

I Know, I Don't

By

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Original

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SCENE 1 INT. ESHANA PARENTS' HOUSE. DINING ROOM - MORNING

Morning light streams in gently, shining on the dining room.

Eshana puts two cups of tea on the table. Calm.

ARJUN
You're still making your tea too sweet.

ESHANA
(Joking)
You're just too bitter.

Eshana smiles.

Eshana's mother walks by behind her, watching, proud.

Arjun takes out a small ring from his pants pocket.

Arjun shows the ring to Eshana.

ARJUN
My mom wants us to start looking at this.

Eshana looks at the ring in Arjun's hand.

The room suddenly silence.

Eshana smiles.

ESHANA
Pretty.

CLOSE UP: ESHANA

Eshana is smiling. But there is a hint of doubt behind it.

CUT TO BLACK

SCENE 2 INT. INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - MORNING

Eshana arrives at the international airport.

Eshana is getting ready to go to Manchester, England, to work at a big engineering firm there. Eshana takes to the airport by her parents and Arjun.

Eshana's parents ask time to talk with Eshana alone.

Arjun gives Eshana and her parents to talk.

(CONTINUED)

ESHANA'S MOTHER
I'm not gonna talk much. I just
want to say, take care of
yourself and you already have
Arjun here. Please don't
dissappoint us.

Eshana nods.

ESHANA'S MOTHER
Don't just nod. I need to hear
you promise to us.

Eshana's mother pushes Eshana before her leave.

ESHANA
Ma...

ESHANA'S MOTHER
I just don't want you to
embarrass your family.
(serious)

Eshana's father tries to defending Eshana and makes
Eshana's Mother to not worry.

ESHANA'S FATHER (TO ESHANA'S MOTHER)
(upset)
You don't believe your own
daughter? I'm sure she knows
without you have to said it.

ESHANA'S MOTHER (TO ESHANA'S FATHER)
(upset)
I have my own reason to worry.
You know I never agreed to her
going abroad.

ESHANA (TO MOTHER)
But I'm going to work.

ESHANA'S FATHER
Your mother knows that. She just
stubborn.

Eshana's mother leaves Eshana and her father, grumbling.

Eshana begs her mother to not being upset.

ESHANA'S FATHER
Don't worry, I will talk to her.

Eshana and her father stare at each other silently for a
moment.

Tears start to well up in Eshana's father's eyes.

Eshana hugs her father.

(CONTINUED)

ESHANA'S FATHER (CONT'D)
Please look after yourself while
you're there. Let us know when
you arrive, okay?

ESHANA
I will do. I promise.

After talked to her parents, it's Arjun turns to talk to
Eshana.

ARJUN
Believe it or not... I already
miss you.

Eshana smiles to Arjun.

ARJUN
I wish you don't have to go.
(sad)

ESHANA
Now you sound like my mother.

ARJUN
I'm sorry. I'm just trying to
express how I feel.

ESHANA
Yeah, I know.

ARJUN
I just hope you don't go before
we get engaged.

ESHANA
I don't want our engagement to be
just a formality.

An announcement sounds in the distance.

ESHANA
That's my flight. I have to go.

Arjun and Eshana's parents watching Eshana leaves.

CUT TO BLACK

SCENE 3 INT. ESHANA'S APARTMENT IN MANCHESTER - NIGHT

A small, minimalist-style apartment. It's too tidy. It
doesn't feel like "home."

Eshana comes in, close the door.

Silence.

(CONTINUED)

She stands there for a moment... as if waiting for something.

Eshana turns on the lights. White lights, cold.

Eshana goes to her bedroom.

Eshana sits on her bed.

Eshana takes the phone from her bag.

INSERT - PHONE SCREEN: NOTIFICATIONS

MOM.

ARJUN.

Eshana reads.

A little smile, a reflex.

ESHANA (TEXT)
I'm here. Everything is good.

Eshana sends the message.

Silence, a bit longer.

Eshana walks to the room window. She opens the window.

Cold breeze comes in.

Eshana takes a deep breath. Longer than before.

Eshana looks out the window. She sees city lights, strange, far.

For the first time, she doesn't look sure.

CLOSE UP ESHANA

Not sad. Not scared.

But new empty.

CUT TO.

SCENE 4 OFFICE IN MANCHESTER - MORNING

An open-plan office. Quiet. Professional.
The sound of keyboards, footsteps, and quiet conversation.

Eshana sits at her chair, staring at the screen.

She is a little stiff--still getting use to it.

