

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

THE EXIT INTERVIEW

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

OFFICIAL STORY LOGLINE: A routine exit interview in a glass-walled office turns into a lethal loyalty test when a resigning employee reveals a buried death, a hidden audit, and a corporate cover-up tied to her own family. In a room built for polite HR language, three women must decide whether truth, silence, or survival will win.
DIRECTOR'S DRAMATIC VISION & TONAL CONCEPT: • Visual tone: cold, clinical, and increasingly claustrophobic; the cabin should feel like a pressure chamber disguised as corporate professionalism. • Thematic depth: power hides inside procedure; "routine" becomes a weapon; truth is not discovered through confession but through controlled pressure. • Pacing: slow-burn interrogation rhythm with precise pauses, then a sharp escalation once Neelam's name enters the room. • Performance style: restrained, minimal, and dangerous—micro-expressions, stillness, and measured dialogue should carry the tension. • Spatial strategy: use the glass walls, half-closed blinds, and desk lamp to create visible isolation even inside an open office environment. • Emotional arc: begin with polite HR normalcy, shift into suspicion, then reveal a strategic alliance that redefines the room's power balance.
CAST AT A GLANCE & CHARACTER ARCS: • character: PRIYA age: 44 look: Formal wear, perfectly composed HR Head, neat and controlled presence, unreadable face, precise posture. dramatic_arc: Starts as a calm interviewer performing routine HR procedure, then reveals herself as an active participant in a deeper test. Her stillness becomes the most threatening force in the room. • character: SONIA age: 32 look: Business casual, jaw tight, tired eyes, clutching a resignation letter, emotionally guarded but alert. dramatic_arc: Enters as a resigning employee giving standard corporate answers, then shifts into confrontation and finally into resolve when she realizes the interview is a loyalty test. • character: MIRA age: 60 look: Elegant sari, composed, powerful, hands folded, calm authority, almost motionless presence. dramatic_arc: Appears unreadable and possibly complicit, then reveals strategic awareness and control. She moves from silent observer to a quiet architect of the test.
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 glass-walled office cabin at night with half-closed blinds that partially obscure the outside office. The room should feel polished, corporate, and sterile, but with a pressure-cooker intimacy. The interview table sits under a hard desk lamp that creates a tight circle of light, isolating the women from the rest of the cabin. Cold LED overheads flatten the space, while the blinds cast horizontal shadow bands across faces and walls. The office file, laptop, water glass, and ID card should sit within a clean, minimal tabletop composition. Surfaces should be reflective enough to catch light but not so glossy that they feel luxurious; the texture should suggest controlled corporate power. The glass walls must remain visible throughout to reinforce exposure, surveillance, and the illusion of transparency.

2. COSTUME & WARDROBE CONTINUITY:

• **character:** PRIYA | **costume:** Formal office wear with a sharp, disciplined silhouette; colors should stay within muted corporate tones. | **continuity_notes:** Wardrobe must remain immaculate and aligned with her precise file-handling behavior; no visible looseness or disarray.

• **character:** SONIA | **costume:** Business casual attire suitable for an employee attending an exit interview; practical, understated, and slightly worn by stress. | **continuity_notes:** She enters clutching the resignation letter; her clothing should support a tired but determined emotional state.

• **character:** MIRA | **costume:** Elegant sari with a powerful, composed presence; refined and authoritative without appearing flashy. | **continuity_notes:** Her look should remain controlled and unshaken throughout, reinforcing her unreadable power.

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

• **prop:** OFFICE FILE | **details:** Neatly stacked, handled with precision by Priya; contains the interview paperwork and later the ID card.

• **prop:** RESIGNATION LETTER | **details:** Held by Sonia in her lap, later opened by Priya; contains the line about Neelam that triggers the confrontation.

• **prop:** NEELAM'S ID CARD | **details:** Pulled from the office file by Priya and placed on the table; must be clearly identifiable as Neelam's.

• **prop:** LAPTOP | **details:** Turned toward Sonia to reveal the folder named NEELAM / AUDIT / LIVE.

• **prop:** GLASS WATER BOTTLE | **details:** Used by Mira to pour water into a glass without drinking; a subtle power gesture.

• **prop:** GLASS | **details:** Placed near the water bottle; part of the sterile, controlled table arrangement.

4. PRACTICAL SFX & MAKEUP (MUA):

Keep makeup natural and office-realistic, with subtle under-eye fatigue on Sonia to reflect emotional exhaustion. Priya should appear polished, controlled, and nearly makeup-neutral, with skin that reads calm under cold LEDs. Mira should look refined and age-appropriate, with elegant restraint. Add slight sweat sheen only if needed to intensify the pressure-cooker atmosphere, especially on Sonia as the scene escalates. Lighting should react to skin texture realistically: cold LEDs flatten, while the desk lamp should carve harder facial contrast and emphasize tension lines, lips tightening, and eye flickers.

