

THE SILENT WITNESS

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: Inspector Arvind (43)	Language: Hinglish	Credit: Story Dil Se Team

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Raat ka waqt hai. Baarish ki tezz awaaz aur ek single pendant lamp ke neeche, ek chhoti apartment kitchen ko interview room bana diya gaya hai. Table par recorder, file folder, do tea cups, aur ek apartment key rakhi hai. Inspector Arvind, raincoat mein, sakht chehre aur notebook ke saath, seedha Kavya ko ghur raha hai. Inspector Mohit, clean shave aur careful eyes ke saath, recorder on karke shant baitha hai. Kavya, elegant lekin visibly frightened, bandaged wrist ko baar-baar cover karti hai, par uski nazar ajeeb tarah se steady hai.

Kavya ka statement simple hai: usne deewar ke paar se murder ki awaaz suni. Ek aadmi ki ghut-ti hui saans, ek thud, phir khamoshi. Lekin jaise-jaise inspectors sawal karte hain, uski details rehearsed lagti hain. Kabhi woh bolti hai ki awaaz 9:15 par aayi, phir 9:20 par. Kabhi kehti hai ki usne kisi ke kadam sune, phir mana kar deti hai. Arvind ko lagta hai woh kisi ko bacha rahi hai. Mohit ko lagta hai woh kisi ko phansa rahi hai. Dono ke beech subtle tug-of-war chalta rehta hai, aur Kavya unki baaton ke beech aise halki si muskurahat phenk deti hai jaise woh dono se zyada jaanti ho.

Arvind ka style rough hai. Woh direct sawal karta hai, thoda pressure daalta hai, aur Kavya ke bandaged wrist par nazar tikata hai. Mohit zyada soft approach leta hai, tea ka cup aage badhata hai, file folder kholta hai, aur chhoti-chhoti inconsistencies note karta hai. Unke dialogue mein tension bhi hai aur dark humor bhi. Arvind Mohit ko taunt karta hai ki woh har suspect par sympathy ka coat daal deta hai. Mohit Arvind ko yaad dilata hai ki gussa evidence nahi hota. Kavya beech mein dono ko subtly control karti hai, kabhi incomplete jawab dekar, kabhi ek line bolkar poor scene shift kar deti hai.

Jaise-jaise questioning deepen hoti hai, clues saamne aate hain. Apartment key Kavya ke paas kyun hai? Usne kisi ko "andar aane" se pehle kyun roka? Uska bandaged wrist kisne bandha? Mohit recorder rewind karta hai aur ek faint line catch hoti hai: "Usko pata chal gaya tha." Arvind ka expression hard hota jaata hai. Woh line sunte hi ek second ke liye freeze karta hai, jaise kisi purane zakhm ko kisi ne chhoo diya ho. Kavya notice karti hai, aur uski aankhon mein pehli baar fear ke saath satisfaction bhi aati hai.

Twist dheere se unfold hota hai. Kavya batati hai ki woh sirf witness nahi, victim ki behen hai. Uska bhai us apartment mein mara nahi gaya tha—uski maut ko murder ki tarah stage kiya gaya tha. Lekin stage sirf kisi outsider ne nahi

kiya. Usne aur evidence ne milkar ek purane cover-up ko corner kar diya tha. Kavya ka real target ek aisa detective tha jisne years pehle ek case ko dabaya tha, aur jiski wajah se uska bhai mar gaya. Woh detective room mein hi hai.

Mohit ko pehle lagta hai Kavya Arvind ki taraf ishara kar rahi hai. Arvind bhi defensive ho jaata hai, notebook band karta hai, aur room ka temperature aur neeche gir jaata hai. Lekin Kavya slowly apartment key table par rakh deti hai aur kehti hai ki key usne police ko isliye di thi taaki “sahi aadmi” yahan aaye. Phir woh recorder ki taraf dekhkar ek naam leti hai—woh naam jo Arvind ne kabhi file mein likha tha hi nahi. Arvind ke chehre par panic ki ek chhoti si darar padti hai. Mohit, jo ab tak neutral tha, file folder ke andar chhupi purani complaint aur photo dekh leta hai. Usse samajh aata hai ki case ka asli center Arvind ka unsaid past hai.

Climax mein Kavya confess karti hai ki usne murder stage kiya tha, lekin blood uske bhai ka nahi tha—woh ek trap tha. Usne jaan-boojhkar aisi story banayi jisse ek guilty officer khud apne aap ko expose kare. Arvind finally tootne lagta hai. Mohit ka recorder chal raha hai. Baarish ki awaaz aur pendant lamp ki halki jhilmilahat ke beech, Arvind ka cover-up saamne aata hai—ek aisa confession jo usne kabhi socha bhi nahi tha ki ek silent witness usse nikalwa legi.

End mein, Kavya ka steady gaze hi room mein sabse zyada loud hota hai. Woh na roti hai, na chillati hai. Bas itna kehti hai: “Mere bhai ne marne se pehle kuch nahi bola tha. Main uski khamoshi laayi hoon.” Aur jab Mohit recorder stop karta hai, Arvind samajh jaata hai ki iss baar case file mein murder se zyada dangerous cheez record ho chuki hai—sach.