

SAMSKARA

A Play in One Act

by

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Cast of Characters

Linda Hartanto:

A 56 years old woman; wife of Rudi Hartono, the owner of a big cigarette company in Indonesia—PT Lotus Emas; mother of Veronica, Alan, and Valery Hartanto. Emotional and talkative. Fashionable.

Alan Hartanto:

A 22 years old man; an undergraduate medical student. Aspired to be a pulmonologist. Second child of Rudi and Linda Hartanto. Intelligent, hard working, and highly idealistic.

Veronica Hartanto:

A 24 years old girl; Alan's elder sister. Fun and loud. Smart, but spoiled and immature. A beauty vlogger currently residing in Los Angeles.

Valentine Hartanto:

Last child of Rudi and Linda Hartanto. A 4 years old girl; suffering Tetralogy of Fallot—a congenital heart disease. Cannot walk normally due to her illness. Uses the wheelchair all the time. Sweet, kind and cheerful.

Eddy Hartanto:

A 60 years old man; Rudi Hartanto's younger brother. Rudi's right hand man in the company. Greedy, cunning, ambitious.

Scene

The Hartanto's residence and office in Surabaya.

Time

The present.

Scene 1

SETTING: We are inside The Hartanto's living room. There is a dark green sofa set and a coffee table. Backstage left is a Buddhist praying table with some incenses and a big photograph of a middle-aged man on it. Everything looks old, but luxurious. There are two huge doors; one at backstage right and one at downstage left.

AT RISE: LINDA HARTANTO is sitting on the sofa, waiting for somebody. She is wearing a black dress. ALAN HARTANTO enters the room from the backstage door, walking in a hurry to the downstage door; ignoring his mother. He is hauling a big backpack.

LINDA
Lan! Where are you going? I have been waiting for you!

ALAN
I cannot talk to you now, Ma. I am sorry, I am late!

LINDA
You promised to come and talk with me before you leave!

ALAN
Ma, look. I love spending quality time with you, but now I am late! I have to catch the 5 PM flight. Call me later, okay?
(Reaching the door.)

LINDA
(Rises.)
No, Lan. There is something I need to tell you now. Please sit down for a moment.

ALAN
(Glances at his watch.)
What's happening? Somebody suddenly dropped dead again?

LINDA

Hush! Watch your mouth, young man! No, no one drops dead. Also your Papa did not drop dead. He left in peace in his sleep!

ALAN

Then what? I am running out of time!

LINDA

Just forget that flight! I will buy you another one lat—
Umm, just forget it! Now sit here.

(Pats an armchair next to her.)

ALAN

It's not the money, Ma! My schedule! I have to go back to Bali tonight. My KOAS practice starts tomorrow! The last step for me to graduate from med school!

LINDA

(Grabs Alan's arm, forces him to sit.)

Alan, my darling son. Our family's company is currently not in a good condition, especially because of Papa's sudden death last week.

ALAN

(Sits.)

Well, Ma, it won't last long. Once we can adapt with the new situation, everything will go on well again. Don't worry!

(Arises. Looking at his watch.)

Now, let me go. I still can catch the flight!

LINDA

No, stay on your seat, I am not done yet!

ALAN

What again, Ma? I am tired. I have no associations with all of these anyway.

LINDA

Oh, Alan, do you know that there is a possibility that *Suk Eddy* will be the next CEO of our company to replace your Papa?

ALAN

Well, no, but I think he is suitable for it. He was always been Papa's right hand man, right?

(beat.)

He has poured blood and tears to build the company, which is a shame! Why would somebody pour blood and tears for a cigarette company! A company that has ruined billions lives!

LINDA

Suitable for it! That bloody leech! Do you know he had taken over 25% of the company share from us? It's only about time before he kicks us out of the business completely!

ALAN

No, *lah*, Ma, he won't do that! What makes you think of him like that? Besides, I don't care if we are being kicked out of this evil business.

LINDA

Evil business you said!

(Turning towards the big
photograph on the praying table.)

Ko Rudi! *Cilakak, ini!* Your one and only son betrays you and your business! I had told you before not to let him getting into that doctor school!

(beat.)

Look at us now! We are going to be bankrupt and homeless!

(Walks towards the table,
kneeling.)

You know I married you to save my family from bankruptcy, although I was in love with another man at that time, right, Ko? But, all of my sacrifice is in vain now! I am going to be poor again!

ALAN

(Confused. Follows LINDA.)

Ma? Are you alright? What's actually going on here?

LINDA

Your *Suk Eddy* is a snake, Lan. I believe he is the one who influenced your Papa in writing his will.

ALAN

(Kneels down beside LINDA.)

The will? What exactly does the will say?

LINDA

Your papa gives 25% of the company share to Eddy and if within the first 40 days after his death none of his children want to replace him, he will give 100% of the share to Eddy. 100%! None left for his wife and children, do you believe that, Lan?

ALAN

Wait, are you trying to ask me to be the CEO of the company, Ma? The freaking CIGARETTE company?!

LINDA

Yes, son. Please, do some favor to me and your sisters! Surely you don't have the heart to see us being homeless, do you?

