

"WALL STREET"

ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY BY  
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EXT. WALL STREET - EARLY MORNING

FADE IN. THE STREET. The most famous third of a mile in the world. Towering landmark structures nearly blot out the dreary grey flannel sky. The morning rush hour crowds swarm through the dark, narrow streets like mice in a maze, all in pursuit of one thing: MONEY... CREDITS RUN.

INT. SUBWAY PLATFORM - EARLY MORNING

We hear the ROAR of the trains pulling out of the station. Blurred faces, bodies, suits, hats, attache cases float into view pressed like sardines against the sides of a door which now open, releasing an outward velocity of anger and greed, one of them BUD FOX.

EXT. SUBWAY EXIT - MORNING

The bubbling mass charges up the stairs. Steam rises from a grating, shapes merging into the crowd. Past the HOMELESS VETS, the insane BAG LADY with 12 cats and 20 shopping bags huddled in the corner of Trinity Church...

Bud the Fox straggling behind, in a crumpled raincoat, tie askew, young, very young, his bleary face buried in a Wall Street Journal, folded, 'subway style', as he crosses the street against the light.

BUD

Why Fox? Why didn't you buy...  
schmuck?

A car honks, swerving past.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Cavernous modern lobby. Bodies cramming into elevators. Bud, stuffing the newspaper into his coat, jams in.

INT. ELEVATOR - MORNING

Blank faces stare ahead, each lost in private thoughts, Bud again mouthing the thought, "stupid schmuck", his eyes catching a blond executive who quickly flicks her eyes away. Paranoia in the elevator. We quickly cut into private lives.

WORRIED MAN (V.O.)

... he'll sue me, could be for 5-6  
million, and he'll get a million,  
the house, they'll impound my  
paychecks...damn, damn, why did I  
sign that contract?

BLACK BIKE MESSENGER (V.O.)

... gotta get Lola in the sack man,  
take her to the Garden for the  
Terrells, Jimmy give me the tickets  
for 12 bucks, I pull the midnight  
shift, I could do 60 bucks... wow,  
check those legs out...

His eyes on the same blonde exec who looks away, self-conscious about her legs. The elevator stops at a floor, discards only one person. The doors close a little too slowly.

BLONDE EXECUTIVE (V.O.)

... jerk...  
(shifts her thoughts)  
call Hanratty. The decimal points  
on the code are uncalibrated.  
Hoskins. The signatures on the bank  
draft. Boyle, that

bitch...insurance...tax form. Shit,  
talk to Kahn.

(recalling)

That's Hanratty, Hoskins, Bank,  
Boyle and Kahn... H2B2K - shoot,  
insurance and theatre  
tix...H2B2K,I,T -- and the cleaners!  
repeat...

Catching the eyes of Bud Fox once again wandering to her.  
Camera moving to Bud who looks away.

BUD (V.O.)

...sorry, what a fox... funny, the  
most beautiful girls in the world  
are always on the street or in  
elevators, never get to talk to  
them, shy ... my looks, never had  
confidence in them ...  
overcompensating work syndrome...  
prove your worth with money...  
'cept I'm not making any money...  
(pause, the elevator  
at another floor, slow)  
... wonder what all these people  
are thinking about.

Camera moving slowly again over the eyes. The silence of  
individual tension reigns over all.

ANGRY MAN (V.O.)

...Screw him! I'll destroy that  
sonofabitch... he thinks he can  
break a contract with me he's got  
something to learn.

SECRETARY (V.O.)

...9:15!... he'll kill me this  
time, he will really kill me... oh  
come on elevator!... why do you  
stop on every floor...

As the elevator stops again to disgorge two people.

BIKE MESSENGER (V.O.)

(pissed now at the elevator)  
... come on man, time is money  
man... One floor here I could do  
eleven blocks...

BLONDE EXECUTIVE (V.O.)

H2B2K,I,T,CL,P,O,T2...  
(pause, she looks  
like she forgot something)

WORRIED MAN (V.O.)

...goddamn elevators!...people, too  
many goddamn people in this world!

The elevator finally comes to a slow stop... They wait,  
plead, beg, screech with the eyes.

The door at last opens. None of them acknowledging each  
other, they all stampede out the door with an audible gasp  
of release, a collective sign akin to making it to a urinal  
after a punishing wait...

The elevator tension is over, but the killer grind continues.

INT. JACKSON, STEINEM INVESTMENT HOUSE - DAY

Credits continue to run. Bud moves past the functional  
reception area, past CAROLYN, a cheerful young black girl.

CAROLYN

How you doing Buddy?

BUD

Great Carolyn, doing any better  
would be a sin...

He slips off his overcoat, flicks some lint off his Paul  
Stuart \$500 suit, and enters the main trading room.

Brokers mill by their desks, gulping coffee, scanning the  
papers, the quotrons. The digital clock by the big board  
counter clicks to 9:26 am -- four minutes until the market  
opens. You can smell the hunger.

Bud takes a deep breath, tosses the newspaper away and  
struts into the office -- fuck it -- it's a new day.

MOVING past DAN STEEPLES, a flush-faced old-timer, a blue  
and white Yale tie, with a carnation in his lapel.

BUD

Morning, Dan. What's looking good  
today?

STEEPLES

If I know I wouldn't be in this  
business. Get out while you're  
young, kid. I came here one day, I  
sat down, and look at me now.

Past CHARLIE CUSHING, on the phone, a handsome chunk of man  
with rugged good looks and Ivy League mannerisms.

BUD

...hey Chuckie, how's the woman-  
slayer?

CHARLIE

...still looking for the right 18  
year old wife, how you doing, pal?

BUD

...if I had your looks, better.

CHARLIE

(used to it)

...takes years of genetics, pal,  
and a Yale education... and the  
right tailor.

BUD

...not that you learned anything,  
Chunk.

Bud reaches his trading desk, whips open his briefcase and  
pulls out a computer print-out of last night's homework.

BUD

I gotta feeling we're going to make  
a killing today, Marv.

MARV (O.S.)

Yeah, where's your machine gun.

BUD

Joke about it. I was up all night  
charting these stocks. You want to  
see this or what?

His associate, MARVIN, a manicky wise-guy, swivels over his  
chair from a nearby desk. He gives the charts a quick read.

MARV

(scowling)

Looks bearish to me, buddy. You got  
it all upside down.

(confidential)

Okay, I'm giving this to you and  
you alone, 'cause I feel sorry for  
you. Take the Knicks against the  
Bullets, and my pick of the day --  
Duke to beat the spread against  
Wake Forest.

BUD

Thanks, Marv, with that I might be  
able to qualify for welfare.

LOU MANNHEIM, strolls in, a dignified looking older broker  
in his late 60's, wearing an old brown brim hat with button  
down white shirt, narrow tie, very much a picture from  
another era... a kind humor in his eyes... but obviously  
ailing in the legs and breath department.

BUD

(friendly)

You got a look in your eye, Mr. Mannheim... You got something for the small fry...

MANNHEIM

Jesus, can't make a buck in this market, country's going to hell faster than when that sonofabitch Roosevelt was around... too much cheap money sloshing around the world. The biggest mistake we ever made was letting Nixon get off the gold standard. Putney Drug--you boys might want to have a look at it.

MARV

Take 5 years for that company to turn around.

MANNHEIM

...but they got a good new drug. Stick to the fundamentals, that's how IBM and Hilton were built...good things sometimes take time.

The stentorian voice of OFFICE MANAGER HIERONYMUS LYNCH booms over the intercom.

We see him peering from behind the glass partition in hit office; tall, balding with a perpetual worried look on his face.

LYNCH

Attention. Please. Office Production is down ten percent this week. I recommend that you all go through your clients' investments for any portfolio adjustments. And don't forget -- double commissions today on our 'A' or better bond funds.

(looking in Bud and Marv's direction)

Especially you rookies. Also, remember, the sales contest ends tomorrow.

Bud and Marvin roll their eyes. The digital clock flashes 9:30. The CREDITS close.

BUD

And they're off and running!

The room rises to a subtle but new energy level with the clatter of the ticker, speakers, teletype machines, newsprinters' Dow Jones and Reuters, phones ringing off the hook. Brokers are shouting orders, running for tickets,

dodging each other; it's a controlled riot.

BROKERS

Here's a hot lead... Have I got one for you.... sell ... dump it all!! ... 500 at an eighth, an eighth!... July fifties. April thirties...how about those Decembers? You see where they're going? ... Morgan is selling a billion one at the close. Yeah. That's right, they're selling all over the place... we're still long on the treasuries -- \$110 million. What about the Japs? ...Where am I?

(confused at all the phone lights)

We gotta lot of lights here! Let's pick 'em up.

BUD

(on phone)

Jack, take 50 Gulf, with a 3/8 top, forget the hundred. What about Delroy? I can go long at 23, let's go long...Conwest Air -- let me check it...

He looks up at the TICKER... stock quotes whizzing by.

BUD (O.S. CONT'D)

Up an eighth. How many you want? It's on the floor.

He writes the order up.

A shot of CHARLIE CUSHING yawning as he half-listens to his customer, resting the phone on his kneecaps.

DISSOLVE TO:

THE CLOCK... It's 2.30 p.m. We hear the relentless clatter of the board ticker, and the drone of disembodied voices, blaring market information out of squawk boxes.

Bud's desk is now cluttered with order tickets, literature, crumpled notes, beverage cups and a half-eaten sandwich. He's on the phone and from the look on his face, the caller on the other end is breaking his balls. Marvin paces past, making a dramatic phone pitch.

MARV

Dr. Beltzer has to have his information this minute! It concerns his future!

Bud waves Marvin away, answers his caller, trying to keep

cool, worried how as he sees Lynch, the office manager, coming over.

BUD

Hey Howard, I thought you were a gentleman. Sure it's gone down a little bit, but you got the tip from your printer, I didn't... Yeah you did. That's what you said.

(heated)

I didn't tell you to buy it, why would I tell you to sell it?

(screaming)

No, I can't give it back! Give it back to who? You own it!

(beat)

No, he's out right now.

As he looks up and winks at Lynch, standing over him.

BUD

(cupping the receiver)

... That's what you told us to say.

LYNCH

Give me that phone.

(takes receiver)

Yes, sir, this is the manager. What seems to be the problem?

MARV

(into his phone)

What?... Well, how was I to know you were in surgery? What am I Marvin the mind reader here?

Bud whispers, tensely. Lynch listens.

BUD

He's lying.

LYNCH

Okay, sir. I'll discuss this with the broker and I'll get back to you. You're welcome.

Lynce hangs up and glares at Bud.

LYNCH

If I'm closing out this account. If he doesn't pay for it tomorrow, you pay for it.

BUD

Mr. Lynch, I swear to you, he's lying!

LYNCH



Fox, you're making more problems  
than you are sales.

BUD

I don't think you're being fair,  
sir. You assigned me this guy, and  
you know he's got a history...

LYNCH

Somebody has to pay for that error.  
And it's not me.

Lynch walks off. Bud does some quick calculations in his head.

MARV

(reappearing)

Buddy, buddy, buddy; little  
trouble, huh, today.

BUD

(devastated)

Howard the Jerk reneged on me. I've  
got to cover his loss to the tune  
of about seven grand! I'm tapped  
out man, American Express got a hit  
man looking for me.

MARV

Hey, things could be worse. It  
could've been my money. Let me help  
you out, rookie.

He takes out his wallet and loans Bud a hundred bucks.

BUD

Thanks Marv, I'll make it good to  
you.

(fervently)

You know what my dream is? One day  
to be on the other end of that  
phone...

MARV

Just put me on the institutional  
side of the room where the real  
cheesecake is. You forgetting  
something?

Marvin points up at the clock. Bud looks up... it's 2:40.  
Bud quickly composes himself. He picks up the phone, dialing  
purposefully.

MARV (CONT'D)

Buddy, buddy, when ya gonna realize  
it's big game hunters that bag the  
elephants, not retail brokers. I  
heard this story about Gekko... he

was on the phone 30 seconds after  
the Challenger blew up selling NASA  
stocks short.

BUD

Hello, Natalie -- guess who? That's  
right, and you know everyday I say  
to myself, today could be the day...  
So what do you say... will you  
marry me? Then please can you get  
me through to Mr. Gekko?

MARV

(coaching)

It concerns his future!

BUD

Of course he's busy, and so am I.  
Five minutes. That's all I'm asking.  
I know that if he could only hear  
what I have to say... it would  
change his life.

INT. GEKKO OFFICE - DAY

NATALIE, a classy attractive Englishwoman is on the phone  
with Bud, somewhat amused by his manner. She is the personal  
secretary to multimillionaire, Wall Street trader and  
raider, Gordon Gekko. His windows look out on a panoramic  
view of the city and East River.

NATALIE

Mr. Fox, I've told you before, I'm  
sure you're a good broker, but our  
traders talk to the brokers, Mr.  
Gekko only deals with investment  
bankers. Yes, I shall give him your  
message ...

As they're speaking, another SECRETARY leads two well-heeled  
JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN past her desk. As she opens the door to  
the inner office and ushers them inside, we catch a glimpse  
of a figure, pacing back and forth, talking animatedly on  
the phone by the huge corner window. HE IS GORDON GEKKO. We  
hear a deafening ROAR as we:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MCGREGOR'S BAR AND GRILL - NEAR LAGUARDIA AIRPORT -  
TWILIGHT

In the background, a 747 ascends into the night sky,  
climbing over the roof tops of weathered brick tract houses.  
Bud, coat collar pulled up against the wind, crosses the  
street, entering a neighborhood bar. We see an old maroon  
Honda behind him.

