What is the purpose of breaking down a script?

So production can break down each element of it label each with colored markers, and create a budget for the project.

At what stage in the production process is a script broken down?

In pre-production.

Write a 500-1,000 word synopsis of your finished script.

The figure of a man steps into a machine in a university lab. Someone screams, “Don’t do it! You’ll die!”. Bright beams of white light beam on the man from all directions in the chamber. He screams as his skin slowly disintegrates down to the muscle and the bone until there is nothing left in the chamber.

Five years earlier, Terry Newsome, a scientist working on a special project having to do with parallel universes and black holes, is a family man in his late 30’s living outside of a college town in Norman Oklahoma. He is also an adjunct professor at OU which is where he does his research and experiments at the University on parallel universes and black holes in an effort to gain insight on the possibility of time travel.

They live about 7 miles outside of town in a Ranch house. The Newsome family is having breakfast. Terry’s wife Sally is a loving, religious person though Terry isn’t, and is prone to worry about things both in and out of her control. Their oldest son Jonathan is in High School while the middle sister Sarah is in grade school at this point. Then there is the youngest one Jack who is just a toddler.

Terry rides his bike into work and discusses the existence of God with an atheist colleague named Dr. Jenson. Terry is lecturing his class the next day on the possibility of time travel and the existence of parallel universes. He explains that science has proven atoms can exist in more than one place at a time and the many worlds interpretation of quantum physics. The experiment that he is setting up is trying to connect with a parallel universe which may have a different timeline altogether and give them insight into time travel.

DAVID KROKOPF, a wealthy CEO of a pharmaceutical company hikes the price of his cancer treatment drug by 13,000%.

Terry wakes up in the middle of the night in what he describes as some incredibly lucid dreams. He saw Donald Trump, who was then a reality TV show host, as the President of the United States. He also sees a man named David Krokopf and a company called Celltonix Labs. Terry describes all this to Sally and says he feels like he didn’t sleep at all because the dreams were so vivid.

Terry and Sally are at the fundraising event on campus. Terry gets introduced to David Krokopf. Terry’s funders want him to try and build a time travel device but he points out that the technology to accomplish this is so far off that the best thing they could try and study in our lifetime is to send messages through a wormhole through to a parallel universe which is what they are working on currently.

The FDA launches an investigation into David’s company and he is almost kicked out by the board.

Terry has a blinding vision while he is at home for the weekend. He sees news reports of who wins the superbowl, the world series, college football, Trump being sworn in as President, Sally’s pet Monkey having a tumor but she successfully removes it, a conversation with a black woman about using Dr. Epstein’s work to send someone’s thoughts digitally out through the wormhole, etc. He sees a strangely disfigured man a mirror and what looks like Sally sick in bed. He also sees something about a man named David Krokopf and Celltonix Labs.

He can’t sleep for days after and becomes more and more detached as he loses sleep. He’s actually afraid to go to sleep at this point for fear of more disturbing visions coming.

Terry considers that his visions could be from God or Aliens trying to contact him. It’s like a dump of information in his brain each time and it takes a while to process what he is seeing.

Terry can’t know whether it is real or not but he is now able to see many things before they happen. He gets a feeling of Déjà vu and a clear picture of what is about to happen. He starts gambling with this information and gets a lot of money to help fund and save his research though he loses on the Superbowl when he gets the score wrong.

After predicting that their family pet monkey is fatally sick and how Sally can fix him Terry is starting to get confidence in his visions and calls David to see if he is interested in funding their project or if he can invest in Celltonix labs.

David finds a way to save his company by creating a chemical weapon which stays in the atmosphere an comes down a little each time it rains.

Terry doesn’t know why David is involved in the visions but since he needs money to further his research. He feeds David some information from his visions that makes them both rich.

Terry bets David a million dollars toward his research that Trump will be the next President. David takes the bet and eventually loses. David starts to see Terry as a visionary but he is still bull headed and won’t listen to reason about bio-chemical research.

Sally confronts Terry about his hanging out with David. David likes coke, prostitutes, and everything else that comes with it.

It’s a year later and Terry wins the Trump bet so he gets a million dollars from David which isn’t as much money for Terry as it once was. Terry advises against bio-weapons for the company but David won’t part with the thing that’s making them money.

Terry has another vision while at work. Terry sees David on the news and he’s going to prison. This troubles him as he is tied up in business with him now. Terry is unable to sleep and wonders if he should tell someone about his visions.

