

GAME MASTER BLUEPRINT

The Last Toast — Cooperative Murder Mystery

For 5 Players | 80 Minutes | Host Required

⚠️ **HOST ONLY — DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO PLAYERS**

This document contains the complete solution, killer identities, and all secrets. Print this for your reference only.

CORE NARRATIVE

The Victim

Arjun Vikram Malhotra (62) — Billionaire industrialist, chairman of Malhotra Industries Ltd. Found dead in his study at the family estate in Alibaug, Maharashtra, on December 14, 2024. Net worth: ₹47,000 Crore (~\$5.6 Billion USD).

The Setting

A lavish engagement party for Arjun and his fiancée Kavya Sharma. 40+ guests in attendance. The body is discovered at 6:15 AM by the housekeeper.

The Murder Method (Two-Stage)

- Stage 1 — Bottle Swap:** Original gift bottle swapped with pre-drugged duplicate
- Stage 2 — Strangulation:** Victim strangled with silk curtain cord while incapacitated

The Killers

Kavya Sharma (34) — Arjun's fiancée. The mastermind. Discovered Arjun's affair with Deepika and learned Deepika was pregnant. Reconnected with ex-boyfriend to execute murder plan. Executed the bottle swap.

Vikash Mehta (32) — Catering coordinator (Silver Spoon Catering). The executor. Entered estate as lead catering staff. Purchased and prepared the drugged bottle. Physically strangled the victim.

SUSPECT ROSTER (23 Total)

Tier 1: Core Suspects (7) — Full Profiles + Evidence

#	Name	Age	Role	Relationship	Motive	At Party
1	Rohit Malhotra	31	Son / COO	Direct heir	Lost ₹23,950 Cr + girlfriend to father	Left 2:10 AM
2	Priya Malhotra	58	Ex-Wife	Former spouse (divorced 2019)	Blocked ₹800 Cr settlement	Left 1:06 AM
3	Kavya Sharma	34	Fiancée	Engaged 6 months	KILLER — Jealousy, inheritance	Stayed overnight

4	Deepika Joshi	29	Executive Assistant	Secret mistress, pregnant	Paternity recognition	Left 1:45 AM
5	Anil Verma	48	CFO	Employee 12 years	₹340 Cr embezzlement exposed	Left 1:15 AM
6	Vikram Saxena	55	Business Partner	CEO Saxena Steel	Merger dispute, framed by killer	Left 12:30 AM
7	Min. Rajesh Thapar	61	Politician	Union Minister	₹400 Cr bribery scandal	Left 12:16 AM

Tier 2: Secondary Suspects (6) — Medium Profiles

#	Name	Age	Role	Relationship	Motive	At Party
8	Nisha Malhotra	28	Daughter	Direct heir	Inheritance competition with Rohit	Left 11:45 PM
9	Sanjay Kapoor	32	Son-in-Law	Nisha's husband	Excluded from business decisions	Left 11:45 PM
10	Karan Malhotra	35	Nephew	Brother's son	Passed over for COO position	Not invited
11	Dr. Raghav Menon	52	Personal Physician	Medical advisor 8 years	Malpractice cover-up	Left 10:30 PM
12	Adv. Sunil Sharma	60	Estate Attorney	Legal counsel 15 years	Will manipulation access	Not invited
13	Col. Prakash Singh	55	Security Chief	Head of estate security	Knows family secrets	Off-duty

Tier 3: Tertiary Suspects (10) — Appendix Only

#	Name	Role	At Party
14	Meenakshi Rao	Housekeeper	On duty
15	Ramesh Kumar	Chef	On duty
16	Krishnan M.	Driver	On duty
17	Suresh Patil	Bartender (Lead)	On duty
18	Anita Reddy	Accountant	Not invited
19	Raj Oberoi	Former Partner	Not invited

20	Neha Gupta	Journalist	Not invited
21	Vishal Mehta	Private Investigator	Not invited
22	Ravi Singh	Bodyguard	On duty
23	Vikash Mehta	Catering Coordinator	On duty — KILLER

Party Attendance Summary: 12 present at party (including Vikash), 11 absent (require alibis)

