



THE SILENT WITNESS

A Mystery/Crime 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: Two inspectors question a witness who claims she heard a murder through the apartment wall, but her answers seem rehearsed and incomplete. The two men disagree on whether she is protecting someone or framing them both. The climax reveals the witness is actually the victim's sister, and the murder was staged to make one detective confess to a cover-up he thought no one knew about.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Inspector Arvind (43)

LOCATION: A small apartment kitchen converted into an interview space, lit by a single pendant lamp and the pale light from a window in the rain.

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FADE IN:

INT. SMALL APARTMENT KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ek chhota sa kitchen. Table ko interview setup bana diya gaya hai. Single PENDANT LAMP upar se latak raha hai. Window ke bahar baarish. Table par RECORDER, FILE FOLDER, do TEA CUPS, aur ek APARTMENT KEY.

INSPECTOR ARVIND (43), raincoat pehne, stern face, notebook haath mein. INSPECTOR MOHIT (39), clean shave, careful eyes, recorder aur file folder ke saath. KAVYA (35), elegant, bandaged wrist, calm but visibly tense.

Recorder ON.

MOHIT

Time kya hai, madam?

KAVYA

Raat ka. Aur baarish ka.

ARVIND

Smart answer. Par hum weather report nahi likh rahe.

MOHIT

Inspector Arvind, thoda soft.

ARVIND

Soft logon ko murder cases mein nahi bhejte.

Kavya ek chhota sa, almost involuntary smile deti hai.

KAVYA

Aap dono mein se kaun good cop hai?

ARVIND

Aaj hum dono busy hain.

MOHIT

Chaliye. Aapne call kiya tha. Bola ki wall ke paar murder suna.

KAVYA

Haan.

MOHIT

Kaunsi wall?

KAVYA

Yeh wali.

Kavya side wall ki taraf ishara karti hai.

ARVIND

Aur awaaz kiski thi?

KAVYA

Ek aadmi ki. Saans ghut rahi thi. Phir ek thud. Phir... khamoshi.

MOHIT

Time?

KAVYA

9:15.

Arvind notebook mein likhta hai. Mohit recorder dekhte hue uski aankhon ko observe karta hai.

ARVIND

Pehle bhi bola tha 9:20.

KAVYA

Shayed.

ARVIND

Shayed?

KAVYA

Baarish mein time bhi bhig jaata hai, Inspector.

Mohit chhoti si hansii rok leta hai.

MOHIT

Nice. Par humein exact chahiye.

KAVYA

Exact hota toh murder bhi exact hota.

Arvind table par haath maarta hai.

ARVIND

Humein smartness nahi, sach chahiye.

KAVYA

Sach hi de rahi hoon.

ARVIND

Poora?

KAVYA

Jo bach gaya hai.

Mohit file folder kholta hai.

MOHIT

Aapke paas apartment key kaise aayi?

Kavya key ko dekhti hai. Phir Mohit ko.

KAVYA

Kyunki main yahan aayi thi.

ARVIND

Kab?

KAVYA

Jab awaaz suni.

MOHIT

Aur andar nahi gayi?

KAVYA

Dar gayi thi.

ARVIND

Ya kisi ko andar se nikalne diya?

Kavya ki nazar Arvind par tik jaati hai.

KAVYA

Aap bahut assumptions karte hain, Inspector.

ARVIND

Aur aap bahut rehearsed lag rahi hain.

MOHIT

Arvind.

ARVIND

Kya? Dekh nahi raha? Story mein holes hain.

KAVYA

Haan. Jaise aapki file mein.

Mohit ek beat ke liye Kavya ko dekhta hai.

MOHIT

Aap bandage kyun pehne ho?

Kavya wrist ko cover karti hai.

KAVYA

Gir gayi thi.

ARVIND

Ya kisi ne giraya?

KAVYA

Aap dono ko har cheez mein violence kyun dikhai deti hai?

MOHIT

Kyunki aap humein yahan baitha ke aadhi raat ko tea pila rahi hain.

KAVYA

Tea mein zehar nahi hai, Inspector.

