

THE WRONG FUNERAL — 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: THE SILENT ENTRY

Camera Vibe: Wide room view with a slow, observational push-in

- **What We See on Screen:** The beige viewing room sits in eerie stillness: closed curtains, a flower-draped casket, incense hanging in the air, and the guest register on the side table. Detective Meenal enters first, followed by the guarded presence of Saira near the casket and Ira at the door clutching a folded death certificate.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Meenal scans the room and immediately reads the silence. Saira holds her ground with composed stillness. Ira stands tense and grief-stricken, her body already carrying the weight of the accusation she is about to make.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Soft overhead light, muted beige tones, low contrast, and a respectful but oppressive calm.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the room as a pressure chamber where grief and secrecy already coexist before anyone speaks.

SCENE 02: THE FIRST ACCUSATION

Camera Vibe: Medium three-shot shifting into close-ups on Ira and Saira

- **What We See on Screen:** Ira opens the death certificate with trembling hands and confronts the room. Meenal turns her attention from Saira to Ira, while Saira answers with polished calm that feels rehearsed.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Ira steps forward emotionally, voice shaking but direct. Saira counters with controlled defensiveness. Meenal stays still, absorbing every word and beginning to write.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Even light with subtle facial shadow, keeping all three women visible while emphasizing tension in the eyes.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Launch the conflict and make the audience feel that the truth is already slipping out of Saira's control.

SCENE 03: PAPER TRAIL PRESSURE

Camera Vibe: Over-the-shoulder on Meenal at the guest register, with insert shots of signatures

- **What We See on Screen:** Meenal flips through the guest register and notices two families' signatures on the same page. The paperwork becomes the visual battlefield, with the register and certificate now competing as evidence.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Meenal remains calm and precise. Saira answers with increasingly careful language. Ira's grief begins to harden into suspicion as she watches the exchange.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Slightly more contrast on the table surface and paper edges, making the documents feel like evidence under interrogation.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Shift the scene from emotional accusation to procedural proof, showing that the lie is embedded in records.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE HIDDEN ENVELOPE

Camera Vibe: Insert-driven close-up sequence with a tight hand-held feel

- **What We See on Screen:** Ira notices the envelope tucked near the flowers, opens it, and reveals insurance claim forms with multiple signatures and the note about body release after payment confirmation.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Ira's hands shake as she reads. Meenal takes the envelope and processes the implication instantly. Saira turns away just enough to suggest she knows more than she has admitted.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Focused practical light on the table and hands, with the rest of the room falling slightly darker.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Reveal the financial motive and make the room feel contaminated by transaction and fraud.

SCENE 05: THE TAG BENEATH THE FLOWERS

Camera Vibe: Close-up on the casket flowers being lifted, then a tight insert on the mortuary tag

- **What We See on Screen:** Meenal removes the flower garland and uncovers the small mortuary tag beneath it. Fresh ink, tray number mismatch, and the comparison with the death certificate confirm the body swap.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Meenal's movements are controlled and surgical. Ira compares the tag and certificate with growing horror. Saira's composure begins to fail under the weight of the reveal.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Sharper, colder light on the tag and documents, with the casket remaining dark and closed behind them.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Make the physical evidence undeniable and visually expose the lie hidden under the funeral's decorative surface.

SCENE 06: THE RECORD MUST BE RIGHT

Camera Vibe: Tight three-shot near the casket, ending in a still tableau

- **What We See on Screen:** Meenal tears a page from the guest register, finds the second hidden tag, and confirms the double claim system. Saira admits the swap happened in the morgue. Ira holds the death certificate to her chest and demands her sister's name be written correctly.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Meenal closes her notepad with finality. Saira breaks and confesses in fragments. Ira's grief becomes a fierce demand for dignity. The three women stand together in a frozen moral aftermath.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cooler, harsher, and more exposed than before, with the room feeling stripped of comfort and privacy.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on a quiet but devastating moral resolution: the case is solved, but the human cost remains visible in the room's silence.

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.