

THREE SEATS AWAY — VISUAL STORYBOARD GUIDE

DIRECTOR'S VISUAL APPROACH (Emotional Drama): This storyboard is designed as an easy, creative guide to help you shoot the film. Each scene beat below describes what the audience sees on screen, character movement/staging, the lighting vibe, and the dramatic purpose.

SCENE 01: THE EMPTY WAITING ROOM

Camera Vibe: Wide room view

- **What We See on Screen:** A sterile hospital waiting room washed in pale blue dawn light. Plastic chairs sit in a row, the water cooler stands against the wall, the tissue box rests on a small surface, and the wall clock hangs like a reminder that time is moving too loudly. Raghav sits alone, centered but isolated.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Raghav sits upright with both hands near his lap, holding a worn water bottle and then pausing as if even opening it requires effort. He appears to be waiting for more than just medical news.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cold dawn blue with a faint buzzing tube light overhead, soft shadows, sterile and suspended.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish emotional emptiness and the visual language of distance before any dialogue begins.

SCENE 02: DEV ARRIVES WITH CONTROL

Camera Vibe: Medium shot with slight push-in

- **What We See on Screen:** The door opens and Dev enters with a hospital file, formal shirt, and controlled posture. He stops near Raghav rather than sitting, creating a physical line of tension between them.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Dev keeps his file tight in hand, speaks carefully, and avoids settling into the room. Raghav barely reacts, keeping the emotional temperature low.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Same cool daylight, with the tube light adding a hard institutional edge to Dev's face.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Show Dev as the son who manages emotion through structure and restraint.

SCENE 03: AMAN BREAKS THE SILENCE

Camera Vibe: Two-shot with the empty chair visible

- **What We See on Screen:** Aman enters restless and guarded, looking first at Dev and then at Raghav. The three men form a tense triangle, with one chair still empty between Dev and Aman.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Aman taunts Dev, Dev answers back, and Raghav silently straightens the tissue box. The small object adjustment becomes a quiet attempt to control the room.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Flat, cool light with subtle negative space around the empty chair to emphasize emotional separation.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Introduce the family conflict through body language and sharp, defensive dialogue.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE FATHER FINALLY SPEAKS

Camera Vibe: Close-up on Raghav, then reaction cuts

- **What We See on Screen:** Raghav looks at his wristwatch, then lifts his gaze and speaks with sudden force. The room seems to tighten around his words as he names the years of missed calls, extra shifts, and silent tears.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Raghav's stillness breaks into direct truth. Dev and Aman absorb the accusation, their faces shifting from defense to discomfort.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Slightly harder facial modeling, with the blue dawn still present but emotionally sharpened by shadow.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Deliver the emotional thesis: the father saw everything, and silence was the real damage.

SCENE 05: THE NOTE FROM MOTHER

Camera Vibe: Insert on the note, then close reaction shots

- **What We See on Screen:** The hospital file opens and a folded handwritten note falls out. Aman picks it up and reads the mother's words, which accuse no one directly but reveal the family's self-made distance.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Aman's face breaks first, Dev's mask softens, and Raghav watches them with a mixture of pain and relief. The note becomes the emotional bridge between them.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The same cool room, but with slightly softer highlights on the paper and faces to make the note feel sacred and intimate.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Use the mother's voice as the catalyst that reframes blame into shared responsibility.

SCENE 06: THREE SEATS FINALLY OCCUPIED

Camera Vibe: Balanced three-shot / wider composition

- **What We See on Screen:** The three men sit around the once-empty chair. Aman offers the tissue box to Dev, Dev passes the water bottle to Raghav, and Raghav allows the distance to shrink without forcing a hug. Dawn brightens the room as the tube light continues to buzz.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Small, careful gestures replace accusation. The men look at each other with uncertainty, recognition, and the first hint of peace.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Softer dawn brightness with a gentle lift in warmth, still cool but less severe, signaling emotional release.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on quiet reconciliation, proving that healing can begin with simple, human gestures rather than melodrama.

CREATIVE SHOOTING CHEAT-SHEET FOR THE DIRECTOR:

- **Keep Camera at Eye-Level:** In small rooms or single locations, eye-level framing makes the audience feel trapped in the room with the characters.
- **Reaction Shots are Gold:** When a secret or punchline lands, hold the camera on the character *listening* to capture their silent shock.
- **Audio Drives Emotion:** Whispers, deep sighs, and awkward silences carry 60% of the dramatic tension.