

THE APOLOGY DRAFT

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: Naveen (28)	Language: Hinglish	Credit: Story Dil Se Team

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Naveen ke liye office ka sabse bada dushman koi client ya deadline nahi tha—Harish ka red pen tha. Small conference room ke glass walls ke andar, midday ki harsh light table par pade printouts ko aur zyada guilty dikha rahi thi. Coffee cups, sticky notes, laptop, aur ek half-used whiteboard marker ke beech Naveen apne phone ko aise pakde khada tha jaise usmein uski izzat bachi ho. Usne ek apology email draft kiya tha—carefully worded, polished, “professional” aur bilkul safe. Problem sirf itni thi ki Harish, HR manager aur office ka unofficial truth machine, us draft ko dekhte hi usme se har fake line ka murder kar deta tha.

Naveen ne pehle politely bola, phir request ki, phir almost plead karne laga. Uska offense bhi utna hi embarrassing tha jitna harmless: team meeting mein usne galti se sabke project ideas ko “bas slide-deck recycling” bol diya tha. Matlab uska intention funny tha, par room mein silence itni heavy ho gayi thi ki kisi ne uska joke accept hi nahi kiya. Ab usse poori team ko apology bhejni thi. Naveen chahta tha kuch aisa likhe jo mature ■■■■, sincere ■■■■, aur future promotion ke chances bhi zinda rakhe. Harish ne pehli line padhte hi kaha, “Yeh apology nahi, press release hai.”

Phir shuru hua unka war. Naveen bolta, “Sir, bas thoda soft kar dijiye.” Harish marker uthata, whiteboard par likhta, “Soft nahi, sach bol.” Naveen ka draft tha: “I regret any unintended offense caused during yesterday’s discussion.” Harish ne usi ko tod diya: “Maine kal tumhari tarah koi sentence nahi dekha. Seedha bolo—‘Mujhse bakwaas ho gayi.’” Naveen ka face utar jata, par Harish ke expressions mein gussa kam, entertainment zyada hota. Woh coffee stain wale shirt aur reading glasses ke saath bilkul aise lagta tha jaise office ka grumpy uncle ho, par uski har line mein ek ajeeb warmth thi.

Naveen ko samajh nahi aa raha tha ki Harish usse itna expose kyun kar raha hai. Harish har baar apology ko aur honest, aur embarrassing bana deta. “Dear team” ko “Hi people I annoyed” bana diya. “Unintentionally” ko “mostly by stupidity” se replace kar diya. “I value collaboration” ko “I value not being hated” likh diya. Harish ka logic brutal tha: “Apology ka kaam image bachana nahi, trust wapas lana hai.” Naveen ka ego aur panic dono ek saath boil hone lage. Usne kaha, “Sir, main HR policy khilaaf nahi jaana chahta.” Harish ne bina dekhe jawab diya, “Policy ke naam pe apology ko detergent mat bana.”

Climax tab aata hai jab Naveen ka phone vibrate karta hai. Screen par boss ka naam flash hota hai. Naveen freeze. Harish notice karta hai aur ek second ke liye uska grumpy face soft ho jata hai. Usne quietly poocha, “Usko bhi bhejna hai?” Naveen bas aankhon se haan karta hai. Tab twist reveal hota hai: Harish us apology ko team ke liye nahi, boss ke liye prepare karwa raha tha—aur boss Naveen ka ex-best friend tha, jo usi meeting mein insult ke baad aur personal ho gaya tha. Office politics ka yeh angle Naveen ko aur zyada embarrass karta hai, kyunki usse ab samajh aata hai ki Harish uska mazaak nahi uda raha tha; woh usse ek aisi apology likhwa raha tha jo sirf damage control nahi, relationship repair bhi kare.

Final version mein Harish ek line likhwata hai: “Mujhe lagta tha main funny ho raha hoon, par main bas rude tha. I’m sorry, and I’ll do better.” Naveen pehle resist karta hai, phir first time honestly bolta hai, “Yeh line likhne mein mujhe saans phool rahi hai.” Harish smirks, coffee cup uthata hai, aur bolta hai, “Good. Apology thodi mehengi honi chahiye.” Naveen finally draft print karta hai. Uske face par relief, embarrassment aur gratitude ka mix hota hai. Harish marker cap karta hai, glasses adjust karta hai, aur jaise casually bolta hai, “Boss ko bhej do. Aur haan—agar reply mein ‘seen’ aaye na, toh usko bhi apology mat samajhna.”

Room ke glass walls ke bahar office waise ka waisa rehta hai, lekin andar ek chhota sa shift ho chuka hota hai. Naveen samajh jata hai ki apology sirf words ka game nahi hota; kabhi-kabhi usmein ego ko fold karke table par rakhna padta hai. Aur Harish, jo pehle sirf grumpy HR manager lag raha tha, ek surprisingly kind mentor nikalta hai—jo insaan ko embarrass karke bhi uski dignity bachana jaanta hai. End mein comedy bhi bachi rehti hai, aur ek honest lesson bhi: sachhi apology woh hoti hai jo thodi uncomfortable ho, kyunki wahi real hoti hai.