

# PHASE 4: CONFRONTATIONS

This phase works differently.

You don't read all interviews automatically. Instead:

1. **Decide who you want to confront**
2. **Tell your moderator** what evidence you have against them
3. **If you have enough evidence**, moderator will unlock the interview

## Available Confrontations

#	File	Person	What You Need
43	43_balu_mane_clarity.md	Aarav (clarity)	3+ interviews implicating killers
44	44_kashinath_lohar_breaks.md	Dinesh (breakdown)	Aarav's testimony + waste burning hints
45	45_natha_shinde_confronted.md	Prakash (confession)	Aarav's ID + Dinesh's confession + scratch marks
46	46_bhau_patil_confronted.md	Madhav (confession)	Multiple witnesses + survey report
47	47_dhondiba_confronted.md	Raghoba (confession)	Kisan's testimony + Haribhau's testimony
48	48_kamalabai_confronted.md	Vasundhara (confrontation)	Raghoba's confession + Gadkari's testimony + deed

## Resolution Interviews

After solving both conspiracies:

#	File	Person	Purpose
49	49_ganesh_jagtap_resolution.md	Nilesh Raut	

#	File	Person	Purpose
			Learns truth about father
50	50_anna_patil_resolution.md	Devrao Gokhale	Learns truth about brother

## How to Win

You have fully solved the mystery when you can answer:

**Timeline 1 (Twins, 15 years ago):** - Who ordered the killing? - Who carried it out? - Why?

**Timeline 2-3 (Recent deaths):** - Who is the primary killer? - Who helped them? - Why did the children have to die?

**The Final Revelation:** - How are the two conspiracies connected? - Who created the curse legend, and why?

## INTERVIEW #43

**Person:** Aarav More (Final Interview) **Age:** 8 **Role:** T3 survivor - clear testimony  
**Location:** Sarla's home, safe space **Interviewer:** Leena (with Sarla present) **Phase:** 4

## UNLOCK CONDITION

Players must have gathered evidence from at least 3 interviews implicating Madhav Gokhale AND must request to speak with Aarav again specifically.

## INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

*Aarav sits with Sarla, holding her hand. His trauma has been addressed through gentle care over the past weeks. Leena has toys and paper for him to draw on if needed. His voice is steadier now.*

**LEENA:** Aarav, you've been very brave. We're close to finding the people who hurt Gauri. But I need you to tell me one more time what you saw. Very clearly. Can you do that?

**AARAV:** (nods, squeezes Sarla's hand) I remember now. The nightmares showed me. But now I know they weren't nightmares. They were memories.

**LEENA:** Good. Start from when you and Gauri went to the lake.

**AARAV:** Gauri wanted to see the fires. She saw them before, from far away. Said they smelled wrong. Said something bad was happening. I said don't go. But she was always... she wanted to know things.

**LEENA:** What happened when you got there?

**AARAV:** We hid in the bushes. Near the old pit. The one nobody uses. There was a truck. Men were taking things out. Bags. Heavy bags. They threw them in the fire. The fire was big. Too hot. It made my eyes hurt even from far away.

**LEENA:** Did you recognize any of the men?

**AARAV:** One was... big. Tall. He was telling others what to do. I didn't know his name then. But I saw him later. In village. When Aai was talking to the policeman. He was standing behind. Watching. Smiling.

**LEENA:** Can you describe him more?

**AARAV:** Light colored shirt. Gold ring on finger. Mustache. He walked like... like he owned everything. Like everyone had to listen to him.

**LEENA:** (shows photograph) Is this him?

**AARAV:** (pulls back slightly) Yes. That's him. The tall one. The one who told the other man to catch us.

**LEENA:** There was another man?

**AARAV:** Quiet one. Thin. He ran faster than the tall one. He caught Gauri first. She was slower because she stopped to pick up something. A paper. From the ground near the truck.

**LEENA:** What happened then?

**AARAV:** (voice shaking) The quiet one grabbed her. She screamed. The tall one came. He said... he said "You should have stayed home." Then he looked at me. I was hiding in the bush. He pointed. Said "Get the other one too."

**LEENA:** But you escaped.

**AARAV:** I ran. Gauri yelled "Run Aarav!" and I ran. Through the trees. I knew the paths. They were big. They couldn't fit through small spaces. I heard Gauri screaming behind me. Then... then I heard water. Splashing. And she stopped screaming.

