

THE PACT IN THE PANTRY

A Pure Comedy 2-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Genre: Pure Comedy	Format: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast)	Runtime: 5 - 8 Minutes
Cast: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) Character 1: Deepak (37)	Language: Hinglish	Credit: Story Dil Se Team

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Shaam ka family dinner prep chal raha hai, aur tiny apartment ke pantry mein Deepak aur Keshav ek dusre ke saath, aur zyada important, ek hi hawa ke saath, phans jaate hain. Deepak, stained T-shirt, shorts aur house slippers mein, ladle ko aise pakde hue hai jaise mic ho aur woh abhi stage pe roast karne wala ho. Keshav, vest aur dhoti mein, grocery bag aur reading glasses ke saath, poori discipline ki murti lag raha hai. Bas problem yeh hai ki pantry ka darwaza band ho jaata hai. Pehle dono ko lagta hai, "Koi na, bas push kar lete hain." Phir realise hota hai ki narrow shelf, stacked containers aur tube light ki buzzing ke beech push karne ki jagah hi nahi hai.

Deepak turant Keshav ko blame karta hai ki unhone grocery bag aise ghusaya jaise Olympic event ho. Keshav palat kar bolta hai ki Deepak ne pantry ko "single man cave" samajh ke itna samaan faila rakha hai ki normal insaan ko oxygen bhi udhaar leni pade. Dono ka argument ekdum family-level sachchai tak pahunch jaata hai: kaun zyada useless hai, kaun zyada irresponsible hai, aur kaun har saal rishtedaaron ke saamne family ki izzat ka aurat nahi, aadmi version ka nuksaan karta hai. Deepak ka sabse bada ilzaam yeh hota hai ki Keshav har cheez mein discipline dhoondte hain, par ghar mein khud ek bhi kaam ka jugad nahi. Keshav jawab deta hai ki Deepak ki umar mein aadmi ko ghar basana chahiye tha, pantry mein emotional trauma nahi.

Phir hunger apna kaam shuru karta hai. Pantry shelf par ek tiffin box dikh jaata hai. Dono ki nazar ek saath us par tik jaati hai, jaise treasure mil gaya ho. Tiffin khulte hi andar leftover biryani ki khushboo poori chhoti si space ko shaadi ke buffet jaisa bana deti hai. Ab dono ka tone badal jaata hai. Pehle jo log ek dusre ki barbaadi gin rahe the, ab biryani par "logical ownership" discuss kar rahe hain. Deepak bolta hai, "Maine rakhne ke liye bola tha." Keshav bolta hai, "Maine hi label lagaya tha." Dono jhooth ke alag-alag versions mein phans jaate hain, kyunki asal sach yeh hai ki dono hi leftover biryani ko secretly apna samajh rahe the, lekin pehle kholne ki himmat kisi mein nahi thi.

Bahar family dinner ki awaazein aati rehti hain, lekin andar ka scene ek absurd treaty negotiation mein badal jaata hai. Deepak phone nikaal ke signal dhoondhta hai, par kaam ka kuch nahi. Keshav reading glasses adjust karke pantry shelf ko dekhta hai jaise koi legal document ho. Dono decide karte hain ki agar bahar nikalte hi biryani khatam hui, to woh ek dusre ko publicly blame nahi karenge. Deepak kehta hai ki marriage uski life mein nahi hui, par pantry mein at least "partnership" honi chahiye. Keshav khud ko respectable rakhte hue confess karta hai ki usne kabhi biryani share nahi ki, kyunki share karne mein bhi strategy chahiye hoti hai.

Climax tab aata hai jab door finally khulne ka ek tiny chance milta hai. Dono ek saath dhakka lagate hain, par same moment par tiffin box ko bhi bachana chahte hain. Tiffin girte-girte bachta hai, lekin ek spoonful biryani Deepak ke ladle mein aur ek spoonful Keshav ke haath mein aa jaata hai. Dono freeze ho jaate hain. Phir, ek second ki silence ke baad, Deepak aur Keshav ek dusre ko dekhte hain aur bina bole samajh jaate hain ki yeh poori ladaai asal mein biryani ke liye thi. Deepak finally admit karta hai, “Main bas is leftover ko bachana chahta tha.” Keshav bhi maan leta hai, “Main bhi. Aur main ne socha tu mujhe judge karega.”

Woh dono pantry ke andar hi ek ridiculous pact sign karte hain: bahar jaake family ke saamne bolenge ki door jam tha, aur biryani “technical issue” ki wajah se unke beech divide hui. Phir, ek saath, dono tiffin se khaate hain, ek ladle aur ek spoon ka unholy but hilarious arrangement bana kar. Jab door khulta hai, woh bahar nikalne se pehle ek dusre ko dekhte hain—ab dushman nahi, co-conspirators. Family dinner ki duniya se pehle, pantry mein ek anokha treaty ban chuka hota hai: food pe kabza, izzat pe compromise, aur family reputation pe full-blown comedy.