INT. MCGREGOR'S - TWILIGHT

Dimly-lit, noisy, blue-collar airline bar. Machinists and mechanics still in their overalls at the bar, drinking, watching ESPN FIGHT NIGHT, on TV. Bud searches the crowd. A group of middle-aged men wave him over, BLUESTAR AIRLINES insignias on the pockets... CHARLIE DENT, a rugged, chain-smoking ex-Marine Sergeant, and DOMINICK AMATO, a big strong Italian greet Buddy as he comes over.

CHARLIE

Buddy boy, how ya doing?

BUD

Great Charlie, any better it'd be a sin.

AMATO

(slapping Bud)

I hear all you guys on Wall Street are millionaires, when you gonna make us rich?

BUD

Gotta open an account to win the lottery, Dominick. Give me 15,000, you'll have a condo in Florida next Christmas.

CARL

... sure and we'll own the airline. If he makes anybody rich, let him make himself rich, so's he can pay off his school loans.

As he signs an unemployment insurance form for one of his men.

BUD

... nice to see you in such a good mood Dad, what'd Mom do, give you fish for dinner? ... You're smoking too much, how many times do you gotta go to the hospital to ...

Carl, inhaling his cigarette, grimaces formidably, terminating the subject.

CARL

...leave me alone willya. Only thing makes me feel good anymore. Spaghetti. She makes lousy spaghetti...

BUD

It's called pasta now Dad, spaghetti's out of date.

Bud sitting down next to him, pats him around the shoulder. Dad, a sarcastic and gruff edge to him, makes a faint smile. He has a genuine affection and pride in his somewhat glamorous son.

CARL

... so am I. Whaddaya want, a beer?  
(to waitress)  
Hey Billie, bring another for the kid, he looks good, doesn't he?

Dominick and Charlie go off. A pause. Father and son sizing each other up with a look.

CARL

... looks like you grown another inch... but you don't look so hot, getting bags under your eyes, starting to look old like me.

BUD

Ah, I had a tough day. Some jerk D.K'd me and I gotta cover his loss.

CARL

Speak English will ya.

BUD

D.K. -- didn't know -- who I was when the options he bought took a bath. He reneged on me.

CARL

(nods, satisfied)  
I told you not to go into that racket. You could've been a doctor or a lawyer,

BUD

Coulda been a contender.

CARL (CONT.)

you coulda stayed at Bluestar and been a supervisor in instead of going customer relations by now, 'stead of going off and bein' a salesman.

BUD

(an old story between them)  
Look Dad, I'm not a salesman. How many times I gotta tell you I'm an account executive, and pretty soon I'm going to the investment banking side of the firm.

CARL

You get on the phone and ask  
strangers for their money, right?  
You're a salesman.

BUD

(ticked)

Dad, it takes time. You gotta build  
a customer list. I'm doing it. I  
could make more money in one year  
as a broker than five years at the  
airline.

CARL

I don't get it, you get a  
scholarship to NYU, you get 35,000  
the first year, and 50 last year,  
where the hell is it?

BUD

50 K don't get you to first base in  
the Big Apple, Dad, not any more. I  
pay 40% in taxes, I got a rent of  
15,000, I got school loans, car  
loans, food, park my car costs me 3  
bills a month, I need good suits,  
that's \$500 a pop, shoes...

CARL

So come home and live rent free,  
'stead of that cockroach palace you  
live in. \$50,000 Jesus Christ, the  
world is off its rocker. I made  
\$37,000 last year and you...

BUD

It's Queens, Dad and a 5% mortgage  
and you rent the top room--I gotta  
live in Manhattan to be a player,  
Dad. There's no nobility in poverty  
anymore, y'know. One day you're  
going to be proud of me, you'll  
see...

(hurting)

CARL

(sees it)

It's yourself you've got to be  
proud of, Huckleberry, how much ya  
need?

BUD

(beat)

Can you spare three hundred? Pay  
you back next month, promise.

Dad reaches into his pocket, looks at his cash. It hurts.

CARL  
...Got a 100 on me, you...

BUD  
(embarrassed)  
Not in here Dad... please. Later.

Dad shrugs, puts it away.

CARL  
... it adds up Buddy, 300 here, 200  
there. Your brother never...  
(cuts off when he  
sees Buddy's face)  
...well, I always said money is  
something you need in case you  
don't die tomorrow...

BUD  
(changes subject)  
How's Mom?

Another man comes over with a bandage around his head and a  
compensation form for Carl to sign. ("Hey, chief").

CARL  
(with affection)  
...same, pain in the ass, god bless  
her, talks too much... gonna take  
her to Florida next month... west  
coast, near Tampa, like to get out  
for good, but can't afford it.

BUD  
...Work okay?

CARL  
(lights another  
cigarette, grimaces)  
...this drug testing is driving my  
guys nuts. I got flagged for my  
blood pressure pills. The only good  
news is, we just met with the  
comptroller over some union  
stuff...'member that crash last  
summer? and the investigation?  
Well, the FAA is gonna rule it was  
a manufacturing flaw in the door  
latch mechanism. I kept telling 'em  
it wasn't maintenance, it was those  
goddamn greedy manufacturers out in  
Cincinnati. And I was right.

He gives the signed form back to the injured man. (Carl:  
"Okay, Frank")

BUD

That's great Dad.

CARL

Damn right, it gets us out from under suspension. We'll get those new routes to Pittsburgh and Boston and the equipment we need. We're gonna compete with the big boys now.

BUD

(boasts)

Hey to Bluestar, as your broker all I can advise is hold on to that stock Dad...

They drink. Bud reflects a moment.

BUD

You sure about this FAA announcement?

CARL

About what?

BUD

The FAA announcement.

CARL

Sure I'm sure. Buddy, you got that mischievous look in your eyes. You used to smile just like that when you were a baby sleeping, just like that.

Bud's mind racing elsewhere.

INT. BUD'S APARTMENT - UPPER WEST SIDE - NIGHT

A cramped studio facing an air shaft with bars on the window. Moving across to the sound of the radio alarm going off and the glib tones of a rock D.J. announcing the Met's latest streak ... The walls are papered with stock analyses and graphs, print out pages strewn across the floor. No other semblance of a personal life except clothes haphazardly tossed, Barron's and Fortune magazines. A GIRL's back is all we see, sleeping naked on the bed.

Close on Bud's IBM computer -- his appointment calendar. Bud focusing on an underlined notation: G.G.'s BIRTHDAY.

Bud stares at the clock: 4 a.m. He picks up a prospectus for a chemical company, starts reading.

EXT. GEKKO BUILDING - MORNING

Bud, crossing lower Broadway, enters a magnificent towering glass structure.

INT. GORDON GEKKO PENTHOUSE OFFICES - MORNING

NATALIE, Gekko's British secretary, is completing shorthand notes as the intercom buzzes. A logo for "GEKKO & CO. is behind her.

RECEPTION

(off)

... I have a delivery here for Mr. Gekko. It's a personal item and the gentleman says you have to sign for it.

NATALIE

(frowning)

...all right, send him in...

INT. HALLWAY - MORNING

Bud, somewhat nervous, is led down an impressive hallway hung with expensive modern art... past a huge Calder mobile and a pool of some 15 traders on phones, quotron terminals and keyboards... into Natalie's outer office.

BUD

Hello, Natalie, you recognize the voice? I'll give you a hint, you're thinking seriously about marrying me...

NATALIE

(recognizing the voice)

What are you doing here?

BUD

...And you're even lovelier than I pictured. I brought a birthday present for Mr. Gekko.

NATALIE

First of all, Mr. Fox, you can't just come barging in here. And what makes you think it's his birthday?

Bud takes out an old crumpled Fortune magazine cover of Gordon Gekko, entitled "Gekko the Great!"

BUD

It's in the bible, see. You better go buy him a present. Please, Natalie. Let me give him the gift; Cuban cigars--Davidoff, his favorite and hard to get.

NATALIE

(sighs)

Stay here, I'll see what I can do.



She takes the gift and enters Gekko's office. Bud paces nervously. Natalie re-appears, stern, but a note of compromise in her voice.

NATALIE

Wait outside.

INT. GEKKO OFFICES - OUTSIDE RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Bud on the courtesy phone, hangs up, looks nervously at his watch. Almost 12. He's lost some two hours of business. Natalie suddenly comes out, without a smile.

NATALIE

Five minutes...

Bud brightens, pumping himself in the mirror, muttering.

BUD

(to Natalie)

Well... life all comes down to a few moments, and this is one of 'em...

He follows Natalie.

INT. GORDON GEKKO'S OFFICE (BUD'S POV) - DAY

Furnishings in hypermodern gray and black lacquer, Modern Art ranging from black field paintings by Ad Reinhardt to the smashed dishes of Julian Schnabel. Nautilus equipment, hi-tech gadgets are in evidence, including a splendid Howard Miller World Time Clock, and a world map...

Three of Gekko's people, young MBA's dressed for success, are scattered about the room, on phones, calculators, coming in and out.

GORDON GEKKO aka Gekko the Great as the media calls him, dressed in a custom English suit, paces on the phone with the restlessness of a caged tiger, a 50-foot extension cord attached to his blinking 130 line silver-plated telephone. On his ears is a headset.

He is carrying on overlapping conversations with a myriad of bankers, partners and lawyers; pausing to issue commands to his aides while keeping his eye on the stock prides spitting across a bank of quotron monitors, carrying everything from New York Exchanges to London, commodities, gold, and currency values. A second Secretary and sometimes Natalie exit and enter with various messages written on a piece of paper, indicating a waiting party on the phone. Gekko often shakes his head "no".

GEKKO

(on phone)

... what the hell is going on? I

just saw 200,000 shares move, are we part of it, we better be, pal, or I'm gonna eat your lunch for you... get on 1.

(switches lines)

Sorry, love it at forty. It's an insult at fifty. Their analysts don't know preferred stock from livestock...

(a beat, mischievous smile)  
wait for it to head south, then we'll raise the sperm count on the deal... right. Get back to me....

(to Alex, an aide  
listening on the  
other line)

This is the kid that's called me 59 days in a row. Wants to be a player

(to Bud)

There oughta be a picture of you in the dictionary under persistence.

(back to phone)

Look, Jerry, I'm looking for negative control, no more than 30 to 35%, just enough to block anybody else's merger plans and find out from the inside if the books are cooked. If it looks as good as on paper, we're in the kill zone. We lock and load pal...get on 3.

ALEX DE BETANCOURT, a tall handsome Frenchman, jots a note and follows Gordon over to line 3. Gekko's dark intent eyes fixing briefly on Bud who stands waiting in the corner. He motions him to sit.

GEKKO

(new line)

Yeah, Billy, who's your buyer?...  
No, not interested.

(eyes an Quotron, to  
Ollie, a trader)

Ollie, start calling a the institutions, start with Marx at Janson Mutual, then Reardon. Get me that California retirement money, baby! And we're on our way!

OLLIE

You got it, G.G.

OLLIE, a gigantic 200 pound man wearing pink suspenders, rises and walks to another phone, past Bud...

GEKKO

(back on line with  
Billy, listening)

... check the arbs for MacDonald's.  
Yeah, I'm having a Mac attack.  
20,000 shares. For about 30 minutes.  
Lunch? Are you joking -- lunch is  
for wimps. Get back to me...

(to Alex)

4.

Bud's eyes on the framed "tombstones" from the Wall Street Journal commemorating Gekko's successful deals; they hang like scalps from the walls. Gekko's eyes drifting to Bud, a friendly easy smile for a flick of an instant, he has genuine charm in his manner and though ultrafast verbally, projects calm and confidence at the center. A man who obviously loves what he does, to some small degree is flashing his stuff for the outsider.

GEKKO

(line 4)

Look Harold, they're vulnerable,  
alright, but we don't want 'em to  
think they're under accumulation.  
Go slow. Call Geneva and the  
Bahamas for me, will ya? We feint  
towards it but we wait...

ALEX

What about tipping off Yurovich?

GEKKO

(grimaces)

If I ever need surgery, get me the  
heart of an arb like Yurovich, it's  
never been used...Happy Holideals  
Harold...

Hangs up, eyes to Bud. His headset comes off.

BUD

(nervous)

How do you do Mr. Gekko. I'm Bud Fox.

GEKKO

So you say. Nice to meet you; hope  
you're intelligent. Like these,  
how'd you get these?

(indicating cigars)

BUD

(tries a smile, awkward)

...got a connection at the airport.

Gekko notes the answer, wrapping the cuff of a state-of-the-art, automatic blood pressure monitor around his arm and starts pumping it up. His aides continue on the phones.

GEKKO

So what's on your mind kimosabe?  
Why am I listening to you? Got to  
monitor my blood pressure, so  
whatever you do, don't upset me.

BUD

Oh no, no...

GEKKO

(demonstrating it)

Within 45 seconds, a microprocessor  
computes your systolic and  
diastolic pressure. Has an LCD  
readout, and it's cost effective --  
less than one visit to the doctor.

BUD

I just want to let you know Mr.  
Gekko I read all about you at NYU  
Business, and I think you're an  
incredible genius and I've always  
dreamed of only one thing -- to do  
business with a man like you...

