

THE LOCKED TIFFIN — 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.

Camera Vibe: Wide establishing shot with the bench centered and the tiffin in the middle

SCENE 01: THE BENCH AND THE LOCKED TIFFIN

- **What We See on Screen:** A dusty railway waiting room with harsh sunlight slicing through barred windows, a lazy ceiling fan overhead, peeling paint on the walls, and three women occupying the same bench like strangers in a tiny battlefield. The locked tiffin sits exactly between them, visually commanding the frame.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Bua leans in suspiciously, Ritu holds her lunch bag with guarded irritation, and Pihu already has her phone ready as if the room is a set.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Hot, high-contrast afternoon light with striped shadows and a dry, institutional feel.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the single-location pressure cooker and make the tiffin feel like the story's fourth character.

Camera Vibe: Medium three-shot with quick cut-ins to faces and the tiffin

SCENE 02: WHO OWNS THE SMELL?

- **What We See on Screen:** The women circle the idea of ownership through glances, smirks, and suspicious sniffing. The tiffin remains untouched, but its presence dominates every reaction.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Bua claims the smell as home food, Ritu fires back with dry sarcasm, and Pihu records the whole exchange like a live experiment.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Same harsh daylight, but with tighter framing that makes the room feel smaller and more competitive.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn a simple smell into a comic power struggle and establish each woman's personality through verbal rhythm.

Camera Vibe: Over-the-shoulder and reaction-shot sequence around the locked tiffin

SCENE 03: THE DETECTIVE ROUND

- **What We See on Screen:** The lock becomes the center of attention as each woman proposes absurd proof tests, while the fan creaks and a distant announcement drifts in and out.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Bua taps the lock with a spoon, Ritu checks the timetable, and Pihu threatens to turn the moment into content.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Still harsh, but with more shadow movement from the fan and stronger contrast on the women's faces.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Escalate the comedy by making the waiting room feel like a courtroom where nobody has evidence and everyone has an opinion.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

Camera Vibe: Tighter medium close-ups with the tiffin and chip packet in frame

SCENE 04: THE BRIBE AND THE SLIP

- **What We See on Screen:** Pihu offers chips, Ritu bargains with practicality, and Bua accidentally reveals more than she intends. The room's energy shifts from teasing to real curiosity.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Bua freezes at the word proposal, Ritu leans in with sudden interest, and Pihu senses a bigger story behind the joke.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The same sun, but the tighter framing and pauses create a more intimate, conspiratorial mood.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Use the bribe beat to crack open the emotional core hidden beneath the comedy.

Camera Vibe: Close-up on Bua with the tiffin in her lap, then insert-style reveal of the contents

SCENE 05: THE CONFESSION INSIDE THE TIFFIN

- **What We See on Screen:** Bua finally admits the tiffin is hers and opens it to reveal lovingly packed aloo paratha, kheer, and a ring box tucked in a napkin. The emotional truth lands quietly inside the comic setup.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Bua's bravado drops for a moment, Ritu softens, and Pihu lowers her camera as the reveal becomes personal.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Softer, warmer fill on faces while keeping the room's realism intact; the food should look inviting and tender.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Deliver the emotional pivot without losing the comedic texture, letting the audience feel the missed proposal and the mother's love at once.

Camera Vibe: Medium-wide group shot that opens up the space as they eat and stand to leave

SCENE 06: SHARED LUNCH, SHARED EXIT

- **What We See on Screen:** The tiffin is now unlocked and centered as the three women share the meal, laugh, and gather their things while the train whistle approaches. The waiting room no longer feels hostile; it feels briefly communal.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Bua serves the first paratha, Ritu relaxes into the moment, and Pihu records less and participates more.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Warmest version of the scene, with softened contrast and a gentle glow on the food and faces.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on a note of temporary family, where the comedy resolves into warmth and the tiffin becomes a symbol of connection rather than suspicion.

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.