

THE SIMPLICITY OF IT ALL...

WRITTEN BY - KIAN GODHWANI

FOR (IT'S A LONG LIST)

My mom, who underwent a caesarean to get me into this world. I've let her down countless times and yet she's loved me for who I am. With her whole heart.

My dad who always sacrifices his needs for mine, and who left his job, the day his son hugged him tightly when he came back from a long business trip.

My little sister, the best thing that happened to me and whom I love the most in this world. Hope you like the play, sis.

My grandparents (on both sides), who always forgave me when I forgot to call them, and showered me with their love, even though I took it for granted.

David sir, The MIC of junior school, who pushed me to take up my first audition in the seventh grade and for believing in me.

AK ma'am, who fought with everyone in school, just so that I could play Peter Pan. Who always encouraged me in whatever I did, whose door was always open for a cup of tea, who was the nicest person I ever met.

Ruchi ma'am, who gave me this opportunity and countless others, listening to each idea of mine, no matter how bad, no matter how busy her schedule, patiently. Who believed in me, even when someone else didn't.

Nandini, who always stood by my side, even though I messed up sometimes and for always seeing the good in me.

Raguel, my best friend no, my brother from another mother who always tells me whatever I write is great, even though he has to lie sometimes.

For me. I've come a long way.

SCENE -1

Kabir [who's walking with a dandelion in his hand]:

Oh, hi. I'm Kabir and for those of you looking at this dandelion and thinking that it's a great day to go crazy, no, I'm not mentally retarded. I just happen to like them. Now you must be convinced that this guy is an absolute nutter. I mean lilies, they're nice, but dandelions. Ew. But you see, I find this weed to be misunderstood and above all exceptionally beautiful, like us humans. Just like that weed, we grow practically everywhere, unwanted. But without anyone tending for us, we grow, and we become beautiful.

[Whispers] Especially me. But then suddenly we die, and the wind blows and carries the dandelion away. The most beautiful part. The dandelion is able to touch various places with its own essence. Just like our legacy.

[Blows the dandelion]. Ooh, that was sentimental. So today, since I have absolutely nothing to do in the afterlife, I thought why not tell you all a story since evidently you're jobless too. And I being a Good Samaritan, great obviously humble citizen, obviously, have decided to tell you a story about four dandelions and the wind...

[A normal house setting]

[A younger version of Kabir is running around the house, in only his undies. He's also wearing a pair of pink undies on his head]

Kabir's mom [Running behind him]:Kabir! Kabir! Oh you're so in for it. Veer! Veer! Come here.

[Enter Veer]

Veer: Yeah, honey. What's the matter?

Neeta - Look, Kabir's wearing your pink undie on his head.

[Older Kabir enters, everyone freezes]

Kabir - Right, in my family underwear is called undies. Why does my dad wear pink ones? Trust me, it's a national mystery.

Veer [Embarrassed] - Who's pink undie? I don't wear pink. Pfft. Pink it seems.

Kabir's mom [Thundering] - If you don't catch him right now Mr Mehta, then its karela sandwich for breakfast, karela curry for lunch and karela sabji for dinner.

[Her phone rings and speaks to the recipient in a very sweet voice] Hi Sushmita. Oh, I'm good. How are the kids? [She covers the mouth of the phone and stares at Veer whose mouth is open]. What are you looking at? Get to work.

Veer [muttering to himself, walking away] - Before marriage she used to be so nice. Sometimes I think that priest on the wedding day swapped my wife with a demon. Oy! Babi come here.

[Kunal enters]

Kunal - Dad! I told you my name is Kunal, not Babi, Kunal. K-u-n-al. Kunal. You only named me yaar, is it that hard?

[Kabir enters, scene freezes]

Kabir - That's my brother. He loved me with all his heart and still does.

Veer - Quit whining. Neeta look what our Babi has become, typical teenager. Now listen Kabir's running around the house with my pink... [Clears throat] I mean someone's pink underwear.

Kunal - Dad you wear pink underwear! [With an evil smile] I'm going to tell your brother...

Veer - Babi, I mean Kunal, you know how much I love you.

Kunal - Nope, not working.

Veer - How much?

Kunal- Ooh! Now we're talking.

Mom [thundering] - Both of you, get to work, otherwise... [Threatens to slap them]

[All three chase Kabir, who's running around the house and laughing. Suddenly he falls. Everyone stands still, worried he'll cry.]

