



ELEVATOR TO NOWHERE

A Psychological Thriller 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by
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LOGLINE: When the elevator stops, Dr. Isha realizes the other two women are not strangers—they are connected by a sealed incident from the building's past. As power flickers and the air tightens, each woman reveals a different version of what happened in the basement fire years ago. The climax lands when the elevator camera turns on, exposing that one of them has been controlling the lock from outside all along.

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

LOCATION: A stuck elevator between floors in a modern office building, lit by flickering emergency strips and a dim digital panel. The mirrored walls create claustrophobic reflections, while the hum of the ventilation system becomes increasingly ominous.

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FADE IN:

INT. MODERN OFFICE BUILDING - ELEVATOR - NIGHT

A sleek elevator is stuck BETWEEN FLOORS. Emergency strips FLICKER. The mirrored walls make the space feel smaller than it is. A dim digital panel blinks: 11... then 12... then nothing.

DR. ISHA (39), calm in a navy blazer, stands with controlled posture. RHEA (28), anxious, clutches a tote bag, smudged eyeliner, restless hands. MINA (55), building manager in a uniform sari, key ring at her waist, unreadable.

The hum of the ventilation system grows louder.

RHEA

(pressing buttons)

Arre yaar... seriously? Abhi?

She slaps the HELP button. Nothing.

RHEA (CONT'D)

Phone bhi dead. No signal. Perfect.

ISHA

(calmly)

Deep breath. Panic se oxygen waste hoti hai.

Rhea glares.

RHEA

Aap corporate lawyer ho na? Ya elevator therapist?

ISHA

Aaj dono ka internship chal raha hai.

Mina does not react.

MINA

Agar aap dono chill kar lo, toh main bhi kaam ho jaane ka wait kar loon.

Rhea turns.

RHEA

Kaam? Aapko lagta hai yeh normal hai?

MINA

Normal? Nahi. Common? Haan.

Isha notices the mirrored wall reflections. Her eyes land on Mina's key ring.

ISHA

(looking at Mina)

Aap building manager ho... ya building ki memory?

MINA

Main jo hoon, woh kaafi hai.

A beat.

Rhea's tote bag slips. Papers spill out: floor plans, a maintenance notice.

ISHA

(reading)

"Basement level sealed until further review."

Rhea snatches the paper.

RHEA

Yeh revise karne bheja tha boss ne. But... basement ka mention kyun hai?

ISHA

Because buildings don't seal floors for fun.

Mina's jaw tightens.

RHEA

Mujhe internship ke time suna tha... basement fire hua tha yahan. Years ago.

Mina finally looks at her.

MINA

Suna tha? Ya kisi ne bataya tha?

Rhea hesitates.

RHEA

Meri didi yahin receptionist thi.

Silence.

The ventilation HUM deepens.

ISHA

(softly)

Basement fire... sealed incident... yeh sab file mein tha.

MINA

File mein bahut kuch hota hai, madam. Sach nahi.

ISHA

Law mein file aur sach ka rishta complicated hota hai. Par missing witness statements usually accident nahi hote.

Mina's eyes flicker.

RHEA

Aapko kaise pata?

ISHA

Kyuki maine woh draft dekha tha.

Rhea stares.

RHEA

Draft?

ISHA

Court tak nahi gaya. Redacted tha. But signature... familiar tha.

Mina steps closer, voice low.

MINA

Us raat basement mein wiring nahi jal rahi thi. System lock ho gaya tha.

RHEA

Lock?

MINA

Log andar the.

Rhea's breath catches.

RHEA

Meri didi...

ISHA

(quickly)

Kaun decide karta hai lock ka?

Mina looks away.

MINA

Jis ke paas key ho.

The elevator JOLTS. Lights dim further.

A metallic CLINK.

Mina's key ring drops to the floor.

Rhea bends, picks it up.

On the tag: "MASTER OVERRIDE - SUBLEVEL ACCESS."

RHEA

(whispers)

Master key?

Mina takes a slow breath.

MINA

Building manager ka kaam sirf manage karna hota hai.

(pause)

Kabhi-kabhi lock karna bhi.

ISHA

That's not an answer.

MINA

No. It's a warning.

A sudden BEEP.

The mirrored panel above them CLICKS ON.

A RED CAMERA LIGHT blinks.

All three freeze.

A DISTORTED VOICE crackles from an unseen speaker.

DISTORTED VOICE (V.O.)

Recording started.

Rhea looks up, terrified.

RHEA

Camera abhi on hua?

ISHA

No.

(beat)

Someone ne on kiya.

Mina's face changes for the first time—fear, real and immediate.

ISHA (CONT'D)

(to camera)

So... control room mein kaun hai?

No response. Only the hum.

Rhea grabs the maintenance notice and holds it against the mirrored wall, angling it toward the camera.

RHEA

Agar yeh recording hai, toh main bhi frame mein aaungi.

ISHA

Good.

(smiles thinly)

Evidence ko stage fright nahi hota.

Mina looks at the key ring. Behind it: a tiny engraved number.

Same as an old basement access code.

ISHA notices.

ISHA (CONT'D)

That code...

MINA

(low)

Purana hai.

ISHA

Purana nahi.

She steps closer.

ISHA (CONT'D)

Sealed.

The elevator SHUDDERS. The doors half-open for one second—just enough to reveal darkness between floors.

Outside, a SHADOW moves away from the control panel reflection.

Rhea sees it.

RHEA

Koi bahar tha.

Mina stares at the opening, shaken.

ISHA

(camera ko dekhte hue)

Aaj recording mein sirf hum nahi.

(pause)

Aap bhi ho.

The red camera light blinks steadily.

Mina's unreadable mask cracks. Rhea clutches the notice. Isha stands still, eyes sharp.

The doors SLAM shut.

CUT TO BLACK.

END.