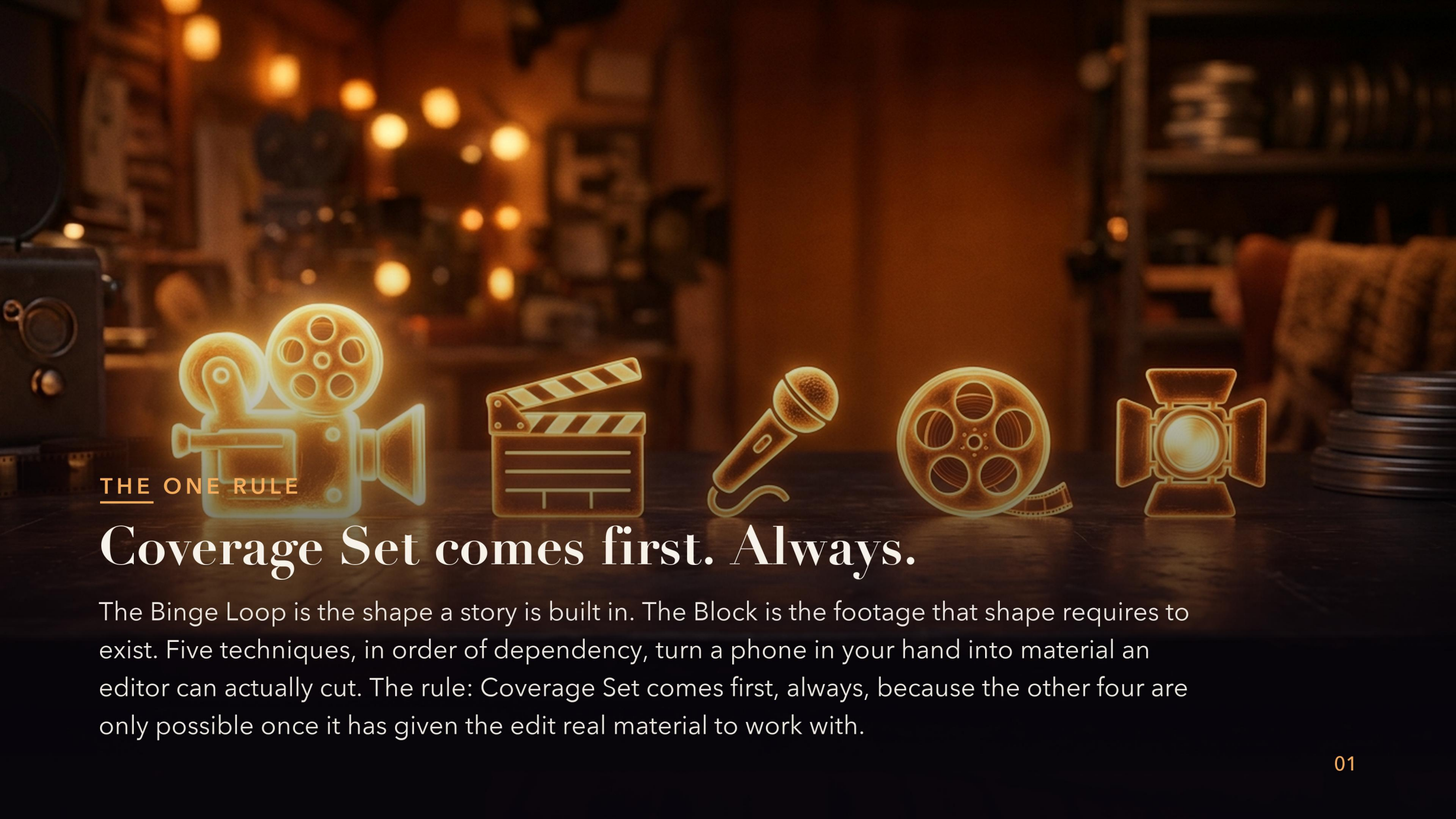


A REALITY SHOW STORY

The Block

what to actually capture so your story can be built in the edit



THE ONE RULE

Coverage Set comes first. Always.

The Binge Loop is the shape a story is built in. The Block is the footage that shape requires to exist. Five techniques, in order of dependency, turn a phone in your hand into material an editor can actually cut. The rule: Coverage Set comes first, always, because the other four are only possible once it has given the edit real material to work with.


(WIDE SHOT)


(MEDIUM SHOT)

TECHNIQUE ONE

Coverage Set: shoot every angle a scene needs.

A single continuous shot cannot be re-paced or cut. Name what the scene has to say, then shoot every angle to build it: wide for geography, medium for the person, tight for the face, insert for the detail in their hands. Coverage is not insurance footage. It is the raw material meaning gets built from.

