

MONEY MONSTER

an original screenplay by

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MONEY MONSTER

1 INT. BASEMENT - DAY

1

FINGERS tap on a keyboard.

NARRATOR

On Thursday, August 21st, at 3:27  
a.m., Sean Ewing, a mediocre high  
school student, working out of his  
mother's basement in Des Moines --

REVEAL the basement. Dark, couch, posters of rock bands. A  
teenagers den. SEAN EWING, a pimply faced kid of seventeen,  
glasses, fuzz mustache, is glued to his computer screen.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

-- found a way past the unbreakable  
code of one of the biggest chemical  
companies in the United States.

Sean's fingers fly across the keys. ON SCREEN we see ACCESS  
GRANTED. Sean smiles, revealing a mouth full of braces.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

It took him exactly 2 hours, 13  
minutes and 12 seconds.

2 EXT. EDEN CHEMICAL CORPORATE H.Q. - NIGHT

2

The tall building is evidence of the success of the company.  
The EC logo shines brightly atop the fiftieth floor.

NARRATOR

At the tender young age of 15, Sean  
discovered he had a special talent.

3 INT. EDEN CHEMICAL - DIANE LESTER'S OFFICE - NIGHT

3

Dark. We HEAR TWO PEOPLE making passionate love. The desk  
top computer comes on. Internal documents flash across the  
screen. The light reveals TWO LOVERS going at it on the  
couch. Naked. Unaware of the breach of computer security.  
The woman is DIANE LESTER, 33, beautiful, smart, the ambitious  
Public Relations Corporate Exec for Eden Chemical. The MAN  
underneath her is ANDREAS DUPRUIS, 55, Head Council for EC.

NARRATOR

At first he used this talent only  
for amusement, but soon grasped the  
obvious fact that his abilities  
required a new and bigger computer  
which his mother's salary as a checker  
at Albertsons could not provide.

4 EXT. DES MOINES STREET - DAY 4

Sean skateboards down the block, backpack on his back. Stops in front of a REAL ESTATE OFFICE, BURTON REAL ESTATE.

NARRATOR

Necessity being the mother of invention, he realized that company secrets obtained from his cyber piracy was worth hard cash to anyone who invested in those companies.

5 INT. REAL ESTATE OFFICE - DAY 5

Sean pulls out papers, handing them to MEL BURTON, 42, balding, chubby, thin mustache, casual clothes, a wheeler-dealer, hands over an envelope. Sean smiles.

NARRATOR

He found a partner three blocks from where he lived. One of his mother's ex-boyfriends. Mel Burton also knew a good thing when he saw it.

6 INT. DES MOINES BASEMENT - DAY 6

In a basement corner, Sean removes the top of a toilet tank and pulls out a plastic bag stuffed with cash. He opens the envelope he got from Mel, and adds his new cash to the stash.

NARRATOR

To date, he had paid Sean 37,590 dollars.

He puts the bag into the toilet tank and replaces the lid.

7 EXT. JFK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY 7

A JET touches down.

NARRATOR

As for Mel, he had managed to turn Sean's information into a nest egg of 1,672,000 dollars --

8 INT. PLANE - DAY 8

Mel flies coach, grips the seat as they land. He wears a suit and tie. Sharp for Des Moines, not sharp for NYC.

NARRATOR

-- which he, too, kept in the basement of his mother's house.

Mel's eyes open. Relieved.

- 9 EXT. WALL STREET - DAY 9
- Mel walks past the wall street BULL, briefcase in hand.
- NARRATOR  
Mel's information proved to be so good, that he quickly made a lot of friends in the financial world who had him on speed dial.
- 10 EXT. FRAUNCES TAVERN - DAY 10
- A great old tavern. Been there for over two hundred years.
- NARRATOR  
Being a History buff, Mel liked to meet in Fraunces Tavern where George Washington said good-bye to his troops after the Revolutionary War.
- Mel enters.
- NARRATOR (CONT'D)  
It seemed so American.
- 11 INT. FRAUNCES TAVERN - CONTINUOUS - DAY 11
- Mel is escorted to a booth by a WAITER.
- NARRATOR  
And made him feel proud to do his patriot duty by fueling the fires of Wall Street. One such friend, Ron Marowitz, showed up on September 19th at 1:45 p.m. for a meeting.
- 12 EXT. FRAUNCES TAVERN - CONTINUOUS - DAY 12
- TAXI pulls up in front. RON MAROWITZ, 24, looking very Wall Street, gets out, briefcase in hand. Enters Fraunces Tavern.
- NARRATOR  
Although Mel's information had always been solid, worth a good 3 to 4 point jump in a stock price --
- 13 INT. FRAUNCES TAVERN - CONTINUOUS - DAY 13
- Ron sits down opposite Mel in the booth. Mel has a cup of tea. Mel smiles.
- NARRATOR  
-- the secret information that was passed to him on that Thursday was nothing short of alchemy.

Mel slides a Flash Drive across the table. Ron slides a manilla envelope to Mel.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)  
Like the philosopher's stone, it  
would turn lead into gold.

Ron gets up, exits. Mel puts the envelope into his briefcase.

14 EXT. WALL STREET - DAY 14

Ron walks back past the Bull. A RELIGIOUS FANATIC is pacing in front holding a sign which reads: THE WAGES OF SIN ARE DEATH. Ron hails a cab.

NARRATOR  
Now, it's unclear if anyone can truly  
predict the future, but that may be  
because our lives are so busy we  
simply miss the signs.

Ron walks past the religious fanatic, ignoring him.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)  
Had his eyes been open to anything  
other than the day's market index --

Ron gets into the cab, which drives down the street.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)  
-- Ron might've seen that a six day  
warning was not much of a forecast.

15 INT. CAB - DAY 15

Ron inserts the flash drive into his laptop computer and opens up the file. He reads. And his expression changes.

RON  
Holy mother of God.

16 EXT. BNN STUDIO - DAY 16

Cab pulls up. Ron gets out, enters the towering monolith of BNN, Business News Network.

17 INT. BNN STUDIO - LOBBY - DAY 17

At the GUARD DESK, TWO GUARDS check people in. Next to the desk is a LARGE CARDBOARD CUTOOUT OF LEE GATES, host of BNN's biggest show, MONEY MONSTER - THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE SHOW ABOUT \$\$\$\$. Lee Gates is smiling, sleeves rolled up, arms outstretched, hands full of cash. He has the look of a classic Huckster, surrounded by an eclectic assortment of monsters and mythological beasts. A FLATSCREEN is tuned to the BNN NETWORK, a COMMENTATOR giving the latest market news.

Ron waves to the guards as he passes.

NARRATOR

The information was duly passed on  
to his boss, Lee Gates.

18 INT. BNN STUDIO - LEE GATES'S OFFICE - DAY 18

Lee's office is a shrine to himself as the premier Money  
Guru on the BNN NETWORK. Ron waits for the response.

LEE GATES, 40, dashing handsome, lowers the papers and  
looks at Ron. He's beaming.

LEE

This is fucking great.

NARRATOR

Everyone knows that investing in the  
stock market can be risky, but it  
usually is just about money and  
doesn't include your life. But six  
days later, the very foundations of  
investment strategy changed forever.

19 EXT. BEACH - NIGHT 19

A SMALL BOX sits on the empty beach. Suddenly it EXPLODES.  
BLACK SCREEN. WHITE LETTERS appear:

SIX DAYS LATER

AFTER RON GAVE THE INFORMATION TO LEE

AND HE SAID "THIS IS FUCKING GREAT."

FADE IN:

20 EXT. NEW YORK STREET - TIMES SQUARE - EARLY MORNING 20

An I.P.D. (International Parcel Delivery) DELIVERY VAN moves  
down the street, passing a large BILLBOARD advertising Lee  
Gates and his MONEY MONSTER show.

21 INT. BNN STUDIO - THE WRITER'S ROOM - DAY 21

A large room with a big table. Lots of chairs. FINANCIAL  
CHARTS on the walls. T.V. MONITORS with the latest financial  
information. Sound muted. FOUR RESEARCHERS, THREE WRITERS,  
AN ASSOCIATE P.A. and Lee and are going over the day's show.

RESEARCHER #1

... if the U.S. continues to  
experience credit anxiety, then the  
rest of the world is going to dump  
us like a ton of bricks.

LEE

No shit.

RESEARCHER #2

A lot of analysts believe we won't see the bottom of this sink hole for another nine months.

LEE

That's because they're bottom feeders trying to drive prices down, Craig, you moron. Who's writing this shit?

RESEARCHER #1

(points to a writer)  
Jerry did.

LEE

JERRY! Jesus Christ!

Jerry crawls under the table.

JERRY

Don't throw anything. I'm sorry.

LEE

Stay down there.

RESEARCHER #1

There's a rumor flying around the Fed about TARP 3, depending on what happens with the mortgage market.

LEE

I hate rumors! Get me some facts or don't talk to me. Look --  
(looks at papers)  
-- There's some good stuff here. So you can all keep your jobs for another week.

(looks up)

Whatever happened to the Canadian commodities reports?

WRITER

Ron's doing it.

LEE

Where the hell is he? It's supposed to be in the show today.

ASSOCIATE P.A.

Fifteen minute warning. You should be in make-up.

LEE  
 Forget it. I want to look like the  
 market. Pale, anemic and on Death's  
 door.

Lee heads for the door.

22 INT. BNN STUDIO - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS - DAY

22

Lee exits, heading down the hall.

RON'S VOICE  
 Lee!

Lee turns. Ron Marowitz is running toward him.

LEE  
 You better have the stuff on Canadian  
 commodities!

RON  
 I got it.

Ron, panting, hands papers to Lee.

RON (CONT'D)  
 Sorry, but I just got out of a meeting  
 with my buddy at Capitol Group. He  
 gave me this.

Ron pulls a tube of ointment out of his pocket.

LEE  
 What is it?

RON  
 The erectile cream he told me about.

LEE  
 The what?

RON  
 The topical hard-on stuff I told you  
 about last July, Rigid-Oxin. The  
 Amazon spider venom. They just got  
 approval from the FDA last night.  
 It hasn't made any announcement yet.

LEE  
 It works?

RON  
 Apparently. Pretty damn fast, too.  
 And it works for both men and women.

LEE  
 You tried it yet?

RON  
I just got it an hour ago.

LEE  
What the hell you waiting for? Put  
it on.

RON  
You want me to use it now?

LEE  
I'm on in ten. I want to know whether  
I can give it a buy.

Lee starts down the hall. Ron is distressed.

RON  
But... I'm not really in the mood.

LEE  
I don't give a shit about your mood,  
Ron, what the country needs right  
now is something that makes them  
forget about all the other shit that's  
going on. When you're worried the  
market going down, you can't get it  
up in the bedroom. And when you  
can't be a bull in bed, you can't be  
a bull on the street. Get to it.

Lee heads down the hall, enters the STAGE DOOR.

23 INT. BNN STUDIO - BACK STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

23

Lee crosses toward the stage and is met by the DIRECTOR,  
NANCY RODRIQUEZ, thirty, cup of coffee in hand.

NANCY  
You got a script? I don't have a  
script.

LEE  
They're making changes.

NANCY  
Will I have it before or after the  
show?

LEE  
All you need is me.

Lee smiles and walks past, heading for the craft service  
table. Nancy turns to the crew.

NANCY  
Okay, the usual. Get ready to wing  
it.

Nancy heads for the GLASSED IN Studio Control Booth which sits above and behind the audience area. FANS fill the seats.

24 INT. MEN'S ROOM - DAY 24

Ron enters. Makes sure he's alone. Goes into a stall.

25 INT. MEN'S ROOM - DAY 25

Ron pulls the tube of Rigid-oxen out of his pocket, stares at it, sighs.

26 INT. BNN STUDIO - BACK STAGE - DAY 26

Lee gets ready for his entrance, does a few vocal exercises, drinks a glass of water, gargles, then spits on the floor.

27 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - DAY 27

Nancy enters. Typical television studio control booth. FOUR TV MONITORS. One for each camera. One for the show.

NANCY

No script, so don't ask.

Nancy sits down at the board with her TWO MEMBER TECH TEAM, SAM and DAVE. The clock reads 1:58:22.

SAM

What's a script, Dave?

DAVE

Wouldn't know, Sam. Never seen one.

SAM

(looking at clock)

Sixty seconds.

28 INT. MEN'S ROOM STALL - DAY 28

Ron, pants around his ankles, squeezes some RIGID-OXYN CREAM into his hand and looks down at his groin. Oh god, what he has to do in the name of research.

29 EXT. NEW YORK STREET - DAY 29

The I.P.D. Delivery Van pulls up in front of the BNN BUILDING, stopping in the loading zone. KYLE BUDWELL, forty, wearing an I.P.D. uniform, gets out with a delivery cart. Goes to the back of the truck and starts pulling out packages. The packages look exactly like the one that blew up on the beach.

30 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - DAY 30

The Money Monster set is a wild combination of high tech information technology and low tech props. There is a MARKET

TICKER, LARGE SCREEN TELEVISIONS and dozens of monsters from T-Rex and Godzilla to Werewolves and vampires.

The STUDIO CAMERAS are in place. CREW ready for broadcast.

The STUDIO AUDIENCE of 83 excited Investors watches as an ANNOUNCER warms them up.

ANNOUNCER

... happy to have you all here today.  
We've got a great show for you.  
Everybody happy to be here? Let me  
hear how happy you are.

The audience applauds enthusiastically.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

Before we start, please remember to  
turn off all your cellphones, beepers,  
fire alarms, vibrators --

In the AUDIENCE several people switch off their cellphones.

ANNOUNCER (CONT'D)

-- And anything else that would make  
noise because that's our job.  
Everybody ready to make some money  
today, or at least not lose anymore?

Applause continues.

31 INT. BNN STUDIO - LOBBY - DAY

31

Kyle enters with a cart full of packages. Crosses to the guard who waves him in.

GUARD

Hey. How you doin'? Haven't seen  
you for a couple days.

KYLE

Been out sick.

Kyle pushes his cart toward the elevators.

GUARD

Not catching, I hope.

32 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - DAY

32

Nancy, Sam and Dave are ready. The clock reads 1:59:39.

SAM

(into mic)  
-- twenty-one to one --

NANCY  
 (into mic)  
 We've got a flair on two, you see  
 that? You're gonna have to move.

CAMERA on MONITOR TWO adjusts slightly and the flair is gone.

NANCY (CONT'D)  
 (into mic)  
 That got it.

SAM  
 (into mic)  
 -- fifteen to one --

A P.A. enters with coffee and scripts.

NANCY  
 Roll lead in.

P.A.  
 I've got the scripts.

Hands shoot up.

ON THE SHOW MONITOR we see the lead in for the show begin.

NANCY  
 Cue camera one.

SAM  
 (into mic)  
 -- ten seconds coming to one --

DAVE  
 (into mic)  
 Cue the applause sign, here we go.

33 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

33

Next to a Camera, the FLOOR MANAGER counts down the last seconds silently on one hand. Gives the Announcer a go.

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE  
 ... Let's have a monster welcome for  
 the Money Monster, Lee Gates.

The AUDIENCE goes wild. It's an odd demographic; old, young, male, female. THREE CHEERING AUDIENCE MEMBERS catch our attention; JANE KOENIG, 42, front row, TOM SWEENEY, 60, off to the left in back, and RYAN REED, 22, to the middle right.

34 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY

34

DAVE  
 (into mic)  
 Cuing theme --

The HARD ROCK THEME SONG kicks in.

ON THE TELEVISION SCREEN we see the TITLE SEQUENCE FOR THE SHOW. Bold graphics of STOCK SYMBOLS, EARNINGS CHARTS, BULLS, BEARS, RAINING CASH, and MONSTERS fighting over the money.

ANNOUNCER'S VOICE

Confused about finances? Wondering where to put your hard earned dollars? There's only one place to be. Right here with the Wizard of Wall Street, the Money Monster, Lee Gates.

35 INT. BNN STUDIO - BACK STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 35

Lee basks for a moment, letting the crowd build, when his phone rings. He answers --

LEE

This better be good. I'm two seconds from goin' on.

36 INT. MEN'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS - DAY 36

We see Ron's feet under the stall.

RON'S VOICE

I just wanted to let you know that the Rigid-oxyn stuff is fucking amazing. So I would say it's a recommend... yeah, like a goddamn redwood... Okay... Have a good show.

Ron hangs up. He hesitates, then pushes speed dial.

RON'S VOICE (CONT'D)

Hey, Arlene, this is Ron?... yeah, listen, you got a few minutes. I've really got a big tip on a hot stock.

37 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - DAY 37

Rock Theme continues as Lee bursts through the curtains, throwing up his arms, triumphantly charging onto stage.

LEE

It's another horror show on Wall Street today, people. Who's going to survive the blood bath?

A COFFIN LID OPENS and a robotic DRACULA starts rising. Lee quickly grabs a stake and hammer.

LEE (CONT'D)

Will it be the Hedge Fund Meat Eaters or Neanderthals huddled in caves,  
(MORE)

LEE (CONT'D)  
afraid of the dark. Or the blood-  
sucking Wall Street Nabobs.

He drives the stake into Dracula's heart and he sinks back into the coffin with a BLOOD CURDLING SCREAM.

LEE (CONT'D)  
Die, baby, die.  
(turns to audience)  
We've got a great show for you and  
some great advise. Which stocks  
should you devour --

A GRAPHIC T-REX LUMBERS across the giant monitor behind him, roaring at the audience as it devours buildings.

LEE (CONT'D)  
-- and which others should you  
regurgitate from your portfolio.

ANOTHER GRAPHIC shows a CARTOON LEE vomiting up volumes of graphic share prices.

LEE (CONT'D)  
So let's get right to it. You don't  
want to do either.

38 INT. BNN STUDIO - HALLWAY - DAY

38

A GUARD passes Kyle in the hall. Kyle waves as he passes the guard. The guard nods.

KYLE  
How you doin'?

GUARD  
Just happy to have my job, man.

39 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

39

LEE  
Gluttony is why we're in this mess!

Lee runs around the stage, grabbing another prop - picks up a GIANT BLOW-UP HAMMER. Takes it to the camera.

LEE (CONT'D)  
You know what this is? This is a Darwin. This is how Natural Selection works on Wall Street. We're talking about stocks. Whether to buy or sell. If anybody comes up to me and says I wanna buy a stock today, he gets a Darwin.

Lee slams the hammer down on his desk.

LEE (CONT'D)  
 Back to the primordial ooze from  
 which they came. And the same goes  
 if you want to sell. You whiners,  
 you chickens.

Lee grabs a rubber chicken, chops off its head with a cleaver.

LEE (CONT'D)  
 Nobody buys, nobody sells. That is  
 today's mantra. It's about balls.  
 Say it.

WEAK AUDIENCE RESPONSE  
 ... Balls.

LEE  
 Oh my God, that's what I'm talkin'  
 about. GROW SOME. LET ME HEAR IT!

STRONG AUDIENCE RESPONSE  
 BALLS.

LEE  
 YES. AGAIN.

STRONGER AUDIENCE RESPONSE  
 BALLLLLLLS!

LEE  
 YEAH!

40 INT. BNN STUDIO - HALLWAY - DAY 40

Kyle pushes his cart down the hall, passing a WOMAN headed  
 the opposite direction. He stops, waits until she disappears  
 around a corner. Then he enters a room.

41 INT. TIRE STORE - DAY 41

MECHANICS and CUSTOMERS watch MONEY MONSTER on the T.V. in  
 the waiting room as the audience is STILL YELLING "BALLS."

FIRST CUSTOMER  
 I love this guy.

