

**EP 1. LAUGH OR CRY**

2026

INT. GRANDE HOSPITAL. DAY (NEPAL)

'Hi, what room is patient ' Akash Dahal'?

Walking up to the hospital's reception desk, the middle-aged guy in his black suit and jacket speaks to the receptionist. His voice is slurring and trembling as he takes the name Akash.

The Receptionist points him to the direction through the hall to the elevator. The guy nods at the receptionist and walks towards the direction where she pointed. He walks slowly as his legs are trembling with fear.

He reluctantly presses the button for the elevator and waits. It appears after a second, the door opens, inside are two Asian ladies and a middle-aged man in a sweater and pants.

'Samir', whispers the man from inside the elevator, in a slow husky tone as Samir turns his head up to see the man smiling at him.

'How are you, Harry?'. Samir walks inside raising his arms to hug the man. They share a long emotional hug as they both are teary eyed holding each other warmly and consoling each other, without even uttering a word. Harry moves away holding Samir's arms with his hand and checks out Samir from top to bottom, a proud look seeing him in a suit.

'You've become a big businessman, you made all of us proud', Harry leaves his hand as the floor appears. Harry walks in front of Samir guiding him to the room as they share some conversations about the new things happening in their life.

Outside the room, on the hallway, is a waiting spot where a middle-aged woman and a young man are sitting on a long chair with hands on their head in stress. They are Kalpana and Abhishek. Samir walks up to them with a sad, long face as they both stand up to hug Samir. Samir embraces them firmly. They all look to the room through a glass window, where Akash is.

Akash, who is unconsciously lying in the bed with oxygen mask in his mouth. Their eyes are red as they start reminiscing their past.

CUT TO PAST:

**CHARACTERS**

**Samir (Sam)** - 26-year-old big build male, a Muslim originally from Pokhara, arrived in Sydney a month back, master of IT Student and currently a kitchenhand in Leo's kitchen. Calm, Respectful, Hardworking and Nervous.

**Hariprasad (Harry)** - 28-year-old small build male, a Hindu originally from Dang living in Australia for 5 years. Works as a manager in Leo's Kitchen and does Uber on weekends. Funny, loyal, helpful.

**Abhishek (Abhi)** - 20-year-old thin and tall male, a Hindu originally from Janakpur, in Australia for 5 months and kitchenhand in Leo's kitchen. Business student, goofy, funny.

**Kalpana (Kalp)** - 25-year-old, fit and strong Hindu female from Kathmandu, in Australia for 3 years pursuing nursing. Independent, strong and savage. Works as a chef in Leo's kitchen.

**Akash (puppy)** -18-year-old Hindu guy from Kathmandu lands Australia today. Carefree, happy, visionary, creative and smart. Student of Business but doesn't care about his studies.

2016

**Sydney - Australia**

## 1. EXT. PARRAMATTA, SYDNEY. NIGHT

The camera zoomed in the Nepalese Function Centre.

CUT TO:

## 2. INT. FUNCTION CENTRE. NIGHT

The crowd enjoying the Nepali music playing on the background. Young boys and girls are dancing at the floor as DJ turns the music up.

The camera focuses to the corner of the hall at a 5 seated table where 3 people are seated up with a beer on their hand and chicken snacks on their table.

HARRY

Oh God! They don't get tired.  
(scuffs looking at the  
dance floor)

KALPANA

Free drinks, free food, once in a  
blue moon. I am glad they are  
enjoying while it lasts.

ABHISHEK

Yeah! Nepalese people are mediocre.  
They can go to any length for food.  
They probably don't even know the  
reason they are here.

KALPANA

As if you know the reason.

ABHISHEK

Oh! Come on. I know it's the  
owner's kid 1st birthday.

They glare at the kid who is barely 6 months sitting on the stage on her parent's lap.

HARRY

How is that small dude a year? We  
are here for rice feeding ceremony.

Kalpana looks at Abhishek with amusement.

Sabin enters the function center with Samir on his side as they walk up to the corner seat and share pleasantries with the rest of them.

SABIN

What's up guys? We are not dancing,  
are We?

HARRY

I can't feel the beat yet. And  
Middle-aged dudes dancing in a  
party with their vest on is a trend  
nowadays. They quickly go viral.

