

SHE SPEAKS AS IF SHE KNOWS REKHA AUNTY VERY WELL!



WHAT IF SHE GAVE US SOME MONEY AND CAME HERE TO COLLECT IT BACK!

IN THE KITCHEN



HUMMING

THE RADIO IS PLAYING AN OLD SONG IN THE BACKGROUND

GOSH THE MUSIC IS TOO LOUD!

SOMEONE'S HERE!



WHAT IS IT DEAR?

URNS OFF THE RADIO

THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE LIVINGROOM!

I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE GOT IN HERE. SHE WAS ASKING FOR YOU!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO..



AH RELAX, SLOW DOWN! WHO IS IT? ASKING FOR ME, YOU SAID?

YES.. SOMEONE.. UMM, AH, CHARULATHA, YES, THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID!



OMG! CHARULATHA? IS THAT WHAT SHE SAID HER NAME WAS?

I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS BACK.. IT'S BEEN SO LONG!



THANK GOD.. YOU KNOW HER, RIGHT?

YES..YES.. NOTHING TO WORRY. SHE'S MY LONG-TERM FRIEND, AND SHE USED TO LIVE NEXT DOORS

SHE NOW LIVES 4 STREETS AWAY AND USED TO VISIT HERE ALMOST EVERY WEEK!


UGHH! I THOUGHT I
COULD REST FOR SOME TIME
AFTER CLEANING!.....

UMM.. SURE

COULD YOU PLEASE MAKE
2 CUPS OF COFFEE AND
BRING IT TO THE LIVING
ROOM!?

THANK YOU!






WELL IT WAS ALL MY
DAUGHTER-IN-LAW'S DOING.
SHE GOT RID OF ALL MY
SAREES!

OMG LOOK AT YOU! AND WHAT
THE HELL ARE YOU WEARING!

WOW, YOU DO LOOK LIKE
YOU LOST A FEW YEARS!
KUDOS TO HER!


HAVE A SEAT..



SO HOW WAS IT, LIVING IN THE UK? 3 YEARS, IS IT? DID YOU LIKE IT THERE?


2.5 MONTHS, AND I HATED IT THERE. THE UK IS NOT FOR ME. NOT TO MENTION THE COVID! I'M SO GRATEFUL TO BE BACK IN BANGALORE!

AT LEAST IN THE UK, YOU CAN STAY WITH YOUR SON AND GRANDKIDS. YOU'LL BE ALL ALONE IN YOUR BIG ASS HOUSE HERE!




WELL I CAN'T BE SELFISH NOW
AND ASK MY SON TO COME BACK
TO INDIA! IT IS WHAT IT IS!

I JUST GOT BACK LAST NIGHT
AND HAVE BEEN SLEEPING THE
WHOLE DAY.

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a patterned mesh top and light-colored pants, sits on a grey couch. She has a thoughtful or slightly annoyed expression. The background is a living room with a blue sofa, a coffee table, and a window with curtains.

ENOUGH SCRUTINISING ME, YOU
TEXTED ME A WHILE BACK THAT
YOUR DAUGHTER IS BACK? SO
SHE'S LIKE BACK BACK?

OH YES, THANKFULLY,
SHE'S BACK. THAT'S THE
ONE GOOD THING THE COVID
HAS DONE. SHE'S OFF TO
WORK NOW



IT'S SUNDAY TOMORROW, SHE'LL BE HOME, SHE'LL BE VERY HAPPY TO SEE YOU AFTER A LONG TIME!

UNFORTUNATELY, I CAN'T MAKE IT FOR A WEEK, ONE OF MY RELATIVE DIED WHEN I WAS IN UK, I HAVE TO VISIT THEIR HOUSE AND PAY MY CONDOLENCES.

BUT DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE HERE FOR AT LEAST 6 TO 7 MONTHS, WHICH MEANS, YOU'LL BE SEEING A LOT OF ME FROM NOW ON!

GOD! I COMPLETELY WENT OFF TRACK, HAHA! ARE YOU FINALLY IN GOOD TERMS WITH YOUR SON-IN-LAW?

WHERE IS HE? HAS HE GONE TO WORK TOO? GOD, I CAN'T WAIT TO MEET HIM!

SHIT!! I THOUGHT SHE'D MOVE ON FROM THERE!

THINK REKHA, THINK! YOU CAN'T LET HER KNOW THE TRUTH!



ON THE CONTRARY, I CAN
MAKE USE OF THIS
OPPORTUNITY TOO!