[After a while... Kabir starts laughing]

[Kunal picks him up, swirls him around. Kabir starts laughing and giggling, he gives him a hug]

Kunal - Time for you bath, bud.

Kabir - No! [Hugs him tighter}

[Veer slyly picks up his pink underwear and stealthily tries to escape]

Kunal - Not so fast, Dad... 100rs

Veer - What?! So expensive. [Muttering to himself] Last time it was only, 50rs. I'll get him. [Gives the money reluctantly, Kunal snatches it from him]

[Kunal puts Kabir down]

Kunal - Who want's ice cream?

Kabir - Me, me, me! [He's jumping around frantically as if he's trying to snatch the money from his brother]

Kunal [Suddenly changing emotions] - Then go take a bath.

[Kabir dramatically stomps off sulking]

[Kabir and his mom exit the stage, Veer meanwhile has cozied up on the armchair and is reading something]

Veer - Ba... I mean Kunal. Next time, could you please give me a discount? I am your father after all no? I

pay for your fees, buy nice clothes, give you good food, and help in getting you girlfriends by being such a cool dad.

Kunal - Dad, all my girlfr... I mean all girls think you're my great grandfather. [Veer is shocked] Look at how you dress. Also, no discount.

Neeta - Veer! There's no soap! What are we beggars or something? Go get some soap!

Veer [sulkily gets up] - Sometimes I forget if I'm the father, or just the dog of this house.

[Suddenly]

Neeta [shrieking] - Veer! Kunal! Help! Help! Somebody help!

[Veer and Kunal run to the wings. The lights darken, curtains close, sound of ambulances echoes throughout the room. Kabir is being carried down the stage by paramedics on a stretcher. Kunal is holding his hand, tears in his eyes]

Kunal - You'll be alright buddy. I promise.

Kabir [softly] - Will we go out for ice cream, bhaiya?

Kunal [fighting tears] - Of course we will, how many ever you want, just get better.

Kabir - I love you, bhaiya.

Kunal [crying] - I love you, too.

[Veer is standing behind him, fighting tears, hugging his wife]

[A paramedic comes to Kunal who's holding Kabir's hand]

Paramedic - Sir we'll have to take him. You can't come, I'm sorry.

Kunal - What? No! No!

[A team of paramedics pull him behind, Kunal screams Kabir's name. He eventually gives up, hugs his parents and starts crying]

[Lights dim, one can hear Veer saying - Everything will be all right don't worry. Shhh.]

[Raguel will now play 'Jealous' by Labrinth and sing while the stage is set for the burial.]

End of Scene 1

SCENE 2

Kabir (older version enters) - I was diagnosed with leukaemia. But it was too late for chemo or anything else. I only had about 2 months to live. So before we go any further into this story, I'd like to tell you all, that I die, and that this story, it's not about me, it's about my family and the things we learnt along the way. Now from, you know, the first part of the story, we look like any other normal family. Mom looks

like a typical wife, who had complete control over the house, while dad's a typical dad with his ancient sense of fashion and loving nature, and Kunal just seems like a normal cranky teenager. Right? Well let's find out. [Now the stage will be divided into three parts, each part showing each of the characters. On the left you have a household setting where mom is seated. On the centre stage you have an office like setting where Veer is working. Finally on the right, there are a few desks and chairs facing a blackboard.]

[A spotlight shines on mom's side of the stage]

(Neeta is sitting on a sofa dressed neatly, and a woman looking very peculiar enters the stage. Her lips have a variety of lipstick colours like blue, pink, silver, gold etc. She is wearing a white frock and on top of that sports a jacket and a tie. She is wearing a different shoe on either leg]

[Her name is 'Confused', and she walks very strangely while her arms keep moving in a spastic like movement]

Confused (Who is walking towards the audience and suddenly notices them) - Oh, hi, I mean hello, no good morning should do. (To herself) No all three should do. Hi, hello and good morning. (She pauses and takes a minute to look at herself) Sorry about my attire, it's just that there are so many choices you know. [Starts rambling to herself] There were too many lipsticks all of them good, and the black suit looked good, but so did the white dress and there were like two pairs of

shoes and I just couldn't choose one. (She takes a deep breath and blows the air out of her mouth)
I'm confused. No like literally, my name is confused, like its how I'm known like...

Mom (cuts her short) - That's enough. Thank you Confused, I'll take it from here.

Confused - Why?

