

THE CLIENT IN CABIN 3

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 Dev (41)	Language: Hinglish	Credit: Story Dil Se Team

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INSPECTOR DEV ko shaam se pehle ek complaint milti hai: ek aadmi gayab hai, aur uski office se blackmail ka smell aa raha hai. Address hai ek compact corporate cabin—Cabin 3—jahan blinders half-drawn hain, AC ka thanda hum kaan mein chubhta hai, aur desk lamp ki peeli roshni files par aise pad rahi hai jaise kisi crime scene par spotlight. Dev plainclothes mein aata hai, notebook kholta hai, aur saamne do auratein milti hain: KAVYA, ek polished corporate lawyer, tailored blazer mein, composed smile ke saath; aur MAYA, elegant businesswoman, wrist par bruised nishaan, aankhon mein thakan aur zubaan par sambhal ke rakhe hue alfaaz. Dono ek doosre ko dekhte hi samajh jaati hain ki aaj sach bolna sabse mushkil kaam hai.

Dev seedha sawaal karta hai: missing person kaun hai, aur blackmail kis baat ka? Kavya bolti hai ki Maya uski client hai, aur jo aadmi missing hai woh company ka finance head, Arvind, tha—woh sabko paise aur signatures ke liye pressure kar raha tha. Maya turant palat jaati hai: Kavya client nahi, uski lawyer hai; aur Arvind missing nahi, balki usi ne usse yahan bulaya tha taaki ek forged contract par sign karwa sake. Dev ka pen rukta nahi, bas uski nazar tezi se dono chehron par chalti rehti hai. Har jawab ke saath naya contradiction nikalta hai. Kavya ke paas contract papers hain, Maya ke paas bruised wrist ka reason hai, aur coffee mug mein lipstick ka nishaan kisi teesre ka lagta hai—lekin cabin mein sirf teen log hain.

Jaldi hi Dev notice karta hai ki office ki staging ajeeb hai. Desk lamp intentionally aise angle par rakha gaya hai ki camera ya kisi observer ko shadow galat dikhe. Glass partition par finger marks sirf ek taraf se hain. Case file mein jo pages hain, woh original nahi lagte; unmein dates cut-paste ki gayi hain. Dev ke notebook mein pehli baar doubt ka entry hota hai: yeh room ek kahani sunane ke liye set kiya gaya hai, sach dikhane ke liye nahi. Kavya bahut calm hai, almost too calm. Maya ka har pause rehearsed lagta hai, jaise woh yaad kar rahi ho ki kaunsi line pe darr dikhana hai. Dev un dono ko alag-alag corner mein push karta hai, phir ek simple sawaal puchta hai: “Agar aap dono sach bol rahi ho, toh mujhe abhi tak missing man ka phone kyun nahi mila?” Silence.

Us silence mein Maya ka mask pehli baar fisalta hai. Woh bolti hai ki Arvind ka phone uske paas nahi hai. Kavya ke haath mein jo pen hai, woh actually uska nahi, Maya ka hai. Dev ko yaad aata hai: coffee mug par jo lipstick hai, woh Kavya ki nahi—Maya ki bhi nahi. Woh desk lamp ki reflection mein ek third presence ka illusion tha, staged shadow.

Dev suddenly samajh jaata hai ki “client” ka role Maya ka nahi, Kavya ka nahi—kisi aur ne dono ko is cabin mein isliye bithaya hai taaki ek false narrative create ho. Phir Kavya, pehli baar, apni composed smile todti hai aur dheere se kehti hai: “Inspector, Maya client nahi hai. Maya ne mujhe hostage rakha hai. Main lawyer nahi, witness hoon.”

Yeh sunke room ka temperature aur gir jaata hai. Maya ka chehra hard ho jaata hai. Dev uski bruised wrist ko notice karta hai—sirf injury nahi, restraint ka mark. Maya finally confess karti hai ki Arvind kab ka missing hai; woh uska partner tha, aur usne blackmail ka game isliye banaya kyunki company ke illegal accounts ka asli mastermind Kavya thi—ya kam se kam woh aisa dikhana chahti thi. Lekin twist yahin khatam nahi hota. Dev ko Kavya ke blazer ki lining mein ek chhota recorder milta hai, aur usmein Maya ki hi voice: “Plan wahi hoga jo main bolungi.” Dev ke chehre par pehli baar surprise aata hai. Kavya hostage nahi—Maya ka forced accomplice thi. Maya ne is office cabin ko courtroom banaya, aur dono ko isliye stage kiya taaki Dev galat aadmi par focus kare.

Final reveal mein Maya apni chair se dheere uthti hai aur bolti hai, “Inspector, missing person Arvind nahi tha. Missing evidence tha. Aur woh aapke notebook mein kab se hai.” Dev apni file kholta hai—andar contract papers ke beech ek hidden transfer slip milti hai, jisme usi ke department ka seal hai. Maya muskurati hai: usne blackmail case ko use karke Kavya ko hostage banaya, Dev ko manipulate kiya, aur asli fraud ko police ke haath se bachaya. Kavya, jo ab tak victim lag rahi thi, calmly bolti hai: “Ab samjhe? Client main nahi thi. Client aap the, Inspector. Aapko bas ek story khilayi gayi thi.” Last shot mein Dev ka notebook band hota hai, AC ki awaaz aur tez lagti hai, aur desk lamp ki roshni mein Maya ka bruised wrist ek final clue ban kar chamakta hai—kyunki us par police handcuff ka nishaan tha, aur Cabin 3 mein mastermind wohi thi jise sabse zyada bechara samjha gaya tha.