

PHASE 3: THE TWIST

The Last Toast — Cooperative Murder Mystery

 **DISTRIBUTE TO: ALL PLAYERS TOGETHER**

This is the major reveal. Host reads the revelation aloud, then ALL detectives review this evidence together as a group.

PHASE 3: THE TWIST

Duration: 15 Minutes

This evidence is shared with ALL detectives.

Host: Read the REVELATION aloud before distributing documents.

HOST READS ALOUD:

"Detectives, we've received urgent new information from the forensics laboratory. This significantly changes our understanding of the case."

THE KEY REVELATION

THE BOTTLE WAS SWAPPED.

The bottle in evidence (**BTL-7711**) is NOT the same bottle that was delivered as a gift (**BTL-7794**).

Someone replaced the original gift bottle with a pre-drugged duplicate.

This explains both:

- The sedative in the whiskey
- Why the killer chose this elaborate method — they had advance knowledge of the gift delivery

The critical mystery remains: No defensive wounds despite violent death by strangulation. The victim was drugged BEFORE he was strangled. He couldn't fight back because he was already incapacitated.

EVIDENCE RECONCILIATION REPORT

MAHARASHTRA STATE FORENSIC ACCOUNTING DIVISION EVIDENCE RECONCILIATION REPORT

Field	Detail
Case Number	MH/ALB/2024/1847
Date	December 16, 2024
Classification	URGENT — DISCREPANCY IDENTIFIED

SUBJECT

Cross-verification of Evidence Item EV-003 (Macallan 25 Whiskey Bottle) against delivery records

DISCREPANCY IDENTIFIED

Field	Delivery Record	Evidence Tag
Order Number	PSG-2024-8847	—
Invoice Number	INV-PSG-8847	—
Vendor	Premium Spirits & Gifts	—
Bottle ID	BTL-7794	BTL-7711

FINDING

The bottle in evidence (BTL-7711) does NOT match the bottle originally delivered (BTL-7794).

CONCLUSION

The bottle was SWAPPED after delivery.

The original gift bottle (BTL-7794) was replaced with a different bottle (BTL-7711) at some point between:

- December 12, 15:45 (delivery) and
- December 14, 06:15 (body discovery)

Report prepared by: Financial Crimes Unit Cross-verified by: Inspector K. Deshmukh

SECONDARY BOTTLE PURCHASE — CCTV EVIDENCE

MUMBAI WINE & SPIRITS PURCHASE INVESTIGATION

Field	Detail
Transaction Type	Cash (no credit card trail)
Date	December 11, 2024
Time	18:45
Location	Mumbai Wine & Spirits, Colaba

PURCHASE DETAILS

Field	Detail
Product	Macallan 25 Year Single Malt Scotch Whisky
Bottle ID	BTL-7711

Price	₹1,82,000 (cash)
Receipt	Not requested by purchaser

CCTV ANALYSIS

Description of Purchaser:

- Male, approximately 30-35 years
- Medium build, 5'9" - 5'11"
- Wearing dark jacket, jeans
- No identifying marks visible

CCTV Image Enhancement Result:

Image compared against party attendee records. Potential match identified:

Vikash Mehta — Catering Coordinator, Silver Spoon Catering Services Assigned to Malhotra Estate event December 13-14

CABINET ACCESS LOG RECONSTRUCTION

STUDY WHISKEY CABINET — ACCESS TIMELINE

Based on security footage, witness statements, and estate visitor log:

Date	Time	Event	Person
Dec 12	15:45	Original bottle (BTL-7794) placed in cabinet	Meenakshi Rao (Housekeeper)
Dec 12	19:32–21:15	Rohit Malhotra in study (claimed "collecting documents")	Rohit Malhotra
Dec 13	19:00	Catering staff arrive	Silver Spoon Catering
Dec 13	19:30	Cabinet accessed during "event setup"	Kavya Sharma (signed staging checklist)
Dec 13	20:00	Party begins	—
Dec 14	~01:35	Arjun drinks from bottle	Arjun Malhotra
Dec 14	06:15	Bottle BTL-7711 found in cabinet (SWAPPED bottle)	Discovery

WINDOW OF SWAP

December 13, between 19:00 and 20:00

Persons with access during this window:

- Kavya Sharma (signed staging checklist for study at 19:30)
- Catering staff (including Vikash Mehta)

EVENT STAGING CHECKLIST

MALHOTRA ESTATE — EVENT PREPARATION

Room	Items Staged	Verified By	Time
Terrace	Bar cart, seating	Suresh Patil	19:15
Drawing Room	Furniture arrangement	Rekha Singh	19:20
Private Study	Glassware, bar setup	Kavya Sharma	19:30
Dining Room	Table settings	Amit Sharma	19:25

Note: Kavya Sharma personally verified the study setup. This gave her access to the whiskey cabinet.

