

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

PASSWORD: MOTHER

3 Female (F + F + F) | Genre: Psychological Thriller | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: Ek upscale hotel room mein family conference ka facade toot jaata hai jab ek laptop password, hidden transfer, aur ek abandoned child ka naam teen auraton ke beech dabaa hua sach khol deta hai. Jo cheez mother ke naam se protect ki ja rahi thi, wahi unki family ki sabse khatarnak betrayal nikalti hai.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: polished luxury ke andar claustrophobic dread; warm bedside lamp aur cold city neon ka clash emotional fracture ko reflect kare. • Thematic depth: family, secrecy, identity, aur sacrifice ke beech power dynamics; "mother" as a word, role, aur cover—teenon meanings ko tension mein rakha jaaye. • Pacing: single-room pressure cooker structure; dialogue-driven escalation with sharp pauses, silence, and reaction shots carrying the thriller momentum. • Performance style: controlled exterior, internal collapse; micro-expressions, breath changes, and eye contact shifts are the real action. • Camera language: intimate, invasive framing that slowly tightens as truth emerges, ending in stillness after emotional rupture.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Radhika age: 45 look: Power suit, expensive watch, controlled face, corporate polish, physically composed but emotionally brittle. dramatic_arc: Starts as defensive authority, tries to control the room and the narrative, then loses her facade when the adoption truth and hidden transfer are exposed. • character: Nisha age: 23 look: Casual clothes, laptop bag on shoulder, alert eyes, injured pride, restless energy, emotionally raw. dramatic_arc: Begins suspicious and hurt, escalates into accusation and shock, and ends stunned by an identity-level revelation that rewrites her understanding of family. • character: Bharati age: 70 look: Sari, deceptively frail body, sharp eyes, phone in hand, quiet authority, minimal movement with maximum impact. dramatic_arc: Appears passive and elderly, then reveals herself as the most aware person in the room, controlling the truth release and the final move.
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 polished upscale hotel room that feels too small for the emotional pressure inside it. Single bed neatly made with crisp white linen, bedside table with family photo, warm lamp, and a visible envelope placed on the bed corner. Desk holds an open laptop, notepad, and hotel key card; minibar remains closed to preserve the sense of sealed-off tension. Curtains should allow city neon to leak in as blue-pink streaks across glass and fabric, creating layered reflections. Surfaces should be glossy but slightly reflective to trap faces and make the room feel boxed in. Seating should be minimal: one chair for Bharati, one bed edge, one standing zone near the window, so blocking naturally creates confrontation triangles.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

- **Radhika:** Tailored power suit in muted corporate tones, clean lines, expensive watch as a status marker. Wardrobe must stay immaculate until the final crack, when posture and breath do the damage rather than costume change.
- **Nisha:** Casual contemporary clothes with a laptop bag, practical and youthful. Slightly rumpled by travel or agitation to support her emotional vulnerability and impatience.
- **Bharati:** Simple sari with soft drape, understated and age-appropriate. Fabric should read frail at first glance but allow her to sit upright and command attention without looking theatrical.

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

- Laptop on desk, open and central to the scene, with visible password prompt and access-granted moment.
- Envelope placed at the bed corner / under the desk area as scripted, containing a folded note, bank transfer printout, and handwritten name.
- Family photo on bedside table, visibly old, with a child barely visible at the edge of the frame.
- Notepad open with dates, account-like numbers, and a name written on it.
- Hotel key card near the desk, used as a visual marker for the envelope placement.
- Phone in Bharati's hand, later used to dial one number at the end.
- Expensive watch on Radhika's wrist as a recurring visual cue of control and time pressure.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Keep makeup naturalistic and age-accurate. Radhika should have controlled, polished makeup that can subtly break with shine on the forehead, tightened jaw, and under-eye tension as the scene escalates. Nisha should have minimal makeup with slight under-eye fatigue and emotional flush during confrontation. Bharati should have age texture, soft skin translucency, and a frail appearance without caricature. SFX needs are minimal: slight sweat sheen under warm lamp, lip dryness from tension, eye moisture for Radhika's breakdown, and subtle facial redness for Nisha's anger. Lighting reactions should be planned so neon streaks and warm lamp create realistic skin contrast.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **Radhika:** {'super_objective': 'To preserve control over family narrative, professional image, and the secret she has buried.', 'subtext': 'If the truth comes out, I lose authority, identity, and the version of motherhood I have been performing.'}
- **Nisha:** {'super_objective': 'To force the family to tell the truth and reclaim her place in the story.', 'subtext': 'I am tired of being excluded; if there is a secret, it is also about me.'}
- **Bharati:** {'super_objective': 'To expose the truth at the right moment and force accountability.', 'subtext': 'I have watched this long enough; now I will decide when the room learns what it deserves to know.'}

