

THE TENANT ON THE TOP FLOOR — 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: THE FLICKERING TOP FLOOR

Camera Vibe: Wide corridor establishing shot

- **What We See on Screen:** A narrow old apartment corridor stretches into darkness under a single buzzing tube light. Door peepholes glint faintly. The stairwell behind is a black, windy void. Inspector Tara enters with torch and notebook while Mrs. Khan stands rigidly near the locked room.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Tara steps in with controlled confidence. Mrs. Khan grips her keys tightly and watches her approach. The corridor feels too small for the tension between them.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cold fluorescent flicker with deep shadows and a faint green-blue cast. The light pulses unevenly, making the walls seem to breathe.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Set the claustrophobic horror tone immediately and establish the corridor as a trapped, haunted space.

SCENE 02: THE QUIET TENANT APPEARS

Camera Vibe: Medium two-shot shifting to a reveal at the corridor end

- **What We See on Screen:** Mrs. Khan complains, Tara questions, and then Leena appears at the far end of the corridor in a rain-damp kurta, pale and still, as if she has stepped out of the darkness rather than walked through it.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Tara turns to assess Leena. Mrs. Khan leans forward with irritation and fear. Leena approaches without visible urgency, her movement almost soundless.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The tube light remains unstable, creating intermittent visibility and making Leena's entrance feel delayed and unnatural.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Introduce Leena as both human and unsettling, so the audience feels the first crack in normal reality.

SCENE 03: FOOTSTEPS INSIDE THE WALL

Camera Vibe: Tight close-ups and over-the-shoulder lock inspection

- **What We See on Screen:** Tara inspects the lock, chain, and faded nameplate with her torch. The corridor seems to stretch subtly. Mrs. Khan and Leena remain behind her, but their shadows point in different directions.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Tara stays practical and focused. Mrs. Khan becomes defensive and agitated. Leena speaks softly, almost detached, while Tara's notebook and torch become tools of control.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Torch beam cuts through the corridor darkness while the tube light flickers harder, creating unstable edges and shadow separation.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Show the first supernatural distortion without fully revealing the ghost, letting the audience feel the space itself turning wrong.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE DOOR OPENS TO NOTHING

Camera Vibe: Doorway reveal into the room interior

- **What We See on Screen:** Tara opens the locked room. Inside is an empty space with no bed, no luggage, only dust, a window, and a faint damp outline on the wall. The room feels abandoned and wrong.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Tara steps into the threshold and sweeps the room with her torch. Mrs. Khan peers in from the doorway, shaken. Leena's presence remains unnervingly calm behind Tara.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cold, sparse interior light with dusty air visible in the torch beam. The room should feel drained and lifeless compared to the corridor.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Deliver the first major reveal that the room contains no normal explanation, shifting the story from complaint investigation to supernatural mystery.

SCENE 05: THE REFLECTION BEHIND LEENA

Camera Vibe: Reflection shot through glass pane with layered depth

- **What We See on Screen:** Leena is seen in the corridor reflection, not fully in the room, and behind her reflection stands a second silhouette in the same posture. Tara notices the maintenance register and the faded photograph of Leena.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Tara's confidence breaks for the first time. Mrs. Khan's fear becomes visible and raw. Leena remains still, almost childlike, as if she has been waiting to be recognized.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The tube light flickers violently, and the reflection catches cold highlights while the surrounding corridor sinks into shadow.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Reveal the impossible identity loop and make the audience question who is physically present and who is trapped in the building.

SCENE 06: STILL INSIDE

Camera Vibe: Tight reaction shot ending on cut to black

- **What We See on Screen:** The tube light flickers one last time. Tara stares at the notebook page now written with the message that the tenant is still inside. Mrs. Khan points behind Tara in terror. The frame holds on their fear before cutting to black.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Tara freezes in disbelief. Mrs. Khan breaks completely into fear. Leena's final presence is implied rather than shown, leaving the audience with the sense that the corridor still contains something unseen.
- **Lighting & Mood:** A final violent flicker, then a brief return to stable cold light before darkness swallows the frame.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on an unresolved, chilling note that confirms the haunting without overexplaining it.

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.