**LEENA:** (gently) You did the right thing running. You couldn't have saved her.

**AARAV:** (crying) I left her. I left my sister.

**SARLA:** (holding him) You survived. That's what she wanted. She told you to run.

**AARAV:** (after a moment, wiping eyes) The paper. The paper Gauri picked up. I saw it. Before the man grabbed her. It had red writing. Hospital name. From Sangli. I remember because my friend's father went to that hospital when he was sick.

**LEENA:** Sangli Civil Hospital?

**AARAV:** Yes. That one. The bag was open. Papers and other things were falling out. That's why Gauri picked one up. She wanted proof. She always wanted proof.

**LEENA:** (shows another photograph) The quiet man who grabbed Gauri. Is this him?

**AARAV:** (nods immediately) That's him. He had red dust on his clothes. Like from kiln. His hands were rough. When he grabbed Gauri, she scratched him. On the face. He was bleeding.

**LEENA:** You're being very helpful, Aarav. One more question. What happened after you ran home?

**AARAV:** I hid. Under bed. All night. When Aai found me in the morning, I couldn't talk. Everything was stuck inside. Like the words were too scared to come out.

**LEENA:** But they're coming out now.

**AARAV:** Because you asked. And because... because Gauri deserves. She was brave. She tried to get proof. She died trying to show the truth. Someone has to say it. Even if it's scary.

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## INTERVIEW #44

**Person:** Dinesh Pote (Breakdown) **Age:** 42 **Role:** Night watchman who witnessed operations **Location:** Police chowki, formal interview **Interviewer:** Arjun **Phase:** 4

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## UNLOCK CONDITION

Players must confront Dinesh with specific evidence from Aarav's testimony AND from Rukmini Lokhande's hints about medical waste.

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## INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

*Dinesh is brought to the police station for formal questioning. He's shaking. The "ghost" story isn't working anymore. Arjun has photographs and documents spread on the table.*

**ARJUN:** The ghosts you saw. Two white shapes near the water. One of them is alive. He's eight years old. He remembers everything.

**DINESH:** (face drains) The boy...

**ARJUN:** Aarav More. He identified the men. He described the fires. The bags. The truck. (pause) He described what happened to his sister.

**DINESH:** I didn't... I wasn't...

**ARJUN:** You weren't what? There? You just told me in your first interview that you saw shapes near the water that night. You said one disappeared. Then another. Then darkness.

**DINESH:** I thought... I said I thought they were ghosts...

**ARJUN:** You didn't think they were ghosts. You knew exactly what they were. You watched a child being killed and you did nothing.

**DINESH:** (breaks down) I couldn't! I couldn't do anything! Madhav-saheb... if I said anything... if I even looked wrong...

**ARJUN:** So you watched.

**DINESH:** (sobbing) I heard her scream. The girl. And then... then I heard the water. Splashing. I turned away. I went back to the kiln. I told myself I saw nothing. I saw ghosts. Just ghosts.

**ARJUN:** You've been seeing ghosts for years, haven't you? Every time those trucks came. Every time the fires burned. Every time you smelled that chemical smoke.

**DINESH:** (nods miserably) They told me - Madhav-saheb told me - the trucks are not your business. What burns is not your business. You watch the kilns. That's all. That's all you do.

**ARJUN:** How often did the trucks come?

**DINESH:** (gives up) Two, three times a month. Sometimes more. Always late night. Always from Sangli side. Hospital waste. Factory waste. Things they couldn't dispose legally. Madhav-saheb had arrangement. They paid him. He burned it. Everyone looked away.

**ARJUN:** The burning location?

**DINESH:** Old pit. Near the lake. Used to be for surplus brick firing years ago. Now it's just for... for the other burning. The ash goes into the lake. By morning, nothing is left. Just water and smoke.

**ARJUN:** And when children came?

**DINESH:** (voice hollow) It happened before. The Karande children. Eight years ago. I was still new then. Didn't understand. But I saw men chase them. Saw them drag them toward the lake. Heard them scream. Then nothing. Next morning, police came. Suicide, they said. And I knew. I knew it wasn't suicide. But I said nothing.

**ARJUN:** Twice. You watched children die twice.

**DINESH:** (wailing) I have daughters! I have family! If I spoke, they would kill me! They would kill my children! Madhav-saheb made that clear. He said - one word, one question, and your girls swim in that lake too. What was I supposed to do?

**ARJUN:** You were supposed to be human.

**DINESH:** (collapses on table) I know. I know. I'm not human. I'm dog. I watch. I obey. I stay alive. That's all I am. (looks up) Take my testimony. Write everything. I'll tell you dates, times, trucks. Everything I remember. Let me... let me at least die with some of the truth spoken.