ACTOR MASTERCLASS & HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: ACTORS & CASTING DIRECTOR

STANISLAVSKI SUBTEXT & CHARACTER DRIVERS:

- **character:** PRIYA | **super_objective:** To control the conversation until the truth reveals itself on her terms. | **subtext:** I already know more than I'm saying, and your reaction will tell me whether you're a threat or an ally.
- **character:** SONIA | **super_objective:** To expose the truth about Neelam and survive the corporate machinery without becoming its victim. | **subtext:** I am not here to leave quietly; I am here to force the room to reveal what it is hiding.
- **character:** MIRA | **super_objective:** To test loyalty and determine who can be trusted in the face of a board-level threat. | **subtext:** I am calm because I am in control, and your honesty will decide whether you remain useful.

CANONICAL HINGLISH AUDITION SIDES (CLIMACTIC SCENE):

PRIYA*(softly)*

"Main un cheezon ka hissa nahi ban sakti jo Neelam ke saath hua."

SONIA*(leans in)*

"Aapko yaad nahi?"

SONIA

"Neelam. Junior analyst. Eight months ago. Terrace. Late night review. 'Accident.'"

SONIA*(laughs, bitter)*

"Uski body nikli thi, Mira ji. Incident nahi hota."

SONIA

"Main dekhna chahti thi kaun jhooth bolega."



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

Use restrained, intimate framing with a psychological-thriller grammar: locked-off medium shots for corporate politeness, slow push-ins as the truth tightens, and close-ups that isolate eyes, hands, and the resignation letter. Favor longer lenses to compress the glass cabin and make the women feel trapped together. Camera movement should be minimal and deliberate, only becoming more invasive as the scene escalates. The visual philosophy is to let stillness become suspense.

2. 3-TIER LIGHTING SCHEMATIC:

Tier 1: Cold LED overheads establish the sterile corporate environment and flatten the room into a procedural space. Tier 2: A hard desk lamp creates a focused interrogation circle on the interview table, carving faces into light and shadow. Tier 3: As the scene intensifies, maintain the same practical sources but deepen contrast through negative fill and tighter facial isolation, making the blinds and glass feel more oppressive with each reveal.

3. SOUND DESIGN & FOLEY ATMOSPHERE:

Build a quiet office-night soundscape: low HVAC hum, faint distant keyboard clicks, muted elevator or corridor ambience, and the subtle creak of chair movement. Foley should emphasize paper handling, the crisp fold of the resignation letter, the tick of a pen, the slide of the laptop, and the soft pour of water. The room tone should feel airless and controlled, with silence used as a pressure device after each reveal.

4. COLOR GRADING LUT & PALETTE:

Use a cold, desaturated LUT with blue-gray corporate tones and restrained skin warmth. Keep highlights slightly hard and metallic under the LEDs, while the desk lamp introduces a warmer but still severe amber contrast. The palette should favor glassy whites, steel blues, muted charcoal, and a faint sickly green-cyan office cast to heighten unease.



DEPARTMENT HANDOUT: PRODUCER & LINE MANAGEMENT

TIME	ACTIVITY / SCENE BLOCK	KEY DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED
08:00 - 09:00	Set dressing, glass reflections control, table layout, prop placement	Art, Props, Camera
09:00 - 10:00	Block actors and rehearse dialogue beats with chair positions and eyelines	Director, Cast, AD
10:00 - 11:00	Rig cold LED overheads and desk lamp practical, test shadow bands through blinds	Camera, Gaffer, Grip
11:00 - 12:30	Shoot wide master and medium coverage for opening corporate routine	Camera, Sound, Cast
12:30 - 14:00	Shoot confrontation close-ups, letter reveal, ID card insert, laptop reveal	Camera, Art, Props
14:00 - 15:00	Shoot final tension beat, tear of letter, final line, cut to black setup	Camera, Cast, Sound

LOCATION HACK & BUDGET SAVING TIPS:

- Use a real glass office cabin or conference room to avoid expensive set construction.
- Create the oppressive look with practical blinds, one desk lamp, and controlled overheads instead of heavy lighting packages.
- Keep the cast blocking tight so the room feels smaller without adding set pieces.
- Use a single laptop screen insert and one printed ID card hero prop for all reveals.
- Shoot with minimal coverage: one master, a few close-ups, and insert shots for the letter, ID card, and laptop folder.
- Rely on performance and sound design for tension rather than expensive production design changes.
- Add negative fill with black cloth or flags to deepen shadows cheaply.
- **Mandatory Licensing:** Completely free for student/commercial production with on-screen credit: 'Story & Screenplay by Story Dil Se (storydilse.in)'.

