

# 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	<b>BTL-7794</b>	<b>BTL-7711</b>

## 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	<b>BTL-7711</b>

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

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## 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

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## 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	<b>Cabinet accessed during "event setup"</b>	<b>Kavya Sharma</b> (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

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### 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
<b>Private Study</b>	<b>Glassware, bar setup</b>	<b>Kavya Sharma</b>	<b>19:30</b>
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

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.**

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#### 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	<b>Profound incapacitation at this dosage</b>

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.**

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

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#### VIKRAM SAXENA — SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT

##### ALIBAUG POLICE STATION SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT

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

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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]*

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## 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
<b>Stage 1</b>	Bottle SWAP (pre-drugged duplicate)	Person with cabinet access + drugged bottle	Dec 13, 19:00-20:00
<b>Stage 2</b>	Ligature strangulation	Person present after 2:00 AM	Dec 14, ~02:15-02:30 AM

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### 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?**
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### 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
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## END OF PHASE 3 EVIDENCE

**You have 15 minutes to discuss**

**Phase 4 — Final Reconstruction — will follow**