

DEADLINE AT THE CAFÉ

A Pure Comedy 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Genre: Pure Comedy	Format: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast)	Runtime: 6 - 9 Minutes
Cast: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) Character 1: Rohit (34)	Language: Hinglish	Credit: Story Dil Se Team

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Subah ka waqt hai. Ek chhota sa neighborhood café, front window se soft sunlight gir rahi hai, espresso machine ki continuous hiss aur hiss ke beech ek hi corner table par teen log: Rohit, Anjali aur Tina. Rohit hoodie mein hai, laptop khula hai, par screen par jo dikh raha hai woh ek blank page aur uske neeche ek purana excuse. Uske saamne do coffee cups, notebook, pen aur table ke beech mein ek timer tik-tik kar raha hai. Anjali sharp blazer aur glasses mein baithe-baithe hi uski saans rok deti hai. Woh calm hai, par uski calmness mein deadline ka danda chhupa hai. Rohit bolta hai, "Bas ek ghanta aur." Anjali timer on karti hai: "Exactly sixty minutes. Aur is baar script chahiye, drama nahi." Tina receipt leke aati hai, aur bina invitation ke unki baatein sunte-sunte Rohit ke bahane pe comment karne lagti hai.

Rohit shuru karta hai apni usual performance: "Main process mein hoon." Anjali turant laptop screen dekh kar bolti hai: "Process mein cursor bhi zyada kaam kar raha hai tumse." Tina coffee rakhte hue muskurati hai: "Sir, cursor bhi thak gaya hai." Rohit ek notebook kholta hai jisme teen random lines, ek doodle, aur ek grocery list hoti hai. Woh usko "research" bolta hai. Anjali receipt uthakar dekhti hai aur deadpan tone mein puchti hai, "Ye receipt pe '1 cappuccino, 2 samose, 1 existential crisis' kisne likha?" Tina, bina palake jhapkaye, bolti hai, "Main nahi. Main bill banati hoon, biography nahi." Café ka mahol halka lagta hai, par har line ke saath Rohit ka confidence aur patla hota ja raha hai.

Rohit ab absurd excuses pe aata hai—"Mujhe silence chahiye," "Mera muse late hai," "Main under-pressure genius hoon." Anjali har excuse ko ek precise sentence mein kaat deti hai. Tina uski har baat ka counter nikal deti hai, jaise woh café ki floor manager ho aur Rohit ek unpaid intern. Rohit finally laptop screen ko ghoorta hai aur dramatic sigh deta hai, "Theek hai, main likh raha hoon. Ek powerful opening." Woh type karna shuru karta hai, par screen pe sirf ek line aati hai: "Ek café mein teen log..." Anjali eyebrow raise karti hai: "Wah. Meta. Aur?" Rohit panic mein cup uthata hai. Tina casually bolti hai, "Aur kuch nahi, abhi tak story ka character development bhi chai ke foam jitna hai."

Phir twist ka pehla spark aata hai jab Tina receipt ke backside par ek line likh kar Rohit ke laptop ke paas slide karti hai: "Mainne kal wali ending bheji thi, check kar lo." Anjali instantly freeze ho jaati hai. Rohit bhi. Woh receipt palat kar dekhta hai—us par uske last month ke script ke punchlines, scene beats, aur ek dialogue note likha hua hai, bilkul uski style mein. Anjali, jo pehle se suspect kar rahi thi, ab seedha puchti hai: "Tina. Tum isko ghostwrite kar rahi thi?" Tina shrug karti hai, "Ghostwriting zyada fancy lagta hai. Main bas uske emails ka emotional rehab karti thi." Rohit ke

chehre par guilt aur relief dono aa jaate hain. Woh almost bachav mein bolta hai, “Main toh ideas deta hoon.” Tina turant cut karti hai: “Haan. Jaise ‘kuch funny likh do’ aur ‘deadline ko cinematic bana do.’”

Anjali ab gusse se nahi, amusement se muskura rahi hai. “Toh isliye tum itne confident ho ke script aayegi.” Rohit dheere se bolta hai, “Main career maintain kar raha tha.” Tina pen ghumate hue final blow deti hai: “Nahi. Main kar rahi thi.” Silence. Espresso machine phir hiss karti hai. Anjali timer stop karti hai, laptop band karne ke bajay usse khol kar Tina ko side mein slide kar deti hai. “Theek hai. Aaj se Rohit ka career tum sambhalo. Aur Rohit—tum coffee order sambhalo.” Rohit blank. Tina smirks. “Deal. Par pehle payment clear karo.” Woh receipt palat kar ek aur line likhti hai: “If you want brilliance, tip on time.” Anjali hassti hai, Rohit hairaan hota hai, aur café ki sunlight mein teenon ki awkward alliance ek perfect punchline ban jaati hai. Final image: timer still ticking, laptop finally typing, aur Rohit ka face jaise uski zindagi ka sabse bada plot twist abhi abhi uske hi café bill par likh diya gaya ho.