LEE ON T.V.  
 And just when you think the zombies  
 of the sub-prime mortgage mess can't  
 die, we are about to be --

42 INT. BAR - DAY 42

BARTENDER and a FEW PATRONS are watching MONEY MONSTER.

LEE ON T.V.  
 -- invaded by aliens from the planet  
 Credit Cruncho.

GRAPHIC ALIENS arrives on the monitor, shooting ray guns and  
 killing innocent shoppers with credit cards in their hands.

LEE ON T.V. (CONT'D)  
 Their planet is ready to implode  
 from bad debt and take us into the  
 black hole of mismanagement.

43 INT. HOUSE - DAY

43

A WOMENS INVESTMENT CLUB watches Lee on a big screen TV,  
 hanging on every word.

LEE ON T.V.  
 So lets all run for shelter and I  
 don't mean tax shelter. We need to  
 sharpen our stakes and load our guns  
 with silver bullets.

We watch MORE MONEY MONSTER GRAPHICS on screen: AN ANGRY  
 MOB OF SHOPPERS does battle with the Aliens.

LEE ON T.V. (CONT'D)  
 Okay, let's go to the first audience  
 question.

44 INT. BNN STUDIO - AUDIENCE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

44

LEE  
 Who have we got?

Microphone in hand, the Announcer is in the aisle next to a  
 member of the audience.

ANNOUNCER  
 We got Miss Alberta Washington from  
 lovely Lincoln, Nebraska.

LEE  
 Okay, Miss Alberta, from lovely  
 Lincoln, what worries you?

ALBERTA  
 I don't trust anyone anymore. I  
 don't know where to put my money  
 except under my mattress.

LEE  
 You know there are monsters under  
 the bed waiting to take it. Like  
 this guy.

Lee picks up a DOLL WHO LOOKS LIKE Ben Bernanke.

LEE (CONT'D)  
 Don't be afraid of the dark. Do not  
 make decisions based on fear.

He shoves pins in the Ben doll.

LEE (CONT'D)  
 Don't we wish we could do this for  
 real?

APPLAUSE from the audience.

45 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - DAY

45

NANCY  
 (into mic)  
 Go to 2.

ON THE SHOW MONITOR we see the camera angle switch to two.

NANCY (CONT'D)  
 (into mic)  
 Go to 3.

SAM  
 (into mic)  
 Forty-five seconds to commercial.

46 INT. BNN STUDIO - HALLWAY - DAY

46

Kyle, one box left on his cart, moves to the stage entrance.  
 Stops. Grabs the last box and goes through the door.

47 INT. BNN STUDIO - CONTINUOUS - DAY

47

A P.A. is standing near the door. Sees Kyle carry in the  
 box, heading right for the stage.

P.A.  
 Ahhh... excuse me... sir... you can't  
 go in there! Sir...  
 (starting to panic)  
 Sir, no, that's the stage! SIR!

But Kyle doesn't stop.

P.A. (CONT'D)  
 Oh fuck!

He runs up to the door, looking around for somebody to help.

P.A. (CONT'D)  
 Oh fuck-fuck-fuck!  
 (fumbles with his  
 radio)  
 Uh, I need somebody. There's a guy  
 just went onto the stage!

48 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

48

Lee listens to another question from a man in the audience.

MAN IN AUDIENCE

... My unemployment benefits ran out seven weeks ago and I need money to live on. My question is, should I sell now, at a loss, and use that money or should I sell other assets first, like my wife's car.

LEE

Well, if it was my wife, I'd sell her car. Then I'd sell her jewelry, her clothes, and her mother.

The Audience groans.

LEE (CONT'D)

You've never met any of my wives or their mothers.

Lee hits one of his buttons and we SEE A GRAPHIC ON SCREEN OF A DRUMMER punctuating his joke with a rim shot.

49 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY

49

ON THE MONITORS we SEE KYLE walk onto the stage.

NANCY

(into mic)

Back to 1.

Sam notices Kyle on the MONITOR.

SAM

Who the hell is that?

DAVE

Who?

SAM

The guy that just walked on stage.

NANCY

Where.

Nancy, the P.A. and Dave look up at the monitors.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Oh God, if this is another one of his fuckin' surprises.

(looks at her script)

Is he in your script?

SAM  
 (looking at script)  
 I can't find him.

DAVE  
 Not in mine.

NANCY  
 Then who the hell is he?

SAM  
 He looks like a delivery guy.

NANCY  
 It's gotta be one of Lee's tricks.  
 (into mic)  
 Marv, pick up the guy who just walked  
 in? On three, stay with him.  
 (slams her hand down)  
 I'm gonna kill Lee!

50 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

50

Lee is still engaged with his audience.

LEE  
 ... There is very little cash value  
 in memories and virtually no  
 investment return. And don't talk  
 to me about baseball cards, okay?

Lee senses somebody behind him. He turns as Kyle puts down  
 the box. Kyle looks very nervous, forehead beaded with sweat.

LEE (CONT'D)  
 Is that for me? Because it's not my  
 birthday for another --  
 (turns to camera)  
 -- two weeks.

Kyle suddenly pulls a 9MM PISTOL from his pocket and points  
 it at Lee --

KYLE  
 If you move or... or if they shut  
 the cameras off... I will shoot you.

Lee stares at Kyle. Absolute silence for a moment, then --

LEE  
 What?

KYLE  
 I'm serious. I will shoot you!

LEE  
 Is this a joke?

Lee turns to look at the studio control booth, hoping it is.

LEE (CONT'D)  
Nancy, what the hell is --

Suddenly Kyle points the gun at the ceiling and fires. THE GUNSHOT rocks the stage. A LIGHT SHATTERS OVERHEAD. Glass rains down. Kyle looks at Lee, who is scared.

LEE (CONT'D)  
Oh God.

51 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY 51

Nancy, Sam and Dave watch, stunned.

NANCY  
Holy shit.

SAM  
Is this real?

An AUDIENCE MEMBER SCREAMS. Panic in the seats. Kyle turns --

KYLE  
ANYBODY TRIES TO LEAVE, I'LL KILL  
HIM!

52 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 52

The AUDIENCE doesn't know what do to - staring at Kyle.

LEE  
Please, nobody move.

Kyle turns to the Camera operators.

KYLE  
Don't turn off the cameras!

53 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY 53

NANCY  
Call security!

Sam heads for the door.

NANCY (CONT'D)  
Where the hell are you going?!

SAM  
I'm outa here!

NANCY  
Sit the hell back down! We have to  
stay on the air. You heard him!

Sam slowly sits back down.

54 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

54

Lee is facing Kyle. Kyle is nervous, tense.

KYLE

I have an TV here and I can see the show.

Kyle pulls out an IPHONE tuned to Money Monster.

KYLE (CONT'D)

If I see a commercial or anything except us, I will shoot him, I will shoot Lee Gates so everyone can see.

LEE

Hey, just take it easy.  
(looks up at booth)  
YOU HEARD HIM RIGHT?!

NANCY'S VOICE OVER P.A.

Yes, we heard him. We're not gonna do anything. We'll stay on the air.

Lee turns to Kyle.

LEE

Okay, you heard that?

Kyle nods.

LEE (CONT'D)

Nobody's gonna do anything...  
(turns to audience)  
Please, just stay where you are. I know this isn't easy. But I need your help. I don't want anyone to get hurt.

55 INT. BNN STUDIO - AUDIENCE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

55

Tense. Slowly the Audience starts to settle down.

56 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

56

Lee turns to Kyle.

LEE

Okay... nobody's going anywhere...  
Now what do you want?

KYLE

Open the box.

Lee looks at the box.

LEE  
Why?

KYLE  
Open the box!

LEE  
What's it gonna explode?

KYLE  
Just open it!

LEE  
I'm not gonna open the fuckin' box.

57 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY 57

SAM  
Oh Jesus, did he just say fucking on  
the air.

NANCY  
Forget the language, Sam, where the  
HELL IS SECURITY?

58 INT. BNN SECURITY OFFICE - DAY 58

Head of Security, JOSH NOLAN, fifty-five, is on the phone.

JOSH  
He's on the stage with a gun? Are  
you sure this isn't one of his jokes?

SAM'S VOICE ON PHONE  
TURN ON YOUR FUCKING T.V.!

He hangs up and runs for the door.

59 INT. BNN SECURITY CONTROL ROOM - CONTINUOUS - DAY 59

Josh bursts out the door to discover his FOUR SECURITY GUARDS  
STARING AT THE T.V. We can see Kyle holding the gun on Lee.

KYLE ON T.V.  
Open the box or I will kill you.

SECURITY GUARD #1  
Is this real?

JOSH  
Fuck yes it's real. You two, get  
down to the stage door. Secure the  
area until the police get here.

The two security guards run out as Josh turns to the others.

JOSH (CONT'D)  
Get me the surveillance tapes. We  
gotta find out if this guy's alone.

Everyone runs from the room, except Josh, who looks up at  
the screen again as he picks up the phone, dialing 911.

LEE ON T.V.  
Do I know you?

KYLE ON T.V.  
No.

60 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

60

LEE  
Then why do you want to kill me?

Kyle's gun hand shakes as he looks at the CAMERA CREW AND  
STAGE HANDS. Frozen in place.

KYLE  
Do what I say and I won't hurt  
anybody. But if anybody tries to  
stop me, I'll do it. I promise you,  
I will do it. Open the box.

Lee moves to the box, opens the top. Looks in.

LEE  
Oh shit.

KYLE  
Take out what's inside.

Lee pulls out a vest with EXPLOSIVES WIRED TO IT.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
Put it on!

LEE  
What if it blows up?

KYLE  
It can't. I have the detonator.

Kyle holds up his other hand, revealing a WIRELESS DETONATOR.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
If my thumb comes off this trigger,  
it will go off.

LEE  
What happens if your thumb gets tired?

KYLE  
You better hope it doesn't.

Lee slowly, gingerly, puts on the vest.

61 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY

61

Everyone is staring at the screens.

NANCY

We need a better angle. I'm losing his face in a goddamn shadow.

DAVE

You're worried about a shadow?

NANCY

We're still on the air!

(into radio)

Mike, get a better angle on --

62 INT. BNN STUDIO - CONTINUOUS - DAY

62

MIKE, the camera operator on 2, HEARS Nancy on his headphone.

NANCY'S VOICE ON RADIO

-- His face and push in a little.

Mike is stunned.

MIKE

(whispers into mic)

Are you fucking kidding me?...

NANCY'S VOICE ON RADIO

You want me to give it to camera one?

MIKE

Okay, okay.

Mike moves his camera very slowly to a new position. Kyle hears them and turns suddenly.

KYLE

What the hell're you doing?!

Mike, scared, looks out from behind the camera.

MIKE

The Director just wants a better angle on your face... There's kind of a... little shadow.

LEE

Oh Jesus Christ! A little shadow!

(looks at booth)

A LITTLE SHADOW, NANCY?

KYLE  
It's okay. Where do you need to  
move?

MIKE  
Just a bit more this way.

KYLE  
... Go ahead.

Lee looks at Kyle. What the hell is going on?

LEE  
Can I say something to my audience?

KYLE  
... all right.

LEE  
(turns to camera)  
Ladies and gentlemen, I just want  
you to know, I have no idea what's  
going on here today. This is totally  
out of my control.

63 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY 63

NANCY  
Go to 2. Tighten up on Lee.

64 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 64

Camera two moves in on Lee as he continues.

LEE  
I don't know who this guy is or what  
he wants. I can't control what's  
going to happen. So if any kids are  
watching, you might want to take  
them out of the room.

65 INT. BAR - DAY 65

PATRONS have gathered at the bar, fixated on the TV.

LEE ON T.V.  
I apologize now for any bad language.

66 INT. TIRE STORE - DAY 66

Here, too, the patrons have stopped talking, everyone glued  
to the TV. People have walked in from outside.

ON THE T.V. we SEE LEE, wearing the vest, facing Kyle.

LEE ON T.V.

I know some of you will want to see  
what happens.

67 INT. BEST BUY - DAY

67

A BANK OF TV MONITORS in BEST BUY are all tuned to MONEY  
MONSTER. We SEE Lee in various sizes from 19 to 70 inch  
wide screen Plasmas.

LEE ON T.V.

I don't know if that's a good idea  
or not. But, it's your decision,  
from now on, you're on your own.  
Nobody on this Network --

Every shopper is either staring at the televisions or arriving  
to stare at them. The TV Department is packed.

LEE ON T.V. (CONT'D)

-- or in this studio is responsible  
for what you might see. And by the  
way, thanks for tuning in.

68 INT. POLICE STATION - ROBBERY DIVISION - DAY

68

Police station activity has ground to a halt. Every DETECTIVE  
in the room is watching Money Monster on TV. Including  
victims and witnesses. A CELL PHONE BUZZES. A ROBBERY  
DETECTIVE looks at his cell.

TEXT MESSAGE reads: **Hey, prtnr, guess where I am? In Money  
Monster aud. Got gun.**

He looks up at the TV, slowly realizing --

ROBBERY DETECTIVE

Holy shit.

69 INT. BNN STUDIO - AUDIENCE - DAY

69

PANNING THE AUDIENCE, we now know one of them is a cop.

LEE

Okay. So what're we doing here?

KYLE

You remember a stock...

LEE

I remember 'em all.

70 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

70

KYLE

Eden Chemical.

LEE

Eden Chemical. What about it?

KYLE

You said it was an investment that only comes along once in a lifetime. Like investing in Edison or Ford before anybody knew who they were. It was the sure thing.

It's impossible to hide the incredulity on Lee's face.

LEE

Wait a minute... Are you telling me this is about a stock?

KYLE

No, it's ABOUT MY LIFE!

Kyle quickly becomes agitated.

KYLE (CONT'D)

Everything I ever worked for is gone and it's your fault!

LEE

Whoa, whoa, take it easy --

KYLE

-- I LOST EVERYTHING ON WHAT YOU SAID! AND YOU'RE GONNA GET IT BACK.

Lee stares at Kyle for a moment, then --

LEE

... Excuse me?

KYLE

You're going to get my money back.

LEE

I can't make a company give you your money back. That's not the way Wall Street works. I, however, would be more than happy to write you a personal check to cover your losses.

KYLE

That's bullshit. You wouldn't make that offer if I wasn't standing here with a gun. You can't buy your way out of this. And it's not just about me. You gonna pay back everybody who lost money on what you said?

LEE  
So what the hell am I supposed to do?

KYLE  
People listen to you. You can make them buy the stock.

LEE  
Excuse me?

KYLE  
You can make the stock price go up!

LEE  
Okay, hold on. A lot of people have accused me of acting like God, but I really don't have that kind of influence. And it would take an act of God to move that stock!

Kyle stares at Lee, trying not to melt down, hand trembling.

KYLE  
Then I'm going to kill you.

Lee holds up his hands, scared.

LEE  
Oh Jesus, come on. You can't be serious about this!

KYLE  
(looks at clock)  
The Stock Exchange closes in 3 hours and 52 minutes. You have until then to get the stock price of Eden Chemical up to 27 dollars a share where you promised it was going to go.

Lee just stares at him, his mouth open, stunned.

71 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY

71

ON THE MONITORS, Kyle points right at the television audience.

NANCY  
Did he just say he's got to make the stock price go up to 27 by the end of the day or he's going to kill Lee? Is that what he said?

SAM  
That's what I heard.

DAVE  
 (checking the screen)  
 Want to guess what the stock price  
 is now? Two and a half. And that's  
 a five year low for anybody who's  
 interested.

72 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

72

LEE  
 You want me to make this stock go up  
 24 and a half points before the bell.  
 There's no way. It's not possible.

KYLE  
 It is possible! On April 18, 2008,  
 Google's stock price went up 89.87  
 points in one day. This is just 27.

LEE  
 That's Google, man, not Eden Chemical.

KYLE  
 You can do it.

Kyle stares at Lee, tense. Lee turns to camera.

LEE  
 Well, ahh, I guess I'm recommending  
 a buy on Eden Chemical today...

Lee struggles for something to say, at a loss for words for  
 the first time in his life.

LEE (CONT'D)  
 ... it wasn't exactly on my list  
 this morning, but ahh... that doesn't  
 mean it can't be or shouldn't be...  
 it's a good company, and... they  
 have a lot of products that could be  
 break through if ahh... shit.

Lee turns to Kyle, gun still leveled at Lee.

LEE (CONT'D)  
 What do you want me to say? I don't  
 just make stuff up because I like to  
 hear myself talk. There's a lot of  
 research that goes into this. I  
 have researchers, assistants, writers -  
 we all try to find the inside track  
 to give our audience a heads up.  
 Reason I recommended Eden Chemical  
 was because I got some information  
 from one of the guys on my team. It  
 was solid and I went with it. But  
 (MORE)

LEE (CONT'D)  
 it didn't work out. Sometimes it  
 doesn't. Look, if I could get him  
 down here, you'd hear why I  
 recommended it... Maybe that's what  
 I should do. Get him down here so  
 you can hear it from him.

Lee looks at the booth.

LEE (CONT'D)  
 You want to give me a little help  
 here, Nance?

NANCY'S VOICE OVER P.A.  
 ... What do you need, Lee?

LEE  
 Find Ron. Please.

73 INT. BNN STUDIO - ELECTRICAL ROOM - DAY

73

Station's electrical grids. Jeans and suit pants on the  
 floor. ARLENE, 22, is up against the wall as Ron bones her.

ARLENE  
 (in ecstasy)  
 Oh my God, oh my God, oh my God,  
 this stuff really... works... This  
 feels amazing... What's the stock  
 trading at now?

RON  
 (in ecstasy)  
 ... 4... but the FDA has just approved  
 it and it hasn't been... announced...  
 I think... it'll hit 20 easy... Ahhhh.

ARLENE  
 ... what's the P and E?

RON  
 7... Oh God...

His cell phone rings.

ARLENE  
 ... It's not mine. It must be yours.

RON  
 (breathless)  
 Shit.

ARLENE  
 No, no, take it, I need a break.

Ron grabs his phone from his coat pocket.

RON  
 (into phone)  
 Yeah... what? WHAT? ARE YOU FUCKING  
 KIDDING ME?

INTERCUT WITH NANCY - INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH

Nancy paces as she talks with Ron.

NANCY  
 You're the one that gave him the  
 information on the stock!

RON  
 That information was solid.

NANCY  
 Who cares about the information.  
 Lee is wearing a bomb. We've got  
 exactly three hours --  
 (looks at clock)  
 -- and fifty minutes before we all  
 blow the fuck up. So I'm putting  
 you on the air with Lee right now.

RON  
 Now? You mean NOW?

NANCY  
 Yes, Ron, right now.

RON  
 Oh shit.

Arlene looks at him.

ARLENE  
 What's wrong?

RON  
 We're on the air.

ARLENE  
 What do you mean we're on the air?

LEE'S VOICE  
 Ron, you there?

Ron, naked from the waist down, is still a little breathless.

RON  
 Yeah, I'm here.

INTERCUT WITH LEE AND KYLE ON STAGE

LEE  
You remember the tip you gave me on  
Eden Chemical.

RON  
Of course.

LEE  
Explain to us where you got the  
information and why we believed it?

RON  
Ah... yeah, yeah, um... I got it  
from a guy I know in Des Moines.  
You know, the Des Moines guy.

LEE  
I'm gonna need specifics, Ron.

ARLENE  
Ron, I've got to get back to work.

KYLE  
Who's that?

We HEAR THE VOICES broadcast over the P.A. and on TV.

RON'S VOICE  
Um, that's Arlene.

