

THE THIRD CUP OF TEA — 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: MORNING KITCHEN PRESSURE

Camera Vibe: Wide room view with compact spatial layering

- **What We See on Screen:** A small kitchen bathed in soft window light, with the blue gas flame glowing beneath the kettle. Steel containers line the shelves, the chipped mug sits on the counter, and all three characters occupy the tight space in a way that immediately suggests domestic tension and routine.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Harsh stands over the stove with careful posture, Radha watches with calm authority near the counter, and Anita leans by the fridge with tired amusement, already reading the situation.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Soft morning daylight mixed with a cool blue stove flame, creating a quiet, lived-in domestic palette.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the kitchen as a pressure chamber where a simple tea ritual carries emotional stakes.

SCENE 02: THE FIRST INSTRUCTIONS

Camera Vibe: Medium shot with alternating close reaction emphasis

- **What We See on Screen:** Harsh pours water, opens the tea tin, and measures carefully while Radha and Anita deliver layered instructions from different parts of the frame. The counter becomes a stage for judgment, humor, and subtle testing.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Harsh performs each step with extreme caution; Radha speaks with measured authority; Anita delivers dry sarcasm from her leaning position, barely moving but fully engaged.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Even, soft light with gentle shadow falloff, allowing expressions to carry the comedy.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Show how family dynamics can turn a basic task into a social exam.

SCENE 03: SUGAR AND CONFUSION

Camera Vibe: Close-up on hands, jar, spoon, and faces in partial profile

- **What We See on Screen:** The sugar jar becomes the center of attention as Harsh adds spoonfuls under Radha's shifting approval and Anita's teasing commentary. The chipped mug and tea surface begin to feel emotionally charged through repetition and scrutiny.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Harsh hesitates, looks between Radha and Anita, and tries to decode the correct amount; Radha corrects with calm precision; Anita keeps the pressure alive with sarcasm.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Warm highlights on steel and sugar, with the stove flame adding a subtle flicker near the hands.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn measurement into metaphor: acceptance is being measured spoon by spoon.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE PURANA CUP BEAT

Camera Vibe: Insert-driven medium close-up on the chipped mug and faces

- **What We See on Screen:** Radha notices the chipped mug and comments on its age. Anita lands the line about old things and new expectations. Harsh almost laughs, breaking his tension for the first time.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Radha pauses at the mug, Anita delivers the sharp line with dry certainty, and Harsh's guarded expression softens into a near-smile.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Soft, steady light with reflective steel highlights and a faint steam haze beginning to build.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Use the mug as a visual symbol of family history, wear, and emotional inheritance.

SCENE 05: APPROVAL AND TRANSFER

Camera Vibe: Tight close-up on Radha's sip, then the handoff of the chipped mug

- **What We See on Screen:** Radha tastes the tea in silence, then declares it theek. She extends the chipped mug toward Harsh and reveals that he should drink from it because he made it. The gesture lands as both test and welcome.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Radha remains composed but decisive; Harsh freezes in surprise before accepting; Anita watches the exchange with alert curiosity.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The light remains natural, but steam becomes more visible, softening the edges of the frame and signaling emotional thaw.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Make the approval feel earned and intimate, with the handoff functioning as a quiet rite of entry into the family.

SCENE 06: THE THIRD CUP TRUCE

Camera Vibe: Three-shot close composition with steam between them

- **What We See on Screen:** Harsh sips the tea and finds not perfection but acceptance. Anita laughs at his line about respect, Radha smiles, and the three stand together in the tiny kitchen as steam rises like a soft truce.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Harsh relaxes visibly, Anita finally laughs openly, and Radha's smile confirms the shift from testing to inclusion.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Warm, gentle morning light with steam diffusing the frame, creating a tender, balanced finish.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on emotional harmony without sentimentality, letting the family's imperfect warmth feel real and earned.

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.