

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE FRIDGE AGREEMENT

3 Female (F + F + F) | Genre: Slice of Life/Family | Runtime: 6 - 9 Mins

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: Raat ke kitchen mein ek beti, maa aur dadi fridge ke andar chhupi chhoti si “system change” ko le kar takraati hain, aur ek funny-but-tender argument ke through samajh aata hai ki control aur care ke beech ka farq hi family ko jodta hai. Ek simple fridge agreement unke unspoken pyaar ko labels, laughter aur reconciliation mein badal deta hai.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: - Visual tone: intimate, domestic, lived-in realism with a soft nocturnal glow from the fridge, tube light flicker, and stove warmth. - Thematic depth: ownership vs care, independence vs homesickness, and how families express love through systems, habits, and small interventions. - Pacing: brisk comedic sparring in the first half, then a gentle emotional turn at the reveal, ending in a warm, reconciliatory release. - Performance style: naturalistic Hinglish with sharp pauses, dry humor, and one or two emotionally loaded beats that land quietly. - Camera language: close, observant, and reactive; the kitchen should feel like a pressure cooker that never loses its warmth. - Spatial feeling: the fridge, counter, and stool form a triangle of conflict, memory, and authority.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: Babli age: 26 look: Office casuals, slightly tired after work, carrying grocery bags; expressive face, quick eyes, defensive posture that softens fast. dramatic_arc: Starts as an independent daughter feeling her space has been invaded, escalates into hurt and accusation, then realizes her mother's actions came from care and protection, ending in embarrassed affection and renewed belonging. • character: Reema age: 48 look: House clothes with apron, practical and alert, standing near the stove and counter; composed exterior with a hurt that flashes briefly when challenged. dramatic_arc: Begins as the organized keeper of the house, defends her system with calm logic, reveals emotional vulnerability when Babli feels excluded, and finally admits she should have asked before intervening. • character: Dadi age: 73 look: Shawl wrapped around her, seated on a stool like a judge at an audit; dry eyes, sharp timing, amused authority. dramatic_arc: Acts as the family's truth-teller and comic referee, puncturing ego with one-line wisdom, then reveals the deeper family philosophy that love survives through shared space and mutual respect.
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 modest family kitchen at night, designed to feel compact, functional, and emotionally dense. The refrigerator is the visual anchor, with its door and interior becoming the scene's dramatic reveal space. The counter should be small and slightly cluttered with spice jars, labels, and everyday kitchen wear. The dining stool sits off to one side, used by Dadi as a judgment seat. Surfaces should show lived-in texture: slightly worn laminate, faint oil marks near the stove, stacked containers, and a domestic realism that suggests years of routine. The fridge glow should spill into the room, creating a cool pool of light that contrasts with the warm stove flame and the intermittent tube light. Spatial layers should allow clear blocking: fridge front, counter/stove line, and stool corner, so the argument can move physically between authority points.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

- **Babli:** Office casuals suitable for a late-night return home; slightly rumpled from travel and work. Continuity note: grocery bags remain in hand until she sets them on the counter, then she uses them as emotional punctuation during the argument.
- **Reema:** House clothes with a practical apron over them. The apron should read as functional, not decorative, and remain on throughout the scene to reinforce her role as the kitchen's manager.
- **Dadi:** A shawl wrapped around her over simple homewear. Continuity note: she stays seated on the stool for most of the scene, then stands only when she moves to the fridge for the reveal.

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

- **prop:** Refrigerator | **details:** Central hero prop; interior must show perfectly arranged boxes, jars, labels, and the visible shelf organization. The fridge door must open fully for the reveal.
- **prop:** Grocery bags | **details:** Two bags in Babli's hands at entry; later one is placed on the counter and opened to reveal the new sauce bottle.
- **prop:** Spice jars | **details:** Set near Reema on the counter; practical kitchen jars that support her organized, system-driven behavior.
- **prop:** Dining stool | **details:** Used by Dadi as her seated observation post; should feel slightly old but sturdy.
- **prop:** Label strips | **details:** Multiple strips used for the fridge reveal and the final bottle label. Must include the visible labels inside the fridge and the inserted label reading "Babli returns."
- **prop:** New sauce bottle | **details:** Pulled from Babli's grocery bag; presented as "Peace sauce." It becomes the final symbolic gift and reconciliation object.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Keep makeup naturalistic and age-appropriate. Babli should have slight under-eye fatigue from office hours and travel. Reema should look fresh but slightly stressed, with a practical no-nonsense face and minimal shine. Dadi should have soft age texture, gentle lines, and a calm, observant presence. Add subtle sweat or kitchen humidity only if needed near the stove area. No heavy SFX; the emotional impact comes from performance and lighting. Skin should react naturally to the mixed lighting: cool fridge glow on faces during the argument, warmer tones during the reveal and reconciliation.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** Babli | **super_objective:** To be seen as an adult whose choices and belongings are respected. | **subtext:** I came home for comfort, not correction; if you move my things, are you also moving me out of my own place?
- **character:** Reema | **super_objective:** To protect the home and her daughter through order, care, and practical decisions. | **subtext:** I'm not trying to control you; I'm trying to keep what matters safe, even if I don't say it perfectly.
- **character:** Dadi | **super_objective:** To preserve family harmony by translating hurt into wisdom and humor. | **subtext:** Both of you are speaking love in different languages; I need to make sure you hear it before it disappears into pride.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