Kalpana looks at Samir,

KALPANA

New goat, how is the first party in  
Sydney?

Samir just smiles at them awkwardly. Abhishek passes the  
chair to Samir as he sits down on the chair thanking him.  
Sabin joins the crowd for a dance.

HARRY

Abhi, bring the guy a beer.

SAMIR

No, no, I don't drink.

Everyone surprisingly stares at Samir,

KALPANA

Never before?

SAMIR

Yeah! I am one of those who follow  
the rules.

KALPANA

Get it for me dude.

He walks away to get a drink.

CUT TO:

3. EXT. SMOKING ZONE. NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Kalpana, Harry, Samir and Abhi are at the smoking zone next  
to the streets with a cigarette on their hand except for  
Samir. Kalpana constantly checks her phone,

HARRY

What are you checking for in your  
phone?

KALPANA

My cousin landed 2 hours ago; I send him an uber, but I am not sure why he isn't here yet.

ABHISHEK

You sent him an Uber on his first day when you recently bought a car?

KALPANA

Yeah! I know but the road to the Airport is so fucking confusing. Last time, when I went to pick my roommate's sister, we had to circle 15 times.

The Uber pulls up and Akash gets off the uber in excitement to see Kalpana. The driver gets off the driver seat and opens the boot and throws his suitcase out. Akash is silent as he is laughing subtly, he avoids the driver and walks towards Kalpana and hugs her tightly.

AKASH

How are you my beautiful sister?

KALPANA

I am good my brother. What happened with the Uber guy?

AKASH

I tried looking around with my head out, but he kept cursing me mumbling his mouth. He looked like a Chinese guy, and I too thanked him saying, 'Thanks Machikney'.  
 (imitates in a Chinese accent)  
 (then)  
 Turns out, he was from Darjeeling and understands me.

Aman walks up to everyone and introduces himself to the guys.

CUT TO:

4. INT. FUNCTION CENTER. NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

They all are seated at the same 5 seated chair with a bottle of Corona on all of their hands except for Samir. He has a glass of Coca Cola in his hand.

HARRY

Is he our next hire Kalps?

KALPANA

Yeah! I guess. I have prepared him for the madness that is about to follow.

AKASH

I am kind of looking forward to it.

SAMIR

Nothing to look forward to. Just a pile of utensils from morning to night like our mother's washes during the festivals.

ABHISHEK

I would rather wash those if I could go back to Nepal now.

KALPANA

I wouldn't. At least here, the people don't give me advice how to live my life while they hand me their dirty dishes.

HARRY

The first few days of my life in Sydney, I called everyone who gave me advice to ask about their life sitting in front of the Opera House.

KALPANA

My aunt from Victoria arranged a match for me. She sent the guy my Facebook Id and he was messaging me all of a random.

SAMIR

What did you do?

KALPANA

I opened my aunt's tinder including her beach photos, fb id and her number. She had to change almost everything, even her face.

The boys can't control their laughter hearing this,

AMAN

Uncle almost divorced her when he saw her phone swarming with 'You are sexy' messages.

SAMIR

I want an aunty like that.

KALPANA

You can message her, though she is probably not using tinder. I will send you, her number.

SAMIR

I mean, I am 26 and single. The kid who used to call me brother until few years ago has started calling me uncle.

HARRY

You will find something here. Maybe a spark first before anything else.

ABHISHEK

We do not have enough time for anything except a spare of few minutes in the train when we have nothing to do, that too ends on a phone with family.

SAMIR

And everyone is talking on the phone and so many Nepalese. You feel like everyone is talking to you in Saja Yatayat.

AKASH

Is there that many Nepalese in Sydney?

ABHISHEK

I live in Auburn and my other job is in Harris Park. Every day I feel like I am crossing borders. Bareily to Dhangadhi.

AKASH

Wow! What about white people?

HARRY

We see them where we work. Learn few slangs quickly or else this is an alien language. At least you have an easy name.

KALPANA

The guy who knows me for 3 years calls me Kyalpanaa.

AKASH

How often do you guys go out? See the beauty of Sydney?

ABHISHEK

How do you know Sydney? I tried but she always calls be bro.

HARRY

He is talking about the city bro not our hot driver who genuinely feels that you are a Creep.

KALPANA

(laughs at Abhi)  
(then)

Not so much, now and then, we go out to the beach but that is it.

