

C H I N T U K A B I R T H D A Y

by

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1

KITCHEN - NIGHT

1

It is dark. We cannot see much.

WHOOSH. A match stick comes to life. Lights a little candle, revealing a birthday cake.

One by one, all the candles on the cake are lit.

*

2

DRAWING ROOM - DAY

2

FRAME FILLED with high-energy TV ANIMATION. ADAM and EVE dance to a funny singing voice. The SNAKE too!

*

FUNNY VOICE ON TV

It was just a silly little apple
that brought us all our woes,
One bite that stole our right to
live there with friends and foes...

CHINTU (M6) is watching the TV. T-shirt. Specs. Wet hair.

*

SUDHA (F37) joins him from behind, with a tie.

*

SUDHA

Bechaara saanp ko dekho villain
banaa diye hain.

*

*

*

Sudha is the most wise-looking woman in all of small-town India. And warm, as mothers are.

*

*

She makes Chintu wear the tie. A tie with a T-shirt!

*

SUDHA (CONT'D)

Nayaa sirt-pant aa gaya hai. Theek
hai? Aur kya likhe the list mein?

*

*

CHINTU

Tophee!

*

SUDHA

Tophee bhi Papa le aaye hain... Sab
achcha-achcha hoga beta.

*

Chintu nods. He believes her.

*

Sudha starts tucking his T-shirt.

*

FUNNY VOICE ON TV

We had to leave, we - Adam and Eve,
and there we lost the Land... Her
labour pains made a million Cains,
the Garden got stone 'n' sand!

SUDHA

Papa ko jyada paresaan mat karna
haan! Humko bolna jo bhi bolna hai.

On the TV:

FUNNY VOICE ON TV

Once the land of goodness and
beauty, the Garden of Eden ceased
to exist with one little sin. But
do you know where it existed? Take
a wild guess as we take you there!

SUDHA

Darwaja peeto.
(aloud)
Arre kitna nahaenge Chintu ke Papa?

Chintu smiles. Rushes away.

Animation GIVES WAY to REAL FOOTAGE of a war-devastated land.

Sudha's eyes follow Chintu for a bit.

She picks up the remote. TV goes off. No blasts today!

2A **OUTSIDE THE BATHROOM - DAY, CONTINUOUS**

2A

Chintu bangs on the bathroom door.

CHINTU

Jaldi kijiye Papa! Aaj toh late
nahin kar sakte hain na!!

Chintu waits. After a beat:

The door opens. MADAN TIWARY (M42) emerges. Wearing an old
vest. A towel around his waist.

He is mumbling a prayer with his eyes on Chintu.

MADAN

Jo ye padhe Hanumaan chaalisa,
Hoye siddhi saakhi gaurseesa,
Tulsidas sada hari chera,
Kijaye naath hriday mah dera!

Madan folds his hands and shuts his eyes.

Chintu folds his hands too.

Madan opens his eyes and smiles. His entire face beams.

OMITTED: SCENES 3 TO 7

8

MADAN'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

8

A cupboard opens. Two cans of candies EXIT.

Chintu smiles, receiving the cans from Madan. *

Madan moves to Chintu with comb. Sits on the bed. Chintu is busy inspecting the candies in one of the cans. * *

MADAN

Kaa bolte hain Chintu babu? Dost
log khus hoga ki nahin? *

Madan starts combing Chintu's hair. *

MADAN (CONT'D)

Achcha suniye. Mummy ko jyaada
paresaan mat kijiyege. Hum hain na?
Jabardast birdday manaayenge!

Chintu's smile vanishes. Looks at the cans for comfort.

CHINTU

Kitna-kitna baatenge?

MADAN *

Aise baantiyega ki thoda mummy-papa
ke liye waapas aa jaaye!!!

Behind Chintu Sudha enters with a shirt and a tiffin-box. *

SUDHA

Do-do tho baantna beta! Bacha toh
raat mein balloon mein daal denge. *

Sudha places the shirt near Madan. Moves toward Chintu's school bag on the other side of the bed. * *

CHINTU

(to Sudha) *
Aur cake? *

Madan makes Chintu face him. *

MADAN

Hum divya-dristi se dekhein?
 (shuts eyes like a seer)
 Cake bahut sundar ban ke taiyyar
 hai. Didi ke school se nikalne ka
 intejaar kar raha hai!

*
*
*

Sudha smiles, shoving the tiffin-box in his school-bag.

SUDHA

Ye kya hai?

She PRODUCES a pack of DVDs. Stares at Chintu incredulously.