BABLI

((hurt, defensive))

Main itne mahine baad aayi hoon, aur aapka first move meri cheezein reorganize karna hai?

REEMA

((calm, wounded))

Control tab hota hai jab mujhe farq na pade. Mujhe farq padta hai.

BABLI

((angry, breaking))

Aap logon ko lagta hai main yahan guest hoon?

REEMA

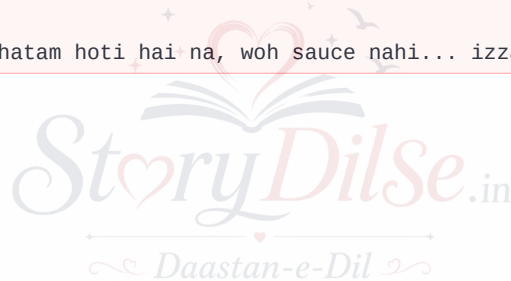
((soft, honest))

Guest nahi. Bas aadat se bahar ho gayi thi ki tu yahin rahegi.

DADI

((dry, cutting))

Fridge mein jo cheez sabse pehle khatam hoti hai na, woh sauce nahi... izzat hoti hai.



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

Use intimate coverage with 35mm and 50mm lenses for natural perspective, and a 85mm for emotional close-ups during the reveal and apology beats. Framing should stay tight and domestic, often using the fridge door as a visual divider or frame-within-frame. Camera movement philosophy: mostly restrained handheld or subtle locked-off compositions, with small push-ins when emotional stakes rise. Let the fridge opening become a recurring visual punctuation, and reserve the cleanest centered framing for the final reconciliation.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

3-tier plan: (1) Entry and argument setup: cool refrigerator glow as key, with a flickering tube light as unstable overhead fill and a low warm stove practical to keep skin tones alive. (2) Conflict escalation: slightly contrastier side light from the fridge and stove, allowing faces to shift between cool and warm as emotions sharpen. (3) Reveal and resolution: steady the tube light, soften the fridge spill, and let the stove warmth dominate so the kitchen feels emotionally safer and more unified.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Room tone should be quiet, domestic, and slightly hollow, with the refrigerator hum as a constant emotional bed. Add subtle tube light buzz and occasional flicker tick. Foley should include fridge door creaks, label peel sounds, grocery bag rustle, bottle placement on counter, and soft stool movement. The stove should emit a gentle gas hiss or warm kitchen ambience. Dialogue must remain crisp and close-mic'd, with pauses and silences carrying emotional weight.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Use a soft, realistic LUT with cool cyan-green highlights from the fridge and warm amber-orange practicals from the stove. Keep shadows gentle but present, preserving the intimate night mood. Skin tones should remain natural, with a slight coolness during conflict and a warmer, more balanced palette during the reveal. Avoid oversaturation; the labels and sauce bottle should pop subtly without breaking realism.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:00	Set dressing, fridge interior organization, label placement, and prop continuity check	Art, Props, Continuity
09:00 - 10:30	Block actor movement around fridge, counter, and stool; rehearse reveal timing	Director, Assistant Director, Cast
10:30 - 12:00	Rig practicals and finalize cool-warm lighting balance	Camera, Gaffer, Electric
12:00 - 13:30	Shoot dialogue escalation and fridge inspection coverage	Camera, Sound, Cast
13:30 - 15:00	Shoot reveal, apology, and final reconciliation beats	Camera, Art, Cast

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

Shoot entirely in one real kitchen with minimal dressing and use practical lights already in the location. Keep the fridge interior organized with printed labels instead of custom set builds. Use one key camera position per beat and cover the scene with efficient shot-reverse-shot plus inserts of the fridge labels and sauce bottle. Let the fridge glow and stove practical do most of the lighting work to reduce grip and electric needs. Cast can wear their own believable wardrobe with minor continuity adjustments. Sound can be captured cleanly with a single boom and minimal ambient control, since the scene is dialogue-driven and contained.

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

