

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE HONEYMOON SUITCASE

2 Male + 1 Female (M + M + F) | Genre: Emotional Drama | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: Airport ke paas ek hotel room mein honeymoon delay, chhupi hui financial sachchai, aur family pressure ek raat mein explode ho jaate hain. Jab Priya ke pehle se diye gaye consent proof se Aakash ki insecurity aur Nikhil ki suspicion dono ka parda uthta hai, toh teenon ko pehli baar sach ke saath ek naya rishta banana padta hai.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: intimate, claustrophobic, emotionally charged; room ko ek pressure cooker ki tarah treat karna hai. • Thematic depth: love ka test perfection se nahi, honesty se hota hai; marriage ko "arrival" nahi, "truthful beginning" ke roop mein frame karna hai. • Pacing: slow-burn confrontation, mid-scene reveal, then release into quiet catharsis. • Camera language: mostly contained coverage, close proximity, faces aur hands par emphasis; room ke objects emotional evidence ki tarah behave karein. • Mood progression: tension se confession, confession se acceptance, acceptance se lightness. • Performance note: dialogue se zyada pauses, glances, aur micro-reactions ko weight dena hai.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Aakash age: 32 look: Travel shirt, tired face, forced smile, restless body language; a man trying to look in control while visibly fraying. dramatic_arc: Shuru mein defensive aur performative hai, phir guilt aur vulnerability mein toot-ta hai, aur end mein honesty accept karke relationship ko reset karne ki taraf badhta hai. • character: Nikhil age: 34 look: Brother-in-law with packed suitcase, airport documents, sharp sarcastic expression, controlled posture, emotionally guarded but observant. dramatic_arc: Entry par interrogator lagta hai, phir protector aur witness ban jaata hai; finally his sarcasm softens into reluctant support and truth-bearing allyship. • character: Priya age: 31 look: Travel clothes, dupatta sambhale hue, composed exterior, tired eyes, quiet strength; emotionally exhausted but steady. dramatic_arc: Initially silent observer, then calm truth-teller, and finally the emotional center who reveals she chose Aakash with full awareness and insists on honesty over perfection.
FESTIVAL & AUDIENCE TARGET: Ideal for Short Film Festivals, Indie Showcases, and YouTube Creator Channels. Focus on tight performances, sound design, and authentic Hinglish dialogue delivery.

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ART, WARDROBE & PROP MASTER

1. SET DESIGN & SPATIAL DEPTH PLAN: Hotel room near airport should feel compact, functional, and slightly worn. Bed occupies the center-left with a visibly used khula suitcase on top or beside it. Bedside lamp with warm yellow shade creates a small island of intimacy. Window with horizontal blinds on one side; neon spill from outside creates cool magenta-blue streaks across walls, floor, and faces. Table or small desk near bed for envelope placement, tickets, key card, and photo. Walls should have subtle texture, maybe faint scuffs, generic hotel art kept minimal. Spatial layers: foreground suitcase and hands, midground bed and table, background window and door to create emotional depth in a tight room. Door should feel like a boundary between private truth and outside pressure.
2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY: • Aakash: Travel shirt, slightly rumpled from stress and waiting. Colors should be muted and practical. Continuity: shirt remains untucked or imperfectly set to reflect his unraveling composure. • Priya: Travel clothes with dupatta that she keeps adjusting or holding. Fabric should read soft and lived-in, not glamorous. Continuity: dupatta stays with her throughout, symbolizing restraint and self-control. • Nikhil: Neat but travel-ready casuals, carrying a packed suitcase and documents. His look should be sharper than Aakash's, with a controlled, slightly confrontational presence. Continuity: documents and suitcase remain visible as part of his entrance identity.
3. HERO PROPS MASTER CHECKLIST (PRACTICAL ON-SET ASSETS): • prop: Khula suitcase visual_details: Bed par open, slightly overpacked or half-organized, used as the central emotional prop. • prop: Airline tickets visual_details: Bed ke paas clearly visible, practical paper stock, used as a symbol of delayed departure and future plans. • prop: Hotel key card visual_details: Small, generic hotel card; Priya picks it up in the final beat. • prop: Ulta padi wedding photo visual_details: Bed ke paas upside down placed; later Aakash straightens it, making it a key emotional action prop. • prop: Packed suitcase brought by Nikhil visual_details: Handheld travel bag, visibly separate from the honeymoon suitcase, signaling intrusion and urgency. • prop: Airport documents visual_details: Held by Nikhil on entry, then referenced as proof of his purpose. • prop: Envelope visual_details: Placed on the table by Nikhil; contains a purana letter, photocopy, and signed consent form. • prop: Purana letter visual_details: Old paper inside envelope, handled carefully as evidence of prior truth. • prop: Photocopy visual_details: Document copy inside envelope, visually distinct from the letter and consent form. • prop: Signed consent form visual_details: Critical reveal item; must read as official and personal at once.
4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA): Naturalistic makeup with fatigue built in: under-eye shadows, slight skin dullness, minimal shine. Aakash should carry faint stress sweat and a slightly tense jaw. Priya's makeup should be understated, with tired eyes and controlled composure. Nikhil should look sharp but not glamorous, with a dry, travel-worn finish. SFX needs are subtle: forehead sheen under lamp heat, lip dryness, and slight redness around eyes for emotional strain. No heavy prosthetics; realism is key. Lighting reactions should be considered so skin tones hold under warm lamp and neon spill.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **Aakash:** {'super_objective': 'To be accepted despite not being fully prepared or perfect.', 'subtext': 'Main dar yeh hai ki sach bolunga toh Priya mujhe chhod degi; isliye main control aur fake cheerfulness se situation manage karna chahta hoon.'}
- **Nikhil:** {'super_objective': 'To protect Priya while forcing Aakash into truth.', 'subtext': 'Main gussa aur sarcasm ke peeche concern chhupa raha hoon; mujhe prove karna hai ki main bas villain nahi, witness bhi hoon.'}
- **Priya:** {'super_objective': 'To choose honesty over performance and preserve the relationship on real terms.', 'subtext': 'Mujhe pehle se sab pata tha; main Aakash ko perfect nahi, real dekh kar choose kar chuki hoon, aur ab usse bhi wahi courage chahiye.'}

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

AAKASH

((defensive, hurt))

Har problem shaadi ke baad mat ginwao.

NIKHIL

((sarcastic, controlled))

Oh, bas. Debt. Job ka darr. Loan. Aur woh version of yourself jo shaadi ke pehle hero tha aur shaadi ke baad... EMI.

PRIYA

((calm, steady))

Kaunsa sach?

NIKHIL

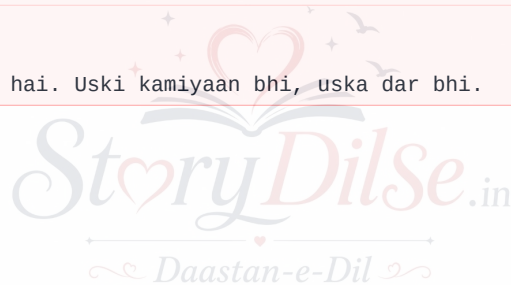
((revealing, firm))

Main tumhe le jaane nahi aaya.

NIKHIL

((softening, honest))

Usne kaha tha—woh Aakash ko jaanti hai. Uski kamiyaan bhi, uska dar bhi.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT**1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:**

Lens language should stay intimate and human: 35mm and 50mm for most dialogue coverage, with occasional tighter 85mm close-ups for emotional breaks. Framing should prioritize faces, hands, and object inserts; the suitcase, envelope, photo, and tickets should be treated like emotional evidence. Movement philosophy: restrained, mostly static or very slow push-ins, so tension comes from performance and blocking rather than camera tricks. Use over-the-shoulder and two-shots to preserve relational geometry, then isolate characters in close-ups when truth lands.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

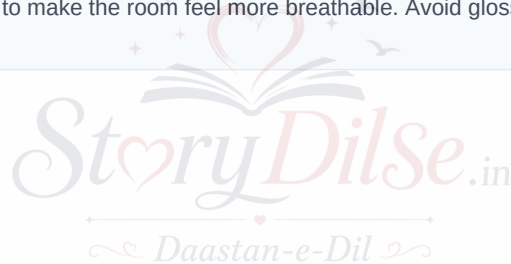
- 1) Opening: warm bedside lamp as key, neon spill as cool edge light; create a split-tone room that feels half-safe, half-restless.
- 2) Confrontation: slightly lower practical warmth and stronger shadow contrast; let faces fall into partial darkness to emphasize withheld truth.
- 3) Reveal and release: maintain warm lamp but soften contrast, allowing more even exposure and a breathable feel; neon remains as a subtle reminder of the outside world and the airport delay.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Room tone should be quiet but alive: distant airport announcements, faint traffic hum, HVAC or AC whisper, occasional corridor hush. Foley should emphasize suitcase zips, paper handling, key card taps, envelope placement, and the soft rustle of dupatta. Silence is crucial; pauses between lines should feel audible. The final announcement outside should act as an emotional exhale rather than a plot device.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Use a restrained cinematic LUT with warm tungsten highlights and cool neon shadows. Palette should balance amber, soft yellow, muted teal, and magenta spill. Skin tones must remain natural while the room edges feel slightly desaturated. Contrast should be moderate in the beginning, then gently lifted after the reveal to make the room feel more breathable. Avoid glossy romance; keep it grounded and slightly melancholic.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Load-in, art dressing, suitcase/photo/tickets placement	Art, Props, Assistant Director
09:30 - 11:00	Block door entry, window positions, and bed/table reveal beats	Director, Camera, Cast
11:00 - 12:30	Rig bedside lamp and neon spill simulation, test exposure on skin tones	Camera, Gaffer, Grip
12:30 - 14:00	Shoot opening silence and Aakash-Priya setup	Camera, Sound, Cast
14:00 - 15:30	Shoot Nikhil entrance and confrontation coverage	Camera, Cast, Sound
15:30 - 17:00	Shoot envelope reveal, photo straightening, and final release beats	Camera, Art, Cast

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Use one real hotel room or a dressed small room with practical lamp and window-blind effect. Neon spill can be created with a cheap LED tube or RGB panel outside blinds. Keep props minimal and story-critical only. Shoot mostly in coverage that can be re-used with slight blocking changes. Use natural performance pauses instead of expensive inserts. The envelope reveal can be achieved with simple paper props and careful close-ups. Sound design will carry much of the emotional weight, so capture clean production audio.

• **Mandatory Licensing:** Completely free for student/commercial production with on-screen credit: 'Story & Screenplay by Story Dil Se (storydilse.in)'.

