



THE ALIBI LESSON

A Mystery/Crime 2-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by
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LOGLINE: Sanjay hires Kriti to help build an alibi for a crime he insists he didn't commit, but her questions reveal he is lying about the timeline, the victim, and even his own name. In the final turn, Kriti proves she is not investigating the crime—she is testing whether he will confess to the one thing he truly did.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) | Character 1: Sanjay (39)

LOCATION: A quiet late-night diner booth with vinyl seats, a buzzing neon sign, and a half-empty coffee pot on the counter. The lighting is warm but harsh enough to expose every nervous tic and lie.

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FADE IN:

INT. DINER BOOTH - LATE NIGHT

Warm but harsh neon light. A quiet diner. A BUZZING NEON SIGN hums outside the window. A half-empty COFFEE POT sits on the counter.

SANJAY (39), checked shirt, expensive watch, tries to look relaxed in a vinyl booth.

Across from him sits KRITI (35), plain blazer, notebook open, pen poised. Her stare does not blink.

A beat.

SANJAY

Dekho, main zyada time waste nahi karunga. Mujhe bas ek alibi chahiye.

KRITI

Alibi kis baat ka?

SANJAY

(smiles too quickly)
Bas... ek incident hua hai.

KRITI

Incident.

She writes that down.

KRITI (CONT'D)

Time?

SANJAY

Raat ke... 10:30 ke aas-paas.

Kriti glances at his watch.

KRITI

Interesting.

She slides a DINER RECEIPT across the table.

KRITI (CONT'D)

Yeh 11:12 ka hai.

Sanjay freezes for half a second.

SANJAY

Haan, main baad mein aaya tha. Pehle parking mein tha.

KRITI

Parking? Tumne toh bola tha office se seedha ghar ja rahe the.

Sanjay forces a laugh.

SANJAY

Arre, matlab... route mein tha.

KRITI

Route mein ya jhooth mein?

Silence.

The neon sign BUZZES louder for a moment.

SANJAY

Tum help karogi ya interrogation?

KRITI

Dono mein same cheez hoti hai.

She flips a page.

KRITI (CONT'D)

Victim kaun tha?

SANJAY

Ek aadmi.

KRITI

Naam?

SANJAY

Business rival.

KRITI

Naam.

SANJAY

(swallows)

Shayad... Rakesh.

KRITI

Shayad?

SANJAY

Dekho, sab kuch itna clear nahi tha.

KRITI

Tumhe alibi clear chahiye, par victim blurry hai?

Sanjay rubs his thumb over the expensive watch.

KRITI (CONT'D)

Watch kaafi mehngi hai.

SANJAY

Gift thi.

KRITI

Kisne di?

SANJAY

(beat)
Client ne.

KRITI
Kaunsa client?

SANJAY
...Old client.

Kriti leans back, still not blinking.

KRITI
Sanjay.

SANJAY
Haan?

KRITI
Tumne abhi apna naam do baar badla hai.
Sanjay stiffens.

SANJAY
Kya?

KRITI
Pehle Sanjay. Phir Arjun. Ab "log mujhe Sanjay kehte hain." Tumhara naam kya hai?
A long beat.

SANJAY
Sanjay hi hai.

KRITI
Sure?
He avoids her eyes.

SANJAY
Main bas nervous hoon.

KRITI
Nervous log details yaad rakhte hain. Jhoothe log versions.
She closes the notebook halfway.

SANJAY
Main kisi ko maarne nahi gaya tha.

KRITI
Aha.

SANJAY
Bas... dhakka lag gaya.

KRITI

Dhakka?

SANJAY

Accident tha. Woh gir gaya.

KRITI

Woh kaun?

SANJAY

(fast)

Rakesh.

KRITI

Abhi tak Rakesh tha?

SANJAY

Shayad nahi.

KRITI

Tum "shayad" pe jeete ho ya marte ho?

Sanjay's jaw tightens. He looks at the coffee pot, then the receipt.

SANJAY

Tum mujhe judge kar rahi ho?

KRITI

Main tumhe test kar rahi hoon.

She turns the receipt over. On the back, handwritten:

"ONE CONFESSION = ONE CHANCE."

Sanjay stares.

SANJAY

Yeh kya hai?

KRITI

Diner ka rule nahi hai. Mera hai.

SANJAY

Tum investigation kar rahi thi?

KRITI

Nahi. Main dekh rahi thi tum sach bol sakte ho ya nahi.

Sanjay leans in, alarmed.

SANJAY

Kis baat ka sach?

Kriti's stare hardens.

KRITI

Us raat ka. Jab tum driving seat pe the. Jab ek aadmi mara. Aur tumne uske baad bhi kahani badli.

Sanjay goes pale.

SANJAY

Tum kaun ho?

KRITI

Main us aadmi ki family ke liye nahi aayi. Main tumhare liye aayi.

SANJAY

Matlab?

KRITI

Matlab yeh alibi lesson tha. Crime se bachne ka nahi. Guilt se bhaagne ka.

Sanjay's eyes dart. He has nowhere to go.

SANJAY

Main... main bas...

KRITI

Haan?

He cannot finish.

Kriti closes her notebook.

KRITI (CONT'D)

One chance thi. Tumne use bhi jhooth mein kharch kar di.

She stands.

The neon sign BUZZES.

The coffee pot sits half-empty and cold.

Sanjay remains in the booth, exposed.

SANJAY

Kriti...

She stops at the end of the booth, without turning.

KRITI

Jo naam tumne diya tha na... Woh bhi galat tha.

She exits.

Sanjay is left alone with the receipt, his watch, and the silence.

FADE OUT.