# MAYBE SHE SEES ME TOO

~ Abhinav Somalkar

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First Published: 2025

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### Chapter 1 – The First Day

First days are heavier than they look. They don't just carry books and timetables, they carry questions. Who will sit beside me? Who will notice me? Will anyone remember my name? The classroom smelled of chalk and polished desks. Voices overlapped, some too loud, some too low. I slid into a corner seat, trying to be invisible. It felt like stepping into an ocean where everyone else already knew how to swim. And then the door creaked. She walked in. For a moment, I froze. Her face tugged at a memory I couldn't place. Have I seen her before? Or was it just my restless mind playing tricks? (My heart didn't know, but it had already decided she wasn't just another classmate.)

She took a seat in the middle row, casually flipping her notebook open.
Not a single glance in my direction.

But my friend leaned over and whispered, "You know her? Suhani. She lives near my place." That's how it started.

Not with fireworks.

Not with music.

Just a casual sentence dropped in between the chaos of a new class.

At first, I didn't feel anything.

She was just another name, another face in the crowd.

But days have a way of peeling back layers.

Her laughter spilled across the room one afternoon, sharp and light at the same time.

Her voice during attendance lingered in my ears longer than it should have.

Her eyes, whenever they flicked around the class, seemed to hold something I couldn't quite name.

I caught myself staring, sometimes.

Careful, measured, never too long.

The fear of getting caught was real.

# But then, one day, it wasn't just me looking.

(That was the moment everything changed.)

### Chapter 2 – Quiet Observations

Sometimes, the smallest details hit you harder than the big ones. It's not the grand gestures or the loudest laughs. It's the way someone's hair falls when they turn, the way their voice carries even in a crowded room, the way their presence feels louder than words. That's when you realize you weren't looking for them, but somehow your eyes keep finding them anyway.

It started with her laugh.

Sharp, yet soft.

Like it didn't ask for attention, but still took all of mine.

Her voice during
attendance—
"Present Mam."
Two words.
And I swear they echoed
longer than they should
have.

Sometimes, when she explained answers to her friends, her hands moved with this careless energy \*\*

like even her gestures had their own language.

I didn't realize when I started noticing.
Her earrings one day.
Her choice of pen is another.

The way her notebook margins were filled with doodles.

I caught myself staring. (2)
Not always.

But enough to make me panic if she ever turned my way.

## And then one afternoon... She did. ••

Her eyes met mine for a fraction of a second.

Or maybe a little longer.

I couldn't tell.

But in that moment, the world outside the classroom didn't exist. (I don't know if she saw me, or if she really saw me.)

### Chapter 3 – Eyes Meet