

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE BABY MONITOR

3 Female (F + F + F) | Genre: Horror/Supernatural | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: Midnight mein ek dim bedroom ke andar baby monitor se aati ek anjaani lullaby ek dabey hue family secret ko jagaa deti hai. Jab teen auratein us awaaz ka saamna karti hain, unhe pata chalta hai ki ghar mein sirf ek bacha yaad nahi kiya gaya tha, balki ek rooh thi jo naam aur maan ki bhookhi thi.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: claustrophobic, intimate, and slowly suffocating; room ko ek living memory chamber ki tarah treat karna hai. • Supernatural approach: horror ko jump-scare se zyada psychological unease aur revelation-driven banana hai; monitor ki blue glow ko haunting truth ka source banana hai. • Pacing: first half slow-burn suspicion, second half revelation escalation, final beat quiet emotional release ke saath eerie aftertaste. • Thematic depth: memory, denial, family silence, aur unrecorded grief ko central theme banana hai. • Camera language: restrained close-ups, static tension, aur subtle push-ins to mirror the characters' emotional cracking. • Performance direction: Anjali ka fear, Kiran ka denial, aur Devi ka eerie certainty ek triangle create karein jo scene ko carry kare. • Horror texture: sound-led dread, screen reflections, and off-screen presence ko primary fear tools use karna hai.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character_name: Anjali age: 32 look: Loose nightdress, tired face, anxious eyes, baby blanket constantly in hand; postpartum vulnerability without melodrama. dramatic_arc: Shuru mein fear aur self-doubt; phir she becomes the emotional truth-seeker; end mein she offers compassion to the unseen presence. • character_name: Kiran age: 58 look: House sari, severe posture, prayer plate in hand, controlled face that gradually cracks under guilt. dramatic_arc: Initial denial and rationalization; then defensive anger; finally a quiet collapse into guilt and buried remorse. • character_name: Devi age: 80 look: Faded shawl, almost blind, still unnervingly alert; physically frail but spiritually certain. dramatic_arc: Begins as cryptic whispering presence; becomes the keeper of hidden memory; ends as the only one at peace with the truth.
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: Bedroom ko tight, intimate, and suffocating feel dena hai. Walls muted and slightly aged hon, with a single night lamp creating a small yellow pool of light. Blue baby monitor screen room mein cold contrast laaye. Cot frame simple aur old-fashioned ho, with a baby blanket and lullaby toy nearby. Prayer shelf should feel lived-in, with devotional objects arranged in a practical, slightly crowded way. Curtained window should block outside world completely, with heavy fabric that absorbs light. Floor surfaces should be quiet and matte to avoid visual distraction. Corners of the room must remain darker than the center, so Devi's empty-corner focus feels spatially meaningful. The room should feel like memory has weight in it.
2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY: • Anjali: Loose nightdress in soft, pale fabric; continuity note: she should look increasingly rumpled as the scene progresses, with blanket held tighter over time. • Kiran: House sari with a severe, practical drape; continuity note: prayer plate remains in hand until she finally sets it down near the end. • Devi: Faded shawl over simple old clothing; continuity note: shawl should stay consistent and slightly disheveled, reinforcing age and fragility.
3. HERO PROPS MASTER CHECKLIST (PRACTICAL ON-SET ASSETS): • prop: Baby monitor details: Blue screen with visible static, flicker, and signal fluctuation; must be the primary supernatural interface. • prop: Baby blanket details: Soft, held close by Anjali; should read as emotionally important and comforting. • prop: Prayer plate details: Held by Kiran; should tremble visibly when the truth lands. • prop: Prayer shelf details: A fixed devotional corner in the room; practical, not ornamental. • prop: Cot details: Simple baby cot positioned as the emotional center of the room. • prop: Lullaby toy details: Placed near the cot; must be capable of a subtle self-jolt in the final beat. • prop: Night lamp details: Warm yellow lamp with steadying glow; should feel tired and domestic.
4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA): Anjali ke under-eyes slightly dark, skin a bit pale from fear and sleeplessness; subtle sweat sheen on forehead and upper lip as tension rises. Kiran's makeup should emphasize age, firmness, and then a visible emotional crack—slight eye moisture, tightened jaw, and a drained look by the end. Devi should have age texture, soft facial lines, and a dry, fragile appearance; her blindness can be suggested through unfocused eye behavior rather than prosthetics. No heavy SFX gore needed; the horror is psychological. Lighting reaction should make skin tones shift from warm lamp-lit to cold monitor-blue as the scene intensifies.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **Anjali:** {'super_objective': 'To understand whether the presence in the room is a threat or a lost part of the family.', 'subtext': 'I am terrified, but I need someone to confirm I am not imagining this.'}
- **Kiran:** {'super_objective': 'To preserve control and protect the family from painful truth.', 'subtext': 'If I deny it hard enough, the past will stay buried.'}
- **Devi:** {'super_objective': 'To force the family to acknowledge the forgotten child and restore its place in memory.', 'subtext': 'I have carried this truth longer than anyone, and now it must be spoken.'}

