



THE NAME ON THE DOOR

A Mystery/Crime 2-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: Inspector Farhan questions Minal about the dead man who used to live in her apartment, but she insists the name on the door has always been hers. As the investigation deepens, Farhan realizes the apartment itself may be the crime scene, and the real victim is the identity someone tried to erase.

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

LOCATION: A dim apartment corridor outside a door with a freshly changed nameplate, lit by a single overhead bulb and the glow from a nearby staircase window. The scene feels tense and intimate, with shadows pooling at the baseboards.

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FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Ek dim corridor. Ek single overhead bulb flicker kar raha hai. Stairs ke paas wali window se thandi roshni aa rahi hai. Ek door ke upar nayi NAMEPLATE chamak rahi hai: "MINAL S. MEHTA."

Inspector FARHAN (46), raincoat mein, folder aur penlight liye, door ke saamne khada hai.

Door khulta hai. MINAL (29), simple kurta aur slippers mein, haath mein KEY aur folded EVICTION NOTICE.

FARHAN

(steady, stern)

Minal S. Mehta?

MINAL

(guarded)

Haan. Aap?

FARHAN

Inspector Farhan. Crime branch.

He flashes the folder.

FARHAN (CONT'D)

Is flat mein jo aadmi rehta tha, woh kahan hai?

MINAL

(flat)

Yahan koi aadmi nahi rehta tha.

FARHAN

Dead body mili hai.

MINAL

Meri flat mein?

FARHAN

Isi corridor ke end wale flat mein.

MINAL

Yehi mera flat hai.

Farhan looks at the nameplate, then at her key.

FARHAN

Nameplate nayi hai.

MINAL

Naam naya hai. Flat purana hai.

FARHAN opens the folder, shows a photo.

FARHAN

Ashok Verma. Ring any bell?

MINAL stares. No reaction at first.

MINAL

Nahi.

FARHAN

Records ke mutabik woh yahan rehta tha.

MINAL

Records galat bhi ho sakte hain.

FARHAN kneels slightly, shines penlight on the door frame.

FARHAN

Aur ye scrape marks?

MINAL

Nameplate badli gayi thi.

FARHAN

Kaun badlega?

MINAL

Jo naam chhupana chahta ho.

Beat.

FARHAN

Aap chhupa rahi ho?

MINAL

Main? Mere paas toh sirf key hai.

She raises the key.

MINAL (CONT'D)

Aur ye eviction notice.

Farhan takes the notice, reads it.

FARHAN

"Unauthorized occupant."

MINAL

Main unauthorized hoon.

FARHAN

Phir key kaise?

MINAL

Mere Nana ki thi.

Farhan studies her face.

FARHAN

Aap yahan se pehle bhi aati thi?

MINAL

Bachpan se.

FARHAN

Toh pehle ka naam?

MINAL

(small)

Minal hi tha.

Farhan looks again at the photo in the folder.

FARHAN

Is aadmi ko aap pehchanti ho.

MINAL finally takes the photo. Her face changes.

MINAL

(whisper)

Ravi.

FARHAN

Kaun?

MINAL

Mera bhai.

Farhan straightens.

FARHAN

Yeh Ashok Verma nahi tha?

MINAL

Nahi. Yeh Ravi tha. Ghar chhod ke gaya tha. Saalon baad kisi aur naam se wapas aaya.

FARHAN

Aur phir?

MINAL

Phir usne sab badal diya. Flat, naam, papers...

FARHAN

Aur kal raat?

MINAL

Main sirf awaaz suni thi. Corridor mein. Jaise koi plate ghaseet raha ho.

Farhan scans the door again, then the threshold.

FARHAN

Aur subah nameplate?

MINAL

Nayi thi.

FARHAN

Kisne lagayi?

MINAL

(shaken)

Mujhe laga prank hai.

Farhan notices a partial old stamp on the eviction notice.

FARHAN

Housing office ka stamp... same officer.

MINAL

Kya?

FARHAN

Records sirf jhoothi nahi. Edited hain.

A beat. The corridor feels smaller.

MINAL

Toh Ravi ko kisne maara?

FARHAN

Abhi pata karna hai.

MINAL

Main ne nahi kiya, Inspector.

FARHAN

Main jaan gaya.

He holds up the folder.

FARHAN (CONT'D)

Lekin yeh apartment crime scene hai.

MINAL

Apartment?

FARHAN

Identity ka.

Silence.

MINAL

Toh mera naam kya hai?

FARHAN looks at her, then at the nameplate.

FARHAN

Jo bhi ho, kisi ne tumse chheena nahi. Tumhara tha.
Tumhara hai.

Minal's eyes well up, but she holds it in.

MINAL

Aapko lagta hai woh yahin tha?

FARHAN

Woh yahin se mitaaya gaya tha.

Farhan closes the folder.

FARHAN (CONT'D)

Key do.

Minal hesitates, then hands it over.

He inserts the key. The lock clicks.

FARHAN (CONT'D)

Ab jo bhi andar hai...

He opens the door.

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Dark, empty, silent. No body. No furniture moved. Bas ek khaali space, jaise zindagi ko wipe kar diya gaya ho.

Farhan and Minal stand in the doorway.

FARHAN

(low)

Yahan murder hua tha.

MINAL

Kiska?

Farhan looks at the blank walls.

FARHAN

Naam ka.

CUT TO BLACK.

FADE OUT.