



THREE CHAIRS, ONE SECRET

A Emotional Drama 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: Amma has asked for a private family meeting before a surgery, but what begins as a health update becomes a reckoning over years of silence. Leela wants forgiveness, Nidhi wants the truth, and Amma wants one final decision made on her terms. The emotional climax arrives when Amma reveals she has already chosen who will inherit the house—and it is not the person everyone expected.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Amma (72)

LOCATION: A quiet hospital waiting room with plastic chairs, pale fluorescent lighting, and a wall clock that seems too loud. A small tea table, tissue box, and old family bag create a sparse, emotionally charged space.

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FADE IN:

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Pale fluorescent lights. A wall clock TICKS too loudly. Three plastic chairs face a tiny tea table with a tissue box, a water cup, and an old family bag.

AMMA (72), faded silk sari, sits upright with a hospital file in her lap.
LEELA (46), in a simple salwar kameez, sits with tired dignity. NIDHI (22), in college casuals, paces near the chairs, restless.

A family photo peeks out of the bag.

NIDHI

(looking at the clock)

Yeh clock bhi surgery ka side le raha hai kya?

LEELA

Nidhi, bas baith ja.

NIDHI

Main baithi hi hoon, Maa. Aap dono hi aise behave kar rahe ho jaise main koi extra chair hoon.

Amma looks up, a faint smile.

AMMA

Extra chair nahi. Bas zyada bolne wali chair.

Nidhi rolls her eyes, but almost smiles.

LEELA

(to Amma)

Amma, doctor ne bola tha aap tension mat lo. Phir bhi aapne humein yahan bula liya. Kuch serious hai kya?

Amma pats the file.

AMMA

Serious toh tum logon ka silence hai.

Beat.

Leela absorbs that.

LEELA

(softly)

Amma...

AMMA

Nahi, Leela. Aaj "Amma" ke baad koi "sorry" nahi. Pehle baitho.

Leela sits straighter. Nidhi finally sits too, arms crossed.

NIDHI

Theek hai. Family meeting. Start kijiye. Main ready hoon truth sunne ke liye.

LEELA

(under her breath)

Yeh "ready" word tumne kabhi homework ke liye use nahi kiya tha.

NIDHI

Kyunki homework se zyada complicated hamara ghar tha.

Amma looks between them, then opens the hospital file.

Inside: a folded property paper copy and the family photo.

Leela sees it first.

LEELA

(alarmed)

Yeh... property paper?

NIDHI

Oho. Plot twist.

LEELA

Amma, aapko surgery se pehle yeh sab kyun nikaalna pada?

AMMA

Kyunki surgery ke baad main bol paaun, zaroori nahi.

Silence.

Amma takes the family photo out and holds it.

AMMA (CONT'D)

Is photo mein ghar ke saamne hum teen khade hain. Tab ghar poora lagta tha. Ab bhi wahi ghar hai. Bas log thak gaye.

Leela's eyes fill, but she stays composed.

LEELA

Main thaki nahi hoon, Amma. Main... bas sambhal rahi hoon.

NIDHI

(sharp)

Haan. Sabko sambhalne ke chakkar mein mujhe kisi ne sambhala hi nahi.

Leela turns, hurt.

LEELA

Nidhi, maine kya kam kiya hai?

NIDHI

Aapne bahut kiya hai. Bas apne tareeke se. Ghar, school, bills, Amma ki dawaai— sab. Par mere sawaal? Unka kya?

Leela has no immediate answer.

Amma watches them, then speaks with calm certainty.

AMMA

Isi liye tum dono yahan ho.

Leela straightens.

LEELA

Matlab?

Amma folds the paper carefully.

AMMA

Main ghar bech nahi rahi. Main naam badal rahi hoon.

Nidhi blinks.

NIDHI

Kiska naam?

Amma looks directly at her.

AMMA

Tera.

A beat of absolute silence.

Leela's face drains.

LEELA

(whisper)

Nidhi ke naam?

AMMA

Haan.

LEELA

Par... main toh yahin thi. Maine sambhala sab.

AMMA

Sambhala, haan. Par ghar ko jeene layak Nidhi ne banaya.

Nidhi is stunned.

NIDHI

Amma, main... main toh bas bolti rehti hoon.

AMMA

Aur wahi toh. Tum chup nahi rehti. Is ghar mein sach ki hawa chahiye thi.

Leela's voice cracks, but she fights it.

LEELA

Toh main kya thi? Galat beta?

Amma leans forward.

AMMA

Tum meri beti ho. Aur tumne jo kiya, woh kisi award se kam nahi. Par ghar ki deewar tumne bachayi. Ghar ka darwaza Nidhi khol sakti hai.

Leela turns away, swallowing tears.

LEELA

Matlab maine zindagi bhar jo kiya... woh bas duty thi?

AMMA

Nahi. Woh pyaar tha. Par pyaar aur ownership ek jaise nahi hote.

Nidhi looks at Leela, then Amma.

NIDHI

Toh main inherit karun? Seriously?

AMMA

Haan. Kyunki tu sawaal poochegi. Aur jab main na rahun, ghar mein jhooth ko cupboard mein band nahi karegi.

Leela closes her eyes, the truth landing.

LEELA

(softly)

Aapne mujhe reject nahi kiya...

AMMA

Nahi. Tujhe woh bojh nahi diya jo tujhe tod deta.

A beat.

Nidhi reaches for the water cup, hands trembling.

NIDHI

Toh key?

Amma takes a small key from her shawl pin and places it in Leela's hand.

AMMA

Key Leela ke paas rahegi. Surgery ke baad. Ghar dono milkar khologe.

Leela looks at the key, then at Nidhi.

LEELA

(to Nidhi)

Toh ab?

Nidhi exhales, a new weight settling in.

NIDHI

Ab main extra chair nahi. Main owner hoon.

Amma smiles, satisfied.

AMMA

Bas. Ab family lag rahi ho.

A NURSE approaches from offscreen.

NURSE (O.S.)

Patient attendant ready rahiye.

Amma stands slowly, smoothing her sari. She takes the family photo and places it between Leela and Nidhi on the tea table.

AMMA

Teen chairs hain. Par ghar tabhi ghar hai jab teesri chair khaali na ho.

Leela finally cries, silently. Nidhi doesn't know whether to laugh or cry, so she does both.

Amma touches both their shoulders and walks toward the surgery corridor.

Leela and Nidhi remain seated, looking at the photo.

The wall clock TICKS.

FADE OUT.