HARRY

Yeah! No money, no time.

AKASH

Eh! Have to build both of those things then.

Samir glares at him with a spark of hope in his eyes,

CUT TO:

5. INT. LEO'S KITCHEN. DAY - NEXT DAY

A regular chicken fast food kitchen is fairly crowded as customers move in and out with their foods,

The camera zooms past the register to back of the kitchen.

HARRY (O.S)

Guys, Can I get cheese from the cool room please?

KALPANA

You know there is no one else, don't you? It is just me, busting my ass on behalf of everybody else.

(goes to the cool room)  
(then)

Abhi is late again. Told him to drink less.

HARRY

I took him to my place; he got so drunk and was speaking funny English the whole way home. Even the Indians were glaring at us in train.

KALPANA

Anyone else is in there? Have to call someone to wake him up.

HARRY

Samir was there, give him a call.

Abhi and Samir enters the kitchen,

ABHISHEK

Top of the morning to both of you, my absolute delights. I am sorry I am late. Drank a little too much last night.

SAMIR

I tried waking him up multiple times, but he kept grabbing me like I was his girlfriend.

HARRY

Tell me about it. He was trying to touch my boy parts the whole night. I slept in the couch after a while.

KALPANA

Boys, A lot of preps to do.  
(Hands over the prep list)

Samir follows Abhishek as he walks inside the cool room to grab the veggies, meats, sauces and they both start prepping the raw foods in containers.

The restaurant had few tables filled with some customers as Kalpana is serving them. The time is 1:30 as all of them checks the time in the clock and the restaurant closes at 2 for 2 hours so they are hoping for no customers.

HARRY

Half an hour more

Kalpana walks up to a white customer who is eating a pizza alone,

KALPANA

Hi Sir, anything else I can help you with?

CUSTOMER

Yes! Can I get a Chicken Caesar salad?

KALPANA

Most certainly, won't be long.

Kalpana walks back to the kitchen,

KALPANA (CONT'D)

Just a Caesar salad for the man.

HARRY

Ooh! Thank God. That is quick and easy.

Harry prepares it in seconds and passes it to Kalpana as she walks out to the customer table,

KALPANA

Here you go sir, Can I get you anything else?

CUSTOMER

Umm! Your desert looks nice as well. Can I get a Red Velvet lava cake?

KALPANA

Most certainly. Won't be long.

Kalpana walks back to the kitchen,

KALPANA (CONT'D)

A lava cake, Red Velvet.

YADESHWAR

Ah Sucks!

HARRY

Samir, grab the baking tray from the back.

Harry prepares it in minutes and passes it to Manisha who walks back to the customer again,

The clock ticks 1:45.

KALPANA

Here you go sir, Can I get you anything else?

CUSTOMER

Just a second,

Kalpana looks annoyed as Customer takes his phone out and calls his girlfriend,

CUSTOMER (CONT'D)  
 Hey Hun! Do you want something from  
 Leo's?

Kalpana looks back at the kitchen where boys are irritated and watching at the clock time and again.

Kalpana comes back at the kitchen,

KALPANA  
 A Garlic deluxe pasta to go.

EVERYBODY AT ONCE  
 Oh God!

All of them start gathering the stuffs for pasta and in minutes, the pasta is ready to go.

Time is 1.55,

HARRY  
 Don't ask him, if he wants anything  
 else.

Kalpana takes the pasta and gives it to the man,

Samir and Abhi walks out to the main door getting ready to close the door as the customer walks out and the other couple walks in,

CUSTOMER 2  
 Hey, are you guys open?

They nod yes in disappointment.

CUT TO:

6. INT. LEO'S KITCHEN. DAY - LATER

Harry is seated at the chair while Kalpana is seated at the prep table. Samir and Abhi come back at the table with two pizzas in their hand. They put the pizzas on the table as Abhishek grabs a bottle of Coca Cola from the fridge and 4 glasses.

HARRY  
 That couple wasted an hour for a  
 25\$ bill.  
 (grabs a slice of pizza)

KALPANA

It is the fault of that customer who wouldn't leave. If we could have just closed it a minute earlier. We would have been fine.

HARRY

You were the one asking him, Anything else? Anything else?

KALPANA

Don't blame me. I am obliged to give good customer service. The boss just made me listen a handful last time I told an Indian dude, 'You are irritating'.

