

THE GUEST ROOM RULE — 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 ROOM ALREADY HAS A HISTORY

Camera Vibe: Wide Room View / Static
Establishing Shot

- **What We See on Screen:** A modest guest room at night: two beds pushed apart, a small table between them, a buzzing tube light overhead, a slow standing fan in the corner, an old trunk near the wall, a family photo frame hanging above, and a suitcase by the door. Raghav sits on the bed edge while Puneet stands near the other bed, both suspended in awkward silence.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Raghav sits composed but tired, Puneet shifts restlessly, both men avoiding eye contact while pretending the bed issue is practical.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Flat practical tube-light glow with soft shadows in corners; muted beige and gray tones, slightly oppressive but ordinary.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the room as a pressure cooker where domestic objects already carry emotional weight before anyone speaks.

SCENE 02: POLITE GENEROSITY, HIDDEN COMPETITION

Camera Vibe: Alternating Medium Singles
and Two-Shot

- **What We See on Screen:** The brothers trade lines about who will take which bed. Their smiles are polite, but each offer is a challenge disguised as kindness. The camera stays close enough to catch eyebrow raises and tiny pauses.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Raghav offers to adjust; Puneet immediately counters. Both try to appear selfless while subtly trying to win the moral high ground.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Same practical light, but with slightly stronger facial contrast to reveal tension under the humor.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Let the audience enjoy the sibling banter while sensing that every generous line is actually a competitive move.

SCENE 03: SONIA ENTERS THE DEBATE

Camera Vibe: Doorway Reveal into Medium
Three-Shot

- **What We See on Screen:** Sonia enters with a suitcase, simple sari, warm smile, firm eyes. She pauses in the doorway, takes in the room, and immediately reads the brothers' performance. The room's geometry now becomes triangular, with Sonia as the center of gravity.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Sonia sets down the suitcase, dryly comments on the "parliament," and calmly punctures the brothers' fake generosity.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Doorway spill and tube light combine to create a slightly brighter edge on Sonia, making her feel like the only person who truly belongs in the room.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Introduce Sonia as the emotional authority who can see through both men instantly.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE OLD SCORECARD COMES OUT

Camera Vibe: Tight Mediums and Close-Ups on Faces

- **What We See on Screen:** The conversation turns to childhood and then to their mother's last days. The camera tightens on Raghav and Puneet as they begin listing sacrifices like evidence in court. Sonia watches, still and unreadable.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Raghav defends himself with quiet certainty; Puneet fires back with sharp practicality; Sonia stops them from spiraling but does not rescue them from the truth.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The fan and tube light feel more pronounced; shadows deepen around the eyes, making the room feel smaller and more accusatory.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Shift the scene from comedy to emotional reckoning without changing location, only by tightening the frame and the truth.

SCENE 05: THE SUITCASE TELLS THE TRUTH

Camera Vibe: Insert to Medium Close-Up on Sonia and the Suitcase

- **What We See on Screen:** Sonia opens the suitcase and pulls out folded papers, a notebook, and a small envelope. The brothers freeze as she reveals she did not come to stay, but to force a decision about their mother's belongings.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Sonia remains calm and precise; Raghav and Puneet exchange stunned looks, their confidence collapsing in real time.
- **Lighting & Mood:** A slightly harder practical highlight catches the papers and envelope, making the reveal feel crisp and undeniable.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Make the reveal feel inevitable, as if the suitcase has been carrying the real story all along.

SCENE 06: HOME, NOT A PRIZE FIGHT

Camera Vibe: Static Final Three-Shot with Photo Frame Centered

- **What We See on Screen:** Sonia removes the family photo frame from the wall and places it on the table between the beds. The brothers sit down, subdued. The room settles into a new stillness as Sonia tells them to make the list.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Sonia claims the emotional center of the room; Raghav and Puneet finally stop performing and sit in reluctant honesty.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The same tube light and fan remain, but the scene feels calmer, with softer emotional contrast and a sense of release.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on quiet accountability, using the photo frame as the visual symbol that family truth belongs in the center, not the margins.

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.