



NO SIGNAL

A Mystery/Crime 2-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: An inspector corners a social media star who claims she saw a murder through a neighbor's livestream before the signal cut out. The influencer keeps changing her story, and the inspector senses the truth is buried beneath performance and self-branding. The twist: the livestream was staged to lure the inspector to the building, because the real target is the woman in the hallway, not the one inside the flat.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) | Character 1: Inspector Anika (33)

LOCATION: A small apartment hallway outside a locked flat with one flickering bulb, muted city sounds, and a weak phone signal indicated by a single bar.

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FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT

Ek purana, narrow hallway. Ek bulb flicker kar raha hai. Door ke bahar muted city sounds. WALL PAR MOBILE SIGNAL ka icon ek hi bar pe atka hua.

INSPECTOR ANIKA (33), composed, plain kurta-jacket mein, badge dikhate hue, notebook kholkar khadi hai. Uske saamne TANYA (29), trendy loungewear, makeup half-done, phone aur ring light stand ke saath, fake confidence mein khadi hai.

ANIKA

Tanya Sharma?

TANYA

Depends. Police ke liye Tanya. Followers ke liye Tanyaaa.

ANIKA

Main joke mood mein nahi hoon.

TANYA

Main bhi. Bas habit hai.

Anika uske phone ko dekhti hai. Single bar. Tanya screen lock karti hai.

ANIKA

Tumne call kiya tha. Bola tha neighbor ke flat mein murder hua.

TANYA

Murder bola tha? Main ne toh bola tha... something very bad.

ANIKA

(beat)

11:17 pe livestream dekha tha?

TANYA

Haan. Shayad. Matlab dekha tha. Signal gaya toh...

ANIKA

Signal gaya ya story?

Tanya smirks, nervous.

TANYA

Aap logon ko har cheez story lagti hai.

ANIKA

Aur tumhe har cheez content.

Anika notebook mein likhti hai. Tanya ring light ka stand adjust karti hai.

TANYA

Aapne notice kiya? Aapka face is light mein kaafi dramatic lag raha hai.

ANIKA

Tumhara bhi. Bas truth ke liye kaafi nahi.

TANYA

Truth ke liye followers nahi milte, Inspector.

ANIKA

Mujhe followers nahi chahiye. Facts chahiye.

TANYA

Toh bad luck.

Anika flat ke locked door ki taraf dekhti hai. Then Tanya ke phone ki screen.

ANIKA

Recent live nahi hai.

TANYA

Network weak tha.

ANIKA

Par app open hai. Drafts empty.

TANYA

Aap mera phone stalk kar rahi ho?

ANIKA

Main tumhari kahani check kar rahi hoon.

Anika ek step closer.

ANIKA (CONT'D)

Pehle bola murder. Phir shadow. Phir panic.

TANYA

Memory fuzzy ho sakti hai.

ANIKA

Ya script.

Silence. Bulb flickers.

Tanya phone ko side mein pakad leti hai.

TANYA

Aapko lagta hai main jhooth bol rahi hoon?

ANIKA

Mujhe lagta hai tum jhooth ko rehearsal ki tarah bolti ho.

Tanya laughs, but it breaks halfway.

TANYA

Wow. That was actually good.

ANIKA

Thanks.

TANYA

Aap bhi half-done kurta pehen ke aayi ho, main bhi half-done makeup mein hoon. Matchy.

ANIKA

Focus.

Anika ek KEY CARD nikalti hai, usko inspect karti hai.

ANIKA (CONT'D)

Ye building access card kis ka hai?

TANYA

Mera nahi.

ANIKA

Maintenance ka bhi nahi.

TANYA

Toh shayad kisi ka private event hoga.

ANIKA

Tumhein kaise pata?

Tanya hesitates.

TANYA

Mujhe... DM aaya tha.

ANIKA

Kis se?

TANYA

Anonymous.

ANIKA

Message mein kya tha?

TANYA

"Aao. Agar sach dekhna hai toh 3B ke bahar ruko. Inspector bhi aayegi."

Anika freezes. Tiny beat.

ANIKA

Mujhe kaise pata tha?

TANYA

Mujhe kaise pata hoga? Main bas invite follow kar rahi thi.

ANIKA

Nahi.

(beat)

Tum mujhe yahan laayi.

Tanya looks at her. The fearless act drops a little.

TANYA

Aap itni smart ho, Inspector. Thoda late ho gayi.

ANIKA

Kis cheez mein?

TANYA

Jis murder ko aap dhoondh rahi ho... woh flat ke andar nahi hai.

Anika's eyes narrow.

ANIKA

Toh kaun target hai?

Tanya takes a breath. Then:

TANYA

Aap.

Silence.

ANIKA

Mujhe?

TANYA

Haan. Main victim nahi hoon. Main invitation hoon.

Anika stares. Then calmly closes her notebook.

ANIKA

Staged livestream.

TANYA

Smart.

ANIKA

Fake panic.

TANYA

Mostly real.

ANIKA

Ring light, charger, weak signal... sab setup.

TANYA

Content strategy.

ANIKA

Aur mujhe yahan bulane ka reason?

TANYA

Ek purana case. Ek naam. Ek inspector.

ANIKA

(quiet)

Kiska naam?

TANYA

Aapka.

A beat. The bulb flickers harder.

ANIKA

Tumne mujhe trap kiya.

TANYA

Trap nahi. Test.

ANIKA

Kis baat ka?

TANYA

Ki aap sach mein innocent ho ya sirf badge pe innocent lagti ho.

Anika slowly steps forward. Tanya doesn't move.

ANIKA

Aur live?

TANYA

No signal.

Tanya taps her phone. SCREEN: "NO SIGNAL".

TANYA (CONT'D)

Par recording local save ho gayi.

Anika notices Tanya's charger cord. She tugs. A SMALL PORTABLE RECORDER slips into view, clipped near Anika's notebook edge.

ANIKA

Interesting.

TANYA

Aap bhi.

Anika snatches the KEY CARD from Tanya.

ANIKA

Flat mein kaun hai?

TANYA

Koi nahi.

ANIKA

Toh door locked kyun hai?

TANYA

Kyuki darwaza kabhi kabhi logon ko nahi, stories ko rokta hai.

Anika looks at Tanya – then the locked flat – then back.

ANIKA

Tumne ye sab kyun kiya?

TANYA

Kyuki jo log camera pe sach bolte hain, unko hi sabse pehle chup karaya jaata hai.

(soft)

Aur aaj raat... aap camera ke saamne aa gayi.

Anika's jaw tightens.

ANIKA

Tumhe lagta hai tum jeet gayi?

TANYA

Nahi.

(beat)

Mujhe lagta hai ab aap samajh gayi ho.

Anika stares at her, then at the dark hallway.

ANIKA

Agar tumne ek bhi cheez manipulate ki hai...

TANYA

Toh?

ANIKA

Toh main bhi story likh sakti hoon.

Tanya smiles, finally honest.

TANYA

Wahi toh main chahti thi.

Bulb flickers. The hallway goes almost dark.

CUT TO BLACK.

FADE OUT.