SUPPLEMENTARY FORENSIC REPORT

MAHARASHTRA STATE FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY SUPPLEMENTARY TOXICOLOGY REPORT

Field	Detail
Case Number	MH/ALB/2024/1847
Date	December 16, 2024
Classification	URGENT — REVISED FINDINGS

SUBJECT

Re-examination of Evidence Item EV-003 (Bottle BTL-7711)

FINDING

Upon enhanced spectrometric analysis of bottle residue:

DIAZEPAM DETECTED

Measurement	Value
Concentration in bottle residue	425 ng/mL
Note	Concentrated in remaining liquid at bottom of bottle

INTERPRETATION

The presence of Diazepam in the bottle residue confirms that the sedative was added to the **BOTTLE** before the party.

Measurement	Value
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Bottle volume at examination	Approximately 200ml remaining
Original bottle volume	700ml
Victim's blood Diazepam level	850 ng/mL (well above toxic threshold)

At the victim's blood concentration, he would have experienced:

- Severe drowsiness
- Profound muscle weakness
- Impaired coordination
- Confusion

He would have been physically incapable of resisting a physical attack.

TOXICOLOGICAL TIMELINE

Time After Ingestion	Expected Effect
15-30 minutes	Onset of drowsiness, relaxation
30-45 minutes	Significant sedation, muscle weakness begins
45-60 minutes	Profound incapacitation at this dosage

If the victim consumed whiskey at approximately 1:35 AM, he would have been significantly impaired by 2:00 AM — **the estimated time of strangulation.**

Signed: Dr. Sneha Kulkarni, MD Forensic Medicine Date: December 16, 2024

VIKRAM SAXENA — SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT

ALIBAUG POLICE STATION SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT

Field	Detail
Name	Vikram Saxena
Date	December 16, 2024
Regarding	Gift bottle

Yes, I sent the Macallan to Arjun. It was a peace offering.

We have been negotiating a merger for months. The terms changed recently and I was not happy about it. But I still wanted to find a solution. Arjun and I have known each other for 20 years.

I ordered the bottle through my usual supplier. **I did not tamper with it.** The bottle was shipped directly from the supplier to his estate. I never even saw it.

I was at the party on December 13. Arjun and I did not get a chance to open the bottle together. We had an argument about the merger terms around midnight. I left the party early because I was upset.

I did not go to his study. I did not see him after approximately midnight.

My ferry ticket confirms I was in Mumbai by 1:30 AM. I could not have been at the estate when he died.

Someone is trying to frame me by using my gift.

Statement read and confirmed. Signature: [Signed]

THE TWO-STAGE MURDER

SUMMARY FOR DETECTIVES

This was not a simple killing. It was a **planned, two-stage murder**:

Stage	Method	Who Could Execute	When
Stage 1	Bottle SWAP (pre-drugged duplicate)	Person with cabinet access + drugged bottle	Dec 13, 19:00-20:00
Stage 2	Ligature strangulation	Person present after 2:00 AM	Dec 14, ~02:15-02:30 AM

KEY QUESTIONS

1. **Who swapped the bottle?** (Access during Dec 13 staging window)
2. **Who purchased the drugged bottle?** (BTL-7711 on Dec 11)
3. **Who strangled the incapacitated victim?** (Present after 2:10 AM)
4. **What is the connection between the person who swapped and the person who strangled?**

CRITICAL INSIGHT

Rohit Malhotra's December 12 visit is now **LESS** relevant.

When Rohit visited on December 12 (19:32-21:15), the **ORIGINAL bottle (BTL-7794)** was still in the cabinet. The swap happened on December 13, after he left.

The swap window (Dec 13, 19:00-20:00) points to:

- Kavya Sharma (signed staging checklist)
- Catering staff with study access

END OF PHASE 3 EVIDENCE

You have 15 minutes to discuss

Phase 4 — Final Reconstruction — will follow