

DEADLINE AT THE CAFÉ — 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 DEADLINE TABLE

Camera Vibe: Wide establishing shot

- **What We See on Screen:** A small neighborhood café corner table bathed in warm morning sunlight. The laptop, two coffee cups, notebook, receipt, pen, and timer are all visible, with the espresso machine hissing in the background.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Rohit slouches in front of the blank laptop, Anjali sits opposite with crossed arms, and Tina moves in and out of frame as the working café witness.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Soft golden window light with cozy interior shadows and a lived-in café glow.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Set the pressure-cooker environment immediately and establish the public intimacy that makes every line feel overheard.

SCENE 02: SIXTY MINUTES, NO EXCUSES

Camera Vibe: Medium three-shot with slight push-in

- **What We See on Screen:** The timer is set, the laptop remains nearly empty, and Anjali's calm authority dominates the table while Rohit tries to look composed.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Anjali turns on the timer and lays down the deadline. Rohit offers weak confidence. Tina places coffee with a knowing look.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Warm but slightly more contrasty, with the sunlight catching Anjali's glasses and Rohit's stressed face.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Launch the comedic conflict and make the deadline feel like a public sentence.

SCENE 03: PROCESS MEIN HOON

Camera Vibe: Over-the-shoulder and insert-driven coverage

- **What We See on Screen:** The laptop screen is almost empty, the notebook reveals doodles and a grocery list, and the receipt becomes a comic weapon in Tina's hands.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Rohit defends himself with excuses, Anjali reads the evidence, and Tina punctures every claim with dry precision.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Natural sunlight with crisp highlights on the laptop and paper props, keeping the joke visually legible.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Build escalating embarrassment through physical evidence and reaction shots.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE GHOSTWRITER RECEIPT

Camera Vibe: Tight close-ups and reaction inserts

- **What We See on Screen:** The receipt flips to reveal script notes on the back. Anjali freezes, Rohit stiffens, and Tina's calm face confirms the truth.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Tina slides the receipt forward. Anjali reads and realizes the deception. Rohit tries to salvage his image while Tina claims her role.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Slightly tighter, brighter table light with the espresso machine still hissing behind them like a comic underscore.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Deliver the reveal cleanly and let the audience enjoy the exact moment the lie collapses.

SCENE 05: NO, I MAINTAIN THE BRAND

Camera Vibe: Medium close-up triangle composition

- **What We See on Screen:**
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Tina delivers the final truth, Anjali smiles and reassigns the roles, and Rohit is left holding the emotional weight of the joke.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Warm sunlight softens the humiliation into comic acceptance, with the table feeling brighter and more resolved.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn the reveal into a status shift and make the audience feel the comedy of earned accountability.

SCENE 06: IF YOU WANT BRILLIANCE

Camera Vibe: Insert to reaction shot sequence

- **What We See on Screen:**
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Anjali stops the timer, Tina takes over the laptop, and Rohit is reduced to coffee duty while the espresso machine hisses under the final beat.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Bright, warm, and slightly triumphant, with the sunlight making the ending feel like a comic victory lap.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Close on the reversal of power and leave the audience with a clean, satisfying punchline image.

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.