



THE LAST WITNESS

A Mystery/Crime 1-Character Solo Monologue in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: A retired court interpreter discovers that a case transcript he translated years ago contains a sentence that was never spoken aloud. As he reads the line out loud for the first time, he realizes he may have helped bury the truth behind a murder that was never actually solved.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 1-Character Solo Monologue (Single Actor) | Character: Retired Court Interpreter (Male, 55-62)

LOCATION: A small study lined with legal books and old files, lit by a desk lamp and a narrow shaft of daylight from a curtained window. The room feels archival and secretive, with papers stacked in precise piles.

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FADE IN:

INT. SMALL STUDY - NIGHT

Ek chhota, archival study room. Legal books ki deewarein. Old files, precise stacks mein. Desk lamp ki peeli roshni. Curtain ke gap se daylight ki patli lakeer. Room mein silence itni gehri ki paper ka rustle bhi confession lagta hai.

KAPOOR SAAB (58), silver hair, wire-rim glasses, plain sweater, careful posture, ek desk par baitha hai. Unke saamne transcript pages, archive box, aur ek purana tape recorder.

Woh ek file kholte hain. Dheere. Meticulous.

KAPOOR SAAB

(under breath)

Bas ek file... bas ek line...

Woh pages palat■■ hain. Fingers controlled. Aankhen trained.

KAPOOR SAAB

Maine isko yahan rakha tha... ya phir...

Woh rukte hain. Ek page par stare.

CLOSE ON: Transcript line highlighted in pencil.

KAPOOR SAAB

(reading softly)

"...aur usne khud maana ki woh raat woh akela nahi tha."

Woh freeze.

KAPOOR SAAB

Nahi.

Woh dobara padhte hain.

KAPOOR SAAB

Yeh line... yeh line maine...

Woh reading glasses utaarte hain, temple par rakhte hain. Saans tez.

KAPOOR SAAB

Court mein yeh bola hi nahi gaya tha.

Woh archive box kholte hain. Andar tape recorder. Dusty, old.

KAPOOR SAAB

Aaj tum bhi bol hi do.

Woh tape recorder ON karte hain. PLAY.

TAPE RECORDER V.O.

(static, old courtroom ambience)

...order... order... witness ko translate kijiye...

KAPOOR SAAB sunte hain. Eyes fixed. Tape mein paper rustle, faint cough, distant courtroom murmur.

TAPE RECORDER V.O.

(muffled male voice, indistinct)

...main usse pehchanta nahi...

KAPOOR SAAB

Haan. Haan, yahi tha.

Woh forward lean karte hain, as if the past is inches away.

TAPE RECORDER V.O.

...main us raat wahan nahi tha...

KAPOOR SAAB

Aur phir?

Tape continues. No disputed line.

KAPOOR SAAB

Nahi tha. Nahi tha. Yeh line nahi thi.

Woh transcript ke margin par apni purani pencil marks ko trace karte hain.

KAPOOR SAAB

Main hi translate karta tha. Har pause. Har tremor.

(beat)

Main galat kaise ho sakta hoon?

Woh ek page alag nikaalte hain. Final transcript copy.

CLOSE ON: Same sentence, typed cleanly.

KAPOOR SAAB

Yeh typed version mein kaise aa gayi?

Woh tape stop karte hain. Silence.

KAPOOR SAAB

Case 17B.

Unke haath kaanpte hain, lekin awaaz steady.

KAPOOR SAAB

Murder case. Unsolved. Aur main... main interpreter tha.

Woh chair back mein lean nahi karte. Seedhe rehte hain. Jaise witness box.

KAPOOR SAAB

Yaad hai mujhe. Us din lamp flicker hua tha. Clerk ne pages jode the. Ya...

Woh rukte hain. Memory se ladte hain.

KAPOOR SAAB

Ya maine hi jode the?

Tape recorder se ek low hiss. Unke purane voice notes ka button accidentally press hota hai.

VOICE NOTE V.O.

(older Kapoor, tired)

Case 17B. Missing line. Check tomorrow.

KAPOOR SAAB

(whispers)

Tomorrow.

Woh laugh nahi karte. Bas ek sad breath.

KAPOOR SAAB

Tomorrow kabhi aaya hi nahi.

Woh transcript ko desk lamp ke neeche laate hain. Daylight ki patli line page par seedhi girti hai.

KAPOOR SAAB

Aaj aayi hai.

Woh transcript ko phir padhte hain. Is baar zyada loud, jaise court mein.

KAPOOR SAAB

(reading aloud)

"...aur usne khud maana ki woh raat woh akela nahi tha."

Woh sentence room mein phail jaata hai.

KAPOOR SAAB

Nahi. Yeh nahi bola gaya tha. Yeh kisi ne nahi bola.

(beat)

Toh phir yeh yahan kaise hai?

Woh pen uthate hain. Margin mein likhte hain.

INSERT: "This line was never spoken."

KAPOOR SAAB

Agar maine truth ko translate karke dafn kiya tha...

Unki aankhon mein guilt aur resolve dono.

KAPOOR SAAB

...toh aaj main usse ek baar aur likhunga. Sahi tarah.

Woh camera ki taraf dekhte hain—direct, unblinking.

KAPOOR SAAB

Main last witness hoon.

Beat.

KAPOOR SAAB

Aur is baar... main chup nahi rahunga.

FADE OUT.

THE END.