

THE THIRD SEATBELT — 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.

Camera Vibe: Wide interior establishing shot through the windshield and front cabin

SCENE 01: RAIN-TRAPPED FAMILY

- **What We See on Screen:** A parked car sits under heavy monsoon rain. Water streaks across the windshield, and traffic lights shimmer in distorted reflections on the wet glass. Inside, the dashboard glow reveals Raghav in the driver's seat, Neha in sunglasses beside him, and Mini in the back seat, all boxed into the same small space.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Raghav fidgets with the car keys. Neha sits rigidly with her seatbelt on. Mini looks out the window, pretending not to listen.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Dim amber dashboard light mixed with cold blue-gray rain reflections and soft fogged glass.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the emotional pressure cooker and make the car feel like a sealed family world where silence already has weight.

Camera Vibe: Medium two-shot of Raghav and Neha with Mini partially visible in the back

SCENE 02: THE USUAL AVOIDANCE

- **What We See on Screen:** Raghav checks the route on his phone and keeps talking around the problem. Neha answers with dry precision. The tissue box and umbrella mention become small signs of domestic friction.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Raghav tries to lighten the mood with a joke. Neha barely reacts. Mini's lips twitch into a tiny smile before she hides it again.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Soft practical cabin light with rain streaks pulsing across the windshield and occasional headlight sweeps.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Show the family's habitual communication pattern: jokes, jabs, and indirectness instead of direct emotional contact.

Camera Vibe: Tight three-shot that favors Mini in the back seat

SCENE 03: MINI BREAKS THE SILENCE

- **What We See on Screen:** Mini finally speaks up, cutting through the car's emotional fog. Her face is calm, but the frame now feels charged, with all three characters trapped in one line of sight.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Mini stays still, looking forward rather than at them. Raghav and Neha react with surprise and discomfort.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The cabin feels tighter and darker, with the rain intensifying outside and reflections sharpening on the glass.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Make Mini the catalyst and shift the scene from passive tension into active confrontation.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

Camera Vibe: Alternating close-ups on Raghav, Neha, and Mini

SCENE 04: THE TRUTH ABOUT SILENCE

- **What We See on Screen:** Neha removes her sunglasses. Raghav's face softens, then hardens. Mini folds a tissue while speaking with controlled intensity. The car interior becomes a battlefield of eye contact and withheld emotion.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Raghav admits he did not want a fight. Neha challenges him. Mini reveals she knows about the silence and the emotional distance at the dinner table.
- **Lighting & Mood:** More contrast on faces, with edge light catching eyes and cheekbones while the background stays dim and rainy.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Expose the family wound clearly and let each character reveal their coping mechanism without melodrama.

Camera Vibe: Close-up on Mini, then insert of the extra keys in her hand

SCENE 05: THE SEATBELT METAPHOR

- **What We See on Screen:** Mini reveals she kept the extra keys so the parents would be forced into the same car and the same conversation. Her eyes are wet but steady, and the keys become the physical proof of her plan.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Mini looks directly at both parents for the first time. Neha cracks emotionally. Raghav and Neha are stunned into silence.
- **Lighting & Mood:** A slightly softer, more human light on Mini's face, with rain and traffic reflections still shimmering outside.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn the emotional metaphor into a concrete object and let Mini's quiet intelligence carry the scene's deepest pain.

Camera Vibe: Medium close-up on the three of them as the tension breaks

SCENE 06: HONESTY AND RELEASE

- **What We See on Screen:** Raghav places the keys on the dashboard. Neha closes the tissue box. Mini unbuckles her seatbelt and gives a tiny smile. The car remains foggy, but the emotional atmosphere has changed.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Raghav admits fault. Neha admits exhaustion. Mini delivers the final line about fake smiles and real ones at home. Then the parents share a small, genuine laugh.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Slightly warmer cabin tone with softened contrast, while the rain continues outside.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on a believable emotional release that feels earned, intimate, and quietly hopeful rather than neatly resolved.

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.