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

DEVI*((whispering))*

Haan... haan... aa gayi kya?

ANJALI*((startled))*

Maa... aap kis se baat kar rahi ho?

KIRAN

Anjali, bas. Raat ke do baje hain. Neend nahi aayi hai, isliye har cheez badi lag rahi hai.

ANJALI

Main pagal nahi hoon, Kiran ji. Monitor se awaaz aayi thi.

WOMAN'S VOICE (V.O.)*((singing))*

Nindiya aa... nindiya aa... Chanda mere paas aa...



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: CINEMATOGRAPHY & SOUND DEPT

1. CINEMATOGRAPHY CONCEPT & LENS PALETTE:

Camera language should be intimate and restrained, with mostly 35mm and 50mm equivalents for natural proximity, plus occasional tighter 85mm close-ups for emotional fracture. Framing should keep characters boxed by cot, shelf, and curtains to emphasize entrapment. Movement philosophy: minimal movement at first, then slow push-ins as the supernatural truth emerges. Use monitor-screen inserts, over-the-shoulder compositions, and reflection shots to blur the line between seen and unseen. The camera should feel like it is listening more than looking.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

Tier 1: Warm domestic base — night lamp as the key practical source, creating soft yellow pools on faces and set surfaces.

Tier 2: Cold supernatural accent — baby monitor blue glow used to carve faces, especially during static and voice reveal moments.

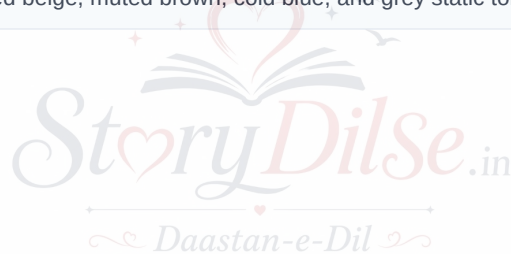
Tier 3: Emotional climax contrast — reduce ambient warmth slightly as the truth lands, allowing the monitor blue to dominate and then settle into a balanced, eerie calm at the end.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Room tone should be very quiet, with a faint nighttime hush and minimal exterior presence. Foley must emphasize small domestic sounds: prayer plate movement, fabric rustle, blanket handling, and the soft hum of the monitor. Static should evolve from thin interference to layered crackle. The lullaby must feel old, unfamiliar, and slightly detuned, as if coming through memory rather than a device. Final baby giggle and whisper should be clean enough to land emotionally, but still uncanny.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Use a desaturated, low-contrast horror LUT with warm amber highlights from the lamp and cold cyan-blue from the monitor. Skin tones should shift between sickly warm and spectral cool depending on source. Blacks should remain soft rather than crushed, preserving detail in corners. Palette notes: mustard yellow, faded beige, muted brown, cold blue, and grey static tones.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Set dressing, prop placement, and prayer shelf continuity check	Art, Props, Continuity
09:30 - 11:00	Lighting rig for practical lamp and monitor glow tests	Camera, Gaffer, Grip
11:00 - 12:30	Blocking rehearsal with all three actors	Direction, Cast, Camera
12:30 - 14:00	Shoot dialogue escalation and monitor reveal beats	Camera, Sound, Cast
14:00 - 15:00	Shoot climax, final whisper, and ending reaction shots	Camera, Sound, Cast, Art

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Single-room shoot rakho aur practical lamp plus monitor screen ko main lighting source banao. Blue glow ke liye monitor brightness control aur off-camera LED panel use karo. Static aur lullaby sound design post mein build karo, set par clean dialogue capture priority do. Reflection shot ke liye simple black cloth aur angled screen placement use karo. Cot, blanket, prayer plate, aur shawl ko hi emotional anchors rakho; extra dressing avoid karo. Horror ko performance, sound, and timing se sell karo, expensive VFX se nahi.

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

