

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

SISTERS OF THE SAME LIE

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

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A power-cut confrontation in a dim living room turns into a deadly confession game when Aditya is cornered by Kriti and Mansi over a fatal accident, only to reveal that all three are entangled in a lie that could destroy them. As the truth surfaces through messages, a hospital wristband, and a police statement, the real threat becomes clear: Aditya may be the one holding the power.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: claustrophobic, candlelit psychological thriller with deep shadows, unstable highlights, and a constant sense that the room itself is judging the characters. • Thematic depth: guilt, manipulation, shared culpability, and the collapse of trust inside intimate relationships. • Pacing: slow-burn interrogation that tightens beat by beat, with each reveal shifting power in the room. • Blocking philosophy: keep characters physically separated at first, then gradually collapse distance as secrets surface. • Camera language: restrained, observant, and increasingly invasive as the truth becomes dangerous. • Emotional arc: from suspicion to exposure to a final, chilling reversal where Aditya becomes the most dangerous presence in the room.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Aditya age: 30 look: Casual shirt, handsome but visibly cornered, defensive posture, controlled exterior that gradually turns dangerously calm. dramatic_arc: Begins as the accused man trying to deny involvement, then shifts into a sharper, more threatening intelligence as he realizes he knows more than the sisters expect. • character: Kriti age: 27 look: Simple dress, intense and analytical, watch repeatedly checked, body language tight and precise. dramatic_arc: Starts as the direct interrogator, then cracks when the shared lie and the police statement threaten to expose her role in the accident. • character: Mansi age: 31 look: Polished, cold, controlled smile, seated with ownership of the room, emotionally unreadable until the final crack. dramatic_arc: Operates as the most composed manipulator, pushing the conversation forward while hiding fear beneath calm authority.
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 single living room must feel like a pressure chamber after a power cut. Use a sofa, coffee table, family photo frame, and a visible doorway as the main spatial anchors. Walls should catch long, distorted shadows from two candles and three phone flashlights. The sofa armrest should allow Mansi to dominate the room from a seated position. The coffee table should hold the glass of water and become a focal point for tension. Family photos on the wall must feel accusatory, like silent witnesses. Add subtle lived-in textures: slightly worn upholstery, dust in the candlelight, reflective glass on the photo frame, and dark corners that swallow detail. The room should feel intimate, ordinary, and suddenly criminal.
2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY: • character: Aditya costume: Casual shirt, understated and believable, no flashy styling. continuity_notes: Shirt should remain consistent through the scene; slight sweat or tension marks can build as the interrogation intensifies. • character: Kriti costume: Simple dress, practical and unadorned, paired with a watch that becomes a visual and sonic tension device. continuity_notes: Watch must be clearly visible for repeated glances and later the moment it stops; keep wardrobe neat but increasingly strained by body language. • character: Mansi costume: Polished, cold, controlled look that reads as intentional and composed even in low light. continuity_notes: Wardrobe should support her seated dominance; no costume changes, but lighting should make her appear sharper and more severe as the scene progresses.
3. HERO PROPS MASTER CHECKLIST (PRACTICAL ON-SET ASSETS): • prop: 2 candles visual_details: Small, unstable flames that flicker harder as tension rises; warm practical light source. • prop: 3 phone flashlights visual_details: Uneven, handheld beams that create moving shadows and fragmented facial illumination. • prop: watch visual_details: Kriti's watch must be readable enough to emphasize repeated checking and later the stopped moment. • prop: glass of water visual_details: Clear glass used by Aditya; catches candle reflections and becomes a quiet prop of control. • prop: family photo frame visual_details: Central object on the wall or nearby surface; must be physically handled by Aditya. • prop: hospital wristband visual_details: Small taped wristband hidden behind the family photo frame; revealed as a crucial secret object.
4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA): Keep makeup naturalistic but heightened by low light. Aditya should show slight sweat, tension in the jaw, and a faint under-eye fatigue. Kriti should have a controlled but strained face, with subtle shine on forehead and nose as the interrogation escalates. Mansi should remain polished, with minimal visible distress until the final crack. SFX needs are minimal: no injury makeup is required, but the emotional pressure should be supported by sweat buildup, lip dryness, and candlelight reacting to skin texture. The stopped-watch moment should be emphasized through performance and sound rather than prosthetics.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** Aditya | **super_objective:** To survive the interrogation without surrendering control. | **subtext:** I know more than I'm saying, and if I reveal the wrong thing, I become the target.
- **character:** Kriti | **super_objective:** To force the truth out before the lie collapses around her. | **subtext:** I need to pin this on him before my own role becomes visible.
- **character:** Mansi | **super_objective:** To maintain control of the narrative and protect herself. | **subtext:** I can steer this conversation, but I'm also terrified of what Aditya knows.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

KIRTI*(steady)*

Baith jao, Aditya.

KIRTI

Accident wali raat tum kahan the?

MANSI*(soft laugh)*

Phir hospital ke bahar tumhara kya kaam tha?

KIRTI

Us raat accident sirf accident nahi tha.

MANSI

Tum wahan the.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:

Use intimate close-ups, medium two-shots, and occasional over-the-shoulder angles to preserve the feeling of a three-way trap. Favor longer lenses for compression and emotional claustrophobia, with selective wider shots only to re-establish the room's oppressive geometry. Camera movement should be minimal at first, then subtly push in as secrets emerge. The frame should often trap characters against the sofa, doorway, or photo wall, making the living room feel like a sealed evidence box.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

3-tier plan: 1) Base layer: candle practicals as warm, unstable key sources with deep falloff into darkness. 2) Motivated fill: three phone flashlights used as moving, cool-white accents to carve faces and create suspicious eye-light. 3) Reveal layer: slightly stronger back or edge light hidden off-camera to separate characters during the wristband and statement reveals, while preserving the power-cut realism. As the scene progresses, let the candle flicker become more aggressive and the phone beams more erratic, mirroring the collapse of control.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Prioritize silence, room tone, and small human sounds. Foley should include candle flicker, watch ticking, glass set-down, fabric shifts, and soft foot movement on the floor. The watch tick should become almost unbearable. Ambient sound should be sparse, with the room feeling acoustically dead and enclosed after the power cut. Use subtle low-frequency tension under the dialogue, but keep it restrained so the spoken lines remain dominant.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Use a dark, contrast-heavy thriller grade with warm candle amber against cold phone-light blue. Blacks should stay rich but not crushed, preserving shadow detail in the room corners. Skin tones should remain slightly desaturated and tense, with highlights on glass, eyes, and the photo frame. The palette should feel domestic but poisoned: amber, charcoal, muted beige, and sickly cool white.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Set dressing, photo frame placement, candle and phone-light practical tests	Art, Camera, G&E;
09:30 - 10:30	Block actors and rehearse interrogation beats	Direction, Cast
10:30 - 12:00	Rig candle motivated lighting and shadow control	Camera, G&E;
12:00 - 13:00	Wardrobe and makeup continuity check	Wardrobe, Makeup
13:00 - 15:00	Shoot dialogue escalation and wristband reveal	Camera, Sound, Cast
15:00 - 16:00	Shoot final confession beat and cut to black setup	Camera, Sound, Direction

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Shoot in a real living room with controlled practicals instead of building a set. Use actual phone flashlights and candles for motivated light, then hide one small LED for edge separation. Keep the number of props minimal and story-critical only. Reuse the same blocking with slight angle changes to create coverage efficiently. Let performance and sound carry the tension rather than expensive production design. Use one camera, one lens family, and simple black drapes or flags to deepen shadows cheaply.

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

