



THE WRONG FUNERAL

A Mystery/Crime 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Written by
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LOGLINE: Detective Meenal arrives after a body is identified by the wrong family, and Saira insists it is only a paperwork mistake. Ira, however, claims the dead woman was her sister and that someone has changed the records on purpose. The climax exposes a hidden swap in the morgue that points to an insurance fraud ring run from inside the funeral home.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Detective Meenal (38)

LOCATION: A funeral home viewing room with muted beige walls, soft overhead light, and a single casket draped in flowers. The stillness, incense, and closed curtains create an eerie, respectful pressure.

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INT. FUNERAL HOME VIEWING ROOM - DAY

Muted beige walls. Soft overhead light. A single casket draped in flowers. Closed curtains. Incense in the air. Eerie, respectful stillness.

DETECTIVE MEENAL (38), plain formal wear, sharp eyes, notepad in hand, steps in.

SAIRA (34), in black attire, immaculate makeup, stands near the casket – composed, but guarded.

IRA (29), simple salwar suit, grief-stricken, clutching a handbag and a folded death certificate, stands by the door.

MEENAL

(calm, observant)

Saira ji? Main Detective Meenal. Ek body identification issue pe baat karni hai.

SAIRA

(polite, defensive)

Haan. Lekin issue bas paperwork ka hai, madam. Body ka nahi.

IRA

(hurt, urgent)

Paperwork? Aap logon ne meri behen ka body galat family ko dikha diya.

Meenal looks at Ira, then at the casket.

MEENAL

Aap kaun hain?

Ira opens the folded death certificate with trembling hands.

IRA

Ira. Aur yeh death certificate meri behen, Nida ka hai. Main usko pehchaan sakti hoon.

SAIRA

(tight smile)

Madam, kabhi kabhi forms mix ho jaate hain. File number galat ho gaya hoga.

MEENAL

(writing)

File number galat, body same... ya body galat, file same?

Saira doesn't answer.

Meenal steps to the guest register on the side table, flips pages.

MEENAL (CONT'D)

Yahan do families ke signatures ek hi time pe?

SAIRA

(controlled)

Log upset hote hain. Jaldi mein sign kar dete hain.

IRA

(angry now)

Main jaldi mein nahi thi. Maine jo face dekha, woh meri behen ka nahi tha.

SAIRA

Aap grief mein hain. Aisa lag sakta hai.

IRA

(snaps)

Grief mein bhi wrist ka burn mark yaad rehta hai!

Beat.

Meenal looks up sharply.

MEENAL

Burn mark?

IRA

Left wrist pe. Purana. Nida ke wrist pe tha. Jo body aapne dikhayi... usmein nahi tha.

Saira's jaw tightens.

MEENAL

Morgue access kis-kis ke paas hai?

SAIRA

Sirf authorized staff.

MEENAL

Aur records edit kaun karta hai?

SAIRA

(cold)

Aap mujhe accuse kar rahi hain?

MEENAL

Main sawal pooch rahi hoon.

Ira notices an ENVELOPE tucked near the casket flowers. She picks it up.

IRA

Yeh kya hai?

She opens it. Insurance claim forms. Multiple signatures. A note inside.

IRA (CONT'D)

"Body release after payment confirmation."

MEENAL

(takes envelope, reads)

Interesting.

IRA

(shaking)

Nida pe insurance policy thi?

MEENAL

Aur family ko bataya nahi gaya.

Saira turns away a fraction too quickly.

MEENAL (CONT'D)

Aapko kya pata tha, Saira?

SAIRA

(sharp)

Funerals mein kaafi cheezein hoti hain. Aapko proof chahiye, suspicion nahi.

Meenal moves to the casket, gently removes the flower garland.

Under it: a SMALL MORTUARY TAG.

She inspects it closely.

MEENAL

Fresh ink.

She compares the tag with the death certificate.

MEENAL (CONT'D)

Tray number mismatch hai.

IRA

(whispers)

Matlab... body swap?

MEENAL

(nods)

Lagta hai.

Saira exhales, finally losing composure.

SAIRA

(defensive, then weary)

Main bas... forms process karti thi. Upar se instructions aati thi.

MEENAL

Upar se kaun?

Saira doesn't answer.

Meenal opens the guest register, tears out a page, and finds another hidden tag beneath it.

MEENAL (CONT'D)

Do tags. Same mortuary code. Do bodies. Ek file. Double claim.

Ira stares at the casket, devastated and furious.

IRA

Meri behen ko file bana diya?

MEENAL

(soft, firm)

Aur body ko paperwork.

Saira breaks.

SAIRA

(low, admitting)

Swap yahin hua tha. Morgue mein. Bodies ko kabhi kabhi wrong family ko dikhaya jaata tha... taaki signatures mil jaayein. Phir asli body dusri file mein chali jaati.

IRA

(disbelief turning to rage)

Insurance ke liye?

SAIRA

(barely audible)

Haan.

Silence.

Meenal closes her notepad.

MEENAL

Toh yeh paperwork mistake nahi tha. Yeh inside job tha.

SAIRA

Main akeli nahi thi.

MEENAL

Woh ab baad mein. Pehle record sahi hoga.

Ira steps closer to the casket, holding the death certificate to her chest.

IRA

Nida ka naam... sahi likhna.

Meenal nods.

MEENAL

Likha jaayega.

The three women stand in the still room – detective, mourner, and the woman who helped hide the truth.

The incense hangs in the air.

The casket remains closed.

But the lie is open.

FADE OUT.