

THE TRAIN PLATFORM PROMISE — 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: DAWN IN THE WAITING ROOM

Camera Vibe: Wide establishing shot

- **What We See on Screen:** A dusty railway platform waiting room washed in pale blue dawn light. The metal bench sits by the window, and the room feels still except for the suggestion of distant announcements outside.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Sanjay sits stiffly on the bench with the cloth bag and old ticket stub. Amit stands near the door, avoiding eye contact. Rekha holds the center space between them like a calm barrier.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cool, soft dawn light with gentle haze and muted shadows; quiet, suspended atmosphere.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Set the emotional battlefield before any words are spoken, showing the family's distance through physical placement.

SCENE 02: THE FIRST FRICTION

Camera Vibe: Medium three-shot with slight tension framing

- **What We See on Screen:** The three characters locked in a triangular composition, with Sanjay on the bench, Amit standing restless, and Rekha mediating between them.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Sanjay repeats that the train is on time. Amit answers with irritation. Rekha tries to soften the mood with a practical joke, but no one smiles.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cool daylight with controlled contrast, faces readable but emotionally guarded.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Introduce the family's habitual conflict and establish that this is not just about the train.

SCENE 03: THE ARGUMENT ESCALATES

Camera Vibe: Alternating close-ups and medium close-ups

- **What We See on Screen:** Tight shots of Amit's resentment, Sanjay's tightening jaw, and Rekha's steady but strained authority.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Amit accuses them of sending him away as punishment. Sanjay defends his sacrifices. Rekha shuts down the rising volume with calm firmness.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cool, slightly harder side light with deeper shadows under the eyes, emphasizing emotional pressure.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Push the audience into the emotional history of the family and let the resentment feel lived-in, not theatrical.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE EARBUDS FALL

Camera Vibe: Insert shot into medium reaction shot

- **What We See on Screen:** Amit's earbuds slip from his hand and hit the floor. Sanjay bends to pick them up, holding them up with a dry, almost teasing observation.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Amit snatches them back. Rekha delivers the line about one being serious and the other over-serious. A tiny almost-smile passes between them.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Still cool, but with a slight easing in facial softness and a brief breath of relief.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Use a small comic beat to release pressure and make the later reveal hit harder by contrast.

SCENE 05: THE REVEAL

Camera Vibe: Intimate close-up on Sanjay, then reaction close-ups

- **What We See on Screen:**
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Sanjay confesses that he lost the family papers. Amit freezes. Rekha's face hardens to stay steady. The emotional power shifts completely.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The same dawn light now feels more exposed and honest, with less shadow hiding the faces.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Deliver the central emotional turn with restraint, allowing silence and reaction to carry the weight.

SCENE 06: FAMILY SEARCH AND NEW RESOLVE

Camera Vibe: Medium-wide collaborative shot

- **What We See on Screen:**
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Amit removes his earbuds and pockets them. He asks to see the papers. Rekha steadies the group. Sanjay clutches the ticket stub. The three search together as the dawn brightens.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Softer, warmer dawn brightness with lifted highlights and a sense of emotional release.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on unity and action, showing that the family's bond is stronger than the conflict and that the journey ahead is now shared.

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.