



THE PROPOSAL IN REVERSE

A Pure Comedy 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by
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LOGLINE: Nikhil plans a grand proposal, but Tanya and her aunt keep hijacking the moment with practical questions, family gossip, and unsolicited financial advice. As he scrambles to stay romantic, the final twist reveals Tanya already knew about the proposal and brought her aunt only to see whether Nikhil could survive the family before marrying into it.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Nikhil (31)

LOCATION: A small café corner with a single table near a window, soft afternoon daylight, and a decorative plant awkwardly separating the trio from the rest of the room. The setting is intimate enough for secrets but public enough for embarrassment.

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INT. SMALL CAFÉ CORNER - AFTERNOON

Soft afternoon daylight. Ek SMALL TABLE window ke paas. Ek decorative PLANT table ko baaki café se awkwardly separate karti hai.

NIKHIL (31), slightly too-tight blazer mein, sweaty palms ke saath table par baitha hai. Ek RING BOX uski pocket mein hai. Uske saamne COFFEE CUPS, MENU CARD, NAPKINS, aur ek BOUQUET.

TANYA (29) enters, phone haath mein, smart casuals, suspicious eyes.

TANYA

Tum itne pehle aa gaye? Suspicious.

NIKHIL

Main... bas... tumhara wait kar raha tha.

TANYA

Hmm. Aur blazer itna tight kyun hai?

NIKHIL

(smile rehearse karta hua)

Fashion. New trend.

Tanya baithti hai. Phone table par rakh deti hai. Menu uthati hai.

TANYA

Coffee sasti hai ya bas packaging achhi hai?

NIKHIL

Tanya, aaj main kuch important...

TANYA

Pehle batao, weekend pe tumhare paas time hai ya bas excuses?

Nikhil gulps. Ring box pocket mein tap karta hai.

NIKHIL

Main actually...

Phone buzzes. Tanya screen dekhti hai, ignore karti hai.

TANYA

Bolo.

NIKHIL

Tum... bahut beautiful lag rahi ho.

TANYA

Ye opening line thi ya delay tactic?

Nikhil forced laugh.

NIKHIL

Nahi, sach mein...

Ek sudden, loud bang of bangles. SONAL (55) enters, glittery salwar suit, over-accessorized, cheerful intrusion in human form.

SONAL

Arre wah! Yeh toh romantic corner hai!

Tanya smiles like she planned this.

TANYA

Aunty, meet Nikhil.

NIKHIL

(standing, nervous)

Namaste, Aunty.

SONAL

Namaste-beta. Baitho. Khade kyun ho? Shaadi mein bhi aise hi khade rahoge?

Nikhil sits immediately.

SONAL (CONT'D)

So, salary kitni hai?

NIKHIL

Aunty, main...

SONAL

Savings?

TANYA

Aunty, pehle coffee?

SONAL

Coffee baad mein. EMI pehle.

Tanya smirks into her phone.

NIKHIL

(trying to steer)

Main actually aaj...

He reaches for the bouquet. Tanya notices.

TANYA

Bouquet? Kisliye?

NIKHIL

Bas... mood ke liye.

SONAL

Mood ka budget alag hota hai, beta.

Nikhil opens menu card like a shield.

NIKHIL

Main sirf yeh kehna chahta tha ki...

SONAL

Haan, bolo. Interest rate se start karo.

TANYA

Aunty, you're enjoying this too much.

SONAL

Main enjoy nahi kar rahi, test kar rahi hoon.

Nikhil freezes.

NIKHIL

Test?

SONAL

Haan. Meri Tanya koi random hero se shaadi nahi karegi.

Tanya sips coffee, utterly calm.

TANYA

Relax, Nikhil. Continue.

NIKHIL

Continue kya? Mujhe proposal karna tha, interview nahi!

Sonal claps once, delighted.

SONAL

Oho! Proposal! Dekha, Tanya? Seedha point pe aaya.

TANYA

Aaya toh hai. Ab dekhte hain survive karta hai ya nahi.

Nikhil blinks.

NIKHIL

Survive?

TANYA

Tumne socha main itni suspicious kyun thi?

She picks up her phone, turns screen toward him.

ON PHONE SCREEN: Nikhil's draft proposal message, jeweler chat, ring box emoji, restaurant search history.

Nikhil goes pale.

NIKHIL

Tum... tumhe pata tha?

TANYA

Haan.

NIKHIL

Aur aunty?

TANYA

Surprise guest. Family round.

SONAL

Main toh bas dekhna chahti thi, yeh tight blazer wala ladka pressure mein kaise behave karta hai.

NIKHIL

Toh... yeh sab setup tha?

TANYA

Proposal reverse mein hoga, Nikhil.

NIKHIL

Matlab?

TANYA

Pehle family approval. Phir ring.

Sonal nods approvingly.

SONAL

Aur pehle bill kaun dega, yeh bhi important hai.

Nikhil, defeated, slowly takes out the ring box.

NIKHIL

(to Sonal, formal)

Aunty... permission?

Sonal takes a dramatic sip of coffee.

SONAL

Pehle bill.

Tanya laughs. Nikhil laughs despite himself.

The three burst out laughing together.

FADE OUT.