ABHISHEK

Haha! The guy was like huh! I still remember his face. He was cursing you in Hindi.

(is drinking a sip from his glass while he bursts out laughing)

KALPANA

I am good to 99 out of 100 and I always get picked for that 1 irritating guy.

SAMIR

Nothing beats the guy who almost jumped over the counter.

HARRY

Haha! Right. Just because you asked something to me in Nepalese and he thought we were talking about him.

CUT TO:

7. EXT. LEO'S KITCHEN. DAY - SMOKING ZONE

Everyone has a smoke on their hand except for Samir,

HARRY

What is Akash doing?

MANISHA

He woke up early and left. He said, he would look around the town. I asked him not to go too far as he doesn't have a working number yet.

ABHISHEK

What if he gets lost?

KALPANA

I thought of that, but he acted as if he knew everything, so I let it be.

SAMIR

He is smart, I think he will be okay.

HARRY

Worst case scenario, he will walk into a Westfield and call us.

KALPANA

How is your PR process going? Has the owner agreed to sponsor.

HARRY

Yeah! he agreed but it will still take a year. And the first thing on my priority is moving out.  
(butts the cigarette in the floor)

ABHISHEK

You've got a nice house. Why do you want to move out?

HARRY

The couple I live with are annoying as hell. And they have called their parents so It's like living in Nepal all over again.

ABHISHEK

At least, you don't have to speak in Chinese. I have to google to ask them to empty the laundry. 'Nǐ néng qīngkōng yīfú ma'

SAMIR

There are two toddlers who wake me up at 7 am and their parents play Shark a doo while I sleep at the hall.

KALPANA

Maybe, we all should get an apartment together.  
(casually mentions it)

Kalpana and Harry look at each other,

HARRY  
What's stopping us?

ABHISHEK  
Our pay slip should cover it.

Harry looks at the guys and smiles,

Akash walks in the scene,

AKASH  
I need my own room though.

They all look at Akash with surprise.

KALPANA  
How did you come here?

AKASH  
Train till Redfern and it was only  
15 mins walk away.

HARRY  
What did you do today?

AKASH  
I went to the Circular Quay,  
figured out the ferry runs to  
Manly. I had never seen an Ocean; I  
can't tell how I felt. I got hungry  
afterwards but didn't want to end  
up eating beef.

SAMIR  
That is impressive. Alone on a  
first day.

ABHISHEK  
The first day, I salute a Train  
Station guy thinking he is a cop.

Abhishek hands over a cigarette to Akash,

AKASH  
No smoke for me thanks.

KALPANA  
I will start looking the house then  
if it's final. If anyone backs,  
then they are seeing my fury.

AKASH

Can I start working here so I have  
some money to move?

Harry leads the way guiding Akash as they all walk inside the  
restaurant.

CUT TO:

8. EXT. PARKING LOT. NIGHT

The guys are gathered there before leaving for home,

KALPANA

(browses her phone)  
So, we are sure about moving out  
then.

HARRY

Yeah! 4 bedrooms apparently.  
(looks at Akash)

KALPANA

I see a house here with 4 bedrooms,  
but it is 800\$.

HARRY

Look around Burwood, Strathfield,  
not Redfern or Sydney. It isn't  
that far.

KALPANA

Wait, I found one in Burwood that  
is 600\$. I will go for some  
inspections too, but we are  
absolutely sure we want to move.  
Right?

SAMIR

Yes, we are. If possible, as soon  
as possible. Sharks are haunting my  
dreams.

(then looks at Akash)

How was the first day?

HARRY

Better than what Abhishek did.

ABHISHEK

She said, 'I thought it doesn't  
come with Olives, can you do  
something?' What else could I do?

AKASH  
What did you do?

HARRY  
He took it out with his hand.

AKASH  
Oh my god, it was good for me  
though except for the utensils that  
never end.

SAMIR  
Wait until the weekend and you will  
see the Everest of utensils before  
your eyes.

HARRY  
Customers and wash up doesn't stop  
till the next morning.

KALPANA  
Hey guys, I think I found our  
apartment.

CUT TO:

9. EXT. BURWOOD APARTMENTS. DAY

They are in their truck as Harry parks beside the streets,

HARRY  
We are here.

