

THE UNOPENED DRAWER — 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: MORNING ROOM, ALREADY A CRIME SCENE

Camera Vibe: Wide establishing shot

- **What We See on Screen:** A middle-class bedroom washed in gray daylight from partially closed curtains, with a bedside lamp glowing warmly beside a bed where a body lies covered under a sheet.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Salim enters with case file and gloves, Nitin is already scanning the room, and Kriti stands near the doorway holding a coffee mug, composed and guarded.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cool gray ambient daylight mixed with a warm yellow practical lamp, creating a split between domestic normalcy and death.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Set the emotional contradiction immediately: this is an ordinary room that now feels sealed by suspicion.

SCENE 02: THE DRAWER THAT SHOULD NOT MATTER

Camera Vibe: Medium shot with flashlight emphasis

- **What We See on Screen:** Nitin's flashlight beam lands on the bedside table's lower drawer, showing the clean dust line and the untouched handle.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Nitin leans in aggressively, Salim studies the drawer with quiet precision, and Kriti answers without moving from her controlled stance.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Flashlight cuts through the dim room, creating hard-edged highlights on wood grain and dust.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn a simple object into the scene's central mystery and establish the first power struggle.

SCENE 03: PERFECT ANSWERS, WRONG SUSPICION

Camera Vibe: Shot-reverse-shot close dialogue coverage

- **What We See on Screen:** Faces in alternating close-ups: Nitin's irritation, Salim's measured observation, and Kriti's elegant stillness with only micro-flinches.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Kriti rotates the coffee mug rim slowly; Nitin presses harder; Salim watches her expression rather than her words.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Low-key, intimate lighting with soft shadow falloff across faces and the lamp glow edging the frame.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Make the audience feel the tension of being judged while hiding something that is not guilt.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE WRONG PERSON WAS BLACKMAILED

Camera Vibe: Tight medium on Kriti and Salim

- **What We See on Screen:** Kriti finally reveals that Arjun was blackmailing her husband, shifting the room's emotional center.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Kriti's grip tightens on the mug, then loosens; Salim absorbs the new information; Nitin remains skeptical.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The room stays dim and controlled, but the emotional temperature rises through facial emphasis rather than brightness.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Deliver the first major narrative reversal and reframe Kriti from suspect to witness with buried pain.

SCENE 05: THE DRAWER OPENS

Camera Vibe: Insert shot into the drawer interior

- **What We See on Screen:** Nitin opens the drawer and flashlight reveals a tied bundle of letters and envelopes, some sealed, some torn.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Nitin's certainty gives way to surprise; Salim reaches in with forensic care; Kriti remains still, as if the drawer has reopened a wound.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Flashlight beam becomes the dominant source inside the drawer, with the lamp and daylight falling away into background hush.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Make the reveal feel like evidence and memory at the same time.

SCENE 06: TRUTH IN THE LETTERS, SILENCE IN THE ROOM

Camera Vibe: Final close-up to medium pullback

- **What We See on Screen:**
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Salim closes the case file, Nitin packs the letters into the evidence bag, and Kriti places her coffee mug down before speaking her final line.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The same gray daylight and bedside lamp remain, but the scene feels emotionally exposed and resolved.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on the idea that the unopened drawer was not hiding guilt, but preserving the truth of a broken life.

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.