

THE ROOFTOP CLUB

A Slice of Life/Romance 2-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Genre: Slice of Life/Romance	Format: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast)	Runtime: 5 - 8 Minutes
Cast: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) Character 1: Kajal (24)	Language: Hinglish	Credit: Story Dil Se Team

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Kajal har shaam apne chhote se flat se bach kar rooftop par aati hai—oversized sweater, jeans, ek cheap speaker aur chips ka packet lekar. Uske liye rooftop sirf hawa nahi, ek temporary azaadi hai. Wahan pehle se Rhea hoti hai—barefoot, loose shirt, messy bun, sketchbook godh mein, jaise shehri shor ke beech bhi usne apna alag silence bana liya ho. Dono ka pehla interaction awkward hota hai: Kajal speaker on karti hai, Rhea bina dekhe bol deti hai, “Aaj bhi sad songs?” Kajal defensive hoke kehti hai, “Aur aap bhi aaj bhi yahin?” Rhea muskura kar bas itna bolti hai, “Yeh mera corner hai.” Kajal ka jawab hota hai, “Mera bhi.”

Agli shaam se yeh routine ban jata hai. Kabhi Kajal snacks share karti hai, kabhi Rhea apni tea flask se do paper cups mein chai daal deti hai. Rooftop ki string lights dheere-dheere unki evenings ka part ban jaati hain. Woh baatein karte hain jo kisi aur ke saamne bolna mushkil hota hai—Kajal ke failed dates jinmein ladke zyada impress karne ki koshish mein khud ko hi confuse kar dete hain, aur Rhea ke freelance clients jo uske design se zyada uske “female aesthetic” par comment karte hain. Kajal hansi mein sab chhupa leti hai, lekin Rhea uske pauses sun leti hai. Rhea ki confidence ke neechे jo thakaan hai, Kajal usse notice karti hai—family pressure, shaadi ke casual-but-not-casual sawaal, aur yeh expectation ki “settle” hona hi maturity hai.

Dono ke beech ek strange comfort develop hota hai. Wo ek dusre ko naam se kam, habits se zyada pehchaanne lagte hain—Kajal ka chips kholne se pehle packet ko teen baar fold karna, Rhea ka sketch karte waqt bina soche lower lip bite karna. Rooftop par unka ek private world ban jata hai jahan koi explanation dene ki zarurat nahi. Na overthinking, na performance. Bas do log, sunset, aur city ki door se aati traffic ki humming.

Ek shaam, hawa thodi thandi hoti hai. Rhea blanket laati hai aur casually Kajal ke kandhe par daal deti hai. Kajal ek second ke liye freeze ho jaati hai, phir pretend karti hai ki kuch hua hi nahi. Us raat unki baatein zyada personal ho jaati hain. Kajal confess karti hai ki usne last month ek date isliye chhod diya kyunki usse laga ladka uski silence ko “boring” samjhega. Rhea dheere se bolti hai ki usne bhi ek relationship isliye khatam ki thi kyunki uske ex ne uske kaam ko “cute hobby” bola tha. Phir dono chup ho jaate hain, jaise suddenly rooftop bhi unki baat sun raha ho.

Twist tab aata hai jab Kajal, nervous hoke, bol deti hai, “Waise... hum jo yeh karte hain na, rooftop pe milna, chai peena, bakwaas karna... yeh friendship club hai.” Rhea uski taraf dekhti hai, thoda sa smile, thoda sa shock. “Haan,”

woh bolti hai, “club hi toh hai.” Kajal relief mein hasti hai, par uski aankhon mein disappointment bhi chhup jata hai—jo Rhea turant pakad leti hai. Rhea sketchbook band karti hai aur seedha poochti hai, “Aur agar club ke bahar bhi kuch ho?” Kajal ka saans rukta hai. “Jaise?” Rhea, jo ab tak sabse confident thi, pehli baar thodi nervous ho jaati hai. “Jaise... friend nahi. Bas... tum aur main.”

Kajal ke haath se snack packet halkasa sarak jata hai. Woh Rhea ko dekhti hai, phir un string lights ko, phir city skyline ko—jaise sab kuch ek second ke liye blur ho gaya ho. “Mujhe laga sirf main hi...” woh adhoora chhod deti hai. Rhea halki si hansii ke saath bolti hai, “Main bhi. Isliye toh friendship club bola.”

Phir silence. Is baar awkward nahi, warm. Kajal dheere se speaker off karti hai. Rhea blanket aur paas kheench leti hai. Dono rooftop ke edge par baith jaati hain, shoulders almost touching. Neeche city chal rahi hai, upar sky orange se pink ho raha hai, aur beech mein do log hain jo pehli baar ek simple sach ko naam dene ki himmat kar rahe hain. Unka “club” koi joke nahi rehta. Woh ek beginning ban jata hai—soft, unplanned, aur bilkul unke jaise: bina announcement ke, bas quietly, finally, pyaar mein.