

THE PROPOSAL IN REVERSE — 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 TIGHT BLAZER ENTRANCE

Camera Vibe: Wide Room View with a subtle push-in

- **What We See on Screen:** A small café corner near a window, with soft afternoon light washing over a cramped table. Nikhil sits alone with coffee cups, menu card, napkins, and bouquet arranged like a nervous altar. The decorative plant awkwardly separates the table from the rest of the café, making the space feel both private and exposed.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Nikhil sits rigidly, sweaty-palmed, repeatedly checking the ring box in his pocket and trying to look composed in a blazer that clearly fits too tightly.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Warm daylight, soft shadows, intimate and slightly embarrassing atmosphere.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the proposal setup and visually communicate that this is a pressure cooker disguised as a romantic café moment.

SCENE 02: TANYA SMELLS TROUBLE

Camera Vibe: Medium Two-Shot with alternating close-ups

- **What We See on Screen:** Tanya enters with her phone in hand and suspicious eyes, then sits across from Nikhil. The menu card becomes a comic barrier as she immediately starts interrogating the scene with practical questions.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Tanya scans Nikhil's face, comments on his blazer, picks up the menu, and keeps him off balance while Nikhil tries to steer the conversation toward romance.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Soft, even daylight with clean facial visibility and mild shadow under the table.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Create the first layer of comic tension by showing Tanya as calm, observant, and impossible to impress.

SCENE 03: THE AUNTIE ENTRANCE

Camera Vibe: Entrance Reveal Shot into a tighter three-shot

- **What We See on Screen:** Sonal arrives with bangles clashing and glittery confidence, instantly changing the energy of the frame. The table now feels even smaller as the trio occupies the café corner like a tiny courtroom.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Sonal enters with authority, greets them, sits, and immediately begins asking about salary, savings, and EMI while Nikhil tries to remain polite and upright.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Same soft daylight, but with a slightly punchier highlight on Sonal's accessories for comic emphasis.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn the romantic setup into a family cross-examination and escalate the embarrassment through Sonal's unapologetic presence.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE PROPOSAL GETS INTERRUPTED

Camera Vibe: Close-ups and reaction inserts

- **What We See on Screen:** Nikhil reaches for the bouquet and tries to speak, but Tanya and Sonal keep redirecting him. The menu becomes a shield, the bouquet becomes evidence, and the coffee cups and napkins become part of the chaos.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Nikhil attempts to start the proposal multiple times, Tanya cuts him off with practical questions, and Sonal keeps reframing everything as a financial test.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Natural daylight with crisp reaction visibility and a slightly heightened sense of comic pressure.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Build the central comedic engine: every attempt at romance is overwritten by practical reality.

SCENE 05: THE PHONE REVEAL

Camera Vibe: Insert shot to Nikhil's face reaction close-up

- **What We See on Screen:** Tanya turns her phone screen toward Nikhil, revealing his draft proposal message, jeweler chat, ring box emoji, and restaurant search history. Nikhil's face drains of color in a single beat.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Tanya calmly exposes the evidence, Nikhil freezes, and Sonal watches with satisfied authority as the truth lands.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Soft but slightly cooler on Nikhil's face to emphasize the shock of the reveal.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Deliver the twist cleanly and make the audience feel the full comic collapse of Nikhil's secret plan.

SCENE 06: REVERSE PROPOSAL AND BILL PUNCHLINE

Camera Vibe: Final three-shot with a gentle pull back

- **What We See on Screen:** Nikhil slowly takes out the ring box and asks for permission, but Sonal counters with the final joke: 'Pehle bill.' Tanya laughs, Nikhil laughs, and the trio finally shares the same comic rhythm.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Nikhil submits to the new rules, Tanya smiles with approval, and Sonal delivers the verdict with a dramatic coffee sip.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Warm, balanced daylight with a relaxed finish and soft highlights on faces and bangles.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on a shared laugh that resolves the tension and confirms that the proposal has been successfully turned upside down.

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.