



THE CLIENT IN CABIN 3

A Mystery/Crime 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: Inspector Dev questions a lawyer and her client after a missing-person complaint turns into a suspected blackmail case. Each woman insists the other is lying, and Dev gradually realizes the office itself has been staged to mislead him—until the final twist exposes the “client” as the mastermind and the lawyer as the hostage.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Inspector Dev (41)

LOCATION: A compact office cabin with blinds half-drawn, afternoon light slicing across a desk, and the hum of an air conditioner masking tension. Files, a desktop lamp, and a glass partition create a sterile, high-stakes atmosphere.

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INT. CABIN 3 - AFTERNOON

Blinds half-drawn. Afternoon light slants across a compact office cabin. AC ka low hum. Desk par files, contract papers, coffee mug, pen, desktop lamp, aur ek case file. Glass partition sterile tension ko aur badha raha hai.

INSPECTOR DEV (41), plainclothes, clipped moustache, notebook in hand, enters quietly.

KAVYA (33), tailored blazer, composed smile, unreadable eyes, stands near the desk.

MAYA (36), elegant but exhausted, bruised wrist hidden half-heartedly, sits rigidly.

DEV

Cabin 3?

KAVYA

Haan. Aap hi Inspector Dev ho?

DEV

(dry)

Aur aap dono? Office ki decoration?

Maya glances at Kavya. Kavya smiles politely.

MAYA

Main Maya hoon.

KAVYA

Aur main Kavya. Lawyer.

DEV

(opens notebook)

Missing-person complaint, blackmail suspicion.
Simple sa case lag raha tha.

KAVYA

Simple cases hi dangerous hote hain, Inspector.

MAYA

Agar sach bolne diya jaye toh.

Dev looks up.

DEV

Toh shuru karte hain. Missing kaun hai?

KAVYA

Arvind Mehra.

MAYA

Arvind Mehra.

Dev pauses.

DEV

Interesting. Dono same naam pe itna confidence?

KAVYA

Kyunki wahi missing hai.

MAYA

Kyunki wahi blackmailer tha.

Beat.

DEV

Wow. Ek cabin, do versions. Budget friendly.

Kavya's smile tightens. Maya's jaw clenches.

KAVYA

Arvind company ka finance head tha. Usne Maya ko forged contract pe sign karne bola.

MAYA

Nahi. Kavya ne bola tha sign karo, warna police aur press dono ko leak kar degi.

DEV

(to Kavya)

Aap lawyer ho ya threat letter?

KAVYA

Main lawyer hoon. Maya meri client hai.

MAYA

Jhooth.

DEV

(to Maya)

Aur aap?

MAYA

Main client hoon. Kavya ne mujhe yahan bulaya tha.

KAVYA

(coolly)

She's confused.

MAYA

Main confused nahi hoon. Main phasi hui hoon.

Dev walks to the desk lamp, adjusts it slightly. Shadows shift.

DEV

Ye lamp ka angle ajeeb kyun hai?

KAVYA

Meeting ke liye.

DEV

Ya scene set karne ke liye?

He notices the glass partition fingerprints.

DEV (CONT'D)

Fingerprints sirf ek side pe.

MAYA

Kya matlab?

DEV

Matlab kisi ne is room ko stage ki tarah use kiya hai.

Dev flips through the case file.

DEV (CONT'D)

Yeh pages original nahi lag rahe.

KAVYA

Aap har cheez pe doubt karte ho?

DEV

Kaam hai mera.

He spots the coffee mug. A lipstick mark.

DEV (CONT'D)

Ye mug kiski hai?

MAYA

Meri nahi.

KAVYA

Meri bhi nahi.

DEV

Toh ghost ka?

A beat. Dev looks at the pen in Kavya's hand.

DEV (CONT'D)

Pen kiska hai?

KAVYA

Maya ka.

MAYA

Nahi. Mera pen blue ink ka tha.

Dev's eyes sharpen. He steps back.

DEV

Toh asli game kya hai?

Silence.

Maya's composure cracks first.

MAYA

Arvind ka phone mere paas nahi hai.

DEV

Kya?

MAYA

Kyunki Arvind missing nahi tha. Evidence missing tha.

Kavya exhales, almost relieved.

KAVYA

Finally.

DEV

Finally kya?

Kavya turns to Dev.

KAVYA

Inspector, Maya client nahi hai. Maya ne mujhe
hostage rakha hai. Main lawyer nahi... witness hoon.

Dev stares.

DEV

Hostage?

Maya stands slowly. Her bruised wrist is visible now.

MAYA

Aapko lag raha hai main weak hoon?

DEV

Mujhe lag raha hai aap rehearsed ho.

Maya smiles without warmth.

MAYA

Good. Kyunki sab rehearsed tha.

She taps the contract papers.

MAYA (CONT'D)

Arvind mera partner tha. Usne blackmail shuru kiya.
Phir Kavya ko use kiya.

KAVYA

(sharp)

Use? Tumne mujhe force kiya tha.

Maya ignores her.

MAYA

Is office ko stage maine kiya. Aapko galat aadmi par
lagane ke liye.

Dev notices a tiny recorder clipped inside Kavya's blazer lining. He pulls
it out.

DEV

Aur ye?

He presses play.

Maya's VOICE comes through.

MAYA (V.O.)

Plan wahi hoga jo main bolungi.

Dev freezes.

DEV

Toh Kavya hostage nahi...

KAVYA

(flat)

Nahi. Main forced accomplice hoon.

Maya's face hardens.

MAYA

Smart.

Dev opens his notebook. A hidden transfer slip falls out.

DEV

Yeh kya hai?

MAYA

(softly)

Missing evidence. Aapke department ka seal dekhiye.

Dev looks. Realizes.

DEV

Ye slip mere file mein kaise?

MAYA

Kyunki aap client the, Inspector.

Beat.

KAVYA

Cabin 3 mein jo story aapko dikhayi gayi... woh aapke liye thi.

DEV

(low)

Aur asli mastermind?

Maya raises her bruised wrist slightly.

MAYA

Jise sabse bechara samjha gaya.

Dev's notebook closes with a sharp SNAP.

The AC hum grows louder.

The desk lamp flickers over Maya's wrist—where the bruise resembles a handcuff mark.

CUT TO BLACK.

END.