

THREE CHAIRS, ONE SECRET — VISUAL STORYBOARD GUIDE

DIRECTOR'S VISUAL APPROACH (Emotional Drama): 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 THREE CHAIRS OF SILENCE

Camera Vibe: Wide room view

- What We See on Screen:** A cramped hospital waiting room under pale fluorescent light, with three plastic chairs lined up before a tiny tea table. The wall clock dominates the upper frame, and the old family bag sits nearby with a family photo peeking out. Amma sits upright with the file, Leela is composed but tired, and Nidhi paces at the edge of the chairs.
- Actor Movement & Staging:** Amma remains still and authoritative. Leela keeps adjusting the tissue box, trying to maintain order. Nidhi moves restlessly, glancing at the clock and resisting the room's pressure.
- Lighting & Mood:** Cold, flat, clinical light with almost no warmth; shadows are soft but emotionally heavy.
- Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the room as a pressure cooker and make the chairs feel like a family verdict waiting to happen.

SCENE 02: THE FAMILY MEETING BEGINS

Camera Vibe: Medium three-shot with alternating singles

- What We See on Screen:** The conversation starts with Nidhi's sarcasm, Leela's careful concern, and Amma's calm authority. The tea table, tissue box, and file sit between them like silent witnesses.
- Actor Movement & Staging:** Nidhi sits, arms crossed, defensive. Leela leans forward with controlled worry. Amma answers with measured stillness, letting silence do the work.
- Lighting & Mood:** Still cold, but with slightly more facial modeling as the emotional stakes rise.
- Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Let the audience feel the family dynamic before the reveal, so the later twist lands as emotional truth rather than plot gimmick.

SCENE 03: THE FILE OPENS

Camera Vibe: Insert-to-close-up progression

- What We See on Screen:** Amma opens the hospital file and reveals the folded property paper copy and family photo. Leela notices first, her face tightening. Nidhi's posture shifts from casual defiance to alert attention.
- Actor Movement & Staging:** Amma handles the papers with deliberate care. Leela freezes, then tries to stay composed. Nidhi straightens, sensing the room change.
- Lighting & Mood:** A subtle tightening of contrast and negative fill, making the paper reveal feel like a blade under fluorescent light.
- Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn a simple paper reveal into a dramatic pivot that changes the emotional temperature of the room.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: NIDHI GETS THE HOUSE

Camera Vibe: Tight singles and reaction shots

- **What We See on Screen:** Amma declares that the house will go to Nidhi. Leela's face drains of color. Nidhi is stunned, not celebratory. The family photo and property paper become the visual center of the frame.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Leela struggles to speak, hurt and confused. Nidhi sits still, absorbing responsibility. Amma remains steady, almost relieved.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Faces are more sculpted now, with the fluorescent overhead softened by controlled bounce so every reaction reads clearly.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Make the inheritance feel like a burden of truth, not a prize, and let each woman's reaction reveal her deepest wound.

SCENE 05: THE KEY CHANGES HANDS

Camera Vibe: Close-up on hands and medium two-shot

- **What We See on Screen:** Amma places the small key into Leela's hand and explains that both daughters must open the house together after surgery. Leela looks at the key, then at Nidhi, while Nidhi realizes she is no longer an outsider.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Leela's hand trembles around the key. Nidhi exhales into a new, heavier identity. Amma's gesture is gentle but final.
- **Lighting & Mood:** A slightly warmer skin tone emerges through the cold room, signaling emotional reconciliation without abandoning realism.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Show that the real inheritance is shared responsibility, and that the family can only move forward together.

SCENE 06: THREE CHAIRS, ONE FUTURE

Camera Vibe: Final medium-wide with symbolic composition

- **What We See on Screen:** Amma places the family photo between Leela and Nidhi on the tea table, then walks toward the surgery corridor. Leela cries silently. Nidhi's expression shifts from anger to responsibility. The wall clock continues ticking as the empty space in the room becomes emotionally charged.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Amma exits with calm dignity. Leela and Nidhi remain seated, looking at the photo and the chair arrangement. Their stillness now feels united rather than divided.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The same fluorescent world remains, but the emotional warmth comes from the women's faces and the symbolic photo placement.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on a quiet redefinition of family: not a victory, but a shared future built on truth, courage, and presence.

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.