GEKKO

(smiles, impatient  
with the speech)

So what firm you with, pal?

BUD

Jackson, Steinem...

GEKKO

(nods)

...going places, good junk bond  
department, you got the financing  
on that Syndicam deal.

BUD

...Yeah, and we're working on some  
other interesting stuff.

GEKKO

(fishing)

...A cosmetics company by any  
chance? What are you, the 12th man  
on the deal team? The last to know?

BUD

(smiles)

Can't tell you that, Mr. Gekko.

GEKKO

So whatta you got for me, sport?  
Why are you here?

Bud opens his attache case and rifles out a handful of briefs. Gekko noting the blood pressure reading and taking the cuff off his arm. Ollie, the big trader, ambles back in, says something to the third aide, a young intelligent-looking woman SUSAN TURNER.

BUD

Chart break-out on this one here...uh Whitewood-Young Industries...low P.E. Explosive earnings. 30% discount from book. Great cash flow. Coupla 5% holders. Strong management.

GEKKO

It's a dog, what else you got, sport, besides connections at the airport?

NATALIE

Mr. Stevenson in San Fransisco.

Gekko takes the call, cutting Bud off.

GEKKO

He respond to the offer? What? What the hell's Cromwell doing giving lecture tours when his company's losing 60 million a quarter? I guess he's giving lectures on how to lose money...if this guy opened a funeral parlor, no one would die, this turkey's totally brain dead...Well Christmas is over and business is business.

(simultaneous to Ollie)

Keep buying. Dilute the sonofabitch. Ollie I want every orifice in his body flowing red.

OLLIE

(laughs, on the phone)

He's flowing, Gordo. Piece of cake.

Gekko hanging up and buzzing an aide. Throws out an aside to Bud.

GEKKO

...doesn't look like it but the best trader on the street...

(to Susan)

Sue get the LBO analysis on Teldar Paper and bring it here...what else?

Bud shifting, uncomfortable as Gekko finally swivels his attention back to him.

BUD

(coming right back)

Tarafly...Analysts don't like it. I do. The breakup value is twice the market price. The deal finances itself. Sell off two divisions, keep...

Aiex, knowing the stock, sneers, shares a look with Gekko who looks up at Bud with the first sign of interest.

GEKKO

(laughs)

Not bad for a quant, but a dog with different fleas.

(checks his hi-tech watch)

Come on, tell me something I don't know. It's my birthday, pal, surprise me...

As he opens a birthday card and feeds it into the SHREDDER that sits next to his desk over the waste basket. The sound it makes is soft and menacing. Buddy knows its fourth down and long, Gekko's attention is shifting to the quotron. In frustration, Bud blurts it out.

BUD

(standing)

Bluestar Airlines.

The camera moves on him now, sudden, more intense, in a sense trapping him.

GEKKO

...rings a bell somewhere. So what?

BUD

A comer. 80 medium-body jets. 300 pilots, flies northeast, Canada, some Florida and Caribbean routes... great slots in major cities...

GEKKO

...don't like airlines, lousy unions...

BUD

There was a crash last year. They just got a favorable ruling on a lawsuit. Even the plaintiffs don't know.

Gekko looks up, remotely interested.

GEKKO

How do you know?

BUD

(hesitates, concerned)

I know...the decision'll clear the way for new planes and route contracts. There's only a small float out there, so you should grab it. Good for a five point pop.

Ollie comes back in, as excited as he ever will get under his rolls of flesh, his voice deadpan.

OLLIE

... just got 250,000 shares at 18 1/4 from Janson, think I'll pull twice that at 18 1/2 outta the California pensions. We got close to half a million shares in the bag.

GEKKO

Hey, the Terminator! Blow 'em away Ollie.

OLLIE

And, I'm pretty sure we got the Beezer Brothers out of Tulsa coming in with us and I'm working on the Silverberg boys in Canada.

GEKKO

Rip their throats out and put them in your garbage compactor.

(to Bud)

Interesting. You got a card?

Buddy thrusts a card into his hands. Gekko glances at it.

BUD

My home number's on the back...

GEKKO

(smiles, looks at card)

Bud Fox, I look at a hundred ideas a day. I choose one.

Bud stuffs his notes back into the briefcase, hoping for a word of encouragement in the awkward silence.

BUD

Well, hope to hear from you, sir.

He turns and heads out the door, still shaken by the revelation he has made passing Susan who hurries in with a dossier.

Gekko glances at it. As Bud leaves, he overhears:

GEKKO

(off)  
OK gang, looks like we're going  
over 5% in Teldar, start the  
lawyers on a tender offer and 13D,  
we keep going after everything in  
sight but don't pay over \$22.  
They're gonna fight, they got Myers  
and Thromberg doing their legal,  
they make Nazis look like nice guys...

INT. OUTSIDE GEKKO'S OFFICE - DAY

Bud walks glumly past Natalie, certain that he's blown it.  
She's busy on the phone.

BUD  
...thanks Natalie.

NATALIE  
(buzzing inside, preoccupied)  
...have a nice day Mr. Stone.  
(wrong name, doesn't  
notice, to Gekko on phone)  
... Mr. Gekko, the conference call  
is ready. Mr. Sugarman and Mr.  
Lorenzo in Delaware. Mr. Bernard in  
Los Angeles. Mr. Jackson and Ms.  
Rosco in London. They're all on.

The phone call goes behind closed doors. Bud walks out,  
dejected.

INT. BUD'S OFFICE - DAY

Bud comes in, distracted, punches into his quatron. Teldar  
Paper comes up.

MARV  
(comes over)  
...well, see him?

BUD  
(mind on the computer)  
Yeah, but he didn't see me.

MARV  
Cheer up buddy buddy. You shook  
Gekko the Great's hand and you  
still got all your fingers. He's  
not the only elephant in the jungle.

INSERT: TELDAR PAPER. The quatron. Bud's eyes. Thinking to buy.

MARV  
(looks)  
... got something from him? Teldar  
Paper?



Bud wipes it off the screen, his mind made up, dismissing the temptation to buy.

BUD  
...a dog with fleas.

Lynch, the manager, stalks past with some telexes.

LYNCH  
Where you been the last 3 hours,  
Fox? I wouldn't be sitting around  
chin wagging if I were you...  
plenty of names in that phone book  
to cold call...

Marvin gives Lynch the Italian salute, behind his back.  
Grudgingly, Buddy flips open the massive New York phone book.

MARV  
...got tickets for the Knicks  
tonight. Go out and cruise some  
bimbos afterwards, whaddaya say?

BUD  
(shakes his head)  
...gotta read my reports.

MARV  
Forget charts! We're not fund  
managers, Bud, churn 'em and burn  
'em. I'm offering you the Knicks  
and chicks. God save you before you  
turn into poor Steeples over there.

Their eyes briefly on DAN STEEPLES, red faced, desperately trying to make a sale on the telephone, hangs up defeated.

BUD  
...preferably Lou Mannheim...

Their eyes briefly on LOU MANNHEIM, in his private office, sitting there slumped, thinking, smoking as he watches the quotron.

MARV  
Nice guy but a loser. Lost all his  
equity when his firm went belly up  
in the recession of 71. you wanna  
be coming in here in your late  
sixties still pitching? ...  
Whatever happened to that cute  
analyst at Thudder, Wicks? ...  
Cindy? Susan?

BUD  
Cindy. Having sex with her is like

reading the Wall Street Journal  
'cept the Journal don't talk back.  
'Sides this AIDS crap is ruining  
romance, nobody trusts anybody  
anymore, gotta get a blood test in  
the toilet before you leave a bar  
together, somebody oughtta invent  
an AIDS dipstick, no kidding, make  
a fortune. I gotta get to work...  
Z's today.

(hitting the phone  
with the directory)

The pool SECRETARY, GINA, calls out.

GINA  
Call for you Buddy.

BUD  
(taking it)  
Bud Fox.

Bud rears up in his seat. A change. Marvin notices.

INT. GORDON GEKKO OFFICE - SIMULTANEOUS - DAY

Gekko talks into his speaker phone, gazing out the window.

GEKKO  
Alright Bud Fox... buy me twenty  
thousand shares of Bluestar. No  
more than 15 1/8, 3/8 tops, and  
don't screw it up sport.

INT. BUD'S CUBICLE - DAY

The camera tracks around and in on him climactically as the  
Music Theme rises to ensnare him... We end close on Bud.  
Dumbstruck.

BUD  
Yes, sir. Thank you. You won't  
regret it.

He hangs up, stunned still, rises from his chair, unbuttons  
his collar and feverishly starts writing the ticket.

MARV  
Got a little action there, eh buddy?

BUD  
Marv,  
(turns triumphant)  
...I just bagged the elephant!

EXT. COLUMBUS AVENUE - NIGHT

The upper West Side. The young, the rich and the restless parade along the avenue, jamming the neighborhood restaurants and bars. Bud glides along, feeling a part of the crowd now, past a dreadlocked DERELICT swigging Thunderbird and shouting obscenities, shaking a wooden African spear.

INT. RESTAURANT/BAR - NIGHT

Inside a glitzy neighborhood singles bar in which Bud stops, everybody seems to be young and drinking margaritas. Bud orders a beer, surveying the room like a veteran, overhearing the conversation of a YOUNG TRADER to two other broker types.

YOUNG TRADER

...you know Marty Wyndham? He netted \$650,000 out of that merger...26 years old, the guy's Rambo. Got himself a Porsche Turbo Cabriolet about 75 thou, got a house in Westhampton, penthouse on Second Avenue, gets up at 2:30 in the morning, he's in the office at 4...guy never sleeps...Rambo genes...

He blathers on as Bud surveys the room, noticing an ELEGANT BLONDE with a striking aloof beauty, very much the debutante dream Grace Kelly type, so refined that you wonder what she could possibly be doing out at night in public alone.

Bud summons his courage, catches his breath, makes his way over... She sees him approach, obviously doesn't wish to talk, eyes darting elsewhere like a nervous deer.

BUD

(awkward)

Hi...can I buy you a drink? I'm celebrating tonight.

BLONDE

(disdainful)

Please, no thanks...  
(looking away)

BUD

Look, I know you get approached a lot by dubious men, but I'm different, I never talk to strangers, all my life I've been waiting for the right person to walk across the room... you're that person, you don't know it but I do and if you walk away now I'll never see you again or you me. You'll grow old.

BLONDE

Oh really.

BUD (CONT'D)

I'll grow old. We'll both die. And we'll never have known each other. That's sad. At least one drink for a dreamer...What's your favorite drink?

She looks at him, not quite sure. Is he serious or glib?

BLONDE

(uncommitted)

Grand Marnier.

BUD

Sounds like a french word, what is it?

BLONDE

It's a romantic and tragic drink.

BUD

Sounds tempting. I prefer mine with a twist of fate. You know like us meeting. Don't go away...

Maybe, just maybe she's his! His eyes show it as he hurries back to the bar to order. As he gets the bartender's attention, he turns and sees that she is joined by a MAN who looks as if he stepped out of the pages of GQ. Together they walk away. Stung, Bud watches as the woman of his dreams disappears out the door.

BARTENDER

What do you want?

BUD

...I just lost it.

EXT. NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT (RAIN)

Bud and a DATE he's obviously just picked up, are struggling to be seen in a mass of people trying to get in the hottest new club in Manhattan. Bud easing forward along the ropes to a large BOUNCER who roughly pushes one of the bridge-and-tunnel kids back across the rope.

Joe discreetly shows him \$50 but the guy says: "No room!," humiliating him in front of his date. The bouncer shoving Bud aside as Gordon Gekko and KATE, his wife, and ENTOURAGE (ALEX, others) are shown through the ropes into the door. Bud says something to Gordon but it gets lost in the confusion.

EXT. 79TH STREET & BROADWAY - EARLY DAY

People pouring into the subway on the way to work. Bud rifles through the Financial Times he's just bought at the newsstand and finds the article he was looking for: BLUESTAR

EXONERATED IN 1984 CRASH. He thrusts his fist in the air, victoriously...bounds down the subway stairs.

INT. BUD'S OFFICE - DAY

Bud's on the quotron and the phone; the word's spread around the office, he's landed Gekko and brokers drop by his desk to get the lowdown.

BUD

(on the phone)

What's it at now? Still moving. Great!

STEEPLES

The man of the day. Pour some water on him to cool him off...one of these days I want to know how you got Gekko's account.

BUD

(indicating Dan's Yale tie)

My magic tie, Dan.

STEEPLES

I'll trade you.

Lou Mannheim and a Chinese LADY BROKER intersect.

CHINESE LADY

Gordo the Great, way to go.

MANNHEIM

(pleased)

Good little company. I remember when we got the money for Bluestar to build those first planes, back in the fifties.

CHINESE LADY

(to Bud)

I hear you're buying Teldar.

Bud smiles back at her mischievously.

BUD

Sleep with me and the secrets of the West are yours.

MANNHEIM

Now that's a crap company, sure you'll make money on the takeover rumor, but what's being created. Nothing. No substance behind it.

BUD

(succinct)

Old values. Buy.

She hears him. As they go, Marvin swivels madly over in his chair.

MARV

Buddy, buddy, some buddy; why didn't you tell me to buy Bluestar.

BUD

Hey Marv, he demanded confidentiality...

MARV

Gimme a break. You buy Bluestar Airlines yesterday. Today they just happen to get good news and the stock goes bat shit. You must have ESP. A real Nostradamus.