THE CRIME SEQUENCE

Pre-Murder Setup — The Conspiracy

Date	Time	Event	Evidence
Oct 2024	—	Kavya discovers Arjun's affair with Deepika	—
Late Nov	—	Kavya reconnects with ex-boyfriend Vikash Mehta	Background check
Nov 22	—	RED HERRING: Rohit purchases something from pharmaceutical supplier (₹2.5 Lakh)	Purchase records
Dec 1	—	Kavya learns of will changes; Deepika's child gets inheritance	Legal notification
Dec 10	—	Kavya learns of Vikram's gift bottle from housekeeper	—
Dec 11	—	Vikash purchases identical Macallan 25 (BTL-7711), adds Diazepam	Cash receipt, CCTV
Dec 11	—	Vikram orders original Macallan 25 as peace offering	Order receipt
Dec 12	15:45	Original bottle (BTL-7794) delivered to estate; Arjun in Mumbai	Delivery manifest
Dec 12	19:32	RED HERRING: Rohit arrives at estate "for documents"	Gate log
Dec 12	19:32–21:15	Rohit in study; ORIGINAL BOTTLE (BTL-7794) STILL THERE — HE DOES NOT TOUCH IT	—
Dec 12	21:15	Rohit departs estate	Gate log
Dec 13	18:00	Arjun returns from Mumbai with Kavya	Gate log
Dec 13	19:00	Catering staff arrive; Vikash brings drugged bottle (BTL-7711)	Catering log
Dec 13	19:30	Kavya swaps bottles during "event setup" — signs staging checklist	Staging checklist
Dec 13	20:00	Party begins; original bottle (BTL-7794) disposed by Vikash	—

The Murder Night

Time	Event	Evidence
20:00	Party begins, 40+ guests arrive	Guest log
22:30	Dr. Menon leaves (earliest departure among suspects)	Gate log
23:45	Nisha and Sanjay leave	Gate log
00:16	Minister Thapar leaves	Gate log
00:30	Vikram Saxena leaves	Gate log
00:47	Camera SC-1 goes offline (Anil's doing — embezzlement cover)	Technical log
01:06	Priya leaves (claims 12:45, phone proves 1:06)	Cell tower data
01:10	Camera SC-1 restored	Technical log
01:15	Anil Verma leaves	Gate log
01:30	Deepika enters study (scheduled meeting with Arjun)	Phone records
01:35	Arjun drinks whiskey from SWAPPED BOTTLE (BTL-7711); sedative takes effect	—
01:45	Deepika leaves study (had champagne, unaffected)	Camera SC-2
01:50	Rohit enters study "to say goodbye"	Camera SC-2
02:05	Rohit leaves study; Arjun heavily sedated but alive	—
02:10	Rohit departs estate (last GUEST to leave)	Gate log
02:15	Vikash enters study via service kitchen path	—
02:20	Vikash strangles incapacitated Arjun with curtain cord	—
02:25	Vikash removes ligature, discards in garden; stages scene	Fiber evidence
02:30	Vikash exits with catering cleanup crew	Catering log
06:15	Housekeeper discovers body	Police report

AUTOPSY SUMMARY

Finding	Value	Significance
Cause of Death	Asphyxiation secondary to ligature strangulation	Primary finding
Ligature Pattern	Single horizontal furrow, 1.5cm width	Consistent with silk cord

Petechial Hemorrhaging	Present in conjunctivae and facial skin	Confirms strangulation
Blood Diazepam	850 ng/mL	Toxic range (therapeutic: 100–250 ng/mL)
Defensive Wounds	NONE	Critical mystery — victim was sedated
Time of Death	2:15–2:30 AM	Based on liver temp, rigor onset

Toxicology Detection

Sample	Diazepam Result	Explanation
Blood (victim)	850 ng/mL	Confirms heavy sedation
Glass residue (EV-001)	Not detected	Dried residue; detection limit 500 ng/mL
Bottle liquid (EV-003)	0.8 mg/mL	Confirms source — but which bottle?