(CONTINUED)

A man (in his early 30s, non-Indian) stops at her desk. Relaxed. Unobtrusive.

SCOTT
You're new, right?

Eshana turns her head. She is a little surprised, but quickly regains her calm.

ESHANA
Yeah. Just started.

Scott nods.

SCOTT
If the system crashes, it's not you. It happens a lot.

Eshana almost smiling.

ESHANA
Good to know.

A short silence. Not awkward, just not use to it yet.

SCOTT
I'm Scott.

Scott introduce himself.

Eshana nods.

ESHANA
Eshana.
(smile)

Scott is about to leave, but then paused for a moment.

SCOTT
If you need help... just ask.

Scott isn't just making small talk. He really means it.

Eshana nods.

Scottt leaves. Eshana returns to her screen.

A few seconds passed. Then, without realizing it, Eshana stops typing. Eshana is looking in the direction of Scott in the distance. It is not romantic interest. More like, there is something that feels different.

Eshana goes back to her work.

CUT TO

SCENE 5 INT. OFFICE IN MANCHESTER - AFTERNOON

The office is starting to quiet down. Some desks are empty. The lights are still on, but the atmosphere is quieter.

Eshana stares at the screen. There's an error. A complicated one. She tries a few things. It doesn't work. She takes a breath. Holds it.

Scott appears beside her. Not suddenly, as if he'd been watching her the whole time.

SCOTT
Still crashing?

Eshana gives a slight nod. She feels a little frustrated, but hold it in.

ESHANA
I think I broke it.

Scott looks at the screen.

SCOTT
No. It was broken before you touched it.

Pause.

Eshana lets out a little sigh, almost laughing.

She pulls up a chair and sits down next to him. Not too close, but close enough to look at the screen together.

They started working together. Pointing at the screen whispering to each other Interrupting each other with short remarks. Their rhythm begin to sync up.

Eshana suggests something.

ESHANA
What if we try rerouting this instead?

Scott stops. He pause to think. Then he nods.

SCOTT
Yeah, that might actually work.

He tries it. It works.

There is a moment of silence. Not awkwardness, but recognition.

(CONTINUED)

SCOTT
You see things differently.

Eshana is a little surprised. It's not something she hears every day.

ESHANA
I'm just trying not to break it again.

SCOTT
No. You don't.

Pause.

That sentence lingers. They return to the screen. But now, something has changed.

Eshana is a little more relaxed. Her shoulders aren't as tense as before.

SCOTT
Are you always this quiet?

Eshana thinks for a moment.

ESHANA
Only when I'm not sure what I'm allowed to say.

Scotts looks at her.

Not judging. Not answering right away. Just listening.

SCOTT
(softly)
You can say anything here.

Silence.

The sentence is simple. But for Eshana it's new. She doesn't answer right away. But for the first time, she looks a little more open.

CUT TO

SCENE 6 INT. ESHANA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Eshana sits on the bed, leaning against the wall. Her laptop is open beside her, but she hasn't touched it.

Her phone lit up.

INSERT -- PHONE SCREEN:

(CONTINUED)

ARJUN (TEXT)
Did you eat?

Eshana is reading.
Pause.
She is typing:

ESHANA (TEXT)
Yeah.

Pause.

Staring at the screen.

Then she added:

ESHANA (TEXT)
Long day.

Eshana sends the message.

A few seconds.

Quick reply from Arjun.

ARJUN (TEXT)
Don't skip meals. You always do
that when you're stressed.

Eshana is reading.

A small smile appears, a habit.

Then it vanished.

She started typing again.

ESHANA (TEXT)
I'm not.

Eshana Stops. Deletes her message. Staring at the blank
screen. For a while.

ARJUN (TEXT)
I miss you.

Pause.

A longer one. Eshana reads the message. Her eyes linger
there. She doesn't reply right away.

Another notification appears.

SCOTT (TEXT)
Still at the office?

Eshana look at the two names. ARJUN. SCOTT.

(CONTINUED)

One after the other.

She takes a slow breath.

Eshana back to Arjun's chat.

Eshana typing:

ESHANA (TEXT)
I miss you too.

Quick send.

Silence.

Eshana immediately open Scott's chat. Typing:

ESHANA (TEXT)
Just got back.

Pause.

Then added:

ESHANA (TEXT)
You?

Eshana set her phone down beside her. Stares ahead. Empty.
For the first time, those two worlds are in the same hands.

CLOSE UP:

Eshana Not confuse, But she begins to feel that something
could never go back to the way it is.

