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One act play

Title: - You and I

Scene -1

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Characters: - Shalini, a woman in her late 30s. Her husband Vishal in his 40s, her daughter Naira (12 year old), and her son Aarav (14 year old).

The scene is set in the drawing room which has a sofa at one corner. Another side is equipped with dining table and T.V. drawer. Shalini is packing Aarav and Naira' bags for school around 7.00 am while her husband is sitting at sofa; reads the morning newspaper.

Shalini: Aarav ! Naira ! Hurry up! Else you will miss your bus as usual. (Shouts)

Aarav: Yeah Mom ! Done. (Hurries)

Shalini: And dare you guys if you skip your breakfast! Huh!

Naira: Yeah Mom! Not now, we are running late! And, please, do wake us on time. (Upset)

Aarav: True! It's you who do not! (Blames Shalini)

Shalini: Oh! Really, am glad. How do you show an audacity? Come on! Get ready! And, Mr. Vishal, I feel you might be of some help, at least today. (Sarcastically)

Vishal: Ah! Not me, please! I already have a long day to resist. Kids, do fast! I won't be able to drop you to school.

Aarav: Dad! Okay! Sure!

Vishal: GOOD! (Looks at his wife and speaks sarcastically)

And, Shalini let me remind you of my morning tea that you often forget.

Shalini: Wow!! Vishal, I appreciate how you cannot realize the hustle taking place here. Even then, these kids take your words serious. (Scoffs angrily and sarcastically at Vishal)



Vishal: Now! Where do you bring kids in the midst of my morning tea? (Wonders)

Aarav and Naira: BYE Mum! BYE Dad! (Kids wave good bye to their parents and Exit)

Vishal: Bye, sweet hearts!

Shalini: Wait! Aarav, here your handkerchief! (She goes to get them in their bus and then comes back)

(Shalini sits aside Vishal; at Rexene sofa. She pants)

Vishal: I wonder how do you exhaust after doing such a little task. (Giggles)

Shalini: Hey! Why cannot you afford such a little task tomorrow?

Vishal: Why are you so frustrating? (Angst)

Shalini: Leave it! Just as ever, you would not understand. (Painfully)

(She relaxes)

Vishal, please try to understand something!

Vishal: Yes! Say!

Shalini: Look! Now our kids have grown slight. I am thinking of joining somewhere.

(Inhales)

Vishal: Oh! Can't be!

Shalini: Look! I know this is random but it is also a need of an hour.

I stay alone during day. You remember, you promised that you would allow me to work when they grow better.

Vishal: It's been 15 years that you have not worked and now, suddenly, how will you manage? You lag in technology. And, above all, a gap!

Shalini: Hmm! I applied in a few companies. I have also qualified in one. I think I can join because it is hardly 15 minutes away. (Smiles)

Vishal: Do not behave childish! (Groans)

You have decided? At least you should have taken my advice. What about kids? They have a crucial time to acquire many new things in their lives. They need you the most now. And you prioritize a job.



Shalini: (disheartened) VISHAL!! You always think of children, not about me. I know I will not earn high but I wish to fulfill my dad's dream to make me self –dependent. (Moans)

Vishal: Stop, Shalini. This corporate world is not for you. It's over now. Don't talk of it next time. (Shalini in agony)

Shalini: Ah! Knowledge? I am equally qualified as you are. You also learnt through working. Why do you expect me to learn in one instant? I have always supported you in your life. Don't I deserve to expect the same respect as you do?

Vishal: Stop exaggerating it.

Shalini: (breathes heavily, stands firmly) We both are parents! But, why does your statement has more stability?

Why does every word spoken by you is considered significant? (Vishal tries to intervene, but she continues)

Vishal: - Listen! (Boastfully)

Shalini: I will tell you now. The one who earns thinks that he is superior in the family. However, when woman does house work, it is not work. We don't have holidays, sick leaves, etc. like you. (Vishal holds her hands and tries to calm her)

Vishal: Shalini, it's all in your head, When did I even address myself superior. I appreciate your work. And, why do you need to earn, when I am earning so high.

Shalini: - It's not about money; it's about equality, the sense of pride and satisfaction. And, to feel an equal parent. (Vishal gets fed up, Shalini stands and moves)

Vishal: - Shalini, it's too much. Remember you are a wife and a mother too. (Shalini looks tired of explaining him. She sits)

Shalini: I wish if it was true. (She weeps silently)

Shalini: If the same happens to our daughter one day, would you allow? (He realizes but does ignore)

Vishal: Please, do not compare us with our children. Time has changed.

Shalini: I am tired.

You know, I am like a salt in your life, you do not realize my importance but without my addition, you will have dullness in your life. But, that's okay. It's difficult and endless.

Just to remind you, you are getting late for your board meeting. (Grudgingly)



(The characters become stagnant)

THE CURTAIN FALLS