

THE TENANT ON THE ROOF — VISUAL STORYBOARD GUIDE

DIRECTOR'S VISUAL APPROACH (Horror/Supernatural): 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 SICKLY ROOFTOP ARRIVAL

Camera Vibe: Wide establishing shot

- **What We See on Screen:** A damp rooftop terrace under a single sodium streetlight, with puddles reflecting warped water tanks and clotheslines. Manoj enters first, keys swinging, while Sanjay follows with a flashlight through the drizzle.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Manoj strides in irritated and controlling; Sanjay trails behind, cautious and tense, scanning the roof as if expecting movement.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Peeli, sickly streetlight glow with weak window spill and deep surrounding darkness.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Set the rooftop as a living, uneasy space and establish that the night itself is already charged with memory.

SCENE 02: THE FOOTSTEPS ARGUMENT

Camera Vibe: Medium two-shot into tighter close-ups

- **What We See on Screen:** Manoj confronts Sanjay about the repeated footsteps, while the flashlight beam cuts across wet concrete and the empty roof beyond them.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Manoj jangles the keys and leans in aggressively; Sanjay answers carefully, trying not to provoke him while admitting the bare-feet sound.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Harder contrast as the flashlight becomes a moving accent against the sodium wash.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Build tension through denial and unease before the supernatural presence is revealed.

SCENE 03: ALI APPEARS FROM THE CORNER

Camera Vibe: Reverse reveal shot

- **What We See on Screen:** From the far side of the terrace, Ali emerges wet-haired, barefoot, and calm, as if he has been there all along.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Manoj jolts in shock and points; Sanjay tightens his grip on the flashlight; Ali remains still and unreadable.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Ali is caught in the same sickly light but feels colder because of his stillness and the rain on his skin.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Make Ali's entrance feel impossible without using overt effects, relying on timing and stillness to unsettle the audience.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE REGISTER AND THE TORN PAGE

Camera Vibe: Insert and close-up sequence

- **What We See on Screen:** The old building register is opened, its yellowed pages damp and torn. The camera lands on the page showing Room 14, roof access, midnight complaint, and death on terrace.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Sanjay freezes; Manoj's jaw tightens; Ali points the truth toward the page without raising his voice.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Flashlight beam isolates the paper while the streetlight flickers in the background, making the page feel like evidence in a crime scene.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn the supernatural confrontation into a documentary-like reveal of buried guilt.

SCENE 05: THE TANK SCRATCH REVEAL

Camera Vibe: Over-the-shoulder to insert on water tank

- **What We See on Screen:** Ali directs attention to the water tank, where old scratch marks are visible in the metal, like desperate clawing.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Sanjay recoils; Manoj stares in defeat; Ali stays calm, almost compassionate in his certainty.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The flashlight trembles across the scratches, making the marks shimmer like fresh evidence in the rain.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Provide the physical proof that transforms fear into guilt and makes the rooftop's history undeniable.

SCENE 06: THE REFLECTION THAT STAYS

Camera Vibe: Final low-angle puddle shot

- **What We See on Screen:** Manoj's keys fall, Sanjay clutches the register, and Ali stands motionless in the rain. In the puddle, Ali's reflection lingers a beat longer than his body before cut to black.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Manoj bends to retrieve the keys with a shaking hand; Sanjay hugs the register to his chest; Ali delivers the final line with quiet authority.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Streetlight flicker, rain sheen, and deep black edges create a final image that feels unresolved and haunted.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on a visual paradox that confirms the supernatural without breaking the grounded realism of the scene.

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.