

THE SILENT WITNESS — 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 KITCHEN BECOMES AN INTERROGATION ROOM

Camera Vibe: Wide Room View

- **What We See on Screen:** A cramped apartment kitchen transformed into a makeshift interview space: pendant lamp centered above the table, rain streaking the window, recorder and file folder placed like evidence, tea cups and apartment key visible in the foreground.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Arvind stands rigid in his raincoat, Mohit sits composed with the recorder, and Kavya sits opposite them, tense but controlled, her bandaged wrist partially hidden.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Warm tungsten pool under the lamp, cool rain-blue spill from the window, deep shadows around the room edges.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the claustrophobic arena and make the audience feel that this is not a home anymore, but a pressure chamber.

SCENE 02: THE STORY KEEPS CHANGING

Camera Vibe: Alternating Medium Close-Ups

- **What We See on Screen:** Back-and-forth interrogation coverage as Kavya gives inconsistent details about the murder sound, while Arvind and Mohit react differently to every answer.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Arvind leans in with pressure, Mohit stays measured and observant, and Kavya answers with tiny smiles and controlled evasions.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Faces carved by the pendant lamp, with the window light catching only the edges of profiles and eyes.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Show the tug-of-war in the room and let the audience feel the contradictions stacking up.

SCENE 03: THE WRIST AND THE KEY

Camera Vibe: Insert-Driven Close Shots

- **What We See on Screen:** The apartment key on the table, Kavya's bandaged wrist, Mohit's file folder opening, and Arvind's notebook marking details.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Kavya covers her wrist; Mohit opens the folder; Arvind watches the key and the bandage with growing suspicion.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Sharper contrast, with the key catching a small highlight and the bandage reading as a pale focal point against darker skin tones.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn physical objects into narrative pressure points and make the audience hunt for meaning in every prop.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE RECORDER CATCHES A GHOST

Camera Vibe: Tight Two-Shot with Recorder Insert

- **What We See on Screen:** Mohit rewinds the recorder and a faint distorted line emerges: '...usko pata chal gaya tha...' while Arvind freezes and Kavya watches him carefully.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Mohit leans toward the recorder, Arvind's face hardens, and Kavya's expression shifts from fear to quiet satisfaction.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The room feels colder; the lamp flicker becomes more noticeable, and the shadows deepen around Arvind's face.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Deliver the first major crack in the facade and let the audience realize the room has changed from interrogation to exposure.

SCENE 05: THE TRAP REVEALED

Camera Vibe: Intense Over-the-Shoulder and Close-Up Exchange

- **What We See on Screen:** Kavya states she is the victim's sister, places the key on the table, and directly names Arvind as the target of her trap while Mohit discovers the hidden complaint and photo.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Kavya becomes still and commanding; Mohit opens the file and recoils; Arvind's face drains as he realizes the accusation is aimed at him.
- **Lighting & Mood:** High-contrast noir lighting with the pendant lamp feeling harsher and the window light barely holding the background together.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Make the reveal feel inevitable and devastating, with the room itself seeming to close in on Arvind.

SCENE 06: CONFESSION IN THE RAIN

Camera Vibe: Tight Final Three-Shot

- **What We See on Screen:** Arvind breaks and admits he buried the case while Mohit keeps the recorder running and Kavya delivers the final line about her brother's silence.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Arvind collapses emotionally, Mohit stays still and stunned, and Kavya remains calm, her steady gaze dominating the room.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Pendant lamp flicker, rain sound amplified, shadows deepest at the edges, with the table becoming the emotional center of the frame.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on quiet devastation rather than spectacle, leaving the audience with the sense that truth has been recorded and cannot be taken back.

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.