



THREE SEATS AWAY

A Emotional Drama 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by
Story Dil Se Team
(storydilse.in)

LOGLINE: A father waits for news about his estranged wife while his two sons arrive after years of silence, each believing the other was the reason the family broke apart. In the waiting room, old grievances surface beside small acts of care they no longer know how to offer. The climax comes when they discover the mother has already left a message asking them to stop blaming each other and finally speak as brothers.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Raghav (55)

LOCATION: A quiet hospital waiting room at dawn, lit by pale blue daylight through large windows and a single buzzing tube light. Plastic chairs, a water cooler, and a wall clock create a sterile, suspended atmosphere.

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INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - DAWN

Pale blue daylight large windows se andar aa raha hai. Ek single TUBE LIGHT buzz kar rahi hai. Plastic chairs, water cooler, tissue box, wall clock. Sterile, suspended silence.

RAGHAV (55), retired schoolteacher, soft sweater mein, ek chair par seedha baitha hai. Uski aankhen thaki hui hain, par dignified.

Uske haath mein ek WORN WATER BOTTLE hai. Wo usse kholne ki koshish karta hai, phir ruk jaata hai.

Door khulta hai.

DEV (31), formal shirt, hospital file ke saath andar aata hai. Practical haircut. Controlled breathing.

Dev Raghav ko dekhta hai. Raghav Dev ko.

Kuch pal ka silence.

DEV

(soft, formal)

Doctor ne bola hai reports abhi pending hain.

RAGHAV

Haan.

DEV file ko tight pakad leta hai. Baithta nahi.

DEV

Main reception se puchh aaya tha. Abhi... wait karna padega.

RAGHAV

Wait toh hum kar hi rahe hain.

Dev is line ka matlab samajh jaata hai. Koi jawab nahi deta.

Door phir khulta hai.

AMAN (28), restless posture, casual jacket, andar aata hai. Woh pehle Dev ko dekhta hai. Phir Raghav ko.

Aman ruk jaata hai. Dev bhi.

AMAN

(taunt)

Achha. Tum dono pehle se milke baithe ho.

DEV

Agar tum time pe aate, toh "pehle se" nahi bolna padta.

AMAN

Haan, kyunki tumhe toh har cheez schedule mein chahiye.

Raghav tissue box ko seedha karta hai. Dono sons use notice karte hain.

RAGHAV

Baith jao.

Aman ek chair khinchta hai, par Dev ke opposite. Ek khali chair beech mein reh jaati hai.

DEV

(looking at Aman)

Tumhe kaise pata chala?

AMAN

Mujhe? Tumhare hospital file ne message bheja tha kya?

DEV

Meri maa ki tabiyat kharab hai.

AMAN

Aur mujhe laga tum sirf duty karne aaoge.

DEV

Aur mujhe laga tum sirf blame karne aaoge.

Raghav sharply looks up.

RAGHAV

Bas.

Beat.

Raghav apni wristwatch dekhta hai.

RAGHAV

Tum dono ko lagta hai main kuch nahi dekhta tha?

Silence.

RAGHAV (CONT'D)

Main dekhta tha Dev ka har extra shift. Aman ka har missed call. Aur tumhari maa ka har chup-chaap aansu.

Aman ki aankhen neeche.

AMAN

Papa...

RAGHAV

Nahi.

(beat)

Aaj "papa" nahi. Sach.

Dev file kholta hai. Paper rustle.

Ek folded NOTE neeche girta hai.

Aman uthata hai. Note kholta hai. Dev aur Raghav dono dekhte hain.

INSERT NOTE - HANDWRITTEN

"Main jaanti hoon tum dono mujhe lekar aayoge, aur phir ek doosre ko dosh doge.

Bas itna samajh lo—main ne tum dono ko alag nahi kiya.

Tum dono ne khud ko alag kiya hai.

Dev, Aman ko chhota mat samjho.

Aman, Dev ko dushman mat samjho.

Tum dono bhai ho. Pehle yeh bol do. Baaki baad mein.

Main theek hoon.

Aur tum log pehle ek baar bina ladai ke baat kar lena."

BACK TO SCENE

Aman note ko dheere se neechे karta hai. Uski aankhon mein pani.

DEV

(quiet)

Maa ne yeh...

AMAN

Haan.

Raghav ka face soften होता hai. Woh khud ko sambhalta hai.

RAGHAV

Toh? Ab bhi blame karoge?

Dev and Aman exchange a look. Pehli baar seedha.

DEV

(awkward, honest)

Main sochta tha tum ghar chhod ke bhaag gaye.

AMAN

Aur main sochta tha tumne sab sambhal ke mujhe chhota bana diya.

Dev absorbs that.

DEV

Main... bas kar raha tha jo mujhe sahi laga.

AMAN

Mujhe bhi.

Beat.

Raghav stands slowly. He places the water bottle on the table.

RAGHAV

Galat yeh tha ki tumne ek doosre se poocha nahi.

A long silence.

Then, from the corridor, a faint ANNOUNCEMENT is heard. Unimportant. Life continues.

Raghav sits back down, leaving the middle chair open.

RAGHAV (CONT'D)

Abhi bhi der nahi hui.

Aman looks at Dev. Dev looks at Aman.

Aman silently offers the TISSUE BOX to Dev.

Dev, after a beat, takes it.

Dev passes the WATER BOTTLE to Raghav.

Raghav accepts it with a small nod.

The three men remain seated—three seats, finally occupied without war.

The tube light buzzes.

The dawn brightens.

FADE OUT.