Mom - Because then you'd take forever to finish.
(Shoots her a death look)

[Confused walks off and starts messing with things in the house]

Mom - Most of you here, the dictionary and Google define the state of confusion as the inability to think or reason in a focused, clear manner. But no, it's so much more. I think, know, that confusion is a mixture of anger, joy sadness and fear, and we get lost in it, you know?

[Kabir walks into the room, his mom carries him and starts rocking him into sleep]

I'm happy because I have two beautiful kids and a loving husband. I'm sad because I took the decision to leave my job to care of my kids and I'm afraid to take that job again because I don't want to lose Kunal and Veer.

[She puts him in bed and he sleeps]

I'm also angry because I did all I can to take care of everyone in the family, but now Kabir is going to die and it will tear anyone apart. Just because I failed as a mother. I failed at everything.

[Neeta is overcome by tears and sinks to the floor with a box of tissues, a towel, and a wet wipe and just dumps it over her.]

Neeta (Still crying) - Why did you bring all this stuff?

Confused - I didn't know which one would be best to wipe all your tears.

[Mom starts sniffing and laughing, confused tries deciding a way to laugh]

Confused - Which one do you think was the best laugh? I mean all of them were quite spectacular.

Neeta - Would you just shut up for once?

[Lights dim, audience can hear confused]

Confused - Oh I'm so sorry, I mean my deepest regrets oh no no a thousand apologies.

Mom - Just get out of here!

[Lights come back on, and a spotlight is on the centre of the stage. There is an office type setting with dull colours. There's a desk where Veer is sitting. He's looking at a picture which is projected on a screen. The whole family, is making crazy poses while the backdrop is that of a beach.]

Veer [looks at it and chuckles] - We couldn't afford that trip to the beach so we went to a photo studio and just started messing around. Though those were hard times and we didn't have much, it was enough. But now...

[Veer's boss catches him doing nothing.]

Boss - Do I pay you for looking at pictures while office hours?

Veer [sinks his head down] - No sir. [Tries to apologise]

Boss - Just get back to it otherwise you're fired!
[His boss walks off and Veer starts frantically looking for a file, while some of his colleagues walk in]

Colleague 1 [Dropping some files on his desk] - Hey loser, you don't mind doing these for us, do you? It'll be better than looking at those pictures.

Veer - But...

[They laugh amongst themselves and walk off]

[Veer keeps looking for the file but he's not able to find it. He swipes some files off the table in frustration and puts his head off]

*Note - This scene must show that Veer is a nervous wreck. Anger is not the main element.

[A man smartly dressed, looking very handsome enters the stage. He walks with confidence and pride. Although he look so smart, he's dressed exactly the same as Veer. He approaches Veer. He is Acceptance]

Acceptance - Oh Veer, haven't seen you since your teenage years!

Veer [clearly not happy to see this person] - Not you again.

Acceptance [sudden change in emotion] - Look at you! Sloppily dressed, hair uncombed. Breath [pretends to smell his mouth] Ew! Fat and pudgy. Is this how I raised you? You used to be a winner, you know? Wanna know why? [Reiterates the point more aggressively] Ha, wanna know why?

Veer - [Innocently] Why? But you're also fat and you're wearing the same clothes as me.

Acceptance - Well that's the funny part. I love myself and I'm proud of who I am and I accept me for me and I love it cause let's face the facts I'm just amazing. Duh. Oh right. Where are my manners? Hi, I'm acceptance, and no it's no it's not something Veer is

missing out on. He used to be like me before you know. He accepted who he was and man did we make a great team. [Is nostalgic while saying this and after a pause for a few seconds, shoots Veer a dirty look] But then Kabir fell sick and all of a sudden he spiralled, blamed everything on himself. Now every time he looks in the mirror all that he sees are the shortcomings in himself. He fails to notice the brilliant things inside him. He's always seeing himself and the world but never truly looking. I guess most of us fail to do that huh? Well, I shouldn't get so preachy.

Acceptance [walks towards Veer] - Hang in there, bud.

[Lights dim. Kunal is dressed in full black wearing sunglasses. He has earphones on and the song "Watermelon Sugar" starts to play. Dancers wearing colourful outfits enter from the left and right wings. Suddenly from behind Kunal runs in and dances. In front of him, there will be two lines of girls, who Kunal will dance through and try to woo through his brilliant dancing and they'll fall for him. This whole dance must be similar to a Bollywood song. Once he reaches the end Kunal disappears and so do the girls who are his classmates. The dancers with the colourful dresses disperse and the audience sees Kunal dancing awkwardly and singing the song in a cacophonous manner. All the girls are giggling and Kunal notices them and stops. The song finishes. Some boys are mocking him. Satan pops up behind him]

Satan - You know you should just beat these guys up, smash their heads to a mirror and then...

