

# The Mask That We Put On

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*A play about how different people show their different faces in front of others as compared to how they may be or what they may have experienced in real life.*

Disclaimer: The events of this script are entirely fictional. The resemblance of any event or character is entirely coincidental. The names of the character are inspired from real life celebrities because of their popularity at the time of writing this play by the writer and that alone. Do not read too much into the lines. Just read the script as it was meant to be.

**Act I**  
**Scene 1**

[It is a studio room with a sofa and a couch facing each other and the camera (which is not there but somewhere in the audience) with a table in between and on the sofa a person is seated with flash cards in his hand for the interview]

*Interviewer:* Hello Everybody. I am your host, Jimmy Fallon on the same old show on that very same network. We have known a lot of things about the various actors in the film industry but our guest tonight is somewhat a mystery. He has worked tremendously in his debut movie, "The River", where he plays the lead. His work has put him on the list for an Oscar Nomination. Please put your hands together for Rosario Dawson.

(Rosario walks in with an applauding sound in the audience, shakes hands with Jimmy Fallon and takes a seat on the empty couch.)

*Rosario D:* Thank you for having me here. It's a huge honor.

*Jimmy F:* You are most welcome. So, to start off with ease, tell us about yourself. Where are you from? How does it feel like to be in this industry?

*Rosario D:* Well! My name is Rosario Dawson. I'm the son of two Immigrants in this Country, both from different parts of the world, met here and got married and pop came me within two years and 27 years later, I'm sitting in front of you, feeling amazing.

*Jimmy F:* [laughs] Wow! That's putting something in a nutshell. Tell us something about your family. How was it like to grow up in a mixed family?

*Rosario D:* It was like growing up in any other family in America. We had ups. We had downs. We had a lot of love.

[Scene ends]

**Scene 2**

[In a small one bedroom studio apartment with one wall separating the kitchen from the bedroom. Two kids of ages 9 and 6 in the room with the mother cooking in the kitchen and the father sitting by the 9-year-old on the bed. The 9-year-old is sick with fever and has a cold bandage on his head]

*Mother:* You kids need to start eating properly. You are sick because you don't eat your greens.

*Father:* Your mother is right. You better start eating your greens young man. [looks at the younger kid] especially you, Robby.

*Robby:* But... but... ummm, okay.

*Rosario D:* Don't worry, Pa. I'll be well and good in no time. I have to be. I have to be the king in the class play or else they will make someone else the king.

*Father:* They can't replace you. You are the best.

*Robby:* Yes, Pa. He makes those funny sounds too. I fall down laughing.

*Mother:* You better eat your food now. I'll be there in a minute.

*Father:* [brings out a mat from the kitchen and lays it on bed] Sit up straight kids and don't spill anything. Your mother already does 2 jobs, you don't want to give her more work to do.

*Mother:* [brings the food in the bedroom and keeps it on the bed] Your Father is the one who does that, he just doesn't want to add it to his work so he uses my name. Don't worry, this won't be a problem once we have enough money to get a table so we won't have to eat on the bed.

*Rosario:* Even if we get the table, there isn't enough room.

*Father:* Then we'll get one that fits and we'll eat one by one.

[Everyone laughs and light fades]  
[Scene ends]

## **Act II**

### **Scene 1**

[The same scenario as the Scene 1 Act 1. Jimmy Fallon is seated in his seat and Rosario Dawson is seated opposite him]

*Jimmy F:* Welcome back to the show, before the commercials we were talking to Rosario Dawson, the lead for the movie "The River" and now, joining him will be his costar, who has previously been on this show on multiple occasions. Please put your hands together for Demi Lovato.

[Demi Lovato walks to the stage. Both of the men stand up and welcome her on. There is applause in the background. They hug her and she sits on the couch next to Rosario.]

*Demi:* Thank you for having me again.

*Jimmy F:* Thank you for coming. Last time you were here, you said you weren't going to come back.

*Demi:* That's because I was kind of embarrassed with my answers. I came back because you promised me you won't ask any questions which will make me say anything that I would regret.

[Everyone chuckles]

*Jimmy F:* So, let's get started. How was it like for the both of you to work on this movie?

*Demi:* It was a very different experience from what I have done in the past. I have mostly done family friendly or teen movies but this was totally different which had a lot of serious issues and throws a light on them.

