

THE FAMILY PHOTO — 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: TERRACE IN GOLDEN PAUSE

Camera Vibe: Wide establishing shot

- **What We See on Screen:** A modest home terrace bathed in late-afternoon golden sunlight. Laundry lines cut across the frame, potted plants sit near the parapet, and a tripod waits in the center like the setup for something important.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Mahesh stands near the tripod with a camera remote. Neelam enters the frame with practiced calm. Sahil leans against the wall, visibly bored and detached.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Warm, forgiving sunlight with soft shadows and a gentle amber wash.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Introduce the domestic world and establish that this is a family ritual, not a formal event. The audience should feel ordinary life before the emotional shift begins.

SCENE 02: POSTURE WARS

Camera Vibe: Medium three-shot with slight lateral coverage

- **What We See on Screen:** The family arranged awkwardly in the terrace space, with Neelam physically moving Sahil and Mahesh into position while the laundry and plants remain in the background.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Neelam straightens Sahil's position and Mahesh's collar. Mahesh keeps correcting the frame. Sahil resists with boredom and sarcasm.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Still warm, but with slightly more contrast on faces as the tension becomes visible.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Build comedy through family habits and show Neelam as the quiet center who keeps everyone from tipping into conflict.

SCENE 03: THE WRONG STORY

Camera Vibe: Tighter medium close-up on Mahesh and Sahil, with Neelam entering frame

- **What We See on Screen:** Mahesh checks the hidden phone screen while insisting the photo is for a wedding invitation. Sahil notices the performance. The tripod and remote become more prominent in the foreground.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Mahesh freezes for a beat when questioned. Sahil keeps needling him. Neelam watches the hesitation and starts to suspect something deeper.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The light softens slightly, making the scene feel more intimate and less playful.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Plant the emotional unease without announcing the twist. The audience should sense that Mahesh is hiding something.

CLIMAX BEATS & CREATIVE DIRECTING TIPS

STORYDILSE PRODUCTION BIBLE

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE BLUR AND THE PAPER

Camera Vibe: Insert-to-close-up sequence

- **What We See on Screen:** The remote is pressed too early, the photo blurs, and then Neelam finds the folded paper near the tripod bag. The job interview email printout becomes the visual center.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Mahesh looks away. Sahil sees the paper. Neelam reads it silently and folds it carefully.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The terrace feels quieter, with the same sunlight now reading as more subdued and reflective.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Deliver the reveal through an ordinary object and a small mistake, keeping the moment grounded and believable.

SCENE 05: TRUTH WITHOUT DRAMA

Camera Vibe: Intimate close-ups and over-the-shoulders

- **What We See on Screen:** Mahesh admits he has been unemployed for months. Sahil's expression shifts from sarcasm to concern. Neelam softens without judgment.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Mahesh speaks low and embarrassed. Sahil absorbs the truth. Neelam steps closer and straightens Mahesh's collar again.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Soft, diffused warmth with gentler contrast, allowing faces to feel open and vulnerable.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Let the emotional turn land softly. The scene should feel like a family choosing honesty over performance.

SCENE 06: HONEST FAMILY PORTRAIT

Camera Vibe: Final composed medium shot, then hold on the click

- **What We See on Screen:** The family is reset with a calmer energy. Sahil holds the remote. Mahesh smiles awkwardly but genuinely. Neelam stands between them, steady and centered, as the sun dips softer behind the water tank.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Sahil takes over as photographer. Mahesh finally laughs. Neelam places the remote into Sahil's hand and settles them into one last honest pose.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Soft sunset glow, warm but calmer, with a quiet emotional finish.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on a truthful image of the family as they are, not as they pretended to be. The final click should feel like acceptance.

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.