



THE WAITING ROOM AGREEMENT

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

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LOGLINE: Prakash has brought his wife and daughter to sign a family property transfer, expecting a routine formality, but Anu refuses to sign until her parents answer the question they have avoided for years: who really sacrificed what for this family? As the waiting room empties around them, the argument turns into a truth-telling session that ends not with signatures, but with the first honest understanding they've ever shared.

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

LOCATION: A government office waiting room with metal benches, ceiling fans, a token counter, and pale daylight spilling through barred windows. The room is plain and bureaucratic, but the stillness makes every family conversation feel monumental.

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INT. GOVERNMENT OFFICE WAITING ROOM - DAY

Pale daylight barred windows se andar aa rahi hai. Ceiling fan dheere-dheere ghoom raha hai. Metal benches, token counter, ek water cooler, aur corner mein ek chipped notice board. Sab kuch plain, thanda, aur bureaucratic.

PRKASH (50), simple shirt-trousers mein, ek FOLDER aur PROPERTY PAPERS pakde baitha hai. Uske paas SANGEETA (47), modest salwar suit mein, calm aur alert. Unke saamne ANU (23), college clothes mein, bag kandhe par, restless.

Prakash token slip ko baar-baar dekh raha hai.

PRAKASH

Bas sign karna hai. Ho jayega kaam.

ANU

Haan, government office mein bhi aaj miracle hi chahiye.

Sangeeta halka sa glance deti hai.

SANGEETA

Anu, tone normal rakho.

ANU

Main normal hi hoon, Maa. Aap log hi unusually calm ho.

Prakash thoda smile karta hai, phir papers kholta hai.

PRAKASH

Dekh, property transfer family ke naam pe hai. Simple.

ANU

Family ke naam pe ya aapke plan ke naam pe?

Silence.

Prakash pen rakh deta hai.

PRAKASH

Kya matlab?

ANU

Matlab yeh paper sign karne se pehle mujhe ek sach chahiye.

(beat)

Kisne kya sacrifice kiya? Sach sach.

Sangeeta seat par seedhi hoti hai.

SANGEETA

Yeh office hai, court nahi.

ANU

Ghar mein bhi to kabhi court nahi tha, bas verdict aata tha.

Prakash ka jawline tight hota hai.

PRAKASH

Maine poori zindagi mehnat ki hai.

ANU

Haan. Aur Maa ne?

PRAKASH

Sangeeta ne bhi ki hai.

ANU

"Bhi"?

Sangeeta ek chhoti si hansi dabati hai.

SANGEETA

Dekho, "bhi" mein hi aadha ghar chal jata hai.

Prakash use dekhta hai.

PRAKASH

Main office se aata tha, phir loan, phir bills—

ANU

Aur Maa? Woh kaunse vacation pe thi?

SANGEETA

Main vacation pe nahi thi. Main ration, school fee, tuition, dawai, aur tumhare papa ke gusse ke management pe thi.

Anu ko yeh sunkar pehli baar sach mein laugh aata hai, phir turant serious.

ANU

Toh phir mujhe kyun kabhi sach nahi bataya?

Prakash folder ko thoda zor se band karta hai.

PRAKASH

Sach? Sach yeh hai ki jo mila, usmein guzara kiya.

ANU

Nahi. Sach yeh hai ki aap dono ne mujhe perfect family ka poster dikhaya. Andar kya chal raha tha, woh kisi ko nahi bataya.

Ceiling fan ki awaaz aur tez lagti hai. Waiting room mein aur koi nahi. Token counter ke peeche clerk ka shadow guzarta hai, phir gayab.

Sangeeta water bottle Anu ki taraf badhati hai.

SANGEETA

Paani le.

ANU

Mujhe paani nahi, jawab chahiye.

Prakash ek gehri saans leta hai.

PRAKASH

Theek hai.

(beat)

Main yeh property transfer tumhare naam kar raha hoon.

Anu blink karti hai.

ANU

Kya?

PRAKASH

Tere future ke liye.

ANU

Aapne mujhe bataya kyun nahi?

PRAKASH

Kyunki har baar kuch dene se pehle sunna padta hai—"Papa ne kiya." Main nahi chahta tha tu usse duty samjhe.

Sangeeta nods, quietly.

SANGEETA

Main jaanti thi. Main bhi chup thi.

ANU

Aap dono... meri peeth pe plan bana rahe the?

SANGEETA

Plan nahi. Trust.

PRAKASH

Aur ek aur baat.

(beat)

Maine apna share bhi ismein daala hai. Tere naam pe.

Anu stunned.

ANU

What?

PRAKASH

Haan. Taaki tujhe kabhi kisi ke saamne haath na phailana pade.

Anu ka gussa dheere-dheere pighalta hai, lekin woh papers ko nahi chhooti.

ANU

Aap hero banne ki koshish mat karo.

PRAKASH

Main hero nahi hoon.

(beat)

Thak gaya aadmi hoon.

Sangeeta softly.

SANGEETA

Aur main thak kar bhi khadi rahi.

Anu un dono ko dekhti hai. Pehli baar unke chehron mein poster nahi, thakaan dikhti hai. Insaan dikhta hai.

ANU

Main sign tab karungi jab aap dono ek-ek sach aur bolenge.

PRAKASH

Abhi bhi aur?

ANU

Haan. No drama, no sacrifice competition.

Sangeeta almost smiles.

SANGEETA

Theek hai. Main pehle.

(beat)

Main tumse kabhi nahi boli ki maine bhi bahut kuch chhoda. Kyunki mujhe laga maa hone ka matlab chup rehna hota hai.

Prakash looks down.

PRAKASH

Main bhi bol deta hoon.

(beat)

Main har baar strong banne ka natak karta tha. Ghar ke andar main bhi dar raha tha.

Anu ka throat tight ho jata hai.

ANU

Aur main...

(beat)

Main aapse nafrat nahi karti. Main bas is khamoshi se thak gayi thi.

A beat. Nobody speaks.

Then Prakash slowly pushes the papers toward the center.

PRAKASH

Toh phir agreement yeh hai?

ANU

Kaunsa?

PRAKASH

Pehle sach. Phir sign.

Sangeeta nods.

SANGEETA

Aur pehle chai.

Anu finally smiles.

ANU

Government office mein chai?

SANGEETA

File ke saath nahi, family ke saath.

Prakash picks up the folder. The token slip falls out. Anu picks it up, hands it back to him.

For the first time, she doesn't sit apart. She stands with them.

The ceiling fan keeps turning.

The waiting room is still the same.

But the family is not.

FADE OUT.