Gabriel - Oh no! I wouldn't suggest that. If you have to woo the ladies, you have to be nice. Like a real gentleman.

Satan - I agree...

Gabriel [cuts him short] - Why thank you Satan. Never expected us to be on the same page.

Satan - I agree to disagree. Didn't let me finish my sentence. Smash his face Kunal.

[One of his friend drops his book]

Gabriel - See that Kunal pick that book up and give it to him.

Satan - Don't

[Scene freezes]

Kunal [To the angel and demon] - Just both of you keep quiet!

[Kunal points at the boy angrily, walks to him and while doing so removes his sunglasses.]

Kunal [slams a desk] - You want to laugh at me? You want to laugh at me?

[The boy gets scared and starts walking backwards. Kunal walks towards him menacingly... But picks up the book much to everyone's surprise and hands it to him]

[The boy starts smiling but Kunal smashes his head to the book. The boy's nose starts bleeding]

Kunal - Don't dare to laugh at me again. Understood?

[The boy nods vigorously]

Kunal - Here have a tissue.

[Boy takes it and Kunal walks away]

Satan and Gabriel [in unison] - Well played.

[A teacher enters the class. Students settle down. They wish him a Good Morning]

Gabriel [Very excitedly] - Good Morning Ma'am. You're looking dashing today.

Satan [sighs and shrugs] - You know only Kunal hears what we say right, cause we're in his mind.

Gabriel [grumpily] - You just want to suck the fun out of everything.

Satan [looks disapprovingly at Gabriel]

Teacher - Sit down students. (Excitedly) Since we finished the poem 'Ozymandias' yesterday, we have a surprise test today! Wooh! (Students groan) (Grumpily) It's an open book test with only one question. (Student's change expression.) The question is... "What opinion do you form of the statues after reading the poem Ozymandias?"

[Rustling of pages and scribbling of pens can be heard. Everyone seems to be putting an effort except Kunal who sits idly. The teacher is taking rounds when he sees Kunal blank.]

Teacher - Kunal, what's the matter? You haven't written anything in the past fifteen minutes even though it's an open book test.]

[Satan pops up]

Satan - It's time Kunal. It's time to destroy her entire career.

Kunal [angrily] - Well ma'am, as you taught us the poem states that statues just represent a man's hubris and man's ephemeral nature and how time ravages everything and we're insignificant to its course. But you know sir, I watched Frozen 2 and in that Anna and Elsa clearly state that statues symbolise love, which makes sense, right? So you tell me ma'am. You tell me.

Gabriel - You might want to soften the blow.

Kunal (nicely) - But ma'am I'd just like to put it out there that your class is amazing and you're my favourite teacher of all her time.

Gabriel [whispering loud enough so that everyone can hear] - Compliment her dress.

Kunal - Also by the way ma'am. Blue suits your complexion.

Teacher - Principal's office. Now!

Kunal, Gabriel and Satan [in unison] - What?! It isn't even 8:30 yet.

[Lights off, the whole stage is dark]

[Lights come back on. Veer, Neeta and Kabir enter the principal's office, where Kunal is already seated]

Principal - Mr and Mrs Mehta I understand that this must be a very trying time for your family. And believe me I can understand. Which is why I have decided that... [The principal speaks the next lines inaudible to the audience from this point onwards. Her hand movements and mouth movements make the audience feel like she's talking. She can also make some sounds.]

Veer - Psst. Kunal. Remove your sunglasses.

Kunal - What?! No dad I won't.

Veer - Neeta, tell Kunal to stop wearing his sunglasses.

Neeta - Why should I always be the strict parent? You tell him.

Veer [sighs, then physically tries to remove the sunglasses] - Just. Take. Them. Off.

Kunal [Holding the sunglasses to his head] - No! I won't!

Veer - Just give them to me.

Neeta - Come on Veer. Just pull it off.

Veer [His hands still on the rims of Kunal's sunglasses] - What does it look like I'm trying to do?

Principal [losing her temper] - Just stop it! I've had enough. The holidays are going to start in a week and I think it would be better that he takes a break from school. He can resume after the holidays. You may leave now. Thank you. [Gestures them out of the room]
[They exit the room. Doors of the principal office are closed.]

