

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE TERRACE PACT

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

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A tense dusk conversation on an apartment terrace forces a husband, wife, and mother to confront months of silence, hidden debt, and private shame. What begins as accusation slowly becomes the first honest pact of their marriage and family.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: restrained, intimate, and exposed; the terrace should feel like an emotional open-air confessional. • Thematic depth: silence as a shared burden, love as responsibility, and honesty as the first act of repair. • Pacing: slow-burn escalation with one sharp reveal, then a soft landing into fragile relief. • Performance style: naturalistic, with micro-pauses, eye contact, and breath carrying as much meaning as dialogue. • Spatial storytelling: keep the trio physically separated at first, then gradually close the blocking as truth is revealed. • Emotional arc: cold dusk tension to warm string-light release, mirroring the shift from secrecy to trust.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Imran age: 37 look: Faded shirt, tired face, shoulders slightly collapsed, eyes carrying sleepless guilt. dramatic_arc: Begins evasive and emotionally absent, then admits fear and debt, ending in vulnerable honesty and the first real step toward repair. • character: Sana age: 34 look: Practical, exhausted, controlled posture, a face that can harden quickly but still reveals hurt beneath anger. dramatic_arc: Starts as the one demanding answers, moves through anger and betrayal, and ends as the emotional anchor who chooses shared truth over isolation. • character: Farida age: 60 look: Shawl wrapped close, seated and observant, with a weathered calm that can turn into dry humor or quiet pain. dramatic_arc: Initially tries to defuse tension, then reveals her own hidden burden, becoming the unexpected bridge between the couple and the family's healing.
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:

A sparse apartment terrace at dusk with a strong sense of exposure. The physical layout must remain minimal: one plastic chair, a water tank, a few potted plants, and a side table for the envelope. The terrace surface should feel slightly dusty and weathered, with practical urban textures—faded concrete, chipped paint, and a utilitarian rooftop edge. String lights should be visible overhead but initially half-on, half-off, creating an incomplete emotional warmth. The water tank and plants should create shallow depth layers so characters can be blocked at different distances, emphasizing emotional separation. The open skyline and distant traffic should remind us that life continues beyond this private crisis.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

- **Imran:** Faded shirt with a lived-in, slightly wrinkled look; muted colors that blend into the terrace environment. Continuity should preserve a tired, unchanged appearance throughout the scene, reinforcing his emotional stagnation.
- **Sana:** Practical everyday clothing that suggests she has come straight from the realities of domestic life; clean but worn-in, with no decorative softness. Continuity should keep her looking composed at first, then increasingly strained as the scene progresses.
- **Farida:** A shawl wrapped tightly around her shoulders, signaling age, habit, and emotional self-protection. Her wardrobe should remain stable and modest, with the shawl becoming a visual extension of her guardedness and later her quiet relief.

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

- **prop:** Plastic chair | **details:** Single lightweight terrace chair, slightly worn, placed as Farida's seat and visual anchor.
- **prop:** Water tank | **details:** Large rooftop tank in the background, utilitarian and static, reinforcing the ordinary setting.
- **prop:** Potted plants | **details:** A few simple terrace plants near Imran, used as his physical hiding place and emotional buffer.
- **prop:** String lights | **details:** Overhead terrace lights that begin half-on, half-off and finally switch fully on at the end.
- **prop:** Envelope | **details:** A plain envelope on the side table, handled by Sana without opening; it symbolizes shared responsibility and unresolved financial truth.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Keep makeup naturalistic and fatigue-driven. Imran should have subtle under-eye darkness, slight facial dullness, and a tired sheen that can catch dusk light. Sana should show controlled exhaustion with minimal makeup, a face that reads tension through jaw tightness and eye fatigue rather than heavy styling. Farida should have age-appropriate texture, soft lines, and a lived-in skin finish. As the scene progresses, add a slight sweat or humidity sheen consistent with dusk air, especially on the forehead and temples. No overt SFX injuries or dramatic transformation; the emotional distress should be carried through expression, breath, and lighting reaction.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** Imran | **super_objective:** To be seen without being judged. | **subtext:** I was drowning and I was ashamed to let you see it.
- **character:** Sana | **super_objective:** To restore truth and dignity inside the marriage. | **subtext:** If you had trusted me, I could have carried this with you.
- **character:** Farida | **super_objective:** To protect the family by absorbing pain quietly. | **subtext:** I have been carrying burdens longer than you know, and I will not let this family break in silence.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

SANA*(steady, thaki hui)*

Bas. Aaj jawab chahiye, Imran.

SANA*(hurt turning to anger)*

Mere ghar mein reh ke bhi tum stranger kyun ho?

SANA*(sharp, demanding)*

Imran, mujhe dekh ke bolo.

SANA*(anger rising)*

Seedha bolo.

IMRAN*(softly, breaking)*

Main... darr gaya tha.



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

Use intimate, observational framing with restrained movement. Favor 35mm and 50mm lenses for natural perspective, with occasional 85mm close-ups for emotional fracture and confession. Begin with wider compositions that isolate each character in the terrace geometry, then move into tighter singles and over-the-shoulders as the truth emerges. Camera movement should be minimal and motivated: slow push-ins during admissions, still frames during silence, and a gentle widening at the end when the string lights come on. Avoid flashy coverage; let blocking, eye lines, and negative space carry the drama.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

- 1) Opening dusk: soft blue ambient sky fill with practical string lights half-off, creating cool, unresolved contrast and visible separation between characters.
- 2) Mid-scene confrontation: slightly shaped key light from one side to carve faces and emphasize tension, while keeping the background subdued and the terrace sparse.
- 3) Ending release: string lights fully on, adding warm practical glow that gently lifts skin tones and softens the terrace into a fragile sense of safety.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Low distant traffic hum as constant urban bed. Light terrace wind should be audible in pauses, along with subtle fabric movement from the shawl and shirt. Keep room tone open and airy, with occasional silence emphasized as emotional pressure. The string lights click on should be a clear sonic punctuation at the end. No score is necessary unless used extremely sparingly; the scene should breathe through dialogue, breath, and ambient city texture.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Start with a cool dusk palette: blue sky, muted concrete grays, and desaturated clothing tones. Preserve natural skin tones but keep them slightly cool in the beginning. As the string lights come on, introduce a gentle warm amber lift in highlights without over-saturating the frame. The grade should feel realistic, soft, and emotionally honest, with contrast increasing slightly during the confrontation and easing at the end.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Pre-light terrace, place practical string lights, dress set with chair, tank, plants, and envelope	Art, Gaffer, Grip
09:30 - 10:30	Camera blocking rehearsal with actors and mark emotional positions around terrace	Director, Camera, Cast
10:30 - 12:00	Shoot wide establishing and first confrontation coverage	Camera, Sound, Cast
12:00 - 13:30	Shoot confession beats and Farida reveal in tighter coverage	Camera, Cast, Sound
13:30 - 14:30	Shoot ending beats, string lights fully on, final group composition	Camera, Gaffer, Cast

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Use a real terrace location with minimal dressing to preserve authenticity and reduce art cost. Rely on dusk natural light and a few practical string lights instead of a full lighting package. Keep the set sparse so production design is mostly about placement, not construction. Shoot in sequence if possible to help performances and reduce continuity complexity. Use one camera with careful blocking rather than multiple setups. Record clean room tone and traffic ambience on location to avoid expensive sound replacement. The envelope, chair, shawl, and plants are enough to carry the visual language if framed well.

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

