



THE LAST ORDER

A Mystery/Crime 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: Inspector Sameer arrives to question the staff about a missing customer who was last seen ordering dessert. Mona insists it was a routine night, Lina keeps contradicting her, and the detective slowly uncovers that the missing man never left because one of the women knows where the body is hidden—until the final twist reveals the body never existed at all.

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

LOCATION: A nearly empty restaurant after closing, lit by warm pendant lights over a single booth and cool fluorescent light from the kitchen pass. Chairs are stacked, tables are half-wiped, and the late-hour atmosphere feels suspended between service and confession.

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FADE IN:

INT. NEARLY EMPTY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Warm pendant lights ek single booth par gir rahi hain. Baaki restaurant half-dark hai. Chairs stacked. Tables half-wiped. Kitchen pass se cool fluorescent light spill ho rahi hai.

MONA (32), crisp apron mein, counter ke paas order pad aur kitchen towel ke saath busy hone ka natak kar rahi hai.

LINA (25), waitress, notebook aur name tag ke saath, nervously cups stack kar rahi hai.

Door khulta hai.

INSPECTOR SAMEER (40), plainclothes, dark shirt, andar aata hai. Quiet intensity. Haath mein folded receipt.

SAMEER

Good evening. Ya phir good night bolna chahiye?

MONA

Sir, hum close kar rahe hain.

SAMEER

Haan. Isi liye toh aaya hoon.

(receipt dikhata hai)

Yeh aapka bill hai?

Mona receipt dekhti hai. Ek beat.

MONA

Haan. Routine night thi.

SAMEER

Routine nights mein log dessert ke baad gayab bhi hote hain?

Lina ka haath notebook par tight ho jaata hai.

MONA

Kya?

SAMEER

Ek customer. Last seen yahan. Dessert order karte hue.

MONA

(defensive)

Sir, sab log gaye. Humne close kar diya.

SAMEER

Sab?

Sameer booth ki taraf dekhta hai.

SAMEER (CONT'D)

Us booth mein kaun baitha tha?

Mona instantly.

MONA

Koi nahi.

Lina blurts out.

LINA

Nahi, tha.

Silence.

Mona turns to Lina.

MONA

Lina.

LINA

(nervous)

Kya? Main bas...

SAMEER

Aap bas kya?

Lina kaanpati hui notebook kholti hai.

LINA

Mainne order liya tha. Dessert ka.

MONA

Tumne nahi liya tha.

LINA

Liya tha.

MONA

Tum kitchen mein thi.

LINA

Nahi, main booth ke paas thi.

Sameer receipt ko table par rakhta hai.

SAMEER

Interesting. Kyunki receipt mein dessert ka time alag hai. Baaki bills se five minutes baad.

Mona stiff smile.

MONA

Printer glitch hoga.

SAMEER

Ya kisi ne baad mein print kiya.

Sameer dessert plate ko notice karta hai—half-cleaned, ek fork side mein.

SAMEER (CONT'D)

Dessert plate abhi tak yahan kyun hai?

MONA

Cleaning pending thi.

SAMEER

Aur kitchen towel?

Mona apna towel instinctively adjust karti hai.

MONA

Kya kitchen towel?

SAMEER

Jis par coffee stain hai. Booth ke neeche mila tha.

Lina ki aankhen phat jaati hain.

LINA

Booth ke neeche?

SAMEER

Haan.

(beat)

Body kahan hai?

Mona ka face blank. Lina ki saans rukti hai.

MONA

Body?

SAMEER

Don't insult me. Missing customer. Last seen here. No exit log. No taxi. No CCTV. Toh ya toh kisi ne usse bahar nikala, ya phir...

LINA

(hushed)

Ya phir woh gaya hi nahi.

Mona glares at Lina.

MONA

Bas. Ab bas.

SAMEER

Toh sach bolo. Body kahan hai?

Long beat.

Mona finally breaks.

MONA

Aapko jo lag raha hai, woh nahi hua.

SAMEER

Toh hua kya?

Lina, almost crying.

LINA

Sir... body thi hi nahi.

Sameer freezes.

SAMEER

Kya?

LINA

Mainne usko dekha tha... matlab... phone pe kisi ko bolte hue. Maine socha...

MONA

Tumne socha aur sab kharab kar diya.

LINA

Mainne kuch kharab nahi kiya!

SAMEER

One at a time. Kya body thi hi nahi ka matlab?

Mona exhales, defeated.

MONA

Kyunki jo missing customer tha... woh customer tha hi nahi.

Sameer narrows his eyes.

SAMEER

Explain.

Lina notebook khol ke ek page dikhati hai.

LINA

Mainne booth ke neeche ek phone dekha tha. Aur cash envelope bhi. Phir kitchen pass pe fake delivery logs... Mujhe laga koi crime cover-up hai.

MONA

Aur tumne rumor faila diya.

LINA

Maine bas ek friend ko bola... phir baat phail gayi.

SAMEER

Aur missing man?

MONA

Ek story thi. Kisi ne restaurant ko frame karne ke liye.

Sameer slowly picks up the receipt again.

SAMEER

Yeh receipt asli nahi hai.

MONA

Kya?

SAMEER

Old printer ka training slip hai. Kisi ne fold karke evidence jaisa rakha.

Beat.

LINA

Toh aap murder ke liye nahi aaye?

SAMEER

Nahi.

(beat)

Insurance fraud aur fake theft ring ke liye aaya tha. Tumhare restaurant ka naam use ho raha tha.

Mona stunned.

MONA

Koi humein frame kar raha tha?

SAMEER

Haan. Aur tum dono ne usko aur asaan bana diya.

Lina looks down.

LINA

I thought... body...

SAMEER

Body kabhi thi hi nahi. Sirf story thi.

Sameer booth ke neeche jhukta hai, ek small hidden phone nikalta hai.

MONA

Woh kya hai?

SAMEER

Fake reviews. Fabricated timestamps. Staged delivery logs. Crime ka body nahi, narrative tha.

He places the phone on the table.

SAMEER (CONT'D)

Aaj raat body nahi pakdi gayi. Story pakdi gayi hai.

Mona slowly sinks onto a chair. Lina relieved, guilty.

Kitchen pass ki fluorescent light flicker karti hai.

Sameer turns to leave.

MONA

Sir... phir missing customer?

Sameer half-smiles.

SAMEER

Last order kabhi serve hi nahi hua tha.

He exits.

Door closes.

Silence.

Lina and Mona look at each other.

LINA

(small)

Toh... body nahi thi?

MONA

(deadpan)

Nahi, Lina. Aur ab is restaurant mein bhi nahi honi chahiye.

They stare at the empty booth.

FADE OUT.

THE END.