(Bud ignoring him,  
picking up the phone)

Jesus Christ, what are friends for?

BUD

All right, I owe you one Marv.

MARV

That's right, next time a little birdie talks to you, talk to me too E.F. Hutton.

GINA

(pool secretary)

Buddy, phone...Gordon Gekko!

Everybody in the adjacent area turns and looks at Buddy like in an E.F. Hutton commercial.

BUD

(on phone)

Hi Natalie...lunch at 21?

(looks at watch)

I'm out the door...

As he springs up to leave, Lynch the manager happens to be strolling by. He nods pleasantly at Buddy.

LYNCH

Nice piece of work, Fox. Why don't you join me and the partners for lunch tomorrow in the dining room?

BUD

I'd love to, Mr. Lynch, thank you.

INT. 21 CLUB - DAY

Dark mahogany wood, plush banquettes, a long oak bar. Bud enters the main dining room in a relatively outre suit that hangs on him embarrassingly as other businessmen in well-cut suits move around him and a Maitre d' sniffs, then leads him to where Gekko is parked, finishing up his lunch. A half finished plate is removed to make way for Bud.

GEKKO

Hi sport.

BUD

(still nervous)

Nice to see you again Mr. Gekko.

He's seated.

GEKKO

Try the steak tartare. It's off the menu but Louis'll make it for you...

MAITRE D'

Of course sir. And to drink?

He looks at Gekko's bottled water.

BUD

Uh...just a Evian, thank you...

The Maitre d' leaves. Gekko proudly pulls a tiny 3" by 6" color television out of his pocket with a 2" diagonal screen, flips it on to the Dow Jones averages.

GEKKO

See this? Can you believe it? Two inch screen...

BUD

...I can't even see it...

GEKKO

...for my kid Rudy -- 3 years old, electronics freak, got a liquid crystal display 'stead of an electronic beam. We're going into a new age pal. So how's business today.

BUD

Bluestar was at 21 and an eighth when I left the office. It might spin up to 25 by the bell...

GEKKO

(a tiny smile)

Teldar's shooting up. Buy any for yourself? Bet you were on the phone two minutes after you got out of my office.

BUD

(flushes)

No sir, that would've been illegal...

GEKKO

(doesn't believe him)

Sure...relax sport, no one's gonna  
blow a whistle. Here, is this  
legal?...you wanna put it in my  
account?

As he fishes a check out and drops it on Bud's plate.

Greeting TWO BANKERS who stop at the table as Bud picks up  
the check, glances at it. His hand starts to tremble.

The check is for \$500,000.

GEKKO

(to bus boy, the  
bankers excited)

Can we have the check over here for  
christ's sake.

BUS BOY

(rushing off)

Yes sir!

GEKKO

Cover the Bluestar buy and put a  
couple hundred thou in one of those  
bow-wow stocks you mentioned. Pick  
the dog with the least fleas. Use a  
stop loss so your downside is  
50,000, and buy yourself a decent  
suit. You can't come in here  
looking like that.

(Bud flushes, embarrassed)

Go to Morty Sills, Tell 'em I sent  
you.

BUD

(his genuine look)

Mr. Gekko -- thank you for the  
chance. You won't regret this,  
you're with a winner.

GEKKO

(paying the check  
with cash)

...put the rest of it in a money  
market account for now. I want to  
see what you know before I invest  
it...and save the cheap salesman  
talk, it's obvious.



BUD  
(stung)  
Excuse me sir.

Gekko rising to leave, the Maitre d' hovering around.

GEKKO  
You heard me...I don't like losses  
sport. Nothing ruins my day more  
than losses... You do good, you get  
perks, all kinds of perks. Stay  
home tonight. Louis, take care of  
'im. Enjoy the lunch.

Confused, Bud watches Gekko walk out of the room, pumping  
extended hands left and right. He holds the cashiers check  
up to his eyes, entranced by it, like a kid with his first  
dollar...as the raw steak tartare with an egg on top is put  
in front of him.

INT. BUD'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Bud is at his computer when the door bell rings. He's not  
expecting a visitor. When he opens the door he is knocked  
for a loop.

A smashing looking LADY in a fitted Chanel suit, ropes of  
chains, short tight skirt, beautiful long legs, is standing  
there. Taking in the apartment, she hides her distaste.

LISA  
Hello Bud, I'm Lisa, a friend of  
Gordon's.

BUD  
(in a daze)  
Lisa. Gordon? Oh, Mr. Gekko. Sure.  
Would you, uh, like to come in?

LISA  
Didn't he tell you?  
(sighs)  
That's so like Gordon. Get dressed,  
we're going out.

BUD  
We are?

EXT. BUD'S BUILDING - NIGHT

A stretch limo is parked in front, neighborhood WINOS  
inspecting it. The CHAUFFEUR opens the back door, as Lisa  
steps inside, Buddy in tow. The winos clap, howling at her.

INT. LIMOUSINE - NIGHT

Bud in the back seat next to Lisa, gazes out the black

tinted window as they drive away, then turns to her as she gives him a bottle of Champagne to open.

BUD

So, where are we going?

LISA

Wherever you like, Lutece, 21, the River Cafe...or maybe we can just drive around for a while.

(provocatively)

Work up an appetite.

She crosses her legs. Bud's eyes moving south. He pops the cork. Lisa does a little blow, offers him.

LISA

Want some?

(he shorts)

Gordon tells me you're a very talented broker. What do you like?

BUD

(feeling the rush)

Like? Uh...hmmm. Well...

LISA

I got this guy who should know tells me buy Hewlitt Packard but I been burned on tips. What do you think Bud?

BUD

Let's see, it closed at uh, 41 1/8...

(his voice cracking)

Up a quarter...very attractive... about average yield...

She unzips his fly.

BUD

Rising profits...strong balance sheets, good earnings per share.

LISA

(removing her blouse)

So you're hot on this stock?

BUD

(nods, moaning)

It's ready to take off. I'd jump all over it if I were you.

As she pulls up her skirt and climbs on top of Buddy.

INT. BUD'S OFFICE - MORNING

Buddy, in an obviously new Mort Sills suit, struts past Carolyn at the reception desk, in high spirits.

CAROLYN

(smiles)

Morning Buddy, you look happy.

BUD

Any better and I'd be guilty.

CAROLYN

(picking up the flow)

You were never that innocent sugarpie.

BUD

(cooly)

...how do you know? You wish...

WIPE TO:

Bud on the phone, gazing at the ticker, concern in his eyes. CLICKING of the tape ticker comes up over the music. He looks at Marv.

WIPE TO:

Later. Research reports piling up. Bud's secretary trying to get his attention. Bud's concern growing, as the green fluorescent numbers spit across the board. CLICKER growing louder. Pan to Marvin, hands cupped in prayer. To Dan Steeples who closes his eyes and shakes his head.

WIPE TO:

Close. Bud watching the tape -- dizzying, hypnotic blur of numbers. The roar of the clicker, drowning out the music...a runaway freight train.

WIPE TO:

Bud's hands clamped over his eyes. The numbers stop. Noise recedes. He opens his eyes, looks down at his desk, stacked with reports and phone messages, as the pool secretary, GINA, calls out. Marvin glumly coasts over in his chair.

MARV

Boy, we sure went down the toilet on that ugly bitch. If we were Japs, we'd have to stay with our aircraft.

GINA

(calls out)

Mr. Gekko's office is after you. Be at the Wyatt Club courts at six...

Bud looks worried, at Marvin.

INT. WYATT CLUB SQUASH COURTS - DAY

Games in progress on the four courts, heavy hitting sounds. Crossing to Gekko and Bud going at it. Bud is obviously the worse for wear.

GEKKO

(amused)

...come on sport, you gotta try harder, I need some exercise for chrissake...

BUD

(out of breath)

Mr. Gekko, I don't think I can...go on.

GEKKO

...finish out the game, Bud, push yourself...

Meant paternally or sadistically, it's hard to tell. Gekko hits the ball, a big fat shot. Bud returns, Gekko moves him around the court, as if punishing him, the kid exhausted but the ball's never quite out of reach -- till Bud finally can't take it anymore and at the end of his breath, smashes into the wall and collapses. Gekko laughs. Bud lying there like a sad dog as Gekko hauls him up.

GEKKO

The public is out there throwing darts at a board, sport. I don't throw darts at a board. I only bet sure things. Read Sun Tzu's "The Art of War." 'every battle is won before it is ever fought.' Think about it.

He exits the squash court.

INT. WYATT CLUB STEAM ROOM - DAY

Gekko and Bud sit alone, wreathed in steam.

BUD

(sweating)

Nice club, Mr. Gekko...

GEKKO

Yeah... not bad for a City College boy. Bought my way into this club and now every one of these ivy league schmucks is sucking my kneecaps...I just got on the Board of the Zoological Society, cost me

a million; that's the thing with WASPS -- they like animals but they can't stand people!

BUD

(easing into it)

Uh, Mr. Gekko, we took a little loss today. We got stopped out on Tarafly...

(Gekko waits)

...about 50 thousand.

Gekko's expression is frightening but cool.

GEKKO

I guess your father's not a union representative on that company.

BUD

(laughs, shocked)

What? How do you know about my father?

GEKKO

The most valuable commodity I know of is information. Wouldn't you agree on that?

BUD

(exhaling deeply)

Yes...

INT. WYATT CLUB LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Buddy is slumped on a bench after taking a shower, drinking a Coke. Gekko towelling himself down, getting dressed...naked man constantly stopping by to greet him. Hi Fred, hi Barry, how's the wife...still living in Larchmont? Yeah, still commuting... y'ever do anything with that Aetna Gas deal...nah...fishing for information, for a possible drink or meeting but Gekko stonewalls them all...

GEKKO

You're not as smart as I thought you were, Buddy boy, Listen hard -- don't count on Graham and Dodd to make you a fortune, everybody in the market knows the theory, ever wonder why fund managers can't beat the S&P 500? 'Cause they're sheep -- and the sheep get slaughtered. I been in the business since '69. Most of these high paid MBAs from Harvard never make it. You need a system, discipline, good people, no deal junkies, no toreadores, the deal flow burns most people out by 35.

Give me PSHs -- poor, smart and hungry. And no feelings. You don't win 'em all, you don't love 'em all, you keep on fighting, and if you need a friend, get a dog, it's trench warfare out there sport...  
(eyeing the surroundings)  
and in here too. I got twenty other brokers out there, analyzing Charts. I don't need another one. Talk to you sometime...

He turns to go, Bud panicking. Is this the kissoff?

BUD  
(with all his conviction)  
I'm not just another broker Mr. Gekko. If you give me another chance, I'll prove it to you. I'll go the extra yard for you. One more chance. Please...

Gekko looks back, a beat, walks over to Bud, thrusts his towel hard at his stomach.

GEKKO  
You want one more chance? Then stop sending me information and start getting me some. Get dressed, I'll show you my charts.

INT. GEKKO LIMOUSINE - PARK AVENUE - DAY/TWILIGHT

Cruising up Park Avenue. A panel slides open next to the bar with a portable computer on it. A television is turned on to the evening news, a low hum of voices. Gekko punches into the keyboard of the computer. A name appears on the screen... LAWRENCE WILDMAN with curriculum vitae following; address, phones, businesses...

GEKKO  
Know the name?

BUD  
'Course. Larry Wildman. One of the first raiders.

GEKKO  
(amused, cold hatred)  
Sir Larry Wildman. Like all Brits he thinks he was born with a better pot to piss in... bribed an old secretary of mine to open bar mouth and stole RDL Pharmaceuticals right out from under me. Wildman the white knight.

BUD

(excited)

I remember that deal. You were involved?

Gekko shuts off the computer and slides it back into the housing, his eyes taking in the low-volume news.

GEKKO

Revenge is a dish best served cold... well, it's payback time, sport.

(looking out suddenly)

... see that building? I bought into it ten years ago. It was my first real estate deal. I sold it a couple of years later and made an \$800,000 dollar profit. It was better than sex. At that time I thought that was all the money in the world...

(drinks)

Now, it's a day's pay ... I had a mole in Wildman's employ. Gave me half the picture, then he got fired...

BUD

I don't understand.

GEKKO

Wildman's in town. He just became an American citizen. Something big's about to go down. I want to know where he goes and who he sees. I want you, sport, to give me the missing half of the picture...

BUD

Follow him? Mr. Gekko I...

(shaken)

It's not what I do. I could lose my license. If the SEC found out, I could go to jail. It's inside information, isn't it?

GEKKO

(scratches his head wryly)

Inside information. Oh you mean like when a father tells his son about a court ruling on an airline? Or someone overhears me saying I'm gonna buy Teldar Paper? Or the chairman of the board of XYZ suddenly knows it's time to blow out XYZ. You mean that?

(a piercing look)

I'm afraid sport, unless you got a

father on the board of directors of another company, you and I are gonna have a hard time doing any business...

Bud downs the rest of his drink, upset by the darkening mood. There's something very powerful and frightening about Gekko.

BUD

What about hard work?

