

THE WAITING BENCH — 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 EMPTY ROOM AT 2 A.M.

Camera Vibe: Wide establishing shot

- **What We See on Screen:** A nearly empty hospital waiting room under cold fluorescent tubes. The bench sits alone in the center, the water dispenser hums in the corner, file racks line one side, and a corridor light flickers beyond the doorway.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Dr. Aditya storms in with files, Ramesh follows with keys and thermos, while Pallavi remains seated on the bench, motionless and staring ahead.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Sterile white overhead light with a faint unstable flicker from the corridor; the room feels cold, flat, and abandoned.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the room as a pressure chamber and make the audience feel that nothing in this space is truly safe or ordinary.

SCENE 02: THE REPEATED QUESTION

Camera Vibe: Medium shot with alternating close-ups

- **What We See on Screen:** Pallavi slowly turns her head and repeats the same line. Aditya reacts with irritation, Ramesh avoids eye contact, and the water dispenser sits untouched in the background.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Pallavi stays unnervingly still except for the head turn; Aditya gestures sharply with the files; Ramesh shrugs too quickly and looks away.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cold top-light with hard facial shadows, making Pallavi's stillness feel unnatural against the clinical room.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn a simple question into a threat by repetition, rhythm, and the discomfort of unanswered presence.

SCENE 03: THE OLD REGISTER

Camera Vibe: Over-the-shoulder into insert shot

- **What We See on Screen:** Aditya opens drawers and pulls out an old casualty register. The page turns to reveal 'ARJUN MEHRA' and the note that he was brought in late and declared dead before admission.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Aditya's hands slow and freeze; Ramesh stiffens and warns him not to open the page; Pallavi tilts her head as if listening to a sound only she can hear.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The room darkens slightly around the file rack, with the register lit as the focal point under harsh white light.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Make the reveal feel like a forbidden act, and let the audience experience the shock through the physicality of the page turn.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE HALF-TRUTH

Camera Vibe: Tight three-shot with shallow depth of field

- **What We See on Screen:** Ramesh finally admits that Arjun was brought in that night and that Aditya was late. Pallavi stands, her sari dripping onto the floor, while the bench remains behind her like a silent altar.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Ramesh speaks with a shaking voice and lowered eyes; Aditya stares in disbelief; Pallavi rises slowly, controlled and calm, as if she has been waiting for this admission.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The fluorescent light stays cold, but the shadows deepen around the characters, making the room feel smaller and more trapped.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Shift the scene from mystery to guilt, exposing the emotional wound beneath the supernatural surface.

SCENE 05: THE TOKEN ON THE FLOOR

Camera Vibe: Insert shot to close-up reaction

- **What We See on Screen:** A small hospital token lies near the bench. Aditya bends and picks it up; the insert reveals 'ARJUN' clearly. His hand trembles as the corridor light flickers.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Aditya crouches and lifts the token; Pallavi watches without changing expression; Ramesh backs up a step, unable to face the truth.
- **Lighting & Mood:** A brief flare from the corridor creates a ghostly edge on the bench and the token, then falls back into cold flatness.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Use a tiny physical object to collapse the distance between memory, evidence, and haunting.

SCENE 06: THE BENCH AS WITNESS

Camera Vibe: Static wide shot that tightens into dread

- **What We See on Screen:** The corridor flickers and for one brief second the bench seems to hold two silhouettes beside Pallavi. Then the image normalizes, leaving only her seated again as the room falls into silence.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Pallavi sits back down perfectly still and repeats the question; Aditya cannot answer; Ramesh lowers his head; the room absorbs the final line without relief.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The corridor light flares, creating the silhouette doubling, then returns to the same cold fluorescent wash, making the ending feel sealed and unresolved.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on the idea that the room itself has witnessed the loss, and that waiting has become the haunting.

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.