

THREE MEN AND A FILE — VISUAL STORYBOARD GUIDE

DIRECTOR'S VISUAL APPROACH (Mystery/Crime): 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 DUSTY TRIANGLE

Camera Vibe: Wide Room View

- **What We See on Screen:** A stale archive room with tall shelves, a metal desk, and hard sunlight stripes cutting across the floor. Devraj stands near the desk, Imtiaz near the shelves, and Adil scans the room with his recorder still pocketed, all three locked in a silent triangle.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Devraj measures the room with his posture, Imtiaz avoids eye contact and studies the shelves, and Adil smirks as he tests the room’s tension with a taunting line.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cold daylight stripes, dusty air visible in beams, muted browns and grays, oppressive and still.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the room as a pressure chamber and immediately define the power geometry between the three men.

SCENE 02: THE LEDGER CLUE

Camera Vibe: Medium Close-Up on Desk and Hands

- **What We See on Screen:** Devraj opens the archive ledger and the camera catches the half-bleached issue number, faint stamp marks, and the old paper texture. The desk lamp begins to shape a tighter pool of light over the evidence.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Devraj flips pages with controlled precision while Adil leans in with predatory curiosity and Imtiaz watches from the shelf line, visibly unsettled.
- **Lighting & Mood:** A mix of hard daylight and a warmer practical lamp pool, creating a focused investigative island in the room.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Shift the scene from verbal sparring into clue-based suspense and make the audience feel the investigation becoming physical.

SCENE 03: THE STAMP TRAIL

Camera Vibe: Insert-to-Medium Investigation Sequence

- **What We See on Screen:** The stamp pad is pulled from under the desk, and the camera tracks faint stamp marks on the ledger margin, the shelf edge, and beneath the desk, forming a deliberate trail.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Devraj connects the pattern, Adil pushes with sharp questions, and Imtiaz flinches at every mention of the file name.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Sharper contrast, with the lamp tightening shadows and the blinds slicing faces into fragments.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn the room into a map of hidden evidence and show that the truth was intentionally distributed, not lost.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE GLASSES REVEAL

Camera Vibe: Tight Close-Up on Imtiaz and the Glasses Frame

- **What We See on Screen:** Imtiaz freezes as Adil notices the folded annexure tucked inside the frame of his reading glasses. The camera lingers on trembling fingers as the paper is removed.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Imtiaz resists, then slowly yields; Devraj commands the moment; Adil raises the recorder and prepares to capture the confession.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Intimate, tense, and slightly harsher, with the glasses and paper catching a sharp highlight against the dusty background.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Make the hidden annexure feel like a buried memory being physically extracted from a man who has carried it for years.

SCENE 05: THREE PAGES, ONE TRUTH

Camera Vibe: Overhead / Desk Three-Shot

- **What We See on Screen:**
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Devraj reads and changes, Imtiaz confesses that he was the clerk, and Adil's confidence collapses as he realizes the source is tied to his mother.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Layered contrast of lamp glow and blind stripes, creating a moral split across the desk and faces.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Deliver the emotional and narrative reveal with maximum clarity, making the truth feel assembled rather than discovered.

SCENE 06: TRUTH WITHOUT A HEADLINE

Camera Vibe: Final Static Three-Shot

- **What We See on Screen:**
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Devraj protects the file from becoming a case, Imtiaz releases a lifetime of guilt, and Adil loses his hunger for exposure and simply listens.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Quiet, balanced, and unresolved; the stripes remain, but the room feels slightly less hostile.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on emotional restraint and moral ambiguity, leaving the audience with the sense that some truths are meant to be carried, not published.

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.