WILL STRUCTURE

Original Will (Before December 1, 2024)

Beneficiary	Equity Share	Insurance
Rohit Malhotra	60%	₹500 Cr
Nisha Malhotra	30%	₹200 Cr
Priya Malhotra	—	₹500 Cr

Revised Will (December 1, 2024)

Beneficiary	Equity Share	Insurance	Change
Rohit Malhotra	10%	₹50 Cr	–50% equity, –₹450 Cr
Nisha Malhotra	25%	₹150 Cr	–5% equity
Kavya Sharma	40%	₹300 Cr	NEW
Deepika Joshi	5% + ₹50 Cr	₹150 Cr	NEW + child
Sanjay Kapoor	5%	₹50 Cr	NEW
Priya Malhotra	—	₹200 Cr	Reduced
Charitable Trust	15%	—	NEW

Rohit's Total Loss: ₹23,950 Crore (makes him a RED HERRING)

Kavya's Problem: If Arjun leaves her for Deepika, she gets NOTHING.

Critical Clause: Convicted beneficiary forfeits their share to remaining beneficiaries.

RED HERRINGS (12 Total)

#	Red Herring	What It Seems	Truth
1	Priya's false departure time	She strangled him	Searching for divorce evidence in bedroom
2	Glass swap on terrace	Wrong target attempted	Kavya picked up wrong champagne glass (innocent)
3	Camera disabled by Anil	Hiding murder	Hiding embezzlement document theft
4	Vikram's gift bottle	He drugged it	Genuine peace offering; Kavya swapped it
5	Deepika in study	She's involved	Had champagne, not whiskey; left before murder
6	Minister Thapar	Political assassination	Left early, uninvolved
7	Dr. Menon's prescription access	He supplied sedative	Different medications entirely
8	Nisha's inheritance dispute	Sibling rivalry murder	She benefits from Rohit inheriting
9	Col. Singh knew secrets	Blackmail gone wrong	Off-property that night
10	Missing curtain cord	Planted by outsider	Vikash used it, discarded in garden
11	Rohit's Dec 12 visit	He drugged bottle	Original bottle (BTL-7794) still there; he didn't touch it
12	Rohit's pharma purchase	He acquired sedative	UNEXPLAINED — permanent red herring

TRUE CLUES (5 Total)

#	Clue	Evidence	Phase
1	Bottle ID mismatch	BTL-7794 (delivered) vs BTL-7711 (evidence)	Phase 1/2/3
2	Kavya-Vikash connection	Both attended St. Xavier's College, Mumbai (overlapping years)	Phase 2
3	Catering staff log	Vikash Mehta name appears	Phase 2
4	Kavya signed staging checklist	Cabinet access Dec 13, 19:30	Phase 3

5	Vikash bottle purchase CCTV	Dec 11, Mumbai Wine & Spirits, cash	Phase 3
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EVIDENCE FLOW BY PHASE

Phase 1: THE SCENE (20 min)

What Players Learn:

- Victim found strangled (ligature marks visible)
- Sedative in blood but source unclear
- **Key Mystery:** Why no defensive wounds?
- Two glasses in study (one with residue, one clean)
- Multiple suspects with alibis and motives
- **CLUE PLANTED:** Evidence inventory shows **Bottle ID: BTL-7711**

Distributed To:

Detective	Evidence Type	Key Items
1 - Timeline	Security logs	Arrivals/departures, camera blackout
2 - Forensics	Autopsy, toxicology	Strangulation findings, EV-003 Bottle ID: BTL-7711
3 - Social	Witness statements	Core 7 + Tier 2 mentions
4 - Objects	Crime scene	Body position, missing curtain cord, fiber traces
5 - Motive	Financial	Will changes, insurance policies

Phase 2: CONTRADICTIONS (30 min)

What Players Learn:

- Priya lied about departure time
- Camera was deliberately disabled
- Deepika was in study (earring found)
- Rohit visited estate on Dec 12 (RED HERRING — bottle not swapped yet)
- Rohit's ₹2.5L pharmaceutical purchase (RED HERRING — NEVER EXPLAINED)
- **CRITICAL:** Delivery manifest shows **Bottle ID: BTL-7794** (DIFFERENT!)
- Catering staff log shows **Vikash Mehta** as bar assistant
- Kavya and Vikash were college sweethearts (2013-2015)

