

INT. CHILDHOOD HOME - NIGHT

We are inside a very small apartment - Humza's childhood home.

A low angle, POV shot - one taken from seemingly a child sitting on the floor.

A woman, his mother, is seen exiting the front door and shutting it behind herself without looking back. A child's hands can be seen coming into the frame, reaching out.

FADE TO BLACK:

INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

FADE IN:

We are back inside the dimly lit backstage. It looks the same as always, identical to every single loop before it.

A hand from off frame shakes Humza awake.

THE DOCTOR  
(Holding up 10 fingers)  
10 minutes.

Humza stands up and rotates his shoulders. He stretches the grogginess out of himself.

As the performance on stage at the moment is ending, we see Humza chugging a water bottle, quiet and mostly expressionless, staring at the floor.

TICK.

There is applause from the audience as the performance that was going on ends. The Doctor approaches Humza.

THE DOCTOR  
You're up.

Humza wipes his mouth, still staring at the floor. The TICK TICK TICK of a clock keeps getting louder. Then, all at once, he breaks out into a wide, mischievous grin.

CUT TO:

Upbeat music starts to play. Flashes of various shots. Humza confidently adjusting his collar. Him striding to the stage.

Him picking out a flower from a random vase and attaching it to his shirt pocket.

CUT TO:

INT. STAGE - NIGHT

Humza strides up to stage confidently and takes the mic.

HUMZA

Thank you, thank you! Sorry for the delay, had a call from the mistress. My beautiful wife of 7 years. That's her age, I'm going to jail.

The crowd bursts at laughter at this joke. Humza smiles and nods, pleased.

CUT TO: MONTAGE

Music plays. Upbeat and energetic.

The Doctor is watching the performance, nodding. It seems even he is a bit taken aback at the quality of the performance on display.

The dialogue is muted, but we see Humza on stage presenting very cheerfully and confidently. His movements are exaggerated and animated.

At one point he appears to be standing still, telling a joke expressionless.

CUT TO:

Now he is completely animated, doing a sort of performance.

CUT TO:

He now has a tie tied to his forehead, his hands clamped together, doing some sort of innocent and repentant kind of performance.

CUT TO:

We now see the audience reaction, cheery, laughing and clapping along.

HUMZA

You sir, what is your name.

The camera stays on the audience and a Pathan guy speaks up.

PATHAN GUY  
Mian Saif-ullah Shakir Jan

<PATHAN SEGMENT>

The crowd laughs.

The scene transitions to another joke Humza is making. It starts at the punch line.

HUMZA  
And my friend's dad says: 'Again  
with the phone!'

Silence. Crickets. The joke bombs. Humza awkwardly stares at the camera, grinning.

TICK.

Scene rewinds to a few seconds before, same punchline.

HUMZA  
And his dad is like, 'Not this  
again!'

Silence again.

TICK.

Rewind again.

HUMZA  
And his dad says,  
(exaggerated crying)  
not this again!

TICK. Rewind.

HUMZA  
Pleeeeeease *bacha*!

TICK. Rewind.

Humza now just has a folded belt in hands and cracks it threateningly, pretending to be the dad. The crowd bursts into laughter.

TICK.

CUT TO:

INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Dolly Gee is sitting backstage during all this. She's a young, adolescent girl with a very clean, traditional, prim and proper get-up. Clothes are clean and spotless, dubatta on her head not letting a hair out. In front of her, her notebooks and pencils are also perfectly and neatly arranged and aligned and her entire look and expression is one of innocence and curiosity.

We see a close-up of her sitting, scribbling down on her journal. She doesn't seem to be paying attention to the set too much, instead opting to prepare for her set more than anything.

J.B comes from off-screen and snatches the notebook from her hands. She reaches up to grab it, and he holds it just above her reach, like someone playing with a child. J.B then drops it and walks off and she catches the notebook, smiling warmly at J.B's back. All this while, the muffled sounds of the set go on in the background.

CUT TO:

INT. STAGE - NIGHT

Humza is in the middle of another joke. He is doing the pride and joy one again.

HUMZA  
(Holding up the blank  
page)  
Here's mine, by the way.

The popcorn guy in the audience is loving all this. He reaches into his bag of popcorn to grab a handful and comes up with nothing. He turns over the bag and shakes it; nothing again. With that, he instead just turns it over and wears it on his head like a hat, focused and attentive.

CUT TO:

Another out-of-context joke.

HUMZA  
And I'll never forget - the man  
says-

CUT TO:

INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

The music is suddenly gone. Humza and The Doctor are just standing around casually, talking.

THE DOCTOR  
I mean...*kehna tou nahin chahiye*  
*waise...magar agar kehta*  
*tou... 'marha!'*? Matlab yehi kehte  
*hain pathan?*

HUMZA  
*Haan, magar agla Arabi hai.*

THE DOCTOR  
*...Habibi? Uh...*

CUT TO:

INT. STAGE - NIGHT

Cuts right back to his joke, exactly where we left off.

HUMZA  
*-Marha Habibi! Meherbani!*

Crowd laughs. The Pathan Guy laughs hardest.

HUMZA  
(Please)  
Haha, yeah. I...I...am out of jokes.

CUT TO:

INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Humza is sitting backstage, scratching his chin and pondering. The Doctor is standing over him.

HUMZA  
*Abhi aade set tak ka material*  
*hai...aur chahiye.*

THE DOCTOR

Hmm? Tayaar nahin kiya kuch?

