

THE TERRACE PACT — 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: SUNSET TERRACE GATHERING

Camera Vibe: Wide establishing shot

- **What We See on Screen:** A small terrace at sunset with a low wall, water tank, potted plants, and a string of yellow bulbs beginning to glow as the sky shifts from orange to indigo. Aarti stands with a bundle of old letters while Megha and Pooja arrive from opposite emotional worlds.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Aarti waits still and guarded; Megha enters with tired practicality; Pooja follows with sharp, restless energy. Their spacing shows tension before any words are spoken.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Warm sunset orange with soft natural fill, practical bulbs just starting to appear, gentle breeze moving the plants.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the terrace as a contained emotional arena and set up the contrast between domestic calm and hidden conflict.

SCENE 02: THE FAMILY MEETING TURNS SHARP

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

- **What We See on Screen:** The three women stand in a triangular arrangement near the low wall, with the yellow bulbs glowing more clearly overhead and the terrace feeling smaller as the conversation begins.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Megha deflects with dry humor, Pooja pushes for clarity, and Aarti stays measured, holding the bundle tighter as the pressure rises.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Warm practicals against cooling dusk, with shadows deepening around the edges of the terrace.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Let the audience feel the first crack in the family's surface and understand that this is not a casual meeting.

SCENE 03: THE LETTERS ARE REVEALED

Camera Vibe: Close-up on hands and letters

- **What We See on Screen:** Aarti opens the bundle to reveal old folded letters, their worn edges and careful preservation visible in detail as the paper becomes the center of the frame.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Aarti's hands tremble slightly; Megha recoils in shock; Pooja steps forward, curiosity replacing anger.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Mixed dusk light with warm bulb highlights catching the paper texture and faces.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Create the emotional turning point where the hidden past becomes physically undeniable.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: READING THE FATHER'S WORDS

Camera Vibe: Over-the-shoulder and tight close-ups

- **What We See on Screen:** Pooja reads a letter aloud while Megha and Aarti react in fragmented close-ups. The terrace background softens, leaving faces and paper as the emotional focus.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Pooja's voice shifts from anger to softness; Megha tightens and then begins to crack; Aarti absorbs the consequences of her silence.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cooler indigo shadows with the bulbs creating warm islands on skin and paper.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Allow the father's absent voice to enter the scene and reshape each character's understanding of the past.

SCENE 05: CONFESSION AT THE LOW WALL

Camera Vibe: Intimate close-up trio with shallow depth of field

- **What We See on Screen:** The women stand close to the low wall as the sky turns fully indigo. The letters are now shared between them, no longer hidden in Aarti's hands.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Aarti admits fear, Megha reveals her own pretending, and Pooja recognizes the difference between knowing truth and living it.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Indigo ambient dominates, with yellow bulbs providing the only steady warmth in frame.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Make the emotional climax feel like a mutual reckoning rather than a single confession.

SCENE 06: A SMALL HONEST ENDING

Camera Vibe: Quiet medium-wide ending shot

- **What We See on Screen:** Megha folds a letter and gives it to Pooja. Aarti waters a plant with a mug under the string lights. The three remain on the terrace, not healed but present.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Megha offers a future step, Pooja accepts without sarcasm, and Aarti completes a small ritual of care.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Soft indigo night with warm yellow bulbs glowing steadily, creating a tender final balance.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on honesty and continuity, showing that family repair begins with shared truth, not instant resolution.

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.