

ARRANGED

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1. INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

ROSHAN (29) lies on his couch, with tears slowly rolling down his face. He is wrapped in a blanket, looking like a human burrito.

The movie *Premam* reaches its emotional crux as he takes a handful of popcorn and shoves it in his mouth. Roshan looks just as disheveled as George, the main character of the film.

Bits of popcorn fall onto the floor as Roshan scratches his unkempt beard. He clearly isn't taking care of himself or his living space.

Roshan's phone, lying on the table, suddenly lights up and starts buzzing. He picks it up and sees a call from Maya (29), his best friend.

Roshan snuffles and picks up.

MAYA (OVER PHONE)  
OPEN UP!!!

ROSHAN (OVER PHONE)  
(through tears)  
I don't wanna get up.

MAYA  
I'm literally standing outside.

ROSHAN  
Use the spare key under the doormat.

MAYA  
I told you this is unsa- never mind  
I'm coming in.

Maya cuts the call and Roshan tosses his phone back onto the table, displacing a few more bits of popcorn as it lands down.

Maya walks in and enters the living room. She wears a dress and a light layer of makeup, looking her best for a date. She stops in place and looks at Roshan.

MAYA  
Oh no, not this again.

ROSHAN  
(looking at the screen)  
Why can't they just end up together?

MAYA  
Dude you look like shit.

ROSHAN

Yeah...

Maya squints her eyes at him.

MAYA

Roshan, what did you do?

ROSHAN

(looking at Maya)

What? Nothing.

Roshan puts his head down.

ROSHAN

I was reading through some old texts.

Maya walks over to the couch and pushes Roshan's legs off so she can sit. She pauses the TV before questioning Roshan.

MAYA

I thought you deleted all your texts with her.

ROSHAN

Yeah, but... I found some old messages on Google hangouts. Remember Google hangouts?

MAYA

(shaking her head)

You're just abusing yourself at this point.

ROSHAN

I know but...

Roshan snuffles and looks back at the screen.

ROSHAN

Just let me grieve.

Roshan glances over and sees Maya giving him a look.

ROSHAN

Don't judge me please. How was your date?

MAYA

Don't call it a date.

ROSHAN

How was your... dinner?

MAYA

Dinner was good! The guy was not.

Roshan sits up to give Maya more attention.

ROSHAN

Damn.

MAYA

I'm so sick of it. Every single one is either a frat bro douchebag or a spoiled mama's boy who's never had a unique thought in his life.

ROSHAN

And what kind of guy was this?

MAYA

The spoildest of spoiled mama's boys.

ROSHAN

It couldn't have been that bad could it?

MAYA

He went through a album of photos with his mom for 15 minutes.

Roshan raises his eyebrows.

ROSHAN

Oh no.

MAYA

And he called her in the middle of the date and made me speak to her.

Roshan widens his eyes.

ROSHAN

Oh no.

MAYA

And he asked me to blow on his soup because it was too hot...

Roshan puts his hands on his face.

ROSHAN

Oh NO.

MAYA

Yeah...

ROSHAN

I'm sorry. What is this, the 7th one?

MAYA

8th... I need some water.

Maya stands up and walks over to the sink to fill up a glass of water.

ROSHAN

Are you sure you're okay with all this? This whole arranged marriage thing?

MAYA

It's not really up to me is it? My mom calls me twice a day to tell me I'm too old and I need to get married and give her grandchildren.

Maya gestures to Roshan with the water jug.

MAYA

You want some?

ROSHAN

Yeah, thanks. And I get it. But still, how are you feeling about it?

Maya grabs a second glass and fills it up for Roshan.

MAYA

I don't know. I guess I'm not completely opposed to it, I'm just tired of meeting guys only to have it go nowhere.

Maya comes back to the couch and sits down. She hands the glass to Roshan who sits up and takes a sip.

MAYA

It's just so weird meeting someone for the first time when there's this expectation that you're gonna get married to them in probably just a couple of months if it goes well.

Roshan finishes her thought for her.

ROSHAN

It's like this weird pressure that isn't there on a normal date.

MAYA

Exactly! And yeah, most of the guys I've met with have sucked but even if they seem like decent people it's a little hard to figure out if you'd want to spend your life with them.

Roshan nods, taking in everything Maya is telling him.

ROSHAN

You know, my mom asked me to meet with her friend's daughter the other day.

MAYA

No way. Are you gonna go?

Roshan looks up and thinks, forming his words as a wave of emotions rush over him.