ARLENE'S VOICE  
Oh my God, who did you just tell my  
name to?

74 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY

74

RON'S VOICE  
I don't know. Whoever is there with  
Lee.

ARLENE'S VOICE  
Oh my God. Get off my jeans.

Nancy, Sam and Dave are riveted.

SAM  
Is that Arlene that works in  
Promotions?

DAVE  
There's only one Arlene I know of.

KYLE ON T.V.  
Who's Arlene?

RON'S VOICE  
She's just leaving.

75 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

75

LEE

For Chrissake, Ron, what the hell is going on? Where are you?

RON

... In my office.

LEE

Did you keep a copy of the documents you showed me?

RON

No, we don't keep any of that stuff.

LEE

Then I need you to talk to your guy in Des Moines.

KYLE

I don't believe any of this. You could be talking to anybody! You're wasting time! Hang up! Hang up!

NANCY'S VOICE OVER P.A.

Okay, we're disconnecting the call.

KYLE

You have three hours and forty-six minutes left.

Lee looks up at the clock on the wall.

LEE

Not much time for a miracle.

KYLE

I don't want to hurt you, I don't to hurt anyone, but I will!

LEE

Okay, okay... Eden Chemical...

Lee turns to Camera.

LEE (CONT'D)

What can I say? They've got a nice office building on Park Avenue. That's gotta be worth something.

76 EXT. EDEN CHEMICAL CORPORATE H.Q. - DAY

76

SIRENS. Police cars pull up in front. COPS get out, entering the building. A PRESS VAN arrives. Reporters jump out, heading for the entrance. MORE COPS block them.

77 INT. EDEN CHEMICAL - DIANE LESTER'S OFFICE - DAY

77

Diane, the woman we first met making love on a couch (which we see in the corner of her office) is pacing as she talks into her blue tooth. Her office is all about the company.

DIANE

... print ads on my desk no later than tomorrow, understood? And I want to see the outline for the presentation as soon as --

Door bursts open. A panicked looking YOUNG EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, DAVID DIGBY tears in, heading for the console.

DIGBY

Sorry, Diane, I know you're still on the call, but you have to see this.

DIANE

See what?!

DIGBY

I can't explain!

He turns on the TV, quickly switching channels.

DIANE

(into phone)  
I'm sorry. Hold on.  
(to Digby)  
This better be good.

MONEY MONSTER comes on.

DIANE (CONT'D)

What the hell are you doing?

DIGBY

Just watch!

ON THE T.V. WE SEE LEE with the bomb vest and Kyle.

LEE ON T.V.

I want to help. But how do you expect me to make the stock price go up on a company that's in the toilet.

DIANE

Is this a joke?

DIGBY

No, he's threatening to kill him.

DIANE

What?

DIGBY  
The guy with the gun is threatening  
to kill Lee Gates!

DIANE  
Over what?

DIGBY  
Us.

Digby suddenly switches the T.V. to NBC, breaking news broadcast. SPLIT SCREEN shows the live feed from the stage where the hostage situation is playing out.

NEWSCASTER ON NBC  
-- so far we don't know anything  
about the man holding Lee Gates  
hostage --

Digby switches to ABC special breaking news.

NEWSCASTER ON ABC  
-- we do know the demands he's  
apparently making.

Digby switches to CNN special breaking news.

NEWSCASTER ON CNN  
-- Threatening to kill him unless he  
can get the stock price of a company  
called Eden Chemical --

Digby switches to the BNN NETWORK where the NEWSCASTER is listening to an attractive BNN Reporter, BETTY PINTO, outside the stage door.

BNN REPORTER BETTY PINTO  
-- hoping to force it to go up twenty-  
five points before the close of  
trading on Wall Street today, which  
is only three hours and forty-four  
minutes from now, John.

Diane is staring at the T.V.

DIANE  
Oh fuck.

78 INT. EDEN CHEMICAL - BOARD ROOM - DAY

78

ROGER HUNTER, 40, CEO, JAMES MILES, 60, CFO, ELLE LYNCH, 42, President and Andreas Dupruis, Head Council, the man Diane was fucking on her office couch, are at the conference table.

ROGER

... we do not want there to be any indication that we are facilitating a buy back of our stock.

JAMES MILES

It won't be a problem once we release the third quarter projections.

ANDREAS DEPRUIS

Once we take the write-downs it's going to stink of manipulation.

ELLE LYNCH

They're legitimate write-downs.

ANDREAS DEPRUIS

Just because they're legal doesn't make them legitimate. And the street will know the difference.

Door bursts open. Diane strides in.

ROGER

Diane, we're in a meeting.

Diane shuts the door. Locks it. Turns to them. They're all staring at her.

DIANE

This won't wait.

She crosses to the window.

JAMES MILES

What the hell's going on, Diane.

She looks out the window.

DIANE

You have to see this.

Everyone moves to the window, looking down at --

THE STREET BELOW

-- now filled with half a dozen POLICE CARS AND NEWS VANS. A crowd is gathering. In the REFLECTION OF THE WINDOW WE SEE the Executives lining up next to Diane.

ELLE LYNCH

What's going on?

ANDREAS DEPRUIS

Did somebody jump?

79 EXT. BNN STUDIO - DAY

79

POLICE CARS, sirens and lights, race around the corner, converging on the studio.

80 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - DAY

80

Lee paces, staring at the ground, working this out.

LEE

It's no secret that Eden Chemical is on the brink of a financial meltdown. That's why the stock is where it is. So why do you think anyone is going to buy it, even if I tell them to?

KYLE

People do what you say.

LEE

Because I tell them the truth. And they know I'm not telling the truth now. You see my dilemma, right?

KYLE

Then why did you tell us to buy it? Was that the truth?

LEE

Look, that information was based on a new chemical additive hitting the market. Okay? It didn't happen. They pulled the plug on the product. And as soon as I found out, I told everyone to bail. Why didn't you?

KYLE

I'm not here to argue with you.

LEE

Come on, if I could do what you want me to do, I'd do it. I want people to make money. But you think the people who listen to me are just going to throw their money away?

KYLE

If they want you to live.

Lee stares at Kyle for a beat, then --

LEE

I'm not that good a salesman.

KYLE

You sold me.

Lee throws up his hands and turns to the cameras.

LEE

Okay, folks, you heard him. You need to buy Eden Chemical or he's going to kill me. Is that a recommendation or what? Let's pull up the ticker and see where we're trading.

(to booth)

Put it on the big screen, Dave.

The graphic for Eden Chemical appears on screen. Stock ticker price at 2.5.

LEE (CONT'D)

Well, this shouldn't be too difficult, starting from 2 and a half. How about I walk on some water and heal a few blind people, too. I think I'd rather turn water into a single malt scotch right now. I could use a drink. But if I could do that...

Kyle just watches him, wiping sweat from his forehead.

LEE (CONT'D)

It's the lights. They get hot. Why do you think I roll up my sleeves?

(turns to audience)

Is anyone in the audience going to buy Eden Chemical today?

The audience remains silent.

LEE (CONT'D)

Yeah, well... I don't blame you.

Lee starts pacing again.

LEE (CONT'D)

Okay, let's get back to miracles. Gotta be one out there somewhere.

81 EXT. BNN STUDIO - DAY

81

POLICE have now cordoned off the area. NEWS VANS are broadcasting from outside the perimeter.

Police have secured the van.

SGT. MULROONEY, 40, in uniform, is with the TWO OFFICERS OF THE BOMB SQUAD.

BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #1  
... from what we can see on the monitor, it looks like he's got some kind of Semtex strapped to the guy. If it is, there's enough to take out most of the building. And it looks like a dead man switch in his hand. So if we shoot him... kaboom.

SGT. MULROONEY  
So what d'you want to do?

BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #1  
Best shot we got is talkin' him out of it. Right now I need better pictures of the bomb and detonator.

Bomb Squad moves to back to their truck as an unmarked car pulls up. HOSTAGE NEGOTIATOR HARRY NELSON, 45, gets out. Suit and tie. Mulrooney greets him --

HARRY  
Tell me.

They head for the entrance as POLICE escort people outside, including the network executives.

SGT. MULROONEY  
He's a delivery guy. We found his van and contacted the company. We're waiting for a positive I.D. First name's, Kyle, but that's all we got.

HARRY  
Anyone made contact yet?

SGT. MULROONEY  
Just the people in the studio. We've been waiting for you.

HARRY  
How far away is SWAT?

SGT. MULROONEY  
In route, maybe five.

HARRY  
How many we got at risk?

SGT. MULROONEY  
Four in the booth, three camera operators, a floor manager, the announcer, 83 in the audience, Lee Gates and Kyle. The rest of the building has been evacuated.

HARRY

How do we talk to him?

SGT. MULROONEY

From the studio control booth. But this is real reality TV we got going here. The whole damn thing is being broadcast live. And that's the way he wants it. If they stop broadcasting, he says he'll blow the whole building. So there's not gonna be any secrets on how we handle this.

HARRY

This is fuckin' nuts.

SGT. MULROONEY

You wanna know what's really fuckin' nuts. As soon as I get here, I get a call from Craig, our Union Rep, who was watching the show when it went down. And he tells me our police pension fund owns the goddamn stock.

They enter the building.

HARRY

So our union is rooting for the bomb guy?

SGT. MULROONEY

Not officially.

82 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - DAY

82

Lee continues to pace.

LEE

I can't recommend a stock that everyone knows is a --

Lee reaches in his trunk and pulls out a RUBBER TURKEY. Lee looks at it, having lost his enthusiasm for props. He throws the Turkey to the floor.

LEE (CONT'D)

They know this is bogus... so what do I sell here? I mean, I'm not a Senator or a Congressman, I can't sell bullshit... So what have I got? Nothing, that's what I've got.

Lee looks up at the clock.

LEE (CONT'D)

And the world just keeps turning.

83 INT. BNN STUDIO - FOYER - CONTINUOUS - DAY

83

Harry, Sergeant Mulrooney and several COPS are taking over the entrance area, turning it into their command center.

SGT. MULROONEY  
 ... we're getting schematics of the building, exits, entrances.  
 (to a cop)  
 Can we get a map up on the wall here?

A cop peels off. Mulrooney's cell RINGS. He answers --

SGT. MULROONEY (CONT'D)  
 ... yeah... yeah... where?... Okay.  
 (hangs up; to Harry)  
 We got one of our own on the inside.

HARRY  
 A cop? Where?

SGT. MULROONEY  
 In the audience, a Detective from Robbery.

HARRY  
 We have contact?

SGT. MULROONEY  
 We can text.

HARRY  
 Good. I don't need a loose canon.

84 INT. BNN STUDIO - AUDIENCE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

84

Ryan Reed suddenly stands up and SHOUTS OUT --

RYAN REED  
 You sell what you have to sell.

Kyle and Lee turn to the audience, startled by the outburst. The WOMAN next to Ryan yanks on his shirt.

WOMAN NEXT TO RYAN  
 (harsh whisper)  
 What're you doing?! Sit down!

KYLE  
 No, tell me what you said.

RYAN REED  
 Uh... If he wants to save his life... then he has to sell what he's got to sell, which is... him.

KYLE

... Yes, that's right, that's good.

LEE

So if I can't sell the stock, you want me to sell me?

KYLE

You sell whatever you have to sell.

Lee turns to cameras.

LEE

Okay, anybody want to save my life? All you have to do is buy a worthless piece of shit stock. Only gonna cost you a few grand. Come on, what's not to love?

(turns to booth)

Nancy, you hear me? What's my viewership, just give me a typical.

NANCY'S VOICE OVER P.A.

We usually do about 3 point 2 million.

Lee turns, looking at the camera with the RED LIGHT ON.

LEE

Okay, you three point two million people, I need each and every one of you to buy, buy, buy. And I'm not selling you a company, let's face it, this company sucks. So, I'm not gonna sell you a company, I'm gonna sell you me. Lee Gates. How much am I worth, you ask? Reasonable question. Lets list my assets and liabilities. We'll start with the liabilities.

(starts pacing)

I'm know I'm taking a risk here, but let's get the bad stuff out first. Some people think I'm an asshole. Some people think I've got a big mouth. Some people think I don't know what the hell I'm talking about.

Lee looks back at the stock price on screen. Still 2.5.

LEE (CONT'D)

Okay, at least it hasn't gone down. I'll take that as a positive sign. Look, I've made some bad choices. Carol, Barbara and Lisa at the top of the list. And I've made some bad stock picks, too. In this business,

(MORE)

LEE (CONT'D)  
 as in life, nobody's perfect. But,  
 let me tell you something, 79.95  
 percent of the time, I've been right.  
 But still, I have made some big  
 mistakes. And I have promised I  
 would eat the appropriate bird when  
 that happened.

He pulls the lid off a silver serving plate, revealing a BIG  
 DEAD BLACK CROW.

LEE (CONT'D)  
 Oh yum. I'd hate to think this was  
 my last meal.

85 EXT. BNN STUDIO - DAY 85

SWAT VAN pulls up to the studio. Doors open. SIX SWAT TEAM  
 OFFICERS emerge, heavily armed.

At the perimeter, NEWS CAMERAS record the event. The BNN  
 Reporter Betty Pinto flips back her hair and turns to camera.

BNN REPORTER BETTY PINTO  
 As you can see behind me, SWAT has  
 arrived and is preparing to enter  
 the building. But we still don't  
 know who is holding Lee Gates hostage.  
 We do know that the stock price has  
 risen slightly to 2.65. Still a  
 long way to go with only two hours  
 and fifty-seven minutes left in the  
 most unusual trading day ever on the  
 Street called Wall.

86 INT. BNN STUDIO - ENTRANCE - DAY 86

The SWAT TEAM moves into the building.

87 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - DAY 87

CAMERA THREE pushes in tight on Lee.

LEE  
 We've got a few more liabilities to  
 deal with.  
 (to booth)  
 So let me just take this opportunity  
 to say, Nancy, I should've called  
 you back after that night we had.  
 You brought out the best in me.

88 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY 88

Sam and Dave are looking at Nancy. She doesn't look at them.

NANCY  
 (into mic)  
 Go to 2.

89 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

89

Lee stares up at the booth for another moment, then turns back to Camera and the audience.

LEE  
 Okay, what else? I have a short fuse and I blow up at people sometimes. Oops, bad metaphor. Okay. What else. I'm cheap, unless I'm trying to get laid. I'm a guy. That's what guys do. But, and I know there are ladies who will back this up, I'm a bull in bed.  
 (to booth)  
 Can we have a graphic on that?

A GRAPHIC BULL charges across the screen.

LEE (CONT'D)  
 Oh, sorry, I guess that's an asset.

Lee looks up at the booth and winks.

90 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY

90

Sam and Dave are still looking at Nancy. She's doing her best to ignore them.

NANCY  
 ... go to 1.

The PHONE RINGS. Sam answers.

SAM  
 (into phone)  
 What? What?

NANCY  
 Who is it?

SAM  
 (raises hand)  
 ... Okay, okay.

He hangs up, turns to the others.

SAM (CONT'D)  
 You're not gonna believe this. We're doing a 9.75 and we're going up a point every five minutes. And we've been picked up by all the networks and cable and we're going out live.

DAVE

At least until we're dead.

NANCY

Yeah, but right now we've got twelve million people watching us. Don't fuck it up.

91 INT. BNN STUDIO - FOYER - DAY

91

Security Desk is now Command Central. MONITORS show angles of the studio and various other areas in the building. Sgt. Mulrooney, file in hand, is addressing Harry, Bomb Squad Officers and the SWAT Team --

SGT. MULROONEY

Name is Kyle Budwell. 40. No wants, no warrants, no priors. Worked for I.P.D. His boss says he was laid off three days ago. Which is when his wife reported him missing. He took the company truck when he left.

SWAT TEAM LEADER

A full assault on this guy is out. We'd risk killing too many people.

*(turns to the schematic  
on the wall)*

Suspect is here. Audience is here. Studio control booth to the stage here. These are exit doors. For us to make a move, we have to get access to this area back here. Problem is, he's gonna see any move we make. Our only chance to get close is on these catwalks behind the stage. Access is through an exterior door.

HARRY

How long to get somebody in position?

SWAT TEAM LEADER

Probably twenty minutes to get through the door and onto the catwalk, assuming he doesn't see us. But without knowing if he's got a clear line of fire, it could take longer.

SGT. MULROONEY

*(to Bomb Squad)*

What about the dead man switch?

BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #1

We're still looking at photos, trying to figure out what exactly he's using.

HARRY

We've got a little more than two and a half hours. I've got to start talking to this guy now.

SGT. MULROONEY

(to SWAT Team Leader)

Okay, you get somebody on the catwalk, we'll figure out what to do about the switch.

92 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - DAY

92

LEE

... another liability. Here's a big one. My ego. It's too big for the both of us.

Lee looks back at the BIG SCREEN.

The stock price is now at 2.65.

Lee looks at audience - silently rooting for him. Several of the women wipe their eyes and sniffle.

LEE (CONT'D)

But, I guess it's who I am. And I'm stuck with me.

He turns to Kyle, who still has the gun pointed at him.

LEE (CONT'D)

For better or worse, in sickness and in health until...

(half smile)

... well, I guess you're in charge of that now.

KYLE

... You still think this is one of your stupid jokes, don't you. That's your problem, everything's a joke to you people.

Kyle waves the gun dangerously while he talks.

KYLE (CONT'D)

But I'm not a joke. Not anymore... You really don't know anything real, you know that? You got everything, so you don't know what it's like... to do a job your whole life and save a few bucks here and there... and then lose it just like that... and the years it took... and I'm not the only one... I'm not the only one...

(MORE)

KYLE (CONT'D)

(points to camera)

There's a lotta people out there like me, watching right now. So don't stand there and get sarcastic... it's not right.

Lee and Kyle stare at each other. Then Lee backs off a little and turns to camera.

LEE

I guess that brings us to another of my liabilities. Unbridled sarcasm.

93 INT. EDEN CHEMICAL - BOARD ROOM - DAY

93

A BANK OF SEVEN TELEVISIONS are broadcasting ABC, CBS, NBC, CNBC, MSNBC, FOX and CNN. All covering the event at Money Monster. Diane, Roger, James, Andreas, Elle are watching.

NEWSCASTERS ON T.V.S

... in a bizarre request to get people to buy the stock... but it's hard to say what effect this will have on the stock price... the stock price, as of a few minutes ago, has not changed.... apparently trying to sell his life... what's a man's life worth?... 2 dollars and sixty-five cents a share?

JAMES MILES

A man's life tied to our stock price. That's just not something you plan for in a year end report.

ANDREAS DEPRUIS

Got to give him credit for trying something different. There are a lot of stock brokers out there who would love to control Wall Street with a gun.

DIANE

We need to buy our stock back. We need to put the best face on this that we can.

JAMES MILES

Diane, even if we did start buying our stock back, there's no guarantee it would go up to 27 per share in two hours. With or without a gun.

ANDREAS DEPRUIS

Even if he gets his price what's he going to do, walk out the door and buy a new house?

DIANE

The public will want to see how we handle this. Our company has to do something. I assume we want them to think we're pro life in this situation.

ELLE LYNCH

I disagree. It would be the same as negotiating with a terrorist. If we do it this time, what's to keep any disgruntled share holder from going after anybody who recommends a stock? Or anybody who runs a company whose stock price doesn't perform up to expectations. We owe it to all executives everywhere to do nothing.

Door opens and the Young Executive enters.

YOUNG EXECUTIVE

The police are here. They need to talk to someone.

ROGER

Diane.

Diane looks at Roger.