Neeta - You guys are just pathetic! If you can't behave properly in front of his principal what are we going to do tonight at the dinner with your dinner's family? I am fed up with all of you. [Pauses] Except Kabir. Come Kabir lets go home these two will figure out a way back home.

[Kabir walks off with to his mother happily.]

[Kunal and Veer in unison]

Kunal - Ma.

Veer - Neeta

[Kabir flashes his tongue at Kunal and Veer, and they exit the stage. Kunal and Veer to exit from the opposite direction]

Veer - Just remove your sunglasses now at least.

Kunal - Dad!

[Lights dim. Curtains close]

End of Scene 2

SCENE 3

[The setting is that of a restaurant, where the members of the school rock band can be performing slow pieces. There are a few tables on the stage with sheets laid over them. People are eating, waiters are moving around all giving the audience the sense that they're sitting in a real restaurant. At the centre table Kunal and his family sits with Veer's brother's family. Veer's brother's family are quite well dressed and must give the audience the feeling that they are quite elite. His wife however flaunts their wealth, a lot.]

Gabriel - Well well isn't it Babitha. Hey Satan! Look your favorite person. [Points at Babitha]

[Babitha at this time sees the waiter carrying a few appetisers. Preferably those thingies put on toothpicks. She puts it into her mouth, and spits it out saying "Disgusting" in the process]

Babitha (Sumeet's wife) - Neeta! [Goes to hugs her] Oh! [Is disgusted] Is that sweater from Decathlon? [Neeta nods] Disgusting. [Neeta nods]

[A waiter approaches them]

Waiter [To Babitha] - What would you like to drink ma'am?

Babitha - Give me an elderflower cordial, with a touch of lavender, some cinnamon and a pinch of Juniper berry.

Waiter - Ma'am, we only have soft drinks and fresh juice.

Babitha - Disgusting.

Waiter [To Veer] - Umm.

Kunal [abruptly] - I'll have a coke please. Kabir what will you have?

Kabir [quite loudly] - A whiskey on the rocks please!
[Everyone looks at him flabbergasted. Scene freezes.
Older Kabir enters]

Kabir - Ok, before you all judge me, let me explain. I watched a lot of Hollywood movies alright and I thought it was a cool way to order cola. Because let's face it, it looked like Coke with ice in the movies. Hey! Even geniuses make mistakes sometimes. Anyway back to the story.

[Older version exits]

Kunal - What?! Who taught you that? Kabir, you know drinking is a very bad habit and at your age! Man! Come on! [Looks at Veer and Neeta] We have failed as a family, as a brother, as a... [Kabir cuts him short]
Kabir - But Kunal, it basically means coke with ice no? I heard George Clooney ask for it in a movie? It was so cool so I just wanted to try it too.

Kunal [realising what happened] - You're right. Absolutely. [Laughs in relief] But it's just sometimes that the waiter might misinterpret it. But you know what I got you. [Clears his throat] [To the waiter] Please scrap that whiskey and get us two cokes please.

Kabir [loudly] - One on the rocks! [Sinks in his chair in satisfaction}

Kunal - And one with ice.

The waiter [Bewildered by what just happened] - Sure sir. [Gestures to Neeta] And what about you ma'am?

Neeta - I think I'll have a cranberry juice. [To herself] - No that's too sweet. [To the waiter] - An orange juice please. [To herself] No too acidic. Ooh! How about both.

Confused [Tries to grin but is confused as to what grin she must use] - Ah! I see you're learning.

Neeta - I'll have a cranberry juice mixed with orange juice.

Waiter [Still quite bewildered] - Sure ma'am. And you sir?

Acceptance [To Veer] - Take the double decker chocolate milkshake, I've heard it's amazing.

Veer [Loudly] - No! Have you seen my [shows his belly].
[Everyone looks at him confused]

Neeta - Veer who are you talking to?

Veer - Oh, no one. Just myself. I'll have a cucumber juice please.

Acceptance [Sighs, disappointed] - To think I had hopes on you!

[The waiter takes everyone else's order and then leaves]

Veer [To Neeta] - Cranberry juice with orange juice eh? Are you sure honey, it may not be that appetising.

Neeta - What's your issue Veer?

Veer - But...

Neeta [cutting him short] - So I can't choose what to drink without your opinion. I am sick of this.

Veer - Oh you know what? I'm sick of you Neeta. Every single time I take to you all I feel is spite. I understand you're angry at me for many reasons. I know

I failed as a husband and I'm a loser at work and Kabir is going to leave us soon. Please just try to understand me...