SAMIR  
Let's look at the apartment first.

KALPANA  
It doesn't matter, it is all paid  
up front, so carry few stuffs too.

They all grab something from back of the truck,

CUT TO:

10. INT. APARTMENTS. DAY

The building had 4 Storeys and no lift. They all had to go to  
the top,

HARRY  
Oh, my lord! Carry it all now.

SAMIR

The refrigerator, the couch, the cupboards. We are going to die.

AKASH

Don't lose hope now. Just imagine the night we are going to spend after finishing all the work.

ABHISHEK

This little guy is too positive about life. Let's get it over with.

CUT TO:

11. INT. APARTMENT NO. 15. DAY - CONTINUOUS

They all put their stuffs down as all of them go looking for their room.

KALPANA

The one on the left is Harry's and the one next to it is mine. The small one on the right belongs to Akash and the master bedroom next to it for Abhi and Samir.

All of them are fairly satisfied about their room as they walk out to the balcony to see a beautiful view.

CUT TO:

12. INT/EXT. APARTMENTS. DAY - CONTINUOUS

They are all tired.

Aman gets a small speaker out of the bag as he plays the song, 'bidesh jane mayalu' on a loud sound as the camera rapidly moves up and down showing the guys in their station; Harry is at the truck loading stuffs down; Kalpana is in the apartment as she is fixing up the places for bigger items as Abhishek, Akash and Samir are carrying the items from the truck to the apartment.

CUT TO:

## 13. INT. APARTMENT 15. NIGHT

Harry and Abhishek just arrived returning the truck, Abhishek is holding a case of beer and Kalpana with the help of Aman and Samir has set up the basics of the whole house, but it was still messy.

HARRY

Wow! Looks a lot better.

ABHISHEK

What is there to eat? Very hungry and tired.

KALPANA

Yeah! I am calling Uber now. What do you want to eat?

AKASH

Anything

ABHISHEK

Nepalese

SAMIR

Halal

HARRY

Indian

Kalpana starts browsing the Uber as she sees, the time is already 9.45.

KALPANA

I am ordering Pizzas. Nothing else will be open this late. It is either burger which is too expensive or kebabs which aren't cooked properly.

Everybody makes a long face as they hear pizza,

KALPANA (CONT'D)

What pizza do you want?

ABHISHEK

Peri Peri

SAMIR

Halal

AKASH

Anything

HARRY

Cheese

KALPANA

Ah forget it. Not asking any of you ever again except Akash. I will order something myself.

CUT TO:

14. EXT. APARTMENTS BALCONY. NIGHT - LATER

The pizzas are placed on the table as Abhishek brings the beer out and hands it to everyone,

They all hold a beer while Samir with a glass of Coke and cheered to a new start,

AKASH

Now, the house is almost sorted. Do you guys have any plans of showing me around.

KALPANA

I will take you out tomorrow evening.

AKASH

Why not in the morning?

KALPANA

Well, I am going to fix these things tonight after this.

SAMIR

Aren't you tired?

KALPANA

I am, a little, but I have the day off tomorrow and you guys have work. I can't sleep without fixing this. I am partly Monica.

AKASH

I will stay to help. If we finish early, we can wake up and leave early.

HARRY

You already saw the beach and to be honest, 10,000 more beach is all that is in Australia.

AKASH

I was thinking of some adventure sport. Sky diving, Sea diving, jet skiing like in ZNMD.

SAMIR

I kind of want to do those things too. I am tired of posting beach and Opera house photos every time I go out.

KALPANA

You want to post the same photos from different angles then.

HARRY

HAHA! One from the sky, one underneath and one at the surface.

ABHISHEK

Maybe, Sydney will stop calling me bro once she sees my pictures of sky diving.

KALPANA

Sydney has done all those things in Australia and in Europe. Don't you see her Instagram?

ABHISHEK

I am still waiting to be accepted.  
(then)  
She has even accepted Samir who joined last month.

AKASH

Is this Sydney?  
(Akash shows that he is already accepted by Sydney)

ABHISHEK

What the f\*\*\*?

HARRY

That's because you are always trying too hard.

AKASH

You have to think something out of the box then.

HARRY

Yeah! Every time you talk to her,  
it feels like you are going to ask  
her to marry you.

KALPANA

Yeah. She is 18 and not from Nepal.