ROGER (CONT'D)

You're absolutely right. Draft a statement. Something to the effect that we are appalled by the situation. And hope the police will bring it to a safe conclusion.

DIANE

Who's going to read it?

ROGER

You.

DIANE

Don't you think one of our executive officers should make a statement?

ROGER

That sends the wrong message. We don't want anyone with a gun thinking they can manipulate us. Handle it as you would any other media situation.

Roger and the others move past Diane as they exit the room. Leaving her alone, facing the bank of televisions.

LEE ON T.V.

... and I've got bad cholesterol. But there's no heart disease in my family and I'm on a statin. So, liability? Probably not.

On Diane's look --

94 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - DAY

94

Nancy, Sam and Dave are at the monitors, still working. Raymond watches from behind.

LEE ON T.V.

A bad knee from playing football. But, I'm still on my feet.

He turns to the Monitor. The stock has dropped to 2.25.

LEE ON T.V. (CONT'D)

This is what being honest about my liabilities gets me. We're down half a point. But, better to be honest, than rich, right? Jesus, did I say that?

NANCY

Go to two.

Camera angle changes on the main monitor.

DAVE

What happens if he shoots Lee, we should cut away, right? I mean we can't allow it to go out live.

SAM

Unless of course he blows us all up, then we'll just go to black.

DAVE

Thanks, Sam.

NANCY

Go to three.

LEE ON T.V.

(turns to camera)

Well I think I should get onto the assets while I've still got time. Best place to start is at the beginning. I was born in Seattle. Beautiful Pacific Northwest. A great

(MORE)

LEE ON T.V. (CONT'D)  
 place to be from. I love Seattle.  
 Um... I graduated from Harvard with  
 a degree in Finance. That's right,  
 Ivy League. I know I don't look it,  
 but I was there. Not top of my class.  
 But a 3.75 GPA. Before you think I  
 was born with a silver spoon in my  
 mouth, I worked my way through by  
 delivering pizzas by the hundreds,  
 waiting tables in some places I  
 wouldn't even eat,

While Lee talks, the door opens and Harry enters with Sergeant Mulrooney.

HARRY  
 I'm Lt. Harry Nelson. This is  
 Sergeant Mulrooney. I'll be doing  
 the hostage negotiations. I assume  
 all of you have a reason to be here.

NANCY  
 I'm Nancy Rodriguez, the director.  
 This is Dave Markey and Sam Jablonsky.  
 They keep us on the air.

HARRY  
 Okay.

Harry looks through the booth windows to the stage below.

HARRY (CONT'D)  
 How do I talk to him?

NANCY  
*(points to mic)*  
 Intercom system. Right here.

95 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - DAY

95

LEE  
 ... driving a truck for a septic  
 company, and as a janitor at  
 elementary school. I cleaned toilets  
 and kid puke. So not everything is  
 based on GPA, I know what it means  
 to work for a living. I know main  
 street.

*(turns to Kyle)*  
 That's right. I know how the economy  
 works from the bottom up.

HARRY'S VOICE OVER P.A.  
 Kyle.

The voice startles Kyle and Lee. Kyle turns nervously to the booth, moving up closer to Lee, gun aimed at his head.

KYLE  
Who's that?  
(to Lee)  
Who is it?!

LEE  
I don't know.

The AUDIENCE is suddenly on edge again.

HARRY'S VOICE OVER P.A.  
My name is Harry Nelson, I'm with  
the New York City Police Department.

KYLE  
Don't try to stop me!

HARRY'S VOICE OVER P.A.  
I just want to make sure that  
everything is --

KYLE  
-- I'll do it! I swear to God I'll  
do it.

HARRY'S VOICE OVER P.A.  
Kyle, please, I don't want anybody  
to get hurt. I'm hear to help.

KYLE  
(to booth)  
Leave us alone or you'll be  
responsible for what happens.

HARRY'S VOICE OVER P.A.  
What about all the people in here,  
Kyle? You don't want to hurt them.  
They haven't done anything to --

KYLE  
-- NOBODY LEAVES!

Kyle is agitated. Lee turns quickly to the booth.

LEE  
Hey, stay outa this? You're making  
my buddy here nervous. It's not  
helping. I gotta show to do. And  
unless you're an advertiser, I don't  
have to listen.

Lee gives Kyle a conspiratorial look. He'll handle it.  
Kyle calms down a little --

KYLE

If you don't think I'm ready for this, then you don't know me. This isn't the only package I brought into the building this morning. There are ten more. You should be looking for those.

96 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY

96

Harry turns to Sergeant Mulrooney.

HARRY

You know about this?

SGT. MULROONEY

Hell no. The Security Guard didn't say shit about any packages he brought in. He just I.D.'d him.

Sgt. Mulrooney tears out. Harry turns back to the mic.

HARRY

What's in the packages, Kyle?

KYLE

Find them and you'll find out.

HARRY

Kyle, so far you haven't hurt anybody, don't cross that line.

KYLE

Don't push me and I won't. And don't interrupt anymore. You're just wasting time.

VOICES FROM THE AUDIENCE

LEAVE HIM ALONE! DON'T DO THIS!  
SHUT UP, THE POLICE KNOW WHAT THEY'RE  
DOING! THEY'RE GONNA GET US KILLED.

NANCY

2 go to audience.

KYLE

EVERYBODY SHUT UP!

NANCY

3 stay on Kyle. 1 on Lee.

The Audience quiets. Dave looks at Harry.

DAVE

You've done this before, right?

97 EXT. BNN STUDIO - FOYER - DAY

97

An angry Bomb Squad officer is facing off with Sgt. Mulrooney.

BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #1  
I got four guys, one dog and a robot  
and you're telling me I've got ten  
packages with bombs in 'em to disarm  
in the next two hours and what?

SGT. MULROONEY  
I got twenty guys lookin' all over  
the building. We got three more  
bomb squads on the way. One local,  
one from the Feds, one from Newark.

BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #1  
We can't underestimate this guy,  
he's ready for us.

I.T. COP  
Sarge, have a look at this.

Mulrooney and Bomb Squad Officer #1 turn to the I.T. COP  
hunched over his laptop with BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #2.

ON SCREEN we SEE CLOSE UP PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE BOMB and THE  
DEAD MAN SWITCH.

I.T. COP (CONT'D)  
This is the bomb. Here's his hand  
with the switch. It's wireless.

BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #2  
This is the receiver here...

He points to the bomb strapped to Lee, just above his heart.

BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #2 (CONT'D)  
... which would trigger the detonator.

BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #1  
If we can take out the switch, it's  
possible we can keep the bomb from  
detonating.

SGT. MULROONEY  
How the hell do we do that?

BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #1  
I don't know, talk to your SWAT guys.  
(walks out)  
I'll get the dog.

98 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - DAY

98

THE STOCK PRICE clicks up to 2.75.

LEE

Hey, baby, I musta hit a nerve. We're up a half. But we still got a long way to go, folks. What else can I tell you... I'm honest. I don't lie. And if I make a bad call I always take responsibility. So, whatever is going on here, is partly my fault. I'm dealing with an investor who believes I caused his financial meltdown. Okay, I'll take a fifty percent share of that.

99 EXT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

99

MOLLY, forty, attractive, but a little tired looking, carrying a couple extra pounds, is checking groceries. A MIDDLE AGED CUSTOMER watches. She hands the customer his receipt.

MOLLY

Thank you, Mr. Litvinov. You saved a dollar and twenty-seven cents today.

She smiles as the MANAGER approaches with another CASHIER.

MANAGER

Molly. Juanita is going to finish up for you.

MOLLY

My break's not for another --

MANAGER

-- This can't wait.

The Manager motions for her to follow. Juanita takes over as they move away.

MOLLY

Is it my kids?

MANAGER

No. Your husband.

MOLLY

Oh God, they found him?

MANAGER

... You could say that.

MOLLY

Is he okay?

MANAGER

You just need to see this.

She stops, horrified.

MOLLY

Oh no, he's dead, isn't he. He's dead. He's dead!

MANAGER

No, he's not dead, he's on TV.

100 INT. BNN STUDIO - FOYER - DAY 100

Sgt. Mulrooney and FOUR BOMB SQUAD OFFICERS enter with their BOMB SNIFFING DOG, a German Shepherd named BOOMER. THREE UNIFORMED COPS are just returning. Boomer is suddenly excited.

BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #1

Boomer's on it.

They turn him loose. Boomer tears down the hall. They run after him.

101 INT. BNN STUDIO - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS - DAY 101

Boomer slides to a stop, sniffs, starts climbing the wall. Bomb Squad Officers run up, looking up at the AIR VENT.

102 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - DAY 102

Lee is rolling up his sleeves as he paces around the stage.

LEE

Let's talk about how we got here. I remember the day I fell in love with Eden Chemical. It was a beautiful fall morning. The sun was shining, the birds were singing, and I was already three hours into digging for a great company I could recommend. EC had been on my radar for a few months because they were working on some promising technology that could revolutionize the use of chemical.

(re: bomb vest)

This damn thing is getting hot.

(to Kyle)

It's not gonna blow up, is it?

KYLE

Not yet.

HARRY'S VOICE OVER P.A.

You want some water, we can have some brought in.

KYLE

We don't want anything!

Lee looks up at the booth.

LEE  
 Come on, man, Kyle doesn't want a  
 plane or money for a sex change.  
 You want to get us out of this --

Lee points to the STOCK TICKER on the screen.

LEE (CONT'D)  
 -- move that number to 27.

KYLE  
 And you can't trick me by changing  
 the numbers because that's a direct  
 feed from the stock exchange.  
*(looks up at booth)*  
 You don't think I haven't thought  
 about this?

Lee looks up at the booth.

LEE  
 Dude, if you want to help, buy some  
 goddamn EC stock.

Several people in the audience applaud.

103 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY

103

Frustrated, Harry stares at the stage.

HARRY  
*(into mic)*  
 Kyle, we are not trying to trick  
 you. We want what you want, we want  
 the price to go up. Everyone is  
 looking for a solution here. I can  
 get the mayor on the line, I can get  
 the governor --

KYLE FROM STAGE  
 -- I don't want to talk to anybody.  
 The only thing that matters is that.

Kyle points to the stock price on screen.

CLOSE ON THE TICKER. It clicks up a quarter point.

104 INT. BNN STUDIO - HALLWAY - DAY

104

A Bomb Squad Officer is on a ladder, unscrewing the screws  
 on the Air Vent. Last one coming off. Hands the drill off.  
 Then carefully removes the Vent grate, not sure if it's booby  
 trapped or not. He looks around the edges, then hands the  
 grate off and shines his flashlight into --

THE AIR DUCT which is empty for as far as he can see.

BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #2  
Nothin' here.

They HEAR BARKING. Attention turns to --

BOOMER and another Bomb Squad Officer farther down the hall. Again, Boomer is barking at an air vent high up the wall. Sgt. Mulrooney is with them.

BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #1  
If it's in the vents it has to be  
coming from the main unit.

They move off quickly down the hall as Sgt. Mulrooney's CELL PHONE RINGS. He picks up.

SGT. MULROONEY  
Yeah... Where is she?!

105 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

105

Lee looks up at the ticker. It's gone up another quarter point. It's at 3.

LEE  
More movement. Yeah, baby. Where the hell was I? Oh yeah.  
(to camera)  
What did I get excited about? What kept me awake for three nights straight? It wasn't a lap dance or my high school reunion, no, it was that information I got from Ron. I had no reason to doubt him. And I still don't. I believe what he told me was right. Even though Eden Chemical came out and denied everything I told you. Well screw them. For those of you who don't know what had me so off the charts, Eden Chemical had created a nano tech additive that would quadruple the chemical value of any carbon based fuel. Imagine a gallon of gas now has the energy equivalent of four gallons. So if you get 25 miles per gallon, suddenly you get 100.

106 INT. GROCERY STORE - MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

106

Molly, stunned, stares at the TV MONITOR tuned to the show. The Store Manager and an ASSISTANT MANAGER are with her.

LEE ON T.V.  
Huge, HUGE, potential. Not just in our country, but worldwide.  
(MORE)

LEE ON T.V. (CONT'D)

*(turns to Kyle)*

Big, right? You could see that?  
That's why we all went for it, me  
included.

CAMERA SUDDENLY CUTS TO KYLE, hot under the lights. Tense.  
Strained. He wipes sweat from his brow.

MOLLY

Oh my God, Kyle... Oh my God...

ASSISTANT MANAGER

... This is so weird. I've never  
seen anybody on TV that I knew.

107 INT. BNN STUDIO - HALLWAY - DAY

107

TWO UNIFORMED COPS move down the hallway, checking rooms. A  
door opens and a middle aged woman, JUDY, strides out of the  
WOMENS BATHROOM, carrying one of Kyle's packages.

COP #1

Where you going with that?!

JUDY

This was in the bathroom. And it's  
not even in the right building.  
*(realizes who they  
are)*  
What's going on?

COP #2

Don't move.

JUDY

What?

COP #1

Don't move, don't drop the package!

She stops, terrified, staring at the package in her hands.

JUDY

What is it?

COP #1

*(into phone)*

We need the bomb squad up here, third  
floor, now!

When Judy hears "bomb squad" her eyes widen --

JUDY

Oh my God.

108 EXT. BNN STUDIO - DAY

108

TWO SWAT OFFICERS, sniper rifles over their shoulders, move quickly up an outside metal stairway to a door near the top. The Second Swat Officer pulls his radio.

SWAT OFFICER #2  
(into radio)  
We're in first position.

109 INT. BNN STUDIO - FOYER - CONTINUOUS - DAY

109

SWAT Team Leader is on the other end of the phone --

SWAT TEAM LEADER  
Go Red.

110 INT. BNN STUDIO - CATWALK - CONTINUOUS - DAY

110

Catwalk door opens slowly and SWAT OFFICER #1 slips in. Door shuts behind him. He crouches on the narrow catwalk and looks down onto the stage 75 feet below. He can barely see Kyle at the far end of the stage, his line of sight is blocked by lights, flags and cables. He begins to crawl along the catwalk. It's gonna be a long crawl.

111 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - DAY

111

Harry is watching the stage through the window. Lee is on the TV MONITORS.

LEE ON T.V.  
Investing in this would be like  
winning the lottery. But without  
the risk. Can I just restate that:  
Without the risk.

Sam is on the phone.

SAM  
(into phone)  
Say again...

LEE ON T.V.  
Never thought I'd say that. Like  
the fix was in. Knowing which boxer  
would go the distance, which horse  
would run in the money, which chick  
won't bug you to marry her.

SAM  
(into phone)  
Holy shit... holy shit...

NANCY  
Push in on 2.

Sam hangs up, turns to Nancy.

SAM  
We just hit a fucking 12 share!

Another phone rings. Dave picks it up.

DAVE  
Yeah... Hold on.  
(turns to Nancy)  
Nancy, it's your agent.

NANCY  
Have to call her back.

DAVE  
(into phone)  
She'll have to call you back.  
(hangs up; to Nancy)  
She says if this doesn't get you an  
Emmy, she's quitting the business.

Mulrooney bursts in.

SGT. MULROONEY  
We found Budwell's wife. They're  
bringin' her here.

HARRY  
Good. I need her.

SWAT Team Leader suddenly enters.

SWAT TEAM LEADER  
We got access to the catwalks over  
the stage. I've got a man up there.

Harry and Mulrooney look out the booth window to the catwalk  
above. They can't see anything.

HARRY  
Do I need to remind you that if we  
shoot him, the bomb will go off.

SWAT TEAM LEADER  
(smiles)  
Shit, Harry, they all say that.

SGT. MULROONEY  
Once he's in position, stay white  
until I tell you different.

SWAT TEAM LEADER  
Give me the order to go blue, we go.

Swat Team Leader exits.

SAM  
*(whispering to Dave)*  
 What's up with the colors?

DAVE  
*(whispering back)*  
 Fuck if I know.

112 INT. GROCERY STORE - MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

112

CLOSE ON TV. Lee in front, Kyle behind him.

LEE ON T.V.  
 How many times in your life do you  
 get a shot at a sure thing?  
*(turns to Kyle)*  
 How many times, Kyle?

KYLE ON T.V.  
 Never.

LEE ON T.V.  
 Not true. Once in awhile one comes  
 along. The problem is, not  
 recognizing it. This is why I  
 recommended a big buy on the stock.

Molly is in tears.

MOLLY  
 How could he do this...

The Manager and Assistant Managers try to comfort her.

FIRST ASSISTANT MANAGER  
 He'll probably go to prison.

SECOND ASSISTANT MANAGER  
 Are you kidding? He'll get life.

STORE MANAGER  
 If he lives that long.

Molly puts her hands over her ears. Door opens. A CLERK  
 looks in frantically.

CLERK  
 Police are here looking for Molly.

113 INT. BNN STUDIO - HALLWAY - DAY

113

Judy is still frozen in place as TWO NEWARK BOMB SQUAD  
 OFFICERS finish placing protective blast padding around her.  
 Sweat is glistening on her brow.

NEWARK BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #1  
 You're doing great.

They finish with the padding.

NEWARK BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #1 (CONT'D)  
Let me take it. You step back.

He reaches out slowly. Hands gently taking hold of the box.

NEWARK BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #1 (CONT'D)  
Now let go.

JUDY  
I c-c-can't.

NEWARK BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #1  
Yes you can.

She suddenly lets go. The Bomb Squad Officer has it.

NEWARK BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #1 (CONT'D)  
Now step back slowly.

She takes a step back, staring at the box. The Bomb Squad Officer puts it gently on the floor, then pulls his radio.

NEWARK BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #1 (CONT'D)  
Okay, send in the robot.

Behind him we see Judy pass out, dropping to the floor, falling RIGHT ON TOP OF THE BOX.

NEWARK BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #2  
Oh shit!

Bomb Squad guys dive for cover, expecting an explosion. But nothing happens. They exchange a look, then move to Judy.

The box has split open. Bomb Squad Officer Two carefully looks inside.

NEWARK BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #2 (CONT'D)  
What the hell?

114 EXT. EDEN CHEMICAL CORPORATE H.Q. - DAY

114

TV CAMERAS, REPORTERS, a small CROWD surrounds Diane as she reads from the prepared statement.

DIANE  
... Eden Chemical regrets the situation that now threatens Mr. Gates's life. We plead with the man who is holding him hostage to end this situation quickly and safely. We apologize for the mishandling of the false information that involved our company. We responded immediately  
(MORE)

DIANE (CONT'D)  
 when we discovered it was being used  
 to fuel speculation in our company's  
 stock. We acted responsibly by  
 informing the public. This is a  
 tragic situation and our hearts go  
 out to the people who now find  
 themselves in harm's way. We are  
 cooperating with the police to bring  
 this to a safe conclusion. Thank  
 you.

Reporters start asking questions as Diane folds up her speech.  
 One catches her attention.

REPORTER  
 Are you making any efforts to boost  
 your share price in the time you  
 have left.

Diane hesitates, then --

DIANE  
 Yes. We're exploring a possible  
 share buy back. But that's all I  
 can say right now.  
*(turns to go, stops)*  
 Except that our CEO, Roger Hunter,  
 will make an announcement at the New  
 York Stock Exchange addressing the  
 financial health of Eden Chemical.

Reporters immediately hit her with barrage of questions as  
 police quickly escort Diane back into the building, not sure  
 she did the right thing.

115 EXT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

115

TWO PATROL OFFICERS escort Molly from the store to their  
 waiting patrol car. Molly is still very upset.

MOLLY  
 What about my kids? I have to pick  
 them up at school.

PATROL OFFICER  
 If you can't call somebody to do it,  
 we'll take care of it.

They put her into a patrol car.