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## INTERVIEW #45

**Person:** Prakash Kore (Confrontation) **Age:** 38 **Role:** Madhav's accomplice - T3 killer **Location:** Police station, interrogation room **Interviewer:** Arjun **Phase:** 4

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## UNLOCK CONDITION

Players must have Aarav's testimony (#43), Dinesh's confession (#44), AND evidence of scratch marks on Prakash's face/arms.

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## INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

*Prakash is brought in handcuffs. He's been avoiding eye contact since the arrest. His shirt sleeve is pushed up, revealing old scratch marks - now scars - on his forearm.*

**ARJUN:** The scratches. From Gauri More. Four months ago. They've healed but they haven't disappeared.

**PRAKASH:** (says nothing)

**ARJUN:** Her brother remembers. You grabbed her from behind. She fought. She scratched your face and arm. The boy says you were bleeding.

**PRAKASH:** (still silent)

**ARJUN:** Your wife told us you came home with wet clothes that night. That you haven't slept well since. That you said "They were children. They were just children."

**PRAKASH:** (flinches)

**ARJUN:** Dinesh watched from the kiln. He's given us everything. Times. Dates. Where the bodies went. What Madhav said to you afterward.

**PRAKASH:** (finally speaks) It wasn't supposed to happen.

**ARJUN:** What wasn't supposed to happen?

**PRAKASH:** (words tumbling out) The children. They weren't supposed to be there. No one was supposed to be there. It was routine. Just burning. Just ash. Then Madhav saw them. Hiding in the bushes. He said "Those kids saw everything." I said let them go. They're children. Who will believe them? But Madhav...

**ARJUN:** What did Madhav do?

**PRAKASH:** He grabbed the girl. Said witnesses are witnesses, doesn't matter the age. Said we finish this now or we all go to jail. I said please, let's just scare them. Make them promise to stay quiet. But he... he put her in the water. Held her down. Made me hold her legs. She was thrashing. Fighting. Scratching. And then she stopped.

**ARJUN:** You held her legs while she drowned.

**PRAKASH:** (crying) I told him no. Over and over. I said this is too much. This is murder. But he's Madhav-saheb. I work for him. My father worked for his father. My whole family owes them. I couldn't... I couldn't refuse him. Not even for that.

**ARJUN:** The boy escaped.

**PRAKASH:** I let him. I saw him running and I... I didn't chase fast enough. On purpose. I couldn't. Not two. I couldn't do it to two. The girl was already... already gone. I couldn't stop what happened. But the boy... I pretended I couldn't catch him.

**ARJUN:** You let him escape but you didn't let him see you stop chasing.

**PRAKASH:** If Madhav knew I let him go... he would have killed me. Killed my family. He said later the boy ran too fast. I said yes. Too fast. Didn't tell him I slowed down. Didn't tell him I fell on purpose in the dark.

**ARJUN:** The Karande children. Eight years ago. Were you involved in those?

**PRAKASH:** (shakes head) I was young then. Working at the kiln but not... not in the night business. That was Madhav and his own people. I only got involved later. When the waste burning started. They needed someone to drive trucks. I needed money. My father was sick. I thought it was just garbage. Just illegal burning. I didn't know about...

**ARJUN:** But you knew after. You knew about the Karande children after.

**PRAKASH:** (nods) Everyone who works close to Madhav knows. You don't talk about it. You don't ask about it. But you know. The lake is... the lake has many secrets. Many bodies. Not just children.

**ARJUN:** What do you mean?

**PRAKASH:** People who asked questions. People who saw too much. Over the years. Nimkar the clerk. His wife. Old man who complained about the smoke. All "accidents." All "natural." All in or near that lake. Madhav has been solving problems that way for years.

**ARJUN:** You'll testify to all of this?

**PRAKASH:** (looks up, hollow) What choice do I have? I'm already dead. When Madhav finds out I talked... even in jail... he has reach. But at least... at least I can say it. Say what I did. Let them judge me. Let the girl's family know... I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I should have died instead of letting him... instead of helping him...

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## INTERVIEW #46

**Person:** Madhav Gokhale

**Age:** 52 **Role:** Kiln operator - Timeline 2 and 3 killer **Location:** Police chowki, Talegaon (in custody) **Interviewer:** Arjun and Leena **Phase:** 4

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## UNLOCK CONDITION

After Sunita's testimony (Interview 39), Dinesh's confirmation (Interview 44), and Prakash's confession (Interview 45)

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## PRE-INTERVIEW NOTES

Prakash Kore has confessed and implicated Madhav. Physical evidence of waste burning has been found at the lake. Sunita's testimony about the overheard conversation is documented. Madhav has been brought in for questioning. He knows it's over but may still try to deflect.

