

THE GUEST ROOM RULE

A Slice of Life/Family 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Genre: Slice of Life/Family	Format: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast)	Runtime: 6 - 9 Minutes
Cast: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) Character 1: Raghav (45)	Language: Hinglish	Credit: Story Dil Se Team

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Raat ka waqt hai. Purane shehar ke ek modest guest room mein do alag-alag beds thode faasle par rakhe hain, beech mein ek chhota sa table, upar tube light ki bhin-bhin, aur corner mein ek purana standing fan dheere-dheere saans le raha hai. Darwaze ke paas ek suitcase rakha hai, aur deewar par latka family photo frame is room ko aur bhi zyada "temporary" aur "permanent" dono bana raha hai. Raghav, 45, faded kurta aur reading glasses ke saath, apni thakan ko dignity ki tarah pehne baitha hai. Puneet, 41, checked shirt aur restless posture mein, har do minute mein khud ko justify karne ke liye taiyaar. Dono ko pata hai ki aaj raat guest room ka faisla hoga — aur is faisle mein guest se zyada zidd, ego aur purani bhai-chaare ki politics hai.

Pehle conversation polite hoti hai. Raghav kehta hai, "Sonia aayegi, to obviously main bed chhod dunga." Puneet turant bolta hai, "Arre nahi, tum kyun? Main chhod deta hoon." Dono ek doosre ki generosity ko challenge karte hue asal mein apni jeet ka maza le rahe hote hain. Sonia, 43, simple sari mein, suitcase ke saath darwaze par aati hai aur unki baatein chupchaap sunti rehti hai. Uski aankhon mein warmth hai, lekin awaaz mein aisi firmness jo bachpan se dono bhaiyon ko seedha kar deti aayi hai. Woh hansii mein unki taunts ko dodge karti hai, kabhi Raghav ko "bade bhai ka drama" bolti hai, kabhi Puneet ko "hamesha practical banke emotional blackmail karne wala aadmi."

Conversation dheere-dheere childhood ki taraf mud jaati hai. Raghav yaad dilata hai kaise bachpan mein woh apni tiffin ka achha hissa chhota bhai ko de deta tha. Puneet palat kar kehta hai ki achha hissa tab milta tha jab Raghav khud pehle kha chuka hota tha. Sonia beech mein ek chhota sa laugh deti hai, phir ek line bolti hai jo room ka temperature badal deti hai: "Tum dono ka hisaab kabhi khatam hi nahi hua." Dono ruk jaate hain. Fan ki awaaz aur tube light ka buzz suddenly zyada loud lagne lagta hai. Purane zakhm, jo roz ki hasi mein dab jaate the, ab seedhe surface par aa rahe hote hain — school fees, cycle, shaadi ke waqt ka support, aur sabse bada: maa ke last dino mein kaun kitna aaya, kaun kitna raha, kaun kitna "busy" tha.

Raghav aur Puneet apni-apni sacrifice list pesh karne lagte hain, jaise courtroom mein evidence ho. Raghav kehta hai, "Main hi tha jo maa ke liye dawa laata tha." Puneet turant: "Aur main hi tha jo unko hospital le jaata tha jab tum 'meeting' mein the." Sonia unhein rokne ki koshish nahi karti. Woh bas dekhti rehti hai, jaise kisi purane natak ka final scene samajh rahi ho. Phir woh suitcase kholti hai. Andar kapde kam, papers zyada. Dono bhai ek saath confuse ho jaate hain. Sonia calmly bolti hai ki woh yahan raat bhar rukne nahi aayi. Woh yahan ek kaam ke liye aayi hai: maa ke

chhode hue belongings ka hisaab clear karne.

Twist yahin aata hai — Sonia reveal karti hai ki guest room ka “stay” sirf bahana tha. Woh un dono ko ek hi room mein, ek hi raat mein, face-to-face baithakar majboor karna chahti thi taaki woh finally decide karein ki maa ka trunk, photo frame, jewellery ka dabba, aur baaki cheezein kaun le gaya, kaun rok ke baitha hai, aur kaun bas “baad mein” bolta raha. Raghav aur Puneet ki self-righteousness ek second mein khul jaati hai. Unhe samajh aata hai ki Sonia ne unki competition ko use karke unka asli issue saamne la diya hai: unfairness, avoidance, aur woh chhota sa family truth jo sab dekh rahe the par koi bol nahi raha tha.

Aakhri moment mein Sonia family photo frame uthati hai aur bed ke beech rakh deti hai. Woh kehti hai, “Maa ki cheezein award nahi hain. Aur na hi tum dono ki ego ka prize.” Raghav aur Puneet pehli baar chup ho jaate hain. Fan ghoomta rehta hai, tube light buzz karti rehti hai, lekin room ka mood badal chuka hota hai. Dono bhai ek doosre ko dekhte hain — thoda sharminda, thoda relieved. Sonia suitcase band karti hai aur seedha bolti hai, “Ab baitho. List banao. Aaj guest room mein koi guest nahi aaya. Aaj ghar waapas aaya hai.”