

THE CALL BACK

A Pure Comedy 2-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Genre: Pure Comedy	Format: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast)	Runtime: 5 - 8 Minutes
Cast: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) Character 1: Sameer (26)	Language: Hinglish	Credit: Story Dil Se Team

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Sameer ek chhote, fluorescent light wale casting office ke waiting area mein baitha hai, jaise usne zindagi ka sabse important role already mil gaya ho. Uska blazer thoda zyada formal hai, haath mein headshot folder hai, aur chehre par woh fake-calm expression jo sirf nervous actors aur school ke bachche exam se pehle banate hain. Saamne Pooja, casual jeans, oversized headphones neck par latkaye, clipboard ko aise pakde hue jaise woh sirf forms nahi, logon ki sachchai bhi scan karti ho. Room cramped hai, chair hard hain, aur water dispenser ki halki si gurgle bhi dono ke beech tension ko aur funny bana rahi hai.

Sameer apni image banane ki पूरी कशिश करता है। Woh casually bolta hai ki usne “bahut prepared” hai, ki woh “natural acting” mein believe karta hai, aur ki uska process “organic aur deep” hai। Pooja bina expression badle uske folder ko dekhti hai, phir form par nazar daal kar poochti hai ki agar woh itna prepared hai toh audition form par usne apna naam do alag spellings mein kyun likha hai। Sameer turant koi artistic explanation invent karta hai—“creative ambiguity”—lekin Pooja ek hi line mein uska poorā bluff tod deti hai: “Aapne same page pe correction fluid bhi lagaya hai। Ambiguity nahi, panic hai.”

Conversation dheere-dheere absurd competition ban jaati hai। Sameer har question ka answer itne confidence se deta hai jaise woh already cast ho chuka ho। Pooja uske har claim ko deadpan precision se dismantle karti hai। Woh kehta hai ki woh “silence ko act kar sakta hai,” Pooja usko 12-second silence de deti hai। Sameer us silence ko emotional intensity bana kar maintain karne ki कशिश करता है, lekin uske pet ki awaaz, uska foot tapping, aur baar-baar folder ko straighten karna uski nervousness expose kar deta hai। Pooja uski overacting ko observe karke aur bhi mazedaar ho jaati hai। Woh usse poochti hai ki kya woh hamesha aise hi bolta hai ya sirf jab koi usse dekh raha ho। Sameer ke पास jawab nahi hota, toh woh ek random “method acting” ka example de deta hai, jisme woh allegedly “real life mein bhi character mein rehta hai.” Pooja usko ek cup paani deti hai aur bolti hai, “Toh abhi character mein rehke paani pi lo. Act normal.”

Sameer ki sabse badi problem yeh hoti hai ki woh Pooja ko impress karne ke liye jitna zyada cool banne ki कशिश करता है, utna hi zyada awkward lagta है। Woh uske clipboard ko compliment karta है, uski “professional energy” ko praise karta है, aur casually yeh bhi bol deta है ki casting ka काम “bahut nuanced” hota होगा। Pooja uski flattery ko turant pakad leti है। Woh usse audition form ka last page dekhne ko kehti है, jahan ek simple instruction

likha hota hai: “If you can keep a normal conversation for five minutes, you may proceed.” Sameer ka confidence ek second mein hil jaata hai. Woh samajh jaata hai ki jo bhi woh ab tak kar raha tha, woh test ka exact opposite tha.

Twist tab aata hai jab Pooja finally headphones utarti hai aur casually reveal karti hai ki yeh “audition” actually ek screening test tha—role ke liye nahi, balki un logon ke liye jo pressure mein bhi human reh sakte hain. Sameer confuse ho jaata hai, phir embarrass hota hai, phir finally sach bol deta hai: ki woh nervous tha, ki woh bas achha lagna chahta tha, aur ki usse laga acting mein sabse pehle impress karna padta hai. Pooja pehli baar thoda soft hoti hai. Woh kehti hai ki impress karna easy hota hai, par normal rehna rare. Sameer ko pata chalta hai ki uski over-preparedness aur Pooja ki deadpan honesty ke beech jo comic war chal rahi thi, uska final result ek unexpected pass hai.

End mein Pooja usse clipboard par ek final note likhkar deti hai aur kehti hai, “Callback ke liye aana.” Sameer khushi se almost stand up kar leta hai, lekin Pooja turant add karti hai, “Aur is baar blazer kam formal. Aur naam ek hi spelling mein.” Sameer relief ke saath hans padta hai. Pooja bhi halka sa smile karti hai. Tiny office mein fluorescent light ab bhi wahi hai, chairs ab bhi uncomfortable hain, lekin ab awkwardness mein warmth aa gayi hai. Sameer bahar jaate-jaate ek last attempt karta hai cool banne ka aur bolta hai, “Main usually aisa nahi hota.” Pooja bina dekhe jawab deti hai, “Haan, pata hai. Isi liye toh tumhe call back kiya.”