GEKKO

What about it? You work hard. I'll bet you stayed up all night analyzing that dog you bought. And where'd it get you?... my father worked hard too like an elephant pushing electrical supplies. And he dropped dead at 49 with a heart attack and a tax bill and the bank pissed on his grave and took the house; my mom ended up working in a dish factory... Wake up pal, if you're not inside you're outside. And I'm not talking a \$200,000 a year working Wall Street stiff flying first class and being "comfortable", I'm talking rich pal, rich enough to fly in your own jet, rich enough not to waste time, 50-100 million, a player Bud -- or nothing. You had what it takes to let through my door. Next question: You got what it takes to stay...??

The car stopping in traffic. Horns honking.

GEKKO

(pointing)

Look out there...

THEIR POV -- a STREET CORNER. A richly dressed EXECUTIVE stands at the curb next to the BUM with a shopping cart filled with garbage.

GEKKO (O.S.)

You really think the difference 'tween this guy and that guy is luck? Mohammed, pull over.

The car pulls over. Gekko checks his watch, pulls out the telephone.

GEKKO

...when it comes to money, sport, everybody's of the same religion. Or should be... Hope you don't mind



if I let you off here, I'm late for  
a meeting. Good bye, nice knowing you.

EXT. PARK AVENUE - TWILIGHT

The CHAUFFEUR lets Bud out the door... Bud looks back at Gekko.

BUD

All right, Mr. Gekko...you got me.

His eyes telling us he is weighed down by chains of guilt.

Gekko smiles, gazes at the twilight skyline, a sudden look  
of contentment.

GEKKO

Yeah, it's a beautiful night. I  
love this hot stinkin' city.

(pointing up Park Avenue)

... nothing else like it in the  
world. Seven million people living  
on each other's heads, kids born,  
millionaires dying, people praying,  
junkies, whores, wills, lawyers,  
deals, parties, sex... guys like  
you sport -- dreaming about the big  
score. You know the best thing  
about New York is everything you  
can do here. And the worst thing is  
everything you can't do here...

He shuts the door. Bud watches as the limo drives off.

EXT. FIFTH AVENUE APARTMENT - DAY

Bud, in a suit, waits next to a motorcycle across from one  
of the most desirable addresses in New York.

The Doorman rushes to open the door under the canopy as a  
tall strong man in his fifties emerges with a LAWYER TYPE  
and a FEMALE EXECUTIVE. The man is SIR LAWRENCE WILDMAN and  
his manner and gait convey the impression of an authoritative  
presence with little patience as the chauffeur opens the  
door and he slides into the back seat of the limo.

Buddy, astride Marv's Kawasaki 500, hits the streets after  
him. The music through the following Montage should suggest  
a chase brio.

EXT. WALL STREET BUILDING - DAY

Bud shooting past the Trinity Church structure... Wildman  
gets out of his limo with his people, strides into the lobby.

Bud quickly parks his bike on the sidewalk and rushes in  
after them... not a second too late.

INT. LOBBY - WALL STREET BUILDING - DAY

Bud just manages squeeze in the elevator with Wildman and crew -- and -- a couple of other early birds -- as the doors close.

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Bud eyeing Wildman, looks away as Wildman looks back at him, an edge of defiance to him, why are you staring at me? Not the world's most likeable personality.

INT. KAHN, SEIDELMAN - OUTER OFFICE - DAY

The doors open and Wildman and Co. step out into the reception area of Kahn, Seidelman... The doors close and Buddy continues upward.

EXT. WALL STREET BUILDING - LATER MORNING

The street now jammed with people hurrying to work. Buddy paces the curb, reacting when Wildman walks out, saying goodbye to the female executive and getting in the limo with his lawyer... Buddy follows.

INT. LE CIRQUE RESTAURANT - PARK AVENUE - DAY

Formal French haute cuisine. Power lunches in progress. As Wildman is seated with several well-dressed BANKERS at a good table, Bud tries to wrangle a table (next to Mr. Wildman on top of everything from a stiff looking Maitre d' who shakes his head, barely concealing his attitude towards Buddy's youth and general demeanor.

EXT. LE CIRQUE - DAY

Buddy waits outside, bored, as Wildman steps out, shakes hands with the bankers... Bud making an entry into his notebook like any good spy.

EXT. MIDTOWN TUNNEL QUEENS - DAY

Music rising to triumphant proportions. AERIAL SHOT of Limo emerging from the tunnel and onto the Long Island Expressway. CAMERA MOVES IN, picking up Buddy on the Kawasaki, darting through lanes, staying several car lengths behind.

EXT. LAGUARDIA AIRPORT - DAY

The Limo winds its way along the perimeter road, past commercial airliners. It takes the turnoff for Butler Aviation. Buddy exits the ramp shortly after them.

EXT. BUTLER AVIATION AIRFIELD - DAY

A corporate saberliner jet, its engines running, idles at the end of the taxiway. The limo pulls up along the tarmac

next to it and Wildman steps out, walking past a MECHANIC to the stairs of the plane. A STEWARDESS waits for him.

EXT. RAMP - DAY

Bud watches, wondering what to do as the plane taxis down the runway. He spots the flight mechanic and the answer comes to him. He starts running towards the mechanic.

EXT. APRON - DAY

Bud races up to the mechanic.

BUD

Oh shit, don't tell me Mr. Wildman was on board that plane?

(the mechanic nods)

My boss is gonna kill me. I was supposed to give him this.

(holding his notebook)

You know where that plane is going?

MECHANIC

(walking off)

Erie, Pennsylvania...

INT. PHONE BOOTH - AIRLINES TERMINAL - DAY

BUD

(into phone, proudly)

...after spending the morning at Kahn, Seidelman -- on the 14th floor, the junk bond department -- where Shane Mora works -- he had lunch at La Cirque with a group of well-dressed heavyset bean-counters...

(Gekko voice back:

"the adjectives are redundant, sport")

...he later stopped off at Morgan. I'd say from all the palm-pressing and sweet smiling going on that Larry got some nice fat financing...  
G.G.

INT. GEKKO LIMOUSINE - HEADING DOWN PARK AVENUE - DAY

Alex and Susan are with him. Gekko playing the computer, eyes lighting up on the phone.

GEKKO

...bright but not bright enough, Sherlock, roll the dice and play a little monopoly... what box would Sir Lawrence land on in Erie, Pennsylvania?

INT. PHONE BOOTH - DAY

Bud slapping his face, realizing.

BUD

Jesus Christ, he's buying Anacott  
Steel!

INT. GEKKO LIMO - DAY

Gordon already has the closing figures punched up on his  
quotron. Calls his shot.

GEKKO

When the market opens tomorrow, buy  
five thousand March fifty calls.  
You hear me? Start buying ten  
thousand share blocks and take it  
up to fifty dollars. When it  
reaches fifty, you can let out a  
little taste to your friends.  
Then call this number -- 555-7617:  
tell the man "blue horseshoe loves  
Anacott Steel..." You scored, Buddy!  
Be in touch.

(hangs up)

He hangs up, looks at Alex and Susan.

GEKKO

Start buying Anacott Steel all over  
the board.

INT. BLUESTAR MAINTENANCE HANGAR - SAME DAY

A large company banner hangs from the rafters: "Bluestar -  
The Vision Goes On." Buddy's father, Carl, Charley Dent and  
Dominick Amato are changing the generator on a 727. A welder  
is repairing a wing seam. Buddy shouting to his Dad over the  
noise.

BUD

Hey Dad!... Hi ya Charlie...  
Dominick...

They wave back, Carl climbing down a maintenance stand...  
lights up a cigarette.

CARL

What brings you out here...

BUD

Client. Got a private jet over at  
Butler Aviation... Dad, you always  
gotta light up when you see me,

it's the...

CARL  
(don't bother me look)  
Don't start, alright.

BUD  
Alright. Why so pissed?

CARL  
Goddamn fare wars are murdering us.  
Had to lay off five guys. Nothing I  
could do. What is it... money?

Bud takes out his wallet, smiles, peels out 10 \$100 bills.

BUD  
Yeah, it is. In fact I'm doing  
great. New client. Whole new league.  
It's starting to happen Dad. The  
Big Leagues! You know what I'm saying.

He sticks the cash in his hand.

CARL  
(doesn't)  
Sure...lots of guys at the track  
talk like that... but how do you  
know you'll have any dough next  
month...  
(looking at the money)  
What's this? I gave you two hundred.

BUD  
Dividend. I figure I owe you about  
five thousand in nickels and dimes...

CARL  
(tries to give it back)  
...don't be crazy. Put it to your  
school loans.

BUD  
Don't worry about the loans. I'm  
doing good Dad and it's gonna stay  
that way now... least buy yourself  
a new suit.

CARL  
What do I need a fancy suit for. I  
don't hobnob with the jet set. I  
just fix their planes.

Buddy forces the money into his hand.

BUD  
...then buy yourself a decent

bowling jacket so when you take Mom out you don't look like the Roto Rooter man. Come on, for godsakes, that's what money's for. Enjoy yourself...

Touched, his father shakes his head and smiles. He takes it.

CARL

Problem with money is you never have enough or you got too much -- and when you got it you're never happy 'cause somebody's always trying to take it away from you. Money's one giant pain in the ass y'ask me... thanks.

BUD

(admiration)

... Dad, you should've been a CEO. How about dinner?

CARL

Whatever night you like.

BUD

(remembering)

Wait... next week's booked. Let me check with my girl and get back to you on Monday.

CARL

(laughs at his new lifestyle)

Yeah, you do that huckleberry. I'll still be here.

BUD

...gotta run Dad. You stop smoking, you hear?

INT. BUD'S OFFICE - DAY

Bud silent, an intent look on his face, gazing up at the digital clock... as it flicks to 9:30... post time.

Tickers, squawk boxes and shouting erupt.

Bud calls in his order: "10,000 AN STL 46... and let me know how the options are opening."

Music skips along in a revolving madcap fashion.

INT. FLOOR OF AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE - DAY

A CLERK hands the buy order to the FLOOR MANAGER. He starts writing a ticket as we pull back:

INT. AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE - DAY

Company floor traders are jammed into a narrow booth, frantically taking orders over phones and telex machines.

The FLOOR MANAGER gives the ticket to a RUNNER, a young man wearing worn sneakers, who dashes off. We follow him across the scruffy Exchange Floor, as he weaves through a crush of traders crammed around horseshoe-shaped kiosks, cathode-ray tubes slung above them, displaying the latest prices in bright, green letters and numbers. Intermittent shrieks and howls, calls to buy and sell, issue from the far reaches of the labyrinthian room.

As in the final leg of a relay race, the RUNNER hands the ticket off to a COMPANY TRADER, who is buying and selling at the post where Anacott Steel is traded. The TRADER checks the ticket and turns to the SPECIALIST, executing the order.

The camera moves up as the Anacott Steel (AN STL) quote flashes across the broad tape -- as the price ticks up from 46 to 46 1/4.

INT. BUD'S OFFICE - DAY

Bud paces nervously at his desk, looking at his quotron. AN STL appears on the screen, now up to 47. Bud puts in another order.

INT. STOCK EXCHANGE FLOOR - DAY

The SAME RUNNER races over, handing Bud's next TICKET to the COMPANY TRADER.

Tilt up to the broad tape.

As ANACOTT STEEL, AN STL, rises to 48 1/8.

INT. BUD'S OFFICE - DAY

On Bud, eating a sandwich, eyes glued to the ticker. AN STL has climbed to 48 3/4. Marv stalks by, shouting on the phone. Bud looks away from the ticker, pretending to read a report. When Marv disappears, Bud hastily calls in at 49.

INT. STOCK EXCHANGE FLOOR - DAY

On the tired RUNNER dodging through the crowd, and over to the TRADER handing him a new ticket.

INT. BUD'S OFFICE - DAY

Close on the OFFICE TICKER -- as Anacott Steel hits 50.

Buddy jumps up from his chair, and animatedly crosses to Marv who is on the phone, cold calling.

MARV

Tell Mr. Ehrlich I've got important financial news! It concerns his future.

Bud presses down on the phone button, cutting him off.

MARV

What the hell...

BUD

Anacott Steel. Buy it.

Marv looks at Joe and sees a look on his face that he's never seen before.

MARV

(nervous)

Anacott Steel -- right.

Bud leaves, Marv re-dials.

MARV

Dr. Beltzer, you're gonna love this!

Lou Mannheim hangs up the phone, a troubled look. Bud leans into his office.

BUD

Mr. Mannheim, got a sure thing.  
(whispering)  
Anacott Steel.

MANNHEIM

(scoffs)

No such thing Bud - 'cept death and taxes. Not a good company anymore, no fundamentals. What's going on Bud? Do you know something?

(Bud uncomfortable,  
Lou reads it)

Remember there're no short cuts son, quick buck artists come and go with every bull market but the steady players make it through the bear markets.

(Bud anxious to go)

You're part of something here, Bud. The money you make for people creates science and research jobs. Don't sell that out.

BUD

You're right, Mr. Mannheim, but you gotta get to the big time first, then you can be a pillar and do good things.



MANNHEIM

Can't get a little bit pregnant, Bud.

BUD

It's a winner Mr. Mannheim, trust me -- buy.

(exits)

Charlie Cushing's on the phone.

CHARLIE

Gotcha baby, its do-able... meet you at the Wyatt Club... 3pm Dinner Thursday... Indochina. Then we'll kamikaze down to Nell's, chase a little cotton underwear--I know this 18 year old bimbo, man... you can take it to the bank...

(hangs up)

BUD

(intersects)

Wanna play some tennis Saturday?

CHARLIE

You mean teach you how to play. Can't. Going fly fishing in Canada, big client...