ROSHAN

I was with Tara for 8 years. I just went through so much with her, you know? Starting over with someone new just seems hopeless. And if things fell apart after being with her for so long, then who knows what anyone's chances of success are? But I don't know. My parents have been bringing it up more and more too. I don't know how else to begin at this point.

Roshan and Maya sit there in silence, reflecting on their love lives and relationships with their family.

Roshan suddenly stands up and puts his hands on his head.

Maya appears concerned and looks at him.

MAYA

Are you okay? What happened?

ROSHAN

Okay. Okay. Okay. I just had a crazy idea.

MAYA

You're scaring me.

ROSHAN

Wait, hear me out. We're both frustrated with this whole arranged marriage thing right?

MAYA

Sure, but-

ROSHAN

And the process of meeting new people is such a slog?

MAYA

Yeah, so?

ROSHAN

So...

Roshan flashes a satisfied grin at her.

ROSHAN

Let's marry each other.

Maya processes this ridiculous idea for a second.

MAYA

What??!!

ROSHAN

It makes total sense!

MAYA

Are you okay? Are you in love with me?

ROSHAN

NO! I mean... I love you, but like as a friend. But that's exactly my point. I've known you for what, 15 years? Anyone I meet now, there's not even a chance that I could know them as well as you. And I don't think you're going to find the love of your life from the peanut gallery your mom keeps setting you up with either. We already tell each other everything and we're best friends and we trust each other. We both work solid jobs so we'd be set financially. And, we're both attractive.

(beat)

What else do you need in a husband?

MAYA

I'm not sleeping with you Roshan.

ROSHAN

That's what you got out of that?

MAYA

I'm not marrying you either! Look, I know you're still getting over your breakup with Tara but this is ridiculous! Yeah my mom's being annoying but I can put up with her for a little longer.

ROSHAN

How much longer though? She's only going to get more desperate, and even if you do meet someone decent, it'll still mean you're marrying someone you barely know.

MAYA

Yeah, but-

ROSHAN

I'm just saying. If our parents are going to pressure us into an arranged marriage, isn't it better to do it with someone we trust?

Maya squints at him and thinks. She takes another sip of water.

MAYA

You're crazy.

ROSHAN

Do you really want to go on more dates with these-

MAYA

Shush. You're crazy. But.

(beat)

I think it makes sense.

Roshan grins. He can't believe Maya agrees with him.

ROSHAN

Yes.

Maya nods, slowly convincing herself this is a good idea.

MAYA

Yeah. Let's do it. But I have one condition.

ROSHAN

Yes?

Maya smiles mischievously.

MAYA

You have to propose to me.

ROSHAN

Didn't I just do that?

MAYA

No, like a real proposal.

ROSHAN

I don't have a ring.

MAYA

Roshan, please try not to ruin this moment.

ROSHAN

Okay, hold on.



Roshan looks around for something to propose with and settles on a plastic rose sitting on his bookshelf.

He gets down on one knee, clears his throat, and looks up at Maya.

ROSHAN

Maya, you absolutely beautiful  
badass and my literal best friend,  
will you marry me?

Maya puts her hand on her mouth with fake enthusiasm.

MAYA

Oh Roshan, my hero, yes, yes, a  
million times yes!

Maya takes the fake rose out of his hand and admires it.

Roshan stands up and hugs her. They both look at each other and start giggling.

ROSHAN

This is for real right?

MAYA

Yeah, I guess so.

ROSHAN

We should tell our parents.

Maya takes in a deep breath and laughs.

MAYA

They're gonna freak. I can't  
believe we're doing this.

ROSHAN

We should rip the band-aid off.

Maya hesitantly nods.

2. INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Roshan walks up to the window in his room and pulls out his phone.

3. INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Maya sits on the couch and pulls out her phone from her purse.

4. INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Roshan calls his father and the phone starts ringing.

ROSHAN'S DAD

Hello?

5. INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Maya takes a deep breath and dials her mom.

MAYA'S MOM

Hi Beta! How was dinner with Neelu  
Aunty's son?

6. INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

ROSHAN

So I have some news...

7. INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

MAYA

I need to tell you something.

8. INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

ROSHAN

You know my friend Maya?

9. INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

MAYA

Roshan and I...

10. INT. BEDROOM/LIVING ROOM

Split screen with Roshan and Maya.

TOGETHER

We're getting married.

CUT TO BLACK