

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW CLAUSE

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

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A nervous newlywed walks into a lawyer's office expecting a simple signature, only to discover his wife and mother-in-law have turned marriage into a battlefield of clauses, conditions, and legal comedy. When the wrong bundle of forms is exposed, his attempt at a quick paperwork fix becomes a full-blown family negotiation.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: - Bright, institutional realism used as a comic pressure cooker: the more serious the office looks, the funnier the family chaos becomes. - Performance-driven comedy with dry pauses, deadpan reactions, and escalating verbal sparring. - Keep pacing brisk but readable; each clause should land like a punchline and then immediately trigger the next escalation. - Visual humor should come from contrast: neat legal order versus emotional disorder. - The lawyer's absence should feel powerful, as if the room itself is judging Vivek. - End on a freeze-like comedic release, with the women owning the space and Vivek emotionally defeated.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: character: Vivek age: 33 look: Neat kurta, slightly anxious posture, pen in hand, the face of a man trying to look cooperative while internally panicking. dramatic_arc: Starts as a compliant husband who wants to sign and leave, then becomes increasingly trapped by paperwork, ending in total comic surrender. character: Shalini age: 30 look: Office-casual, composed, dry expression, file in hand, controlled body language with sharp eye-roll energy. dramatic_arc: Begins as the calm but cutting spouse, escalates into the primary challenger of Vivek's assumptions, and finishes as the cool winner of the exchange. character: Kamla age: 57 look: Silk sari, handbag, spectacles, businesslike confidence, authoritative presence with a negotiator's calm. dramatic_arc: Starts as the formidable mother-in-law with her own conditions, steadily outmaneuvers Vivek, and ends as the final voice of family 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.

SET ARCHITECTURE & PROPS

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ART, WARDROBE & PROP MASTER

1. SET DESIGN & SPATIAL DEPTH PLAN:

A lawyer's office waiting room with bright, institutional lighting and beige walls. Three leather chairs should be arranged around a low coffee table to create a triangular power dynamic. Framed certificates on the wall must feel official and slightly intimidating. The room should be sparse but precise, with a legal folder, pen, two coffee cups, a handbag, and spectacles placed with suspicious neatness. Surfaces should be clean, slightly reflective, and hard-edged to support the comedy of emotional discomfort inside a formal space. The space must allow for standing, sitting, leaning in, and sudden chair movement without crowding the frame.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

- **Vivek:** Neat kurta in a subdued tone, freshly married and trying to look respectful. Wardrobe should remain tidy but slightly rumpled by the end as he becomes more flustered. Continuity note: pen remains in hand or nearby until the final defeat.
- **Shalini:** Office-casual outfit that reads composed, practical, and unsentimental. She should look like she came prepared for a meeting, not a family argument. Continuity note: file stays in hand or on the table as her weapon of control.
- **Kamla:** Silk sari with a polished, authoritative finish. Handbag and spectacles are part of the look and must remain consistent. Continuity note: spectacles are used as a visual punctuation mark when she asserts control.

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

- **prop:** Legal folder / file | **details:** At least two files, one for Shalini and one for Kamla, with visible paper edges and a serious office look.
- **prop:** Pen | **details:** A simple signing pen that becomes a symbol of Vivek's false confidence and eventual helplessness.
- **prop:** Two coffee cups | **details:** Placed on the coffee table; one is used by Shalini and one by Kamla, reinforcing the waiting-room realism.
- **prop:** Handbag | **details:** Kamla's handbag should look structured and practical, used as a sign of her preparedness and authority.
- **prop:** Spectacles | **details:** Kamla's spectacles should be clearly visible and used when she reads or asserts a clause.
- **prop:** Multiple forms | **details:** Marriage affidavit, house agreement, pet adoption form, and prenatal consent form must be visually distinct enough for the reveal.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Natural daytime makeup with subtle under-eye realism for Vivek to suggest nervousness. Shalini should have clean, controlled makeup with a dry, polished finish. Kamla should have mature, composed makeup that supports authority. Add light sweat or shine to Vivek as the paperwork escalates. Use subtle facial tension, lip compression, and eye fatigue to show mounting stress. No heavy SFX; the comedy depends on believable reactions and institutional lighting reflecting on skin and spectacles.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **Vivek:** {'super_objective': 'To get through the paperwork quickly and preserve peace without understanding too much.', 'subtext': 'If I sign fast enough, maybe I can escape the consequences.'}
- **Shalini:** {'super_objective': 'To enforce clarity, accountability, and control in the marriage process.', 'subtext': 'You thought this was simple; I'm here to make sure it isn't.'}
- **Kamla:** {'super_objective': 'To secure respect, structure, and her rightful place in the family arrangement.', 'subtext': 'I have seen enough life to know every clause matters, and I will not be sidelined.'}