CUT TO

SCENE 7 EXT. TRAM STOP - NIGHT

The air is cold. The streets are wet, it just rained.

The city lights glint off the asphalt.

Eshana stands there, her hands in her jacket pockets.
Silent. Waiting.

Scott stands a few steps away from her. Not too close.

A comfortable silence.

SCOTT
You always stay this late?

(CONTINUED)

ESHANA
Still getting used to things.

Scott nods. Get it.

The tram hasn't arrived yet.

Time seems to be dragging.

SCOTT
Do you like it here?

Eshana doesn't answer right away.

Eshana looks ahead, an empty street, streetlights, strangers passing by.

ESHANA
It's... quiet.

Pause.

ESHANA (CONT'D)
In a different way.

Scott smiles slightly.

SCOTT
Different good or different bad?

Eshana thinking.

Longer than a usual question.

ESHANA
I don't know yet.

Silence again.

A cold breeze blows by.

Eshana pulls her jacket tighter around herself.

Scott notices, then takes off his scarf and hands it to Eshana.

SCOTT
Here.

Eshana hesitates for a moment. Then she accepted it.

When she puts on the scarf, something changes.

It isn't about the scarf, but about someone watching without being asked.

(CONTINUED)

SCOTT

Back home... is it like this?

A simple question, but different. Eshana stares straight ahead. For a long time.

ESHANA

No.

Pause.

ESHANA (CONT'D)

Back home... everything already knows where it belongs.

Scott turns his head. Listens.

SCOTT

And here?

Eshana almost smiles. A small one.

ESHANA

Here... I don't.

Silence. But not emptiness.

A tram approaches in the distance. Its sound grows closer. Bright lights. They don't move at first. For a moment longer.

For the first time, Eshana looks as if she doesn't want to rush back anywhere.

CLOSE UP:

Eshana More at ease. But also more open.

The tram stops. The doors open. They get on together.

CUT TO

SCENE 8 INT. ESHANA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The same room. Cold. Too tidy.

Eshana sits on the floor, leaning against the bed. Her laptop is open in front of her. The video call has just ended. The screen is now dark. Her phone vibrates.

INSERT - PHONE SCREEN:

ARJUN (CALLING)

Eshana stares at the screen. Hesitant.

(CONTINUED)

Then she answers.

INTERCUT - VIDEO CALL

INT ARJUN HOUSE - NIGHT

Arjun is in the living room. Warm. Bright. Contrasting.

ARJUN
Are you busy?

ESHANA
No. It's okay.

A short silence.

They look at each other. Intimate, but there's a distance between them that wasn't there before.

ARJUN
I talked to my parents today.

Pause.

Eshana immediately knows where the conversation is headed.

ARJUN (CONT'D)
They're thinking... maybe we shouldn't wait too long.

Eshana is silent. Staring at the screen.

ESHANA (CONT'D)
For what?

Arjun gives a small confused smile.

ARJUN
You know... the wedding.

Silence. A long one.

Eshana looks away from the screen. Toward the window. Dark. Nothing there.

ARJUN (O.S.)
Eshana?

She looks back at the screen. Forcing a small smile.

ESHANA
Yeah, I just...

Eshana stops. Not sure how to continue.

Arjun watches. Arjun senses something, but he doesn't push.

(CONTINUED)

ARJUN
Get some rest, okay?

ESHANA
You too.

The call ends.

The screen goes dark.

Silence.

Eshana keeps staring at the blank screen for a while longer. As if something has just shifted.

Her phone lights up again. A message comes in.

SCOTT (TEXT)
Did you make it home?

Eshana looks at it.

She doesn't open it right away.

She closes her eyes for a moment. Takes a breath.

Opens her eyes. Stares at two worlds again.

CLOSE-UP:

Eshana Not confused. But she begins to feel that time won't wait.

CUT TO

SCENE 9 INT. SMALL CAFE - AFTERNOON

A simple place. Cozy, but not crowded.

Outside, it's drizzling.

Eshana and Scott are sitting across from each other. Two cups of coffee on the table. They're already lukewarm.

SCOTT
So... when are you going back?
(hesitate)

A simple question. But it didn't feel simple. Eshana stirs her coffee. Slowly.

ESHANA
I'm not sure yet.

Scott nods. He gets it.

(CONTINUED)

SCOTT

Do you want to go back?

Eshana stops stirring. The spoon remains still in the cup.

ESHANA

I have to.

Scott frowns slightly.

SCOTT

That's not the same thing.

Silence.

