



THE INTERVIEW TAPE

A Mystery/Crime 1-Character Solo Monologue in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: A journalist records a follow-up interview with a man who claims he witnessed a famous cold-case crime, but the tape begins answering its own questions. As the recording reveals his subject is actually describing him, the journalist realizes he came here to confess, not to report.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 1-Character Solo Monologue (Single Actor) | Character: Aspiring Journalist with a Hidden Agenda (Male, 38-44)

LOCATION: A small motel room converted into an improvised interview space, lit by a bedside lamp and the orange glow of a 'Vacancy' sign through the curtains. The room feels temporary, anonymous, and charged with secrecy.

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FADE IN:

INT. SMALL MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Ek cramped motel room. Bedside lamp ki warm yellow light. Curtains ke through orange VACANCY sign ka glow room mein slanting streaks bana raha hai. Table par cassette recorder, notebook, pen, water bottle, motel key card.

EK AADMI (40 ke aas-paas), button-down shirt, sleeves rolled, neat but tense, recorder pakde khada hai. Uski aankhen alert hain, jaise har sound ko measure kar rahi hon.

Woh deep breath leta hai. Recorder ON karta hai.

AADMI

(soft, professional)

Take one. Follow-up interview. Subject... anonymous.
Location... motel room, room 214.

Woh apne notebook ko dekhta hai, phir khud ko.

AADMI (CONT'D)

The witness said he saw the crime. Famous cold-case.
Ten years. No closure. Aur aaj... aaj woh bolne ko tayaar hai.

Woh pen ko tap karta hai. Nervous.

AADMI (CONT'D)

Main bas do cheezein chahta hoon. Ek, us raat ka truth. Do, ek clean tape.

Chhota sa pause. Recorder ki halki hiss.

AADMI (CONT'D)

Haan. Clean tape. Kyunki messy stories mein career banta hai, par messy evidence mein zindagi khatam bhi ho sakti hai.

Woh self-correct karta hai, as if overpreparing.

AADMI (CONT'D)

Sorry. Cut that mentally. Tumne suna nahi.

Woh water bottle uthata hai, ek sip leta hai. Gale mein atak jata hai.

AADMI (CONT'D)

Okay. Question one. Aapne crime kyun witness kiya?

Recorder se halki si click. Jaise tape chal padi ho.

Woh sunta hai.

RECORDER (V.O.)

Aapne crime kyun witness kiya?

Woh freeze.

AADMI

...What?

Woh recorder ko ear ke paas le jaata hai. Rewind nahi hua.

AADMI (CONT'D)

Nahi. Nahi, yeh... echo hoga. Motel room. Cheap walls. Normal.

Woh phir bolta hai, zyada controlled.

AADMI (CONT'D)

Question two. Aapne police ko pehle kyun nahi bataya?

Tape se, uski hi awaaz, thodi delayed.

RECORDER (V.O.)

Aapne police ko pehle kyun nahi bataya?

Woh pichhe hat ta hai.

AADMI

Stop.

Woh recorder ka stop button dabata hai. Silence.

Phir, bina touch kiye, tape ki hiss jaisi awaaz.

RECORDER (V.O.)

Stop mat karo.

Woh saans rok leta hai.

AADMI

Kaun bol raha hai?

Woh room mein idhar-udhar dekhta hai. Koi nahi.

AADMI (CONT'D)

Yeh prank nahi hai. Main yahan kisi game ke liye nahi aaya.

Woh notebook kholta hai. Pages palat-ta hai. Ek page par underlined name aur date. Uska haath ruk jaata hai.

AADMI (CONT'D)

Nahi... Nahi, yeh yahan kaise?

Woh motel key card ko table par rakh deta hai, jaise usse distance chahiye.

AADMI (CONT'D)

Main witness se milne aaya tha. Bas interview. Bas story. Bas...

Uski awaaz dhimi pad jaati hai.

AADMI (CONT'D)

Bas confession nahi.

Recorder se phir awaaz.

RECORDER (V.O.)

Bas confession nahi.

Woh aankhen band karta hai. Khulne par pehli baar sach dikh raha hota hai.

AADMI

Tum mera copy kar rahe ho. Ya main tumhara?

Woh recorder ko table par rakh deta hai, dono haath uske kinare par.

AADMI (CONT'D)

Main journalist hoon. Main stories chase karta hoon.
Main facts verify karta hoon. Main...

Woh rukta hai. Hansi aur darr ke beech ka koi sound.

AADMI (CONT'D)

Main saalon se ek naam bhaga raha hoon. Ek raat. Ek road. Ek aadmi jo gir gaya tha.

Beat.

AADMI (CONT'D)

Aur main ne report nahi kiya. Main ne... Main ne cover kiya.

Room ki lamp light zyada heavy lagne lagti hai.

AADMI (CONT'D)

Isi liye main yahan aaya tha. Kisi witness ko expose karne nahi. Apne aap ko sunne.

Woh recorder ON karta hai again.

AADMI (CONT'D)

The truth is... Jo cold-case tum sab dekh rahe the, us raat ka sabse bada witness main hi tha. Aur sabse bada jhooth bhi.

Woh swallow karta hai.

AADMI (CONT'D)

Main yahan interview lene nahi aaya tha. Main yahan apni yaad ko record karne aaya tha, taaki woh mujhe khud se zyada jhooth na bol sake.

Recorder se uski hi awaaz, faint but clear.

RECORDER (V.O.)

Tum mujhe witness bol rahe ho... par tumne kabhi poocha hi nahi ki witness kis baat ka tha?

Woh tharthara jaata hai.

AADMI

Haan. Wahi. Wahi baat.

Woh camera ki taraf nahi, jaise kisi invisible listener ki taraf directly bolta hai.

AADMI (CONT'D)

Journalism ka sabse bada jhoot yeh hai ki hum sach dhoondhte hain. Kabhi kabhi hum bas us sach se bhaagte hain jo humne khud banaya hota hai.

Woh notebook band karta hai.

AADMI (CONT'D)

Aaj main interview nahi de raha. Aaj main apna statement record kar raha hoon.

Woh recorder ko table ke beech mein set karta hai. Red light blink karti rehti hai.

AADMI (CONT'D)

Agar koi sun raha hai... toh yeh meri confession hai.
Aur agar koi nahi sun raha... toh yeh meri saza.

Beat.

Woh seedha khada ho jaata hai. Curtain ke peeche VACANCY sign ka orange glow uske face par cut karta hai.

AADMI (CONT'D)

Take two... kabhi nahi hoga.

Woh recorder ko dekhta hai. Phir khud ko.

CUT TO BLACK.

The tape hiss continues for one last second.

FADE OUT.