

THE SECRET RECIPE — VISUAL STORYBOARD GUIDE

DIRECTOR'S VISUAL APPROACH (Pure Comedy): 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 KITCHEN COURTROOM

Camera Vibe: Wide establishing view with tight spatial compression

- **What We See on Screen:** A tiny restaurant kitchen after closing, glowing with hot overhead lights and the orange stove flame. Bharat slams the recipe notebook on the counter while Naveen stands opposite him, ladle raised like a weapon. The room feels too small for the size of their argument.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Bharat plants himself like the owner-judge, twisting his moustache and asserting control. Naveen squares up defensively, feet apart, chin lifted, ready to fight for credit.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Warm, harsh, and theatrical; orange practical glow mixed with flat hot overheads, creating a comic courtroom feel.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the kitchen as a battleground and make the audience immediately feel the absurd seriousness of the dispute.

SCENE 02: EVIDENCE WARS

Camera Vibe: Alternating close-ups and over-the-shoulders on the counter

- **What We See on Screen:** Spice jars lined up like evidence, the ladle used as a gavel, and the grease-stained recipe page revealed in Bharat's hands. The camera catches the page, the jars, and the men's faces in quick comic rhythm.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Naveen arranges jars with precision, pointing to them like a scientist presenting proof. Bharat jabs the notebook page forward, trying to dominate the frame with his authority.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Still warm, but with harder shadows and sharper highlights on metal and glass to make the evidence feel ridiculous and important.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn ordinary kitchen objects into courtroom props and escalate the comedy through visual over-seriousness.

SCENE 03: THE CRITIC ARRIVES

Camera Vibe: Medium shot into a controlled entrance frame

- **What We See on Screen:** The door opens and Lata steps in, notebook in hand, composed and amused. Bharat and Naveen are caught mid-argument, suddenly forced to perform for a new authority in the room.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Bharat straightens instantly and switches into overacting host mode. Naveen pivots to pitch his side directly to Lata, trying to win her over with urgency.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Lata is slightly cleaner and more readable in the frame, with the kitchen chaos still glowing around her.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Introduce the true power in the scene and shift the energy from private argument to public judgment.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE SILENT TASTE TEST

Camera Vibe: Intimate close-up on Lata with reaction cuts to both men

- **What We See on Screen:** Lata tastes the dish once, then again, expression almost unreadable. Bharat and Naveen stare at her face like it's a scoreboard, waiting for a verdict that never comes quickly.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Lata remains calm, writing in her notebook between tastes. Bharat and Naveen lean in, panic rising as her silence stretches.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Slightly softened on Lata's face, with the men still under harsher light to heighten their anxiety.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Build suspense through stillness and make the audience laugh at how much power a single 'Hm' can hold.

SCENE 05: THE LEGACY REVEAL

Camera Vibe: Tight two-shot on the men, then a clean single on Lata

- **What We See on Screen:** Lata closes her notebook and reveals that the recipe belongs to her nani. The men freeze, their faces collapsing from confidence into stunned embarrassment.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Bharat and Naveen stop moving entirely, absorbing the truth. Lata stays composed, delivering the reveal with calm authority.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The orange glow remains, but the scene feels less hostile and more truthful, as if the room itself has exhaled.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Deliver the twist with maximum comic impact by keeping Lata calm and the men visibly deflated.

SCENE 06: LOW FLAME, HIGH LAUGHS

Camera Vibe: Wider shared frame that opens the room up

- **What We See on Screen:** Bharat and Naveen reluctantly plate the dish together while Lata writes her final review. She reads out the verdict, and all three burst into laughter under the stove's orange glow.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** The men finally cooperate, moving efficiently instead of fighting. Lata closes the notebook with satisfaction, owning the room without raising her voice.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Warm, forgiving, and celebratory; the kitchen feels alive again, but now with shared energy instead of conflict.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on release and unity, making the final laugh feel like the true victory of the scene.

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.