



THE SECRET RECIPE

A Pure Comedy 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by
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LOGLINE: A restaurant owner and chef argue over who invented the signature dish that is about to be reviewed by a famous critic. Each man tries to prove ownership with absurd evidence, while the critic calmly tastes, records, and quietly enjoys their panic. The twist: the recipe belongs to the woman's grandmother, and she has been reviewing their personalities, not their food.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Bharat (50)

LOCATION: A tiny restaurant kitchen after closing, lit by hot overhead lights and the orange glow from the stove.

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FADE IN:

INT. TINY RESTAURANT KITCHEN - NIGHT

Hot overhead lights. Stove ki orange glow. Kitchen chhota hai, tight hai, aur closing ke baad bhi zinda lag raha hai.

Bharat, 50, apron mein, moustache ko twist karta hua, recipe notebook ko counter par patak deta hai.

Naveen, 27, stained white coat mein, ladle ko defensive weapon ki tarah pakde khada hai.

BHARAT

Bas! Aaj final decide hoga.

NAVEEN

Haan. Decide ho jaaye. Ki aapka ego bada hai ya meri recipe.

BHARAT

Meri restaurant hai. Meri nameplate hai. Toh dish bhi meri.

NAVEEN

Dish aapki hoti toh taste mein thoda toh budget hota.

Bharat glares. Naveen spice jars ko line mein lagata hai.

BHARAT

Yeh signature dish maine invent kiya. Jab tu paida bhi nahi hua tha na, tab se mera dimaag chal raha tha.

NAVEEN

Sir, dimaag chal raha tha? Aaj tak toh sirf aapka mouth chal raha hai.

Bharat ladle uthata hai.

BHARAT

Dekh, yeh ladle nahi, proof hai.

NAVEEN

Ladle se proof? Phir main tava se thesis likh deta hoon.

Bharat recipe notebook kholta hai aur ek grease-stained page show karta hai.

BHARAT

Yeh dekh! Original page!

Naveen ■■■ta hai.

NAVEEN

Original? Yeh toh meri handwriting hai.

BHARAT

Teri handwriting?

NAVEEN

Haan! Aapko meri handwriting bhi udhar ki lagti hai kya?

BHARAT

Tu mera idea chura ke apni writing mein likh raha hai!

NAVEEN

Aur aap mera idea chura ke apni moustache mein chhupa rahe ho!

A beat.

Door opens.

Lata enters. 45, composed, smart casuals, notebook in hand. She clocks the chaos, amused.

LATA

Kya timing hai. Kitchen band, aur circus start.

Bharat instantly straightens up.

BHARAT

Madam! Welcome! Aap bilkul sahi waqt pe aayi hain.

NAVEEN

Madam, please neutral rehna. Yeh uncle biased hain.

BHARAT

Uncle? Main owner hoon!

LATA

Aur aap dono ka volume full menu se zyada hai.

Lata takes the plate. Tastes.

Bharat and Naveen stare at her like she's a judge at finals.

BHARAT

Kaisa laga?

NAVEEN

Haan madam, sach bolna.

Lata tastes again. Calm. Writes in notebook.

LATA

Hm.

Silence. Both panic.

BHARAT

Hm ka matlab?

NAVEEN

Hm ka matlab good hai na?

LATA

Hm ka matlab... interesting.

BHARAT

Interesting? Recipe ya aadmi?

LATA

Dono.

Naveen leans in.

NAVEEN

Madam, honestly, recipe meri thi. Main hi naye masale sochta tha.

BHARAT

Naye masale? Tu toh sugar ko bhi salt bol deta hai.

NAVEEN

Aur aap? Aap toh bill ko bhi inspiration bol dete ho.

Lata closes her notebook.

LATA

Chalo, main sach bol deti hoon.

Both freeze.

LATA (CONT'D)

Main food review karne nahi aayi thi. Main tum dono ko review karne aayi thi.

BHARAT

Humein?

NAVEEN

Review?

LATA

Haan. Aur yeh recipe... meri nani ki thi.

Beat.

Bharat stunned. Naveen stunned harder.

BHARAT

Kya?

LATA

Recipe notebook mein jo faded initials hain, woh nani ke hain. Tum dono bas us legacy ke temporary tenants ho.

NAVEEN

Oh. Toh hum dono lad rahe the...

LATA

Haan. Aur main enjoy kar rahi thi.

Bharat tries to recover.

BHARAT

Lekin restaurant ka naam...

LATA

Dish ka naam nani ke naam pe rahega. Aur tum dono ka review bhi likh diya hai.

She opens notebook.

LATA (READING)

Bharat: full volume, zero patience, 100% theatre.

Bharat winces.

LATA (READING)

Naveen: creative, underpaid, and emotionally attached to garlic.

Naveen is offended and impressed.

NAVEEN

Attached to garlic? Madam, that's personal.

LATA

Personal hi toh review hota hai.

A beat. Bharat and Naveen look at each other.

BHARAT

Toh... credit nani ka.

NAVEEN

Aur hum dono ka ego... low flame pe.

Lata smiles.

LATA

Good. Ab dish plate karo.

Bharat and Naveen reluctantly work together. For the first time, no fighting. Just efficient plating.

Lata tastes the final plate.

LATA (CONT'D)

Taste: excellent. Drama: Michelin level.

Bharat and Naveen burst out laughing.

BHARAT

Madam, aap food critic kam, sazaa zyada ho.

NAVEEN

Par best sazaa.

Lata closes her notebook with a satisfied snap.

LATA

Aur best recipe.

They all laugh under the orange stove glow.

FADE OUT.