OH HE'S CURRENTLY ABROAD, AND
HE WON'T BE BACK ANY TIME SOON.
AND YES, WE HAVE CLEARED ALL THE
DIFFERENCES. HE'S SUCH A GOOD
PERSON. I WAS WRONG ABOUT HIM!

5 MINUTES LATER



COFFEE?





IS THE SUGAR LEVEL
OK, AUNTY?

PERFECT DEAR,
THANK YOU!



I'VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK YOU. WHO IS THIS YOUNG LADY? SHE'S SO KIND AND RESPECTFUL.

JUST THE ONE, I'VE BEEN EXPECTING!

SHE CALLED YOU AUNTY? IS SHE ONE OF YOUR RELATIVES?



IS SHE ASKING ABOUT
ME?

OMG, WHAT WILL
REKHA AUNTY SAY!?

RELATIVE? YEAH THAT
DOESN'T SOUND BAD!

HWH!!!??

OH NO NO.. SHE'S NOT MY RELATIVE. SHE'S OUR MAID AKSHAYA. SHE'S BEEN HELPING ME WITH THE HOUSEHOLD WORK FOR QUITE A WHILE!

NO..NOT AGAIN! THIS IS NOT FAIR! HOW CAN SHE DO THAT TO ME! I'M DRESSED UP LIKE THIS ONLY FOR MY WIFE.. NOT FOR ANY STRANGER!

GOES TO THE KITCHEN FILLED WITH ANGER!



WOW, CAN'T BELIEVE THE REKHA I KNOW
LET A MAID CALL HER AUNTY!

SHE'S TRUSTWORTHY AND
HELPS ME A LOT! THAT'S
ALL IT MATTERS
NOWADAYS.

THAT'S RIGHT TOO, ITS VERY HARD TO
FIND ANY TRUSTWORTHY MAIDS
NOWADAYS!



TIME TO START THE
NEXT PHASE! GOD KEEPS ON
GIVING ME MORE
OPPORTUNITIES!

I'D BETTER PUT IT TO
GOOD USE! IT'S WORTH GIVING
IT A TRY!

YOUR HOUSE MUST BE IN A
VERY BAD SHAPE, I ASSUME.
AFTERALL IT'S BEEN CLOSED
FOR ABOUT 3 YEARS!

YEAH THAT'S RIGHT. EVEN WHEN
I WAS THERE, WE ASKED A
LOCAL MAID TO CLEAN THIS
HOUSE ONCE EVERY MONTH.
CLEARLY SHE HASN'T BEEN
DOING A GOOD JOB.


SHE SAID SHE'LL BE BACK NEXT
WEEK WHEN I COME BACK FROM
MY RELATIVES' HOUSE!



YEAH BUT WHAT ABOUT TONIGHT? WE CAN'T TAKE ANY RISKS AT THIS AGE SLEEPING IN A DUSTY HOUSE

AT LEAST YOU CAN HIRE SOMEONE JUST TO CLEAN YOUR ROOM FOR NOW.

HMM.. WHAT CAN WE DO! HOW ABOUT I ASK AKSHAYA TO HELP YOU OUT?

A woman with short dark hair, wearing a blue sari with a green shawl, is shown in profile, sitting and holding a black coffee cup. She has a bindi on her forehead. The background is a blurred indoor setting with a wooden table and chairs.

THAT'S ACTUALLY NOT A BAD IDEA. BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S NECESSARY JUST FOR ONE NIGHT. I'LL BE LEAVING FOR MY RELATIVE'S TOMORROW

OH PLEASE, I INSIST. AS I SAID, YOU CAN GET AT LEAST YOUR ROOM CLEANED BY HER!

WILL SHE BE OK WITH THAT? I MEAN, MY HOUSE IS KINDA BIG!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. I'LL GO TALK TO HER. LET'S FINISH OUR COFFEES FIRST!

MEANWHILE IN THE
KITCHEN

SOBBING

JUST AS I EXPECTED!

CRY AS MUCH AS YOU
WANT! NOTHING IS GOING
TO CHANGE!


INFACIT IT'S ONLY GOING
TO GET MORE PAINFUL FOR
YOU!



OMG AKSHAY, ARE YOU
CRYING?

I'M NOT CRYING.. I'M
FRUSTRATED! YES I HEARD
YOU! I HEARD YOU
INTRODUCE ME AS YOUR
MAID!


