

THE WITNESS IN SEAT 4 — 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 EMPTY BUS TRAP

Camera Vibe: Wide interior establishing shot

- **What We See on Screen:** A parked city bus in night darkness, dusty windows catching yellow streetlight, broken overhead lights flickering over empty seats. Three men stand isolated in the aisle, making the bus feel like a sealed interrogation chamber.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Salim stands centered and alert with notebook in hand; Tarun hovers nervously near the aisle with one hand in his pocket; Faiz holds his small bag close and avoids eye contact.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Flickering practical overheads mixed with warm streetlight spill, creating unstable shadows and a noir atmosphere.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the bus as a claustrophobic crime scene and immediately frame the three men as trapped inside the same secret.

SCENE 02: SEAT 4 UNDER SCRUTINY

Camera Vibe: Medium shot pushing into Seat 4

- **What We See on Screen:** Salim steps toward Seat 4, revealing dust, a faint sticky mark on the cushion, and the emptiness of the seat against the worn bus interior.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Salim leans in and notes details; Tarun and Faiz exchange a quick look behind him, both trying not to react too much.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The flicker becomes more pronounced here, with the seat alternately visible and swallowed by shadow.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Make the audience focus on the physical evidence of absence, so the later reveal that Seat 4 held a lie lands harder.

SCENE 03: THE TICKET STUB PRESSURE

Camera Vibe: Close-ups and over-the-shoulder interrogation coverage

- **What We See on Screen:** Salim's notebook, Tarun's torn ticket stub, and Faiz's tightening grip on the bag. The frame keeps cutting between faces and evidence details.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Tarun fumbles answers and hands over the stub; Faiz stays controlled but increasingly tense; Salim writes, watches, and corners them with precise questions.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Harder contrast, with flashlight accents and streetlight edges sharpening the faces.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn the dialogue into a tightening net, using small objects to expose the men's fear and inconsistency.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE PHONE UNDER THE STEP

Camera Vibe: Low-angle insert to medium reveal

- **What We See on Screen:** Salim's flashlight sweeps the floor near the driver's cabin step and finds the black phone. The cracked screen lights up in his hand.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Salim picks up the phone with calm certainty; Tarun looks struck silent; Faiz's posture stiffens as the truth begins to surface.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Flashlight beam cuts through dust, then the phone screen adds a cold, isolated glow.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Shift the mystery from speculation to evidence, making the phone feel like the real witness in the room.

SCENE 05: PLAYBACK OF THE FINAL MOMENTS

Camera Vibe: Tight close-up on phone screen with reaction shots

- **What We See on Screen:** A shaky video on the cracked screen shows the bus interior from Seat 4's angle, the victim's face, his breathless warning, then a knife flash and the phone dropping.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Salim watches with hardening resolve; Tarun recoils in horror; Faiz's control begins to fracture as the recording proves what happened.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The phone screen becomes the dominant light source, cold and clinical against the dark bus interior.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Deliver the central twist visually and make the audience feel the shock of realizing the witness was never a person.

SCENE 06: CONFESSION IN THE FLICKER

Camera Vibe: Three-shot with Salim foreground and both suspects trapped behind

- **What We See on Screen:** Faiz's bag is opened, the hidden phone is exposed, Tarun steps back, and Salim closes his notebook as the broken lights flicker again over the frozen men.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Faiz breaks and confesses about the victim, the money, and the smuggling deal; Tarun admits he stayed silent after seeing the phone; Salim delivers the final line and turns toward the door.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The lighting returns to unstable flicker, with deep shadows swallowing the bus edges and leaving the men suspended in guilt.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on moral collapse rather than action, letting the silence and Salim's final line land as the true verdict.

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.