



THE LANDLORD'S DAUGHTER

A Mystery/Crime 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by
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LOGLINE: When a tenant hears a scream from the landlord's flat, he becomes trapped between a suspicious mother and a frightened daughter who each tell him a different version of the truth. As the corridor conversation turns into a covert investigation, the final twist reveals the scream was a staged signal to expose who has been stealing from whom.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Siddharth (40)

LOCATION: A narrow apartment corridor outside a locked flat, lit by a weak tube light and the yellow spill from a nearby stairwell. The setting is claustrophobic, with a door chain, old mail slot, and the sound of neighboring televisions behind the walls.

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FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT CORRIDOR - EVENING

Narrow corridor. Weak TUBE LIGHT flickers. Stairwell se yellow spill. Padosi TVs ke muffled sounds. Ek LOCKED FLAT ke bahar door chain lataak rahi hai. Mail slot purana aur bent.

SIDDHARTH (40), office clothes, guarded, polite, aankhon se bachkar khada hai.

Achaanak FLAT ke andar se ek GHUTI HUI SCREAM.

Siddharth freeze.

Door chain hilti hai.

REKHA (45), house slippers, stern bun, keys ko weapon ki tarah pakde corridor mein aati hai.

REKHA

Kya dekh rahe ho?

SIDDHARTH

Main... scream suni thi.

REKHA

TV ka sound hoga.

SIDDHARTH

Itna clear?

REKHA

Yahan sabko sunayi deta hai. Sach kisi ko nahi sunta.

Siddharth keys par nazar daalta hai.

SIDDHARTH

Flat mein kaun hai?

REKHA

Meri beti. Ira. Aur woh theek hai.

IRA (22), college jacket, nervous, observant, corridor mein aati hai. Sleeve ko neeche khinchti hai.

IRA

Mujhe kuch nahi hua.

Siddharth uske wrist par bruise ka ek glimpse pakad leta hai.

SIDDHARTH

Aap theek ho?

REKHA

Usse kaam se kaam rakho.

IRA

Kaam? Funny.

REKHA

(beat)

Apni hadd mein raho.

SIDDHARTH

Scream ke baad police call kar sakta tha.

REKHA

Kar dete.

IRA

Kar dete na. Shayad sach bahar aa jata.

Rekha ghoorti hai.

REKHA

Phone do.

Siddharth calm.

SIDDHARTH

Mera phone mere paas hi rahega.

Ira corridor ke kone se BROOM uthati hai. Zameen par ek thok.

IRA

Maa, keys se dar lagta hai ya sach se?

REKHA

Bakwaas band karo.

Siddharth mail slot ke paas jhukta hai. Ek ENVELOPE neeche girti hai.

REKHA

Woh mat chhoona!

Ira envelope pehle utha leti hai.

IRA

Too late.

Woh envelope kholti hai. Cash bundles. Rent receipts. Kuch papers.

Silence.

REKHA ka face tight.

IRA

Yeh rent ka paisa nahi tha, maa.

REKHA

Woh ghar ke liye tha.

IRA

Ghar ke liye? Ya apne liye?

REKHA

Maine sambhala hai sab kuch.

IRA

Mujhe sambhalna bhool gayi.

Siddharth dheere se.

SIDDHARTH

Main shayad galat waqt par galat jagah tha.

IRA

Nahi. Aap sahi waqt par the.

Ira phone nikaalti hai. Voice recorder ON.

REKHA

Kya kar rahi ho?

IRA

Proof.

SIDDHARTH

Proof of what?

IRA

Scream fake thi.

Beat.

Siddharth stunned.

IRA (CONT'D)

Maine aur Siddharth ne signal diya tha. Taaki aap react karo.

REKHA

Tumne isse involve kiya?

SIDDHARTH

Mujhe bataya nahi gaya tha.

IRA

Aapne bhi poocha nahi.

Rekha keys ko aur tight pakadti hai.

REKHA

Tum dono pagal ho.

IRA

Nahi. Bas thak gaye hain.

Ira papers spread karti hai.

IRA (CONT'D)

Yeh cash missing nahi tha. Yeh receipts aur property papers missing the. Aap Siddharth ko illegal eviction se nikalna chahti thi. Deposit bhi apne naam.

Siddharth finally Rekha ko directly dekhta hai.

SIDDHARTH

Main time pe rent deta raha.

REKHA

(beat; defensive)

Ghar bachana tha.

IRA

Ghar bachane ke chakkar mein mujhe tod diya.

Rekha ka gussa thoda crack hota hai.

REKHA

Tere baap ke baad...

IRA

Mera bruise bhi usi ka hissa hai?

A heavy silence.

Siddharth steps back, processing.

SIDDHARTH

Toh scream help nahi thi.

IRA

Signal thi.

REKHA

Kis cheez ka?

IRA

Ki chori kaun kar raha hai. Aur kis se.

Rekha ki eyes flicker to the envelope.

REKHA

Main ne kuch chori nahi ki.

IRA

Toh keys kyun kaanp rahi hain?

Siddharth, low.

SIDDHARTH

Main witness ban gaya.

IRA

Nahi.

(soft)

Aap proof ban gaye.

Tube light flickers hard.

Ira envelope Siddharth ko deti hai.

IRA (CONT'D)

Rakh lijiye.

Siddharth takes it.

REKHA slowly door chain kholti hai. CHAIN CLINK.

Andar se koi awaaz nahi. Sirf TVs aur stairwell wind.

Siddharth looks at Ira. Ira gives a small nod.

Siddharth looks at Rekha. Rekha looks away.

SIDDHARTH

Good night.

He exits frame into the dim corridor.

Ira stays. Rekha stands with keys in hand, now less like a weapon, more like evidence.

FADE OUT.