HOW CAN YOU DO THIS TO
ME! YOU HAVE TO TELL HER,
I'M DOING THIS ALL FOR
PRIETY!

A woman with dark hair in a ponytail, wearing a yellow sari with a red border and a red blouse, stands in a kitchen. She has a bindi on her forehead and is looking towards the right with a concerned expression. Her hands are slightly raised in a gesture of explanation or frustration. The kitchen background shows wooden cabinets and a countertop.

I DON'T WANT TO BE AKSHAYA! IT'S ONLY AKSHAY NOW! YOU HAVE TO MAKE THIS CORRECT. AT LEAST YOU COULD'VE TOLD HER THAT I WAS A RELATIVE!- A MAID? SERIOUSLY?

YOU HAVE TO KNOW THAT YOU DID NOT HAVE A CHOICE. WHAT WOULD SHE THINK OF ME IF I WERE ASKING MY RELATIVE TO DO ALL MY HOUSEHOLD WORK? AND INTRODUCING YOU AS PRIETY'S HUSBAND IS DEFINITELY OUT OF THE PICTURE!

I DID WHAT I HAD TO DO FOR PRIETY! HER INSECURITIES ARE ON THE LINE, TOO. SO WHAT DO YOU THINK I SHOULD'VE DONE!?

A woman with dark hair in a ponytail, wearing a yellow sari with a red border and a red blouse, is shown in profile. She has a bindi on her forehead and a tear on her cheek. The background is a kitchen with wooden cabinets. There are three speech bubbles: a thought bubble above her head, a speech bubble pointing to her, and another speech bubble to the right.

UGH!! I HATE THIS! WHY DOES SHE ALWAYS HAVE TO BRING PRIETY INTO THIS?

WELL IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY. I DON'T THINK YOU HAD ANY CHOICE! SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?


THANK YOU, I KNOW YOU'D UNDERSTAND. NOW THERE'S ONE MORE THING!

A woman with short dark hair, wearing a green and blue patterned sari, is shown in profile from the chest up. She is in a kitchen with wooden cabinets and a countertop. Three white speech bubbles with black outlines are overlaid on the left side of the image, connected to her by thin lines. The text in the bubbles is in all caps and a simple, slightly irregular font.

MY FRIEND CHARU IS IN DESPERATE
NEED OF A HELPING HAND TO CLEAN
HER ROOM. AND SHE ASKED FOR YOUR
HELP.

YOU JUST HAVE TO GO TO HER HOUSE,
MAYBE REARRANGE A FEW STUFF AND
CLEAN A FEW WINDOWS, THAT'S IT.

IT'S GONNA HARDLY TAKE 2 HOURS AND
YOU CAN BE BACK WELL BEFORE PRIETY
GETS BACK FROM THE OFFICE



NO! IF INTRODUCING WAS NOT ENOUGH, YOU WANT ME WORK FOR HER TOO! NOT GONNA HAPPEN! WHAT WILL PRIETY THINK OF IT IF SHE FINDS IT!

THIS IS THE LEAST YOU CAN DO FOR ME AFTER ALL THAT I'VE DONE FOR YOU AND PRIETY. WE DON'T WANT HER TO FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR REAL IDENTITY

THE ONLY WAY TO ACCOMPLISH THAT IS TO MAKE HER BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE OUR MAID. I WILL EXPLAIN TO PRIETY THAT YOU WERE FORCED IF SHE EVER FINDS OUT, WHICH SHE WONT!

ONE MORE THING. SHE'S A BIT OLDSCHOOL, REFER TO HER AS MADAM, JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE!

AFTER A LOT OF CONVINCING

ARE YOU READY TO GO? YOU DON'T SEEM VERY HAPPY. DON'T WORRY, I JUST WANT MY ROOM CLEANED. I WON'T KEEP YOU FOR LONG.

THAT'S ALRIGHT, MAADAM, I'LL HELP YOU

PLEASE SEND HER BACK BEFORE 7, I WILL NEED HER HELP IN THE KITCHEN



VERY WELL, BEFORE SEVEN
IT IS!

BEFORE 7? THAT'S 4
HOURS FROM NOW!

I HOPE PRIETY
DOESN'T FIND OUT
ABOUT THIS!



DO WHATEVER SHE'S ASKING YOU TO DO, AKSHAYA.



.....

HMM.. THAT WORKED LIKE A CHARM

.....

AFTERALL YOU'VE BEEN WORKING AS A MAID DURING ALL THOSE COVID DAYS!