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## INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

**ARJUN:** Madhav Gokhale. We have Prakash's statement. We have witness testimony. We have physical evidence from the lake. This is your opportunity to tell your side.

**MADHAV:** (calm, but eyes are hard) What has Prakash said?

**ARJUN:** Everything. The waste-burning operation. The children who saw you. What you did to them.

**MADHAV:** (silence)

**LEENA:** Four children, Madhav-saheb. Four children you killed. Neelam and Omkar Karande. Gauri More. You tried to kill Aarav too, but he escaped.

**MADHAV:** (still silent)

**ARJUN:** The Karande children found something, didn't they? A report. An old survey report documenting illegal talbed encroachment. Your name was in it. Or your operation's name. They started asking questions.



**MADHAV:** (slight twitch)

**LEENA:** Teacher Shaila Jore remembers. He told us - those children were asking about earthmover trucks. About why trucks came at night. About whose names were in the old papers they found.

**MADHAV:** (quietly) Children should not ask such questions.

**ARJUN:** Is that a confession?

**MADHAV:** (looks up, something shifts in his expression) Confession? You want confession? Fine. Yes. I killed them. All four. The Karande children eight years ago. The More girl four months ago. The boy was supposed to die too, but he ran into the mist. I let him go. Mistake. I should have searched harder.

**LEENA:** Why? They were children.

**MADHAV:** (leans forward) They saw things. The Karande children found that damn report. Raghav Nimkar wrote it before he died. We thought it was destroyed. But somehow it survived. Somehow those children found it in the old survey office. They didn't understand what it was, but they were talking about it. To the teacher. To other children. It was only matter of time before someone who understood saw it.

**ARJUN:** And the More children?

**MADHAV:** They saw us. Me and Prakash. At the lake. We were burning... material. They were wandering in the dark like idiots. They saw the truck. They saw us. The girl recognized me. She said my name. "Madhav-kaka, what are you doing?" What was I supposed to do? Let her go home and tell her father?

**LEENA:** So you drowned her. A twelve-year-old girl who knew your name. Who trusted you.

**MADHAV:** (no remorse visible) I did what was necessary. The operation feeds fifty families. Do you understand? The kiln, the talbed encroachment, the waste burning - it all connects. If one part falls, everything falls. Workers lose jobs. Families starve. I am not a monster. I am a businessman protecting my business.

**ARJUN:** By killing children.

**MADHAV:** (shrugs) They were in the wrong place. They saw the wrong things. I didn't choose for them to die. They chose it by not minding their own business.

**LEENA:** The curse. You used the curse as cover.

**MADHAV:** (slight smile) The curse already existed. I didn't create it. Those twins - the original ones, fifteen years ago - I had nothing to do with that. But when the Karande children... when I had to deal with them... I remembered. Everyone believed in the curse. The lake, the twins, the drowning. So I made it look the same. And it worked. No investigation. Everyone just accepted it.

**ARJUN:** So you copied someone else's crime.

**MADHAV:** (frowns) What do you mean?

**ARJUN:** The original twins. Ira and Asha. Someone killed them too. It wasn't an accident. Someone drowned them deliberately and invented the curse story to cover it up. You just borrowed their playbook.

**MADHAV:** (genuinely surprised) What? Someone killed those girls? Who?

**ARJUN:** That's not your concern. What matters is - you saw a pattern that worked, and you used it. Twice. Four children died because you decided the curse was good camouflage for murder.

**MADHAV:** (processing) So the curse was never real? Someone made it up? And I... I just continued it?

**LEENA:** There are no ghosts, Madhav-saheb. There never were. Just people killing children and blaming spirits.

**MADHAV:** (laughs bitterly) All these years. All these years people have been terrified. Praying at the temple. Avoiding the lake. And it was just... people? Just people like me?

**ARJUN:** What about the talbed encroachment operation? Who else is involved?

**MADHAV:** (closes off) I have said enough. You wanted confession for the children. You have it. The rest is business. I will not destroy others to save myself.

**ARJUN:** Prakash already named Ajit Sawant. The earthmover contractor.

**MADHAV:** (flickers) Prakash talks too much. Always has.

**LEENA:** Four children are dead because of your "business." This is not about protecting others. This is about justice.

