



THE INTERVIEW ROOM

A Mystery/Crime 2-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by
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LOGLINE: A detective questions a librarian who claims she saw the suspect leave the scene of a theft through the school library. The woman's story seems too precise, as if rehearsed, and the detective suspects she is protecting someone close. The twist: the librarian is not the witness—she is the mastermind, and she has been using children's lost-and-found records to track the detective's own hidden past.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 2-Character Short Film (Duo Cast) | Character 1: Detective Shikha (41)

LOCATION: A bare police interrogation room with one metal table, two chairs, a glaring ceiling tube light, and a one-way mirror reflecting nothing useful.

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INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Glaring tube light. Bare room. One metal table. Two chairs. One-way mirror.

DETECTIVE SHIKHA (41), disciplined, sharp-eyed, plain shirt and formal pants, sits with a case file, coffee-stained notes, and an evidence photo.

MALA (38), a calm but tense school librarian in a modest sari, sits opposite, clutching a handbag.

Silence.

SHIKHA

(looks at notes)

School library se suspect ko nikalte dekha aapne?

MALA

Haan.

SHIKHA

Kab?

MALA

Shaam ke 6:17.

SHIKHA

Itna exact?

MALA

Library mein time ka hisaab hota hai, Madam.

Shikha slides the evidence photo across the table.

SHIKHA

Is photo mein corridor ke end par jo shadow hai, woh aapka suspect hai?

MALA

(photo dekhti hai)

Haan. Yehi tha.

SHIKHA

Aap itni jaldi kaise sure ho gayi?

MALA

Kyuki main school librarian hoon. Main cheezein notice karti hoon.

SHIKHA

Ya cheezein aapko notice karti hain.

Mala gives a tiny, controlled smile.

MALA

Aapka matlab?

SHIKHA

Mera matlab, aapki story rehearsed lag rahi hai.

MALA

Aur aapka sawaal?

SHIKHA

Mera sawaal simple hai. Aap us waqt library mein kya kar rahi thi?

MALA

Lost-and-found register update kar rahi thi.

SHIKHA

Theft suspect ka lost-and-found se kya lena?

MALA

School mein jo gum hota hai, woh sirf cheezein nahi hoti.

Shikha stops. She studies Mala.

SHIKHA

(quiet)

Aap mujhe confuse karne ki koshish kar rahi hain.

MALA

Nahi. Main आपको याद दिला रही हूँ.

Shikha flips open the file. Inside: an old case reference.

SHIKHA

Yeh case आपको कहां से मिला?

MALA

Lost-and-found records से.

SHIKHA

क्या?

MALA

Har missing item ka record hota hai. Har missing bacche ka bhi, agar koi dhundhne wala ho.

Mala opens her handbag and takes out a worn LIBRARY CARD. She places it on the table.

SHIKHA

(looks down)

Yeh...

MALA

आपका है.

SHIKHA

मेरा नहीं.

MALA

नाम नहीं है इस पर. Bas ek bacche ka record number hai.

Shikha's jaw tightens.

SHIKHA

Ye card aapko kahan mila?

MALA

Jahan aapne chhoda tha.

Beat.

SHIKHA

Kaun ho tum?

MALA

Main us bacche ki badi behen hoon jiska naam aapki file se gayab ho gaya tha.

Shikha goes still.

SHIKHA

Yeh possible nahi hai.

MALA

Possible tab hota hai jab aap file complete rakhti hain.

Mala leans in, calm but lethal.

MALA (CONT'D)

Aap soch rahi hain main witness hoon. Main witness nahi hoon, Detective. Main reason hoon aap yahan baithi hain.

SHIKHA

Tumne mujhe yahan kyun bulaya?

MALA

Kyuki aap hi woh insaan ho jo sach officially likh sakti ho.

SHIKHA

Sach kya hai?

MALA

School ke lost-and-found records se bacchon ko track kiya ja raha tha. Names, addresses, transfers... sab.

SHIKHA

Kaun?

MALA

Wahi log jinke liye missing log numbers hote hain.

Shikha looks at the file, then the card, then Mala.

SHIKHA

Tum mujhe blackmail kar rahi ho.

MALA

Nahi.

(beat)

Main aapko choice de rahi hoon.

Mala slides a folded paper across the table.

MALA (CONT'D)

Is file ko khol ke sach likh dijiye. Ya phir phir se
kisi bacche ko 'missing' rehne dijiye.

Shikha's hand hovers over the file.

The tube light BUZZES.

SHIKHA

(soft, shaken)

Tum mastermind ho.

MALA

Aur aap?

Mala looks at the one-way mirror.

MALA (CONT'D)

Aap evidence.

Shikha finally looks up. The mirror reflects nothing useful.

CUT TO BLACK.