

SIGNAL LOST — VISUAL STORYBOARD GUIDE

DIRECTOR'S VISUAL APPROACH (Sci-Fi/High-Concept): 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 NIGHT SHIFT COCOON

Camera Vibe: Wide establishing shot with layered foreground clutter

- **What We See on Screen:** A cramped remote observatory control room packed with radios, screens, cables, signal logs, and a coffee mug. Monitor glow and blinking LEDs carve the room into cold metallic planes while moonlight slices through the narrow window.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Ishan scans logs on the tablet, Neil works under the console on cables, and Vivek tunes frequencies with headphones around his neck. Their movements are routine, tired, and repetitive.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cool, low-key practical light with blue-green monitor spill and a thin moonlit accent.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the room as a sealed technological cocoon and make the audience feel the monotony before the intrusion.

SCENE 02: THE SIGNAL SPEAKS FIRST

Camera Vibe: Medium close-ups and insert shots on faces, tablet, and speaker

- **What We See on Screen:** A distorted signal burst interrupts the room. The waveform on Ishan's tablet becomes the visual clue as the speaker delivers a line that predicts Neil's actions.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Neil freezes mid-task, Vivek smirks defensively, and Ishan studies the waveform with growing suspicion.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Monitor glow intensifies on faces, with sharper contrast and a slightly harsher edge to the shadows.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Create the first impossible moment and make the audience feel the room shift from routine to threat.

SCENE 03: THE SIGNAL KNOWS THEM

Camera Vibe: Tight dialogue coverage with over-the-shoulders and reaction close-ups

- **What We See on Screen:** The signal directly addresses Vivek and warns Neil not to reset the antenna. The room's tension becomes visible in every glance and pause.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Vivek puts on his headphones, Neil reaches toward the system, and Ishan remains still, trying to reason through the event.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cool practicals, stronger facial shadows, and a more claustrophobic frame with equipment crowding the edges.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Make the signal feel personal and invasive, as if the room itself is listening.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE HANDWRITING REVEAL

Camera Vibe: Insert on old log entry, then push-in to Ishan's face

- **What We See on Screen:** An old six-month-old signal log appears with the handwritten note: Don't open the next transmission. Ishan recognizes the handwriting as his own.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Ishan's hand trembles, Neil leans in to confirm, and Vivek's sarcasm collapses into fear.
- **Lighting & Mood:** A colder, more isolated pool of light on the tablet and Ishan's face, with the rest of the room falling darker.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Deliver the emotional pivot where science becomes personal and impossible to dismiss.

SCENE 05: FUTURE VOICES IN THE SPEAKER

Camera Vibe: Slow push-in on the trio with layered sound emphasis

- **What We See on Screen:** The signal becomes clear and the voices of their future selves emerge from the speaker, warning them not to open the next transmission and explaining the loop.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Neil steps back, Vivek recoils, and Ishan stares at the monitors while trying to hold onto logic.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Faces are lit by cold screen spill, with deeper shadows and a sense of the room closing in.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn the scene into a temporal confrontation and let the audience feel the dread of hearing their own future.

SCENE 06: THE KEY AND THE BLACKOUT

Camera Vibe: Close insert on mug, key, and key slot, ending on a frozen three-shot

- **What We See on Screen:** Neil lifts the coffee mug to reveal the tiny metal key labeled TRANSMISSION LOCK. Ishan inserts it, turns it, the monitors go black, the room dims, and the door locks with a heavy thunk. The final whisper comes from the dark speaker.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Neil is stunned, Vivek questions the future, and Ishan chooses trust and turns the key. All three freeze after the lock engages.
- **Lighting & Mood:** A brief dimming heartbeat, then near-total darkness with only faint residual moonlight and the sense of a dead room.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on a chilling unresolved silence that suggests the warning may have saved them, but not from being watched.

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.