Neeta [cuts him short and frustrated] - Understand you! [Loudly] I went through a caesarean to bring Kabir into this world, left my job to take care of the boys and [breaking down] now Kabir is going to go. Understand me, Veer! Understand me!

Veer [angry] - Well maybe! I would have understood you if you weren't confused all the time.

Confused [Who's standing by Veer] - Yeah! Wait what?!

Neeta - Oh shut up! I married a confident man who is now so afraid to face himself in the mirror. And why? Because he thinks, he failed his children but in fact he has failed his whole family.

Veer [Tears in his eyes] - You think I don't know that?

Neeta - No! Because if you accepted the truth you would have done something about it Veer! Like the Veer I married.

Acceptance - You heard the lady.

Acceptance and Confused [in unison] - You know what I think would help...

Veer and Neeta [in unison, to their respective alter egos] -Just shut up!

Kunal [coolly] - You guys do realise that, you're fighting over cranberry juice mixed with orange juice.
[?]

Veer - Just be quite Kunal. This is all your fault.

Kunal - What?! How?! I just ordered a coke.

Veer - If you had behaved yourself in school, listened to me and removed those stupid sunglasses the whole day would have gone smoothly.

Kunal [removes his sunglasses, Satan walks towards Kunal, who is intercepted by Gabriel]

Kunal - Do you know why I wear these sunglasses?
Because sometimes I just cry, and I can't stop myself.
And if people see me, they judge me, and...
[Someone from one of the tables, laughs at them since they're fighting over a juice. Kunal hears it]

Kunal - What did you just say? [He gets up and goes to attack him, bangs the table with his palm, screaming "Ay!"]

Neeta - Oh Veer, do something!

Babitha - Disgusting.

Neeta - Oh shut up, Babitha.

Veer [Talking to his brother] - Sumeet. Just stop him!
[Sumeet almost lifts him.]

Veer [At the top of his voice] - Kunal! Just stop it!
What's wrong with you!?

Neeta - Don't you dare shout at my son like that!

[Now all the characters are on stage. It is unclear
what anyone is trying to say]

Satan [Raises a toast to Kunal] - You've made me proud.

Gabriel - Oh no! Satan what have you done?

Acceptance - Hey, why did you scream at me Confused? I
was only trying to help us, you know?

Confused - I was trying to see if a loud voice suits
me. It does Or does it?

Acceptance - Oh give me a break.

Veer - What did I do wrong?

Neeta - You're seriously asking me that question?

[Kunal is standing still. Scene freezes. He looks at
everyone and suddenly runs towards Satan]

Kunal [Jumping on Satan and pinning him to the floor] -
Saataaaaan!!

[Satan is pulled from his reach. He waves at Kunal
mockingly and is pulled away from the stage. A faint
crying sound can be heard. Lights black out for just

two seconds, crying intensifies. Only the family remains. Kabir is crying. Everyone stops crying.]

[Kunal rushes to him and carries him up.]

Kunal - What's the matter, Kabir? Are you okay?

Kabir - No, I'm not okay. All of you are fighting because of me and after I die mom and dad will divorce each other, and you'll be alone and so sad, because of me. It's no one's fault that I have leukaemia, and it's no one's fault that I'm going to die. You know, you can't control things like this. But ruining all of your lives, because of this, is all your fault. [Looks accusingly at all of them] I wish we all can enjoy the time we have together, rather than worrying about when I won't be there. I wish we could all just be happy.

[Emphasises on happy]

[Waiter comes in]

Waiter - Sir, you're disturbing our other customers. I'm afraid you'll have to leave.

[The family walks out. A sad song will be played by the band in the restaurant as the lights dim, curtain closes]

End of scene 3

SCENE 4

[There's nothing on the stage except a bunch of dandelions. The family is walking back home, and everyone can see that they are angry at each other. Kabir sees the dandelion, and runs towards it, curious about its smell. He sneezes and starts laughing seeing the small petals fly away. It is the most beautiful laugh. He picks another dandelion, and blows at it. He starts chasing the petals, laughing. The whole family has been joined by their respective personalities.]

Satan [amused and wide eyed] - Is that what they call joy?

Gabriel, Acceptance and Confused [Looking at Kabir and in unison] - Yup.

Confused - So cute.

Gabriel and Acceptance [still looking at Kabir and in unison] - Very.

Satan - Just a bit.