MOLLY  
 You're not gonna shoot him, are you?

PATROL OFFICER  
 No, ma'am. That's someone else's  
 job.

They close the car door.

116 EXT. NEW JERSEY STREET - DAY 116

JINDER BASRA, 27, EAST INDIAN, looking shell-shocked, walks down the street. Lost in thought, he steps off the curb. HORN HONKS. Tires SCREECH. He jumps back just in time.

DRIIVER

Get outa the road, asshole.

The car speeds away. Jinder catches his breath, sees a bar behind him, LUCY'S.

117 INT. LUCY'S BAR - CONTINUOUS - DAY 117

C&W MUSIC plays in the b.g. Jinder enters. Walks to the bar, sits down. Everyone in the bar, including the BARTENDER, is watching the hostage drama unfold on the overhead TV.

LEE ON T.V.

What would you have done, knowing what I knew? Did I buy the stock? Absolutely. But not until I announced it first on this show.

The Bartender glances over, sees Jinder. Approaches.

BARTENDER

What can I get you?

JINDER

Whatever you got on tap.

The Bartender draws the beer Jinder looks at the TV. A WOMAN DRINKER a few stools down, looks at the Bartender.

WOMAN DRINKER

Ten bucks says he kills him.

BARTENDER

I'll take some of that.

He hands the beer to Jinder and moves back to the TV. Jinder looks at the TV as he picks up the beer and drains the glass.

LEE ON T.V.

That gave each and every investor who watched me on the show the same opportunity that I had. So if I made money, you made money. On the other hand, if I got screwed, you got screwed. We were in it together.

(turns to Kyle)

We were all partners, me and Kyle and whoever took my advice that day.

Jinder just stares at the TV as he lowers the glass.  
Something is definitely bothering this guy.

118 INT. BNN STUDIO - HALLWAY - DAY

118

The Newark Bomb Squad Officers #1 and #2 race down the hallway. Officer #1 carries the split open box. They race down to Sgt. Mulrooney who is moving toward them.

SGT. MULROONEY  
What've you got?

NEWARK BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #1  
One of the boxes he brought in.  
...It's not a bomb.

Mulrooney looks inside, pulls out a DVD. What the fuck?

119 INT. EDEN CHEMICAL CORPORATE H.Q. - ROGER'S OFFICE - DAY

119

Roger, Elle and James are in the room. Tense.

ROGER  
I WANT HER FIRED AND HER STOCK OPTIONS  
REVOKED!

JAMES MILES  
Slow down, Roger!

ROGER  
I WANT THAT BITCH OUT OF THIS COMPANY  
NOW!

JAMES MILES  
Roger, for godsake, our stock price  
is not going to be affected by this.  
It's moved less than it would on a  
normal trading day.

ELLE LYNCH  
And there are only two hours and ten  
minutes left anyway.

JAMES MILES  
This could actually work in our favor.  
Just because she said we're buying  
back our stock doesn't mean we are.

Roger paces.

ELLE LYNCH  
Either way, it makes everyone think  
we're doing the "right thing".

Roger continues to pace, then stops.

ROGER

Okay... But we need to alter our time line so we don't draw further scrutiny from the SEC. And we still have to consider the short sells.

ELLE LYNCH

The important thing is not to lose our heads. We have to control the information. This idea of you speaking at the stock exchange could work in our favor. You are the face of Eden Chemical. We need everyone to feel confident that we're in control. How better to do that than to have you address everyone from the floor of the exchange.

JAMES MILES

You can bet that every network and cable news organization will be there.

Roger ponders this.

ELLE LYNCH

You are a master at this, Roger. If anyone can calm the waters...

ROGER

Okay, okay, maybe you're right. I actually wouldn't have to say very much. Just that we have things under control. We take the focus away from us and make sure it stays firmly on Lee.

Roger paces, getting into it --

ROGER (CONT'D)

Afterall, this is not about anything we did, this is about rampant speculation by self-appointed financial gurus who make a fortune convincing unsuspecting rubes to gamble on their wild recommendations.

Roger gestures with his arms as if he's just finished addressing his followers.

ELLE LYNCH

I love it. Say that and we're home free.

PHONE INTERCOM

Diane is here.

James, Elle and Roger exchange a look.

ELLE LYNCH  
 (into intercom)  
 Send her in.

Door opens. Diane enters. Looking frazzled.

JAMES MILES  
 You were great. Thank you.

DIANE  
 I hope you're not upset about what I said. I know I should've checked with you first. But it just came out.

ROGER  
 No, no, Diane, you were right. It is my responsibility as the CEO to personally address this issue. And doing it at the exchange, brilliant.

DIANE  
 Oh... well... that's good. Is there anything else you want me to do? Do you know what you're going to say?

ELLE LYNCH  
 We're working on it. You've done what you needed to do for now.

DIANE  
 But what if he gets killed?

JAMES MILES  
 Let's hope not. But, just in case, you might want to prepare for a worst case scenario.

ELLE LYNCH  
 (opening door for her)  
 Thank you, Diane.

Diane takes the hint and exits.

120 INT. EDEN CHEMICAL CORP H.Q. - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS - DAY 120

Diane shuts the door. Stands silently for a moment. Feeling uneasy. Then she moves down the hall.

121 INT. BNN STUDIO - BASEMENT - DAY 121

The NYPD Bomb Squad carefully dismantles the Air Conditioning unit, slowly pulling off the side panel, checking for wires.

Sitting in front of the RUNNING FAN is a SMALL PLASTIC DOG modeled out of Semtex.

BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #1  
 No wonder the dogs smell Semtex from  
 the vents.

122 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - DAY

122

LEE  
 My dad used to beat the shit out of  
 me. When he was drinking all I had  
 to do was be within reach. I'm not  
 asking for sympathy. Unless it gets  
 you to buy the goddamn stock. Christ,  
 it's just sitting there.

THE STOCK PRICE hasn't moved. Lee is looking up at it.

LEE (CONT'D)  
 This is depressing. Maybe I should  
 just save my breath.  
 (to Kyle)  
 Nobody gives a damn. You see that?  
 Making money is not about saving a  
 life, it's about making money. What  
 do you want me to tell them? They're  
 not gonna do this for you. They're  
 not gonna do it for me. You know,  
 after you kill me, and you're in  
 jail or dead, they're just gonna get  
 another guy to do take over this  
 show. He won't be near as good,  
 but... Shit, man, we've all lost  
 money. You want the stock price to  
 go up so bad, why don't you tell  
 them why?

Lee moves toward Kyle, but Kyle points the gun at his head.  
 Lee stops. Kyle's hand is shaking. He uses both hands to  
 steady it.

KYLE  
 You still have one hour and fifty-  
 seven minutes.

LEE  
 Come on, Kyle, nobody cares about  
 saving my life. I can't pitch a  
 loser. And this is a loser. How  
 much money are we talking about here,  
 Kyle. A couple thousand bucks?

KYLE  
 Everything.

LEE  
 Everything, are you kidding me? You  
 say you watch my show. Don't I always  
 (MORE)

LEE (CONT'D)

say don't put all your baskets in one egg? Don't I always say don't put all your pencils in one cup? Don't put all your shoes on one foot? I mean, come on. I'm all about diversification! That's why I've never been married just to one woman. Are you married?

KYLE

... Yes.

LEE

Just once?

KYLE

Yes.

LEE

How's that going?

KYLE

... I don't want to talk about me.

LEE

Well, wait a minute. Maybe we're going at this all wrong. Maybe it's you I should be selling. Maybe you're more marketable than I am. Come on, help me out here.

(gestures to cameras)

Tell them something they'll buy.

KYLE

Don't do this.

LEE

Look, Kyle, the stock isn't moving for me. Tell us who the hell you are and why we should give a shit.

Kyle looks like a deer in headlights.

LEE (CONT'D)

You're on the air, man. This is your big chance. Millions of people are watching. You weren't famous this morning, but you are now. So, have you got kids?

KYLE

... yes.

LEE

How many?

KYLE

... Two.

LEE

Boys, girls or both?

KYLE

Boys.

LEE

You love 'em?

KYLE

... of course... I love them more than anything.

LEE

Then why the hell do you want to do something like this? You know it's just gonna hurt them.

KYLE

Stop this.

LEE

How about you stop this?

They stare at each other for a beat, then --

LEE (CONT'D)

You see the problem? You won't stop and there's nothing I can do.

Lee turns to camera.

LEE (CONT'D)

Listen up. He won't sell himself so I'm gonna have to try. He's got a wife and two kids. That's got to be worth something.

(looks at Kyle)

Assuming they're good kids. They're not in gangs or torture animals do they?

KYLE

No...

Kyle suddenly fights tears. Wiping them fiercely away with his hand.

KYLE (CONT'D)

I'm doing this for them.

No matter how hard he tries, he can't stop crying. Lee just watches, seeing Kyle in a different light.

LEE

... Jeez, Kyle. You're a mess.

Kyle, indeed, looks like an emotional mess.

123 INT. BNN STUDIO - CATWALK - DAY 123

Swat Officer #1 continues to slowly make his way along the catwalk, stopping to check his line of sight. Still no clear shot. Sweat drips from his brow. It's hot as hell up here. He continues his crawl.

124 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY 124

Door bursts open. Nancy, Sam, Dave and Harry turn as Sgt. Mulrooney enters, DVD in hand.

SGT. MULROONEY

You got some place we can play this?

Nancy points to a several DVD decks.

SAM

Give it to me.

Mulrooney hands the DVD to Sam, who shoves it into a player.

SAM (CONT'D)

Last time one of my friends ran in with a DVD and said you gotta play this, it was him and his wife in bed wearing dog collars and high heels.

ON A MONITOR we see a VIDEO of THE PACKAGE on the BEACH. It suddenly explodes - this is the same scene we saw in the beginning. Then Kyle steps in front of CAMERA, facing it.

KYLE ON DVD

Molly, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to make your life any harder than I already have.

Nancy listens intently as her hand slowly reaches across the panel and PUSHES A SWITCH. As she does, she catches Dave watching her with a "what the fuck" look. She ignores him.

The police are so riveted by what's on the monitor, they don't realize the tape is NOW BEING BROADCAST.

KYLE ON DVD (CONT'D)

And I don't know what you're going to tell the kids.

125 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

125

LEE

Kyle, I understand everything you're saying. I know what you're trying to do, but --

SUDDENLY we HEAR --

KYLE'S VOICE ON DVD

I'm sorry about that, too. I was just sick and tired of being afraid.

Kyle is startled, looks around. Lee looks up at the BIG SCREEN - KYLE'S VIDEO IS PLAYING.

KYLE ON DVD

I couldn't sleep, I couldn't eat, I couldn't talk to the kids or you about what I was going through. Look, I wrote something down which I'll read now.

*(pulls paper out of his pocket; puts glasses on)*

My name is Kyle Budwell. I turned forty about six weeks ago.

KYLE

How did this get on?!

KYLE ON DVD

I have worked at I.P.D for eighteen years. Or I did until last Friday.

KYLE

TURN IT OFF!

KYLE ON DVD

I was laid off along with about one hundred others who also worked there for a long time.

LEE

Leave it on!

KYLE

Turn it off!

KYLE ON DVD

What's important is I did everything I was supposed to do.

LEE

Hey, audience, you want to hear this?

AUDIENCE  
 YEAH, LET IT PLAY. NO, TURN IT OFF.  
 NO, LET IT PLAY!

A FEW VOICES continue to argue back and forth.

LEE  
 Come on, I want to hear this. This  
 is the reason we're all here so  
 everybody just calm down!

The voices fade out as the DVD continues to play.

KYLE ON DVD  
 And it hasn't worked. I stayed out  
 of trouble. Paid my taxes. I went  
 to church. I took care of my family.  
 I've never done anything wrong.

The audience gets caught up in what Kyle is saying on screen.

KYLE ON DVD (CONT'D)  
 But what I'm doing now, is the only  
 choice I have.

126 INT. BNN STUDIO - CATWALK - CONTINUOUS - DAY 126

SWAT Officer #1 has stopped his crawl. Momentarily distracted  
 by Kyle's speech on the BIG SCREEN.

KYLE ON DVD  
 I know you want to know why. I really  
 don't want to hurt anybody and if I  
 have to, I'm sorry for that, too.  
 So you see what I'm saying? There's  
 no guarantees about anything. I  
 know that. But you still try and  
 make sure that you plan for something  
 that you can count on.

127 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY 127

Harry, Nancy, Sergeant Mulrooney and Sam and Dave are watching  
 the monitor. Glued.

KYLE ON DVD  
 I don't even know if it's turned out  
 the way I wanted it to. I don't  
 know anything right now, except that,  
 if you're watching this, then...  
 Screw this.

*(crumbles paper, tosses  
 it; looks into camera.)*

I know I'm not making sense. I'm  
 just trying to make sure my family  
 will be taken care of if anything  
 happens to me.

Harry looks away from the monitor, glances out the window, suddenly realizing the DVD is being broadcast.

HARRY  
Is this on the air?

NANCY  
Yeah.

HARRY  
Oh Jesus...

Door opens, SWAT Team Leader and Bomb Squad Officer #1 enter, the Bomb Squad Officer is holding his lap top.

128 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

128

Kyle watches himself on the monitor.

KYLE ON DVD  
Before I had kids I never worried about anything. But after, I worried about everything. Your kid gets a bad cough and you think they're gonna die. Then I got sick and I thought I was gonna die and it turned out to be gall stones.

Some in the audience laugh. Kyle is surprised. They seem to be liking his DVD.

129 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY

129

Swat Team Leader is showing Harry and Mulrooney his plan of attack on his laptop.

SWAT TEAM LEADER  
We've been discussing our options. The only chance we've got is to disarm the switch that Kyle's holding.

SGT. MULROONEY  
How?

As KYLE CONTINUES ON THE MONITORS we SEE GRAPHICS on the laptop illustrating the trajectory of the bullet from shooter to target.

KYLE ON DVD  
That's why we invest some of the money we make in things like stocks and bonds and real estate. So you've got something solid you can count on if everything else falls apart.

Swat Team Leader points to his laptop. Nancy, Sam and Dave can't help but overhear.

SWAT TEAM LEADER  
 Our best move is shoot  
 the switch. It's not  
 that far a shot, but  
 the target is moving.  
 So it'll be tricky.  
 One problem. Because  
 of where he's standing,  
 there's a chance the  
 bullet could hit someone  
 in the audience.

KYLE ON DVD  
 The problem is, you just  
 don't expect that everything  
 is going to fall apart.  
 That's why we look to people  
 who know more than we do.  
 That's why I started  
 watching Lee. That's why  
 I trusted him... so I  
 wouldn't end up where I am  
 now.

Harry gets up, motions for the other to follow him into the  
 hall. Nancy, Sam and Dave watch them exit.

SAM  
 Holy shit.  
*(re: booth glass)*  
 Is this glass bullet proof?

130 INT. BNN STUDIO - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS - DAY

130

Harry, Swat Team Leader, Sgt. Mulrooney and Bomb Squad Officer  
 #1 converge in the hall.

HARRY  
 We're not shooting somebody in the  
 audience so what else have you got?

BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #1  
 The other option is we take out the  
 receiver on the bomb. It's a standard  
 off the shelf model that's used in  
 toys. A bullet will do two things;  
 destroy the battery and the antenna  
 with one shot. Without either of  
 those, the bomb won't detonate.

He indicates on the laptop where the RECEIVER on the bomb is -  
 RIGHT OVER LEE'S HEART. Everyone realizes what this means.

HARRY  
 Whoa, whoa, are you suggesting we  
 kill our hostage?

BOMB SQUAD OFFICER #1  
 That'd be the collateral damage.  
 But it's the only way we can keep  
 everyone else alive.

HARRY  
 You know, you're talking about  
 shooting the star of a TV show in  
 front of millions of people.

SWAT TEAM LEADER

You wanna be the one to tell the families of all the victims who die in the bomb blast that we chose a TV personality over their loved ones?

HARRY

If we shoot Lee, what's to keep Budwell from opening up?

SWAT TEAM LEADER

We take 'em both out.

HARRY

Now you want to shoot both of them?

SGT. MULROONEY

Think about the fall out for us, Harry. It's gonna look better to the public if we don't show favoritism.

SWAT TEAM LEADER

One problem; I don't think I can get another shooter in position in time.

SGT. MULROONEY

We've got a cop in the audience.

Harry's phone rings. Harry, exasperated, answers --

HARRY

(into phone)

Yeah... Okay... on my way.

(to Mulrooney)

Wife's here. Maybe we don't have to shoot anybody yet.

131 EXT. BNN STUDIO - DAY

131

The CROWD has grown behind the police perimeter. NEWS VANS parked everywhere. A PATROL CAR pulls up. Doors open. Police escort Molly from car to building. The PRESS quickly goes into action, shouting questions and shooting video.

Molly looks stunned, scared.

132 INT. BNN STUDIO - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS - DAY

132

Harry is waiting as the cops bring Molly into the building.

HARRY

Mrs. Budwell, I'm Harry Nelson. I'm the negotiator.

He leads her down the hallway.

MOLLY  
Is Kyle okay?

HARRY  
Yes.

THREE SWAT TEAM OFFICERS, armed and armored, run down the hallway past them. Molly is scared.

MOLLY  
What's going to happen to him?

HARRY  
That will depend on you.

133 INT. BEST BUY - DAY

133

The BANK OF TELEVISIONS is broadcasting Kyle's confession. And the crowd is enormous. The store is packed.

KYLE ON ALL THE T.V.S  
... and he said that the product, this additive, was going to quadruple the chemical content of regular gasoline. So even a car that got ten miles to the gallon would suddenly be getting forty miles to the gallon.

People are glued to every word.

134 INT. BNN STUDIO - AUDIENCE - DAY

134

CLOSE ON CELL PHONE as we READ THE TEXT: ***Can you get a clear shot of Kyle Budwell?***

WE PAN UP TO REVEAL the cop in the audience - Jane Koenig. She looks up at Kyle. He's only about forty feet away, partially blocked by camera crew. She starts texting...

135 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - DAY

135

Sergeant Mulrooney stands with SWAT Team Leader, reading the text on his cell.

SGT. MULROONEY  
(to SWAT Team Leader)  
We're good. She's in the front row. She can get a shot.

SWAT TEAM LEADER  
Then we go for two. When my guy takes his shot, she goes.  
(into mic)  
New target.

136 INT. BNN STUDIO - CATWALK - CONTINUOUS - DAY

136

SWAT Officer #1 hears over his ear piece --

SWAT TEAM LEADER'S VOICE  
New target; the receiver on the bomb.  
Can you see it?

He looks through his scope.

P.O.V. THROUGH SCOPE OF THE BOMB ON LEE

Adjusting the position of the CROSS HAIRS until he finds the  
SMALL RECEIVER over Lee's heart.

SWAT OFFICER #1  
(into mic)  
Got it... You know what you're asking  
me to do.

SWAT OFFICER #1'S VOICE OVER RADIO  
Yeah, I know.

But just then, Lee moves, blocked by one of the Monster Props.

137 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY

137

SWAT OFFICER #1'S VOICE OVER RADIO  
Lost it. Shit. He moved.

SWAT TEAM LEADER  
(into mic)  
As soon as you get it again, let me  
know. Stay white for now.

Door opens and Harry enters with Molly. She looks around, a  
bit wide-eyed, then SEES KYLE ON THE MONITOR.

KYLE ON DVD  
And I sold every other stock that we  
had and the bonds and everything I  
had in my 401K to buy Eden Chemical.