SAMIR

Last week, he bought her a 100\$  
worth Dairy Milk. She was like,  
'Huh! Why!'

Kalpana walks inside the kitchen and comes out with a pack,

KALPANA

This one?  
(shows the chocolate)

SAMIR

Yeah! This one.

Abhi looks at it while he is almost teary eyed,

KALPANA

She gave it to me and said, someone  
gave it to her, but she doesn't eat  
sugar. I didn't know, you gave her.  
(starts giggling)

Abhi takes the chocolate out of her hand and opens the packet  
and starts eating the chocolate,

ABHISHEK

I always wanted to try this. I am  
sadly happy that I got it back.

They open the next round of beer,

AKASH

What made you guys come to  
Australia?

HARRY

I don't know. There was no money in  
the house, dad was too old to farm  
anymore. I wanted to stay there and  
farm, but situation brought me  
here.

(gets emotional)

(then)

I don't regret though.

(gestures for cheers)

SAMIR

Stayed in home without a job after completing bachelors. Wanted to stay there together with friends and families but no options to me too.

(then)

Cheers

KALPANA

I always wanted to especially after I started getting trained to make good food. I was scared then; I feel free now.

ABHISHEK

Everyone was coming to Australia, posting new photos daily. I thought, I would go too.

HARRY

(smiling)

And I am glad you did, no one can wash those dishes faster than you.

(then)

Okay guys, I am going. Time to sleep.

(harry stands up and stretches his back)

Samir and Abhishek follow bidding goodnight as well.

Kalpana and Akash have a beer half full,

KALPANA

You don't want to focus on your study then? Your mother was talking to me about it. Why are you here then?

AKASH

I want to focus on my life and do something creative.

KALPANA

You are aware about the consequences, aren't you?

AKASH

I know but I am ready for anything.

(skulls the beer)

(then)

(MORE)

AKASH (CONT'D)

I never thought I would ever be able to come to Australia but now I got that opportunity, Life opened its arm wide and embraced me. I want to make most of it while it lasts.

Kalpana silently looks at Akash with a strange look on her face, he looks back at her and smiles,

AKASH (CONT'D)

I do not believe in many things, Kalpana but I believe that the human life is a labyrinth of the kind. Some people spent their entire life entangling that maze, and for some, the end comes as soon as they figure the way.

MANISHA

Why do you always sound like, you are in a hurry? What is it that you are chasing?

Akash smiles at her, 'Life.'

CUT TO PRESENT.

15. INT. GRANDE HOSPITAL. DAY

The camera goes back to the room where the 4 of them are watching Akash with pity and love in their eyes.

KALPANA

He is going to be asleep for a while. Let's go for a coffee.

They all gather their items and walks out for a coffee.

CUT TO:

16. EXT. GRANDE HOSPITAL. DAY - CAFETERIA

Harry ordered the coffee as the guys are seated at the chair. The cafeteria is fairly crowded and quiet.

SAMIR

Puppy always hinted us for this day. Didn't he?

KALPANA

Yeah! I remember that conversation  
after you guys left so clearly now.  
(then)  
We stayed up till 3 in the morning.

HARRY

The house was turned upside down.  
You really surprised us.

ABHISHEK

That decoration made us want to  
host our first house party ever.  
The first time Sydney didn't call  
me brother. Thanks to puppy.

CUT TO PAST:

17. INT. APARTMENT NO.15. MORNING

Sam, Abhi and Harry get off their room in the morning to see the changes over last night. There are posters all over the wall behind the couch that included poets like Laxmi Prasad Devkota, Bhanu Bhakta Acharya, Rajesh Khanna (Anand), Shah Rukh (Kal ho Na ho), Friend (TV show) poster, Prithvi Narayan Shah, Junko Tabei and few empty spaces. The TV is placed right in front of the sofa and there are few tables in between.

There is a guitar standing on one wall and on the side is bookshelf with a lot of books. There is a small table and some empty spaces around.

Over the few days, the Apartment is filled with a lot of other stuffs including a small pool table on the side and few small tables and other instruments such as Piano and Electric Guitar. The walls are further covered with Led Zepplin, Guns n Roses, Kishore Kumar, Virat Kohli and David Beckham posters finally completing the apartment which looked very impressive now.

END of Episode 1.