ARVIND

Kaise pata?

KAVYA

Kyunki agar hota, toh aap pehle hi bol chuke hote.

Mohit tea cup ko side mein rakh deta hai.

MOHIT

Chaliye. Ye apartment kis ka hai?

KAVYA

Mere bhai ka.

Arvind aur Mohit ek saath dekhte hain.

ARVIND

Aapne pehle nahi bataya.

KAVYA

Aapne poocha nahi.

MOHIT

Naam?

KAVYA

Sameer.

Arvind ke chehre par ek micro-reaction.

ARVIND

Sameer... Sharma?

Kavya ki aankhon mein ek spark.

KAVYA

Aapko yaad hai?

ARVIND

Bohot logon ke naam yaad hote hain.

KAVYA

Nahi. Aapko kuch naam nahi bhoolte.

Silence.

Mohit recorder ko pause karke rewind karta hai.

MOHIT

Ek second.

Recorder se faint, distorted audio.

RECORDER (V.O.)

...usko pata chal gaya tha...

Arvind ka chehra sakht.

ARVIND

Yeh edit hai.

MOHIT

Nahi. Yeh live pickup hai.

KAVYA

Main sirf witness nahi hoon.

ARVIND

Toh kya ho?

Kavya slowly apna bandaged wrist table par rakhti hai. Calm.

KAVYA

Victim ki behen.

Mohit file folder mein kuch dekhne lagta hai.

MOHIT

Sameer ki sister... Kavya.

KAVYA

Haan.

ARVIND

Toh phir yeh drama kyun?

KAVYA

Drama nahi. Trap.

ARVIND

Kis ke liye?

Kavya seedha Arvind ko dekhti hai.

KAVYA

Aapke liye.

Mohit ka head up.

MOHIT

Arvind?

ARVIND

Bakwaas.

KAVYA

Sameer ne marne se pehle ek naam bola tha.

ARVIND

Kaunsa naam?

KAVYA

Aapka.

Beat.

Baarish aur tez.

ARVIND

Yeh jhooth hai.

KAVYA

Nahi. Jhooth woh tha jo aapne file mein likha tha.

Mohit file folder kholta hai. Andar ek purani COMPLAINT COPY aur ek PHOTO.

MOHIT

Yeh kya hai?

Arvind ka face drain ho jaata hai.

ARVIND

Mohit, woh file mat kholo.

MOHIT

Kyun?

Kavya quietly apartment key pick karti hai.

KAVYA

Kyunki is key se aap yahan aaye. Aur yahan aapka sach band hai.

ARVIND

Main kuch nahi chhupa raha.

KAVYA

Phir recorder ke saamne bol dijiye.

Mohit recorder ON karta hai.

MOHIT

Inspector Arvind... aap kya chhupa rahe ho?

Arvind Mohit ko dekhta hai. Phir Kavya ko. Phir window ki baarish ko.

ARVIND

Main... main bas...

KAVYA

Bas kya?

Arvind tootne lagta hai.

ARVIND

Us case ko... dabaya tha.

Mohit freeze.

MOHIT

Kis case ko?

ARVIND

Sameer ka.

Kavya ki aankhon mein aansu nahi, bas relief.

KAVYA

Bas.

ARVIND

Main nahi chahta tha ki baat bahar aaye.

MOHIT

Kis baat ki?

ARVIND

Cover-up ki.

Silence. Recorder keeps rolling.

KAVYA

Mere bhai ne marne se pehle kuch nahi bola tha. Main uski khamoshi laayi hoon.

Mohit recorder stop karta hai.

Arvind ko samajh aa chuka hai.

MOHIT

Tumne murder stage kiya?

KAVYA

Haan.

MOHIT

Kyun?

KAVYA

Taaki ek guilty aadmi khud bol de.

Kavya Arvind ko dekhti hai.

KAVYA (CONT'D)

Aur bol diya.

Baarish ki awaaz. Pendant lamp ka halka jhilmilana.

Arvind silent. Mohit stunned.

FADE OUT.

THE END