*Jimmy F:* Well, aren't you growing? What about you Rosario?

*Rosario D:* I come from theatre. There are no retakes once you are on stage. If you make a mistake, you do something to turn it around and bring it back on track, which helped me a lot during the shooting. It has helped me a lot.

*Jimmy F:* Theatre does produce some of the finest actors of the industry. Moreover, I even heard that you donated some of your earnings from the movie to different charities. Tell us more about that.

*Rosario D:* I donated some money to the theatre where I first performed. It was there I got the courage and learnt the ability to act. It had given me so much. It was time for me to give something back.

*Jimmy F:* Wow! That is so humble of you. Demi?

*Demi:* I donated the money to St. Marie's Deaddiction center. They are a deaddiction and rehabilitation center primarily for the youth who have wandered on the wrong path and they help them get back on their feet and make right choices in life. I chose this charity because I have battled with these problems myself and I want to help others like me who are headed this wrong path.

*Jimmy F:* That is something phenomenal. I wish you both good luck for your charities and good luck for your movie. Demi Lovato and Rosario Dawson, everybody.

[they all stand up and there is an applauding sound. Scene ends]

### Act III

#### Scene 1

[In the dressing room, Demi is seated in front of her vanity mirror doing her makeup. Her manager is pacing back and forth behind her.]

*Demi*: Can you stop doing that Racheal? It's kind of bugging me watching you pace like that.

*Racheal*: [stops pacing] I can't help it, the interview you did with Jimmy wasn't so good. You shouldn't just say anything about others. Just be diplomatic when they ask you such questions.

*Demi*: What's done is done. Can we not talk about this? Please. Plus, I'm stressed. Can you get me some coke?

*Racheal*: Do you want some ice with that?

*Demi*: Not Coca-Cola. Blow. Cocaine.

*Racheal*: You shouldn't. It won't look good for your image if a paparazzi got a glimpse of you doing it.

*Demi*: Nothing is going to happen. I will be okay by the time I show my face anywhere.

[Racheal hands her a small packet with white powder in it.]

*Racheal*: By the way, there is an offer for you. It's not on the table yet, but I can get it for you. It's the adaptation of the book called "The River" and it will be the perfect opportunity for you to turn around your image. They are looking for someone from the theatre for the lead actor but you fit right for the lead actress. I can even ask them to get you a song deal for the movie. What say?

*Demi*: [Snorts a line of the white powder and starts rubbing her nose] Sounds good. How much money can you get me?

*Racheal*: I can try for something up to one mil but you should donate some of it to some charity. Lots of celebrities do it. Works good for the image.

*Demi*: Yeah. Sounds fantastic. Why don't we... [Falls on the vanity table and faints]

*Racheal*: DEMII!! DEMII!! SOMEONE CALL 9-1-1. CALL 9-1-1!!

[Scene ends.]

#### Scene 2

[Auditions are going on. Rosario is waiting with his old theatre producer. People are acting in the next room auditioning for the movie. The sounds in the auditioning room are inaudible.]

*Producer:* Don't worry Rosario, I'm sure you'll get your big break tonight.

*Rosario D:* No, Frank. I already got my big break. You gave it to me. Your production of Hamlet was the big break I needed. You selected me then. I have been able to work because of you.

*Frank:* Well, once you land this role, at least one of us will be working.

*Rosario D:* What does that mean?

[Someone walks out of the auditioning room and calls out the next person.]

*Announcer:* Richard Miller? Come in. You're next.

[Announcer goes back in and Richard stands up and follows him.]

*Frank:* They are closing the theatre down. We haven't made any money since a while and are falling short of few payments. If it keeps on going like that, we have 9 months give or take.

*Rosario D:* Why didn't you tell me before? We can come up with something. I can help you out. Not a lot but I can try.

*Frank:* It's not your burden to bear, kid. It's on me. Plus, in no time, you'll be the face on the poster and won't even remember me.

*Rosario D:* That is not true. You gave me everything. You taught me how to act. I don't believe in God but that theatre is my church. I promise you, once I get this movie, I'll help you save the theatre from my paycheck. Even if I don't get it, I'll put in a fight to save my church.

*Announcer:* [comes back] Rosario Dawson, come on in.  
[Scene end]

*The End.*