

THREE SEATS AWAY

A Emotional Drama 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Genre: Emotional Drama	Format: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast)	Runtime: 6 - 9 Minutes
Cast: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) Character 1: Raghav (55)	Language: Hinglish	Credit: Story Dil Se Team

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Subah ke 5:40 baje ka waqt hai. Hospital ki waiting room mein sab kuch jaise thoda sa ruk gaya ho—pale blue roshni khidkiyon se andar aa rahi hai, tube light halki si bhin-bhin kar rahi hai, aur deewar par laga clock har second ko zyada loud bana raha hai. Plastic chairs ki thandak mein Raghav akela baitha hai, apne dono haathon ko ghutnon par rakhe, jaise kisi purani school assembly mein khada ho. Uski salt-and-pepper baal, soft sweater aur tired, dignified aankhen batati hain ki woh sirf patient ka intezaar nahi kar raha—woh ek poori zindagi ka hisaab kar raha hai.

Hospital file lekar Dev andar aata hai. Formal shirt, practical haircut, aur face par woh control jo sirf un logon ke paas hota hai jo har emotion ko spreadsheet ki tarah manage karte hain. Woh seedha Raghav ke paas aakar khada hota hai, par baithta nahi. Dono ke beech ek chair khali hai—jaise ghar ki tarah yahan bhi ek distance set ho gaya ho. Dev bolta hai ki doctor ne kaha hai abhi reports pending hain. Raghav bas “hmm” karta hai. Unke beech ka silence us aasman se bhi zyada heavy hai jo hospital windows ke bahar dheere-dheere halka ho raha hai.

Phir Aman aata hai—casual jacket, restless posture, aankhon mein woh thakaan jo neend se nahi, guilt se aati hai. Woh andar ghusta hai aur pehle Dev ko dekhta hai, phir Raghav ko. Teenon ki body language mein ek hi pal mein pura family history khul jaata hai: awkwardness, resentment, aur woh purani aadat ki koi bhi pehle bolna nahi chahta. Aman turant Dev par nishana leta hai—“Tum aaye kaise? Tumhe to hamesha emergency tab yaad aati hai jab file ready ho.” Dev palatkar bolta hai—“Aur tumhe family tab yaad aati hai jab blame dena ho.” Raghav beech mein bas ek tissue box ko theek se seedha kar deta hai, jaise ghar mein jang ko table par rakh dene se tension kam ho jaati ho.

Dialogue dheere-dheere khulta hai. Aman maanta hai ki usne ghar isliye chhoda kyunki Dev hamesha “responsible beta” banke sab decisions le leta tha. Dev kehta hai ki Aman ne bas bhaagne ka bahana dhoondha. Raghav pehli baar zor se bolta hai—“Tum dono ko lagta hai main andha tha?” Room mein ek second ke liye hawa jam jaati hai. Raghav batata hai ki usne sab dekha tha: Dev ka har practical sacrifice, Aman ka har impulsive hurt, aur unki maa ka roz ka chup-chaap pighalna. Par kisi ne kisi se sach nahi bola. Kisi ne maafi bhi seedhe nahi maangi. Bas phone calls, missed birthdays, aur ek dusre ko “busy” samajhkar saalon ko chhod diya.

Hospital file Dev ke haath mein bhaari hoti ja rahi hai. Woh file kholta hai—reports ke beech ek folded note girta hai. Aman uthata hai. Note unki maa ka hai. Usme likha hai: “Main jaanti hoon tum dono mujhe lekar aayoge, aur phir ek doosre ko dosh doge. Bas itna samajh lo—main ne tum dono ko alag nahi kiya. Tum dono ne khud ko alag kiya hai. Dev, Aman ko chhota mat samjho. Aman, Dev ko dushman mat samjho. Tum dono bhai ho. Pehle yeh bol do. Baaki baad mein.” Note ke neeche ek aur line hai: “Main theek hoon. Aur tum log pehle ek baar bina ladai ke baat kar lena.”

Aman ka chehra toot jaata hai. Dev ki aankhon mein pehli baar practical mask ke neeche kuch narm sa hilita hai. Raghav dheere se apni wristwatch dekhta hai, phir dono sons ko. Woh ek simple sa sentence bolta hai, jismein saalon ka boj aur subah ki roshni dono aa jaate hain: “Abhi bhi der nahi hui.”

Climax mein teenon us ek khali chair ke ird-gird baith jaate hain—jaise pehli baar family ne apni jagah dhoondh li ho. Aman tissue box Dev ki taraf badhata hai, Dev water bottle Raghav ke haath mein deta hai, aur Raghav bina kuch kahe dono ke beech ka distance thoda sa kam kar deta hai. Koi dramatic hug nahi, koi background music nahi—sirf woh awkward, real, human moment jahan do bhai pehli baar ek dusre ko dekhte hain, aur samajhte hain ki unka dushman saamne wala bhai nahi tha. Dushman thi woh khamoshi jo saalon se unke beech baithi thi. Aur ab, us hospital waiting room mein, dawn ke saath, woh khamoshi finally toot rahi thi.