BUD

(disappointed)

...you take that Anacott Steel?

CHARLIE

(winks)

...light snack, but good, thanks pal, you're sharking your way up...

Dan Steeples's talking confidentially on the phone.

STEEPLES

I've just heard the most lovely two words... 'Anacott Steel.'

Buddy dialing the phone number that Gekko gave him. He speaks into the receiver, in a hushed voice.

BUD

...Blue horseshoe loves Anacott Steel.

(hangs up)

INT. WALL STREET JOURNAL OFFICE - DAY

The REPORTER on the other end of the phone hangs up. He rises from his desk, strides across the busy news floor, over to an ASSOCIATE.

REPORTER

Anacott Steel's in play. Check the arbs.

EXT. GEKKO BEACH HOUSE - BRIDGEHAMPTON - TWILIGHT

Wind and waves. Gekko's modern, Sante Fe structure house sits on a dune overlooking the grey Atlantic.

GEKKO (V.O.)

Sweeten the offer, throw 2 bucks more in a convertible preferred. And 5 year contracts for themselves.

INT. GEKKO LIVING ROOM - DAY

Immense slanted ceilings, a vast clean modern space filled with dozens of contemporary art objects, junk sculptures, floor to ceiling windows radiating light, that look out on a cantilevered deck and pool - and the ocean beyond.

GEKKO (CONT'D)

(on the phone)

... Cromwell wants to play financial chicken with me, we'll see who swerves first. Where the hell's Gene?

Gekko slumps down on a sofa, exhausted, watching one of several news reports he master-controls with a remote.

SUSAN

(on phone)

You sent him to Vermont to get the deposition from the CEO Cromwell fired.

GEKKO

...done and done. Night gang, and Susan no legs waving in the air tonight. I want you dreaming about Teldar Paper.

During this, RUDY, Gordon's 3 year-old son, drives in in the latest electronic baby toy -- a Porsche-bodied electric car. Gekko hangs up, checks out a Reuters quotron positioned nearby.

GEKKO

Rudy Kazootee, how's my cutie!

The kid jumps out of the car and scoots into his father's lap.

RUDY

Daddy bad boy! Bad boy! -- play  
with Wudi... Now!

GEKKO

No, not now Rudy. Daddy's making  
money to buy you toys. Daddy work.

RUDY

Daddy work bad boy!

Gordon absently tossles Rudy's hair, his eyes glued to the  
TV. The kid senses it, jumps back off his lap and into the car.

BUSINESS ANALYST

...the big story tonight is Anacott  
Steel which closed at 51 1/8. Up 5  
1/8 from yesterday's close on heavy  
trading...

Kate, Gordon's beautiful, raven-haired wife, homemaker and  
antiquer, enters with the bovine-eyed AU PAIR GIRL from  
France... just as Rudy drives his car into a wall where it  
stalls, engines grinding.

KATE

I think somebody's playing hooky  
from the bathtub. Rudy, say good  
night DAddy...

GEKKO

(can't hear, to Kate)  
Shut that off, willya!

Kate, upset with the noise, tries to pull her son nicely out  
of the car.

The Korean HOUSEBOY coming in.

HOUSEBOY

Calls for you, sir, a reporter from  
Time magazine on two, says it's  
important... and a Mr. Fox on three.

GEKKO

(annoyed)  
I come to the country and it's  
worse than the city! I'm not home...  
(changes mind, pushes in)  
Yeah?

BUD

(off)  
Mr. Gekko, I've been trying to  
reach you. We got the options. We  
got a good execution on them!

Meanwhile, the kid has no intention of going anywhere and plants his feet and emits the loudest shrieking this side of the fat lady in the opera.

GEKKO

Nicole! Take him will you...

Handing the bawling, writhing mass of anger to Nicole as if it were laundry she doesn't want to touch... Nicole takes him screaming out of the room... Gordon trying to concentrate on the TV.

INTERCUT TO:

INT. BUD'S OFFICE - DAY

Papers and charts are strewn around, trailing down to a box of take-out pizza and empty beer bottles. Bud has stayed late.

BUD

(almost apologetic,  
speeding on the high  
of the buy...)

I got all I could get which was  
750,000 shares plus 5000 March 50  
calls. Average price of \$47 a share  
And \$4 per contract for the call. I  
just wish I could've got more.

GEKKO

Don't expect to get it all, sport,  
you'll burn out. First rule of  
business is never get emotional  
about stock, clouds the judgment.  
Where do we stand?

BUSINESS ANALYST

In response to an inquiry from the  
New York Stock Exchange, management  
issued a terse no comment. Wildman  
would not return phone calls.  
Analysts believe the company is  
worth \$75 per share in a transaction.

KATE

John and Carmen are here and the  
Livingstons are on their way...

GEKKO

(nods, listening to phone)  
I'll be right there, fix them a drink.

BUD

(shifting the figures)  
...we have 37.2 million invested.  
At this point, we're up 3.1 million  
and some change. If it goes to 75

bucks we can clean close to 12 mill.

GEKKO

(smiles)

You're walking between the  
raindrops kid. I expect Sir Larry  
is choking on his royal chamber pot  
by now.

BUD

My firm needs your signature on  
these option agreements tonight,  
sir, otherwise we could take a real  
bath tomorrow.

GEKKO

(sighs)

...Can't it wait? I'm good for it.

(Bud waits, "Sir")

...Awright. Come out, get the  
directions from Natalie and hurry up.

EXT. GEKKO'S BEACH HOUSE - BRIDGEHAMPTON - NIGHT

Bud's P.O.V. as he pulls up to an austere, ultra-  
sophisticated monolith of glass and wood dominating a  
stretch of dune overlooking the Atlantic's angry surf.  
Several Jags, state of the art Jeeps and a Rolls are drawn  
up outside.

Bud, getting out of his faded Honda, goes up the stairs to  
the door. He rings several times.

A BLACK BUTLER opens it and looks at Buddy somewhat warily.  
Laughter and voices are heard from inside.

BUTLER

(pretentiously: high  
English accent)

Can I help you?

BUD

Bud Fox. Got some papers for Mr.  
Gekko to sign.

BUTLER

Wait a moment please.

Without thinking he closes the door in Joe's face. He stands  
there, harrassed peering around through a window on the lawn.  
A small gathering of friends in progress around a glowing  
fireplace. The butler waves him in from the door.

INT. GEKKO ALCOVE - NIGHT

Bud enters, as Gekko approaches. He seems annoyed to be  
disturbed at his country home.

BUD  
(apologetic)  
Sorry, Mr. Gekko.

GEKKO  
(takes the papers)  
Allright. Wait here...

About to go when his wife, Kate Gekko, comes over. A pretty dark-haired woman.

KATE  
Problems?

GEKKO  
No... Bud Fox, my wife, Kate...

They exchange pleasantries.

KATE  
You came from the city?  
(with a look to Gordon)  
Long drive, have a drink.

Gekko doesn't seem to like the idea, but...

GEKKO  
Yeah, why not, Bud boy...

Kate's walking back inside to her guests, as Bud sidles over to Gekko.

BUD  
...if you'd rather not, Mr. Gekko,  
I can leave...

INT. GEKKO LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

They cross to the main living room.

GEKKO  
...It's okay Buddy, you know Alex...  
Candice Rogers.  
(Alex and his date  
shake hands, faintly aloof)  
...This is Stone Livingston... and  
his wife Muffie.  
(a young stuffy  
banker in weekend  
corduroys looks at  
Bud as if he  
obviously doesn't belong)  
...Darien Taylor, Sam Ruspoli,  
Carmen Winters, Dick Brady... All  
old friends.

Bud looking wide-eyed at the beautiful "Calvados" BLONDE he's been dreaming of for weeks... she's with Mr. GQ and doesn't recognize Bud, nods back, they all nod back, naturally suspicious of the young outsider... Rudy's TOY ROBOT wheels around the floor with a drink on its tray, talking computer talk...

STONE LIVINGSTON

(charmed by it)

...good idea Gordon, good help is hard to find these days but can he whip up a dry vodka martini...

GEKKO

...well he doesn't talk back or steal the silver and Dick's gonna get me an exemption on him, aren't you...

(Dick Brady is obviously an accountant)

Bud plucks a glass of wine from the robot's tray and plunks himself down on a sofa, overhearing the conversation between Muffie Livingston and Candice Rogers.

MUFFIE

...there I am in St. Kitt's in my new Kamali leopard skin V-cut bikini which is going to turn back the clock on our marriage five years, you know what I mean, and I can't even fit into it, my skin's all pink and inflamed, and I look like a walking social disease all because this Ukranian bitch botched the wax on my bikini line.

CANDICE

(revolted)

Oh my god, how ghastly, you should sue her...

The Korean houseboy has come over to Gekko.

HOUSEBOY

Call for you sir. Sir Larry Wildman, he says it's important...

Bud tightens, so does the whole room hearing the name of the moment. Gekko smiles at Buddy.

GEKKO

(to houseboy)

Make Mr. Livingston a martini would you Nyung, and this gentleman...

(to Bud)

Stick around, this could be fun...

He goes to the alcove to take the call.

MUFFIE

So, I had to sit around the beach wearing a moo-moo for 10 days, my whole vacation ruined.

(noticing as Bud laughs, chokes on the wine, spilling some on the couch)

You just spilled your wine.

Bud noticing the stain, starts wiping it.

CANDICE

You're just making it worse.

INT. GEKKO ALCOVE - NIGHT (RAIN)

GEKKO

(on phone)

Larry, what a surprise...

(beat)

Can it wait till tomorrow. I got some people over.

(dryly)

...if you feel that way Larry, come over.

INT. GEKKO LIVINGROOM - NIGHT (RAIN)

The blonde, DARIEN TAYLOR, is examining a modern sculpture as Buddy comes over with two Calvados.

BUD

Hello again, I been holding these drinks for us for the last three weeks.

DARIEN

(uncomprehending)

Excuse me.

BUD

Grand Marnier. A romantic and tragic drink.

DARIEN

Oh yes, I remember you.

BUD

Destiny took us apart, but I knew it would bring us back together.

DARIEN



Aha. Poet or philosopher?

BUD

Stock broker. As in: never have so few done so little for so much. So what do you see in this?

Bud indicates the painting in front of them -- a buffalo skull in the desert by Georgia O'Keefe.

DARIEN

I'd give anything to have this in my house, even for a week.

BUD

...few thousand dollars down the drain if you ask me.

DARIEN

Oh really?

(looks at him quizically)

Well, I guess you can kiss that career as an art appraiser goodbye, because we paid over four hundred thousand for it at the contemporary picture sale last June.

BUD

(chokes)

You could have a great beach house for that.

DARIEN

Sure you could, in Wildwood, New Jersey. If you sold this,  
(indicates a Rothko hanging near the O'Keefe)  
you could have a pretty nice penthouse on Fifth. But you wouldn't have much left over for decoration.

BUD

Boy, I thought Gordon was a tough businessman, but somebody's really taking him to the cleaners here.

DARIEN

Not really. I'd say that Gordon is one of the most astute collectors around. He has a great eye and he only buys the best. Like this rug for instance, a silk Tabriz, the finest of its kind. The day after he bought it in London, a dealer representing the Saudi Royal Family offered him twice what he paid. It

absolutely makes the room. See how this little bit of celadon in the border is picked up in the cushions on the sofa... although...

(she's really warming up to her subject now)

I don't know if I would have used that tea dipped linen for the upholstery - too dingy. And it's a sacrilege having that Pre-Columbian pot in the center of the coffee table. Some dope might use it as an ashtray.

BUD

I gather you're a decorator.

DARIEN

You got it, a great spender of other people's money.

BUD

Well, if you're that good, you could probably do wonders at my place.

DARIEN

Where is it?

BUD

Upper West Side.

DARIEN

(losing interest fast)

Oh really. Home of the exposed brick wall and the  
(shudders)  
houseplant.

BUD

Oh it's just a rental. I'm moving to the East Side soon. I've got a couple of deals brewing with Gordon.  
(shifts uncomfortably with his pretension)  
but that's just conversation... what about real things? Like dinner. The two of us. Friday. Cafe. Santo Domingo.

Bud waits, staring suddenly and deeply into her eyes.

DARIEN

What if I have a previous engagement?

BUD

Break it.

DARIEN

I guess this must be destiny  
alright. My first yuppie apartment  
and...

(pats him on the  
cheek flirtatiously)  
my first yuppie.

BUD

(gives her a steely glare)  
You may call me a yuppie... It's  
Mister Yuppie to you.

They both laugh.

BUD

(gets serious)  
So. See you Friday.

DARIEN

You really do believe in destiny?

BUD

Only if I want something bad enough.

Her date, Mr. GQ, SAMMY RUSPOLI intersects with Kate. A  
cultivated European air.

SAM

...there you go again, Darien,  
talking with strange men.

KATE

That's our Darien: elusive,  
reclusive, exclusive.

(to Sam)  
You know Bud right? He works for  
Gordon...

(Sam nodding, makes  
conversation, big smile)  
Sam's in banking. You staying for  
dinner Bud?

BUD

(hesitant, eyes Darien)  
No, I'm afraid I've got to get some  
work...

Kate noticing the doorbell ringing.

KATE

...excuse me.

Sam muttering something in Darien's ear of an intimate  
nature. She glides away with him.

DARIEN

(to Bud)  
Call me next week, I'll give you an  
estimate...

