



THE APOLOGY DRAFT

A Pure Comedy 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by
Story Dil Se Team
(storydilse.in)

LOGLINE: The three sisters agree to draft a single apology message to their mother after a disastrous family function, but each one keeps rewriting it to make herself look best. Their attempts at sincerity turn into a hilarious competition for who can sound the most mature without admitting anything. The punchline arrives when their mother walks in and reads the draft aloud, revealing she wrote the first version herself.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Anita (43)

LOCATION: A family dining table in the evening, lit by a ceiling fan light and the warm spill from the kitchen. Plates, cups, and a handwritten list turn the table into a battlefield of sibling diplomacy.

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INT. DINING AREA / KITCHEN SPILL - EVENING

Ceiling fan ki halki si awaaz. Kitchen se warm light spill ho rahi hai. Dining table par plates, tea cups, snack bowl, pen aur ek handwritten list bikhri padi hai.

ANITA (43), office wear mein, phone clutch kiye, overly polite smile ke saath baithi hai.

BINA (40), comfortable home clothes mein, blunt face, snack bowl pakde hue.

CHHAYA (36), stylish casuals mein, notebook of grievances pakde, dramatic pose mein.

Teenon table ke opposite corners par baithe hain, jaise peace summit ho.

ANITA

Theek hai. Hum ek hi apology message draft karte hain. Simple. Mature. No unnecessary emotions.

BINA

Apology mein emotions nahi honge toh phir kya hoga?

CHHAYA

Performance review.

Bina namkeen khati hai. Anita phone unlock karti hai.

ANITA

Main start karti hoon.

(typing)

"Dear Maa, hum aapko sincerely regret...

BINA

Bas. Abhi se fake lag raha hai.

CHHAYA

"Sincerely regret"? Maa ko lag jayega unka bank statement aa gaya.

Anita smile maintain karti hai, delete karti hai.

ANITA

Okay. "Maa, kal ke function mein jo hua...

BINA

"Jo hua" mat bolo. Sabko pata hai kya hua.

CHHAYA

Haan. Especially woh moment jab kisi ne mithai ka dabba "temporary custody" mein le liya tha.

Bina uski taraf dekhti hai.

BINA

Temporary? Chhaya, woh dabba tumhare bag se nikla tha.

CHHAYA

Notebook mein likh lo: "Bag was innocent."

Anita ek naya draft type karti hai.

ANITA

(reading while typing)

"Maa, we are sorry for the chaos at the function."

BINA

Chaos? Kya hum earthquake report bhej rahe hain?

CHHAYA

Chaos nahi, emotional architecture tha.

BINA

Tumhara emotional architecture hamesha collapsible hota hai.

Chhaya offended act karti hai aur notebook kholti hai.

CHHAYA

Fine. Main apni grievances ki list se help karti hoon.

ANITA

Please. But subtle.

CHHAYA

(reading)

"Maa, we acknowledge that our behaviour may have caused you distress..."

BINA

"May have"? Arre, caused hi tha. May have kya?

ANITA

Bina, thoda diplomacy.

BINA

Diplomacy? Function mein tumne aunty ko bola tha, "Aapka outfit very brave hai."

Anita freezes.

ANITA

Brave was not an insult. It was... complimentary courage.

CHHAYA

Wah. Office English in the wild.

Bina snack bowl table par rakh deti hai.

BINA

Dekho. Simple apology. "Maa, sorry. Humse galti ho gayi." Bas.

ANITA

Too direct.

CHHAYA

Too honest.

BINA

Apology hoti hi honest hai.

CHHAYA

Not in this family.

Anita sighs, retypes.

ANITA

"Maa, we deeply regret any inconvenience caused by our behaviour and misunderstandings."

BINA

Inconvenience? Tum logon ne poora hall hijack kiya tha.

CHHAYA

And "misunderstandings" is doing a lot of heavy lifting.

ANITA

Fine. Tum likho.

Chhaya proudly takes the phone.

CHHAYA

(dictating)

"Maa, we are sorry for the emotional damage, the social damage, and the damage to your dignity..."

BINA

Bas kar. Ab apology nahi, legal notice lag raha hai.

CHHAYA

At least it's honest.

BINA

Honest? Tu toh har sentence mein apna side quest daal rahi hai.

CHHAYA

Side quest? I am the main quest.

Anita snatches the phone back, still smiling politely.

ANITA

Let's be mature. Ek balanced draft.

She types with intense concentration.

ANITA

(reading)

"Maa, we are sorry for not being fully present, for creating stress, and for not handling the situation with the grace you deserved."

A beat.

BINA

Hmm.

CHHAYA

That's actually...

BINA

...still not enough.

ANITA

Kya matlab?

BINA

"Not being fully present" ka matlab kya? Tum function mein thi hi nahi kya?

CHHAYA

Aur "grace you deserved" suna? Maa ko lag raha hoga woh Miss Universe ki training mein thi.

Anita, wounded but smiling.

ANITA

Okay. Final draft. No edits.

She holds the phone like a peace treaty.

ANITA

(reading)

"Maa, we are truly sorry for the chaos at the function. We should have been more thoughtful, more helpful, and less dramatic. We love you."

Silence.

Bina nods once.

BINA

Acceptable.

Chhaya closes her notebook.

CHHAYA

Emotionally efficient.

Suddenly, MOTHER (offscreen) enters from kitchen. The three sisters freeze.

Mother walks in, sees the phone, the table, the tension.

MOTHER

Kya chal raha hai?

ANITA

Kuch nahi, Maa. Bas... ek message draft.

Mother takes the phone casually.

MOTHER

Haan, mujhe pata hai.

(reads aloud)

"Maa, we are truly sorry for the chaos at the function... We should have been more thoughtful, more helpful, and less dramatic..."

She pauses, smirks.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Waise, yeh first version toh maine subah hi likha tha.

Beat.

BINA

Kya?

CHHAYA

Aapne?

ANITA

Subah?

Mother pulls a tea cup closer, completely calm.

MOTHER

Haan. Mujhe pata tha tum teenon ek apology ko bhi competition bana dogi.

She flips the handwritten list over. On the back is the same apology draft, in her handwriting.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

Bas ek line maine add ki thi.

(reading)

"Please don't make this about yourselves."

All three sisters stare.

BINA

Maa, aap bhi?

MOTHER

Beta, family mein sincerity bhi pre-approved honi chahiye.

A beat. Then Anita starts laughing. Bina snorts. Chhaya dramatically slumps, then laughs too.

CHHAYA

Main grievance notebook bandh kar rahi hoon.

BINA

Aur main snack bowl share kar rahi hoon.

ANITA

Main phone se actual apology bhej deti hoon.

Mother takes a sip of tea.

MOTHER

Good. Aur is baar "we" ka matlab sach mein "we" hona chahiye.

The three sisters exchange a look, then burst into laughter together.

FADE OUT.