Terry picks up David and tells him what he saw him do in the future. David acts like he doesn’t believe him though he thinks there is something to the betting part of it. David convinces Terry to make a trip to Las Vegas to bet big on some games.

Terry starts having another vision. David sees him convulsing and having his vision so he is wonders if Terry is crazy but he gets excited about them betting now.

Terry’s visions start again when they get to a casino. He sees a horrible figure in the mirror. He sees news reports of a global disaster but they cut out just as they explain what happened. The terror of this episode causes him to behave erratically, wandering around, screaming at people like someone on an acid trip.

Terry mentions he sees something bad happening at the Celltonix lab and David looks uncomfortable. David mentions that Celltonix is the only thing keeping his businesses afloat right now since the FDA shut down his hottest selling cancer treatment drug.

Terry gets more markers and sees himself and David at the Celltonix Lab in New York. David is showing him the new bio-chemical weapons. Terry mentions something about seeing a global disaster with a bio-chemical weapon so David goes and talks to a cop telling him there’s a crazy man wandering around bothering people.

The cop questions Terry who is unresponsive. Terry also sees the horribly disfigured image in the mirror again except he gets a much better look. It’s his house, the figure is him.

David was the CEO named on a news report who was indicted for selling secrets to the highest bidder, which happened to be the terrorist organization, that sets off the disease bomb which wipes out most of the planet. A deadly disease from it is spreading across the globe in the atmosphere. Billions are dead and its spread to the rest of the world is imminent.

Terry gets institutionalized because of what he sees and says about it. While in the institution, Terry meets a lot of interesting characters while inside, most of which, he is afraid of. Terry talks to the doctor and has to participate in many group and single therapy sessions during the day. He isn’t thrilled about opening up to this group of people so he doesn’t participate much at first. After hearing other people’s problems with meth, mental health, and issues with the law he is convinced that he doesn’t belong in here.

David’s weapon test works on a much larger scale than they thought and they end up wiping out a 20 mile radius of people which makes national news as a strange virus that killed a small town and everything around it. Terry and everyone watch the coverage at the hospital.

Terry meets a former doctor who is in the institution as well. He recognizes her from a vision. Their conversation leads to a breakthrough in his work.

A similar incident occurs with the visions. He is with his son Jonathan out hunting in the woods when he starts having another vision. Terry starts to seeing more things before they happen.

He sees these facts as markers planted in his head but when he tries to convince Sally he knows the future he guesses wrong and she gets worried he is going off the deep end. Terry sees the global chaos again and this time he gets an exact date for when the first bomb is dropped. It’s later the very same month.

Terry has another vision. The pain from it is so great that he falls to the floor. Terry is taking care of a very sick and disfigured Sally who is coughing up blood. She dies in bed with Terry at her side. Terry cries then starts coughing up blood himself. A news report comes on the TV showing the full message of what has happened. Billions are dead from a disease set off by terrorists which got in the atmosphere and spread across the globe. Terry and his family survived the first wave of the attack because they live in a rural area that didn’t get the virus yet but when the weather changes that year it will spread to them.

Terry realizes the visions were sent from himself in the future and decides he must try and let the government in on what is going to happen. He decides to go to the NSA and insists on talking to the highest-ranking agent. Terry is interrogated by government officials and explains everything that has been happening to him.

They of course think he is crazy and hold him for a time until he predicts the end of a college football game by hail Mary pass to the end zone which bounces off the defender’s head and into the hands of the OU player.

They need to know the exact location of the gas but Terry doesn’t know. Terry explains that his pills have been suppressing the visions and he has stopped taking them to try and get more visions on how to stop the device from spreading.

David is meeting with a brutal dictator that has statues of himself all over and David says, “Love that!” “You once killed a guy for… I love that! This bomb will make your problems with that village go away.”

Terry gets another vision and it almost kills him though he now knows the exact location for them to go get it. The NSA clears the lab and blows it up that night with a bomb. Terry has to go with them to show them exactly where they are hiding the newly designed chemical/virus weapon. They blame the explosion on an unclaimed terrorist organization. Terry is let go since he won’t know anything further in this new timeline. David gets arrested.

Back at the ranch, Terry sleeps in. He gets up and gets some breakfast. He calls in to work and tells them he needs to take leave to work on his mental health and be with his family. Back at his lab at the University some government agents come in and confiscate the chamber and all the equipment. They box it up and ship it off to a warehouse they have in the middle of a forest.