*
*

CHINTU

Waheed ka gift.

SUDHA

Ye gift hai?

Sudha exchanges a glance with Madan.

Madan takes the DVDs from her.

*
*

SUDHA (CONT'D)

Sadak par khaali phutaani karta hai
 ee Waheed. Hum bahut baar dekhe
 hain udhar bank ke paas.

*
*
*
*

CLOSE on DVDs: a cheap cover with a picture of men holding
 Kalashnikovs and something written in Arabic.

*
*

MADAN

Waheed toh wahi hai na? Jo Saddam
 ka haath gift kiya tha?

*
*

Chintu nods proudly.

*

Madan and Sudha lock eyes for a beat. Then Madan gets up,
 leaving the DVDs on the bed.

*
*

MADAN (CONT'D)

Chaliye koi baat nahin.

SUDHA

Baat kaise nahin? Beta, oo aayega
 saam ko?

*

Chintu nods. Madan moves toward the mirror with his shirt.

*

SUDHA (CONT'D)

Hum baat karenge. Aisa atrangi gift
koi deta hai boliye?

*
*

Chintu appears confused.

SUDHA (CONT'D)

Total kitna dost aayega saam ko?

CHINTU

Twenty-five.

Sudha cannot believe this.

NANI (O.S.)

Chintu!!!!

*

MADAN

(buttoning his shirt)

Nani ka pair chhuye, Birthday Boy??

*

Without bothering to answer, Chintu DARTS OUT of the room.

SUDHA

Aap hi bole honge, poora baanar-
sena jutaane ko??

MADAN

Bole toh the pachaas log ko bulana.
Pichhla hisaab bhi clear!

SUDHA

Haan toh kitchen mein baith ke
poori chaaniyega humre saath!

*

MADAN

Birthday mein khaali cake ho jaaye
tagda, aur kisi ko kuchh nahin
soojhta hai madam!

(approaches Sudha)

Waise aap saath mein bithaaiyega
toh kitchen aur chouka kya, maidaan-
e-jung mein bhi poori chhaan denge!

*

*

Sudha makes a face.

SUDHA

Ek baar belan le ke baithiye. Tab
bujhaayega aapko. Poori chhaanenge!

*

*

*

Madan smiles lovingly.

9

NANI'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

9

Chintu touches someone's feet. He is eager to rush back when he is held by:

NANI (F60), tiny and plump, with a generous grin. Presently busy with some edibles from her very important personal box. *

NANI

Aadha din beet gaya tab yaad aaya
babu ko, Nani ka pair chhoona hai? *

Nani kisses Chintu clumsily. He wipes off the saliva. *

CHINTU

Papa yaad dilaaye Nani!

Her smile weakens at Madan's mention. She holds it back.

NANI

Didi kaa chhod ke gayi hai, dekho.

Nani points at a note lying over the study table.

Chintu PICKS IT up. And Nani's glasses. Urgently.

NANI (CONT'D)

Khoob plan banayi hai. Batayen?

CHINTU

Nani, ye sab bataate nahin hai. *
Surprise dete hain. Isse cake
kaatne mein jyaada majaa aata hai!

Nani puts on the glasses. Reads the note aloud.

NANI

Mummy-Papa ke saamne cake-cake
nahin karna. Hum school se
lautenge, le aayenge. Baar-baar
dekhne ke liye fridge nahin kholna.
Kaatne ke pehle ungli mat lagana.
Gift mile toh laalchi banke phataak
se nahin kholna, pit jaoge...

Chintu makes a face. His excitement dips.

Nani SCANS the never-ending note. Puts it aside.

NANI (CONT'D)

Chhodo ee bakwas chitthi! Khaali
mera bouwa ko daanti rehti hai!!!

Nani pulls Chintu's cheek lovingly.

NANI (CONT'D)
Ohi sabse husiyaar hai kaa??? Aane
do... Aisa kaan amethenge na!

Chintu's smile is back. RINGING OF A PHONE distracts him.

10

DRAWING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

10

With the DVDs still in his hand, Madan excitedly rushes to the mobile phone: an old Nokia model, with a monophonic '*Saare jahaan se achcha...*' as its ring tone. *

Chintu appears from Nani's room. *

MADAN
Aaya lagta hai, aaya phone!! *

Madan drops the DVDs near the phone that he picks up. *

MADAN (CONT'D)
(reads the phone's
display)
Nahin bhai, ye toh Zaid hai. *

Turns to Chintu and hands over the phone to him.

MADAN (CONT'D)
Lo beta. *

CHINTU
(receiving the phone)
Hello. *

Indistinct voice on phone.