[Kunal carries Kabir, swirls him around, Kabir starts laughing even harder. Soon, Kunal and Gabriel laugh

too. Satan is smiling. Kunal sets him down. Both look at each other.]

Kunal - Kabir, you thinking what I'm thinking.

Kabir - Dad you're it!

[Both run away from him. Veer chases them for 2 seconds and runs out of breath. He starts limping.]

Veer [pretending to be in pain] - Neeta! Neeta! I think I twisted my ankle.

Neeta [Running towards him] - Oh my God!

[She sits beside him. Veer starts to get up. Veer tags her and runs away]

Veer - Ha-ha! Fell for it.

Neeta - You'll pay for this. Kabir! Who's mama's favourite boy?

Kabir [Jumping] - Me! Me! Me!

Neeta - Yes.

Kunal - Ouch

Neeta - And who will catch daddy for me?

Kabir - Me! Me! Me!

[Kabir takes the tag from her and starts chasing Veer. Kunal blocks Veer. Kunal and Kabir surround him ready to go for the kill. Suddenly...]

Veer - Hey Kunal! Isn't that girl Supriya, the one from your class?

Kunal [Turns around] - Supriya! [Veer escapes] Oh no! [Kabir eventually captures Veer, and starts to chase Neeta. Veer and Neeta reach the centre back of the stage. Veer trips himself falls, and pretends to be in agony. Neeta rushes to him again.]

Veer [screaming in pain] - Ouch! Ah!

[Neeta rushes to him without doubt, showing her caring nature.]

Neeta - Veer! Are you okay? What happened?

Veer [With a smug smile] - Nothing. It's just my love for you hurts. [Pauses for effect and winks.] A lot.

Neeta [Snaps] - Eh! [Changes expression] So cute.

[Veer and Neeta look at each other lost in their gaze]
Kunal and Kabir [In unison] - Ew!

[Kabir is now just goofing around. Kunal is pacing around the stage in his quest for Supriya. Veer and Neeta, are sitting towards the back.]

Kunal - Dad! Remember the girl you were talking about.
I don't see her anywhere.

Veer - Oh! She's there, right there!

[Kunal looks for her turning his back to the audience and has drawn their attention. Kabir, collapses to the ground. Kunal is the first to see and rushes towards him.]

[Kunal drops to the floor, and places Kabir on his lap]

Kunal - Kabir! Kabir! Help! Help! Somebody please help!

[Starts rocking him, crying uncontrollably. Kabir wakes up]

Kabir [Softly and calmly] - Kunal, I'm not feeling that well.

[Veer and Neeta rush towards them, and sit on the floor next to Kabir]

Kunal - No! No! You're going to be alright! You're going to be alright.

Kabir - Kunal, It's time. There's a letter in my pocket. Read it.

Kunal [Opens and reads it] - Kabir, it's blank.

Kabir - Adds effect. Kunal, I don't want to be cremated. I want to be buried in a coffin, a pink one.

Man that would be so cool, just like the movies. Also, no mourning. I want my funeral to be happy and upbeat, just like me. Play a few cool songs, dance and enjoy just like how you did with me. I'll always watch over you. I love you all so, so much.

[Kunal starts crying]

Kunal - No! No! It's too early, Kabir. You were supposed to stay here with me. You were supposed to pester me for that ice cream. You were supposed to run around the house, laughing. You were supposed to grow up and have girlfriends. You deserved to live more, to be happy, because you're the most selfless and brilliant boy I've known. I'm sorry, Kabir for all those days I was angry at you, or those days I'd be on my phone rather than with you. I just want you to know, Kabir, and I know I haven't said it enough, but I love you and you're the best thing to have ever happened to me. You're a great kid. [He's crying]

Neeta - Mama, loves you Kabir. With her whole heart, always.

Veer - We all love you Kabir. [holds his hand] Thank you. You're a great kid.

Kabir - I love all of you so so much and I'll always be there with you. Always.

[Kabir closes his eyes the whole family hugs . Curtain closes.]

['High hopes' by Kodakone is sung by a duet.]

End of Scene 4

SCENE 5

[Curtains open. Everyone is dressed in black (including their personalities). A pink coffin is in the centre of the stage. Mourners are gathered around the coffin behind which a small podium of sorts has been set up. There's a priest muttering some prayers. He finishes and blesses the coffin.]

Priest - Kunal would like to say something.

