

The Nail Ninja · Part 1

Production & Prompt Guide

A complete, repeatable workflow for the 15-second cold-open episode that hooks the scroll — a setup-only Part 1 that ends on a cliffhanger, from reference image to the final Seedance 2.0 render.

15 sec · 9:16 vertical · Pixar look · No dialogue · Hook + cliffhanger

THE IDEA

Open on the disaster — and stop before the fix.

Part 1 is all hook, no payoff. Mia's nails are a crime scene, and she knows it — she creeps down a dim, noir hallway toward a glowing studio door, hiding her hands, bracing herself. We glimpse the Nail Ninja sharpening focus inside. Then the door swings shut with a heavy thunk and the card reads PART 1. The transformation never comes — that's the point. This episode exists to win the first half-second and make the audience desperate for Part 2.

WORKFLOW AT A GLANCE

01. Design the character — Lock 1 reference image so identity stays consistent.
02. Build key frames — Three stills: the evidence, the walk, the cliffhanger.
03. Animate in Seedance 2.0 — Feed ref + master prompt, render 9:16 at 15s.
04. Polish & post — Cartoon SFX, PART 1 card, publish to Reels.

CHARACTER REFERENCE IMAGE

Consistency is everything — and it matters even more across a two-part series, because Mia has to be the exact same person in Part 2's payoff. Lock one clean reference image of Mia in Nano Banana (Gemini) or GPT Image, then upload it into Seedance 2.0. Save this ref — you'll reuse it directly in the full Nail Ninja guide.

Mia (The Disaster Client) — Huge anxious eyes, gaunt worried face, dark long-sleeve top. Hands catastrophically neglected — jagged nails, three colors of chipped polish — clutched to her chest, hidden.

STORYBOARD THE EVIDENCE, THE WALK AND THE CLIFFHANGER

[EVIDENCE] Extreme close-up on Mia's ruined hands held to her chest — jagged nails, chipped polish, cracked cuticles; she winces under a hard spotlight.

[WALK] Mia creeping down the dim hallway toward the glowing studio door, glancing over her shoulder, hiding her hands.

[CLIFFHANGER] Mia steps inside; the door swings shut with a heavy "thunk." Card: "PART 1." Freeze on the closing door.

KEY FRAME · THE HOOK

HOOK FRAME – the crime scene

[STYLE] Stylized 3D Pixar/Illumination cartoon with noir staging, dim dramatic hallway. 9:16.

[HOOK] Extreme close-up on MIA's ruined hands held to her chest – jagged nails, three colors of chipped polish, cracked cuticles – under a single hard spotlight, her huge anxious eyes above, wincing. "When your nails are officially a crime scene."

[ENVIRONMENT] A dim dramatic hallway behind her, deep shadows, a faint pink glow from a door at the end.

[NEGATIVE] No text except a small caption, no graphic skin detail, no inconsistent identity.

TIMELINE

0:00–0:03 The evidence — macro on Mia's wrecked hands, hard spotlight, she winces (string sting).

0:03–0:06 The walk — Mia creeps down the dim hallway toward the glowing door, hiding her hands.

0:06–0:09 The hesitation — she stops at the door, pink glow on her face, hand hovering.

0:09–0:12 The peek — through the cracked door, gleaming tools and the Ninja's silhouette.

0:12–0:15 The cliffhanger — she steps inside, door "thunks" shut, "PART 1" card, freeze.

THE 15-SECOND MASTER PROMPT

This is the whole thing — the cold-open episode. Copy it, then run the full Nail Ninja guide for Part 2's payoff using the same character reference.

MASTER PROMPT · THE NAIL NINJA · PART 1

STYLIZED 3D AI CARTOON MINI-STORY – THE NAIL NINJA, PART 1: THE CRIME SCENE

[STYLE] Stylized cinematic 3D animated comedy with thriller / crime-noir staging, high-end Pixar / Illumination-inspired look, exaggerated but clean cartoon anatomy, hugely expressive faces, moody hallway lighting, glossy render, dramatic shadows. This is the SETUP episode – all dread, no payoff. Duration: 15 seconds. Aspect ratio: 9:16. Resolution: 720p or higher. No dialogue. No speech. No subtitles. No logos. Cartoon SFX only.

[CHARACTERS – use the 1 uploaded reference image]

MIA (The Disaster Client): a disheveled woman with huge anxious eyes, gaunt worried face, escaping hair, a plain dark long-sleeve top. Her hands are catastrophically neglected – uneven jagged nails, chipped old polish in three colors, dry cracked cuticles. She clutches them to her chest, hiding them, eyes darting. Expression arc: dread -> guilt -> bracing herself -> a tiny resigned breath as she reaches the door.

[ENVIRONMENT] A long, dim, dramatic hallway leading to a single glowing door at the end – the nail studio. Moody overhead lights, deep shadows, a faint pink glow spilling from under the door. The hallway feels like the approach to a boss room. Cinematic, tense, noir.

[MOOD] Pure setup dread, played like a crime-thriller cold open. The crime is her own nails. Mortified, sneaking, bracing. Tension real, comedy huge – this episode ends right before the transformation, on a cliffhanger.

[TIMELINE] 0:00–0:03 THE EVIDENCE: extreme close-up on Mia's ruined hands held to her chest – jagged nails, three colors of chipped polish, cracked cuticles, a single dramatic spotlight; she winces. · 0:03–0:06 THE WALK: Mia creeps down the dim hallway toward the glowing studio door, glancing over her shoulder, hiding her hands in her sleeves. · 0:06–0:09 THE HESITATION: she stops at the door, the pink glow on her face, hand hovering over the handle, swallowing hard. · 0:09–0:12 THE PEEK: through the cracked door she glimpses gleaming rows of tools and a calm silhouette – the Nail Ninja – sharpening focus; Mia gulps. · 0:12–0:15 THE CLIFFHANGER: Mia takes one resigned breath, steps inside, the door swings shut behind her with a heavy "thunk." Title card: "PART 1." Freeze-frame on the closing door.

[CAMERA] Extreme macro on the wrecked hands; slow tracking push down the hallway; tense over-the-shoulder at the door; a thin slice of light through the cracked door; final lock-off on the closing door for the cliffhanger.

[LIGHTING] Moody noir hallway – deep shadows, a single hard spotlight on the hands, a warm pink glow spilling from under the studio door, glossy highlights on the door handle.

[AUDIO] Cartoon SFX only: a tense crime-thriller string sting on the evidence shot, soft nervous footsteps, a creaking door, a heartbeat-style ticking build, a gulp, a heavy door "thunk" on the cliffhanger. No speech, no subtitles.

[NEGATIVE] No subtitles, no logos, no on-screen text except the PART 1 card, no dialogue, no graphic close-ups of damaged skin, no inconsistent identity, no changing face or outfit – keep it moody, clean and comedic.

QUALITY CHECKLIST

- [] Mia looks identical to her reference image in every beat — and matches the full Nail Ninja guide
- [] The first 3 seconds open on the disaster (the crime-scene hands) — no logo, no slow pan
- [] Three beats read clearly: evidence -> walk -> cliffhanger
- [] The transformation is fully withheld — Part 1 ends before any payoff
- [] Cartoon SFX only — no dialogue, no subtitles; the only text is the PART 1 card
- [] The closing door + card clearly promises a Part 2

[] 9:16, 15 seconds, 720p or better

Made with AI Toon Studio · Full guide: aitoonstudio.com/guides/nail-ninja-pt1