

THE THIRD PASSENGER — 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 RAINY PICKUP

Camera Vibe: Wide exterior into tight interior insert

- **What We See on Screen:** A parked taxi beside a dim roadside dhaba under a flickering neon sign. Rain streaks the windshield and windows while dashboard glow barely lights the cabin. The rear door opens and Aman slips into the back seat like a shadow entering a sealed room.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Sanjay sits slumped at the wheel, tired and still. Aman enters quietly, wet jacket clinging to him, and asks for a ride home. Sanjay responds casually, trying to keep the night ordinary.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cold rain-blue exterior with weak warm dashboard light inside. Neon flicker pulses through the glass, creating a haunted rhythm.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish isolation, routine, and the first hint that this ride is not normal.

SCENE 02: THE ROAD THAT RETURNS

Camera Vibe: Interior two-shot with windshield and side-window inserts

- **What We See on Screen:** The taxi moves through empty rain-dark road, then turns and somehow returns to the same dhaba again. The neon sign reappears in the same frame, making the world feel trapped in a loop.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Sanjay tries to joke and stay calm. Aman remains quiet, looking out the window as if following a memory. The repeated turn begins to irritate and unsettle Sanjay.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Steady dashboard glow interrupted by repeated neon flicker and wet reflections on glass.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Build dread through repetition and make the audience feel the road itself is broken.

SCENE 03: THE MISSING REFLECTION

Camera Vibe: Mirror insert and tight reaction close-ups

- **What We See on Screen:** Sanjay looks into the rearview mirror and sees that Aman's reflection is absent. The mirror becomes the center of the scene, a small rectangle of impossible truth inside the taxi.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Sanjay freezes, then questions Aman. Aman answers calmly, almost gently, while Prakash appears outside and begins to challenge what he sees.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Harder contrast on the mirror surface, with neon flicker and dashboard glow creating a split reality.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Deliver the first undeniable supernatural reveal without breaking the grounded tone.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE MECHANIC’S TEST

Camera Vibe: Three-person tension composition through window and mirror layers

- **What We See on Screen:** Prakash leans into the taxi window with a wrench in hand, peering at Aman and demanding proof of life. The frame layers Sanjay in front, Aman in the back, and Prakash outside, forming a tense triangle.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Prakash questions breath, pulse, and reflection. Aman answers with dry calm. Sanjay is caught between disbelief and fear as the mechanic’s skepticism begins to crack.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Exterior neon spill on Prakash’s face, interior shadow on Aman, and dashboard glow on Sanjay, all separated by rain-streaked glass.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Use the outsider to validate the horror and intensify the claustrophobic triangle.

SCENE 05: THE BROTHER REVEALED

Camera Vibe: Close-up on jacket zipper, ID card insert, then Sanjay reaction close-up

- **What We See on Screen:** Aman opens his wet jacket and pulls out a crumpled school ID card. The card is old, water-stained, and carries the same family surname. Sanjay’s face empties, then breaks under recognition.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Aman speaks the truth that he was left behind. Sanjay’s body stiffens, his hand trembles on the ignition, and Prakash steps back as the reality lands.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Softer but colder light on the ID card, with the dashboard glow catching tears and rain on faces.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Shift the scene from supernatural mystery to emotional tragedy.

SCENE 06: THE FINAL TURN

Camera Vibe: Tight driver close-up, mirror shot, then exterior departure

- **What We See on Screen:** Aman gives the final warning about the oil spill and the fatal turn. Sanjay forces the steering straight, the meter stops, Aman fades from the back seat, and only a damp seat and the corner of the school photo remain. In the mirror, Aman appears one last time, smiling, then vanishes as the taxi drives away into the rain.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Sanjay finally obeys, breathing through fear and guilt. Prakash, shaken, tells him to go straight. Aman’s farewell is calm and complete.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The neon flicker softens into a farewell glow, while the road ahead opens into darker but safer space.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on emotional release rather than shock, leaving the audience with the feeling of a ghostly rescue.

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.