New Evidence:

Detective	Evidence Type	Key Items
1 - Timeline	Pre-party access	Rohit's Dec 12 visit, Delivery manifest (BTL-7794) , Catering log
2 - Forensics	Fiber analysis	Silk cord matches curtains; Rohit's pharma purchase (unexplained)
3 - Social	Backgrounds	Rohit-Deepika history, Kavya-Vikash prior relationship

4 - Objects	Physical analysis	Curtain cord missing, movement paths, service kitchen route
5 - Motive	Financial deep-dive	Full 23-suspect motive breakdown

Smart players can solve it here: BTL-7711 (evidence) ≠ BTL-7794 (delivered) → Bottle was swapped!

Phase 3: THE TWIST (15 min)

REVELATION: *Shared with all detectives*

"The bottle was SWAPPED."

"The bottle in evidence (BTL-7711) is NOT the same bottle that was delivered as a gift (BTL-7794)."

"Someone replaced the original gift bottle with a pre-drugged duplicate."

New Documents:

- Evidence reconciliation report (BOTTLE ID MISMATCH)
- Secondary bottle purchase — CCTV shows Vikash Mehta (Dec 11)
- Cabinet access log — Kavya signed staging checklist (Dec 13, 19:30)
- Swap window identified: Dec 13, 19:00-20:00

Phase 4: FINAL RECONSTRUCTION (15 min)

Five Questions to Answer:

#	Question	Correct Answer
1	Who strangled the victim?	Vikash Mehta
2	Who drugged/swapped the bottle?	Kavya Sharma + Vikash Mehta
3	Why couldn't victim fight back?	Sedative incapacitated him
4	When was bottle swapped?	Dec 13 evening (19:00-20:00)
5	Key evidence proving killers?	Bottle ID mismatch (BTL-7794 vs BTL-7711)

GAME STRUCTURE

Phase	Duration	Focus
1 - The Scene	20 min	Establish facts, distribute evidence
2 - Contradictions	30 min	Deepen investigation, find conflicts
3 - The Twist	15 min	Reveal bottle SWAP mechanism
4 - Final Reconstruction	15 min	Solve the five questions
Total	80 min	—

DETECTIVE ROLES

Role	Focus Area	Key Skills
Detective 1	Timeline Analyst	Sequencing events, spotting gaps
Detective 2	Forensics Lead	Physical evidence, scientific analysis
Detective 3	Social Observer	Relationships, witness statements
Detective 4	Objects & Space	Crime scene layout, physical clues
Detective 5	Motive & Money	Financial analysis, who benefits

KEY EVIDENCE ITEMS

Code	Item	Location	Significance
EV-001	Whiskey glass (victim's)	Study desk	Arjun's prints only; dried residue
EV-002	Champagne glass	Study cabinet	Deepika's lipstick; innocently moved
EV-003	Macallan 25 bottle	Study bar	Bottle ID: BTL-7711 — Contains Diazepam (0.8 mg/mL) — THE SWAP
EV-004	Burner phone	Study drawer	Contacts "D" and "R" (Arjun's whistleblower investigation)
EV-005	Pearl earring	Under desk	Deepika's (proves she was there)
EV-006	Torn note	Wastebasket	Partial text about funds
EV-007	Silk cord	Missing	One of pair from curtains — murder weapon
EV-008	Fiber traces	Victim's neck	Matches curtain material

THE SOLUTION NARRATIVE

Kavya Sharma's world collapsed in the autumn of 2024. She had secured her future — engaged to a billionaire, ₹300 crore in insurance, 40% of the company. Then she discovered that Arjun was having an affair with his 29-year-old assistant Deepika. Worse, Deepika was pregnant. The new will acknowledged Deepika's child and gave them inheritance rights.

Kavya knew what this meant. Arjun would eventually leave her for the younger woman carrying his child. Her ₹300 crore would vanish. Her status as "future Mrs. Malhotra" would become "discarded fiancée."

She reached out to an old flame — Vikash Mehta, her college boyfriend from 2013-2015. He still carried a torch for her. She manipulated him with promises: "After this, we'll be together. With Arjun's money."

