

NEXT TIME

Genre: Psychological Horror

Location: Carlyle Court, NYC

Runtime: 4-6 minutes

Cast: 2 main actors, 1 background actor

Style: Minimal dialogue, dark light, ambient sound, quiet tension

Logline

Upon arriving at a hotel, a woman is stalked by an unknown male guest. As her stay continues, the roles reverse.

Scene 1 - Hotel

EXT. CARLYLE COURT - LATE AFTERNOON

Wide shot: A lone woman arrives at a hotel entrance. It is a dim afternoon, quiet and mostly empty.

As she checks in, a close-up shot shows the key being passed to her hand. Another close-up shows her suitcase by her feet.

"Room 1204," says an unseen hotel clerk.

"Thank you," says the woman.

She walks through the courtyard, headed towards her room.

The camera follows behind the woman as she walks, then pans to a man sitting on a nearby bench

Cut to a close-up of his eyes watching her attentively.

The man stands up from the bench. The camera follows him as he walks at a distance behind the woman.

The camera's perspective switches between the man and the woman to create tension.

Scene 2 - Elevator

EXT. ELEVATOR - LATE AFTERNOON

The woman waits for the elevator anxiously, realizing the man is following her. She looks over her shoulder, noticing the man watching her eerily.

A symmetrical wide-angle shot shows the woman and man waiting for the elevator from behind.

When they enter the elevator, the woman waits for the man to click a floor, but he doesn't.

"Going up?," says the man.

"Yes," says the woman, nodding nervously while pressing the 12th floor button.

Camera cuts between close ups of the 12th floor button and both of their faces.

Wide angle once they exit the elevator.

The man follows closely behind the woman as she walks down the hallway to her room. The camera changes between wide angle shots of the hallway and close ups of each character walking, building tension as they near the woman's room.

The woman reaches her door, quickly turns the key, enters the room, and slams the door behind her. She peeks out the keyhole, seeing the man staring at the door of her room.

The camera cuts to a wide angle shot of the man walking down the hallway and entering the elevator.

Inside, the woman grows increasingly angry and paranoid. She keeps looking through the peephole and opening and closing the door. She paces around her room, contemplating what to do next.

After cutting fruit, the woman begins to wash the knife she used in the sink. She stares down at the knife under running water, seeing her reflection on its blade.

Final shot: An eerie mood sets over the scene as she realizes what she is going to do.

Scene 3 - Reverse the Roles

EXT. CARLYLE COURT - EVENING, THE FOLLOWING DAY

Wide shot: The woman, exiting the elevator and walking through the courtyard, notices the man sitting there, waiting for her. She hides behind a nearby wall.

Close up: The woman holds a knife behind her back.

She stares at the man in the courtyard.

Wide angle: The man gets up from his seat and begins walking to the nearby tower, entering the elevator up to his room.

The camera closely follows the woman as she walks in the same direction as the man. Realizing that the man has already entered the elevator, she immediately races toward the stairwell, jumping up the stairs frantically. At each floor, she pokes her head through the doorway, checking if the man is walking through the hallway.

She reaches the 7th floor, where she sees the man walking down the hallway to his room.

She runs up behind him, stabs him in the back.

The woman says, "Next time, look over your shoulder."

A kitschy stabbing scene ensues, with frames focused on the woman alone. The man screams in agony.

The woman smiles as the title screen comes on.

Roll credits.