



THE LOCKED TIFFIN

A Pure Comedy 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by
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LOGLINE: Three women waiting for the same delayed train become obsessed with a locked tiffin that smells incredible and belongs to none of them. They accuse, negotiate, and bribe each other in increasingly absurd ways while trying to prove ownership. The comic twist reveals the tiffin contains not food, but a surprise proposal lunch prepared by Bua for a daughter who never showed up.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Bua (54)

LOCATION: A railway waiting room with a ceiling fan, metal benches, peeling paint, and harsh afternoon sunlight slanting through barred windows. The whole story plays around a single locked tiffin box on a bench.

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INT. RAILWAY WAITING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Harsh sunlight barred windows se slant kar rahi hai. Ceiling fan dheere ghoom raha hai. Peeling paint, metal benches, aur ek NOTICE BOARD par train timetable.

Ek BENCH ke beech mein ek LOCKED TIFFIN BOX pada hai.

BUA (54), printed kurta, heavy presence, tiffin ko suspiciously dekhti hain.

RITU (33), office bag aur lunch bag ke saath, tired eyes mein sarcasm.

PIHU (19), headphones neck mein, phone camera on, sneakers tapping.

A strange silence. Phir tiffin se aati khushboo.

BUA

(naak se smell kheenchkar)

Arre wah. Yeh khushboo toh seedha ghar se aati hai.
Kiska hai yeh tiffin?

RITU

Dryly. Mera nahi hai. Mera lunch bag itna sad hai ki khushboo hi nahi kar sakta.

PIHU

Camera on, excited. Wait, wait. Mystery tiffin? Main record kar rahi hoon.

BUA

Record baad mein karna. Pehle batao, kiska hai?

RITU

Aapka hoga.

BUA

Mera? Main itni badi hoon, aur tumhe lagta hai main tiffin chhod dungii?

PIHU

Auntie, aapka confidence dekh ke lag raha hai tiffin bhi aapka hi hoga.

BUA

Meri baat mein dum hai.

RITU

Aur smell mein dum aloo.

PIHU laughs.

BUA glares.

BUA

Tum corporate logon ka khana toh salad aur guilt hota hai. Yeh masala kisi aur ka hai.

RITU

Corporate logon ka khana nahi, life bhi salad hoti hai. But main phir bhi claim nahi kar rahi.

PIHU

Main claim kar sakti hoon? Kyunki main emotionally connected feel kar rahi hoon.

BUA

Emotion se pet nahi bharta.

PIHU

Bhookh se bhi nahi, Auntie. Bas drama se time pass hota hai.

RITU notices the LOCK.

RITU

Isme lock kyun hai?

BUA

Taaki koi chori na kare.

PIHU

Ya taaki koi khol na sake.

BUA

Dono mein kya farak hai?

PIHU

Intent.

RITU

Okay, detective, phir proof do. Kiska hai?

BUA

Mera. Recipe suno—aloo, matar, aur thoda sa amchur. Aur andar kheer hogi.

RITU

Overconfident. Aur agar main bolun andar rajma-chawal hai?

BUA

Phir tum jhooth bol rahi ho.

PIHU

Main bolun ki andar paneer roll hai?

BUA

Tumhari age mein log roll nahi, reels karte hain.

PIHU

Exactly. Aur ab main reel bana rahi hoon.

She turns camera toward them.

RITU

Nope. Camera off.

PIHU

Why? Authentic content hai.

RITU

Because I don't want my face in a video called "Three Women Fight Over Smelly Tiffin."

BUA

Smelly? Arre, yeh smell hai ya invitation?

PIHU

Invitation to what?

BUA

Khaane ka.

RITU

Aapko kaise pata isme khaana hi hai?

BUA

Tiffin hai. Usme kapde thodi honge.

PIHU

Could be jewelry.

RITU

Could be documents.

BUA

Could be tumhara homework.

PIHU

Homework smells like disappointment, not ghee.

All three look at the tiffin.

The fan creaks. Train announcement in the distance.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Train number...

CUT OFF by static.

RITU checks timetable.

RITU

Delayed by forty minutes. Great. We have time to solve a food crime.

BUA

Food crime? Main toh bas apna haq maang rahi hoon.

PIHU

Okay, ownership test. Everyone say one thing only the owner would know.

