

Ehsaas

(Words of Affirmation)

Afifa Bashir

Cast of Characters

ZAROON ::

NATASHA ::

ACT IScene 1

Natasha is sitting on the sofa reading a book. Zaroon enters. He is carrying an office bag with him and a rose for Natasha.

(ZAROON: (throws his bag at the corner and go sits with Natasha with his shoes on)
uff natasha! itna lamba din tha yaar aj office per aisay lagraha tha kay khatam hee nahi hogha. itni thakaan hogayi hay yaar per aisa kaisa hosakta hay kay may wapsi may tumaray liye phool na laykar aoen. meri jaan ho tum yaar.

Zaroon hands over the phool to Natasha.

(Natasha: (turns towards him, in a lively manner and hugs him)
uff allah yeh kitna piyara hay. i love you zaroon you are the cutest!! kitni baar izhar-e- ishq karu meri jaan aur kitni baar allah ka shukar ada karu tum jaisay shohar kay liye jho kabhi koi mauqa hath say nahi janay dayta mujhay khush karnay ka.

ZAROON:

bari taiz hoo.. hmm apni jhaal may phansaliya hay mujhay. bas harjaga natasha natasha hee nazar ati hay. haye mera dil bechara!

NATASHA:

hahaha batameez! per qurban joe tum per. acha also why such a busy at work? oh wait.. is it because of the back to back meetings you told me about?

(Zaroon: stretches)

aaaah, yes yaar. khair. aj raat kay khanay may kia pakaya hay tumnay? also love you too meri jaan ka tukra.

(Natasha: starts looking in the book again)
daal chawal- chalo ajoe fresh hokar may table set kardayti huin tab tak

(Zaroon: led out a sigh)

daal chawal? abhi? raat kay 10 bajay kon khata hay daal chawal yaar ? ajeeb yaar aj tou jummah bhi nahi

hay. kuch aur hee banalayti qasam say itni bhook lagrahi hay?

(**Natasha:** continues to look down in the book)

dramay na karo itnay- ajoe milkar khatay hay may tumara hee wait karrahi thi. maynay sath may tumara paseendada gajar ka halwa bhi banaya hay

ZAROON:

nahi yaar. pooch tou layti bananay say pehlay aik baar? sach poocho tou bilkul bhi mood nahi hay daal chawal ka filhal. i'll order mcdonalds khair aur meetha khanay ka abhi bilkul dil nahi.

(**Natasha:** (closes the book and stands up, firmly.)

acha yaar. jho marzi hay karo yaar

Natasha stands up and begin to walk to the kitchen.

ZAROON:

kahan janay lagi? abhi tou kaha tumnay kay khana sath khayengaye?

(**Natasha:** in a very uninterested and a dull tone)

nahi dil nahi chahraha ab.

ZAROON:

acha mcdonalds karu tumaraye liye order kia?

NATASHA:

nahi shukriya may daal chawal hee khalunghi.

(**Zaroon:** in a casual tone, ordering food.)

chalo theek hay jho tumaye theek lagaye.

NATASHA:

mujhay theek lagaye? wah bhaye? apko meri fiqar kabsay itni?

ZAROON:

kia hogaya hay natasha? ap do minute pehlay tou jaan qurban daynay ki baatien karrahi thi? aur jaan laynay jaisi huwi ho qasam say

NATASHA:

kabhi kabar mera khoon kholta hay tum per zaron.
jitna zaida piyaar ata hay ussay 10 gunah ghussa ata
hay. kaash.. haye kaash thoray samjhdar hotay

(**Zaroon:**(placed the order and looks up at
natasha in a confused manner)

aik.. aik min.. aik min aik minute.. yeh kis tarah ki
baat hay? kia hogaya hay achanak say tumaye? natasha,
agar koi baat hayna tou khul kar bolo. muhay koi wahi
nazil nahi hoti jho may tumara dimagh parhlu. ajeeb
aurat ho bhaye

(**Natasha:**(folds her hand and then later
unfolds)

khul kar bolu? ha ha ha. bol bol kar thak jaounghi
zaron laqin tumaye samjh nahi ayeghi. meray paas
tareeqay khatam hochukay hay kay may kis tarah apni
baat tumaye samjhoen. kis tarah.. akhir kis tarah
batoe zaron tumaye kay kyun khoon kholta hay mera?
chalo maan liya kaafi transparent aur 'crystal clear'
relationship hay hamara but transparency kay naam per
may tumaye samjha nahi sakti. kia faida baat karna ka
jab tumaye baat samjh nahi ati hay.

(**Zaroon:** stands up and hugs her)

na.. natasha haam baith kay sukoon say baath karalay
please?

*both of them sits on the sofa with natasha's
head down.*

ZARON:

acha dekho idher batoe ab kia masla hay? abhi tou
bilkul theek thi tum phir kia hogaya achanak say?

(**Natasha:** agitated)

zaron? do you even hear yourself? may sukoon karu?
aur tum aik baby ki tarah pretend kartay raho?