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

VIVEK

((*trying to smile*))

Toh... simple hai na? Bas marriage affidavit sign karna hai.

SHALINI

Tumhare liye simple ka matlab kya hota hai, Vivek? Jo page samajh na aaye, uspe bhi sign?

KAMLA

((*calmly*))

Aadmi ka yahi problem hai. Paper dekh ke emotionally unavailable ho jaata hai.

SHALINI

Pehle meri conditions.

KAMLA

Meri bhi.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:

Use a mostly static, observational camera with subtle push-ins as the tension rises. Favor medium-wide compositions that keep all three characters in frame for verbal sparring, then cut into close-ups for punchline reactions and the form reveal. Lenses should feel natural and slightly compressed in the office space, with occasional over-the-shoulder angles to emphasize legal confrontation. Camera movement philosophy: restrained, precise, and increasingly claustrophobic as Vivek loses control.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

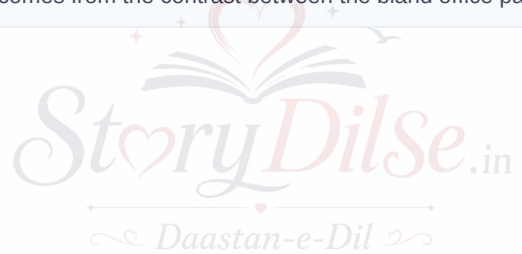
1) Base layer: bright, even institutional overhead lighting to establish the office as sterile and official.
2) Mid layer: controlled side fill on faces to preserve readable expressions while allowing mild shadow under eyes and cheekbones for comic stress.
3) Escalation layer: slightly harder contrast on the paperwork reveal and final punchline, with the room remaining bright but the emotional pressure increasing through tighter framing and stronger facial emphasis.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Clean office room tone with faint HVAC hum, soft paper rustle, file taps, pen clicks, and cup placement sounds. Foley should emphasize the tactile comedy of paperwork: pages flipping, folders sliding, spectacles adjusting, and chair creaks when Vivek shifts nervously. The lawyer's voice should arrive from off-screen with authority and slight distance, making the reveal feel even more absurd. Keep the acoustic profile dry and close, like a real waiting room with minimal reverb.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Neutral-to-warm institutional palette with beige walls, tan leather, and muted office tones. Use a clean LUT with slightly lifted highlights to preserve the bright daytime realism. Skin tones should remain natural, while the legal papers and files should pop with crisp whites and muted blues. Avoid stylization; the comedy comes from the contrast between the bland office palette and the escalating absurdity.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:00	Set dressing, prop placement, and wardrobe continuity check	Art, Wardrobe, Props
09:00 - 09:45	Block actor positions around chairs and coffee table	Director, Assistant Director, Cast
09:45 - 10:30	Rig and test bright institutional lighting	Camera, Gaffer, Grip
10:30 - 12:00	Shoot dialogue escalation and clause exchanges	Camera, Sound, Cast
12:00 - 13:00	Shoot paperwork reveal and form reaction beats	Camera, Art, Cast
13:00 - 13:30	Shoot off-screen lawyer line, final punchline, and ending freeze	Camera, Sound, Cast

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:
Use a real office or conference room dressed minimally with certificates, leather chairs, and a coffee table. Print the forms and certificates instead of building custom props. Keep the scene in one location and one time of day to reduce lighting resets. Shoot coverage efficiently with a master, two singles, and reaction inserts. Use practical overhead lights as the base and add only small fill sources. Let performance and editing carry the comedy rather than expensive production design.

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

