

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

INHERITANCE AT 8B

3 Female (F + F + F) | Genre: Mystery/Crime | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A guarded legal cabin becomes the battleground for two estranged sisters when their father’s will forces them to confess the thefts they buried for years. As the truth surfaces, inheritance turns out to be less about property and more about who dares to admit guilt first.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: - Visual tone: restrained, intimate, and claustrophobic; the cabin should feel like a pressure cooker with sunlight acting like interrogation bars. - Thematic depth: inheritance as moral accounting, where money is secondary to confession, shame, and fractured sisterhood. - Pacing: slow-burn legal tension that escalates through pauses, glances, and verbal sparring before landing on a quiet emotional release. - Performance style: controlled realism; every line should feel like a blade hidden inside polite conversation. - Camera language: mostly static and observational at first, then subtly tightening as the confessions begin. - Emotional arc: suspicion to exposure to reluctant acceptance, ending in a silence that feels healing rather than threatening.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character_name: Advocate Nisha age: 42 look: Elegant in a formal suit, composed posture, professional polish, sharp eyes that notice details others miss. dramatic_arc: Begins as a neutral legal authority, then becomes the quiet investigator who reads the room, decodes the will, and guides the sisters toward the truth without losing control. • character_name: Rekha age: 49 look: Plain sari, guarded eyes, clenched hands, rigid body language, emotionally armored and visibly burdened. dramatic_arc: Starts defensive and accusatory, then cracks under pressure and confesses first, revealing guilt, sacrifice, and the cost of carrying family responsibility alone. • character_name: Tina age: 33 look: Chic casuals, sunglasses pushed into her hair, restless foot-tapping energy, sharp tongue masking insecurity. dramatic_arc: Begins sarcastic and dismissive, tries to deflect blame, then is forced into her own confession, exposing fear, debt, and a deeper need to be seen.
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 small legal office cabin with one table and three chairs, designed to feel neat but emotionally compressed. The table should be slightly worn, with visible grain and a few scratches that catch the light. Files must be stacked in a disciplined but heavy way, like evidence folders in a case room. The ceiling fan should be old enough to create a faint mechanical presence. Blinds must cast sharp late-afternoon stripes across the floor, table, and faces, creating a visual prison of lines. Keep the walls plain, slightly warm off-white, with minimal decor so the room feels functional, not comforting. The leather file should read as the most premium object in the room, contrasting with the otherwise modest cabin. The family photograph and envelope should be physically distinct enough to register as story objects without over-styling.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

• Advocate Nisha: Formal suit in a neutral, elegant tone; clean lines, minimal jewelry, polished professional look. Wardrobe should remain immaculate to reinforce control and authority.

• Rekha: Plain sari with restrained colors and no flashy accessories. Fabric should feel practical and slightly worn, reflecting duty, fatigue, and emotional containment.

• Tina: Chic casuals with a contemporary edge; relaxed but curated. Sunglasses pushed into hair as a character detail. Wardrobe should suggest independence, restlessness, and a slightly defensive self-image.

• continuity_notes: Keep all three looks consistent across the scene because the story unfolds in one continuous cabin sequence. No wardrobe changes, no added accessories beyond what is specified in the screenplay.

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

• prop: Leather file | details: Dark, slightly glossy leather folder held by Nisha; should feel official and weighty.

• prop: Will document | details: Single document with visible paper texture mismatch implied by Nisha's inspection; must look like a legal paper, not stylized.

• prop: Family photograph | details: Photo of three sisters around a birthday cake with the father's hand subtly pointing toward an envelope in the background.

• prop: Envelope | details: Hidden inside the leather file; should be discoverable as a tucked-in physical insert.

• prop: Handwritten note | details: Short note from the father, readable on paper, with the exact emotional function of the confession trigger.

• prop: Pen | details: Simple signing pen placed beside the will; should feel like the final legal instrument of closure.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Keep makeup natural and realistic, with subtle late-afternoon warmth on skin. Nisha should remain controlled and clean, with minimal shine. Rekha should have slightly tired eyes and a restrained, lived-in look that suggests years of stress. Tina should have a fresher, more styled face, but with tension showing in the jaw and eyes as the scene progresses. As the confessions land, add subtle sweat sheen or skin tension under the warm cabin light, especially on the temples and upper lip. No heavy SFX; the emotional distress should be carried through micro-expressions, eye moisture, and facial tightness.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **Advocate Nisha:** {'super_objective': 'To uncover the truth and restore order without becoming emotionally entangled.', 'subtext': 'I know more than I'm saying, and I need you both to reveal yourselves before this room explodes.'}
- **Rekha:** {'super_objective': 'To protect her dignity while hiding the shame of what she took.', 'subtext': 'If I admit this, I lose the moral ground I've been standing on for years.'}
- **Tina:** {'super_objective': 'To avoid being blamed and maintain her self-image as the less guilty sister.', 'subtext': 'I can mock this, but if the truth reaches me, I'll have to face my own fear and debt.'}

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

NISHA

((*precise, calm*))

Main will padhne se pehle ek baat clear kar deti hoon. Jo bhi is room mein hoga, woh room se bahar nahi jayega.

