



THE SONG THEY FORGOT

A Emotional Drama 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by
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LOGLINE: Kamala asks her daughter and granddaughter to sing one old song with her, but neither younger woman knows why the tune makes her cry. As they struggle through the melody, family resentment and buried history rise to the surface. The climax reveals the song was written by Kamala for a daughter she had to give up, and Naina is the first person in the family to hear the full truth.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Kamala (67)

LOCATION: A small music room or living room with a harmonium, scattered songbooks, and soft evening light through curtains. The warm, intimate lighting gives the space a memory-like tenderness.

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FADE IN:

INT. MUSIC ROOM / LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Naram shaam ki roshni parde ke through room mein phail rahi hai. Ek HARMONIUM table ke paas rakha hai. Songbooks bikhre hain. Ek tea cup thanda pada hai. Ek purana CASSETTE player shelf par dhool kha raha hai.

KAMALA (67), plain sari mein, harmonium ke saamne baithi hai. Uski posture seedhi, aankhen thodi nam.

ANITA (44) sheet music ka bundle liye andar aati hai.

NAINA (20) college clothes mein, sharmili si, door ke paas ruk kar room ko observe karti hai.

ANITA

Maa, aaj phir kya naya experiment hai?

KAMALA

Experiment nahi. Ek gaana.

ANITA

Aapke hisaab se har gaana ya toh yaad hota hai, ya dard.

Naina halki si muskurati hai. Kamala uski taraf dekhti hai.

KAMALA

Aaj bas ek gaana sunna hai mujhe. Tum dono ke saath.

NAINA

Kaunsa gaana?

Kamala ek songbook kholti hai. Pages kaafi purane hain. Ek line par ungli rakhti hai.

KAMALA

Yeh.

Anita sheet music dekhkar confuse hoti hai.

ANITA

Yeh tune toh incomplete hai.

KAMALA

Nahi. Tum log incomplete ho gaye ho.

Anita ka face tight ho jaata hai.

ANITA

Maa.

KAMALA

(soft)

Haan?

ANITA

Main teacher hoon. Emotion class mein chalta hai,
ghar mein nahi.

Naina suppress karke hansi chhupa leti hai.

KAMALA

Wah. Bahut achha. Ghar mein bas grammar.

Anita aankh ghoomati hai, par smile almost aa jaati hai.

ANITA

Bolo, kya karna hai?

Kamala harmonium ke saamne baithti hai.

KAMALA

Pehle suno. Phir bolo.

Kamala harmonium ka bellows khinchti hai. Ek purana, shaky note nikalta hai.

Naina instinctively humming karti hai.

KAMALA

(surprised)

Tumhe yaad hai?

NAINA

Nahi... bas aa gaya.

ANITA

Humming se gaana yaad nahi aata, Naina.

NAINA

Kabhi-kabhi aa jaata hai, Aunty—

ANITA

Maa.

NAINA

(quickly)

Sorry. Kabhi-kabhi aa jaata hai, Maa.

Kamala dono ko dekhti hai. Phir dheere se gaana chhedti hai.

KAMALA

(singing, fragile)

"...jab raat ne naam liya tha mera..."

She stops. Eyes fill.

ANITA

Kya hua?

KAMALA

Aage bhool gayi.

ANITA

Aap hamesha beech mein kyun ruk jaati ho?

KAMALA

Kyunki beech mein hi sab toot-ta hai.

Silence.

Naina harmonium ke paas baith jaati hai.

NAINA

Main try karun?

ANITA

Tumhe notation aati hai?

NAINA

Thodi.

ANITA

Thodi se gaana nahi banta.

NAINA

Thodi se family bhi toh banti hai.

Anita ko jawab nahi milta. Kamala Naina ko dekhti hai, grateful.

KAMALA

Haan. Tum try karo.

Naina ek note dabati hai. Phir softly hums.

NAINA

(humming)

Hmm... hmm-hmm...

Kamala join karti hai.

KAMALA

(singing)

"...koi toh hoga jo sun lega..."

Anita involuntarily line pakad leti hai.

ANITA

(singing, hesitant)

"...meri chup ke peeche ki awaaz..."

Kamala unhe dekhti hai, almost shocked.

KAMALA

Is line ka matlab samajh aaya tumhe?

ANITA

Nahi. Par tune achhi hai.

Kamala ek chhoti si hanssi hasti hai. Phir aankh bhar aati hai.

KAMALA

Bas tune achhi nahi thi. Woh sach tha.

Anita ka mood dark ho jaata hai.

ANITA

Kaunsa sach, Maa?

Kamala cassette ■■■■■■ ■■■. Us par faded label: "Raat Ka Geet".

KAMALA

Yeh gaana main ne tumhare liye nahi likha tha, Anita.

Anita freeze.

ANITA

Kya?

KAMALA

Maine ek beti ke liye likha tha. Jise mujhe rakhne nahi diya gaya.

Naina ka saans ruk jaata hai.

NAINA

Nani...

Kamala ki voice steady hai, par andar se tooti hui.

KAMALA

Jawani mein... ghar, izzat, haalaat... Sabne milkar woh bachchi mujhse chheen li. Main uske liye yeh gaana likh ke rakh diya. Socha tha kabhi na kabhi woh sun legi.

Anita ke haath se sheet music gir jaati hai.

ANITA

Aapne mujhe kabhi bataya kyun nahi?

KAMALA

Kyunki phir tum bhi toot jaati. Aur main ek maa aur tootne nahi de sakti thi.

ANITA

Toh main kya thi?

KAMALA

(whispers)

Tum meri doosri koshish thi.

Anita ki aankhon mein gussa, dard, aur purana abandonment ek saath ubhar aata hai.

ANITA

Doosri koshish? Wah.

Naina beech mein aati hai, soft but firm.

NAINA

Nani ne mujhe pehli baar poora sach bola. Shayad woh chahti thi koi naya kaan ho.

Anita Naina ko dekhti hai. Phir Kamala ko.

ANITA

Aur yeh cassette?

KAMALA

Usi din ka hai. Main kabhi himmat nahi kar paayi
sunane ki.

Naina cassette player ki taraf jaati hai.

KAMALA

Naina, mat.

NAINA

Agar gaana dard ka hai, toh sunna bhi toh padega.

She inserts the cassette. A faint, crackly melody fills the room.

Kamala starts singing, voice trembling but clear.

KAMALA

(singing)

"...kahin door se aayegi awaaz meri..."

Naina joins, then Anita. Slowly, reluctantly, then fully.

ANITA

(singing)

"...jo naam se pehle maa kahegi..."

Kamala looks at Anita, stunned.

KAMALA

Tumne line badli?

ANITA

(teary, half-smile)

Main music teacher hoon. Thoda sa bachana bhi aata
hai.

Naina laughs through tears.

The three voices blend. The room feels warmer.

The song ends.

Silence.

Kamala's eyes are wet, but lighter.

Naina reaches out and holds Kamala's hand.

Anita slowly folds the sheet music and places it aside.

ANITA

Kal se... is gaane ko poora likhenge.

Kamala nods, unable to speak.

NAINA

Aur is baar koi line nahi bhoolenge.

A small, fragile smile spreads across all three faces.

The curtains move gently in the evening breeze.

FADE OUT.

THE END