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

NISHA*((ghur kar))*

Mom, password daal.

NISHA

Drama? Aapka laptop kholne ke liye mere childhood ka phrase try kar rahi hoon aur kuch bhi kaam nahi kar raha.

RADHIKA*((sans tight))*

Mujhe apne files protect karne ka right hai.

NISHA

Aur mujhe apni family se sach jaane ka right hai.

BHARATI*((softly))*

Sach ka password usually simple hota hai. Bas dil ko pasand nahi aata.



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

Use intimate 35mm and 50mm lenses for most dialogue, with occasional tighter 85mm close-ups as the room collapses emotionally. Framing should begin with balanced three-shots and medium singles, then progressively move into over-the-shoulders, close-ups, and insert shots of the laptop, envelope, and family photo. Camera movement philosophy: restrained, almost invisible, with slow push-ins and subtle lateral shifts that feel like the room itself is tightening. Avoid flashy movement; let stillness, reaction timing, and composition carry the thriller tension.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

- 1) Opening: warm bedside lamp as key, with blue-pink city neon as motivated edge light through curtains; soft contrast, polished but uneasy.
- 2) Mid-scene escalation: reduce fill slightly and let shadows deepen around the bed, desk, and faces; use practical lamp spill to isolate characters and create visual corners.
- 3) Final reveal: increase neon presence on faces and family photo, allowing colder tones to dominate as the truth lands; keep Bharati slightly more readable than the others to suggest her control.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Room tone should be quiet but alive: faint HVAC hum, distant city traffic, soft fabric movement, laptop key clicks, envelope paper rustle, and the subtle tap of a phone being handled. Dialogue should feel close-mic'd and intimate, with pauses carrying tension. The laptop error beep or interface feedback should be clean and dry, not melodramatic. At the end, the phone ring should feel unnervingly ordinary against the emotional collapse.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Use a restrained thriller LUT with warm amber highlights and cool neon shadows. Skin tones should remain natural but slightly desaturated as the scene darkens. Palette should contrast hotel luxury neutrals with blue-pink exterior spill. Final frames should lean cooler and flatter emotionally, with the family photo and laptop screen carrying the brightest contrast points.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:30	Load-in, room dressing, and prop placement	Art, Props, Camera
09:30 - 11:00	Block actors and mark three-character confrontation positions	Director, AD, Camera
11:00 - 12:30	Rig bedside lamp and curtain neon simulation	Gaffer, Electric, Grip
12:30 - 14:00	Shoot dialogue escalation and envelope reveal coverage	Camera, Sound, Script Supervisor
14:00 - 15:00	Shoot laptop password, family photo, and insert shots	Camera, Props, Art
15:00 - 16:00	Shoot final password reveal, phone call beat, and breakdown reactions	Camera, Sound, Makeup

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Shoot entirely in one real hotel room or a dressed serviced apartment to avoid set build costs. Use practical bedside lamp and a cheap RGB tube or LED panel outside curtains to simulate city neon. Keep the laptop screen as a real interactive prop with preloaded pages for clean inserts. Limit coverage to motivated singles, OTS, and inserts so the scene can be shot efficiently in one day. Use wardrobe already owned by actors for authenticity. Since the story is dialogue-heavy, prioritize sound quality over expensive gear; a clean boom and controlled room tone will matter more than extra lights.

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

