

ELEVATOR TO NOWHERE — VISUAL STORYBOARD GUIDE

DIRECTOR'S VISUAL APPROACH (Psychological Thriller): 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 STUCK BETWEEN FLOORS

Camera Vibe: Wide Room View with Tight Vertical Composition

- **What We See on Screen:** A sleek elevator frozen between floors, emergency strips flickering against mirrored walls. The digital panel blinks 11... 12... then dies, while the three women stand trapped in a metallic box that feels smaller than it should.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Isha stands composed and still, Rhea fidgets and slaps the buttons, and Mina remains upright and unreadable with her key ring at her waist.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cold, flickering, uneven light with harsh reflections and deepening shadows.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the trap immediately and make the audience feel the elevator's claustrophobia before any dialogue reveals the emotional stakes.

SCENE 02: AWKWARD PANIC AND DEFLECTION

Camera Vibe: Alternating Close-Ups and Over-the-Shoulders

- **What We See on Screen:** Rhea's panic fills the frame as she complains about the dead phone and no signal. Isha answers with calm wit, while Mina stays expressionless, letting the silence do the threatening work.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Rhea clutches her tote bag and gestures sharply; Isha stays controlled with minimal movement; Mina speaks without changing posture.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Flicker-driven light that catches eyes, hands, and the edges of faces, leaving the rest in shadow.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Introduce the emotional triangle: panic, logic, and concealment.

SCENE 03: THE PAPER SPILL AND THE SEALED BASEMENT

Camera Vibe: Insert Shots and Tight Reaction Close-Ups

- **What We See on Screen:** Rhea's tote bag slips and papers scatter across the floor. The maintenance notice lands in view: "Basement level sealed until further review." Isha reads it, and the room shifts.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Rhea snatches at the paper, Isha leans in to read, and Mina's jaw tightens for the first time.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Slightly dimmer, with the paper catching the brightest practical light so the text becomes a visual trigger.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Use the prop reveal to pivot the scene from inconvenience to conspiracy.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE FIRE THAT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT

Camera Vibe: Intimate Face-to-Face Close-Ups

- **What We See on Screen:** The conversation turns to the basement fire, the sealed incident, and the missing witness statement. Mina admits the basement had people locked inside. Rhea freezes as her sister's disappearance becomes personal.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Isha speaks with legal precision, Mina finally reveals a crack in her mask, and Rhea's body locks with shock.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Lower-key lighting with deeper facial shadows, making each confession feel heavier and more dangerous.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Push the emotional stakes from mystery into moral horror.

SCENE 05: MASTER OVERRIDE

Camera Vibe: Low Angle on the Key Ring and Handheld Reaction Coverage

- **What We See on Screen:** The elevator jolts. Mina's key ring drops, revealing the maintenance tag: "MASTER OVERRIDE - SUBLEVEL ACCESS." The engraved number catches the light like a buried code.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Rhea bends to pick up the key ring, Isha locks onto the tag, and Mina delivers her warning with a controlled, chilling calm.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Harder contrast and a colder tone, with the key ring briefly highlighted as the most important object in the frame.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn the key ring into a symbol of institutional power and hidden complicity.

SCENE 06: RECORDING STARTED

Camera Vibe: Upward Tilt to the Hidden Camera and Final Frontal Stare

- **What We See on Screen:** The mirrored panel clicks on. A red camera light blinks. The distorted voice says, "Recording started." The women freeze as Isha addresses the unseen watcher directly and the doors slam shut.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Rhea holds the notice toward the camera, Isha speaks directly into the lens, and Mina's fear finally surfaces as the trap becomes undeniable.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The red camera light becomes the dominant accent against the cold emergency flicker, ending in a hard blackout.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Deliver the final reversal: the elevator is not merely broken, it is a controlled interrogation room, and the audience is now part of the recording.

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.