



THE ROOFTOP WITNESS

A Mystery/Crime 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: Inspector Nidhi investigates a suspected fall from the rooftop, but Sanjay insists it was an accident and Bina insists she saw nothing—except everything. As the questioning tightens, the final twist reveals Bina has been watching the building for years and can identify the true culprit by the sound of their footsteps alone.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Sanjay (39)

LOCATION: A cluttered apartment rooftop at night, lit by a single floodlight, distant city glow, and a few dangling bulbs near a water tank. Laundry lines, potted plants, and a locked gate create a maze-like outdoor setting.

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FADE IN:

EXT. APARTMENT ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Ek cluttered rooftop. Single FLOODLIGHT, door city glow, kuch dangling BULBS WATER TANK ke paas. Laundry lines hawa mein hil rahi hain. Potted plants maze bana rahe hain. Rooftop gate LOCKED hai.

INSPECTOR NIDHI (36), practical clothes, notebook aur flashlight ke saath, area scan kar rahi hai.

SANJAY (39), plain T-shirt, tense, evasive, bruised knuckle chhupata hua, corner mein khada hai.

BINA (61), faded house dress, rooftop plants ke beech se aati hai, curious, chatty.

NIDHI

Sanjay. Neeche se body mili hai. Tum keh rahe ho accident tha?

SANJAY

Haan, madam. Slip hua hoga. Rooftop hai, slippery bhi hota hai.

NIDHI

Aur tumhare haath pe yeh?

Nidhi flashlight se bruised knuckle par beam daalti hai.

SANJAY

Gate ka lock jam tha. Main bas... khol raha tha.

BINA

Oho. Lock jam tha ya zubaan?

Sanjay glares.

NIDHI

Bina ji, aapne kuch dekha?

BINA

Main kuch nahi dekhi.

(beat)

Par main sab sun leti hoon.

Nidhi looks up, interested.

NIDHI

Sab?

BINA

Haan. Is building mein log chalte kam, bolte zyada hain.

Nidhi opens notebook.

NIDHI

Raat ko rooftop par kaun kaun aaya tha?

SANJAY

Koi nahi aaya. Main akela tha.

BINA

Jhooth.

SANJAY

Aunty, aap please—

BINA

Aunty mat bol. Main Bina hoon. Aur main sun sakti hoon jab aadmi darr ke saath saans leta hai.

Nidhi moves toward the WATER TANK. Finds a KEY RING near a planter.

NIDHI

Yeh keys kiski hain?

Sanjay stiffens.

SANJAY

Building keys honge.

NIDHI

Tumhari pocket mein kyun nahi, phir?

Sanjay has no answer.

Bina walks to the laundry line, fingers the clothespins.

BINA

Raat ko teen pair the.

NIDHI

Teen?

BINA

Haan. Ek bhaari. Ek ghise hue soles wala. Aur ek aisi chaal...

(smiles)

Jaise koi left leg ko ghaseet ke chalta ho.

Nidhi turns sharply.

NIDHI

Tumne chehra nahi dekha?

BINA

Chehra nahi. Par pair ka aadmi pehchaan leti hoon.

SANJAY

Yeh bakwaas hai.

BINA

Bakwaas nahi, beta. Main is rooftop pe pandrah saal se paudhe uga rahi hoon. Tum log mujhe dekhte nahi. Main tumhe sun leti hoon.

Nidhi steps closer to Sanjay.

NIDHI

Tumne usse pakadne ki koshish ki?

SANJAY

Main... main bas...

NIDHI

Ya dhakka diya?

Sanjay looks at Bina, then away.

BINA

Isne jhooth isliye bola kyunki yeh kisi aur ko bachana chahta tha. Ya khud ko.

Nidhi narrows her eyes.

NIDHI

Kaun tha woh?

Bina leans in, casual as ever.

BINA

Jo aadmi aise chalta hai...

(beat)

Woh Sanjay nahi hai.

Nidhi processes this.

NIDHI

Tum sure ho?

BINA

Bilkul. Jhooth bolne wale aadmi ke pair thoda bhaagte hain. Us raat ke pair... gusse mein the.

A beat.

SANJAY

Main usko rok raha tha. Woh bas... phisal gaya.

NIDHI

Aur tumhara knuckle?

SANJAY

Gate pe laga.

BINA

Nahi. Woh us waqt laga jab tumne uska arm pakda tha.

Silence.

Nidhi writes in notebook, then shuts it.

NIDHI

Bina ji, tumne itne saal yeh sab kaise notice kiya?

BINA

Kyunki log mujhe buddhi samajh ke ignore kar dete hain. Aur jab log tumhe underestimate karte hain, toh tum unki asli aadat sun leti ho.

Nidhi switches off flashlight for a second, then on again—hard beam on Sanjay.

NIDHI

Ab tumhari kahani nahi, tumhari chaal bolegi.

Sanjay swallows hard.

BINA

Aur haan madam...

NIDHI

Hm?

BINA

Next time rooftop pe aao, toh pehle paudhon ko hello bolna. Witness log bura maan jaate hain.

Nidhi almost smiles.

NIDHI

Noted.

She steps toward the locked gate, keys in hand.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END.