Kunal [Approaches the podium, wearing sunglasses.] - I'll keep this short, because long speeches are really sad, and my whole family and I promised Kabir, his funeral would be really upbeat. I'd like to tell you all, that he didn't want it to be upbeat, to lift our spirits. He knows that we'll be sad and hurt forever. But he also knew that this funeral is the last time anyone will have the courage to see him, truly, again. And Kabir was, [corrects himself] is, everything good and brings out the best in those around him. So what better way to bring out the best in everyone, other than dance and music?

[Kunal walks down to the coffin]

Kunal - Just like the movies, huh?

[Kunal removes his sunglasses and places them on Kabir's coffin. Takes out his phone and plays the song,

"Come on Eileen". Everyone dances sadly at first, including Kunal, but are soon encouraged by seeing Veer and Neeta, dancing a brilliant duet, half laughing, half crying. Satan, Gabriel and Kunal can be seen dancing together. Acceptance talks to Confused]

Acceptance - You don't look very chaotic today,
Confused.

Hope - Oh. That was the old me. I'm not Confused anymore.

Acceptance - Then who are you?

Hope - Oh. I'm Hope.

[Acceptance offers his hand to hope, she joins him]

[They dance, the song finishes. Curtains close]

End of Scene 5

SCENE 6

[Older Kabir enters]

Kabir - So, what is happiness? All of us want it don't we. Well, I'll tell you. Happiness is sadness. We can't feel so high if we haven't felt that low right. And just like sadness, happiness never lingers around for a long time. [Pauses for effect] But hey. That's not all.

Happiness is sometimes a leap of faith. [Gesturing towards the left of the stage]

[The lights shine on the left part of the stage. Neeta is being interviewed for her old job]

Interviewer - Do you think you're ready for this job again, Neeta?

Neeta - I'm not really sure sir, to be honest. But I do know that I will give my best to this job and hopefully someday I will know if I'm ready.

[She gets up, leaves and on the way she high fives hope.]

[Lights dim and now the focus is on the centre of the stage.]

Older Kabir - Happiness is acceptance.

[Veer is working, as usual. The same people in scene 2 drop some files on his desk. Kunal is standing behind.]

Colleague - Hey loser! Finish this up for us, will you?

Veer [getting up] - My name is Veer and I'm fat and I wear pink underwear but I'm not a loser! [Dramatically throws the file of his desk.] Finish it up yourself.

Older Kabir [scene freezes] - Not that extreme. But you get the point. [Pauses]. It's also about accepting and enjoying the little things around you.

Veer - Kunal, look! I got you sunglasses.

Kunal [sees them] - Ew dad! I'll never wear pink sunglasses. [Veer is heartbroken]

Kunal - But you know what.

[Makes Veer wear them, then puts on his own sunglasses]

Kunal - Perfect.

Veer (with swagger) - Have a great day... Dude

Kunal (Walks off) - I don't know who you are.

Veer - You do. I'm Veer. Veer Mehta. [Takes off the pink sunglasses very coolly]

[Both of them laugh]

[Lights follow Kunal to the right side of the stage where a classroom scene is set]

Older Kabir [Scene freezes] - Happiness, is about living with yourself.

[Kunal walks to his class listening to the song, "Oogum Boogum" by Brenton Wood. He starts dancing to it and Satan and Gabriel join in too. He sees everyone looking at him, laughs and continues to dance like a madman. He then puts his arms around Satan and Gabriel, and walks off. The song fades. Kunal exits]

Older Kabir - Finally. Never look for happiness. Look around you. Look at what you have not what you don't because trust me, everyone's missing out on something. But if you truly look, and notice what's right in front of you, you'll feel loved, accepted, hopeful, and sad and if that isn't happiness. I don't know what is. That. That my friends, is The Simplicity of it All.

[Lights come back on the centre of the stage where Veer is working. From the left wing, Kunal enters and walks towards him. Neeta also approaches him from the right wing.]

Kunal - Hey dad, let's meet Kabir today.

[Starts walking off]

Veer - What was the point of asking me?

[They walk backs facing the audience. A spotlight on them.]

Neeta - Veer, you're looking so smart today.

Veer [Bumps her shoulder] - I always look smart.

Neeta [laughing] - You're so funny.

Kunal [sighs] - These guys and their romance.

[Kunal walks between his mom and dad and hold their hands. They walk off the stage. Lights dim. The song "Oogum Boogum" plays a bit loudly, and the curtains close]

THE END

(If you'd like to use this script, contact Kian at
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