



# THE PHOTOGRAPH RULE

A Emotional Drama 2-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by  
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**LOGLINE:** Aarav asks Neha to take one final photograph for a family ritual, but she refuses to include a certain empty chair in the frame. As they argue, the truth emerges: the photo is not for the living, but for the daughter Aarav never told anyone he lost.

**CAST / CHARACTERS:** FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) | Character 1: Aarav (40)

**LOCATION:** A quiet dining room converted into a temporary photo corner, lit by window daylight and a soft lamp, with family photographs arranged on a side table. The room feels tender, suspended between memory and absence.

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**INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING**

Ek quiet dining room, temporary photo corner mein badla hua. Window se soft daylight aa rahi hai. Ek lamp side table ko warm glow de raha hai. Family photographs arranged hain. Ek EMPTY CHAIR table ke paas rakhi hai.

AARAV (40), formal shirt, spectacles, haath mein ek old photo frame. Woh frame ko bahut care se pakde hue hai.

NEHA (37), kurta pehne, camera bag shoulder par. Woh camera setup check kar rahi hai, professional but emotionally guarded.

**AARAV**

Bas ek final photograph chahiye, Neha. Family ritual hai.

**NEHA**

Final photograph, theek hai. Par yeh chair frame mein kyun chahiye?

Aarav chair ki taraf dekhta hai. Phir Neha ki taraf.

**AARAV**

Kyunki chair yahin rahegi.

**NEHA**

Aarav, empty chair photo ko tod degi. Composition clean nahi rahega.

**AARAV**

Composition se zyada important kuch hota hai.

**NEHA**

Hota hai. Par photo mein nazar aana chahiye.

Aarav halka sa smile karta hai. Thaka hua smile.

**AARAV**

Tum log photo mein chehre dekhte ho. Main jagah dekhta hoon.

Neha uski taraf dekhti hai.

**NEHA**

Kiski jagah?

Aarav kuch pal chup rehta hai. Phir album uthata hai.

**INT. DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS**

Aarav family album kholta hai. Ek purani photo nikaalta hai aur Neha ko deta hai.

Neha photo dekhti hai. Ek chhoti si ladki, school uniform mein, smile kar rahi hai.

**NEHA**

Mira...

Aarav ka chehra tight ho jaata hai.

**AARAV**

Haan.

**NEHA**

Mujhe laga...

**AARAV**

Kya laga?

Neha ruk jaati hai. Aarav ki aankhon mein dard bhaari hai.

**AARAV (CONT'D)**

Sabko laga maine sirf wife ko khoya. Kisi ne poocha hi nahi ki Mira kahan hai.

Neha stunned.

**NEHA**

Aarav...

**AARAV**

Accident ke baad log sympathy leke aaye. Main theek thaak principal bana raha. School gaya, meetings ki, sabko normal dikhaya. Par ghar mein... yeh chair.

Woh EMPTY CHAIR ki taraf ishara karta hai.

**AARAV (CONT'D)**

Har saal uski birthday par. Har family photo mein. Main uski jagah khaali nahi chhodta. Main usse jagah deta hoon.

Neha ki aankhen nam ho jaati hain. Uska guarded expression pighal raha hai.

**NEHA**

Tumne mujhe bataya kyun nahi?

**AARAV**

Kyunki kabhi kabhi dard bolne se chhota nahi hota. Bas aur sach ho jaata hai.

Neha camera bag kholti hai. Camera nikaalti hai.

**NEHA**

Chair kahan rakhni hai?

Aarav ek gehri saans leta hai. Chair ko table ke paas sahi angle mein set karta hai.

Phir woh old photo frame ko dhyan se us chair par rakh deta hai.

Frame ke andar Mira ki photo.

Neha lens ke peeche jaati hai.

**NEHA (CONT'D)**

Ready?

Aarav head nod karta hai.

**CLICK.**

Neha camera neeche karti hai. Room mein ek soft silence.

**NEHA (softly)**

Ab samjhi. Yeh photo unke liye nahi thi jo dekhte hain. Yeh unke liye thi jo yaad rakhte hain.

Aarav frame ko dekhta hai.

**AARAV**

Aur jo kabhi bhoolna nahi chahte.

Neha album side table par rakhne mein Aarav ki madad karti hai.

Dono chup rehte hain. Lekin ab silence mein heaviness kam hai.

Neha camera bag band karti hai.

**NEHA**

Photo achhi aayi hai.

**AARAV**

Photo nahi. Ghar theek laga aaj.

Neha uski baat samajh jaati hai.

**FADE OUT.**

**THE END.**