Eshana looks up. She stares at Scott.

ESHANA

Where I'm from... it kind of is.

Scott leans back slightly. He thinks.

SCOTT

You mean your family?

Eshana nods slightly.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

But it's still your life.

The sentence was simple. It made sense.

Eshana almost smiled. Almost.

ESHANA

It doesn't work like that.

Pause.

Scott looking at her. Without judgment. But he doesn't quite understand.

SCOTT

Then how does it work?

Eshana opens her mouth. Wants to explain.

She stops.

No words are enough.

ESHANA

You don't just decide things on your own.

Scott is silent. Trying to understand.

(CONTINUED)

SCOTT

So... what do you want?

Silence. Longer.

Eshana looks at him.

That question was too direct.

Eshana doesn't answer.

The rain outside is falling a little harder. A soft, steady sound.

Scott watches Eshana reaction. There is something he realizes now.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Is there someone else?

The question wasn't sharp. More like trying to understand the situation.

Eshana wasn't surprised. Just silent. That was enough of an answer.

Scott nods slowly. Not anger. But realization.

SCOTT

And it's not something you can just walk away from.

Eshana stares at the table.

ESHANA

No.

Silence.

Two worlds. Sitting at the same table. Not colliding. But not merging either.

Scott picks up his cup. Takes a sip.

SCOTT

I don't think I fully get it. Honestly.

Eshana nods slightly.

ESHANA

I know.

The words are gentle. Not accusatory. But also they don't bridge anything.

Silence again.

(CONTINUED)

For the first time, what lies between them isn't just a connection. But also a tangible distance.

CLOSE UP:

Eshana Calm. But no longer simple.

CUT

SCENE 10 INT. ESHANA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

It's dark. Only a small lamp is on.

Eshana is sitting on the floor, leaning against the bed.

She isn't moving.

Around her:

an open laptop

a phone beside her

her jacket still on

As if she hasn't really "come home."

Silence. A long silence.

Her phone lights up.

A notification.

INSERT - PHONE SCREEN:

ARJUN (TEXT)
My parents are asking about
dates.

A few second later.

SCOTT (TEXT)
Are you okay?

Two messages.

Two paths in life.

Eshana looking at the screen.

Eshana doesn't touch the phone right away.

She picks up her phone. Opens Arjun's chat. Rereads old messages. Attention habits a stable past She stops scrolling.

(CONTINUED)

She switches to Scott's chat. A short conversation but it feels alive.

Eshana places her phone on her lap. She stares blankly ahead.

Pause.

She closes her eyes. Takes a deep breath. And for the first time, no answer feels right.

Eshana opens her eyes. Slowly. She stands up. She walks over to the small table.

There lay: a ring from Arjun, a scarf from Scott.

She looks at both of them. She doesn't touch them. She just looks.

Pause.

Her hand moved slightly, almost reaching for one of them. She stops. They falls back beside her. She takes a step back.

As if realizing: choosing one means losing the other And more than that, choosing means becoming a different person.

Eshana sits back down. More slowly. Covering her face with both hands. Not crying out loud. No sound. But her body collapse slightly.

CLOSE UP:

Eshana for the first time... she doesn't look strong. Silence.

The phone lights up again. She doesn't look. For the first time, she doesn't answer anyone.

CUT TO

SCENE 11 INT. AIRPORT - MORNING

Pale light streams in through the large window.

People move quickly. Footsteps, suitcases, the sound of announcements. The world keeps moving.

Eshana stands in the midst of the crowd. A suitcase beside her. Silent. Not in a hurry. Not left behind. Just stops. The sound of the announcement is faint. Different destinations. Different times.

Eshana looks at the departure board. City names change. Her reflection is faint on the screen.

(CONTINUED)

Her phone vibrates. She looks at it.

INSERT -- PHONE SCREEN:

ARJUN (CALLING)

Eshana stares at the name. For a long time.

The call ends.

A few seconds. The phone vibrates again.

SCOTT (TEXT)

Let me know before you leave.

Eshana reads it. She doesn't react immediately. She locks the screen. Silence amid the crowd. She takes a slow breath. Exhales.

Her eyes look ahead, toward the departure gate.

Then in the opposite direction. Two directions. Two possibilities for life. Neither feels any lighter.

CLOSE UP:

Eshana Calms. Aware. And for the first time, not trying to solve everything.

The announcement sounds again. Louder.

Eshana picks up her suitcase. Stands tall. She starts walking.

Eshana walks away and disappears into the crowd

CUT TO BLACK.

END