TINA

Smells like a threat, Advocate.

REKHA

((*icy*))

Signature dekh kar cute lag raha hai? Ya forged lag raha hai?

TINA

Mujhe kyun dekh rahi ho? Tumne hi to accounts sambhale the.

REKHA

Accounts? Tumne hi locker ka access hack kiya tha.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:

Use restrained, intimate framing with a preference for medium shots, over-the-shoulders, and slow push-ins that tighten the emotional noose. Start with a balanced three-shot geometry that emphasizes distance and mistrust, then progressively isolate faces and hands as the confession pressure rises. Favor longer lenses for compression during confrontations, and a slightly wider lens for the room reveal and the family photograph insert. Camera movement should be minimal and deliberate: mostly locked-off, with subtle creeping pushes only at key reveals. The visual philosophy is that the room itself is interrogating the sisters.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

Tier 1: Opening tension — late-afternoon sunlight through blinds creates hard striped patterns across the cabin, with practical ambient fill kept low so the room feels boxed in.

Tier 2: Revelation phase — maintain the striped key light but soften the fill slightly on faces during the photograph and note reveal, allowing the emotional details to read while preserving shadow tension.

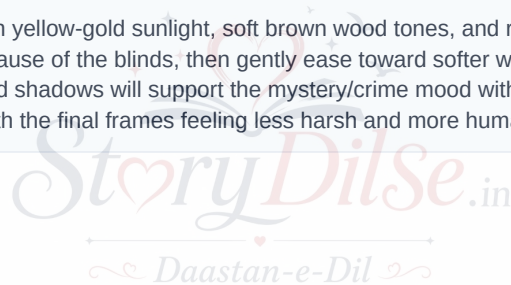
Tier 3: Resolution — as confessions land, let the sunlight feel softer and less aggressive, with warmer fill and reduced contrast so the final silence feels healing rather than threatening.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Keep the room tone intimate and dry, with the ceiling fan as a constant low mechanical hum. Emphasize paper rustle, file movement, pen taps, chair shifts, and the subtle friction of clothing and hands on the table. The silence between lines should be audible and heavy. When the tension peaks, let the fan feel louder in the mix to underline the emotional pressure. No external music is necessary; the scene should live on dialogue, breath, and room acoustics.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Use a warm, muted legal-drama palette with yellow-gold sunlight, soft brown wood tones, and restrained neutral clothing colors. Contrast should be moderate-to-high at the start because of the blinds, then gently ease toward softer warmth by the end. A subtle amber LUT with controlled highlights and slightly desaturated shadows will support the mystery/crime mood without making the scene look stylized. Skin tones should remain natural and honest, with the final frames feeling less harsh and more humane.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Load-in, art dressing, table/chair placement, file stack arrangement	Art, Grip, Camera
09:30 - 11:00	Rig blinds light, ceiling fan continuity test, exposure and shadow pattern checks	Camera, Gaffer, Grip
11:00 - 12:30	Wardrobe and makeup prep for all three actors	Wardrobe, Makeup, Talent
12:30 - 14:00	Rehearsal and blocking for three-shot dialogue geometry	Director, Camera, Actors
14:00 - 16:00	Principal photography of opening confrontation and will reveal	Camera, Sound, Director
16:00 - 17:30	Photograph insert, envelope reveal, confession close-ups, ending beats	Camera, Props, Sound

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Shoot entirely in one real office cabin to avoid set build costs. Use natural late-afternoon sunlight and simple diffusion rather than expensive lighting packages. Keep the blinds practical and let them do the visual storytelling. Limit props to only the legally necessary items: file, will, photo, envelope, note, pen. Use one camera setup for most of the scene and only vary lensing for inserts and emotional close-ups. Record clean production sound carefully so you can avoid expensive ADR. Let performance and blocking carry the tension instead of adding music or visual effects.

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

