



MUTED

A Psychological Thriller 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: When Aarav's phone begins receiving silent video messages from his apartment, he suspects a prank, then a break-in, then something far worse. The superintendent and the neighbor each claim to have seen the same mysterious figure entering the flat, but their stories never match. The twist reveals the messages are being sent from inside the apartment by someone who has been living there unnoticed for days.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Aarav (26)

LOCATION: A dim apartment corridor outside a single front door, lit by one buzzing overhead bulb and the cold spill of light from a half-open stairwell. Shadows pool at the ends of the hall, making the space feel longer than it is.

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FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Ek dim corridor. Ek bulb buzz kar raha hai. Stairwell se thandi light spill ho rahi hai. Shadows corridor ke end tak lambi ho gayi hain.

AARAV (26), hoodie mein, exhausted eyes, phone ko baar-baar refresh kar raha hai. Door ke bahar khada hai. Uske haath mein KEY CARD aur SMARTPHONE.

AARAV

(under breath)

Aaj bhi notification late hai kya?

PHONE VIBRATES.

Aarav screen dekh kar freeze ho jata hai.

ON PHONE SCREEN: Silent video message. Sender unknown.

Aarav play karta hai.

INSERT - PHONE VIDEO

Aarav ka flat. Dim light. Kitchen corner. Camera andar se shoot kiya gaya hai. Ek hand frame mein aata hai, DOOR CHAIN dheere se kholta hai.

END INSERT

AARAV

Kya...?

Door ke opposite side se footsteps.

SURESH (48), thick mustache, stern face, security logbook aur flashlight ke saath aata hai.

SURESH

Kya hua, Aarav?

AARAV

(haath kaanpte hue)

Mere flat ke andar se video aaya hai.

SURESH

Video? Koi prank hoga.

AARAV

Prank mein chain kaun kholta hai, Suresh ji?

Suresh logbook kholta hai. Calm rehne ki koshish karta hai.

SURESH

Building mein sab entry logged hai.

AARAV

Toh phir mere flat mein kaun hai?

Across the hall se ek door khulta hai.

MIHIR (31), neat shirt, polite smile, unnerving stillness ke saath bahar aata hai.

MIHIR

Sorry, maine awaaz suni. Sab theek?

AARAV

Aapne kuch dekha?

MIHIR

(softly)

Haan.

AARAV

Kya?

MIHIR

Ek aadmi.

Suresh turant uski taraf dekhta hai.

SURESH

Kaunsa aadmi?

MIHIR

Uske flat ki taraf gaya tha.

AARAV

Chehra?

MIHIR

Nahi. Par chalne ka andaaz... jaise woh yahin rehta ho.

Aarav ka phone phir VIBRATE karta hai.

AARAV

Nahi... nahi, ab kya?

Aarav second video kholta hai.

INSERT - PHONE VIDEO

Bedroom angle. Bed ke paas ek pair. Phir ek hand. Aarav ka hoodie chair par latak raha hai.

END INSERT

AARAV

Yeh bedroom se...

SURESH

(interrupting)

Shant ho ja.

AARAV

Main andar se hi toh bahar aaya hoon!

MIHIR

(too calm)

Ya shayad tum andar se kabhi nikle hi nahi.

Aarav ghoor kar dekhta hai.

AARAV

Kya matlab?

MIHIR

Kuch nahi.

Suresh flashlight se door inspect karta hai.

SURESH

Chain andar se lagi hai.

AARAV

Mere paas key card hai.

Aarav card lagata hai. BEEP. Lock nahi khulta.

SURESH

Lock jam hai.

AARAV

Ya koi andar se rok raha hai.

Mihir ek step closer aata hai, smile polite hi hai.

MIHIR

Kal raat tumne door band kiya tha?

AARAV

Haan.

MIHIR

Bas wahi toh.

Aarav ka face pale padta hai.

AARAV

Kya?

SURESH

Logbook mein kal raat koi complaint nahi hai.

AARAV

Complaint? Mere flat mein koi ghusa hua hai!

SURESH

Agar ghusa hota, CCTV...

AARAV

CCTV? Stairwell ka bulb bhi aadha dead hai!

Bulb buzz karta hai. Teeno silence mein.

Aarav ka phone teesri baar vibrate karta hai.

AARAV

Nahi.

He opens it.

INSERT - PHONE VIDEO

Corridor footage. Frame mein teenon khade hain. Suresh logbook ke saath. Mihir door ke paas. Aarav apne flat ko stare kar raha hai.

Camera slowly pans to the dark inside of the flat.

Ek SHAPE darkness se bahar aati hai.

END INSERT

AARAV

(whisper)

Mere peeche tha...

SURESH

Kaun?

AARAV

Woh...

Mihir ka polite smile disappear.

MIHIR

Tum dono ne bhi toh dekha tha.

SURESH

Main kuch nahi dekha.

MIHIR

Jhooth.

SURESH

(tense)

Maine sirf shadow dekhi thi.

AARAV

Shadow?

MIHIR

Haan. Jo aadmi ke saath chalti hai.

Aarav door chain ko jhatka deta hai.

AARAV

Chain tod do!

Suresh flashlight se lock par roshni daalta hai. Uska face tight ho jata hai.

SURESH

(quietly)

Yeh chain nayi nahi hai.

AARAV

Matlab?

SURESH

Kisi ne isko andar se roz khola aur band kiya hai.

AARAV

Kaun?

Silence.

Phir ek KHATKHATAAHAT andar se.

Teeno freeze.

AARAV

Andar...

Mihir ka throat tight hota hai.

MIHIR

Usne sun liya.

SURESH

Kaun?

AARAV

Mere flat mein kaun hai?!

PHONE VIBRATES AGAIN.

Aarav screen dekh■■ hai.

ON PHONE SCREEN: Final silent video.

Aarav opens it.

INSERT - PHONE VIDEO

Camera angle: bedroom cupboard ke andar se. Dark, cramped frame.

Ek gaunt, exhausted face camera ki taraf dekh raha hai. Yeh face unfamiliar hai, par uske haath mein Aarav ka EARBUDS CASE hai.

Uski lips move karte hain. No audio.

Screen par type hota hai:

"AB TUM BAHAR HO."

END INSERT

Aarav ka haath kaanpta hai. Uski pocket mein se KEY CARD slip hoti hai.

AARAV

(terrified)

Mere... mere paas thi hi nahi?

Suresh logbook gira deta hai.

SURESH

Bhagwan...

Mihir peeche hat ta hai. Pehli baar uska smile completely gayab.

MIHIR

(very low)

Toh woh ab bhi andar hai.

Andar se door slowly OPEN hota hai by a few inches.

Darkness.

Aarav, Suresh, Mihir—teeno ek dusre ko dekhte hain.

CUT TO BLACK.

TITLE CARD: MUTED

FADE OUT.