ZARON:

natasha tumaye baat karni hay seedhi ya taanay hee
datay rehnay hay?

silence for a few seconds

(**Natasha:** stands up from the sofa and takes
)

(a deep breathe)

acha? seedhi baat batoen na? yeh lo suno ab. tum ghar aye ho aur pehla sawal tumnay khanay ka poocha hay? what about me zaroon? mera haal chaal poochna gawara nahi huwa? banda out of courtesy yehi poochlay natasha kesi ho? kaisay guzra din? uskay illawa sahi hay daal chawal nahi khanay ka mood huwa tumaye tou banda 'thankyou' hee bolday yaar. maynay sirf tumaray liye gajar ka halwa banaya tha per khana tou door ki baat hay zaroon tumnay tou itni baydili say bas jhaar diya mujhay kay nahi khana hay kuch mujhay.

(**Zaroon:** stands up from the sofa)

natasha yaar, i am not very good with words and it is something you are aware of. phool laata tou huin har roaz tumaray liye takay tum khush ho phir 'thankyou' nahi bola aur yeh kyun aur woh kyun nahi kia sab faltu baatein hay. ghar ki zimadari poori tou nahi tum per. phir kia masla hay? i do the dishes at night and do help you in other house work too..

(**Natasha:** leds out a sigh)

yeh baat nahi hay yaar zaroon. i do acknowledge you bringing a rose for me and you helping me in washing dishes and cleaning the table but kabhi tumnay yeh kaha hay kay ' natasha, thank you for cooking me daal chawal, I appreciate it but i don't feel like having it. Natasha, thankyou mera raat ka khana per intizaar karnay ko'. 'Natasha, thank you for taking care of the house while I'm at work, Natasha, thank you for setting the dinner table, Natahsa, thank you for making a cup of tea?'

Natasha moves around the space and gestures with hand.

NATASHA:

the list will never end Zaroon. all I ask from you is some kind words to make me feel appreciated. aur aisa kia maangliya hay? sirf chaand achay alfaz jisay meri hozla afsayi hosakay?

ZAROON:

Natasha hey hey listen.., i am trying to understand you but may itna tou khayal rakhta huin tumara. tumaye har occasion per chotay motay tofoun laykar dayta huin takay tum khush raho.. kabhi phool kabhi koi jora tou aur kia kara karu aur usdin tumari ama kay sath bhi yehi baat horahi thi kay haam donoun

ghardari sath nibatay hay. tumaaray uper koi bhi aisa domestic pressure nahi hay.

(**Natasha:** nods in disapproval and takes a deep breath)

zaroon. listen. its not about any domestic pressure on me. Its not about you as a person. Its about your approach. soucho agar may baydili say tumara phool bas rakhdu kyunkay tum hardin laytay ho tou koi nahi baat nahi hay. ya phir yeh kehdu, 'yaar yeh kia harroaz phool layaty ho' tumaye kaisay mehsoos hogha zaroon? i do understand that you have a thing for giving memorable presents from time to time and i appreciate it. but all i want from you to do is randomly message saying, what's for lunch? should i drop by? or even as basic as 'having a good day.' or Natasha tum white shalwar kurta may buhat piyari lagti ho, aj wo pehanlo' ya phir 'tum baal baandaye way may zaida achi lagti ho'ya phir 'thankyou natasha aj tumnay gajra ka halwa banaya meray liye' anything zaroon yaar anything. kitni baar bolo aur kitni baar yehi baat dohraaun? also you could've said to my mom about how Natasha specially makes an effort to cook for me, aur itnay achay say ghar ki zimadari uthati hay. we are us. we are a unit but at the same time we do have an individual identity.

ZAROON:

nata..natasha..

NATASHA:

kia natasha? kia natasha zaroon? kia abhi bhi tumaye yeh samjh nahi aya?

(**Zaroon:** confused state)

natasha.. theek hay. aagayi samjh. but i just feel like isko makhan lagana kaheingaye. har baat per tumaye thank you bolo,tumaye appteciate karnay lagjoe value hee khatam hojayeghi phir tou. tum khud mujhay for granted laynay lag joeghi.yeh kis tarah ki faltu expectation hay mujhsay? tareefain kay pull bandhu kiya tumaray liye?

(**Natasha:** assertively)

yeh kis layjay may baat kar rahay ho? agar isshi layjay may baat karni hay tou batado. nahi karaingaye baat abhi. baat samjha karo, baat ko doosray tangent per maat layjaya karo. jahan tak tareefain ki baat

hayna, isko tareefain nahi kehtay. isko basic courtesy kehtay hay samjh ayi? kay doosra banda apkay liye itna kuch karrahaa hay tou ap isko appreciate hee kardo yaar..

NATASHA:

all i want you is to appreciate my individual effort made for you. bas itni si baat hay zaroon. kitnay paisay lagjayegaye?

(**Zaroon:** comes near natasha and hold her hands)

natasha... natasha mera kehney ko yeh matlab nahi tha...acha sad na ho.. i do understand now.

Zaroon comes forward and extends a hug

ZAROON:

i will be mindful now Natasha. ab may khayal karungha. Thank you for knocking some sense in me. I love you and i get you now. and i am sorry for making you feel like this way.

