



THE THIRD PASSENGER

A Sci-Fi/High-Concept 2-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: Armaan picks up Laila for a short ride, but the GPS keeps rerouting them back to the same street and the meter never changes. When they discover a third passenger listed in the ride history who is not physically present, the car becomes a time loop where one of them may already be dead.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) | Character 1: Armaan (29)

LOCATION: Same road shoulder.

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FADE IN:

EXT. DESERTED ROAD SHOULDER - NIGHT

Ek taxi roadside par parked hai. City ki door ki roshni windshield par spill ho rahi hai. Car ke andar dashboard glow, GPS ka thanda light, aur silence.

INT. TAXI - NIGHT

ARMAAN (29), checked shirt, tired eyes, dashboard-mounted phone ko dekh raha hai. Uski ungli meter par tap karti hai. Meter chal raha hai, par bahut dheere.

Passenger side door khulti hai.

LAILA (25), hoodie, backpack, notebook aur metro card clutch kiye, andar baithti hai.

LAILA

Bhaiya, New Ashok Nagar tak. Short ride.

ARMAAN

Short ride sab bolte hain. End mein short nahi hoti.

LAILA

Aaj sach mein short hai. Bas ek stop.

Armaan nod karta hai. Car start karta hai.

GPS SCREEN

"Proceed to the highlighted route."

Armaan steering pe haath rakhta hai.

ARMAAN

Late ho gayi?

LAILA

Haan. Night class. Aur metro band.

ARMAAN

Night class mein bhi attendance hoti hai?

LAILA

Haan. Zindagi ki tarah.

Armaan faint smile karta hai.

Taxi chalti hai. Phir...

GPS SCREEN

"Make a U-turn."

ARMAAN

Kya U-turn? Hum abhi nikle hi kitni door hain.

LAILA

GPS ko bhi doubt ho gaya kya humpe?

Armaan ignore karta hai. Car ■■■■■■ hai.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Taxi ek broken streetlight, ek closed tea stall, ek same road sign ke paas se guzarti hai.

INT. TAXI - CONTINUOUS

Armaan ka face tight ho jata hai.

ARMAAN

Nahi... ye wahi jagah hai.

LAILA

Kaunsi wahi?

ARMAAN

Jahan se hum abhi guzre the.

Meter par number almost frozen lagta hai.

Laila dashboard meter ko dekhti hai.

LAILA

Meter chal raha hai na?

ARMAAN

Chal toh raha hai... par badh nahi raha.

LAILA

Wah. Tax bhi aapka mood ki tarah stuck hai.

Armaan dashboard phone uthata hai. Ride history open karta hai.

ON DASHBOARD PHONE SCREEN

Recent trip. Passenger count: 3.

Armaan squints.

ARMAAN

Teen?

LAILA

Kya teen?

Armaan screen Laila ki taraf ghumata hai.

ARMAAN

Ride mein teen passengers dikh rahe hain.

LAILA

Hum dono hi hain.

ARMAAN

Exactly.

A beat.

LAILA

Third kaun hai?

Armaan screen ko zoom karta hai. Name blank. Only: THIRD PASSENGER.

Silence.

Passing headlights windshield par streaks banate hain. Car ek tiny sealed capsule jaisi lagti hai.

Laila apna metro card haath mein aur tight pakad leti hai.

LAILA

Aap mazaak kar rahe ho na?

ARMAAN

Main kabhi bhi is time pe mazaak nahi karta.

LAILA

Toh phir GPS glitch hai.

ARMAAN

Ya hum.

Laila apni notebook kholti hai. Pages palat-ti hai.

LAILA

Ye mere notes...

Woh ruk jaati hai.

Notebook ke ek page par same road, same time, aur ek line likhi hoti hai:

"Meter nahi badha toh samajh lena koi aur bhi hai."

Laila ka chehra pale.

LAILA

Ye maine nahi likha.

ARMAAN

Toh kisne likha?

LAILA

Mujhe... yaad nahi.

GPS SCREEN

"Recalculating."

ARMAAN

Kahan se kahan?

LAILA

Shayad... yahin se.

Armaan dashboard phone par ek old notification kholta hai.

ON DASHBOARD PHONE SCREEN

"Trip ended. Passenger dropped. Fare paid."

Location: Same road shoulder.

Time: 12:17 AM

Armaan ki saans rukti hai.

ARMAAN

Ye future time hai.

LAILA

Kya?

ARMAAN

Iska timestamp future ka hai.

Laila dheere se page turn karti hai. Last page par likha hai:

“Armaan ko mat batana ki main pehle bhi yahan thi.”

Laila freeze.

LAILA

Main... pehle bhi yahan thi.

Armaan usse dekhta hai.

ARMAAN

Kya matlab?

Laila ki aankhon mein fear aur recognition mix ho jaata hai.

LAILA

Ek taxi. Ek raat. Ek accident.

Beat.

LAILA (CONT'D)

Aur ek passenger... jo pichhli seat mein tha.

Armaan rearview mirror ki taraf dekhta hai.

Pichhli seat khaali.

Phir bhi...

Mirror mein ek EXTRA SILHOUETTE.

Armaan ka face jam jaata hai.

ARMAAN

Nahi...

GPS SCREEN

“THIRD PASSENGER DETECTED.”

Laila apna metro card Armaan ko deti hai.

LAILA

Ab yaad aa gaya. Main yahan se utar chuki hoon.

Armaan door handle ki taraf dekhta hai. Rear door lock khud-ba-khud CLICK karta hai.

ARMAAN

Laila...

LAILA

Haan?

ARMAAN

Tu... kaun hai?

Laila ki smile sad ho jaati hai.

LAILA

Jo tum abhi tak drop nahi kar paaye.

Armaan windshield mein dekhta hai.

Road khaali.

Silence.

Phir back seat se ek seatbelt click ki awaaz.

Armaan ka breath stop.

GPS SCREEN

"Route recalculating for passenger three."

CUT TO BLACK.

FADE OUT.