

THE ORDER OF DAYS

High-Concept Psychological Thriller / Mystery-Suspense / Drama

Setting: Shenandoah Valley (present day + memory fragments)

Logline

Trapped in a collapsing maze built from his own memories, a man must outthink a shadowy guide and hang onto the boy he's sworn not to lose before the last door seals and the reason he's fighting slips away.

One-Paragraph Pitch

Elias Vale wakes in a sterile interrogation room with a cassette recorder, no exit, and a certainty that time has been rearranged against him. Beyond a handleless door lies a purple corridor where notes slide like lifelines—and doors open into moments from his life, out of order. When Elias finds a boy version of himself inside the maze, the two must navigate collapsing rooms, disappearing paths, and rules enforced by a grizzled stranger who insists survival means shutting doors on anything that hurts. As the labyrinth tightens and the real world bleeds in through sound, color, and an old lullaby, Elias learns the maze isn't testing his intelligence—it's testing what he's willing to face, and who he's willing to show up for.

What Makes It Different

- Thriller engine with an emotional gut-punch payoff (not a gimmick).
- Clear internal logic: the mindscape reveals what already exists; each closed door costs something.
- A symbolic spine: doors, keys, and a heart-key necklace converge into one idea—what we shut out, we lose.
- Three selves in conflict (Young / Adult / Old) as competing survival strategies inside one collapsing psyche.

Themes & Key Characters

Themes

- Presence over escape.
- Order vs. disorder.
- Guilt, tough love, forgiveness.
- What love tries to prevent.

Key Characters

- Elias Vale (39): stubborn, funny, haunted.
- Young Elias (10): skeptical, tender, fierce.
- Old Elias (70s): charismatic guide/antagonist.
- Violet Vale (39): exhausted new mom; resilient anchor.
- Momma Vale (Evelyn): love at the center.

Audience & Market

For audiences who love mind-bending mystery with catharsis. Comparable appeal: *Eternal Sunshine*, *The Truman Show*, and prestige thrillers with a human core. Budget-flexible: repeatable sets (corridors/rooms) with high upside via sound, lighting, and production design.