

INVOICE NO. 7

A Mystery/Crime 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

Genre: Mystery/Crime	Format: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast)	Runtime: 6 - 9 Minutes
Cast: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) Character 1: Sameer (36)	Language: Hinglish	Credit: Story Dil Se Team

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Dusk ka waqt hai. Ek chhota sa office cabin, jahan desk lamp ki peeli roshni aur blinds ke through aati shehar ki neeli chamak milkar room ko aur bhi suspicious bana rahi hai. Sameer, ek small business owner, rolled-up sleeves aur ink-stained fingers ke saath table ke ek kone par khada hai. Imran, tidy glasses aur suspiciously pristine shirt mein, ledger ko itni safai se palat raha hai jaise uske kapdon par zyada dhool lag jaaye to uski integrity par daag aa jayega. Aur phir aati hai Naina — elegant blazer, alert gaze, leather folder tight pakde hue. Woh investor hai, aur aaj funding release hone se pehle ek missing invoice verify karna uska last test hai.

Naina seedha point par aati hai: Invoice No. 7 kahan hai? Sameer turant Imran ki taraf ungli karta hai. Imran calmly, almost politely, Sameer ko blame karta hai. Dono ki baat mein ek ajeeb sa rhythm hai — jaise office mein kaam kam, excuses zyada bante rahe hon. Naina unhe rok kar kehti hai ki drama baad mein, pehle facts. Ledger book, invoice file, pen drive, shredder bin — sab table par faila diye jaate hain. Sameer kehta hai invoice kal tak file mein tha. Imran bolta hai usne accounting entry kar di thi. Naina unke answers mein gaps pakadti hai aur unhe ek-ek karke din ka timeline reconstruct karne ko bolti hai.

Jaise-jaise woh log receipts aur emails milakar din ko rewind karte hain, room ka temperature badhta jaata hai. Sameer yaad karta hai ki subah ek courier aaya tha. Imran bolta hai usne invoice scan karke pen drive mein save kiya tha. Naina poochti hai: agar scan hua tha, to original kahan gaya? Sameer ka chehra tight ho jaata hai. Imran ki pristine shirt par pehli baar tension ki silvat aati hai. Shredder bin ke paas kuch paper scraps milte hain — invoice ka kuch hissa, aur kuch handwritten notes. Sameer accuse karta hai ki Imran ne numbers manipulate kiye. Imran counter karta hai ki Sameer cash flow chhupa raha hai. Naina chup rehti hai, bas dekhte rehti hai, jaise kisi chess board par final move ka wait kar rahi ho.

Phir twist ka pehla spark aata hai: ledger book ke beech ek page par Invoice No. 7 ka reference milta hai, par amount cut karke dobara likha gaya hai. Sameer bolta hai, "Maine nahi kiya." Imran bolta hai, "Main bhi nahi." Naina leather folder khol kar calmly ek purana agreement nikaalti hai aur kehti hai ki un dono ne usse funding ke liye incomplete records bheje the. Dono ka confidence hilne lagta hai. Ab room mein sirf missing invoice ka sawal nahi, trust ka sawaal hai.

Climax mein Naina apne folder ke andar se ek stapled copy nikaalti hai — Invoice No. 7. Sameer aur Imran stunned. Sameer bolta hai, “Yeh aapke folder mein kaise?” Naina ek second tak unhe dekhti hai, phir bolti hai ki woh investor ke saath-saath due diligence specialist bhi hai. Usne invoice deliberately folder mein rakha tha, taaki dekha ja sake ki dono sach bolte hain ya ek doosre ko bech dete hain. Aur jo hua, woh uska answer tha: dono ne pehle blame game khela, sach ko ghumaaya, aur sirf jab pressure badha tab reality ke tukde saamne aaye.

Naina final blow deti hai: funding tabhi milegi jab dono apni roles clear karenge, accounts reconcile karenge, aur ek written confession denge ki invoice kyun hide hua tha. Sameer aur Imran ek doosre ko dekhte hain — pehli baar bina mask ke. Sameer ki aankhon mein gussa aur sharm dono hai. Imran ka calm face toot chuka hai. Naina folder band karti hai, desk lamp ki roshni mein invoice ko ek baar aur dekhti hai, aur cabin se nikalne se pehle bas itna kehti hai: “Business mein numbers important hote hain. Par lies ka invoice sabse mehenga padta hai.” Door band hota hai. Room mein sirf shredder bin, ledger aur aadhi bachi hui trust ki khamoshi reh jaati hai.