**MADHAV:** (cold) Justice? Doctor-bai, you are from Vasti. You know how the world works. The big people do what they want. The small people suffer. I became a big person so I wouldn't have to suffer anymore. Yes, I killed those children. Yes, I would do it again if my operation was threatened. That is the truth you wanted. Now do what you will do.

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## INTERVIEW #47

**Person:** Raghoba **Age:** 70 **Role:** Old servant, Zamindar household **Location:** Servants' quarters, Wada **Interviewer:** Arjun and Leena **Phase:** 4

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## UNLOCK CONDITION

After Haribhau's testimony (Interview 28) and Kisan's observations (Interview 27) confirmed. After establishing the deed rumor through Kalyani (Interview 33), Sarla (Interview 34), and land records.

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# PRE-INTERVIEW NOTES

The investigators have gathered circumstantial evidence pointing to Timeline 1 being a separate crime. They know: - Zamindar had affair with Kalyani - The twins were his illegitimate children - A hidden deed listed the twins as beneficiaries - Raghoba came back wet the night twins died - Vasundhara paid him the next morning - He has nightmares, calls out the girls' names

This is a confrontation interview. The goal is confession.

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## INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

**ARJUN:** Raghoba, we need to talk.

**RAGHOB:** (looks up, sees both investigators, face goes pale) Saheb... Doctor-bai... what is this?

**LEENA:** We know, Raghoba-kaka. We know what happened fifteen years ago.

**RAGHOB:** (trembling) I don't... I don't understand...

**ARJUN:** I have spoken to Haribhau. To Kisan. To Kalyani. To my own grandmother's maid from that time. I know what you did.

**RAGHOB:** (breathing becomes rapid) Saheb, please...

**ARJUN:** You came back wet that night. The night Ira and Asha drowned. Haribhau saw you. He has carried that memory for fifteen years.

**RAGHOB:** (starts shaking) I...

**LEENA:** The next morning, Vasundhara-bai paid you. More money than you had ever seen. Kisan found the old notes hidden in your trunk years later. He didn't understand then. He does now.

**RAGHOB:** (tears forming) Please... please stop...

**ARJUN:** You call out their names at night. Ira. Asha. You have nightmares. You have had them for fifteen years. Why would a servant have nightmares about children who drowned in an accident?

**RAGHOB:** (breaks down, covers face) Saheb... I...

**LEENA:** Tell us what happened. All of it.

**RAGHOB:** (sobbing) For fifteen years... for fifteen years I have carried this... I have not slept one full night... I see their faces every time I close my eyes...

**ARJUN:** Tell us.

**RAGHOBHA:** (wailing) Madam called me. Few days before. She said... she said the master's shame must be erased. She said those children were proof of his sin. She said if they lived, the family name would be destroyed and the deed would surface. Everyone would know the master had children with... with a kiln worker's wife.

**LEENA:** Kalyani.

**RAGHOBHA:** (nods, still crying) Madam hated her. Not just because of the affair. Because of that deed. Because... because master loved those children. He couldn't claim them, but he loved them. He would watch them from distance when they played. His eyes would soften. Madam saw this. She couldn't bear it.

**ARJUN:** So she told you to kill them.

**RAGHOBHA:** (anguished) She said take them to the lake. She said make it look like accident. Monsoon was coming. Flash floods happen. Children drown. No one would question. She gave me money. So much money. I am poor man, saheb. I have been servant all my life. I never saw so much money.

**LEENA:** And you did it.

**RAGHOBHA:** (nodding, destroyed) They trusted me. They called me Raghoba-kaka. When I came to their house, they were happy. They held my hands. They walked with me to the lake. Laughing. Playing. They didn't know. They didn't know I was taking them to die.

**ARJUN:** How did you do it?

**RAGHOBHA:** (voice barely audible) At the lake... I told them to wade in. To look for fish. The water was low, just up to their knees. Then I... I held them. Ira first. I held her head under. She struggled. She was strong for such small girl. But I was stronger.

**LEENA:** And Asha?

**RAGHOBHA:** (screaming cry) Asha saw. She saw what I did to her sister. She tried to run. I caught her. Her eyes... her eyes were looking at me... asking why... I held her under too. She stopped struggling faster. Maybe because she had already seen her sister die. Maybe she just... gave up.

**ARJUN:** Then what?

**RAGHOBHA:** I left them there. In the water. I walked back to Wada. My clothes were wet. I was shaking. I couldn't stop shaking. Next morning, someone found the bodies. The whole village was crying. Kalyani went mad with grief. She stopped speaking. She has not spoken since that day.