(TIGHT SHOT)

(CLOSE INSERT HANDS SHOT)



TECHNIQUE TWO

Crash Zoom: force the eye to the reaction.

Crash Zoom moves attention from what just happened to how someone felt about it, in one motion. Shoot the action and the reaction as two separate shots, then cut the zoom onto the face the instant it changes. The sudden motion seizes the eye involuntarily. Save it for moments that earn it, or it stops working.



TECHNIQUE THREE

The Hold: keep rolling past the instinct to cut.

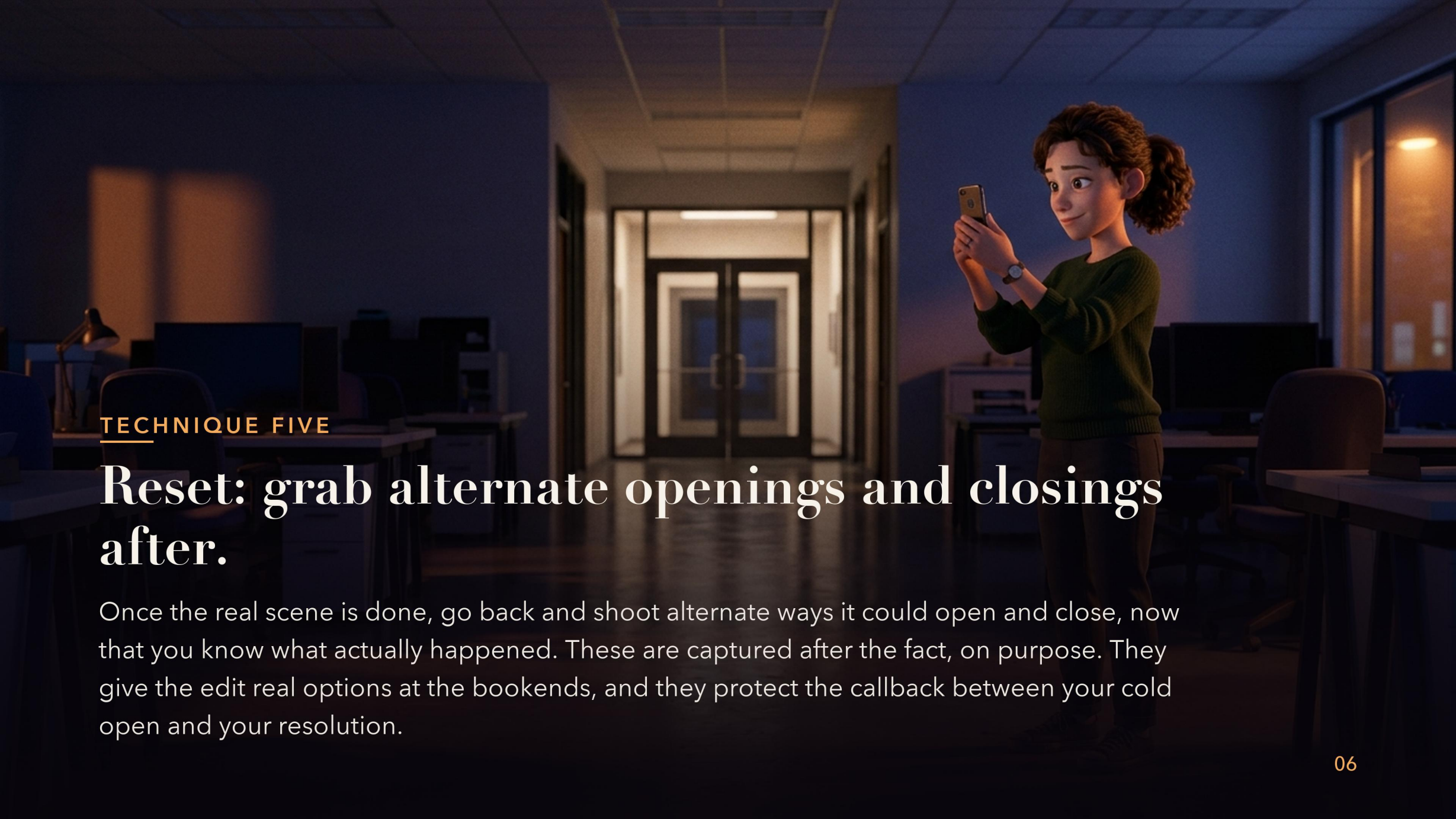
A held reaction reads as more significant than a quickly cut one, purely because it stayed on screen. When the moment feels done, count two full seconds before you cut. It will feel too long. It is usually right, and the best material often comes after the subject thinks the take is over.



TECHNIQUE FOUR

Confessional: two registers, chosen on purpose.