Humza ponders some more. He looks over and sees the two comedians, Baby and J.B, bickering. He gets up and walk over to them.

HUMZA

Uh...guys.

They turn to him.

HUMZA

Abhi mera set hai, magar...aap pehle  
please chale jao ge?

J.B snorts and chuckles.

J.B

Apko comedian se audience ki  
promotion mubarak ho 'Baby'.

HUMZA

Aik minute, nahin. Uhh...  
(points to Baby)  
Aap please pehle chale jaein ge.

Baby snorts exaggeratedly and begins walking to the stage.

J.B

Zahir hai, aapke baad pathar bhi  
chamke ga.

Baby makes a hand gesture of a talking mouth, mocking; yet its visible that it got under his skin a bit.

CUT TO:

INT. STAGE - NIGHT

Humza watches on expectantly, as Baby takes the stage.

Baby does his performance. His devilery is deadpan and slow, mimicking a tired, overworked, office worker dad.

BABY

'Papa, papa! ye awaaz!'.  
'Kya hua bache, konsi awaaz?'  
'Ye awaaz!'

Baby mimics opening and closing a door.

BABY  
 'Yahaan se tou koi awaaz nahin  
 arahi.'  
 'Nahin nahin papa, ye awaaz!'

Baby mimics stomping on the ground.

BABY  
 'Yahan tou nahin hai awaaz'  
 'Nahin nahin papa, aapke jorhon  
 se! 'Oh teri aisi ki taisi!'

Baby makes a show of stomping his kid and chasing him a bit.

Humza peers intently at this. He smiles, pulls out his pen and begins scribbling onto a notebook.

CUT TO:

INT. STAGE - NIGHT

Humza is doing the routine now - the same routine as Baby. He makes a show of his back being bad; only a slight adjustment from what Baby did.

INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Baby is watching his pre-written script and notes, fuming. Humza walks in and Baby marches up to him.

BABY  
 Humza ke bache, tumhari jurrat  
 kaise hui?!

Humza watches the clock. Nearly 11:00 now.

HUMZA  
 Awaaz arahi hai.

BABY  
 Hain!?

HUMZA  
 Joron se.

The Baby loses his composure and tries to hit Humza with his rolled up notes.

TICK.

The clock strikes 11:00 and it cuts to black.

CUT TO:BLACK

INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Humza approaches Dolly Gee.

HUMZA

Do you want to go up on stage  
right now?

DOLLY GEE

Right now!?

HUMZA

Haan, right now.

Dolly Gee thinks about it, hesitates, then hypes herself up  
and gets on her feet.

As Dolly Gee makes her way to the stage, the doctor walks up  
to Humza.

THE DOCTOR

Usko kyun bhej rahe ho pehle?

Humza doesn't answer. Instead, he just pulls out a pen and a  
notebook and gives the pen a spin.

Montage begins. Energetic music and fast cuts

CUT TO:

Dolly Gee takes the stage. Her delivery is a bit timid and  
innocent; how much of that is real and how much of that is  
probably an act is unclear.

DOLLY GEE

Um...I'm almost 18. Getting to the  
age of marriage. Scary. Getting  
into the world of men. But...my  
mother said I just need to learn  
how to use my femininity to my  
advantage. She told there were  
things you could say to make them  
chase you and flirt and make  
advances. The best of these  
was... 'no'.

Crowd erupts into laughter.



Humza watches the performance and takes notes.

CUT TO:

INT. STAGE - NIGHT

Humza is now on the same stage, performing.

CUT TO:

INT. STAGE - NIGHT

J.B is on the stage, doing a performance where he exaggeratedly marches.

CUT TO:

INT. STAGE - NIGHT

Humza is doing the same physical pose.

CUT TO:

INT. STAGE - NIGHT

DOLLY GEE

I was joking about the face covering hujab thing when I was a kid. I said 'Oh look, they're incognito like ninjas!'. My dad though, he said 'no way, I could identify your mother in a herd of them!'. And I found that so sweet! But I still asked him how he would do it. And he said 'notice how your eyes are so full of life?' I said 'yeah.'. And he goes:

Dolly Gee slowly shifts her head, mimicking someone silently trying to get someone else to think. Slowly the audience gets the joke and begins to break out into laughter.

CUT TO:

Humza has now taken the exact same pose as she did before the cut (implying that he copied her work for word).

CUT TO:

INT. BACKSTAGE - NIGHT

Dolly Gee is staring down at her notes, shaking, tears in her eyes. J.B and Baby are staring down at the notes too, no ambiguity about the theft Humza committed.

Dolly Gee looks up like she is about to confront him, but shakes and doesn't do anything. The other two however, stand straight.

J.B

*Humza.*

Humza stands there sheepishly. The air is thick and Humza looks like he is about to answer but hesitates and stops. The other comics don't give him the leisure of words and just stare him down.

*TICK TICK TICK.*

Humza stand uncomfortably and then just shrugs.

*TICK.*

CUT TO:BLACK

CUT TO:BLACK

The montage continues. Humza on the stage. Some other comic on stage. Humza copying their mannerisms. Humza backstage scribbling furiously. Humza dodging angry comics.

At the end, there is just a shot of him on stage, at the end of his performance, bowing deeply. The camera zooms in on his face and we see a smile on his face.

END OF EPISODE 2