



THE UNOPENED DRAWER

A Mystery/Crime 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: Two inspectors investigate a dead man found in an apartment, but the only suspicious thing in the room is one unopened drawer that no one can explain. The resident insists she never touched it, while the two detectives disagree on whether she is hiding evidence or the truth. The climax reveals the drawer contains letters from the dead man's wife, proving the victim was blackmailing the wrong person all along.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Inspector Salim (46)

LOCATION: A middle-class bedroom turned crime scene, lit by a single bedside lamp and the gray daylight coming through partially closed curtains.

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INT. MIDDLE-CLASS BEDROOM - MORNING

Gray daylight partially closed curtains se room mein aa raha hai. Bedside lamp jal rahi hai. Ek aadmi ki laash bed ke paas covered sheet ke neeche hai.

INSPECTOR SALIM (46), trench coat, tired eyes, gloves aur case file ke saath, room ko measure karta hua andar aata hai.

INSPECTOR NITIN (40), rolled-up sleeves, restless, flashlight aur evidence bag ke saath, already room ko scan kar raha hai.

KRITI (37), controlled aur elegant, coffee mug pakde doorway ke paas khadi hai. Uska expression guarded hai.

SALIM

(calm)

Body kab discover hui?

KRITI

Subah ke around seven. Main coffee le rahi thi.

NITIN

Aur aapne seedha police ko call kiya?

KRITI

Haan. Kya mujhe pehle body se permission leni thi?

Nitin irritated. Salim ek nazar us par daalta hai.

SALIM

Room mein koi cheez hilayi nahi gayi?

KRITI

Maine kuch touch nahi kiya.

Nitin flashlight se bedside table scan karta hai. Uski beam ek drawer par rukti hai.

NITIN

Ye drawer kyun unopened hai?

Bedside table ka neeche wala drawer bilkul band hai. Dust line saaf dikh rahi hai.

KRITI

Kyunki wo band tha.

NITIN

Sab drawer band hote hain. Khulte bhi hain.

KRITI

Interesting observation, Inspector.

Salim drawer ko observe karta hai.

SALIM

Dust pattern alag hai.

NITIN

Matlab kisi ne haath lagaya hai.

KRITI

Ya kisi ne kabhi use khola hi nahi.

NITIN

Aapka room hai. Aapne nahi khola?

KRITI

Maine bola na, maine touch nahi kiya.

NITIN

Itna perfect answer suspicious lagta hai.

Salim file kholta hai.

SALIM

Dead man ka naam?

KRITI

Arjun Mehra.

NITIN

Aur aapka usse kya relation tha?

KRITI

Koi personal relation nahi.

NITIN

Phir woh aapke bedroom mein kya kar raha tha?

KRITI

Shayad galat room mein tha.

Salim Kriti ko dekhta hai, phir body ki taraf.

SALIM

Arjun yahan kisi se milne aaya tha.

NITIN

Aur aap woh kisi ho sakti hain.

KRITI

Ya aap dono bas mujhe convenient suspect bana rahe ho.

NITIN

Convenient? Dead body aapke room mein hai.

KRITI

Aur coffee mere haath mein hai. Kya woh bhi motive hai?

Salim suppresses a faint smirk.

SALIM

Aapka tone controlled hai. Lekin aap nervous nahi lag rahi.

KRITI

Main panic mein ugly lagti hoon.

NITIN

Very funny.

KRITI

Thank you.

Salim bedside table ke paas jhukta hai.

SALIM

Ye drawer aapne kabhi khola hi nahi?

KRITI

Nahi.

SALIM

Kyun?

Kriti coffee mug ko dheere se rotate karti hai.

KRITI

Kyunki kuch cheezein band hi achchi lagti hain.

Nitin evidence bag uthata hai.

NITIN

Aap humse game khel rahi hain.

KRITI

Nahi. Aap log mere ghar mein game khel rahe ho.

Salim door ki taraf ek nazar daalta hai, phir wapas drawer par.

SALIM

Arjun blackmailer tha.

Kriti ki aankhon mein ek micro-flinch.

NITIN

Bingo.

KRITI

Har dead aadmi blackmailer nahi hota.

SALIM

Nahi. Lekin Arjun ke paas kisi ko pressure karne ka reason tha.

NITIN

Aur aap usi kisi ho.

KRITI

Main uski target nahi thi.

NITIN

Toh kaun tha?

Kriti ek beat leti hai.

KRITI

Mere husband.

Silence.

SALIM

Aapke husband?

KRITI

Mar chuke hain.

NITIN

Arjun unhe blackmail kar raha tha?

KRITI

Woh sochta tha.

SALIM

Sochta tha?

KRITI

Usne galat person ko press kiya.

Nitin drawer ki taraf badhta hai.

NITIN

Bas. Ab kholte hain.

Salim uska haath rok deta hai.

SALIM

Ek minute.

Salim drawer ke dust line ko finger se indicate karta hai.

SALIM (CONT'D)

Ye drawer recently nahi khula. Lekin room mein koi aur cheez bhi hai jo miss ho rahi hai.

NITIN

Kya?

SALIM

The letters.

Kriti ka face still.

KRITI

Kaunse letters?

Salim drawer ki handle par nazar tikata hai.

SALIM

Jo aapne nahi dekhe.

Nitin drawer kholta hai. Inside: a bundle of LETTERS, some sealed, some torn, tied with an old ribbon. Nitin flashlight beam andar daalta hai.

NITIN

Oh...

Salim ek envelope uthata hai. Sender name faded, but handwriting consistent.

SALIM

Arjun ki wife ke letters.

Kriti ki grip coffee mug par tight hoti hai.

NITIN

Wife?

Salim letters ko palat kar ek line padhta hai.

SALIM

"Tum jis aurat ko blackmail kar rahe ho, woh main nahi hoon."

Nitin confused.

NITIN

Toh Arjun kisey blackmail kar raha tha?

SALIM

Wrong person.

Salim Kriti ki taraf dekhta hai.

SALIM (CONT'D)

Aapki wife nahi. Aapke husband ki wife.

Kriti closes her eyes for a fraction.

KRITI

Arjun ko lagta tha woh mere husband ki secret life pakad raha hai. But uski real trail uski apni marriage tak ja rahi thi.

NITIN

Matlab uski wife ne letters bheje?

KRITI

Haan. Warning letters. Begging letters. Last chance letters. Main unhe kabhi kholna nahi chahti thi.

Salim nods, case file shut karta hai.

SALIM

Kyunki drawer evidence nahi tha. Memory tha.

Kriti looks at the drawer, then at the body.

KRITI

Main bas itna jaanti hoon... Arjun ne wrong person ko blackmail kiya.

NITIN

Aur kisi ne uski saza de di.

SALIM

Ya uski greed ne.

A beat. Room mein sirf lamp ka hum aur curtains ki halki movement.

Salim evidence bag Nitin ko deta hai.

SALIM (CONT'D)

Pack the letters.

Nitin nods, ab subdued.

Kriti apni coffee mug ko bed ke side table par rakh deti hai.

KRITI

Kya ab bhi lagta hai maine kuch chhupaya?

Salim uski taraf dekhta hai, measured.

SALIM

Nahi. Aapne bas woh cheez band rakhi jo pehle hi toot chuki thi.

Salim turns to go. Nitin follows, evidence bag in hand.

The unopened drawer remains open now, empty of mystery, full of truth.

FADE OUT.