

THE ROOFTOP TENANT — 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 ROOFTOP CHECK

Camera Vibe: Wide establishing shot with medium two-shot

- **What We See on Screen:** A small rooftop water-tank area under cold moonlight, with distant neon city lights below. Imran stands with a torch and keys while Varun hovers beside him near the rusty tank lid.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Imran scans the rooftop with guarded authority; Varun shifts restlessly, listening into the dark and trying to convince him the footsteps are real.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cool moonlit wash with a weak warm torch beam cutting across the tank and faces; the background city glow stays soft and distant.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the rooftop as a lonely, exposed space and set up the tension between skepticism and fear before the supernatural intrusion.

SCENE 02: THE FIRST SOUND

Camera Vibe: Tight medium close-up on both men, then insert on tank lid

- **What We See on Screen:** The torch beam lands on the rusty metal lid as a faint step sound seems to come from just beyond the light. The men freeze in the same frame.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Varun leans in, whispering and listening; Imran tries to stay composed but his body stiffens as the sound repeats.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Torch beam trembles over textured rust, with deep shadows swallowing the edges of the rooftop.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Make the audience feel the first undeniable disturbance and lock them into the same uncertainty as the characters.

SCENE 03: ZOYA APPEARS

Camera Vibe: Reveal shot from darkness into a medium shot

- **What We See on Screen:** Outside the torch beam, Zoya stands in a white dress with damp hair, calm and detached, as if she has always been there.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Varun nearly screams; Imran instinctively restrains him while Zoya speaks with unnerving politeness.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Her face is partially caught by moonlight, with the torch barely grazing her edges, making her feel both present and unreal.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Introduce the supernatural presence without a jump scare, letting calmness become the source of terror.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

Camera Vibe: Insert close-up on register, then reaction close-ups

SCENE 04: THE REGISTER REVEAL

- **What We See on Screen:** The torch beam reveals the faded register entry: ZOYA, with a cut mark and 'SHIFTED OUT' beneath it. The paper looks old and handled too many times.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Imran's hand tightens around the keys; Varun recoils as the truth becomes visible; Zoya watches them with quiet certainty.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Hard torch light on the page, with surrounding darkness swallowing the rooftop edges and isolating the evidence.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn the haunting into a documented crime of omission, shifting the horror from ghostly to moral.

Camera Vibe: Intimate three-shot with slow push-in

SCENE 05: THE CONFESSION IN THE DARK

- **What We See on Screen:** Zoya stands by the tank lid, tapping it with a wet sound while the men back away. The rooftop feels smaller as the camera closes in.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Zoya states that they locked her in and erased her name; Imran and Varun are trapped in their own guilt, unable to deny her anymore.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Moonlight and torch converge on the tank lid, creating sharp highlights on wet hair, rust, and trembling hands.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Force the emotional confrontation to land as the true horror: not the ghost, but the memory of what the living did.

Camera Vibe: Medium shot drifting into darkness, then final reaction close-up

SCENE 06: GOOD NIGHT, TENANTS

- **What We See on Screen:** Zoya fades back toward the tank lid and disappears into the dark. The men remain frozen as footsteps continue, now joined by a soft wet laugh.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Varun and Imran stare at each other in stunned silence, unable to move while the rooftop soundscape returns with a new, cruel rhythm.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The torch flickers, moonlight thins, and the rooftop sinks back into near-blackness with only faint neon below.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on unresolved dread, leaving the audience with the sense that the haunting has not ended—it has only been acknowledged.

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.