When Kavya learned that Vikram Saxena was sending Arjun a gift bottle, she saw her opportunity. If they could swap the bottle with a drugged duplicate, suspicion would fall on Vikram — the man who had publicly argued with Arjun about the merger.

On December 11th, Vikash purchased an identical Macallan 25 (Bottle ID: BTL-7711) from Mumbai Wine & Spirits, paying cash. He added pharmaceutical-grade Diazepam — enough to incapacitate a man.

On December 12th, the original bottle (BTL-7794) arrived at the estate. That evening, Rohit visited "to collect documents" — a perfect red herring. But the original bottle was still there. Rohit's pharmaceutical purchase from November remains unexplained — he never used it.

On December 13th, Vikash arrived with the catering crew, carrying the drugged bottle in his bag. During "event setup" at 7:30 PM, Kavya accessed the study and swapped the bottles, signing the staging checklist. The original bottle was disposed of by Vikash.

At the party, Kavya played the perfect fiancée. She encouraged Arjun to open "Vikram's special gift" for a toast. Around 1:30 AM, Arjun met Deepika in the study and drank from the drugged bottle. He became increasingly drowsy.

Rohit visited the study at 1:50 AM to "say goodbye." He found his father slurring and confused, but left without incident at 2:05 AM.

At 2:15 AM, after the last guest departed, Vikash entered the study via the service kitchen path — a route not covered by cameras. Arjun was slumped in his chair, barely conscious. Vikash took the silk cord from the curtains and strangled him. There was no struggle — the sedative had done its work.

Vikash discarded the cord in the garden and exited with the catering cleanup crew at 2:30 AM.

The irony: The evidence points overwhelmingly at Rohit. His December 12 visit, his pharmaceutical purchase, his financial motive — it all fits. But it's wrong. The bottle ID mismatch is the only clue that reveals the truth: the bottle was swapped, not tampered with. And only Kavya and Vikash had both the means and the opportunity to execute the swap.

FILE STRUCTURE

File	Contents	For
01_CASE_BRIEF.md	Introduction, 23 suspects, floor plan	All players
02_PHASE_1_EVIDENCE.md	Initial evidence packets (5 sections)	Detectives
03_PHASE_2_EVIDENCE.md	Deeper evidence (5 sections)	Detectives
04_PHASE_3_TWIST.md	The revelation (bottle SWAP)	All players
05_HOST_MATERIALS.md	Solution, scoring, tips	Host only
06_APPENDIX_PERSONS.md	Tertiary suspects reference	Host/Optional

HOST TIPS

Pacing

- Phase 1: Let them discover basics, plant BTL-7711
- Phase 2: They'll build the Rohit theory — that's expected and desired
- Phase 3: The bottle ID mismatch should cause "wait, what?"
- Phase 4: Light time pressure creates urgency

If Players Are Stuck

Phase 1-2: Don't help. Let them build the wrong theory (Rohit).

Phase 3: Ask leading questions:

- "Compare the bottle IDs from Phase 1 and Phase 2."
- "Who else arrived at the estate on December 13?"
- "What's the connection between Kavya and the catering staff?"

Phase 4: Last resort hints:

- "The bottle was SWAPPED, not tampered with. Who could do that?"
- "Look at the catering staff log."
- "When did Kavya have access to the study cabinet?"

Common Wrong Theories

1. **Rohit** (pharma purchase, Dec 12 visit, motive) — **THE INTENDED MISDIRECTION** — Let them build this theory; it falls apart with the bottle ID mismatch
2. **Deepika** (was in study, earring found) — Good misdirection; she had champagne
3. **Anil** (camera, service kitchen) — Plausible but wrong motive
4. **Vikram** (sent the bottle) — The frame; alibi is solid
5. **Dr. Menon** (sedative access) — Red herring; left early

The correct answer (Kavya + Vikash) requires players to:

1. Notice the bottle ID mismatch
2. Connect Vikash to Kavya through prior relationship
3. Recognize the swap window (Dec 13, 19:00-20:00)
4. Understand that Rohit's evidence is all circumstantial misdirection

END OF GAME MASTER BLUEPRINT