

THE ROOFTOP PROMISE — 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: BLUE HOUR ROOFTOP SILENCE

Camera Vibe: Wide establishing shot

- **What We See on Screen:** A narrow rooftop under blue hour sky, string lights glowing softly, laundry fluttering on a line, the water tank and low parapet framing the space, with Shanta seated near the folding stool.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Shanta sits still and watchful, while Meera and Asha enter from opposite side of frame carrying their day's weight in posture and expression.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cool blue ambient light with warm practical string lights creating a small island of family warmth.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Set the emotional geography of the rooftop and establish that this is a private family space where something important is about to be said.

SCENE 02: ASSUMPTIONS AT THE STOOL

Camera Vibe: Medium three-shot with slight tension

- **What We See on Screen:** Meera and Asha sit on the floor instead of the stool, visually showing hesitation and emotional distance from Shanta's offered seat.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Meera speaks first, defensive and practical; Asha jumps in with her own worry; Shanta watches, then gives a tiny smile.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Soft, even blue-hour light with gentle facial modeling from the string lights.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Create the funny-but-painful rhythm of misunderstanding and show how each woman is already bracing for a different problem.

SCENE 03: THE PHOTO ALBUM OPENS

Camera Vibe: Close-up on hands and album pages

- **What We See on Screen:** An old photo album opens to reveal rooftop memories: younger women, laundry, festivals, and the same space across generations.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Asha leans in first with curiosity; Meera's guardedness softens as she recognizes the emotional weight of the images.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cool ambient base with warm highlights catching the glossy album pages and faces leaning into frame.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Shift the scene from present-day tension into family memory, making the rooftop feel like a witness to generations.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE LONELINESS TRUTH

Camera Vibe: Intimate close-ups alternating between Shanta and the daughters

- **What We See on Screen:** Faces in quiet reaction as Shanta explains that women keep carrying everything and putting themselves last.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Shanta speaks with restrained pain; Meera resists; Asha grows uneasy and asks if she has done something wrong.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Faces are softly keyed while the background remains cool and open, preserving the rooftop's emotional isolation.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Let the audience feel the inherited loneliness beneath the practical conversation and build toward the reveal.

SCENE 05: THE ENVELOPE BEHIND THE SARI

Camera Vibe: Medium shot with a clear action reveal

- **What We See on Screen:** Shanta stands, reaches behind a hanging sari on the laundry line, and pulls out a small envelope that contains a rooftop key.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Meera stiffens in surprise; Asha's eyes widen; Shanta remains steady, controlling the moment with quiet authority.
- **Lighting & Mood:** A slightly stronger key on the action, with the laundry line and sari creating a secretive visual curtain.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Deliver the turning point as a physical reveal, making the secret feel earned and emotionally precise.

SCENE 06: PROMISE UNDER THE CITY LIGHTS

Camera Vibe: Final wide tableau with emotional embrace

- **What We See on Screen:** The three women hug on the rooftop, tea glasses nearby, city lights glowing below, laundry fluttering like a blessing, and the key resting in Asha's hand at the end.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Meera breaks first and hugs Shanta; Asha joins in fully; then all three stand together by the parapet, laughing through tears.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Warmth rises subtly in the faces while the city remains cool and distant, creating a hopeful contrast.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on a visual promise of togetherness, with the rooftop transformed from a place of tension into a place of belonging.

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.