

Just One Smile

The Play

Characters:

Main Characters:

Jerry – Husband

Lisa – Wife

Mac – Stranger 1

Supporting Characters:

Jack – Counter Man, Stranger 2

Michael – Welcome Man, Stranger 3

Ted - Waiter

Scene-1

Interior Afternoon - Home drawing room. At one side there is be sofa and on opposite to it two chairs are placed. In middle of them one table is placed and on the table one flower pot is placed. There is one door to go outside home behind the sofa.

Jerry (Husband) is sitting on one of the chairs and Lisa (wife) is standing behind the sofa. They both seem angry, but not looking at each other.

Jerry [With Anger]

Look, what you are doing is not good. I am trying all my best to make you happy. I had done whatever you want.

Lisa [with Anger]

Thank you very much. Even I have not done less for you. When you come home tired, I am serving you tea/coffee and some snacks thinking you may be hungry and many more things.

Jerry [Explaining]

I am not telling that you are not doing anything for me. I am just telling you, “Please do not compare me with anyone else.” If I always come home and tell you see, “What our neighbour’s wife does when he reaches home? Tell me will it be right?”

Lisa [With Anger]

(Lisa looks at Jerry, straight in his eyes)

How do you know what our neighbour does? So your eyes are on our neighbour’s wife, ha?

Jerry

(Jerry looks at her. Trying to explain her)

No it is not like that. It's just an example. Now, please calm down. I don't want to be in this foolish fight. Please, let's stop this.

Lisa

It's just I am asking you that why your colleague's are paid more than you, when you both do the same work?

Jerry

(Jerry's temper goes out of control)

Ok. You do not want to stop this. Then I have no clarification to give about this. I am asking you one last time, tell me yes or no?

Lisa

(Calms down)

I am just asking for an answer and nothing more. I promise I will not ask how you know what our neighbour's wife does when her husband reaches home. I promise.

Jerry

(Jerry angrily walking towards door)

You don't want to stop then I am leaving.

Lisa stands in between the door, weak try to stop Jerry.

Jerry rushes and side throws Lisa and shuts the door.

Lisa

Where are you going?

Jerry [With Anger, shouting]

To die.

Lisa [Shouting]

Fine. Once you die, let me know about it. So, I can find another man for my life.

Jerry looks at the door and turns towards the road and starts walking.

Scene-2

Exterior Evening – Street. Crowd is rushing on the street.

Jerry starts walking.

Jerry [Murmuring]

Jerry is still in anger.

Fine. She tells me once you die let me know. I am going to die this time.

He looks up towards the sky.

What a wife you have given me? In the office Boss sucks my blood like a Dracula and at home my wife like a dangerous mosquito. Always sitting on my head and singing like mosquito. What a life I have got?

He stops for a moment. One man is rushing towards him. He ignores him and starts walking. The man is holding umbrella in his hand and walking speedily. He passes Jerry and his umbrella hits Jerry.

Jerry [With Anger]

Looking at the stranger.

Hey! Can't you see and go?

Stranger [Smiling]

Sorry.

And he disappears in the crowd.

Jerry starts walking and stops outside one place. It is his favourite restaurant.

Jerry [Thinking]

Now I am going to do die at last let me have my favourite meal last time. It smells really good. Let's go in.

One man is standing outside the restaurant. He welcomes Jerry with a smile.

Welcome Man [Smiling]

Welcome, Sir. Have your good time with us.

Jerry, still anger has not come down, enters the restaurant.

Scene-3

Interior Evening – Restaurant is full. Only one table of 4 is left empty. All people are smiling and having their good time. Waiters are serving smile along with the food.

One waiter comes to Jerry.

Waiter [Smiling]

Welcome, Sir.

He draws Jerry towards his table.

Here is your table.

He pulls the chair for Jerry and makes sure he is sitting comfortably.

Jerry sits. Waiter goes to bring water.

The stranger, who hit Jerry, enters the restaurant. He looks for an empty table. There that waiter comes.

Waiter [Smiling]

May I help you?

Stranger

I am looking for an empty table.

Waiter [Smiling]

There is no empty table, Sir. It will get free in half an hour. Here waiting is going on. Will it be ok, Sir?

Stranger meanwhile finds out the table where Jerry sits.

Stranger

I am very much hungry. I can't wait for half an hour. I will die of hunger.

He points to the table where Jerry is sitting.

There you see, there one person is sitting. If you can do favour for me I will be very much thankful to you.

Waiter

Let me ask him.

Waiter goes to Jerry.

Waiter

Excuse me Sir, here is one man starving for food. He will die if he waits for another half an hour. May I make him sit here?

Jerry

Anger has not yet come down.

What kind of restaurant is this? If he is dieing let him die. I am not bothered about him. Tell him no.

Meanwhile Stranger comes and sits across Jerry.

Jerry [Angrily]

Hey man, what are you doing? This is my table. I want my privacy.

Stranger stands up and shows his face.

Stranger

See, my face is sucked. If I will not eat food in half an hour I will die.

