



THE LOCKED DRAWER

A Horror/Supernatural 2-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: A daughter returns home and finds her late father's study drawer repeatedly unlocking by itself, always revealing a different object tied to a family death. The housekeeper insists the drawer must stay shut, but the daughter keeps hearing someone breathing inside the wood. The twist: the drawer contains the voice of the mother who was erased from family history, and she has been trying to tell the daughter where the real body is buried.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) | Character 1: Madhuri (44)

LOCATION: An old study room at midnight with moonlight through curtains, a dusty desk, one locked drawer, and a ceiling fan creaking overhead.

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FADE IN:

INT. OLD STUDY ROOM - MIDNIGHT

Moonlight curtains ke through andar aa rahi hai. Dusty desk. Ceiling fan dheere-dheere creak kar raha hai. Ek locked drawer desk ke neeche band pada hai.

PIA (20), nightdress mein, messy hair, flashlight clutch kiye room mein ghusti hai.

PIA

(under breath)

Bas. Aaj ya toh sach milega, ya main is ghar ko aag laga dunga.

She sweeps the flashlight over the room. A desk. Old photo frame. A tape recorder half-hidden under papers.

A soft CLICK.

Pia freezes.

The drawer is slightly open.

PIA

Nahi... nahi, maine lock kiya tha.

She steps closer. A faint breathing sound leaks from the wood.

PIA

Kaun hai?

No answer. Just breathing.

MADHURI (44) enters silently from the doorway, sari crisp, keys clipped at her waist.

MADHURI

Drawer ko chhedna band karo, Pia.

PIA

Aapko kaise pata chala main yahan hoon?

MADHURI

Is ghar mein raat ko koi bhi cheez chup nahi sakti.

PIA

Haan? Toh phir yeh drawer khud kyun khul raha hai?

MADHURI

(steady)

Kyunki isko band rehna chahiye.

PIA

Mere baap ke study mein jo bhi hai, mujhe dekhna hai.

MADHURI

Tumhare baap ki cheezein tumhare liye nahi thi.

PIA

Aur meri maa?

Madhuri goes still.

PIA

Haan. Meri maa ka naam bhi yahan koi nahi leta. Kyun?

MADHURI

Pia...

PIA

Nahi. Aaj nahi. Aaj drawer khulega.

Pia reaches for the handle. Madhuri grabs her wrist.

MADHURI

Mat karo.

PIA

Aap darr rahi hain?

MADHURI

Haan.

That lands.

PIA

Kisse?

MADHURI

Sach se.

Pia yanks her hand free and opens the drawer.

Inside: an OLD PHOTO with one face cut out, a bundle of LETTERS, and a TAPE RECORDER.

PIA

Yeh... yeh kya hai?

MADHURI

(whisper)

Jo kabhi bahar nahi aana chahiye tha.

PIA picks up the photo.

PIA

Yeh meri maa thi.

MADHURI

Aur yeh wajah thi ki ghar mein sab chup ho gaye.

PIA

Aap bol kya rahi ho?

The drawer makes a soft THUMP from inside, like something moved.

PIA

(whispers)

Maine saans suni.

MADHURI

Nahi.

PIA

Maine suni.

She leans closer to the drawer.

PIA

Kaun hai andar?

A beat.

Then: a faint WOMAN'S BREATH, almost a sigh.

PIA recoils.

MADHURI closes her eyes.

MADHURI

Us raat...

PIA

Kaunsi raat?

MADHURI

Jis raat tumhari maa gayab nahi hui thi.

PIA

Kya?

MADHURI

Usko chupaya gaya tha.

PIA stares, stunned.

PIA

Kisne?

MADHURI

Tumhare father ne.

PIA

Jhooth.

MADHURI

Main bhi us waqt jhooth mein thi.

Pia grabs the tape recorder.

PIA

Isme kya hai?

MADHURI

Mat chalao.

PIA

Ab toh zaroor chal■■■■gi.

Pia presses PLAY.

Static.

Then a faint, broken WOMAN'S VOICE.

AASHA (V.O.)

Pia... agar tum sun rahi ho... mat darna.

Pia's eyes fill.

AASHA (V.O.)

Main drawer mein nahi hoon.

PIA

Maa...

AASHA (V.O.)

Main neeche hoon.

Madhuri staggers back.

PIA

Neeche?

AASHA (V.O.)

Study ke neeche. Deewar ke paas. Jahan desk ka saya padta hai.

PIA turns slowly toward the floorboards.

AASHA (V.O.)

Tumhare father ne mujhe yahin dafnaya tha.

PIA

No...

AASHA (V.O.)

Madhuri ne roka tha.

Madhuri breaks.

MADHURI

Main roki thi... par bacha nahi paayi.

PIA

Aap sab jaanti thi?

MADHURI

Main ne us raat body dekhi thi. Phir... main ne drawer lock kar diya. Khat, tape, photo... sab yahin chhupa diya. Taaki koi poochhe toh sach ka koi tukda na mile.

PIA

Aapne meri maa ko mita diya.

MADHURI

Main ne ghar ko bachane ki koshish ki.

PIA

Ghar? Maa se zyada?

Madhuri has no answer.

AASHA (V.O.)

Pia... mujhe dhoondo.

The tape hisses.

PIA

(quiet, furious)

Mujhe ab sab chahiye.

She kneels near the desk, flashlight aimed at the floorboards.

A thin CRACK line is visible near the desk's shadow.

MADHURI

Agar tum yeh khologi, sab khatam ho jayega.

PIA

Nahi.

(beat)

Sab abhi shuru hoga.

The ceiling fan gives one last loud CREAK.

The drawer SLAMS shut by itself.

Both women flinch.

Silence.

PIA looks at Madhuri.

MADHURI looks at the floor.

PIA

Maa ne aakhri baar bhi drawer se nahi, neeche se bulaya tha.

Madhuri nods, defeated.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END.