

THE BENCH IN THE PARK — VISUAL STORYBOARD GUIDE

DIRECTOR'S VISUAL APPROACH (Slice of Life/Family): 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 BENCH BECOMES A MEETING ROOM

Camera Vibe: Wide establishing shot with a gentle push-in

- **What We See on Screen:** A quiet public park in late afternoon, with soft golden sunlight filtering through trees onto a simple bench beside a walking path. The swing set sits distant and slightly out of focus, while a few passersby blur through the background. Hari sits at one end with a folded newspaper, Vishal stands nearby with his office bag and water bottle, and Om hovers between them with his backpack at his feet.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Hari adjusts his cap and settles into the bench with calm authority. Vishal stands tense, holding back what he wants to say. Om shifts restlessly, looking from one adult to the other as if sensing the conversation before it begins.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Warm, dappled golden light with soft shadows under the trees; peaceful on the surface, emotionally loaded underneath.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Introduce the bench as a temporary family space and establish the emotional triangle before any conflict is spoken.

SCENE 02: JOKES COVER THE SILENCE

Camera Vibe: Medium three-shot with cut-ins to faces

- **What We See on Screen:** The three sit together on the bench, framed tightly enough to feel the pressure of the silence. Hari folds and unfolds the newspaper, Vishal sits with a strained smile, and Om looks from side to side as the adults circle the real topic without naming it.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Hari uses humor to soften the tension. Vishal tries to stay polite but visibly bristles. Om watches carefully, absorbing the emotional subtext.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Soft side light and warm fill, with gentle shadow contrast that hints at unease.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Show how family conflict often hides inside jokes, pauses, and avoidance before the truth arrives.

SCENE 03: THE OVERSEAS REVEAL

Camera Vibe: Over-the-shoulder and close-up alternation

- **What We See on Screen:** Vishal finally says he has an overseas offer for two or three years. Hari's face remains controlled, but the newspaper folds tighter in his hands. Om looks between them, realizing the conversation is about separation, not just work.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Vishal leans forward, trying to explain the opportunity. Hari stays composed but clearly absorbs the blow. Om's stillness turns from restless to alert.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Directional warm key with slightly deeper shadows, creating emotional pressure without losing the golden-hour softness.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Make the audience feel the weight of the move as a family rupture, not just a career decision.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE FAMILY MAP OPENS

Camera Vibe: Insert close-up into intimate two-shot

- **What We See on Screen:** Om pulls out the school project folder and opens it on the bench. Inside is a hand-drawn family map connecting park, home, school, office, and airport, with handwritten notes beside each name. Hari and Vishal lean in together, their faces entering the frame as the map becomes the emotional center.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Om presents the folder with quiet confidence. Hari and Vishal stop speaking and physically lean toward the page, their attention pulled into the child's perspective.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Warm highlight on the paper, with soft falloff around the faces so the map feels like a small illuminated truth.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Use the map as the visual and emotional turning point, revealing that the child has already understood what the adults were avoiding.

SCENE 05: THE FEAR BEHIND THE JOKE

Camera Vibe: Tight close-ups on Hari and Vishal

- **What We See on Screen:** Hari admits he is hurt and more afraid of losing the sound of his son's voice than the physical distance itself. Vishal's defensive posture breaks, and his eyes begin to soften with guilt and recognition.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Hari speaks with controlled vulnerability, then returns to humor to survive the moment. Vishal swallows hard, finally listening without defense.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Softer, more even light with reduced contrast, allowing eyes to carry the emotion clearly.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Reveal the emotional truth beneath the father's jokes and the son's practical excuses.

SCENE 06: A QUIET FAMILY TRUCE

Camera Vibe: Final wide-to-medium tableau with the map centered

- **What We See on Screen:** The final page of the folder reads, "Family is not a place. Family is a way back." The three sit together on the bench with the map open between them. Hari folds the newspaper, Vishal relaxes his tie, and Om sits calmer now, having given the family a language for staying connected.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Vishal places a hand on Om's shoulder. Hari delivers one last joke about WhatsApp stickers. The three settle into a shared stillness, no longer avoiding the truth.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The warmest, softest golden light of the scene, with a gentle glow on faces and the map, suggesting emotional resolution.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on a visual metaphor of connection: the family map on the bench, not as paper, but as a lived promise.

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.