RITU

Fine. The owner would know the lock code.

BUA

Owner code se pehle recipe jaanta hai.

PIHU

Owner would know why it's on this bench.

Silence.

BUA stiffens.

RITU notices.

RITU

Aha.

BUA

Aha kya?

PIHU

Auntie... you know something.

BUA

Main bas... iss bench pe baithi thi pehle.

RITU

And then?

BUA

Aur phir announcement aaya. Main distract ho gayi.

PIHU

By what?

BUA

By the fact that my daughter's train was also delayed.

RITU

Oh.

BUA quickly recovers.

BUA

But still, tiffin mera hi hai.

PIHU

Then open it.

BUA

Lock hai.

RITU

You said you locked it.

BUA

Maine bola tha taaki koi chori na kare.

PIHU

So you locked your own tiffin and forgot the key?

BUA

Main bhooli nahi. Main... carefully preserved kar rahi thi.

RITU

That is the most advanced form of forgetting I've ever heard.

PIHU

Brilliant. Emotional corruption.

BUA

Tum dono bas zyada bolti ho.

RITU

And you're avoiding the question.

PIHU

Wait. Bribe round.

She pulls out a packet of chips.

PIHU

One packet for the truth.

BUA

Bas? Meri beti ka proposal lunch hai, aur tum chips de rahi ho?

RITU perks up.

RITU

Proposal lunch?

BUA freezes.

PIHU

Auntie...

BUA

Maine kuch nahi kaha.

RITU

Oh, now I'm interested.

BUA

Interest se zyada kaam ki cheez hai kya?

PIHU

Yes. Gossip.

RITU

And hunger.

BUA looks at the tiffin, defeated.

BUA

Theek hai. Main laayi thi.

PIHU

Aha!

RITU

Kya hai andar?

BUA

Food bhi hai. Aur... ek chhota sa surprise bhi.

PIHU

No. Don't say it like that. That's how horror films start.

BUA

Ek ring box hai.

RITU and PIHU stare.

RITU

Ring box?

BUA nods.

BUA

Meri beti ke liye. Uske office wale ladke ne haan bola tha. Aaj train se aati, toh station pe lunch ke saath proposal plan tha.

PIHU

And she didn't come.

BUA

Nahi.

Beat.

RITU

So the tiffin isn't for us.

BUA

Nahi.

PIHU

Then why does it smell so good?

BUA

Because I made it with love.

RITU

That explains the ghee.

BUA opens the tiffin carefully with the spoon and a little effort. Inside: aloo paratha, kheer, and a small ring box tucked in a napkin.

PIHU

This is... actually cute.

RITU

Unexpectedly tragic-cute.

BUA

Main drama nahi chahti thi.

RITU softens.

RITU

Maaf kijiye. Humne tiffin ko case bana diya.

PIHU

And content.

RITU

Especially content.

BUA

Khaana waste nahi hona chahiye.

PIHU

Agreed.

RITU

Fully.

Beat.

BUA slides the tiffin toward the center.

BUA

Toh phir... teenon milke khaate hain?

PIHU

Plot twist with protein.

RITU

And carbs.

PIHU

And emotional damage.

They laugh.

RITU takes out her water bottle.

PIHU puts the phone camera down.

BUA serves the first paratha with the spoon.

BUA

Bas ek condition.

RITU

Kya?

BUA

Koi isko "mystery tiffin" bolke reel nahi banayega.

PIHU

No promises.

RITU

I promise nothing. But I'll make it tasteful.

BUA

Tum corporate logon ka "tasteful" bhi suspicious hota hai.

PIHU bites into the paratha.

PIHU

Auntie, this is illegal.

BUA

Khaana ya main?

PIHU

Dono.

RITU smiles despite herself.

The distant train whistle grows louder.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Platform par aane wali train...

RITU gathers her bag.

PIHU puts headphones around neck.

BUA closes the tiffin, now unlocked.

RITU

So, train miss hui ya proposal?

BUA

Dono.

PIHU

But lunch nahi.

They head toward the exit, still chewing.

BUA

Agle station pe agar koi aur tiffin dikha na...

RITU

Please no.

PIHU

Please yes.

They exit together, bickering and laughing.

FADE OUT.