Jerry [Angrily]

I do not bother about it. You find another table for you.

Stranger smiles at him and sits on the chair.

Stranger [Smiling]

Thank you very much for saving my life.

Jerry resists himself and looks other ways.

Waiter gives them menu. Stranger and Jerry looks at their menu.

Waiter [Smiling]

May I have your order?

Stranger starts speaking. Jerry stops him.

Jerry [Angrily]

I have come first, so I will give order first.

Stranger [Smiling]

As you wish.

Waiter writes their order and goes away.

Stranger looks at Jerry, Jerry tries to ignore him, looking outside.

Stranger [Smiling]

You know you have ordered the same food as mine. I think it's your favourite meal. Am I right?

Jerry ignoring him, still looks outside.

Stranger never getting away his eyes from Jerry and not losing his smile even for second continuously looks at Jerry.

Waiter comes with their food and serves them.

Stranger looks at his meal and then at Jerry's.

Stranger [Smiling]

Smells the food.

It is great. I love it.

He looks at Jerry.

Even your meal seems great.

Jerry puts his one hand around his dish.

Jerry

Do not look at my food; otherwise you will be having worst time of your life. I am very angry today.

Stranger [Smiling]

I knew it [happily]. You had fight with your wife today, tell me yes. Isn't it?

Jerry looks at him.

Jerry

His eyes get wide.

How do you know that? Are you a detective? Oh! I see you are a person of that dirty gutter. I will file complain about you for breaking our privacy.

Stranger looks at Jerry and laughs.

Stranger [Laughing]

You are too good. You make me laugh today. I will note down your name. Hey! We are sitting together for 15 minutes and we don't know our name. What is your name buddy?

Jerry looks at him [angrily].

Leave it. We will do it afterwards. Tell me what do you do?

Seeing smile on a stranger's face, Jerry's anger starts coming down, but risk point has not come down. He answers his question but his voice is low.

Jerry

(Anger answers)

Nothing.

Stranger [Smiling]

Great job. I also do not do anything.

Where were you going with so much anger?

Jerry's temper goes and risk point is red alert. He stands up.

Jerry

I am going to do suicide. Is that fine for you?

Stranger

He stops eating food and calms down Jerry.

Please calm down. My intention is not to hurt you. It's just my behaviour like that. I am sorry for that.

Jerry sits. Stranger starts eating his meal and speaks nothing for a minute.

He looks at Jerry, Jerry stops eating and looking at him.

Jerry

What's the reason for your smile?

Stranger [Smiling]

I was like you sometimes before. One day like you are angry today, I was having devil in my mind. I had decided I will die. While I was walking on streets, I thought if someone smiles at me than I will not do suicide.

Jerry looks at him.

Jerry

Strange thinking. So, somebody had smiled at you in the way, Right?

Stranger

No. In the way nobody smiled at me. I reached the 10th floor of a building and stood at the corner for a jump. I stop there to do my final prayer. I look right, look left, look up and then look back.

Jerry's curiousness increases.

Jerry [Curious]

Then?

Stranger [Smiling]

Then I saw one man coming from the stairs. I thought if he sees me jumping from here, he will get shocked, so I decided to hide somewhere and got hide.

Jerry's face now becomes more curious.

He reached the place where I was standing few minutes before. He saw left, right and back. He saw me and came towards me. He got my intention and told me, "This world is very material. We should leave it as soon as possible." He was looking very much disappointed.

Then we both stood for jump and there we saw third man coming up. He saw us and came towards us. He told us, "I know why you are here and why I am here. Let's do it."

Jerry

Then, how you got saved?

Stranger [Smiling]

I asked them why you want to do suicide. They said, "We are very much disappointed by this world. In the way we decided if someone smiles at us then we won't do suicide and here nobody has even a second to look at us." That made me laugh thinking I am not the only one thinking like that. I told them my story and they laughed too.

Jerry [Smiles]

Jerry's anger has gone zero and he is much relaxed.

Where are the other guys?

Stranger [Smiling]

You see that person sitting at the billing counter and the person who welcomed you. They are my saviours. Here in this restaurant we serve smile. When I first time hit you, I read your face and I got your intention and that's why I am here.

Jerry [Question on face]

Then how do you know I had fight with my wife?

Stranger [Smiling]

That's just a guess. Don't take it seriously.

Jerry laughs and gets relaxed.

I want to tell you something. God has sent us here with some purpose, to do something good for humans. We need to change this world. Just one smile can save many lives. Just one smile can change us. Keep smiling.

Stranger gets up and leaves the restaurant.

Jerry still sitting there, smiling and relaxing. He thinks of his wife and hurries to go home back.

Scene-4

Interior Night – Jerry's home. Main door.

Jerry reaches home. His wife is waiting at the door for him. Jerry sees her waiting, goes near her and hugs her. Tears come in Lisa's eyes, but she is happy. Jerry tells her whole story about the restaurant and that stranger. And Lisa laughs. Jerry looks at her and smiles.

The End