**LEENA:** And Vasundhara?

**RAGHOBHA:** She paid me. She thanked me. She said I had saved the family's honor. She started the rumors about the curse. She told other servants to whisper about it. "The lake is cursed now. Twin spirits live there." Within weeks, everyone believed.

**ARJUN:** Did Gadkari Saheb know?

**RAGHOBHA:** (shakes head) No. He loved those children. He could not claim them, but he loved them. When he heard they died, he locked himself in his room for three days. He cried like I have never seen a man cry. He still doesn't know. He thinks it was accident. He thinks the curse is real because later... later more children died the same way.

**LEENA:** Those other children - the Karande siblings, the More children - that wasn't you?

**RAGHOBHA:** (confused) No. I swear on my life. I killed only... only the twins. Only those two. I don't know who killed the others. When I heard about them, I thought... maybe the curse is real. Maybe God is punishing the village for what I did. Maybe I created something evil that night.

**ARJUN:** You didn't create it. Someone else used the story you and Vasundhara created. Someone else copied your crime.

**RAGHOBHA:** (stares) What?

**LEENA:** The same pattern. Children, siblings, lake, drowning. Someone saw it worked - no investigation, everyone believes in curse - and they used it too.

**RAGHOBHA:** (horrified) Because of me... because of what I did... other children died?

**ARJUN:** Not because of you. Because of whoever killed them. But you gave them the cover story.

**RAGHOBHA:** (collapses, sobbing) I am cursed. I am the curse. Fifteen years of hiding, and it only made more death. God is punishing me. Let him punish me. I am ready. I have been ready for fifteen years.

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## INTERVIEW #48

**Person:** Vasundhara (Final Confrontation) **Age:** 65 **Role:** Zamindar's wife - T1 mastermind **Location:** Wada drawing room, formal arrest **Interviewer:** Arjun **Phase:** 4

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## UNLOCK CONDITION

Players must have: Raghoba's confession (#47), Gadkari Saheb's testimony (#41), Kalyani's testimony (#33), AND evidence of the cancelled trust deed.

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# INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

*Vasundhara sits rigid in her chair. Outside, there are police vehicles. Gadkari Saheb has already been taken to hospital - the stress of confession weakened his heart. Raghoba is in custody. She knows the walls have finally fallen.*

**ARJUN:** Raghoba has confessed. To everything. The drowning. The orders. The cleanup afterward.

**VASUNDHARA:** (steady voice) Servants will say anything under pressure. It means nothing.

**ARJUN:** Your husband has given testimony. He remembers the night you fought about the trust deed. The timing.

**VASUNDHARA:** My husband's mind is failing. He confuses dreams with reality.

**ARJUN:** The talathi has produced records. The deed that was cancelled two days after the twins died. The deed that named them as beneficiaries to Gadkari land.

**VASUNDHARA:** (slight pause) Administrative matters. Nothing to do with me.

**ARJUN:** Kalyani remembers hearing Raghoba say "It's done" outside her hut that night. She was drugged but she woke briefly. She heard everything.

**VASUNDHARA:** (finally, a crack in the mask) That woman. After everything I did for her. The money. The protection. Keeping her shame hidden.

**ARJUN:** Her shame? Those were your husband's children. His daughters.

**VASUNDHARA:** (stands, walks to window) You don't understand. You can't understand. What it's like to be the legitimate wife. To have given everything - youth, status, family name - to a man who then goes to... to a servant. To produce children with her. Healthy children. When my own son was born weak, sickly, wrong.

**ARJUN:** So you killed them. Because they were healthy. Because they might inherit.

**VASUNDHARA:** (turns, face hard) I protected what was mine. What I had earned. Thirty years in this house. Managing everything while he drank and gambled and chased village women. I built this family's position. I made this Wada respected again. And then he wanted to give it to bastards? To the children of a kitchen girl?

**ARJUN:** They were eight years old.

**VASUNDHARA:** (dismissive) They would have grown. They would have made claims. Lawyers would have come. Courts would have decided. My son - weak as he is - would have been pushed aside. I could not allow that.

**ARJUN:** So you had Raghoba drown them.

**VASUNDHARA:** (sits again, composed) I told him the children had to go. He understood. He has always understood what is necessary. He did what he did without my watching. I did not see it happen. I did not touch them. I simply... solved a problem.

**ARJUN:** You created the curse story. The ghost legend.

**VASUNDHARA:** (slight smile) People need explanations. Ghosts are easier than truth. When the village started talking about curses and spirits, I encouraged it. Temple donations. Puja ceremonies. Fear is a useful tool.

