

THE CALL THAT WASN'T — 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: NIGHT SHIFT IN THE POD

Camera Vibe: Wide establishing view with layered foreground monitors

- **What We See on Screen:** A cramped call center pod at night, washed in monitor glow and neon blue-pink reflections. Eshan sits at his station with a headset on while Mudit stands behind him with a clipboard and coffee cup. The AC hum feels visible in the stillness.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Eshan maintains a polite, rehearsed smile while handling a call. Mudit ticks notes on the clipboard and watches him with tired skepticism.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Cold, sterile, blue-dominant lighting with pink neon reflections and soft screen spill.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Establish the ordinary workplace reality before the impossible intrudes, so the audience feels the shift from routine to anomaly.

SCENE 02: THE PEN FALLS FIRST

Camera Vibe: Medium close-up on Eshan and desk, then insert on the pen

- **What We See on Screen:** Eshan freezes as a voice predicts the pen will fall from the left side. The pen drops exactly as warned, tapping the desk in a tiny but shocking beat. Mudit reacts from behind, half amused and half confused.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Eshan stops mid-breath, eyes fixed on the desk. Mudit leans in slightly, eyebrow raised, still treating it like a prank.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Monitor glow intensifies subtly on faces; the room remains cold, making the tiny event feel louder.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Use a small, precise physical event to prove the voice is not random and to hook the audience into the mystery.

SCENE 03: PROOF IN THE COFFEE AND THE LOG

Camera Vibe: Over-the-shoulder on monitor with reaction close-ups

- **What We See on Screen:** Coffee spills from Mudit's cup exactly as predicted. The monitor shows a call log with a blank voice-note entry and the same timestamp/caller ID already present. A dead pixel appears on Eshan's screen like a tiny omen.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Mudit's skepticism begins to crack. Eshan leans forward, visibly shaken. Both men shift from mockery to attention.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Sharper screen contrast, reflective highlights on the coffee and glass, with a slight digital unease in the monitor image.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Escalate from coincidence to evidence, making the room itself feel like it is recording events before they happen.

STORYBOARD: THE DRAMATIC BUILDUP & CLIMAX

SCENE 04: RHEA KNOWS TOO MUCH

Camera Vibe: Tight alternating close-ups and screen reflections

- **What We See on Screen:** Rhea reveals Eshan's wrist scar, the missed call to his mother, and the fact that she is his future version. The locked basement access panel and the idea of the voice optimization unit enter the conversation as the room's hidden logic becomes visible.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Eshan instinctively covers his wrist and looks increasingly exposed. Mudit stops joking and starts scanning the log like a detective.
- **Lighting & Mood:** Faces are lit by cold monitor light with harder shadows, creating a more interrogative, confessional feel.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Turn the mystery personal by proving the caller knows intimate details that only Eshan could know, forcing emotional vulnerability.

SCENE 05: THE MACHINE AND THE FATAL DELAY

Camera Vibe: Insert-heavy monitor sequence with reaction close-ups

- **What We See on Screen:** A hidden admin screen opens, revealing a routing path and a fatal misroute warning. The future timestamp and Eshan's name flash in the log. The call becomes a warning about a delayed emergency line and the mother's fate.
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Mudit reads the screen and becomes fully serious. Eshan's face drains as the stakes become clear. Rhea's voice starts to crack with emotion.
- **Lighting & Mood:** The monitor becomes the dominant light source, with the room falling darker around the edges to isolate the revelation.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** Reveal the sci-fi mechanism only as much as needed, keeping the emotional consequence at the center of the scene.

SCENE 06: ANSWER THE CALL

Camera Vibe: Intimate close-up on Eshan with the phone and monitor in frame

- **What We See on Screen:** Eshan removes the headset, dials his mother, and puts the call on speaker. The routing screen glitches, the blank log fills with his name and future timestamp, and Rhea fades as the timeline shifts. The final image is Eshan finally answering with a soft 'Haan, Maa.'
- **Actor Movement & Staging:** Eshan's rehearsed smile disappears completely. Mudit watches in stunned silence. The room holds its breath as Eshan chooses action over delay.
- **Lighting & Mood:** A subtle warm practical from the phone area touches Eshan's face, but the room remains mostly cold, emphasizing the human decision against the machine environment.
- **Why This Shot Works (Director Note):** End on emotional release rather than spectacle, making the final choice feel small, human, and devastatingly important.

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.