



MUTE BUTTON

A Psychological Thriller 2-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: During a live podcast recording, the host begins receiving anonymous live audio cues that seem to predict her co-host's next words before she speaks them. The editor insists no one else is in the room, but the booth's hidden system starts revealing secrets neither woman wants aired. The twist lands when the host realizes the "predictions" are actually confessions she herself made years ago, now being forced back into the open.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) | Character 1: Naina (34)

LOCATION: A dim soundproof recording booth with red tally light, acoustic foam walls, one mic, one chair, and a monitor glow creating sharp shadows.

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FADE IN:

INT. SOUNDPROOF RECORDING BOOTH - NIGHT

Dim, claustrophobic booth. Acoustic foam walls. One MIC. One CHAIR. A MONITOR glows cold blue. A RED RECORDING LIGHT is ON.

NAINA (34), calm, polished, silk blouse, earbuds in, sits upright with forced poise. A water glass sits untouched beside her.

RIYA (26), nervous, hoodie and jeans, clutches a laptop and headphones. Eyes darting. She's at the monitor, half-standing, half-sitting.

RIYA

Levels okay... one sec.

NAINA

(smiling)

We're live in three, right?

RIYA

Haan. Bas... ek second.

Riya taps keys. Waveform bounces.

NAINA

Relax, Riya. Ye sirf podcast hai.

Riya gives a weak nod.

RIYA

Rolling in three... two... one.

Naina leans in, voice smooth.

NAINA

Namaste, listeners. Main hoon Naina—

A faint DIGITAL WHISPER crackles in Riya's headphones.

AUDIO CUE (V.O.)

...main hoon Naina— mat bolo.

Riya jolts.

RIYA

(under her breath)

Kya?

NAINA

Kya hua?

RIYA

Kuch... suna maine.

NAINA

Live room mein noise hota hai.

RIYA

Yeh noise nahi tha.

Naina continues, controlled.

NAINA

Aaj hum baat karenge—

The same whisper hits again, just ahead of her words.

AUDIO CUE (V.O.)

Aaj hum baat karenge... usse mat bolo.

Riya stares at the waveform. Clean. No visible glitch.

RIYA

Wait. Hold.

NAINA

(tight)

Kya hold? We're live.

RIYA

Main dekh rahi hoon. Koi aur feed nahi hai.

NAINA

Toh phir mujhe kaun cue de raha hai?

RIYA

Main nahi hoon.

NAINA

Maine yeh kab bola ki tu hai?

A beat. Naina's smile fades.

RIYA

Sorry. Bas... system weird behave kar raha hai.

NAINA

System ya tu?

Riya swallows.

RIYA

Main akeli hoon yahan.

Another crackle. This time from the MONITOR SPEAKERS.

OLD FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)

Main ye sab record kar rahi hoon...

Naina freezes.

OLD FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)

...kyunki kal subah main sach bol nahi paungi.

Riya looks at Naina.

RIYA

Yeh kiski awaaz hai?

Naina doesn't answer.

OLD FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)

Agar kisi ne ye suna... samajh lena... main us raat
wapas gayi thi.

Riya's hands tremble on the laptop.

RIYA

Naina?

Naina reaches for the water glass, misses it slightly, regains control.

NAINA

(low)

Stop the feed.

RIYA

Main try kar rahi hoon.

She types fast. Nothing.

RIYA

Mute nahi ho raha.

The RED LIGHT still burns.

NAINA

Impossible.

RIYA

I'm telling you, main kuch bhi add nahi kar rahi.

A new cue. Clearer. Closer. Naina's own voice.

NAINA (V.O.)

Mera naam Naina hai.

Naina's face drains.

NAINA (V.O.)

Main 27 ki hoon.

RIYA

(whispers)

Yeh... your voice hai.

NAINA (V.O.)

Aur maine us raat apne dost ko wapas bheja tha, jab
mujhe pata tha uska phone trace ho raha hai.

Silence.

RIYA

Naina...

Naina stares at the mic like it has betrayed her.

RIYA

This is an old file. Hidden backup maybe.

NAINA

(shaken)

No.

RIYA

Kya no?

NAINA

Maine delete kiya tha.

RIYA

Deleted files bhi recover hoti hain.

NAINA

Yeh file recover nahi honi chahiye thi.

Riya softens, confused.

RIYA

What did you record?

Naina can't look at her.

NAINA

Off the record tha.

RIYA

Still. Kya tha?

Naina's breathing gets shallow. The booth feels smaller.

NAINA

Ek confession.

RIYA

About what?

Naina finally looks up—terrified, ashamed.

NAINA

About the night I sent him back.

Riya processes this.

RIYA

Aur yeh system... usi ko cue bana raha hai?

NAINA

Mera past mujhe live feed kar raha hai.

A beat. The monitor flashes a final audio file name:

"Naina_Confession_AutoCue_Final.wav"

RIYA

Main stream cut kar sakti hoon.

Naina stares at the red light.

NAINA

Nahi.

RIYA

Naina—

NAINA

Aaj mute nahi karenge.

Naina removes her earbuds. A decision.

She leans into the mic.

NAINA

(steady, breaking)

Listener, if you're hearing this... toh samajh lo
main jhooth bolte bolte thak gayi hoon.

Riya watches, stunned.

NAINA (CONT'D)

Main us raat dar gayi thi. Main ne sahi kaam nahi
kiya. Aur phir maine us sach ko itne saal mute
kiya... ki mujhe laga woh khatam ho gaya.

The red light remains on.

RIYA

(quietly)

It never did.

Naina nods, tears held back.

NAINA

Nahi.

A final beat of live silence.

FADE OUT.