**ARJUN:** But other people used that tool too. After you. Four more children died because the curse story was so believable.

**VASUNDHARA:** (shrugs) That is not my concern. I dealt with my problem. What others did afterward... I had no part in it.

**ARJUN:** You knew about the kiln murders. About Madhav Gokhale.

**VASUNDHARA:** (calculating) I suspected. Everyone with eyes suspected. But his problems and mine are separate. We never collaborated. We simply... benefited from the same explanation.

**ARJUN:** You're being arrested for conspiracy to commit murder. Two counts. For Ira and Asha.

**VASUNDHARA:** (stands with dignity) I understand. (pause) May I request one thing? Allow me to dress appropriately. I will not be taken from my Wada looking like a common criminal. I have standards to maintain.

**ARJUN:** You have five minutes. Under guard.

**VASUNDHARA:** (walks toward door, stops) You think you have won, officer. You think justice is being served. But this Wada has stood for three hundred years. It has survived British, droughts, famines, politicians. It will survive this too. And my name... my name will be on its walls long after yours is forgotten.

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## INTERVIEW #49

**Person:** Nilesh Raut (Resolution) **Age:** 32 **Role:** Inherited kiln, was unknowingly paying guilt money **Location:** His home, Bhatti area **Interviewer:** Leena **Phase:** 4

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## UNLOCK CONDITION

Available after both T1 and T2-T3 conspiracies are solved. Players request specifically to update Nilesh on the truth.

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# INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

*Nilesh sits in his small home. He's heard the news - Madhav arrested, Prakash arrested, the whole operation exposed. He looks like a man who has been carrying weight for years and is finally setting it down.*

**LEENA:** The police have made arrests. I thought you should hear the truth about what your father knew.

**NILESH:** My father... he knew?

**LEENA:** Not about the murders. Not directly. But he knew something was wrong. That's why he started the payments. The "charity" to the victim families.

**NILESH:** (quiet) I always wondered. He never explained. Just said it was good karma. But the amounts... the specific families... it never felt like random charity.

**LEENA:** Your father was a good man who got too close to bad people. When the Karande children died eight years ago, he saw something. Enough to understand it wasn't suicide. But he was afraid to speak.

**NILESH:** So he paid instead.

**LEENA:** He tried to make amends in the only way he could. Quietly. Safely. The money went to families who had lost children. To Kalyani, the mother of the first twins. To the Karanades. To the Mores recently, through the postmaster.

**NILESH:** (tears forming) He never told me. He just said... continue the payments. Take care of these families. I thought it was some old debt. Some honor thing.

**LEENA:** It was honor. Just not the kind you imagined.

**NILESH:** And Madhav? I worked beside him for years. Shared meals. Laughed at his jokes. He was killing children all that time?

**LEENA:** The Karande children, yes. And the More children, four months ago. Your father's conscience started paying the families immediately after the Karandes died. He knew Madhav was responsible. He just couldn't prove it.

**NILESH:** (head in hands) I should have asked. I should have pushed. All these years I just... followed orders. Did what I was told. Didn't question.

**LEENA:** You're not responsible for what Madhav did. Or for what your father knew.

**NILESH:** But I continued the payments. Without asking why. That makes me... what? Complicit? Part of the cover-up?

**LEENA:** It makes you human. You trusted your father. You followed tradition. That's not a crime.

**NILESH:** (looks up) What happens now? To the kiln? To the families?



**LEENA:** The kiln operation - the legal part - will likely continue under your brother Devrao. He wasn't involved in the crimes. The waste burning, the illegal disposal - that's over. The families who received payments... that's your choice now.

**NILESH:** (thinks) I'll continue. Not as guilt money. As... as acknowledgment. Those children deserved to live. Those families deserved justice. This is the least I can do.

**LEENA:** There's something else you should know. The first twins - Ira and Asha - they were killed by different people. The zamindar's wife. A completely separate conspiracy. Madhav didn't kill them.

**NILESH:** (confused) Two killers? Two separate...?

**LEENA:** Both used the same ghost story as cover. But they never worked together. They didn't even know about each other.

**NILESH:** (bitter laugh) This place. This cursed place. Not one murderer but two. Not one conspiracy but two. And everyone just... lived with it. For fifteen years.

**LEENA:** The silence is breaking now. That's what matters.

**NILESH:** (nods slowly) My father would be glad. He couldn't speak in life. But maybe... maybe his money spoke for him. Maybe that's why I'm here, learning the truth, instead of in handcuffs like Madhav.

