

THE UNSENT MESSAGE — 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 QUIET KITCHEN TABLE

Camera Vibe: Wide establishing three-shot

- **What We See on Screen:** A small kitchen at night, lit by the fridge glow, a tired overhead bulb, and the blue phone screen. Three tea cups, a charger, and a face-down framed photo sit on the cluttered table while Arun, Karan, and Rishi occupy the cramped space in silence.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Arun sits rigidly with a trembling cup, Karan stares at his phone like it is a locked room, and Rishi enters with the charger, trying to keep the mood light.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cold white and blue practicals with a weak warm bulb; intimate, cramped, and slightly lonely.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish emotional containment and make the kitchen feel like a pressure chamber where something unresolved is about to surface.

SCENE 02: THE UNSENT FILE APPEARS

Camera Vibe: Insert and medium close-ups

- **What We See on Screen:** The phone screen low-battery blink reveals the file name: "Ammi - Voice Msg - Unsent." Arun's eyes catch it, and the room seems to stop.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Karan instinctively covers the phone, Arun leans in with sudden recognition, and Rishi pauses mid-help, sensing the shift.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Phone blue intensifies against the dim kitchen, creating a sharp emotional focal point.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Trigger the story's central wound visually before the dialogue fully catches up to it.

SCENE 03: RESISTANCE AT THE TABLE

Camera Vibe: Shot-reverse-shot with tight close-ups

- **What We See on Screen:** Arun asks to hear the message, Karan refuses, and the kitchen clock becomes visible as the silence stretches between them.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Karan turns away, Arun gently but insistently reaches for the truth, and Rishi attempts a joke that lands awkwardly.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Faces are more contrasty now, with shadows deepening under eyes and cheekbones.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Let the audience feel the emotional stalemate and the cost of avoidance.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE VOICE MESSAGE OPENS

Camera Vibe: Over-the-shoulder on the phone and reaction close-ups

- **What We See on Screen:** Rishi plugs in the charger, taps play, and the mother's voice fills the kitchen as both men react in real time.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Karan stiffens, Arun's composure cracks, and Rishi steps back to give them space while still witnessing everything.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Practical light remains but the room feels more exposed; the blue screen and fridge glow hold the emotional center.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Make the voice message feel like a living presence that changes the room's emotional temperature instantly.

SCENE 05: LETTERS, GUILT, AND THE PHOTO

Camera Vibe: Intimate two-shot with prop emphasis

- **What We See on Screen:** The mother's confession lands: letters were written for Karan, illness was hidden, and Arun admits he never read them. The framed photo is turned upright, revealing the smiling woman.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Karan's anger collapses into grief, Arun's voice breaks, and Rishi quietly shifts from mediator to witness.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Softened shadows and a slightly warmer balance begin to emerge without losing realism.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Reveal the true emotional architecture of the family and visually restore the mother's presence to the room.

SCENE 06: PLAY IT AGAIN

Camera Vibe: Final symmetrical three-shot

- **What We See on Screen:** Karan holds the phone with both hands and asks to play it again. Arun and Karan sit closer now, the photo upright, the charger connected, and the kitchen no longer feels cold.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** All three men sit in stillness, listening together; Rishi delivers the final line softly as Karan gives a broken, tearful laugh.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The same practicals now feel gentler, with the room reading as accepted rather than haunted.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on emotional reconciliation without over-resolving the grief, leaving the audience with quiet release and shared presence.

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.