

THE APOLOGY DRAFT — 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.

SCENE 01: THE WAR ROOM TABLE

Camera Vibe: Wide establishing shot

- **What We See on Screen:** A family dining table under a ceiling fan light, with warm kitchen spill washing over plates, cups, a snack bowl, and the handwritten apology list lying like a negotiation document in the center.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Anita sits straight like the chair belongs to her, Bina studies the list with measured suspicion, and Chhaya idly spins a pen, restless and ready to argue.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Soft overhead practical with amber side glow; domestic, slightly dramatic, and comedic in its seriousness.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Set up the table as a battlefield and establish that this is a tiny family meeting with outsized emotional stakes.

SCENE 02: THREE VERSIONS OF SORRY

Camera Vibe: Alternating medium close-ups and over-the-shoulders

- **What We See on Screen:** The sisters begin drafting and rejecting lines, with the paper moving between hands and the list becoming a shared object of control.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Anita writes with authority, Bina corrects with calm precision, and Chhaya interrupts with elegant overcomplication.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Warm, even light with soft shadows that allow facial reactions to pop.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Build comedic rhythm through verbal sparring and show how each sister's personality hijacks the apology.

SCENE 03: THE TONE DEBATE

Camera Vibe: Tight close-ups and reaction shots

- **What We See on Screen:** Hands tapping the table, pen hovering over paper, eyes narrowing, and small gestures of offense as the apology becomes a language war.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Anita insists on structure, Bina pushes for truth and practicality, and Chhaya defends elegance and grace.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Slightly more contrast on faces, with warm highlights and gentle shadow pockets to intensify the argument.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn a simple writing task into a hilarious sibling power struggle without leaving the dining table.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE PERFECT DRAFT THAT ISN'T

Camera Vibe: Medium shot with subtle push-in

- **What We See on Screen:** The sisters finally agree on a polished apology line, with the paper looking almost too neat and the table momentarily calm.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Each sister claims credit—Anita for structure, Bina for tone, Chhaya for polish—while pretending the draft is a shared victory.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Softly balanced, almost peaceful, as if the room is exhaling before the reveal.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Create a false ending of success so the reveal can land harder and funnier.

SCENE 05: THE FOLDED NOTE REVEAL

Camera Vibe: Insert shot into reaction close-ups

- **What We See on Screen:** A folded paper near the table edge is opened to reveal the mother's handwritten note and her own apology draft, neatly dated and emotionally wiser than theirs.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Anita freezes, Bina's face shifts into disbelief, and Chhaya's dramatic confidence collapses into stunned silence.
- **Lighting & Mood:** A slightly brighter warm accent isolates the note and makes it feel like the emotional center of the frame.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Flip the comedy into a tender family reveal that exposes the sisters' overthinking and their mother's quiet grace.

SCENE 06: LAUGHTER INSTEAD OF SENDING

Camera Vibe: Shared medium-wide final shot

- **What We See on Screen:** The sisters laugh helplessly around the table, the mother's note resting between them like the real apology all along.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** They add final lines to the draft—thanks, restraint, and a promise to read the note first next time—then break into full laughter.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Warm, forgiving, and softly glowing, with the kitchen spill making the room feel safe again.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on emotional release: the family battlefield becomes a confession booth, and the joke resolves into affection.

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.