

THE THIRD CUP — 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: AFTER CLOSING, THE TABLE AWAKENS

Camera Vibe: Wide establishing shot with a slow, observational hold

- **What We See on Screen:** A half-lowered cafeteria shutter, one buzzing tube light, steam rising from a kettle, and metal tables catching broken reflections. Iqbal writes equations on a small chalkboard while Rohan sits with a laptop and energy drink, and Asha stands near the counter watching them.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Iqbal is absorbed in his equations, Rohan leans toward the laptop with nervous anticipation, and Asha remains still, alert, and unreadable.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cold fluorescent overhead light with hard reflections and deep corners, creating a quiet, after-hours laboratory feel.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the contained world and the triangle of power before any supernatural event begins.

SCENE 02: THE CUPS BECOME THE EXPERIMENT

Camera Vibe: Medium shot across the table with insert cuts to cups and chalkboard

- **What We See on Screen:** Three tea cups are placed on the table and labeled through dialogue as baseline, control, and anomaly cup. Tea is poured carefully, steam curls under the tube light, and Rohan records on the laptop while Asha watches every detail.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Iqbal performs the setup with confidence, Rohan leans in to capture proof, and Asha asks practical questions that quietly challenge the experiment.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Still cold and clinical, with steam catching the light and reflections sharpening the sense of precision.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn a simple tea setup into a scientific ritual and make the audience invest in the rules.

SCENE 03: THE ROTATION THAT CHANGES EVERYTHING

Camera Vibe: Tight over-the-shoulder and insert on cup, steam, and chalkboard pattern

- **What We See on Screen:** Asha quietly rotates one cup by a few degrees. The steam swirl shifts and matches the chalkboard pattern. Rohan jolts forward, and Iqbal freezes in disbelief.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Asha remains calm and almost casual, Iqbal becomes visibly shaken, and Rohan reacts with sudden excitement.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The same practical light now feels sharper, with steam becoming the visual proof of the anomaly.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Deliver the first undeniable visual confirmation that the theory is real.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: THE LOOP REVEAL

Camera Vibe: Intimate medium close-ups on Asha, then reaction shots of Iqbal and Rohan

- **What We See on Screen:** Asha says she has lived the night three times and details the repeated events, including the energy drink, the chalkboard, and Iqbal's repeated line. The room goes silent as the men realize she is serious.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Asha speaks with calm certainty, Iqbal shifts from skepticism to concern, and Rohan's confidence collapses into stunned attention.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Still fluorescent, but the emotional weight darkens the frame; faces should feel more isolated in the light.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Pivot the story from science puzzle to character power shift and emotional authority.

SCENE 05: INSTRUCTIONS, SPIRAL, PROOF

Camera Vibe: Controlled medium shot with inserts of laptop, kettle, and cup interior

- **What We See on Screen:** Asha directs them to change the chalkboard angle, turn off the laptop camera, and switch off the kettle early. The steam forms a clean spiral, readings spike, and condensation inside the third cup moves in reverse.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Iqbal obeys for the first time, Rohan records in awe, and Asha watches the anomaly with quiet vindication.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The practical light remains dominant, but the steam and reflections now feel precise and impossible.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Show that the anomaly is real while proving Asha's practical intelligence is what unlocks it.

SCENE 06: CHOICE OVER PROOF

Camera Vibe: Close-up on the third cup, then reveal to the chalkboard and dawn-lit room

- **What We See on Screen:** Asha turns the third cup upside down, tea spills across the metal table, the tube light flickers, and for a split second time seems frozen. When the light stabilizes, a new line appears on the chalkboard: 'ANOMALY IS NOT IN THE TEA. IT IS IN THE CHOICE.' Dawn begins to seep in as the three cups sit in different states of certainty.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Asha claims authorship of the new line, Iqbal is humbled, and Rohan finally understands the scale of what happened.
- **Lighting & Mood:** A brief flicker and freeze-like moment give way to the first soft dawn spill, shifting the palette from cold isolation to quiet resolution.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on the moral revelation that the true discovery is ethical, not just scientific, and let dawn signal a new understanding.

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.