

THE MIRROR IN 204 — 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: ROOM 204 OPENS ITS MOUTH

Camera Vibe: Wide room view with doorway entry

- **What We See on Screen:** Naina drags a small suitcase into a cramped apartment room lit by a bedside lamp. Mrs. D'Souza stands in the doorway like a warning, while the wardrobe mirror looms over the room and catches the first lightning flash from the window.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Naina enters exhausted and guarded, clutching an old key. Mrs. D'Souza holds her rosary and watches without blinking. Priya appears from the corridor with a flashlight, stepping in as the practical witness.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Warm lamp pool against cold lightning bursts; shadows are tight and heavy, with the mirror reflecting more space than the room seems to have.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the room as a trap and the mirror as the dominant force before any supernatural event occurs.

SCENE 02: THE FIRST WRONG REFLECTION

Camera Vibe: Medium close-up on Naina and mirror

- **What We See on Screen:** Naina looks at her reflection and notices it lagging half a second behind her smile. Priya tests the mirror with her flashlight beam, and the reflection reacts late, confirming something is off.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Naina freezes in confusion. Priya leans into skepticism and performs a practical test. Mrs. D'Souza tightens her rosary, visibly disturbed.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Lamp light stays warm, but flashlight beam and lightning create sharp, cold interruptions across the mirror surface.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn a subtle visual delay into the first undeniable crack in reality.

SCENE 03: THE MISSING TENANT'S NAME

Camera Vibe: Tight three-shot with mirror in background

- **What We See on Screen:** Mrs. D'Souza reveals that a tenant disappeared from Room 204 after hearing her own name from the mirror. Naina's face hardens into disbelief, then fear, while the room feels smaller around them.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Mrs. D'Souza speaks reluctantly, guilt and fear fighting in her posture. Naina tries to deflect with sarcasm, but the joke lands badly. Priya remains skeptical but alert.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The room darkens slightly as lightning fades; the lamp becomes more oppressive, making the mirror feel like a listening surface.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Shift the scene from odd to ominous by tying the haunting to a specific past disappearance.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE VOICE INSIDE THE GLASS

Camera Vibe: Close-up on mirror and reaction inserts

- **What We See on Screen:** A faint voice emerges from the mirror: first a plea to be let out, then a chilling line about being left behind. The rosary falls from Mrs. D'Souza's hand as Priya and Naina stare at the glass.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** All three freeze. Mrs. D'Souza loses control for the first time. Priya steps closer, trying to rationalize the impossible. Naina recoils, realizing the voice sounds like her.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Lightning flashes isolate faces in brief, harsh bursts; the mirror surface seems to hold a colder, deeper darkness than the room.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Deliver the first full supernatural manifestation and make the audience feel the room has crossed a threshold.

SCENE 05: PROOF IN THE REFLECTION

Camera Vibe: Insert-heavy close-ups on suitcase and locket in mirror

- **What We See on Screen:** Priya notices the mirror showing Naina's suitcase zipper open even though the real suitcase is closed. Inside the reflection, a silver locket appears—something Mrs. D'Souza never told the police.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Priya leans in, trying to solve the contradiction. Mrs. D'Souza breaks and confesses. Naina stands stunned, realizing the mirror knows more than any of them should.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The lamp flickers subtly; the flashlight beam becomes a hard investigative line that cannot explain what it reveals.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Use specific, verifiable details to destroy skepticism and force the confession into the open.

SCENE 06: THE MIRROR CHOOSES

Camera Vibe: Medium-wide confrontation with chair silhouette

- **What We See on Screen:** Priya lifts a chair to smash the mirror. Lightning flashes. The reflection smiles first, then the real Naina smiles a beat later. Mirror Naina steps out of sync and begins to move as if she owns the room.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Priya commits to action, then stops when the timing mismatch becomes undeniable. Mrs. D'Souza prays. Real Naina goes blank while the mirror version takes control of the space.
- **Lighting & Mood:** High-contrast lightning and a flickering lamp create a strobing, unstable image; the final blackout is imminent.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on a terrifying reversal of agency, where the reflection becomes the active self and the real person becomes the trapped one.

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.