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## INTERVIEW #50

**Person:** Devrao Gokhale (Resolution) **Age:** 58 **Role:** Kiln head, elder brother - innocent of murders **Location:** Gokhale family home **Interviewer:** Arjun **Phase:** 4

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## UNLOCK CONDITION

Available after all other Phase 4 interviews. Players request specifically to inform Devrao of the truth.

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## INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

*Devrao sits alone in his family home. His wife and children have gone to relatives. Madhav has been arrested. The family name is destroyed. He looks ten years older than when Arjun first interviewed him.*

**DEVRAO:** You came to tell me what my brother did. I already know. The police were very... thorough... in their explanations.

**ARJUN:** I came because you deserve to understand the full picture. And because your testimony helped us.

**DEVRAO:** My testimony? I told you nothing useful. I was the fool who didn't know his own brother was a murderer.

**ARJUN:** You told us the truth as you knew it. That your family runs an honest business. That the kilns don't burn illegal materials. You believed that because Madhav hid the operation from you.

**DEVRAO:** (bitter) He hid everything. The talbed mining - I thought we bought that land legally. The waste burning - he told me it was crop waste, helping farmers dispose safely. I believed him. (pause) I am not smart man, officer. I trust family. That is my weakness.

**ARJUN:** It's not weakness. It's normal.

**DEVRAO:** Normal people's brothers don't drown children.

**ARJUN:** (sits across from him) I need to ask - did you ever suspect?

**DEVRAO:** (long silence) I... noticed things. Small things. Madhav gone at strange hours. Money coming from sources I didn't understand. Workers who were afraid of him in ways they weren't afraid of me. I told myself he was just better at business. More aggressive. More modern. I didn't want to see.

**ARJUN:** When did you start to really wonder?

**DEVRAO:** When you came. When you asked about the lake. About the children. The look on Madhav's face... I'd never seen that look before. Fear. Not the fear of being accused. The fear of being caught.

**ARJUN:** But you didn't say anything.

**DEVRAO:** What was I supposed to say? "I think my brother might be a murderer"? Based on a look? I told myself I was imagining. Old age making me paranoid. (shakes head) I should have listened to my gut. All those children... maybe if I had spoken sooner...

**ARJUN:** The earlier deaths - the Karande children eight years ago - you couldn't have known. You weren't involved in any night operations then.

**DEVRAO:** I knew something was wrong. After those children died, Madhav was different. More careful. More secretive. He started keeping the books himself. Said I didn't need to worry about details. Said he was protecting me.

**ARJUN:** He was. In a way. If you didn't know, you couldn't be prosecuted.

**DEVRAO:** (laughs hollow) Prosecuted. Yes. I am safe from prosecution. My brother kills children and I am safe because I was too stupid to see it. That is my reward for trusting family.

**ARJUN:** The kiln itself - the legitimate business - can continue. You've done nothing criminal.

**DEVRAO:** (looks up) Continue? How? The Gokhale name is finished in this village. People will look at our bricks and think of dead children. No one will buy. No one will work here. Everything our grandfather built... gone. Because of Madhav.

**ARJUN:** Or you rebuild. Under a different name maybe. With distance from what happened.

**DEVRAO:** (considers) My sons... they're young. They could take over. In a few years. When the memory fades. If memory ever fades for something like this.

**ARJUN:** I need to tell you one more thing. The first deaths - the twin girls fifteen years ago - those were not Madhav.

**DEVRAO:** (confused) Not Madhav? But the curse... the same lake...

**ARJUN:** Different killer. The zamindar's wife. She killed her husband's illegitimate children to protect inheritance. The ghost story she created became cover for Madhav's later crimes.

**DEVRAO:** (stares) Two killers. Using the same story. And no one saw.

**ARJUN:** Everyone was looking for one answer. One explanation. The curse narrative was so strong that no one considered there might be separate evils.

**DEVRAO:** (sits back, exhausted) This place. This village. I thought I knew it. Thought I was respected elder, good businessman, honest man. I knew nothing. The ground under my feet was rotten and I didn't even smell it.

**ARJUN:** You're not alone. Most of the village didn't know. Or didn't want to know.

**DEVRAO:** And now? What happens to all of us who didn't want to know?

**ARJUN:** That's for each person to decide. Some will carry guilt. Some will find ways to make amends. Some will pretend nothing happened. That's human nature.

**DEVRAO:** (stands slowly) Thank you. For telling me yourself. For not letting me hear it from whispers and gossip. (extends hand) Whatever happens to this family now, at least we know the truth. All of it. That is something.

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