138 EXT. REAL ESTATE OFFICE - DAY

138

Mel is at his desk, attaching PRICE REDUCED banners to his  
FOR SALE signs. His assistant, CAROL, sticks her head in.

CAROL  
Mel?

MEL  
(annoyed)  
What?

CAROL  
 There's a Mr. Marowitz to see you.  
 He's come all the way from New York.

Mel, stunned, looks up.

MEL  
 He's here?

CAROL  
*(pointing)*  
 He's right --

Before she can finish the door opens and Ron enters.

RON  
 I have to know where you got the  
 information on Eden Chemical.

Mel looks at Carol and smiles.

MEL  
 Could you leave us, please, Carol?

Carol exits, shutting the door. The smile disappears and Mel turns on Ron.

MEL (CONT'D)  
 I can't reveal my sources, you know  
 that. That's the deal.

RON  
 You're not protected under the First  
 Amendment here, Mel. I need to know  
 who gave you the information!

MEL  
 What the hell is going on, Ron? You  
 trying to get around me?! That  
 what this is about?! Well forget  
 it, pal. The only way you're getting  
 around me is through my wallet.

Ron suddenly grabs Mel by the shirt and pulls him nose to nose. Mel is taken completely off guard.

RON  
 This is a matter of life and death,  
 you piece of shit.

139 INT. EDEN CHEMICAL - DIANE LESTER'S OFFICE - DAY

139

Diane is sitting at her desk. Digby paces in front of her, reading from a list.

DIGBY

... Wolf Blitzer is on 1, Diane Sawyer is on 2, that O'Reilly guy on 4, Chris Mathews on 5. We owe calls to Keith Olberman, Peter Bart, the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, Der Spiegel, Le Monde --

DIANE

-- okay, okay.

Digby looks up from his notes. He looks frazzled.

DIGBY

Not to mention William Morris Endeavor, CAA, Spike Lee, Ron Howard and Oprah. Oh yeah, and I almost forgot the guy from India.

DIANE

A guy from India?

DIGBY

Jinder something.

DIANE

Jinder Basra?

DIGBY

Yeah, that's it. You know him?

DIANE

He's one of our top engineers.

DIGBY

Well he says he absolutely has to talk to you ASAP.

Digby peels off a piece of paper, handing it to Diane.

DIGBY (CONT'D)

He said it was important. But who doesn't?

140 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY

140

Molly is seated, looking at Kyle's tape on a monitor. Harry, Mulrooney and SWAT Team Leader stand behind her. Nancy, Sam and Dave concentrate on their jobs.

ON THE MONITOR: Kyle is still talking to camera.

KYLE ON DVD

I know you're not supposed to put everything into one stock, but... I  
(MORE)

KYLE ON DVD (CONT'D)  
 trusted him... I trusted Lee... And then the company comes out and says that the product has not lived up to expectations and is still a long way off. So everybody sells, except me... cause I was at work and I didn't know about it until I got home the next day... This isn't about the money I lost, this is about my kids' college education, paying off my mortgage before I retire, getting rid of my credit card debt... just being able to take my wife out to a nice dinner once in awhile.

NANCY  
*(into mic)*  
 Get audience reaction on 3.

Molly looks at Nancy, then up at the SCREENS showing Audience reactions to her husband's speech.

141 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 141

Kyle, Lee and the Audience are still watching.

KYLE ON DVD  
 And everybody else gets bailed out by the government, banks and cars and insurance. Everybody but guys like me.  
*(stops, lost in the moment; suddenly angry)*  
 That's enough. Somebody has to fix this.

ON THE DVD: Kyle suddenly walks off screen and a moment later the camera goes off.

Everything is eerily silent for a moment, then we HEAR --

AUDIENCE MEMBER  
 Hey, man, that's right.

142 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - AUDIENCE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 142

Tom Sweeney, the 60 year old, is on his feet, fist up.

TOM SWEENEY  
 You said it! We're all getting screwed!

Ryan Reed stands up across from him.

RYAN REED

Shut the fuck up, man, this guy's a fucking terrorist, he's gonna kill all of us, what the hell's the matter with you?!

TOM SWEENEY

You shut the fuck up. What the hell do you know, you're sixteen years old!

143 INT. BNN STUDIO - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

143

Molly just stares at the monitor. Trying not to cry. Sam glances at her, his cynicism beginning to crack.

HARRY

Did you know anything about this?

Molly shakes her head no.

MOLLY

I didn't even know he'd been laid off.

HARRY

How's your relationship with your husband?

MOLLY

You mean, do we love each other? Yes, I thought we did.

Nancy glances at Molly. She'd like to offer her some comfort, but there's no time. She turns back to her board.

HARRY

We need to talk him out of doing this. Do you think he'll listen to you?

MOLLY

I don't know.

HARRY

Well let's hope you do because you're all we've got right now.

Suddenly we HEAR YELLING, SCREAMING, coming from the studio. They look out the window. A FULL BLOWN FIGHT as broken out in the audience.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Oh Christ.

144 INT. BNN STUDIO - AUDIENCE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 144

Tom and Ryan duke it out as other audience members try to tear them apart, separate fights breaking out in the process. Some cheer them on, others yell for them to stop.

145 INT. BNN STUDIO - CATWALK - CONTINUOUS - DAY 145

SWAT Officer #1 is distracted by the fight. He looks through -- THE SCOPE - T-REX and DRACULA keep blocking the cross hairs.

146 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 146

Kyle and Lee watch incredulous as the audience threatens to deteriorate into a free-for-all.

LEE

What the fuck --

Kyle suddenly moves toward the audience, angry.

KYLE

STOP IT, STOP IT!

In the front row, Jane is staring at Kyle, realizing her moment to act might be coming sooner than later.

KYLE (CONT'D)

YOU'RE KILLING YOURSELVES! I'LL BLOW IT NOW IF YOU DON'T STOP!

147 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY 147

Harry, SWAT Team Leader, Mulrooney watch intensely.

SGT. MULROONEY

We gotta go now.

HARRY

No!

SGT. MULROONEY

He's losing it!

SWAT TEAM LEADER

*(into mic)*

Have you got the shot?

148 INT. BNN STUDIO - CATWALK - CONTINUOUS - DAY 148

SWAT Officer #1 looks through his scope.

SWAT OFFICER #1

*(into mic)*

Negative, negative!

149 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 149

Jane looks at her phone, but no message. The fight continues in the audience. KYLE POINTS THE GUN AT THE AUDIENCE --

KYLE  
I SWEAR TO GOD I'LL SHOOT!

Jane reaches into her purse, audience around her getting pushed and shoved.

Jane suddenly stands, pulling her gun as the woman next to her is knocked off balance. The woman falls, hitting Jane's arm. The gun flies out of Jane's hand, clattering to the floor and discharging a round. BAM!

Everything stops dead.

150 INT. BNN STUDIO - CATWALK - CONTINUOUS - DAY 150

SWAT Officer #1 pulls back from the scope.

SWAT OFFICER #1  
Oh shit.

151 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 151

KYLE  
Who did that?

Kyle looks around, tense, anxious.

LEE  
Kyle, no!

152 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY 152

Everyone is staring out the booth window at the stage.

MOLLY  
Oh my God.

Harry grabs the mic.

HARRY  
Kyle!

153 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 153

HARRY'S VOICE OVER P.A.  
Kyle!

KYLE  
(to booth)  
SHUT UP!  
(turns to audience)  
WHO DID IT!

The Woman who fell into Jane, points at her.

WOMAN NEXT TO JANE  
She had a gun!

Kyle points his gun at Jane. She holds up her BADGE.

JANE  
I'm a police officer. I'm off duty.  
I was in the audience --

154 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY 154

HARRY  
*(into mic)*  
-- Kyle, she's telling the truth.  
Stay calm. We didn't put her there.

155 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 155

Kyle stares at Jane.

KYLE  
Where's the gun?

JANE  
On the floor.

Kyle points his gun at the woman next to Jane.

KYLE  
You pick it up, hand it to me.

WOMAN NEXT TO JANE  
*(scared to death)*  
Oh my God, oh my God, do I have to?

LEE  
Kyle, let me get it.

Lee moves forward. Kyle points the gun at Lee.

LEE (CONT'D)  
Come on, man, I do anything wrong,  
you blow us all up. So --

KYLE  
Okay. You get it.

Lee moves into the audience. They're watching him, He moves down the aisle, ever the star, smiling at his audience.

LEE  
Don't worry, it's gonna be okay.  
Hey, beautiful dress. Where you  
from?

SCARED WOMAN  
Cincinnati.

LEE  
(smiles)  
Great town.

Lee looks at Jane as he reaches down and picks up her gun. Holding it by the barrel.

LEE (CONT'D)  
Got it.  
(to Jane)  
Sorry.

Lee returns through the audience, who try to bend out of his way. He moves back onto the stage. Hands the gun to Kyle, who puts it in his belt.

LEE (CONT'D)  
Maybe we should get back to what we were doing.

Lee glances up at the STOCK TICKER.

Eden Chemical has gone up to 4.

LEE (CONT'D)  
Whoa. We're up to four. I guess violence does sell.

There's a SCREAM from the audience.

WOMAN IN AUDIENCE  
Oh my God there's blood.

The MAN NEXT TO HER stands up, looking incredulously at a WET RED CIRCLE on his shirt.

WOUNDED MAN IN AUDIENCE  
I think I've been shot.

156 EXT. HOUSE - DES MOINES - DAY

156

A CAR pulls up fast. Stops. Doors open and Ron and Mel get out, heading up the front walk to a small brick house.

MEL  
Just please let me do the talking.

Mel knocks at the door. Waits.

MEL (CONT'D)  
She's a little high strung.

Door opens. ESTER EWING, thirty-six, a bit of a babe and not shy about it, is standing in the doorway.

ESTER  
What the hell d'you want, Mel?

MEL  
Hey, Ester. Can we talk?

ESTER  
(eyes Ron)  
Who's he?

RON  
I need to talk with your son.

157 INT. DES MOINES BASEMENT - DAY 157

Sean is staring at the computer screen as he attempts to hack into another company site. The lights come on. Sean turns as his mom, Ron and Mel come down the basement stairs.

SEAN  
(to himself)  
Oh man.

158 EXT. LUCY'S BAR - DAY 158

Taxi pulls up. Diane gets out. Looks at the bar.

159 INT. LUCY'S BAR - CONTINUOUS - DAY 159

Jinder is still at the bar. Diane sits down next to him.

DIANE  
If this is about you losing your job --

JINDER  
-- I didn't lose my job. But after I talk with you... I probably will.

DIANE  
Dionysus failed, so why am I here?

JINDER  
Because I trust you. You still think Dionysus failed. It didn't. It works very well. It's been in s production at a factory outside of New Delhi for ten weeks.

She stops, looks at him.

DIANE  
We don't have a factory in New Delhi.

Jinder looks at her.

JINDER  
We should go to a booth.

Jinder picks up his beer, crosses to a booth. Diane follows. Sits opposite him.

DIANE

What the hell is going on?

JINDER

ATP105, code named Dionysus, exceeds all expectations. I should know, it was my project. Eden Chemical will make billions of dollars. That is why they denied it was a success, convincing the analysts to downgrade the stock. It's not by accident.

DIANE

You're saying officers of our company manipulated the price of our stock.

JINDER

The officers of our company are a bunch of fucking crooks and they've been waiting for the stock to hit bottom before buying it back.

DIANE

... Can you prove this?

Jinder pulls a Flash Drive from his coat, puts it on the table and stands.

JINDER

Look up Bhiwani Chemical Company, based out of Dehli.

DIANE

Why are you doing this?

JINDER

I was in the process of applying for the patent on ATP105 when my office burned to the ground. All my research was destroyed. Three months later a patent was issued to Eden Chemical.

Jinder walks away. Diane looks at the Flash Drive.

160 INT. DES MOINES BASEMENT - DAY

160

Sean is tapping away at the keyboard as Ester, Ron and Mel look over his shoulder.

SEAN

... I just did what I always do. I got past their security and into their internal secret stuff.

(MORE)

SEAN (CONT'D)  
*(staring at screen)*  
 Oh shit.

RON  
 What?

SEAN  
 They changed their security.

RON  
 You mean you can't get in?

SEAN  
 I can get in. It's just gonna take  
 a little longer.

Ron frantically looks at his watch.

RON  
 We only have an hour and five minutes!

161 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - DAY

161

Harry and Molly are staring out the window at Kyle on the stage below, who is looking up at them. Nancy, Dave, Sam, SWAT Team Leader and Mulrooney are in the booth.

HARRY  
*(into mic)*  
 The paramedics are ready to come in.

KYLE  
 Okay.

Mulrooney's phone rings, he answers.

HARRY  
*(into radio)*  
 Send 'em in.

SGT. MULROONEY  
*(into phone)*  
 You got all ten? Okay.  
*(to Harry)*  
 They found all the packages. No  
 explosives in any of them.

Stage doors are opened and TWO PARAMEDICS enter, moving to the wounded man. Molly watches.

MOLLY  
 Oh my God... oh my God... Kyle...  
 what are you doing...  
*(to Harry)*  
 Please let me talk to him now.

Harry hands Molly the mic. She stares at it, takes a breath.

162 INTERCUT WITH STAGE

162

MOLLY'S VOICE OVER P.A.

Kyle?

KYLE

*(complete surprise)*

Molly?

MOLLY

I'm here, honey.

KYLE

Molly, I don't want you here. You have to get out!

MOLLY

We have to talk.

KYLE

No. I can't.

MOLLY

You have to stop this, Kyle.

KYLE

It's too late.

MOLLY

No, it's not. You haven't hurt anybody yet.

KYLE

I can't stop now.

MOLLY

Why not?

KYLE

I've got a sell order locked in at 27.

MOLLY

What?

KYLE

Please, I've got it all figured out.

MOLLY

Do you know how stupid that sounds?

KYLE

I don't care. Even if it doesn't work and they shoot me, I'll be better off and so will you.

MOLLY  
Don't say that. It's not true.

KYLE  
Please just go.

MOLLY  
What do I tell the kids?

163 INT. BNN STUDIO - CATWALK - CONTINUOUS - DAY

163

Swat Officer #1 carefully moves farther down the catwalk, still trying to get a better angle.

KYLE  
... just tell the kids I love them.

MOLLY  
No, Kyle, no. You're gonna have to tell them that. I won't do it because I don't believe it. If you loved them you wouldn't be doing this.

The Swat Officer gets into position again, looking through --  
P.O.V. THROUGH THE SNIPER SCOPE, CROSS HAIRS ON LEE.

SWAT OFFICER  
*(into mic)*  
I've got the target.

SWAT OFFICER'S VOICE  
*(over radio)*  
Stay white.

164 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

164

LEE  
*(to Molly)*  
You've got two kids, Molly, right?  
What are their names?

Kyle looks at Lee.

MOLLY  
Danny and Paul.

KYLE  
Don't tell him anything.

MOLLY  
I'll tell him whatever I want.

LEE  
Look, I was just curious, okay? I don't have kids. Probably cause my  
(MORE)

LEE (CONT'D)

dad beat me and my mom was never around. I had a shit childhood. You want to put your kids through what I lived through? With a dad who's an asshole? Can you do that?

KYLE

I'm sick of hearing about your shitty dad. I'm not your dad and I'm not like your dad! You can't blame everything on your dad!

LEE

Well you're blaming everything on me!

MOLLY

Kyle, for God's sake, you can't kill a man for recommending a stock. It's not his fault the stock went down.

LEE

That's right, Molly. He should've taken his bombs over to the company and blown those bastards up.

A FEW IN THE AUDIENCE APPLAUD. Lee encourages them with a gesture. More join in.

165 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - DAY

165

MOLLY

KYLE, YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THIS RIGHT NOW! PLEASE!

KYLE

... No.

Molly turns away from the mic, trying not to lose it. Nancy continues to direct in the b.g.

NANCY

Push in on one.

Harry moves to the mic.

HARRY

Kyle you can still get out of this.

Kyle remains silent.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Kyle, listen to me.

*(no response)*

Please, we can work this out.

Kyle just stares at Lee. Lee turns to the booth.

LEE  
I think he's done, man.

HARRY  
(*to himself*)  
Shit.

He turns to Molly, but she's not there. He looks around.

HARRY (CONT'D)  
Where the hell did she go?

NANCY  
(*into mic*)  
Tighten up on two.  
(*to Harry*)  
Who?

HARRY  
Shit.

Realizing she's gone, Harry quickly exits.

166 INT. BNN STUDIO - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS - DAY 166

Harry steps into the hallway. A few cops are still outside.

HARRY  
Where'd she go?

POLICE OFFICER  
She asked where the Ladies Room was.  
I told her it was down the hall.  
Was I wrong?

HARRY  
Christ.

He heads down the hallway. The cop goes with him.

167 INT. EDEN CHEMICAL - DIANE LESTER'S OFFICE - DAY 167

She slips the Flash Drive into her computer. Pushes Play.

ON THE COMPUTER MONITOR: We SEE A SECRETLY SHOT CELL PHONE VIDEO - A CAR races past. On a test drive course. AS CAMERA PANS it picks up Jinder, who is holding the cell phone camera, standing beside the track. Nearby is Roger Hunter, Elle Lynch and James Miles. All watching the car. CAMERA CONTINUES TO FOLLOW the car, moving past them.

The car goes around the track and pulls to a stop next to camera. Jinder approaches as the Driver gets out.

JINDER  
What's the average?

DRIVER  
One hundred and one.

JINDER  
Are you empty?

DRIVER  
No, I gotta pee. This thing can do  
a hundred and one miles per gallon,  
but not me.

He moves off as Jinder turns the camera on himself.

JINDER  
*(low voice; into camera)*  
So far, one hundred and one miles  
per gallon. But I think we can do  
better.

Jinder smiles. The SCENE SUDDENLY CUTS TO THE INTERIOR OF A LAB. Jinder is writing an equation on a white board. Several other equations already on the board.

JINDER (CONT'D)  
When combined with gasoline, and  
modified with nano technology, this  
formula increases the combustibility  
four hundred percent per liter.

Jinder turns to a beaker filled with a bright yellow liquid. He takes an eye dropper full.

JINDER (CONT'D)  
This is the amount necessary for a  
gallon of gas.

He squeezes the liquid into a gallon size beaker of gasoline. The gasoline changes to a bright green.

JINDER (CONT'D)  
The green fuel of the future. Not  
only does it increase the chemical  
level of the gasoline, but it  
virtually eliminates all emissions.

Diane stares at the screen, incredulous.

DIANE  
Oh my God. It works.

168 INT. EDEN CHEMICAL - HALLWAY - DAY

168

Digby strides down the hall. Heading for the office at the President's office at the end of the hall. On a mission.

169 INT. EDEN CHEMICAL - ROGER'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

169

Roger paces as he talks with Elle and James.

ROGER

Then I'll say something about our continued efforts at clean energy.

JAMES MILES

Talk about the set-backs we've had, which will help throw off the SEC.

The door bursts open. Digby enters.

DIGBY

Excuse me. But you wanted to know when Ms Lester returned. She's in her office now. Watching something a Mr. Basra gave her.

ROGER

Jinder Basra?

Roger, Elle and James exchange a look.

170 INT. EDEN CHEMICAL - DIANE LESTER'S OFFICE - DAY

170

Door flies open. Diane turns to see James, Roger and Elle enter. Jinder Basra's film is still playing on her computer.

DIANE

You lied. It works.

Roger walks up to the computer and pulls out the flash drive. Slips it onto his key chain as --

ROGER

Jinder Basra is a disgruntled employee. The fact that you met with him is an act of disloyalty. I'm shocked by your behavior.

