



THE FIFTH FLOOR

A Mystery/Crime 2-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by
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LOGLINE: Inspector Nair corners Jatin after a body is found in a building elevator that supposedly never opened. Jatin insists he only serviced the lift, but the detective notices every detail matches a cover-up from an old unsolved case. The twist: the elevator was never broken—the victim was hidden in plain sight by someone who knew the building's blind spots better than the police.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) | Character 1: Inspector Nair (46)

LOCATION: A building lobby beside a stalled elevator door, lit by weak fluorescent panels and the blinking emergency light reflected in polished floor tiles.

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FADE IN:

INT. BUILDING LOBBY - NIGHT

Weak fluorescent lights. A stalled ELEVATOR DOOR stands beside a blinking EMERGENCY LIGHT. Polished floor tiles reflect red pulses.

INSPECTOR NAIR (46), wrinkled formal shirt, heavy mustache, file under one arm, faces JATIN (24), nervous lift mechanic in grease-stained overalls, clutching a toolbox.

Nair's eyes are sharp. Jatin's hands tremble.

NAIR

Lift kisne kholi thi, Jatin?

JATIN

Sir... maine bas service ki thi. Lift jam thi.

NAIR

Jam thi? Funny. Body fifth floor pe mili hai. Aur lift... kabhi open nahi hui.

Jatin swallows hard.

JATIN

Main body ke paas bhi nahi gaya, sir. Main mechanic hoon. Murderer nahi.

Nair opens the file. Old papers. A yellowed floor plan.

NAIR

Yeh building. Yeh lobby. Yeh dead angle. Sab same hai.

He steps closer.

NAIR (CONT'D)

Pichhle case mein bhi log bole the "lift kharab thi." Body milne ke baad.

JATIN

Sir, mujhe kuch nahi pata.

Nair takes out a FLASHLIGHT, scans the elevator panel.

NAIR

Service key kahan hai?

Jatin hesitates, then opens his toolbox with shaking hands. He shows the SERVICE KEY.

JATIN

Yahi hai. Routine check ke liye.

Nair snatches it, inspects the key panel.

NAIR

Routine check ke liye ya kisi cheez ko chhupane ke liye?

JATIN

Kya bol rahe ho, sir?

Nair kneels, shines flashlight along the door seam.

A faint mechanical click.

NAIR

Lift ko tumne band nahi kiya. Kisi aur ne kiya.

He inserts the service key into the panel.

CLICK.

The elevator door slides open a few inches.

Jatin stares.

JATIN

Kya...?

Nair freezes, then looks up—realization.

NAIR

Lift kabhi broken thi hi nahi.

He pulls the door wider. Darkness inside the shaft.

NAIR (CONT'D)

Body lift mein nahi thi. Back access mein thi. False panel ke peeche.

Jatin is stunned.

JATIN

Main... main to bas servicing kar raha tha. Main ne seal kiya tha, sir. Mujhe pata nahi tha...

Nair flips a page in the file. Shows an old signature.

NAIR

Yeh dekho. Old supervisor ka sign. Building ke blind spots usko yaad the. Police se zyada.

Jatin reads it. His face changes.

JATIN

Arvind...?

NAIR

Haan. Tumhara "sir."

A beat.

JATIN

Toh body...?

NAIR

Fifth floor pe isliye mili, kyunki kisi ne usey lift ke naam pe upar shift kiya. Taaki lagge lift stuck thi. Taaki sab galat jagah dekhein.

Nair lowers the flashlight.

NAIR (CONT'D)

Qatl aadmi ne nahi kiya, Jatin. Qatl design ne kiya.

Jatin's fear turns into shame and shock.

JATIN

Main witness hoon?

NAIR

Ab se. Aur agar yaad aaye ki Arvind ne tumse kya bola tha, sab bolna.

The elevator door remains open. Cold air breathes from the shaft.

Emergency light blinks.

Nair closes the file.

NAIR (CONT'D)

Building ki sabse badi chhupi hui cheez lift nahi thi. Blind spot tha.

Jatin looks into the dark shaft.

JATIN

Sir... aur agar woh abhi bhi yahin ho?

Nair's mustache tightens into a grim half-smile.

NAIR

Toh ab usey pata chal gaya hoga... Inspector Nair aaya hai.

FADE OUT.