



THE GUEST ROOM RULE

A Slice of Life/Family 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by
Story Dil Se Team
(storydilse.in)

LOGLINE: Two brothers argue over who should give up the guest room for their visiting sister, each pretending to be more generous than the other. Sonia quietly listens as old childhood resentments surface in jokes, complaints, and half-finished memories. In the end, she reveals she never came to stay—she came to force them to finally divide their late mother's belongings fairly.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Raghav (45)

LOCATION: A modest guest room with two beds pushed apart, a standing fan, and a single tube light buzzing overhead late at night.

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INT. GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

Ek modest guest room. Do beds alag-alag push kiye hue. Beech mein chhota table. Upar tube light bhin-bhin kar rahi hai. Standing fan dheere ghoom raha hai. Ek old trunk corner mein pada hai. Deewar par family photo frame latak raha hai. Darwaze ke paas ek suitcase.

RAGHAV (45), faded kurta, reading glasses, bed ke edge par baitha hai.

PUNEET (41), checked shirt, restless posture, doosre bed ke paas khada hai.

Thodi der ka awkward silence.

RAGHAV

(softly, fake calm)

Toh... Sonia aa rahi hai. Main soch raha tha, main is bed pe so jaata hoon. Tum neech wali side le lena.

PUNEET

(too quick)

Arre nahi. Kyun? Main shift kar leta hoon. Tum bade ho.

RAGHAV

Bade hoon isliye tumhe inconvenience nahi dena chahiye.

PUNEET

Main inconvenience se bachpan se trained hoon, bhai.

Sonia ka naam aate hi dono smile karte hain, par competition start ho chuka hai.

RAGHAV

Waise bhi, guest room guest ke liye hota hai. Main toh bas... adjust kar lunga.

PUNEET

Adjust? Tum? Wah. Aaj toh miracle ho gaya.

RAGHAV

(raising eyebrow)

Miracle kya, tumhari aadat hai har cheez ko chhota karne ki.

PUNEET

Aur tumhari aadat hai har cheez ko heroic banana ki.

A beat.

Darwaza khulta hai. SONIA (43), simple sari, suitcase ke saath enter karti hai. Warm smile. Firm eyes.

SONIA

Arre wah. Mujhe laga room khali hoga. Yahan toh parliament baitha hai.

RAGHAV

(smiling)

Tu aa gayi. Main bas... bed set kar raha tha.

PUNEET

Main bol raha tha, Raghav ko neeche kar dete hain.
Main upar so jaata hoon.

RAGHAV

Shock hua?

PUNEET

Main generous hoon.

SONIA

(dry)

Haan. Dono itne generous ki ek doosre ko dekh ke
charity ka gala ghut raha hai.

Sonia suitcase side mein rakhti hai. Room mein tension halki si comedy mein
badalti hai.

SONIA

Tum dono ab bhi wahi ho. Ek bolta hai "main chhod
dunga," doosra bolta hai "nahi, main chhod dunga."

RAGHAV

Kyun, bura hai kya?

SONIA

Bura nahi. Bas suspicious hai.

PUNEET

Suspicious?

SONIA

Haan. Tum dono ke "main kar deta hoon" ke peeche
hamesha "pehle tu kar" chhupa hota hai.

Raghav chuckles. Puneet defensive.

PUNEET

Main practical hoon, Sonia. Emotional nautanki nahi
karta.

RAGHAV

Practical? Tum toh invoice ki tarah pyaar bhi
calculate karte ho.

SONIA

(steps in)

Bas. Dono. Bachpan mein bhi aise hi the.

A beat. Sonia family photo frame ko dekhti hai.

SONIA (CONT'D)

Maa ke saamne bhi aise hi karte the?

Silence.

RAGHAV

(quiet)

Maa ke liye main hi dawa laata tha.

PUNEET

Aur main hi hospital le jaata tha jab tum "meeting" bolke gayab ho jaate the.

RAGHAV

Meeting thi.

PUNEET

Haan, duniya ki sabse lambi meeting.

SONIA

(firm, but calm)

Bas. Yeh list mujhe sunni hi nahi.

Raghav and Puneet stop. Sonia opens the suitcase.

RAGHAV

Tu... rukne aayi thi na?

SONIA

Nahi.

PUNEET

(confused)

Nahi?

SONIA

Main yahan stay karne nahi aayi.

She pulls out folded papers, a notebook, and a small envelope from the suitcase.

SONIA (CONT'D)

Main aayi hoon tum dono ko ek room mein band karke yeh decide karne ke liye ki Maa ki cheezein kaun rok raha hai.

Raghav and Puneet exchange a stunned look.

RAGHAV

Kya?

PUNEET

Kaunsi cheezein?

SONIA

Old trunk. Jewellery dabba. Photo albums. Aur jo bhi "baad mein baat karenge" bolke tum dono ne last six months se latka rakha hai.

She walks to the old trunk and places her hand on it.

SONIA (CONT'D)

Mujhe pata hai kisne kya uthaya, kisne kya chupaya,
aur kisne bas "main to bas sambhal raha tha" ka natak
kiya.

PUNEET

(defensive)

Main natak?

SONIA

Haan. Aur Raghav, tumhare "main toh chhod deta hoon"
ka matlab hota hai "tum pehle chhodo."

RAGHAV looks down, embarrassed.

RAGHAV

Toh tu sach mein stay nahi kar rahi?

SONIA

(smiles)

Agar main stay kar leti, toh tum dono phir bed, fan,
aur blanket pe debate karte. Main drama dekhne nahi,
hisaab clear karne aayi hoon.

She takes the family photo frame from the wall and places it on the table
between the two beds.

SONIA (CONT'D)

Yeh maa ka ghar tha. Prize fight nahi.

A long beat.

PUNEET

(softening)

Toh ab?

SONIA

Ab baitho.

Raghav and Puneet slowly sit on their respective beds.

SONIA (CONT'D)

List banao. Sab cheezein. Sab naam. Sab shares.

RAGHAV

(quiet)

Theek hai.

PUNEET

Theek hai.

Sonia nods, satisfied.

SONIA

Good. Aaj guest room mein koi guest nahi aaya.

She taps the photo frame.

SONIA (CONT'D)

Aaj ghar waapas aaya hai.

The fan keeps spinning. The tube light buzzes. For the first time, the room feels still.

FADE OUT.