JAMES MILES

You signed a non-disclosure agreement. If you don't want to find yourself on the wrong side of a lawsuit, you should consider forgetting everything you think you know.

Roger turns, exits with James and Elle. Diane glares at the closing door, furious. Elle throws a snide look back at Diane on her way out.

171 INT. EDEN CHEMICAL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS - DAY

171

Digby is waiting outside as Roger and James exit Diane's office. Roger looks at Digby.

ROGER

Ms. Lester will not be with us much longer. We're counting on you to take her place.

DIGBY

Yes, sir.

Roger, James and Elle move down the hall. Digby smiles. Roger pulls his cell phone, dials.

JAMES MILES

I thought all his copies were destroyed when his office burned down.

ROGER

I guess we missed one.

ELLE LYNCH

We're going to have to prepare another press release about how shocked we were to learn that one of our most trusted Vice Presidents, Diane Lester, was involved in a scheme to defraud the company and its stock holders.

ROGER

(into phone)

If Diane Lester tries to leave the building, stop her. She's attempting to steal company information.

(hangs up)

ELLE LYNCH

This could actually work for us. Diane was responsible for the press release that Dionysus failed. It's obvious she was manipulating the stock for her own gain.

JAMES MILES

Bitch.

172 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

172

Lee looks up at the screen. THE STOCK has actually gone down a half a point.

LEE

The stock is dying and I guess I am, too. I've tried selling everything I can think of.

(looks up at the booth)

What the hell is Eden Chemical doing? Have they said anything? Has anybody

(MORE)

LEE (CONT'D)

called? What about Roger Hunter, the CEO, where the hell is he? I know him, I've had him on the show. Does any at that company care what's going on here?

NANCY'S VOICE ON RADIO

Well actually Eden Chemical just made an announcement that Roger Hunter was going to make a statement at the stock exchange.

LEE

That's it? He's going to the stock exchange, while we're down here. Christ, that's where we should be, not here.

Stage door bursts open and Molly runs in.

MOLLY

Kyle!

KYLE

Molly! Don't come out here! Get away from me!

MOLLY

No, Kyle, I'm not leaving.

173 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY

173

Harry sees Molly on stage, running up to Kyle --

HARRY

Oh Jesus.

NANCY

(into mic)

Go to two, push in. Widen on three. Give me a two shot on one. Don't fucking miss this or I'll kill you!

174 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

174

Molly runs into Kyle's arms.

MOLLY

I'm not leaving. If you kill yourself, you're going to have to kill me, too.

KYLE

What about Danny and Paul?

MOLLY

You should have thought about them  
before you did this!

Lee looks at Molly and Kyle. Moved.

LEE

If one of my wives loved me as much  
she loves you... shit, man, that's  
worth more than any P/E ratio.

KYLE

Shut up, you stay out of this!

MOLLY

Quit trying to control everything.  
This whole plan of yours is stupid.  
People are not going to buy stock  
just to save his life. They don't  
care about him. They care about  
money! They've got their own  
problems. Money is more valuable  
than life! So no matter what he  
says or does, nobody is going to buy  
this stupid stock. We're all gonna  
die. And they don't care! The only  
reason they watch is to make money!  
We're just entertainment! This whole  
thing is just selling more advertising  
for them! They're the ones that are  
making money off of us.

(turns to cameras)

All you people watching out there, I  
know you don't care. After this is  
over, you'll just go home and watch  
this on the six o'clock news. And  
they'll tell you how my husband was  
a crazy person and lost his money  
and expected anybody to give a damn!

Molly suddenly breaks down, slumping to the floor, sobbing.

175 INT. BAR - DAY 175

People are crowded around the TV, riveted as if it were their  
favorite soap opera. Tears streak a BAR WOMAN'S FACE.

176 INT. BEST BUY - DAY 176

SHOPPERS are crowded around the BANK OF TELEVISIONS. Absolute  
quiet. Some one sniffles.

177 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - DAY 177

Everyone silent, watching Molly sob on the stage floor.

NANCY  
 (into mic; whispering)  
 Push in slow, get really tight on  
 her face.

WE WATCH THE SLOW PUSH IN WITH THE CAMERA. MOLLY IS A STAR.

SAM  
 This is fuckin' great.

Kyle moves to Molly, kneeling down beside her. Putting a  
 hand on her back.

KYLE  
 Honey...

She continues to cry.

MOLLY  
 (desperate)  
 I don't know what we're going to do,  
 I don't know what we're going to do.

A PHONE RINGS. Tech #1 picks it up.

SAM  
 (into phone)  
 Hello? What?

NANCY  
 Who is it?

SAM  
 It's Ron Morowitz.

NANCY  
 What's he want?

SAM  
 He wants to talk to Lee. He says  
 it's important.

HARRY  
 Who is he?

NANCY  
 One of Lee's Research Analysts.

HARRY  
 I want to talk to him first.

Harry takes the phone.

HARRY (CONT'D)

(into phone)

This is Harry Nelson. I'm the police negotiator. You want to tell me what this is about?

178 INT. EDEN CHEMICAL - HALLWAY - DAY

178

Diane exits her office, briefcase in hand, heads for the elevators at the end of the hall. SEEING TWO SECURITY GUARDS at the doors. She hesitates, then looks the other direction. ANOTHER TWO SECURITY GUARDS are at the entrance to the stairwell. Suddenly a door opens next to her, an arm reaches out, grabbing her. Pulling her into --

179 INT. ANDREAS DEPRUIS' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

179

Door shuts and Diane finds herself looking at Andreas.

DIANE

What're you doing?

ANDREAS DEPRUIS

They're not gonna let you leave the building.

DIANE

They can't stop me.

ANDREAS DEPRUIS

There's a lot of money at stake.

DIANE

There's a lot of lives at stake.

Andreas stares at her.

DIANE (CONT'D)

I have to get out of here. I have important information.

ANDREAS DEPRUIS

Then somebody should call the biggest, baddest employee in the building. Preferably someone who's been bypassed for promotion and denied salary increases for two years.

There's a knock at the door.

ANDREAS DEPRUIS (CONT'D)

Come in.

Door opens. The BIGGEST, TOUGHEST WOMAN we've ever seen is outside. Her name is MARSHA. She looks at Diane.

MARSHA  
You ready? I'm ready.

Diane looks at Andreas.

ANDREAS DEPRUIS  
Good luck.

DIANE  
Who says a one night stand isn't  
worth it.

Diane exits with Marsha.

180 INT. EDEN CHEMICAL - LOBBY - DAY

180

Elevator doors open, revealing FIVE VERY LARGE PEOPLE, TWO MEN, THREE WOMEN. We can't even see Diane, but she's behind them. They move out of the elevator like a football team running interference for the quarterback.

They cross the lobby. THREE SECURITY GUARDS are watching everyone. They see Diane behind the wall of flesh.

SECURITY GUARD #1  
Ms Lester!

The Security Guards move in, but they can't get past Diane's protectors who surround her as they continue to the door.

SECURITY GUARD #1 (CONT'D)  
Ms Lester, we cannot allow you to  
leave the building!

MARSHA  
Yeah? You gonna stop her, cup cake?

Marsha stiff arms the Security Guard. Other Guards launch an assault as Diane's team forms a flying wedge, bulldozing their way to the door.

Diane bursts out the door, running down the street. The Security Guards try to pursue her, but Diane's protectors wedge themselves in the doorways, not allowing anyone out.

181 EXT. STREET - DAY

181

Diane runs into the street and flags down a cab.

182 INT. CAB - DAY

182

DIANE  
The BNN building on 17th.

The CAB DRIVER HOLDS UP his iPhone, receiving a live MONEY MONSTER feed.

CAB DRIVER  
You think he's gonna do it?

DIANE  
Just get me there fast.

The cab tears down the street. Diane, hot from running, takes off her coat, puts it on the seat next to her.

183 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - DAY

183

Kyle is trying to comfort Molly, who is still crying uncontrollably. Lee comes over with a bottle of water.

LEE  
Here's some water.

KYLE  
Thanks.

MOLLY  
Even if you don't blow us all up, they'll arrest you and put you in prison. You've killed us either way.

HARRY'S VOICE  
Kyle, Ron Markowitz is on the line.

RON'S VOICE ON SPEAKER  
... Can you hear me?

LEE  
Yeah, Ron, what's going on? I hope to hell you're in Des Moines.

184 INTERCUT WITH RON - INT. DES MOINES BASEMENT - DAY

184

Ron is standing next to Sean, looking at the computer screen.

RON  
Yeah, I am. I'm with Sean Ewing, the Hacker who got the Dionysus documentation off the Eden Chemical computers.

Lee looks at Kyle confidently.

LEE  
Okay, great, what'd you find?

RON  
Nothing.

LEE  
What?!

RON

All the original documents have been erased. Everything I gave you that you based your recommendation on.

LEE

The company deleted the documents?

RON

All Dionysus docs that indicated the success of the product, gone. I know they existed. But we can't get to 'em.

LEE

So we're screwed.

RON

I don't want you to die, Lee. I feel responsible. I gave you the information. I should be where you are instead of you.

LEE

Hey, I'm the star. It was my decision to use the information.

(turns to camera)

These documents existed, I saw them. But the company contradicted them in a Press Release. So somebody's hiding something. Otherwise why not come forward with additional documentation proving the product failed? But they didn't. And unfortunately it doesn't matter much anymore.

(looks at clock)

We've only got thirty-seven minutes left in the trading day. And nothing to back up the recommendation I made that day to buy the stock. So I guess I'm on the count down to die.

185 EXT. NEW YORK STREET - DAY

185

Horrible traffic. Everybody is stuck. There's been an accident. HORNS HONK.

186 INT. TAXI - DAY

186

Diane frantically checks her watch.

DIANE

Shit. Can't you get around this?

TAXI DRIVER

Oh sure. We can just fly over it, I just need a few minutes to put on the wings.

Diane reaches into her purse, throws some money at him and gets out, grabbing her coat.

187 EXT. NEW YORK STREET - DAY 187

Diane takes off her heels and runs past the traffic.

188 EXT. EDEN CHEMICAL - DAY 188

Digby steps up to the microphones, clears his throat, nervous, looking at the REPORTERS facing him.

DIGBY

I have a short statement. It's come to our attention that one of our vice-presidents has been involved in criminal activity. Her name is Diane Lester. Due to the sensitive nature of our internal investigation I can't go into detail, except to say that the company will be pursuing criminal charges for her involvement in the release of false information about an Eden Chemical product.

Digby turns away as questions fly at him.

189 EXT. NEW YORK STREET - DAY 189

Diane is running like hell down the street, dodging and weaving foot traffic.

190 INT. EDEN CHEMICAL - JAMES MILES OFFICE - DAY 190

James and Elle are staring out the window.

ELLE LYNCH

What if this doesn't work?

JAMES MILES

You mean what if we get caught manipulating our stock?

(looks at her)

You know, if this had happened a couple years ago, nobody would've given a shit. If we hadn't done it, they would've thought we were idiots. Now... the world is just a place I don't understand anymore.

ELLE LYNCH

This sucks.

James checks his Blackberry.

JAMES MILES  
We haven't lost yet. Still at 2.85.

James looks up. Elle is staring at him.

ELLE LYNCH  
If we were indicted, do you think  
your wife would stand behind you?

JAMES MILES  
Are you kidding? She'd divorce me  
faster than Krugerrands through a  
golden goose.

ELLE LYNCH  
I was hoping you'd say that.

Elle grabs him and pulls him into a kiss.

ELLE LYNCH (CONT'D)  
Fuck me like a shareholder.

191 EXT. BNN STUDIO - DAY

191

Diane runs up to the crowd of news people and onlookers.  
She pushes her way through --

DIANE  
Excuse me... excuse me...

She moves up to the POLICE YELLOW TAPE. A UNIFORMED COP  
moves toward her as she starts to go under.

COP  
You can't do that, lady. Stay back.

Diane shows her I.D.

DIANE  
I'm with Eden Chemical. I need to  
see the officer in charge. I've got  
important information.

The cop takes her I.D. as he talks into his mic.

COP  
(into mic)  
I've got Miss Diane Lester out here.  
She says she needs to talk the  
Lieutenant.

Recognizing her, a COUPLE REPORTERS move in. Cops keep them  
back. They SHOUT to be heard --

## REPORTERS

Your company has just released a statement that you were involved in corporate fraud. You want to comment?

Diane shoots him a look as the cop grabs her arm.

## COP

Okay, you're cleared to go in.

The cop leads her to the front doors. They enter.

192 INT. BNN STUDIO - LOBBY - DAY

192

Sgt. Mulrooney and another POLICE OFFICER approach Diane as she enters the building with the cop.

## SGT. MULROONEY

I'm Sergeant Mulrooney. What d'you want?

## DIANE

I'm with Eden Chemical. I need to get to the studio.

## SGT. MULROONEY

Sorry, you're gonna have to tell me what this is about.

Diane gives him a look, then begins --

## DIANE

Okay, several members of our board are naked shorting our stock, setting up a contract to buy back prior to expiration instead of making delivery on a put option, which would give them the right to sell the underlying asset at the fixed price --

## SGT. MULROONEY

-- Yeah, yeah, naked short sellers. God they make me sick. Let's go.

Sgt. Mulrooney leads her down the hall.

## SGT. MULROONEY (CONT'D)

They should never have gotten rid of the Uptick.

193 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - DAY

193

All attention is on the stage. We can see the stage and Kyle, Molly and Lee on the Monitors.

LEE ON STAGE

... it's not really going the way you thought it was gonna go, is it Kyle. I mean, now that Molly is here, nobody gives a shit about my life. I don't blame anybody for not buying the stock just to save either of us. They worked hard for their money. They traded their lives for it. That's the thing about money, it represents all the time you were willing to trade away. So in essence, we're not asking people to spend their money, we're asking them to trade their lives for us.

HARRY

(into mic)

Lee is right, Kyle, this is not going to turn out the way you thought it would. Nobody's buying. It's time to stop this.

KYLE

No, no, I can't...  
(*his eyes fill*)  
I ruined everything...

SAM

Twenty-two minutes to closing bell. Shouldn't we be getting outa here?

The door bursts open Sgt. Mulrooney charges in.

SGT. MULROONEY

Harry, you gotta listen to her.

Everyone turns as Diane enters.

SGT. MULROONEY (CONT'D)

She's Diane Lester, with Eden Chemical.

DIANE

I've seen proof that Lee was right when he recommended our stock. There is a video that was made by one of our lead engineers.

NANCY

Dammit, I need a fucking camera in here!

DAVE

Got you covered on my cell!

HARRY  
You got the video with you?

DIANE  
No, but --

HARRY  
-- unless you've got something that  
can convince Budwell to stop what  
he's doing, you can't help us.

DIANE  
I work for the damn company!

Harry stares at her, trying to decide.

DIANE (CONT'D)  
What else have you got? Let me go  
down and tell them what I've seen.

LEE ON STAGE  
You know, I traded my first stock  
when I was ten. My dad bought it  
for me. A Toy company. Went out of  
business two years later, but I was  
lucky. The toys I got that Christmas  
lasted only six days. So when the  
company went down the toilet, it  
wasn't a surprise. Fortunately I  
sold the stock before that and made  
pretty good money. Unfortunately my  
Dad didn't. If he'd played with the  
toys with me instead of drinking he  
would've known the product sucked.  
But he was always too drunk. So I  
took notice of his favorite whiskey  
and I bought stock in that. It just  
goes to show, you can't take the ups  
and downs of the market personally.

Everyone in the booth is watching the stage. Harry turns to  
Diane... discovers she's not there.

HARRY  
Shit! Where the hell do all the  
women keep going?

NANCY  
(looking at stage)  
She just walked on stage.

HARRY  
What?!

NANCY  
 (into mic)  
 Get her on two. Stay with her.  
 Widen on one. Kyle on three. Dammit,  
 I need more cameras!

They look out as --

194 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

194

-- Diane walks onto the stage --

DIANE  
 Please, don't shoot me.

Lee turns. Molly looks over. Kyle tenses.

KYLE  
 Don't come out here!

DIANE  
 I work for Eden Chemical.

The AUDIENCE watches, completely caught up in it.

LEE  
 Diane?

DIANE  
 Hi, Lee.

KYLE  
 You know her?

LEE  
 What're you doing here?

Diane moves toward Lee.

KYLE  
 Don't get any closer!

DIANE  
 The Dionysus project was a success.

LEE  
 What?

DIANE  
 I talked to one of our engineers who  
 told me the company deliberately  
 released false information to drive  
 down the stock price.

195 INTERCUT WITH INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY 195

Nancy, Sam, Dave, Mulrooney and Harry are watching the melodrama play out on the TV as Nancy skillfully makes choices on the fly.

NANCY  
(into mic)  
Go to one.

CLOSE ON LEE.

LEE  
Are you saying I was right when I  
told people to buy the stock?

NANCY  
(into mic)  
Go to two.

CLOSE ON DIANE.

DIANE  
Yes.

NANCY  
Go to three.

CLOSE ON KYLE.

KYLE  
How do I know you're not lying? You  
could just be saying this to get me  
to stop.

NANCY  
Back to One.

CLOSE ON LEE. He turns to Kyle.

LEE  
Wait a minute, Kyle, she walked on  
stage. She's putting her life in  
danger. No executive would ever do  
that, especially not for me. This  
has to mean something. You have  
some kind of proof, Diane?

NANCY  
Go to Two.

CLOSE ON DIANE. She looks at Lee.

DIANE  
I did, but...

She turns now and looks at Kyle.

DIANE (CONT'D)  
 ... all I can do is come here and  
 tell you that the product works. I  
 know it, I've seen it.

NANCY  
 Push in tighter on Two.

CAMERA TIGHTENS ON DIANE.

DIANE  
 The company doesn't know I'm here.  
 My career at EC is over.

Molly stands up, looking at Diane.

DIANE (CONT'D)  
 Kyle, you have to believe me.

NANCY  
 Pan three to Molly.

CAMERA THREE PANS TO CLOSE UP OF MOLLY.

MOLLY  
 I believe you. I believe you.

NANCY  
 Back to Two.

CLOSE ON DIANE.

DIANE  
 Thank you, Molly.

Sam watches, his eyes glistening, turning to Nancy.

SAM  
 This is like fuckin' Casablanca,  
 man!

196 INT. BEST BUY - DAY

196

PEOPLE are jammed around the bank of TV's. Tears streaming  
 down cheeks.

ON THE BANK OF TV'S we see Lee turn to Kyle.

KYLE ON T.V.  
 I don't know...

DIANE  
 I saw the film. It proves it.

AUDIENCE MEMBER  
 Don't believe her Kyle. She works  
 for them!

Diane turns to the audience.

DIANE  
I might die for my country, but I'm  
not going to die for my company.

197 INT. BNN STUDIO - STAGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

197

KYLE  
Where is the film you saw? How come  
you didn't bring it?

DIANE  
I was going to. But the CEO of the  
company took it.

LEE  
Roger Hunter? He's got the film?

DIANE  
Yes. It was on a flash drive given  
to me by the engineer who was in  
charge of the project.

LEE  
Hunter's going to to the Stock  
Exchange, right?

DIANE  
He should be there by now. He's  
supposed to make his statement before  
the closing bell.

Lee turns to Kyle.

LEE  
You want proof, Kyle? You're not  
gonna get it here. But we know where  
it is.

Kyle just stares at for a moment, then he looks up at the booth.

KYLE  
Hey, the cop, Harry?

HARRY'S VOICE OVER P.A.  
Yeah, Kyle, I'm here.