ALAN

No, Ma! I am a medical student and I am going to be a pulmonologist! A freaking pulmonologist, Ma! Can you see the irony here, Ma? It's been bad enough for me to be 'the son of Lotus Emas that big cigarette company' and now you are asking me to be the head of it!

(beat.)

I am going to produce drugs to cure lung cancer with my professor for my KOAS. I will be the sales manager to socialize the drugs, and if I can perform well in this KOAS, Udayana will offer me a scholarship to continue this project in my master degree. That's why this KOAS is very important to me. I am leaving now.

(Rises. Walks towards the door.)

Also, why don't you ask Cece, instead? She is a UCLA economic graduate!

LINDA

(Chases ALAN. Gets to the door faster and blocks it.)

You know she cannot, Lan!

ALAN

(Tries to shove LINDA.)

Why not, Ma? Because she is a girl?

LINDA

(Still blocking the door.)

Not only that! I mean yes, it's one of my reasons, but even if she were a big man, nobody in his right mind would trust the company to her! You know your cece, Lan. She will turn the office into a disco hall!

ALAN

(Steps backward.)

Then, what makes you think I am suitable for it? I am a doctor, Ma! A doctor! Maybe it's about time for our family to quit this business. It brings us bad karma, Ma.

LINDA

What do you mean?

ALAN

Well, look at us, Ma. First, Valentine was born with TOF. A heart with not only one defect, but four! Fou-

LINDA

It was because I inhaled too much cigarette smoke at that time!

ALAN

Yeah, and what caused Papa's death? Lung cancer. How could he get that disease? Cigarette! Do you think it's a coincidence that all the bad things in our family are caused by cigarette?

LINDA

Oh, Alan, but—

ALAN

Stop denying it, Ma. Deep in your heart you know that it's true. We've been killing too many lives the universe demands justice.

LINDA

But, Alan, this is our family business. We will die without it! We know no other ways to make a living!

ALAN

It's not true! Cece already works as a beauty vlogger at the States and she makes quite a fortune. And I myself will graduate in near time. I can work as a general practitioner while continuing my study. We still can live without the cig company.

LINDA

Haduh, you are smart but so naïve, Lan. How much do you think a young doctor working in a small town can make in a month? Do you think it's enough? Obviously, not! Even if you combine it with Vero's income, it is still not enough! Especially, with your *meme* here. She *INHALES* money, Lan! Her medicines and operations cost billions!

(Starts to sob.)

Also, I haven't even mentioned to you about the debt!

ALAN

What debt?

LINDA

Your Papa left us with a cruel will and a mountain of debt! Apparently, he loaned an unimaginable sum of money from *Suk Eddy* when they were gambling in a casino in Hong Kong last year.

(beat.)

And guess what? Your generous *Suk Eddy* still wants us to pay it back now. If we're being kicked out of the company and

still have to pay back the debt, we'll have to sell this house and maybe all of our belongings!

(Cries louder.)

And your *meme*.

(beat.)

My dear Valentine! She will die soon! At a very young age! Oh, poor little soul! We couldn't even afford all of her usual therapies now because of that cursed debt! Now you know why I cried that hard in your Papa's funeral!

ALAN

What! Have you tried to talk to *Suk Eddy* about this? I believe we still can negotiate with him.

LINDA

Do you think your Mama is that stupid? Of course, I did! But he won't give in! He wants us to pay it back within this year, if we cannot he will apply 0.5% interest for the following years. What a heartless bastard!

ALAN

Gosh, I didn't know *Suk Eddy* is that cruel. Then, how about Valentine? Is she okay? I notice her lips are turning bluish again these days.

LINDA

I don't know, Lan. I don't know. She had fainted several times this week before you came home. I was horrified. That's why I beg you so much to do this. Please, do it for Val, Lan.

ALAN

Ma, I have to think about this for some time. This is hard for me. You know I love our family. You know how much I love Val, Ma. But, this is also about my career, my dreams.

LINDA

I know. You have the right to take your time, but please remember that we don't have a lot of time left, Lan.

(LINDA hugs ALAN and exits
through the backstage door.)

ALAN

(Sits on the sofa. Stares
blankly at the audience.)

(BLACK OUT)

(END OF SCENE)

Scene 2

SETTING: In the Hartanto's office.
There are two desk and
several chairs. Papers are
scattered on the table.

AT RISE: ALAN and LINDA HARTANTO are
sitting face to face to EDDY
HARTANTO. ALAN and LINDA look
tired and crumpled. EDDY is
all fresh and neat, he is
lighting a cigarette.

EDDY
You want one, Lan?

ALAN
(grimaces.)
No, thanks, Suk. I don't smoke.

EDDY
(Inhales cigarette.)
Oh, yes, I forgot that you are a doctor wannabe. Rudi's only
son just refused my cigarette. Oh, my, the Universe must be
playing jokes on us.
(Laughs vigorously.)

LINDA
Ed, I come here to talk about something urgent.

EDDY
(Suppresses laughter.)
Oh, right, why do you want to meet me? Is it about Rudi's
debt?

LINDA
Valentine got into the ICU again last night. Her condition
was so bad. We rushed here right from the hospital.

EDDY
Oh, I am sorry to hear that!
(beat.)
But, what I've got to do with this information?

LINDA
(Sobs.)