



THE THIRD BRIDE

A Mystery/Crime 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by
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LOGLINE: Inspector Pooja questions the bride and the venue manager after a wedding ring disappears minutes before the ceremony. Ananya insists someone is sabotaging the marriage, while Seema claims she saw nothing—but both women know more than they admit. The twist reveals the missing ring was not stolen for money; it was hidden to stop a marriage built on a false identity.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Inspector Pooja (36)

LOCATION: A bridal suite in a hotel, lit by vanity bulbs and a soft yellow lamp, with the wedding noise muffled outside. The room is elegant but tense, with a mirror, luggage, and a half-packed trousseau on the bed.

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FADE IN:

INT. HOTEL BRIDAL SUITE - NIGHT

Vanity bulbs ki peeli roshni. Soft yellow lamp jal raha hai. Bahar shaadi ka shor muffled hai.

Bed par half-packed trousseau, suitcase, guest list, aur khula WEDDING RING BOX.

ANANYA (31), red bridal outfit mein, mirror ke saamne khadi hai. Makeup intact hai, lekin aankhen alert. Jewelry thodi askew.

SEEMA (44), formal wear mein, polished aur cautious, master key set clutch kiye khadi hai.

Door opens.

INSPECTOR POOJA (36), crisp shirt aur trousers mein, notebook haath mein, andar aati hai.

POOJA

Ring gayi hai. Shaadi se bas minutes pehle. Toh ab sabse pehle, koi drama nahi.

ANANYA

Drama? Inspector, mere wedding day pe ring gayab ho gayi aur aap mujhe drama bol rahi hain?

POOJA

Main sabko drama bolti hoon. Phir sach nikal aata hai.

Pooja room scan karti hai. Bed, mirror, suitcase, guest list.

POOJA (CONT'D)

Seema ji, aap venue manager ho. Master keys aapke paas. Kya dekha aapne?

SEEMA

Kuch nahi, madam. Corridor mein bas lights flicker hui thi. Main toh bas... rounds le rahi thi.

POOJA

Rounds ya excuses?

Seema tight smile.

Ananya turns sharply.

ANANYA

Kisi ne sabotage kiya hai.

POOJA

Kisne?

ANANYA

Jo nahi chahta ki yeh shaadi ho.

SEEMA

Shaadiyan waise bhi stress hoti hain. Ring ka missing hona theft bhi ho sakta hai.

ANANYA

Nahi. Yeh warning hai.

Pooja picks up the guest list.

POOJA

Guest list mein A. Mehra ka naam do baar kyun likha hai?

Ananya freezes for half a beat.

ANANYA

Typo hoga.

POOJA

Typo aur guilt mein farq hota hai, Ananya ji.

Pooja opens the ring box. The velvet slot looks freshly pressed.

POOJA (CONT'D)

Yeh slot... naya sa kyun lag raha hai?

SEEMA

Madam, box toh bride ka hai.

POOJA

Haan. Aur bride ka poora set-up bhi bahut carefully arranged lag raha hai.

Pooja steps to the mirror. Ananya's reflection stares back.

POOJA (CONT'D)

Dupatta ka pin left side pe hai, but shaadi ke liye usually right side hota hai. Bangles ka order bhi ulta. Jaldi mein kisi ne set kiya?

Ananya looks at her own reflection, irritated.

ANANYA

Aap ring dhoondh rahi hain ya mujhe judge kar rahi hain?

POOJA

Dono. Efficient hoon.

A beat.

Pooja notices a FILE peeking out of the suitcase. She pulls it out.

Inside: two passport photocopies, an old photograph.

In the photo: same bridal room, same lehenga – but a different name written on the back.

Pooja reads aloud.

POOJA (CONT'D)

"A. Mehra."

Ananya's face hardens.

POOJA (CONT'D)

Toh Ananya kaun hai?

Silence.

Seema looks away.

ANANYA

Main... main hi Ananya hoon.

POOJA

Ya yeh bhi guest list ka part hai?

Seema inhales, then steps forward.

SEEMA

Enough.

She lifts the master keys.

SEEMA (CONT'D)

Ring maine chhupayi thi.

Pooja turns.

POOJA

Reason?

SEEMA

Paise ke liye nahi. Sach ke liye.

She crosses to a wall locker, unlocks it, and takes out the ring box.

Pooja's eyes narrow.

POOJA

Haan. Ab bolna shuru karo.

Seema places the box on the table.

SEEMA

Guest list aur documents dekhke samajh aa gaya tha.
Jo aadmi aane wala tha... woh fiancé nahi tha. Uska
naam aur identity... dono fake the.

Ananya's eyes fill, but she doesn't let tears fall.

ANANYA

Tumhe kaise pata?

SEEMA

Hotel mein sab aata hai, madam. Check-ins, IDs,
signatures... aur jhooth bhi.

Pooja opens the box. The ring is there.

POOJA

Toh ring theft nahi tha.

SEEMA

Nahi. Ring hide ki gayi taaki shaadi ruk jaaye. Taaki false identity seal na ho.

Ananya breaks.

ANANYA

Mujhe pata tha... Bas main sach bolne se darr rahi thi.

POOJA

Darr aur consent ek hi cheez nahi hote.

A beat.

ANANYA

Agar main bolti, toh sab khatam ho jaata.

SEEMA

Jo jhooth pe khada ho, woh waise bhi khatam hi hota hai.

Pooja closes the notebook.

POOJA

Crime clear hai. Identity fraud. Aur aap dono... witnesses bhi ho, suspects bhi.

ANANYA

Toh ab?

POOJA

Ab shaadi nahi. Statement.

From outside, dhol and laughter rise, muffled.

Pooja looks at the ring, then at the two women.

POOJA (CONT'D)

Shaadi kal bhi ho sakti thi. Jhooth ke saath nahi.

Ananya's dupatta slips from her shoulder onto the bed.

Seema tightens her grip on the master keys.

In the mirror, all three women stand reflected together.

FADE OUT.

THE END.