An ironic promise in her eyes... Bud ecstatic inside...  
looks over, goes to the foyer...

INT. GEKKO ALCOVE - NIGHT (RAIN)

SIR LARRY WILDMAN walks in, his country gentleman clothing  
somewhat softening his imposing figure but not the cultured  
rapacious eagle's face. With him a lawyer.

KATE  
(strained)  
Larry, how have you been? Get you a  
drink?

WILDMAN  
(slightly impatient)  
Oh fine. Travelling actually.  
Nothing thank you. Is...

KATE  
Gordon?... He's right here.

As Gordon intersects, casually tasting a spot of the dinner.

GEKKO  
Larry! Excuse me "sir" Larry, great  
to see you again, you're looking  
good.  
(handshakes)

WILDMAN  
Gordon...  
(sniffing the guests  
and furnishings in  
the room as if they  
were stale air)

BUD  
(leaving, to Gordon)  
I guess I'll head back...

GEKKO  
(spontaneously)  
Stick around... Larry, one of my  
"gang" -- Bud Fox.

Pleasantries. Bud nervously shakes hands, sensing Wildman  
might recognize him from being tailed in the elevator. There  
indeed is a moment but Wildman's attention blurs as...

GEKKO

Shall we go upstairs?

INT. GEKKO DEN - NIGHT (RAIN)

Gordon enters a den lined with old books hunting prints; he proudly picks up something from his gun collection.

GEKKO

Rarest pistol in the world, Larry,  
a .45 Luger. Only six were ever  
manufactured.

WILDMAN

Congratulations but rarer still is  
your interest in Anacott Steel.

GEKKO

The same interest as yours Larry.  
Money. I thought it'd be a good  
investment for my kid...

WILDMAN

No. This time I'm in for the long  
term. This is not a liquidation,  
Gordon. I'm going to turn it around.  
You're getting a free ride on my  
tail, mate, and with the dollars  
you're costing me to buy back the  
stock, I could modernize the plant.  
I'm not the only one who pays here  
Gordon. We're talking about lives  
and jobs; three and four generations  
of steel workers...

A strong hint of the cockney working class east and London  
boy whiffing through his speech and manner. The "mate" is  
tough and to the point but not insulting...

GEKKO

(has to smile)

You must be wearing a mask you're  
laughing so hard behind it Larry.  
Let's cut the "sir" crap. Correct  
me if I'm wrong, but when you took  
CNX Electronics, you laid off 8,000  
workers, Jessmon Fruit about 6,000,  
that airline...

WILDMAN

(cold, deliberate)

I could break you, mate, in two  
pieces over my knees, you know it,  
I know it, I could buy you six  
times over, I could dump the stock  
just to burn your ass but I happen  
to want the company and I want your  
block of shares. I'm announcing a

tender offer at 65 tomorrow, and  
I'm expecting your commitment.

Bud watching this drama unfold. Gekko is about to blow,  
controls it.

GEKKO

Showdowns bore me Larry, neither  
side wins. You can have the  
company, in fact it's gonna be fun  
watching you and your giant ego try  
to make a horserace out of it...

(turns to Bud)

What do you think is a fair price  
for our stock Bud?

Bud in the spotlight. The eyes all shift to him -- his  
moment. After an initial panic, he's cool as a cucumber --  
and ruthless as his mentor.

BUD

The break up value is higher. It's  
worth 80.

GEKKO

But we don't want to be greedy now,  
so let's let him have it at \$72.

His eyes to Wildman who looks at him, cold, icy mean.

WILDMAN

You're a two bit pirate and a  
green-mailer, Gekko, nothing more...  
not only would you sell your mother  
to make a deal, you'd send her COD...

Bud looking sharply as Gekko's eyes flare with hot white anger.

GEKKO

My mail's the same color as yours  
Larry. Or it was till the Queen  
started calling you "sir". Now  
excuse me before I lose my temper...

He rises and exits.

WILDMAN

\$71...

Gekko stops at the door, a beat.

GEKKO

Considering you brought my mother  
into it, \$71.50.

WILDMAN

Done. You'll hear from my lawyers.

8 a.m. Good night.

He walks out with the silent lawyer. Past Gekko who watches.  
"Ta Ta".

GEKKO

(to Bud)

He's right. I had to sell. The key  
to the game is your capital  
reserves. You don't have enough,  
you can't pee in the tall weeds  
with the big dogs.

BUD

(mimicking Gordon now)

"All warfare is based on  
deception..." Sun Tzu says, If your  
enemy is superior, evade him, if  
angry, irritate him, if equally  
matched, fight... if not, split and  
reevaluate.

GEKKO

You're learning, sport...

INT. BUD'S APARTMENT - PRE-DAWN

Exhausted from the drive back, Bud takes off his sweater and  
tie and collapses onto the bed, closing his eyes. The phone  
rings. With a start he wakes and answers it.

BUD

Yeah?...

INTERCUT TO:

EXT. GEKKO'S BEACH HOUSE - DAWN

The sky is still dark, the first rays of light coming up  
over the ocean. Gekko, a lonely figure in a windbreaker,  
restlessly prowls the edge of the beach, waves crashing  
around him. He's been up all night and has an exhausted,  
driven look as he whispers over the wind into the cellular  
phone...

GEKKO

Money never sleeps pal. When I came  
in in '69, they traded six hours a  
day, now the clock don't stop,  
London's deregulated, the Orient is  
hungrier than us. Just let the  
money circle the world, sport,  
buying and selling, and if you're  
smart it comes back paying. I just  
made \$800,000 in Hong Kong gold.  
It's been wired to you -- play with  
it. You done good, but you gotta

keep doing good. I showed you how  
the game works, now school's out.

BUD

(protests)

Mr. Gekko, I'm there for you 110%.

GEKKO

You don't understand. I want to be  
surprised...astonish me, sport, new  
info, don't care where or how you  
get it, just get it... My wife  
tells me you put a move on Darien.  
Here's some inside info for you.  
That Euroflash GQ guy she's going  
with's got big bucks but he's  
putting her feet to sleep. Exit  
visas are imminent. So don't lose  
your place in line.

(gazing at the surf)

Oh, jeez, I wish you could see this.  
The lights coming up over the water.  
I've never seen a painting that  
captures the beauty of the ocean at  
this moment.

(suddenly fatigued)

...an old Russian proverb - "a  
fisherman always sees another  
fisherman from afar." I like you  
sport, I ever tell you that...  
Gordon, call me Gordon from now on.

BUD

(off)

...Gordon.

GEKKO

Yeah, I'm gonna make you rich, Bud  
Fox. I'm gonna make you rich enough  
you can afford a girl like Darien.  
Remember, power is the best  
aphrodisiac. This is your wake-up  
call. Go to work.

He lets the phone drop to his side, staring glazed-eyed at  
the ocean.

INT. ROGER BARNES' OFFICE - EARLY EVENING

A SECRETARY leads Bud into the plush, private office of a  
cocky young lawyer, ROGER BARNES, about the same age as Bud,  
his his feet up on the desk, sleepily waving to Buddy to  
park his ass... The pictures on his walls and desk indicate  
a rich family.

ROGER

Fox, Bud D. is this deja vu or has



it really been a year. You're not hitting me up for NYU are you?

BUD

Well we're thinking of putting up a statue of you in the subway. I hear you're moving up in the world. An associate already. Not bad. How's Margie?

ROGER

Can't complain. Got a house in Oyster Bay. Market treating you good? Still seeing that sexy French gal?

BUD

Nah, she asked the wrong question.

ROGER

What was that?

BUD

"What are you thinking?"...that was it. The hours are hell, but the money's starting to tumble in. I know this guy who's got an iron-clad way to make money, I can't lose and I can't get hurt.

ROGER

(interested)

So, does "this guy" have a tip for an honest lawyer?

BUD

Yeah, check out Teldar Paper, it's still not over.

ROGER

Okay.

BUD

What about you, I hear you guys are handling the Fairchild Foods merger and it may not be going through. Any surprises I haven't read about in the Wall Street Journal?

ROGER

(casually)

Come on Buddy, you wouldn't want to got me disbarred now would you?

BUD

(equally casual,  
looks at the walls)

Who's listening? It's just one college buddy talking to another.

ROGER  
(sarcastic)  
Yeah, right...

BUD  
Relax, Roger, everybody's doing it but you don't know, you don't know.

ROGER  
...and if I did, what's in it for moi?

He obviously has thought about it before. Bud smiles back, nonchalant.

BUD  
More money than you ever dreamed, Roger. And the thing is no one gets hurt...how bout a beer?

ROGER  
(some doubt)  
Too much to do...but I'll walk you out.

INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE ROGER BARNES' OFFICE - EVENING

They walk out past the CLEANING CREWS coming in for the evening, drones of the vacuum cleaners...

Bud looks - his POV... A CLEANING WOMAN as she pulls the vacuum cleaner into one of the senior partners offices, the desk crammed with proposals, Bud is lost in thought.

ROGER  
(teasing)  
...Get inside my uncle's door Buddy, all the secrets of the world are yours... the life blood of companies, but you gotta go to law school first...

EXT. BARNES' OFFICE BUILDING - NIGHT

Bud comes out of the building and starts walking away. As he passes the freight entrance, Bud abruptly notices a van marked MARSALA MAINTENENCE COMPANY. He looks back, thinks for a moment: a look in his eyes.

EXT. LONG ISLAND CITY - LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PARK - DAY

Bud walks past a row of small warehouses and enters one.

INT. MARSALA MAINTENANCE OFFICE AND GARAGE SERVICE - DAY

He steps into a shabby reception area. A chain-smoking OLD LADY looks up from the switch-board.

BUD

I need to speak to the owner about some business.

INT. BACK OFFICE - DAY

The owner, a GREEK with bushy mustache and hardened face, sits at his desk eating lunch, eyeing Bud suspiciously.

BUD

(handing him a card)

Mr. Panos, I've charted the growth of new office space in the city, and I think you're in the right business at the right time.

PANOS

Thank you for telling me what I already know.

BUD

I'm impressed with your work and I could use a tax break. This is a growing business. Are you interested in some working capital and a partner?

Panos puts down his sandwich, measuring Bud.

PANOS

What makes you think I need a partner?!

Bud smiles, ready with his spiel.

An elevator opens. A body steps out. A set of keys. Boom up past a clipboard and pen to a shirt pocket with MARSALA MAINTENANCE written on it, up to Bud dressed in janitorial clothing.

We move with him to the CREW SUPERVISOR who introduces THREE CLEANING WOMEN who nervously absorb Bud, worried for their jobs.

Bud strolls from office to office, looking official, overseeing his crew, making notations on a checklist.

Bud slips into the Senior Partners' office, thumbs through a calendar on the desk. Sees the list of people, moves to the computer, punches the client's name in. The code number comes up.

Bud nods to a SECURITY GUARD down the hall and enters the file room where he looks at the Cleaning Lady and points to his watch. As she exits, he scrambles nervously through the

files -- finds the code number -- then anxiously flips the pages to the critical tender offer document -- with the target name -- INVESTMENT IN RORKER ELECTRONICS CORP. It's stamped "DRAFT" across the page. His face lights up. The secret to the kingdom. He puts it back, exits.

WIPE TO:

INT. GEKKO'S OFFICE - DAY

Gekko on the phone, smiling.

INT. PHONE BOOTH - DAY

Bud, obviously exhausted from his day and night roles, is telling him something on the phone.

INT. SECOND LAW FIRM - NIGHT

Bud furtively xeroxes a document on a small hand-carried copy machine in his pocket or photographs it if it is too large.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Bud and Alex, Gekko's assistant, having lunch. Alex gives him the briefcase he's carrying. Pan from Alex to Bud back to discover Darien in the next scene.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Bud dines with Darien, small talk, intimate looks.

INT. THIRD LAW FIRM - NIGHT

Bud is in an office, eyes panning the shelves.

VOICE (O.S.)

Can I help you?

Bud's head jerks around. A young female PARALEGAL is burning the midnight oil. She looks at him from behind a stack of briefs.

BUD

(backing off)

Uh. Wrong office. Sorry...

EXT. BRIDGEHAMPTON BEACH - DAY

Gekko, Kate, Bud, Darien and A FIFTH PERSON roar over the dunes, each in their own dune buggy, laughing and hollering at one another...

Buddy driving right up precariously close on Darien, who screams... Buddy flips over his vehicle... comes up laughing... we sense he is getting wilder now...

EXT. HORSE FARM - BRIDGEHAMPTON - DAY

Darien rides expertly. A beautiful, immaculately-groomed stallion is being shown to Gekko by the trainer.

Bud is sipping wine as he looks on with Kate.

GEKKO

(proudly)

Got him at an auction in Kentucky.

BUD

How much?

GEKKO

(fondling the head)

Close to two million.

(Bud whistles)

But this sucker can go all the way to Devon and the nationals.

Darien rides in, smiling to Bud.

BUD

Devon? He looks like Seattle Slew. What about the Triple Crown?

DARIEN

He's not a racehorse, Bud, he's a jumper.

BUD

How would I know? I once bet a horse. He went out at ten to one and came in at quarter to five.

He laughs, a little sloppy.

EXT. OCEAN - DAY

Darien swims in the ocean, long looping athletic strokes.