CHINTU (CONT'D)
(in Arabic)
But my sister has gone in the
morning! *

Madan observes Chintu, realizing something is wrong. *

The indistinct voice quickly completes the call. Disconnects. *

MADAN
Kaa hua Chintu Babu? *

No reply from Chintu. He looks upset.

SUDHA (O.S.)
Kiska phone tha beta...

Chintu turns to Sudha who has just joined them.

CHINTU
Aaj phir school cancel ho gaya.

SUDHA
Cancel... Didi toh gayi hai? *

CHINTU
Uska bhi bahut pehle chhutti ho
gaya hai.

Sudha, surprised, locks eyes with Madan. Urgency setting in.

11 **MADAN'S ROOM - A MINUTE LATER** 11 *

From the drawing room, we see Madan, with the phone to his ear. Sudha stands with him. Both are visibly anxious. *

Chintu is at the door, eyes set on his parents. *

SUDHA
Nahin lag raha hai?

Madan shakes his head. *

Sudha takes the phone from him. Dials and moves away from our sight. Madan follows. *

Left alone, Chintu looks increasingly upset. He quietly leaves the scene. *

And enters Nani's room. *

12 **NANI'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS** 12

From the bottom drawer of the table, Chintu takes out an old can of his favorite candy.

NANI
Kaa ho gaya bouwa?

Chintu does not reply. He produces old balloons, a half-burnt candle resembling number '4' and faded ribbons from the can.

CHINTU (V.O.)
 Phir iss baar mera birthday
 chaupat!! India mein hote toh ye
 sab naatak hota?

*

PANNING TO SHOW Chintu's sketches on the wall beside the
 table. Sketches of his family. It LEADS TO:

*

13

ANIMATION

13

A stunning animation sequence, rich and colorful, in ONE LONG
 TAKE, with a DRAMATIC MUSICAL SCORE.

- ALL characters are animated. Madan with a 6-yr old Lakshmi
 and infant Chintu. Sudha looks on adoringly.

CHINTU (V.O.)
 Hum jab bahot chhote the na, toh
 Bihar mein rehte the.

- Munger (in Bihar) located on the globe.

- GIRISH JHA (50, M), a lowly Bihari businessman, deals with
 cartons of water filters. His WORK-FORCE includes Madan.

CHINTU (V.O.)
 Papa the Water Filter ke salesman
 aur unke boss ka naam tha Girish
 Chachaji.

- The illegal route of smuggling electronic items from Nepal.

CHINTU (V.O.)
 Nepal se saamaan laana, phir
 bechna. Girish chachaji karwaate
 the, Papa karte the...

- Girish Jha reads reports of deaths in Iraq in the
 newspaper. People dying because of polluted water.

CHINTU (V.O.)
 Ek din Girish chachaji ko pataa
 chala ki door des Iraq mein peene
 ke paani ka bahut problem hai.

- Girish Jha FILLS a glass of water from his water purifier.

- His eyes turns scheming.

CHINTU (V.O.)

Ab wo toh sabke baare mein achcha
sochte hain na, toh Iraq ko help
karne ka thaan liye.

- Girish Jha EXAMINES brand new water purifier with joy.
Dozens of such cartons lie around him.

CHINTU (V.O.)

Aur ye kaam sambhaalne ke liye apne
sabse jimmedaar aadmi ko bole...

*

- Girish Jha instructing Madan who nods sincerely.

GIRISH JHA

Angreji ka teen sabd rat lo ji -
Cheap and Best. Yahi bol-bol ke
sabko pataa lena.

- ZOOM OUT: Madan's journey from India to Iraq via Nepal.
- ZOOM IN: Madan's plane LANDS ON a street in Baghdad.

CHINTU (V.O.)

Papa akele poora kaam le kar aa
gaye Baghdad... Us samay wahaan ka
haalat aaj ke jaisa nahin tha!

*

- An image props up: SADDAM HUSSEIN.

CHINTU (V.O.)

Wahaan ka raja tha Saddam Hussein!
Kya naam hai na? Sach mein raja tha
wo. Badka-badka mahal tha uska.

*

- Saddam's lavish life in his palaces.
- Saddam observes a banana. Shakes his head.

CHINTU (V.O.)

Usko kuchh pasand nahin aaye, toh
sabke liye manaa ho jaata tha!

- Bananas disappear from someone's hand, plate, market-place,
all of Iraq.
- Tintin comics disappear from all of Iraq.
- We move through the streets of Baghdad to reach Madan.