KYLE  
You asked me what I want. Well I  
want to go to the New York Stock  
Exchange before the bell!

HARRY'S VOICE OVER P.A.  
Ahh --

KYLE

All of us.

198 INTERCUT WITH INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY 198

HARRY

Even if I could get a bus here, I  
couldn't get it here fast enough.  
Please, Kyle --

KYLE

-- Figure it out because that's what  
we're gonna do!

LEE

Kyle, it's two blocks away. We can  
walk there in a couple minutes.

HARRY

No, that's not gonna happen. I can't  
allow you to leave the building.

LEE

*(to booth)*

Hey, stay out of this, okay? We're  
going to the exchange. But... we're  
leaving everybody else behind.

*(to Kyle)*

That's the trade off. And I'm going  
with you.

Kyle stares at Lee.

DIANE

So am I.

Kyle looks at Diane.

MOLLY

Me, too.

Kyle looks at Molly.

MOLLY (CONT'D)

And don't you try to talk me out of  
it.

Kyle turns back to Lee.

KYLE

... Okay. Let's go.

Lee and Kyle exchange a look, then --

LEE

Yeah, let's go.

Lee starts toward the stage door. Kyle, Diane and Molly with him.

THE AUDIENCE watches them leave. Nobody knows quite what to do.

TOM SWEENEY

That's it?

ALBERTA

Oh my God... it's over...

Somebody starts to applaud. Everyone looks at him.

199 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY

199

Chaos in the booth. Harry is screaming into his phone as Nancy is on fire, addressing Sam and Dave, who scramble at the phones, repeating her orders.

HARRY

He's heading for the street now! I need a tactical unit at the stock exchange! I don't care where you get them from! I need the streets cleared from here to Wall Street!

NANCY

I need three crews ready to go now! I need one at the exchange, satellite van outside in five minutes, a streadcam, sound, ready to walk to the exchange!

200 EXT. NEW YORK STREET - DAY

200

A black limousine moves through traffic.

201 INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY

201

Roger, Elle and James are in the back. James pours fresh booze into their glasses.

ELLE LYNCH

*(looking at notes)*

Instead of saying "we are small business at it's biggest" maybe you should say, "Main Street R Us."

ROGER

I love it. I don't get it, but I love it.

JAMES MILES

All we have to do is stick together on this and we'll be just fine.

They hold up their glasses to toast.

ROGER

To the Bull.

202 EXT. NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 202

The limo pulls up in front. Doors open. Elle, James and Roger get out and head up the steps, passing the Bull.

203 EXT. NEW YORK STREETS - CONTINUOUS - DAY 203

POLICE CARS race down the street, arriving at various intersections, blocking them. COPS emerge from their cars, moving PEOPLE off the streets.

204 INT. BNN STUDIO - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS - DAY 204

Harry moves down the hall with Mulrooney fast. Swat Team Leader catches up to them.

SWAT TEAM LEADER

What the hell?! You're letting this guy go out on the street?!

HARRY

Not a lot of choice.

SWAT OFFICER

Then what do you want me to do?

HARRY

Set up at the Exchange!

205 EXT. BNN STUDIO - CONTINUOUS - DAY 205

Behind the police perimeter, the CROWD has grown. As the doors open, the crowd goes wild. Yelling and screaming. Some try to break through the line. Cops block them.

Lee is the first out. People start YELLING --

THE CROWD

LEE... LEE... LEE...

Next out is Diane, then Molly. As Kyle emerges a hush falls over the crowd.

Kyle looks around, nervous, surprised at the size of the crowd. He looks up at the buildings. PEOPLE are at every window, looking down at him. He can't believe it. A few people begin yelling out his name.

Harry comes out of the building with Mulrooney. Kyle sees them.

KYLE

Stay back.

HARRY

We don't want any accidents on the way, Kyle. Right?

LEE

Let's go. We're running out of time.

Kyle gives Harry another look, then they start down the street. AHEAD OF THEM A PATH IS STILL BEING CLEARED BY POLICE.

The CROWD starts to keep pace with them from the opposite side of the street.

A CAMERA CREW comes out of the building with Nancy, Sam and Dave. It follows Kyle and his entourage.

A BNN SATELLITE VAN pulls up. Nancy, Sam and Dave climb in.

206 INT. SATELLITE VAN - DAY

206

Sam, Dave and Nancy sit in front of several MONITORS. On MONITOR #1 we see Kyle, Lee, Diane and Molly from street level. ON MONITOR #2 we see a HELICOPTER SHOT of the crowd. MONITOR #3 has the exterior of the Stock Exchange. MONITOR #4 has the NYSE Trading Floor.

NANCY

Go, go!

The van moves forward.

207 EXT. NEW YORK STREET - CONTINUOUS - DAY

207

HELICOPTER SHOT of the procession moving toward Wall Street. Crowd following. Police have blocked off the route ahead. At every intersection people run up to watch. Mounted NYPD patrols the perimeter.

208 INT. NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

208

Roger crosses to the podium that overlooks the trading room floor. Elle and James are behind him. BNN Reporter Betty Pinto is speaking to her CAMERA.

BNN REPORTER BETTY PINTO

I'm here on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange where Roger Hunter, the CEO of Eden Chemical, has just arrived. Mr. Hunter is about to address the exchange. Let me emphasize that this is an extraordinary event for an extraordinary day, which is not over yet. Hold on, I'm getting an update.

She puts hand to ear piece.

BNN REPORTER BETTY PINTO (CONT'D)

Now? Oh my God.

209 EXT. NEW YORK STREET - CONTINUOUS - DAY

209

Kyle, Molly, Lee and Diane cross an intersection. PEOPLE have gathered on both sides of the street. Some yelling. Suddenly a CROWD OF TEENAGE BOYS breaks through, shouting and screaming. COPS converge, taking them down in the street.

One of the KIDS gets right up to Kyle, to within about ten feet --

TEENAGE BOY

DO IT, MAN, DO IT, BLOW IT!

Mulrooney tackles the kid. Scared, Molly grabs Kyle's arm.

The BNN CAMERA TEAM is right there to record the action.

210 INT. BNN NEWS VAN - CONTINUOUS - DAY

210

Nancy watches the scene unfold on her monitors.

NANCY

*(into mike)*

Get close on that guy!

COPS grab the kid from Mulrooney, taking him away.

NANCY (CONT'D)

Pan back to Lee and Kyle.

CAMERA PANS BACK TO LEE AND KYLE.

LEE

Kyle, we gotta keep going.

211 INT. NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

211

Roger steps to the podium, facing microphones, clears his throat and begins his speech.

ROGER

Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to take this opportunity, first to apologize for the situation we find ourselves in, but especially to the men and women who are being held hostage. I regret that our company now has to defend itself against spurious allegations that...

A COMMOTION at the door of the Exchange grabs everyone's attention.

POLICE are rushing in, clearing people out of the way.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
What the hell's going on?

212 EXT. NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

212

POLICE have cordoned off Wall Street. The CROWD waits in anticipation for Kyle and the others to arrive. A murmur moves through them as they begin to see Kyle and the others approach. HELICOPTERS pass OVERHEAD. POLICE watch everyone.

NEWS NETWORK CAMERA TEAMS record everything.

Kyle, Lee, Molly and Diane pass the giant bronze Bull and head up the front steps. Harry trails behind, watching the crowd. The BNN CAMERA TEAM continues to follow.

A FEW SIGN HOLDERS, some in support of Kyle, others just supporting their own agendas, including Biblical quotes and end of the world prophecies... anyone with an ax to grind.

Diane, Lee, Molly and Kyle appear, moving up the steps. Lee turns to look back at the crowd. Even with the bomb still strapped to his body, he raises a hand, waving to his fans.

People begin to chant his name again - LEE, LEE, LEE... Lee basks in it for a moment, until --

KYLE

Lee!

Lee glances at Kyle. They enter the Exchange.

The BNN NETWORK VAN pulls up. Nancy jumps out and joins her camera team following them up the steps.

213 INT. NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

213

Pandemonium as the trading floor is still being cleared by police.

Roger watches the chaos on the floor below. Still not understanding what's going on. Suddenly all attention turns to the door as --

Diane, Molly, Kyle and Lee appear in the entrance.

Roger reacts to seeing Diane. So do Elle and James.

ELLE LYNCH

What the fuck?

Diane sees Roger, James and Elle and points at them.

DIANE

There they are!

Roger, James and Elle start to leave the podium.

KYLE  
NO! NOBODY MOVES!

Harry runs up to the podium.

HARRY  
POLICE! STAY WHERE YOU ARE!  
*(showing his BADGE)*  
Stay calm. We're all gonna get out  
of this if we just stay calm.

LEE  
*(addressing the Traders)*  
There's only thirteen minutes left  
to the bell so please pay attention.  
If I blow up I'm taking a lot of you  
with me.

The Traders settle down and the trading floor becomes  
uncharacteristically quiet.

LEE (CONT'D)  
*(to Kyle)*  
Those are they guys you need to talk  
to. Right there.

Lee gestures to Roger, Elle and James. Roger, Elle and James  
are too scared to move. Staring at Kyle.

LEE (CONT'D)  
You want answers, they've got 'em.

Kyle looks around at everyone staring at him.

MOLLY  
Ask them, Kyle.

Kyle looks at Roger, James and Elle.

KYLE  
Does Dionysus work?

Roger steps to the podium.

ROGER  
Dionysus is a proprietary product  
developed by our company. We do not  
divulge information on our --

KYLE  
-- YOU WANNA BLOW UP?

Kyle turns to Lee.

KYLE (CONT'D)  
Take off the vest.

LEE

What?

KYLE

Take it off.

*(points to Roger)*

Put it on him.

A stunned silence.

HARRY

Kyle, please --

KYLE

You heard me. Do it.

LEE

... I can't. As much as I hate this  
guy's guts at this moment in time,  
it's not right.

KYLE

He's the one who lied.

*(turns to Diane)*

That's what you said, right?

She hesitates for a moment, then turns to Roger.

DIANE

Are you going to step forward and  
tell everyone what the hell is really  
going on?

Roger glares back at her, then looks at Kyle.

ROGER

I don't know what she's told you,  
but that woman is a thief. You cannot  
believe anything she says. She has  
defrauded our company --

DIANE

-- That's a lie and you know it!

KYLE

*(to Diane)*

You said there was proof.

DIANE

*(pointing to Roger)*

He's got it. It's on a Flash Drive  
in his pocket.

Everyone looks at Roger.

HARRY

Empty your pockets.

ROGER  
I'm not negotiating with a terrorist.

HARRY  
Yeah, well I am.

Harry grabs him, throws him against the podium and starts going through Roger's pockets, pulling out everything he can find; wallet, keys, change.

DIANE  
It's on his key ring.

Harry holds up the key ring, but there is NO FLASH DRIVE on it. Roger smiles slyly.

KYLE  
Where is it?

ROGER  
I don't know what you're talking about.

DIANE  
I swear to God, Kyle, he had it.

MOLLY  
I believe her.

Kyle points his gun at Roger.

KYLE  
Then he's got one chance to stay alive. Tell the truth.

ROGER  
Fuck you.

Kyle moves toward him, gun leveled at him.

HARRY  
Kyle, no!

Harry steps forward. Kyle holds up the detonator.

KYLE  
Stay back or we all go.

Harry has no choice. Kyle moves closer to Roger. Scared, Elle and James step back from Roger. But Roger holds his ground.

ELLE LYNCH  
Oh my God, Roger, he's going to kill you.

ROGER

He won't shoot me, he's a coward.

BOOM - a GUN SHOT. The SCREEN SHATTERS behind Roger's head. Everyone is stunned. Smoke drifts from the barrel of Kyle's gun.

ROGER (CONT'D)

You sonuvabitch!

KYLE

Tell us the truth.

Kyle aims the gun at Roger's chest.

MOLLY

Kyle!

LEE

Don't do it!

Suddenly James steps forward.

JAMES MILES

Wait, stop, don't shoot, it's all true. Diane is right. Dionysys works. We've known it all along.

ROGER

Shut up!

JAMES MILES

No, this isn't worth it. I don't care how much money we were gonna make. Maybe you want to die, but I don't.

*(points to board)*

Our stock is at two, that's where we wanted it. For Godsake it's worth fifty times that.

ROGER

You're fired.

LEE

You asshole. Kyle should've shot you in the balls. It's guys like you who have fucked up everything. You fucked up people's trust, you fucked up the market. What the hell is wrong with you?!

*(to Roger)*

You need to apologize.

ROGER

What?!

LEE  
You're a thief.

Everyone is staring at Roger.

HARRY  
Do it.

Traders start echoing the cry --

TRADERS  
Do it, apologize. You're a thief.  
APOLOGIZE. THIEF! APOLOGIZE.

VOICES shout it out. Kyle moves toward Roger, gun now aimed at the CEO's head. Roger stands, still defiant.

KYLE  
Say it.

Kyle puts the gun to Roger's head, everyone is suddenly silent.

Kyle tightens his finger on the trigger, then --

MOLLY  
Oh my God, on my God... look, the  
stock is going up. Kyle, look. You  
see it?

This takes everyone by surprise. Lee points at the STOCK BOARD - EE stock price still at 3.85. Kyle glances up at the board as it clicks up to 4.5, then 5.

MOLLY (CONT'D)  
I think they're buying! Kyle, they  
are... people are buying.

LEE  
She's right.  
(*looks at Traders*)  
What the hell are you waiting for,  
you idiots.

Traders are suddenly getting orders to buy EC stock. Yelling it out for everyone to HEAR - all talking at once --

TRADER #1  
I just got an order  
for 10,000 shares of  
Eden Chemical.

TRADER #2  
I just got one for  
20K.

TRADER #3  
I just got four orders for  
that!

TRADER #4  
It just jumped to 6.

TRADER #3  
6 was a deal! It's at 8.

Suddenly the floor erupts with more orders pouring in. The clock on the wall reads three minutes before closing.

DIANE  
There's only three minutes left.

LEE  
It's not enough time!

Diane, Kyle, Molly and Lee are all looking up at the giant screen. Stock price quickly going up to 19... 20.25... 22.75... 24...

LEE (CONT'D)  
Oh... my... God...

CLOSE UP OF KYLE... LEE... DIANE... MOLLY... NANCY... HARRY... MULROONEY... JAMES... ELLE... AND ROGER... CAMERA MEN... all watching the stock ticker price go up, up, up. Wide eyed looks of awe.

BNN Reporter Betty Pinto emerges, mic in hand. She has to YELL to be heard over the ROAR of the TRADERS.

BNN REPORTER BETTY PINTO  
Can you believe this?  
*(looks around at the  
frenzy; then at clock)*  
This is blowin' my fucking mind!

Mulrooney turns to Harry.

SGT. MULROONEY  
We're not gonna make it. Only a minute left.

HARRY  
We gotta keep the market open.

SGT. MULROONEY  
You can't do that.

Elle glances at Harry. She backs away while everyone's attention is on the big board.

Kyle, Molly, Diane and Lee watch the CLOCK tick down the a last 30 seconds as the frenzied traders try to outyell the competition.

Molly looks at Kyle. Desperate. Kyle looks at her. His expression says it all... desperation, hope, love...

The CLOCK ticks down the last fifteen seconds. SUDDENLY THE CLOSING BELL STARTS TO CLANG.

But the floor is still a frenzy of trading.

EC STOCK now pushing 26...

All eyes turn to the podium where Roger stands, hand on the BELL BUTTON. The gavel is in his other hand. Ready to signal the end of trading.

DIANE

No!

Roger, a smirk on his face, brings the gavel down. All trading stops. Silence on the floor. Kyle looks at Lee.

DIANE (CONT'D)

Shit, we didn't make it.

LEE

The hell we didn't.

*(looks at the traders)*

Don't listen to him! There's money to be made!

A beat, then all the traders jump back into action. The clock is now past closing time. And the trader are still trading. Ignoring time.

HARRY

My God, it's still open.

KYLE

... that's so cool.

Kyle, Diane, Molly and Lee watch the SCREEN as the stock hits 27. Then 28... 29...

Lee turns to Kyle. Both men staring at each other for a moment. A realization that it's over.

KYLE (CONT'D)

I guess we're done.

Lee SEES KYLE'S suddenly TAKE HIS FINGER OFF THE REMOTE SWITCH.

LEE

NO!

But there is no explosion. Lee and Kyle stare at each other.

LEE (CONT'D)

Are you telling me it wasn't real?

Kyle looks at Lee, then up at the board, then out at the Traders all screaming orders. Kyle shrugs.

KYLE

The battery ran out an hour ago.

Molly moves into Kyle's arms, holding him. Kyle's arms go around her as he looks at Lee.

LEE  
Maybe there is...

Lee takes off the explosives vest as Harry and Sgt. Mulrooney move to Kyle. More COPS move in. Lee hands off the vest and looks at Diane, who is looking at him.

LEE (CONT'D)  
I owe you.

Diane smiles.

Nancy holds out her hands, framing a shot as she directs her cameraman --

NANCY  
Close on Kyle and Molly with the stock price in the b.g.

Nancy frames the shot with her fingers as the cameraman moves into place, getting Kyle and Molly holding each other as the Eden Chemical stock price hits 42 in the b.g... until Harry and Mulrooney pull them apart and Kyle is handcuffed. Molly wipes away tears.

CAMERA PULLS BACK as Kyle and Molly are led toward the doors by Sgt. Mulrooney and Harry, flanked by SWAT officers.

Lee takes Diane's arm --

LEE  
We should talk about a little inside trading.

-- and they follow Kyle and Molly out of the Exchange.

214 INT. STUDIO CONTROL BOOTH - CONTINUOUS - DAY

214

Sam and Dave are watching.

NANCY'S VOICE ON RADIO  
Pull back.

SAM  
No, that's the money shot.

NANCY  
It's not about the money anymore.  
Pull high and hold.

ON THE SCREEN WE WATCH the HIGH PULL BACK, including the whole trading floor. The frenzy continues.

Sam turns Dave.

SAM  
I didn't know we had a camera that  
could do that?

DAVE  
Neither did I.

They look at the shot. A masterpiece of staging.

215 EXT. NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 215

Doors open. Kyle, in cuffs, and Molly are led out by Harry, Sgt. Mulrooney. As soon as the crowd sees Kyle they BURST INTO APPLAUSE AND CHEERS. Catching Harry, Mulrooney, Lee, Diane, Kyle and Molly completely off guard. They stop as the CHEERING swells.

Kyle and Molly are stunned by the surge of support.

MOLLY  
(softly)  
... Wow.

Molly looks at Kyle, who is staring at the crowd in disbelief. Kyle slowly raises his handcuffed hands and the CROWD erupts, chanting his name --

THE CROWD  
KYLE... KYLE... KYLE... KYLE...

HARRY  
(to Kyle)  
Come on, hero.

Harry and Mulrooney lead them down the steps toward waiting police cars as the crowd CONTINUES TO CHANT HIS NAME. Kyle looks back at Lee and Diane, watching him. Lee give him a nod.

FACES in the CROWD continue to CHANT "KYLE, KYLE, KYLE, KYLE" growing to a crescendo until we're suddenly --

216 INT. NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE - TRADING FLOOR - DAY 216

-- back on the floor with the traders frantically bidding up the price of Eden Chemical in what looks like a feeding frenzy. The shouting is ear shattering, but fades to silence while the gesticulating continues.

NARRATOR  
In an unprecedented move, the New York Stock Exchange did not close until the bell rang on the following day. Fortunes were made. And lives were saved. But when the trading was done, it only went to prove that  
(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

no matter how much we profess a man's  
life to be worth, no one's going to  
pay for it.

FADE OUT: