

THE THREE KEYS — 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 CORRIDOR TRAP

Camera Vibe: Wide corridor view with centered storage room door

- **What We See on Screen:** A narrow apartment corridor under a flickering bulb, weak daylight leaking from the stairwell window, and the locked storage room door holding the center of the frame like a silent accusation.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Anjali stands measuring the space with her flashlight and evidence pouch; Farah avoids eye contact; Mrs. Verma holds her handbag too neatly, too tightly.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cold, unstable practical light with thin daylight fill; shadows feel compressed and vertical.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the corridor as a pressure chamber and make the audience feel that the space itself is part of the mystery.

SCENE 02: THE KEYS AND THE REGISTER

Camera Vibe: Medium close-up on the ledge with keys and tenant register

- **What We See on Screen:** Three identical keys beside an open tenant register, with Anjali's flashlight beam cutting across the page and catching the metal edges.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Anjali studies the keys and register; Farah's hands tremble in the background; Mrs. Verma remains still, guarded.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Hard flashlight highlights against dim ambient corridor light, creating forensic contrast.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn ordinary objects into evidence and make the audience understand that the truth is already visible if someone knows where to look.

SCENE 03: THE REGISTER CRACK

Camera Vibe: Insert and over-the-shoulder on the register page

- **What We See on Screen:** One apartment number with three different initials beneath it, revealed as Anjali flips the register open and stops on the page.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Anjali's hand pauses; Farah's breath catches; Mrs. Verma's expression remains controlled but tense.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cool daylight and flashlight beam isolate the page, while the bulb buzzes overhead.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Deliver the first major reveal visually, making the paperwork itself feel like a hidden crime scene.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE HANDBAG BREAKS

Camera Vibe: Tight medium shot on Mrs. Verma opening the handbag

- **What We See on Screen:**
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Mrs. Verma's calm finally cracks; Farah turns toward the photo; Anjali watches without blinking.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Flashlight and practical bulb create sharp reflections on the bag's contents, with the corridor darkening around them.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Shift the scene from suspicion to confession and let the handbag become the container of the truth.

SCENE 05: THE PHOTO RECOGNITION

Camera Vibe: Close-up on Farah reacting to the photograph

- **What We See on Screen:**
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Farah freezes, then emotionally collapses inward; Anjali remains steady; Mrs. Verma looks away for the first time.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Softer, slightly warmer highlight on the photograph, with the rest of the corridor still cold and tense.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Make the reveal personal, not just procedural, so the audience feels the human cost behind the hidden records.

SCENE 06: VERDICT IN THE CORRIDOR

Camera Vibe: Triangular three-shot with all characters in frame

- **What We See on Screen:**
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Anjali delivers the final truth; Farah and Mrs. Verma stand stunned, each facing the collapse of their own story.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The bulb flickers hard, shadows pulse across faces, and the corridor feels even narrower than before.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End with emotional and moral finality, making the audience feel that the real lock was always the lie they built together.

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.