



THE EXTRA CHAIR

A Pure Comedy 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: Arjun tries to survive a polite dinner where his mother-in-law and wife compete to make him choose between two impossible versions of himself: successful son-in-law or obedient husband. Every innocent question becomes a trap, until the final reveal that both women have been secretly testing him with the same absurd list of chores, and Arjun has passed by doing exactly none of them correctly.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Arjun (32)

LOCATION: A small dining room during an evening family dinner, lit by a warm ceiling bulb and a flickering decorative lamp near the sideboard. The table is slightly too small, creating a constant physical comedy of chairs, serving bowls, and elbow space.

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FADE IN:

INT. SMALL DINING ROOM - EVENING

Warm ceiling bulb glows. Sideboard ke paas decorative lamp flicker kar rahi hai. Chhota dining table. Teen plates. Teen chairs... aur ek EXTRA CHAIR corner mein.

ARJUN (32), office formals mein, water bottle ko shield ki tarah pakde khada hai.

MEERA (58), bright sari, regal posture, reading glasses nose par.

NISHA (30), comfy home wear, sharp eyes, fully alert.

NISHA

Arjun, chair idhar le aao. Mummy ko side mein thoda space chahiye.

Arjun extra chair uthata hai. Table ke paas laate-laate dining table ke corner se takra jaata hai.

ARJUN

Haan... space... bilkul.

MEERA

Space? Shaadi ke baad bhi space ka problem hai?

NISHA

Mummy, problem space ka nahi, coordination ka hai.

Arjun awkward smile. Chair set karta hai. Galti se chair ulte angle mein rakh deta hai.

MEERA

Yeh chair hai ya protest?

ARJUN

Main... seedha kar deta hoon.

Arjun chair ko seedha karta hai. Ab woh table se zyada door ho jaati hai.

NISHA

Wow. Ab toh chair bhi shy ho gayi.

Meera suppresses a smile.

MEERA

Arjun, paani do.

Arjun turant apni water bottle aage karta hai.

ARJUN

Yeh lijiye. Reusable.

MEERA

Main paani maang rahi hoon, lecture nahi.

Nisha spoon se bowl ko tap karti hai.

NISHA

Bottle nahi, glass.

Arjun confuse. Glass dhoondhta hai. Table pe elbow lagta hai. Serving bowl thoda hiltta hai.

ARJUN

Glass... haan. Bilkul.

Woh glass uthata hai, paani pour karne ki koshish karta hai. Thoda sa table par gir jaata hai.

MEERA

Bahut hi efficient.

NISHA

Arjun, napkin.

Arjun napkin uthata hai. Paani poochne ke bajaye usse fold karne lagta hai.

ARJUN

Bas... neatness ke liye.

MEERA

Paani table par hai, aur tum napkin ko interview de rahe ho?

Nisha laughs. Arjun phone vibrate hota hai. Woh phone dekhta hai, phir quickly silent karne ki koshish karta hai. Galti se screen lock ho jaati hai.

ARJUN

Silent... ho gaya.

NISHA

Phone ya tum?

Meera takes a spoon, serving bowl ki taraf ishara.

MEERA

Arjun, yeh spoon kahan rakha tha?

ARJUN

Bowl ke paas.

MEERA

Aur ab?

Arjun spoon ko bowl mein daal deta hai. Phir turant nikaal leta hai.

ARJUN

Ab... spoon safe hai.

Nisha and Meera exchange a look. They're enjoying this way too much.

NISHA

Arjun, ek kaam karo. Extra chair ko thoda aur side pe.

Arjun chair ko side karta hai. Khud hi us extra chair ke saamne atak jaata hai.

MEERA

Aap bhi extra lag rahe ho, beta.

ARJUN

Main? Nahi, main toh...

NISHA

...perpetually anxious.

Beat.

Meera slowly puts down spoon.

MEERA

Chalo, sach bol deti hoon.

Arjun freezes.

MEERA (CONT'D)

Maine tumhare liye ek list banayi thi.

ARJUN

List?

NISHA

Mummy ne? Interesting.

MEERA

Haan. Dekhna tha son-in-law kitna kaabil hai.

Nisha leans back, triumphant.

NISHA

Oh. Toh main bhi sach bol deti hoon.

Arjun looks between them.

NISHA (CONT'D)

Maine bhi list banayi thi.

ARJUN

Tum dono ne... list banayi thi?

MEERA

Same list.

NISHA

Same exact list.

Arjun stares.

ARJUN

Kya?

Meera pulls a folded paper from her sari pallu. Nisha pulls an identical paper from her pocket.

They unfold at the same time.

INSERT - THE LIST

1. Chair sahi jagah rakhna
2. Napkin fold karna
3. Paani serve karna
4. Spoon count karna
5. Phone silent karna
6. Dinner ke baad bowl sink tak le jaana

BACK TO SCENE

ARJUN

Yeh... yeh toh torture hai.

MEERA

Testing, beta.

NISHA

Family tradition.

ARJUN

Main... main fail ho gaya?

Meera and Nisha exchange another look.

MEERA

Nahi.

NISHA

Tum pass ho gaye.

Arjun blinks.

ARJUN

Kaise?

MEERA

Kyunki tumne poori dinner mein ek bhi complaint nahi ki.

NISHA

Na bhaage.

MEERA

Na excuse diya.

NISHA

Na hero banne ki koshish ki.

MEERA

Bas... survive kiya.

ARJUN

Main survive kar raha tha?

NISHA

Haan. Aur surprisingly, politely.

Arjun breathes out, relieved.

ARJUN

Toh main successful son-in-law hoon?

MEERA

Successful? Nahi.

Beat.

MEERA (CONT'D)

Acceptable.

Nisha laughs. Arjun groans.

NISHA

Aur obedient husband?

MEERA

Woh bhi nahi.

NISHA

Phir?

MEERA

Extra chair jaisa.

Arjun confused.

MEERA (CONT'D)

Thoda awkward...

NISHA

...par useful.

A beat. Arjun finally smiles.

ARJUN

Main... useful hoon?

NISHA

Accidentally.

Meera pulls the EXTRA CHAIR closer and sits comfortably.

MEERA

Is chair ko yahin rehne do. Family mein extra space ka bhi importance hota hai.

NISHA

Haan. Especially jab husband itna carefully wrong ho.

Arjun laughs for real now.

ARJUN

Theek hai. Main aaj se wrong bhi responsibly karunga.

MEERA

Bas karo. Aur bowl sink tak le jao.

NISHA

Correctly.

Arjun picks up the serving bowl. He almost drops it, then steadies.

ARJUN

Dekha? Progress.

MEERA

Miracles bhi slow hote hain.

Nisha hands him the napkin.

NISHA

Ab isko fold mat karna.

ARJUN

Promise nahi kar sakta.

All three laugh. Decorative lamp flickers softly.

FADE OUT.

THE END.