



DEAD BATTERY

A Mystery/Crime 2-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: A traffic stop becomes an interrogation when a young woman insists her phone died exactly when she needed to call for help. The officer suspects a hit-and-run coverup, but the rider keeps revealing fragments that suggest she is not the victim—she is the courier of a stolen memory card everyone wants back. The twist: the dead battery is a lie, and the real evidence is hidden inside the officer's own patrol bag.

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

LOCATION: A roadside underpass at night with one flickering streetlamp, wet asphalt reflecting headlights, a stalled scooter, and distant traffic noise.

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FADE IN:

EXT. ROADSIDE UNDERPASS - NIGHT

Ek flickering STREETLAMP. Wet asphalt par headlights ka reflection. Distant traffic noise.

Ek SCOOTER underpass ke side mein stalled hai.

OFFICER LEENA (39), street-smart traffic police officer, uniform aur reflective vest mein, stern expression ke saath, notepad aur flashlight lekar frame mein aati hai.

MANSI (23), rain-soaked kurti, helmet pehne, mud lage shoes, cracked phone haath mein, visibly shaken khadi hai.

LEENA

(ghurte hue)

Raat ke do baje, underpass ke beech mein scooter band. License, papers, aur reason – teenon ek saath chahiye.

MANSI

(gabra kar)

Madam, scooter bas... achanak bandh ho gaya.

LEENA

Achanak sab kuch nahi hota.

Mansi apna cracked phone uthati hai. Screen dead.

MANSI

Phone bhi dead hai. Main kisi ko call hi nahi kar paayi.

LEENA

Phone dead, scooter dead.

(faint sarcasm)

Aaj raat sab kuch dead hi hai kya?

MANSI

Main mazaak ke mood mein nahi hoon.

LEENA

Main bhi nahi.

(beat)

Kahan se aa rahi ho?

MANSI

Kaam se.

LEENA

Kaunsa kaam?

MANSI

Delivery.

LEENA

Delivery ka parcel kahan hai?

MANSI

Pehle tha.

LEENA

Ab?

MANSI

Ab nahi hai.

Leena flashlight se scooter aur Mansi ke shoes par mud dekhti hai.

LEENA

Mud yahan ka nahi lag raha.

MANSI

Mujhe road pe gira tha.

LEENA

Giri ho ya girayi gayi ho?

MANSI

Madam, aap mujhe suspect kar rahi ho?

LEENA

Main sabko suspect karti hoon. Isse kam galti hoti hai.

Mansi ka saans tez ho jaata hai.

MANSI

Mujhe help chahiye thi.

LEENA

Kis cheez ki help?

MANSI

Kisi ko call karna tha. Time pe.

LEENA

Kis ko?

MANSI

(avoid karti hai)

Bas... ek aadmi ko.

LEENA

Naam?

MANSI

Nahi pata.

LEENA

Nahi pata?

MANSI

Usne chehra cover kiya hua tha.

LEENA

Aur tum uske peeche chal padi?

MANSI

Mere paas option nahi tha.

LEENA

Option sabke paas hota hai.

MANSI

Aapke paas bhi?

Leena rukti hai. Notepad mein kuch likhti hai.

LEENA

Aur yeh phone dead kab hua?

MANSI

Jab mujhe call karni thi.

LEENA

Convenient.

MANSI

Sach hai.

LEENA

Sach usually itna convenient nahi hota.

Mansi helmet ka strap kholne lagti hai, ruk jaati hai.

MANSI

Main courier thi.

LEENA

Kis cheez ki?

MANSI

Ek memory card.

LEENA

(eyes narrow)

Memory card?

MANSI

Haan.

LEENA

Raat ke underpass mein? Scooter pe?

MANSI

Main bas deliver kar rahi thi.

LEENA

Kaun de raha tha?

MANSI

Ek aadmi.

LEENA

Naam?

MANSI

Nahi pata.

LEENA

Chehra?

MANSI

Nahi dekha.

LEENA

Toh tumhe kya pata?

MANSI

Itna pata hai ki woh log mujhe dhoondh rahe the.

LEENA

Kaun log?

MANSI

Jo card wapas chahte hain.

LEENA

Aur tum card le ke bhaag rahi thi?

MANSI

Main bhaag nahi rahi thi.

(beat)

Main bach rahi thi.

Leena flashlight Mansi ke helmet par maarke dekhti hai.

LEENA

Helmet ke andar kya chhupa hai?

MANSI

Kuch nahi.

LEENA

Phir haath kyun kaanp rahe hain?

MANSI

Kyuki aapka tone mujhe pasand nahi aa raha.

LEENA

Mere tone se zyada, tumhari kahani mein holes hain.

MANSI

Kahani nahi, raat holes se bhari hui hai.

Beat. Distant truck light passes through underpass.

Mansi instinctively helmet ko pakad leti hai.

LEENA

Helmet utaro.

MANSI

Nahi.

LEENA

Utaru.

MANSI

Madam, please.

LEENA

Abhi.

Mansi slowly helmet utarti hai. Uske hair wet hain. Woh inner lining se ek chhota MEMORY CARD nikaalti hai.

MANSI

Yeh.

LEENA

(steps closer)

Yeh kya?

MANSI

Wahi jo sabko chahiye.

LEENA

Tumne isse chhupaya hua tha?

MANSI

Haan.

LEENA

Kyun?

MANSI

Kyuki agar woh log dekh lete, toh main dead thi.

Leena card ko dekhti hai. Then her eyes shift to her PATROL BAG.

The zipper is slightly open.

Leena slowly turns. Opens the bag.

Inside: another MEMORY CARD packet.

A beat.

MANSI

(whispers)

Aapke bag mein...

LEENA

(sharp, controlled)

Chup.

Mansi stares. Leena stares back at the bag.

LEENA

(quietly)

Yeh yahan kaise aaya?

MANSI

Main ne nahi dala.

LEENA

Mujhe pata hai.

MANSI

Toh phir?

LEENA

(icy)

Koi meri nazar ke neeche se evidence swap kar gaya.

MANSI

Main courier thi.

LEENA

Aur tumne jhooth bola.

MANSI

Phone dead tha, madam.

(beat)

Lekin woh jhooth nahi tha.

LEENA

Phir?

MANSI

Jhooth yeh tha ki main victim hoon.

Leena looks at her, recalculating.

LEENA

Tum courier thi.

MANSI

Haan.

LEENA

Aur yeh card?

MANSI

Stolen memory.

LEENA

Kis ki?

MANSI

Jisne bhi aapke bag mein rakha.

Silence.

LEENA

(steady)

Toh tum mujhe phansa rahi ho?

MANSI

Nahi, madam.

(beat)

Main aapko warning de rahi hoon.

Leena closes the bag slowly.

LEENA

Ab jo sach hai, woh is underpass se bahar jayega.

MANSI

Aapke saath?

LEENA

Mere saath.

A long beat. Sirf traffic noise.

Leena nods toward the scooter.

LEENA

Start karo.

MANSI

Scooter?

LEENA

Haan.

MANSI

Aur phone?

LEENA

Dead battery ko abhi dead hi rehne do.

Mansi looks at Leena, then at the bag.

She puts the cracked phone away.

Leena grips the patrol bag tighter.

The streetlamp flickers once.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END.