



THE SECOND KEY

A Psychological Thriller 2-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by
Story Dil Se Team
(storydilse.in)

LOGLINE: Aman returns to a flat he claims he once lived in, only to find Kusum insisting he never had the right to enter. As they argue over the second key, the evidence inside the apartment suggests one of them has been living a lie for years—and the other has been guarding it.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) | Character 1: Aman (37)

LOCATION: An empty apartment hallway outside a locked flat, lit by cool evening corridor lights and a single flickering bulb. The space is narrow, echoey, and tense, with the apartment door dominating the frame.

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FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - EVENING

Cool corridor lights. Ek single BULB flicker kar rahi hai. Narrow, echoey hallway. Door no. 4B frame ko dominate karta hai.

AMAN (37), white shirt sleeves rolled up, key ring aur blueprint folder ke saath, door ke saamne khada hai.

KUSUM (34), sari, cardigan, mop aur spare keys ke saath, door ko guard kar rahi hai. Stern.

Aman ke saans mein urgency hai. Kusum bilkul hilti nahi.

AMAN

Yeh flat khol do.

KUSUM

Nahi khulega.

AMAN

Main yahin rehta tha.

KUSUM

Aap yahan kabhi nahi rahe.

Aman key ring uthata hai. Ek purani key ko alag se dikhata hai.

AMAN

Phir yeh kya hai?

KUSUM

Metal ka tukda.

AMAN

Second key hai.

KUSUM

Kis cheez ki second key?

Aman blueprint folder kholta hai. Ek plan nikaalta hai.

AMAN

Is flat ki.

Kusum ek chhota sa hansa ka burst daba leti hai.

KUSUM

Architect saab, hallway mein plan bechoge?

AMAN

Main mazaak nahi kar raha.

KUSUM

Main bhi nahi.

Beat.

Aman plan ko dekhkar.

AMAN

Bedroom ki wall yahan thi. Kitchen sink ke neeche leak tha. Living room mein pencil mark tha.

Kusum ki aankhen thodi narrow hoti hain.

KUSUM

Aapko sab yaad hai?

AMAN

Haan.

KUSUM

Sab?

Aman rukta hai. Uska confidence ek second ko crack hota hai.

AMAN

Enough.

Kusum door chain ko haath lagati hai. Thoda khol kar andar jhaankti hai.

INSERT - FLAT INSIDE

Dusty, stripped-down. Folded cot. Wall par ek old photo frame ka nishaan.

BACK TO SCENE

Aman ka face pale.

AMAN

Dekha?

Kusum chain band karti hai. Haath kaanpte hain, lekin voice steady.

KUSUM

Dekhne se sabit nahi hota.

AMAN

Main yahan tha.

KUSUM

Kaun sa version?

Aman confuse.

AMAN

Kya matlab?

KUSUM

Aap bol rahe ho wife ki baat. Naam kya tha unka?

Aman freeze.

AMAN

...

KUSUM

Chehra yaad hai?

Aman kuch bol nahi paata.

AMAN

Main design kar raha tha. Is flat ko. Uske liye.

KUSUM

Aur yeh second key?

AMAN

Emergency ke liye banwayi thi.

Kusum ek beat ke liye dekhti rehti hai.

KUSUM

Aapko sach mein lagta hai aap yeh pehli baar dekh rahe ho?

Aman folder mein kuch dhoondhta hai. Kuch nahi.

AMAN

Mere paas records hain.

KUSUM

Mere paas building hai.

AMAN

Toh kholo na.

KUSUM

Nahi.

Beat.

Kusum finally soft ho jaati hai.

KUSUM

Main caretaker hoon. Aur pehli occupant bhi thi.

Aman stunned.

AMAN

Kya?

KUSUM

Jab building nayi thi. Temporary rehna pada tha. Ek chhoti bacchi thi.

Aman blueprints ko dekhta hai, phir Kusum ko.

AMAN

Main architect tha.

KUSUM

Haan.

AMAN

Toh aapko sab yaad hoga.

KUSUM

Nahi. Bas itna yaad hai ki aapne ek galti chhupayi thi.

Aman tense.

AMAN

Kaisi galti?

Kusum door ke paas jhukti hai, lower panel ko tap karti hai.

KUSUM

Hidden shaft. Concealed cavity. Is wall ke andar.

Aman ka chehra change hota hai.

AMAN

Kaun si cavity?

KUSUM

Jahan ek file chhupayi gayi thi. Ownership dispute. Illegal eviction. Sab proof yahin tha.

AMAN

Kisne chhupayi?

KUSUM

Aapne.

Silence.

Aman ki saans rukti hai. Woh apni key ring ko dekhta hai.

AMAN

Main... main yeh kyun karunga?

KUSUM

Shayad kyunki aapko yaad nahi. Shayad kyunki yaad nahi rakhna tha.

Aman blueprint ke corner ko palat-ta hai. Ek handwritten note.

INSERT - NOTE

"SECOND KEY WITH CARETAKER."

BACK TO SCENE

Aman ka face collapse hota hai.

AMAN

Yeh meri handwriting hai.

KUSUM

Haan.

AMAN

Toh main...

KUSUM

Tenant nahi the. Witness the. Ya culprit. Shayad dono.

Aman apni key ko dekhta hai, phir door ko.

AMAN

Andar kya hai?

KUSUM

Sach.

AMAN

Mujhe de do.

KUSUM

Already diya hua hai.

Kusum chain fully khol deti hai, lekin door nahi kholti.

KUSUM (CONT'D)

Aapko andar jaane ki zarurat nahi. Aapko yaad karne ki zarurat hai.

Beat.

Aman key ring pocket mein daalta hai.

Kusum mop side mein rakh deti hai.

Dono door ke saamne khade rehte hain.

Hallway light ek pal ke liye steady hoti hai.

SILENCE.

FADE OUT.

THE END