

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE SECOND BED

2 Male + 1 Female (M + M + F) | Genre: Horror/Supernatural | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A sleep specialist's final consultation with a disturbed patient and his eerie wife spirals into a supernatural reckoning when a death certificate reveals that the doctor may have already been claimed by the room. As the second bed waits, Aniket realizes he is not treating the dead—he is about to join them.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Claustrophobic chamber-horror: keep the room small, airless, and inescapable so every glance feels trapped. • Slow-burn dread with sharp dialogue beats: start clinical and grounded, then let each reveal bend reality a little further. • Visual unease through reflections, delayed responses, and monitor behavior; the supernatural should feel embedded in ordinary hospital realism. • Performance tone: Aniket begins controlled and professional, Pranav is exhausted and frayed, Mira is soft-spoken but deeply wrong. • Pacing should tighten scene by scene, with the final 90 seconds feeling like a trap closing. • Use stillness as threat: the less movement in the room, the more every flicker, beep, and eye-line shift matters.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Dr. Aniket age: 41 look: Seasoned sleep specialist, calm face, tired eyes, practical medical presence, carrying a medical bag. dramatic_arc: Begins as the rational authority in control of the room, then becomes unsettled by impossible details, and finally discovers he may be the next occupant of the second bed. • character: Pranav age: 33 look: Pale, sleepless, worn down, loose clothes, clutching a blanket like a shield, visibly exhausted and fragile. dramatic_arc: Starts as a frightened patient describing a haunting presence, then reveals the death certificate and becomes the messenger of Aniket's buried guilt and doom. • character: Mira age: 36 look: Soft-spoken, pale, fixed smile, still posture near the door, unsettlingly composed. dramatic_arc: Appears to be the concerned wife, but gradually reveals an eerie, knowing presence that confirms the room's supernatural logic and seals Aniket's fate.
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:

Build a small sleep clinic room with two narrow beds placed to emphasize symmetry and discomfort. The room must feel tight enough that the door, beds, and monitor are always in frame together when possible. Use dim bedside lamp practicals with slightly dirty glass and a monitor glow that casts hard, clinical highlights. Walls should be muted, slightly worn, with a sterile institutional texture that has aged poorly. Add subtle spatial layers: bedside table, medical bag placement zone, bed under-space for the hidden certificate, and a reflective lamp surface that can catch Mira's delayed reflection. The second bed should read as ordinary at first, then become ominous through fresh sheets, hospital corners, and a pillow indentation visible in the final reveal.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

• **Dr. Aniket:** Neat but slightly fatigued doctor attire appropriate to a late-night clinic shift; practical, understated, and professional. Continuity note: keep him visually composed at first, then allow subtle distress through loosened posture and trembling hands in the final reveal.

• **Pranav:** Loose, sleep-deprived clothing in pale, muted tones; should look unkempt, fragile, and as if he has been living in exhaustion. Continuity note: blanket remains his emotional shield throughout until he reveals the hidden certificate.

• **Mira:** Soft, pale wardrobe with an understated, almost comforting silhouette that becomes uncanny because of her stillness and fixed smile. Continuity note: maintain the same calm, composed look so the performance and reflection delay carry the horror.

3. HERO PROPS MASTER CHECKLIST (PRACTICAL ON-SET ASSETS):

• **item:** Medical bag | **details:** Dr. Aniket's practical doctor bag, used to establish authority and to retrieve the torch and pen.

• **item:** Torch | **details:** Small handheld medical torch, used for the room scan and to discover the paper under the bed.

• **item:** Blanket | **details:** Pranav's tightly clutched blanket, functioning as a fear object and concealment layer for the death certificate.

• **item:** Death certificate copy | **details:** Crumpled paper hidden under the blanket; must clearly show Aniket's name on the signature line and later reveal a second name on the back.

• **item:** Bedside lamp | **details:** Dim practical lamp with reflective glass surface, essential for the delayed reflection effect.

• **item:** Monitor | **details:** Clinical monitor with erratic heart-rate lines and audible beep; line must split into two rhythms and later flatten before syncing to three beeps.

• **item:** Pen | **details:** A simple medical pen pulled from the bag in the final beat, used as a symbolic tool of correction and guilt.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Use subtle under-eye darkness, pallor, and fatigue shading on Pranav and Mira to suggest sleeplessness and otherworldliness. Aniket should begin with controlled, professional grooming but gradually show stress through sweat at the temples, tightened jaw, and a slight sheen under the lamp. Mira's makeup should remain minimal yet unnervingly consistent, with a fixed smile that can be emphasized through stillness rather than prosthetics. SFX should be light and practical: monitor glow reactions on skin, lamp flicker response, and a faint cold sweat look on Aniket during the reveal.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** Dr. Aniket | **super_objective:** To maintain clinical control and prove the situation is explainable. | **subtext:** He is trying to protect his authority, but buried guilt is already making him vulnerable to the room's logic.
- **character:** Pranav | **super_objective:** To force the doctor to acknowledge the truth and correct the wrong. | **subtext:** He is not merely scared; he is carrying a grievance that has survived death.
- **character:** Mira | **super_objective:** To guide Aniket toward surrender and acceptance of his place in the room. | **subtext:** Her calmness is not comfort; it is certainty.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

PRANAV

Doctor, second bed par koi leta hai. Main uthta hoon, toh woh bhi uthta hai. Main saans rokta hoon, woh bhi rok leta hai.

PRANAV

Aapne wrong certificate sign kiya tha, Doctor. Humain dead declare kar diya.

MIRA

Sleep is surrender, Doctor. Aap hi bolte the.

MIRA

(soft, final)

Aaj aap so jayenge, Doctor.

DR. ANIKET

Main... patient tha?



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:

Use intimate, compressed framing with a preference for medium close-ups, over-the-shoulders, and controlled inserts. Start with stable, clinical compositions and gradually introduce subtle push-ins and micro-drift as reality destabilizes. Favor longer takes for dialogue tension, then tighten into inserts of the certificate, monitor, lamp reflection, and second bed reveal. Lens language should feel close and oppressive, with shallow depth of field isolating faces from the room while still allowing the beds and monitor to remain legible.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

Tier 1: Establishment - dim bedside lamp as warm practical key, monitor glow as cool secondary source, overall low-key contrast with soft shadow falloff.

Tier 2: Unease - increase reliance on reflection highlights and monitor spill; allow Mira's face to sit slightly underlit so her smile feels detached from her eyes.

Tier 3: Reveal - lamp flicker, monitor brightness pulses, and harder contrast on the certificate and second bed; end with a cold, clinical feel as the room becomes a trap rather than a clinic.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Base layer of near-silence with soft machine beep and faint room tone. Add subtle cloth rustle from the blanket, paper crinkle from the certificate, and a slight electrical hum from the lamp and monitor. The monitor beep should become narratively active: erratic at first, then split into two rhythms, then settle into three synchronized beats. Keep dialogue dry and close-mic'd so the room feels sealed.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Use a desaturated, cool-leaning palette with sickly greens and muted blues from the monitor, balanced by a weak amber from the bedside lamp. Contrast should be moderate to high in shadows, with skin tones slightly drained. The final reveal should push colder and flatter, making the room feel more clinical and less human.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Set dressing, prop placement, monitor test, lamp practical check	Art, Props, G&E;
09:30 - 10:30	Block actors and rehearse reflection beats and certificate reveal	Director, Cast, Camera
10:30 - 12:00	Shoot dialogue setup and bedside lamp reflection scenes	Camera, Sound, Cast
12:00 - 13:00	Shoot certificate insert, monitor reaction, and tension close-ups	Camera, Props, Sound
13:00 - 14:00	Shoot second bed reveal, final line, and blackout ending	Camera, G&E,, Cast

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Use one real clinic room dressed with minimal but precise changes to create the entire film. Keep the monitor practical and build tension through sound design rather than expensive VFX. The reflection-delay effect can be achieved with careful blocking, angle choice, and post timing rather than digital heavy lifting. The second bed reveal should rely on a simple sheet change, pillow indentation, and lighting shift. Limit coverage to a few strong setups and let performances carry the horror.

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

