahi, tumhari chup ke wajah se hoga.

BACK TO SCENE

Tia lowers her phone a little.

TIA

Family breakup?

SANA

What breakup?

Jaya looks away. For the first time, no joke.

JAYA

Aaj subah tumne kya socha tha, Sana?

Sana freezes.

SANA

Kya?

JAYA

Voice notes. Tumhare ma ke.

Sana's face changes. Caught.

SANA

Main... delete karne wali thi.

TIA

What?

SANA

Woh purana jhagda... I thought—

JAYA

Ki sach se bach jaogi?

Sana can't answer.

TIA

Aunty... is this about family?

JAYA

Hamesha family ke baare mein hi hota hai.

Machine HUMS louder. Bulb flickers faster.

SANA

What is this machine actually doing?

Jaya steps closer, almost confession.

JAYA

Time travel nahi.

A beat.

JAYA (CONT'D)

Second chance generator.

SANA

That's not a thing.

JAYA

Ab hai.

JAYA (CONT'D)

Yeh future nahi dikhati. Jo regret hum andar daba ke rakhte hain, uska signal bhejti hai.

TIA

So... messages from future us?

JAYA

Ya future ka warning. Same difference.

Sana stares at the machine, then at her phone.

SANA

Ek baar chalegi?

Jaya nods.

JAYA

Sirf ek baar.

Another buzz.

INSERT - PHONE SCREENS

Unknown Number:

Agar sach chahiye, toh kisi ek ko core mein phone rakhna hoga.

Phir machine bandh.

Hamesha ke liye.

BACK TO SCENE

TIA

Hamesha ke liye?

JAYA

Haan.

SANA

And if we don't?

JAYA

Toh jo family tootni hai... woh toot jayegi.

A long silence.

Sana looks at Tia. Tia looks at Jaya. Jaya looks at Sana.

SANA

Main karungi.

TIA

You sure?

SANA

No.

A small, honest laugh from Tia.

Sana steps forward and places her PHONE into the MACHINE CORE.

SANA (CONT'D)

I'm tired of hiding things.

Jaya's eyes fill, but she hides it with a nod.

JAYA

Good girl.

SANA

Don't make it weird.

JAYA

Too late.

Tia stops recording.

TIA

First time I'm not posting this.

JAYA

Wise decision.

Jaya reaches for the master switch.

JAYA (CONT'D)

Ready?

Sana and Tia exchange a look. Nods.

Jaya flips the switch.

The machine SCREAMS with light for one second.

The bulb flashes.

Then—

BLACKOUT.

A suitcase latch clicks shut in the dark.

Silence.

A beat.

A tiny emergency glow from Tia's phone screen lights their faces.

The machine is dead.

Sana exhales. Tia wipes her eyes quickly, pretending it's dust.

TIA

So... no time machine?

JAYA

Time machine ka nuksaan yeh hai, beti...

(beat)

Future se zyada present se darr lagta hai.

Sana lets out a real laugh. Jaya smiles.

SANA

Auntie, next time please build a dishwasher.

JAYA

Usmein bhi tears aa jayenge.

Tia turns her phone camera back on, smiling through tears.

TIA

Title mil gaya.

SANA

Kya?

TIA

Auntie's Time Machine.

Jaya points at her.

JAYA

Aur ending?

TIA

Emotional thi.

They all laugh—small, tired, but together.

FADE OUT.