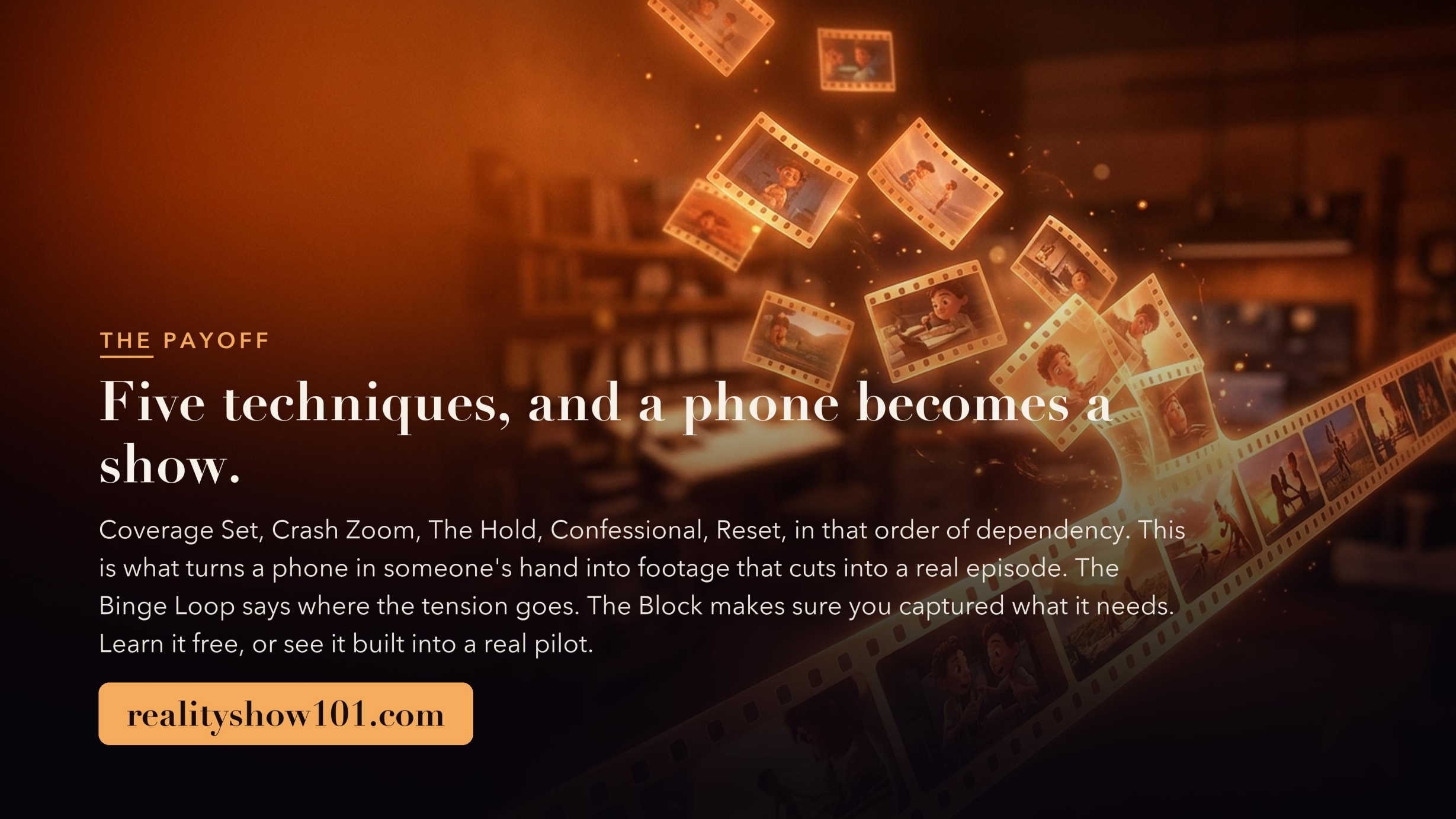
The confessional is how a subject speaks straight to the story. Off-lens, eyes to the side, reads as reported context. Direct to camera, eyes on the lens, reads as confided intimacy. They are two different shots that feel completely different. Choose the register the moment needs before you set up, never just whichever is easier.



TECHNIQUE FIVE

Reset: grab alternate openings and closings after.

Once the real scene is done, go back and shoot alternate ways it could open and close, now that you know what actually happened. These are captured after the fact, on purpose. They give the edit real options at the bookends, and they protect the callback between your cold open and your resolution.



THE PAYOFF

Five techniques, and a phone becomes a show.

Coverage Set, Crash Zoom, The Hold, Confessional, Reset, in that order of dependency. This is what turns a phone in someone's hand into footage that cuts into a real episode. The Binge Loop says where the tension goes. The Block makes sure you captured what it needs. Learn it free, or see it built into a real pilot.

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