

THE MOTHER-IN-LAW CLAUSE — 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 FORMAL TRAP

Camera Vibe: Wide room view

- **What We See on Screen:** A bright lawyer's waiting room with beige walls, framed certificates, three leather chairs, and a coffee table arranged like a legal battlefield. Vivek sits stiffly at the edge of a chair while Shalini stands with a file and Kamla enters with handbag and spectacles.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Vivek tries to look calm but is visibly uneasy. Shalini holds her file with composed confidence. Kamla opens her handbag like she is preparing for negotiations.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Flat, bright institutional light with no warmth, making the room feel official and slightly oppressive.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the comedy of seriousness: the room looks like a legal office, but the emotional stakes are family chaos.

SCENE 02: SIMPLE? NOT HERE

Camera Vibe: Medium three-shot at the coffee table

- **What We See on Screen:** The three characters face each other around the table with the legal folder and pen between them, creating a triangular power struggle.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Vivek asks to sign quickly. Shalini flips open her file. Kamla places her own file down with calm authority.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Even, bright light with crisp visibility on faces and paperwork.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Show the first clash of expectations and make the paperwork itself feel like a weapon.

SCENE 03: CLAUSE WAR

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

- **What We See on Screen:** Shalini and Kamla trade clauses and taunts while Vivek remains trapped in the center, clutching the pen and looking increasingly cornered.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Shalini points to her conditions. Kamla counters with her own. Vivek keeps asking which page to sign, only to be met with more demands.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Still bright, but with tighter framing and stronger facial emphasis to heighten the pressure.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Let the dialogue rhythm drive the comedy while the camera captures each deadpan reaction and escalating insult.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE WRONG BUNDLE REVEAL

Camera Vibe: Insert shots of forms and tight reaction close-ups

- **What We See on Screen:** The papers are revealed one by one: marriage affidavit, house agreement, pet adoption form, and prenatal consent form. Vivek's face shifts from confusion to horror.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Vivek scans the forms in disbelief. Shalini remains dry and composed. Kamla calmly confirms he skipped reading and negotiating.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Slightly harder contrast on the papers and faces, still within the same bright office environment.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn the paperwork into the punchline by making the reveal visually clear and emotionally devastating for Vivek.

SCENE 05: WRONG BUNDLE, RIGHT DISASTER

Camera Vibe: Medium close-up on the trio with off-screen voice emphasis

- **What We See on Screen:** The lawyer's off-screen line lands over a frozen room. Vivek stares ahead in shock while the women hold their composure.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Vivek asks whether he is married or on a lease. Shalini answers with dry certainty. Kamla delivers the final mother-in-law clause line.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Bright but emotionally still, with the room feeling like it has stopped moving.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Use the off-screen lawyer as the final absurdity trigger and let the women dominate the frame with calm authority.

SCENE 06: FAMILY COURT VICTORY POSE

Camera Vibe: Final reaction shot / medium-wide ending composition

- **What We See on Screen:** Vivek sinks into the chair while Shalini and Kamla exchange a victorious look, the pen and papers now symbols of defeat.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Vivek collapses into resignation. Shalini remains dry and unbothered. Kamla lifts her coffee cup in a tiny toast.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Clean, bright finish with no dramatic shadow, reinforcing the absurd normalcy of the situation.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on a clean comedic defeat for Vivek and a triumphant family power balance for the women.

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.