

NO VACANCY FOR SECRETS — 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: MIDNIGHT CHECK-IN

Camera Vibe: Wide static room view

- **What We See on Screen:** A small, outdated hotel reception under buzzing fluorescent tubes, with amber desk lamp light pooling over the brass bell, register book, and dusty suitcase. The hallway disappears into blackness behind the desk.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Pranav stands at the counter with a jittery smile and suitcase; Nandita remains rigid behind the desk; Jaya stands beside her in a haunted receptionist posture.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Uneasy mixed lighting, warm amber against cold greenish fluorescent, with the hallway swallowed by darkness.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the hotel as a liminal space where ordinary check-in behavior already feels wrong.

SCENE 02: THE REGISTER SAYS OTHERWISE

Camera Vibe: Medium shot into desk area with insert cutaways

- **What We See on Screen:** Nandita slides the register toward Pranav, and Jaya opens the book with mechanical precision. The page reveals Pranav's name written inside.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Pranav leans in, confused and defensive; Jaya points to the entry without blinking; Nandita watches with controlled stillness.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Lamp light isolates the register and hands, while the rest of the room falls colder and flatter.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn paperwork into horror by making the register feel like a supernatural record of guilt.

SCENE 03: THE BELL AND THE FOOTSTEPS

Camera Vibe: Close-up on brass bell, then reaction close-ups

- **What We See on Screen:** Pranav rings the bell; the sound hangs in the air as faint footsteps seem to move through the hallway darkness. The wall clock becomes visible as a ticking threat.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Pranav freezes and turns toward the corridor; Nandita remains calm; Jaya repeats her line with blank detachment.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Harder shadows, slightly harsher fluorescent buzz, with the hallway remaining unreadable and ominous.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Use sound and reaction to imply a presence before any visual confirmation.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE 404 KEY

Camera Vibe: Insert on key and tight close-up on Pranav

- **What We See on Screen:** Jaya places the room key on the counter, the number 404 clearly visible. Pranav picks it up and feels its cold weight.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Pranav's confidence collapses into dread; Nandita delivers the line about the room existing only sometimes; Jaya stays unnervingly still.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The key catches a sharp amber highlight while the surrounding shadows deepen.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Make the room number feel like a verdict rather than a destination.

SCENE 05: MEMORY BREAKS THROUGH

Camera Vibe: Tight close-up with memory insert overlays

- **What We See on Screen:** Pranav's face shifts as a rain-slick road memory intrudes: headlights, a ringing phone, and an unheard woman's voice. The present reception remains visible beneath the memory.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Pranav admits he was going to call; Nandita and Jaya exchange a knowing look, as if the truth has finally surfaced.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The room feels colder, with the lamp light now exposing sweat and fear on Pranav's face.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Reveal that the supernatural pressure is tied to a specific act of avoidance and guilt.

SCENE 06: NO VACANCY FOR SECRETS

Camera Vibe: Climactic medium-wide with reflection reveal and suitcase insert

- **What We See on Screen:** Pranav turns to the desk lamp glass and sees his reflection with another shape behind him, while Nandita and Jaya have no reflections. The suitcase falls open to reveal the soggy clipping and blood-stained key card; Jaya writes STAYED in the register.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Pranav breaks down in shock; Jaya's blank stare cracks into pain; Nandita delivers the final judgment and resets the bell as the lobby waits for the next guest.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Flickering practicals, deepened hallway black, and a final amber pool that feels like a trap rather than comfort.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Deliver the supernatural confirmation and emotional payoff in one visual collapse, ending on the hotel's endless cycle.

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.