EXT. POOL AND PATIO - GEKKO'S BRIDGEHAMPTON HOUSE - DAY

They're finishing lunch by the pool framed by a lush flower garden where Kate and son Rudy play. HAROLD SALT, Gekko's chief lawyer, thick glasses, smart eyes and bags of worry that could only come from watching other people's money, looks very city-like in his clothing, examining his paperwork before passing it to Bud, who is the picture of relaxation.

HAROLD

...You understand Mr. Gekko is constantly barraged with nuisance litigation and IRS audits.

BUD

(nods)

Of course.

HAROLD

...So it's in both our interests to put a safe distance between you and us...

(passing a document  
with a 2nd pen)

...this gives you limited power of attorney for Mr. Gekko's account. Every trade you make is at your discretion. Every ticket you buy must be marked "power of attorney." That means you call the shots and Mr. Gekko has no official knowledge of what stocks you're buying. Sign here and here...

Buddy looks, then up to Gekko, who smiles, casual.

GEKKO

...just the beginning, sport, just the beginning...

Bud smiles, signs.

HAROLD

(a worrier)

...you understand if any problems arise, you're out there on your own. The trail stops with you...

BUD

All's fair in love and war.

GEKKO

The art of which is deception. Spread the buy orders through different accounts and you won't get burned...

BUD

I think I got some friends that won't mind making some easy money...

As Kate drifts over with Rudy and the French au pair GIRL, NICOLE.

GEKKO

Rudy, viens ici, dit bonjour a Monsieur Bud.

Rudy either says "No!" or "Bonjour Monsieur Bud!" depending on the mood of the kid. Gordon sweeping him up and playing

with him. The kid squeals with glee.

GEKKO

(proudly)

Already speaks a little French, kid  
got the highest score on his IQ test.

KATE

(to Darien)

...it's so tough to get into a good  
nursery school now. They even visit  
your home to make sure your  
paintings and furnishings are  
acceptable.

BUD

What's it cost these days?

KATE

\$5,000 just for the tuition... plus  
the books and supplies...

(with a look to Gordon)

...some parents even have bodyguards.  
It's not a bad idea...

(picking up Rudy)

...now that's it for you with the  
grown-ups young man.

As Rudy smashes the strawberries around his face and resists  
going. "No! No!" Kate exasperated gives the child to Nicole.

KATE

Nicole, take him for a nap, please.

NICOLE

He doesn't nap anymore, Madame.  
It's been...

KATE

(stung)

Then play with him till he gets  
tired. We're going out tonight but  
we like to see him at, let's see,  
six; give him a bath and put that  
cute little black suit on him...

(to Bud and Gordon)

Black clothes are the newest  
things, so chic and milk stains,  
carrot juice stains just don't show  
up. Kids -- boy, can they take it  
out of you!

Nicole's "Oui, Madame" is lost in the wrestling match she  
goes through to drag him out screaming. Kate walking off.  
Harold gives Buddy another piece of paper...

HAROLD

This is a contact at one of our banks. On settlement day you'll open an account there for Mr. Gekko under the name of Geneva, Roth Holding Corp. Then you'll wire transfer the money to this account in the Cayman Islands...

GEKKO

(rising, finished  
with lunch)

Think about incorporating yourself there, Bud, Harold will take care of it for you.

(with a look to Harold)  
... at a reasonable fee. You're gonna make a lot of money now Bud... stakes are gonna go up, no mistakes...

BUD

...piece of cake, Gordon...

EXT. BEACHFRONT - DAY

The camera glides off some FISHERMEN hauling their catch off their beached boat to Darien who comes tromping out of the surf, water glistening off her lean athletic body. Bud stands before her, cool seductive eyes, holding out a towel. She steps up to him and smiles inscrutably. Takes the towel from him, drying herself, instead.

DARIEN

(gazing at the beach)  
If I could have anything... this would almost do.

BUD

Yeah, almost...

Looks at her, stifles his thought.

DARIEN

(teasing)  
So, how did your conference go with Gordon?

BUD

The conference, oh yeah. Fine. We reached an agreement and decided to divide up the world between us.

DARIEN

(laughs)  
You have modest wants. I like that in a man.

BUD



And what do you want?

DARIEN

...a Turner, a perfect canary  
diaiaond... a Lear jet... world  
peace... the best of everything...

BUD

Well, why stop at that?

DARIEN

I don't.

BUD

(has to smile)

You're not trouble by any chance.  
Are you?

She looks at him, tosses the towel over her shoulder and starts back toward the house. Buddy watches her go.

INT. HOTEL BALLROOM - DAY

The annual Teldar Paper stockholders' meeting is in session: 400 stockholders are there -- many middle aged and older, one bag lady. Cromwell sits on an elevated platform at the front of the room surrounded by an army of bulky EXECUTIVES, none of them weighing less than 200 pounds, ACCOUNTANTS and LAWYERS. Gekko in contrast seems like Robin Hood seated with Alex, Harold, Bud and the other stockholders. Cromwell is delivering his prepared attack on Gekko in a highly sarcastic, gruff manner.

CROMWELL

...Your company, ladies and gentlemen, is under siege from Gordon Gekko. Teldar Paper is now leveraged to the hilt, like some piss poor South American country...instead of using our cash to build plants, build our business, all this man really wants is to get paid to withdraw his tender offer and that will cost us approximately another \$200 million in greenmail which will be passed on to the consumer...

Gekko seething, jumps up.

GEKKO

Where do you get off speaking about me like that, making remarks to the press, I resent these remarks, I demand the right to speak.

CROMWELL

Sit down, sir, you're out of order,  
haven't you done enough damage to  
Teldar as it is?...have you no  
sense of decency?

(to shareholders)

How can your management...

Gekko is urged to sit down by his people but we hear various  
catcalls, "Let the man speak!" "Sit down, Gekko!"

CROMWELL (CONT'D)

...concentrate on long term growth  
when we're busy fighting the get-  
rich-quick, short term profit, slot  
machine mentality of Wall Street  
when we should be fighting Japan!  
The original fundamental reason for  
Wall Street was to capitalize  
American business, underwrite new  
business, build companies, build  
America. The "deal" has now  
succeeded goods and services as  
America's gross national product  
and in the process, we are  
undermining our foundation. This  
cancer is called "greed". Greed and  
speculation have replaced long-term  
investment. Corporations are being  
taken apart like erector sets,  
without any consideration of the  
public good. I strongly recommend  
you to see through Mr. Gekko's  
shameless intention here to  
strip this company and severely  
penalize the stockholders. I  
strongly recommend you to reject  
his tender by voting for  
management's restructuring of the  
stock.

CUT TO:

Gekko is now at floor level with a microphone. He's calmer,  
makes his pitch to the stockholders, looking up at the  
management.

GEKKO

...I appreciate the chance you're  
giving me, Mr. Cromwell, as the  
single largest stockholder in  
Teldar, to speak.

(gets some laughter  
and applause, loosens)

On the way here today I saw a  
bumper sticker. It said, "Life is a  
bitch... then you die".

(gets another laugh)

...well ladies and gentlemen, we're not here to indulge in fantasies, but in political and economic reality. America has become a second rate power. Our trade deficit and fiscal deficit are at nightmare proportions. In the days of the 'free market' when our country was a top industrial power, there was accountability to the shareholders. The Carnegies, the Mellons, the man who built this industrial empire, made sure of it because it was their money at stake. Today management has no stake in the company. Altogether these guys sitting up there own a total of less than 3% and where does Mr. Cromwell put his million dollar salary? Certainly not in Teldar stock, he owns less than 1%. You own Teldar Paper, the stockholders, and you are being royally screwed over by these bureaucrats with their steak lunches, golf and hunting trips, corporate jets, and golden parachutes! Teldar Paper has 33 different vice presidents each earning over \$200,000 a year. I spent two months analyzing what these guys did and I still can't figure it out.

(a big laugh)

Cromwell is pissed.

CROMWELL

This is an outrage Gekko! You're full of shit!

GEKKO

One thing I do know is this paper company lost \$110 million last year, and I'd bet half of that is in the paperwork going back and forth between all the vice presidents...

(increased laughter,  
he's getting them)

The new law of evolution in corporate America seems to be 'survival of the unfittest'. Well in my book, you either do it right or you get eliminated. Teldar Paper is doomed to fail. Its

diversification into casualty insurance has not worked. Its crown jewels are its trees, the rest is dross. Through wars, depressions, inflations and deterioration of paper money, trees have always kept their value, but Teldar is chopping them all down. Forests are perishable, forest rights are as important as human rights to this planet, and all the illusory Maginot lines, scorched earth tactics, proxy fights, poison pills, etc. that Mr. Cromwell is going to come up with to prevent people like me from buying Teldar Paper are doomed to fail because the bottom line, ladies and gentlemen, as you very well know, is the only way to stay strong is to create value, that's why you buy stock, to have it go up. If there's any other reason, I've never hear it.

(laughter)

That's all I'm saying...it's you people who own this company, not them, they work for you and they've done a lousy job of it. Get rid of them fast, before you all get sick and die. I may be an opportunist, but if these clowns did a better job, I'd be out of work. In the last seven deals I've been in, there were 2.3 million stockholders that actually made a pretax profit of \$12 billion. When I bought the Ixtlan Corporation it was in the exact same position Teldar is today -- I turned three of its companies private and I sold four others -- and each of these companies, liberated from the suffering conglomerate has prospered. I am not a destroyer of companies, I am a liberator of them. The point is, ladies and gentlemen, greed is good. Greed works, greed is right. Greed clarifies, cuts through, and captures the essence of the evolutionary spirit. Greed in all its forms, greed for life, money, love, knowledge, has marked the upward surge of mankind -- and greed, mark my words -- will save not only Teldar Paper but that other malfunctioning corporation

called the USA...Thank you.

Much applause as he sits. Now a standing ovation; shouts of approval. Cromwell knows he has lost the day, tries to continue the meeting by calling for "order".

Bud watches, impressed.

INT. BUD'S OFFICE - DAY

BROKERS mill at their desks quietly. Bud enters, notices immediately the uneasy silence. His eyes go to Lynch's office... across the windows, he's talking to a very somber Dan Steeples.

BUD

What's going on?

MARV

(looking in the same direction)

Lynch is giving him the boot...  
He's not pulling his quota.

Bud's soft "no" matched by that second, tighter look. His POV -- closer on the glass... Dan Steeples pleading for his job... we know the things he's saying, we've heard them before... just one more chance, Mr. Lynch... Lynch shaking his head...

MARV

(reminding him)

...we're all just one trade away  
from humility, Buddy...

Dan Steeples steps out of the office, obviously close to tears but trying to maintain face... Buddy's eyes dart away, not wanting to deal with it. Dan Steeples walks by his as Lynch, on the loudspeaker, starts his morning announcements.

LYNCH

New research report on GM and a  
conference call on defense stocks  
at my office at 11. No RSVP  
required, just be there. And on an  
inspiring note I'm pleased to  
announce the new office record for  
a single month's gross commission  
goes to Bud Fox. Who more than  
doubled the old mark. Way to go Bud.  
Super job! Come on up here.

As Dan Rickey passes him during this, Bud catches a glimpse of the older man's eyes. Dan tries to look brave. Heads turning to Bud with awe and envy...

MARV

Congrats buddy buddy, you just made

my life twice as hard around here...

Bud moving toward Lynch, past Lou Mannheim.

MANNHEIM

You're on a roll kiddo. Enjoy it while it lasts -- 'cause it never does.

BUD

(cocky)

...just kickin' ass and taking names, Mr. Mannheim.

Bud passes Charlie Cushing, yawning on the phone as usual.

CHARLIE

So whaddaya say pal, wanna play some doubles at Piping? Meet the membership? I got a little blonde named Mandy, about nineteen, avec cafe au lait boobs... she's mine but she's got a cousin who has great muffins.

BUD

...sounds dubious Chuck, but Piping Rock any day.

Chuck laughs, Bud's "in" now. Lynch indicates for Bud to follow him into an outer glass-enclosed office.

LYNCH

Come in, Bud...

INT. BUD'S NEW OFFICE - DAY

Neatly furnished, with a window overlooking Wall Street, and attractive CHINESE SECRETARY filing papers into a cabinet.

LYNCH

(points)

Congratulations. This is yours now... your own file cabinets... a window ... your private secretary, Janet,

(under his breath)

significantly more attractive.

JANET

Nice to meet you, Mr. Fox.

She smiles at Bud, who heaves a sigh of relief, noticing his name plate on the desk.

BUD

(thrilled)

Thank you, Janet...thank you, Mr. Lynch.

LYNCH

No, thank you. I knew the minute I laid eyes on you, you had what it takes Bud. Just keep it going.

He winks and leaves. Charlie Cushing comes in, Marv sticks his head in the doorway, a grudging smile.

MARV

So, its Mister Fox now.

INT. CONDOMINIUM APARTMENT - UPPER EAST SIDE - DAY

A splendid four-room thirtieth floor aerie overlooking Central Park. SYLVIE DRIMMER, anchored down with jewelry and a large fur purse, shows Bud around.

SYLVIE

...everybody tells ya they hate the Upper East Side and they wanna live on the West Side but honey when it comes to resale time, believe me the East Side's the one that always moves. What do you get on the West Side?

(contemptuously)

Madonna and Sean?... between Sly and Billy and Christie, I've shown every apartment on the Upper East Side. Everybody lives here... Mick, Gloria and Barbara Wa-Wa. Even Klaus von Bulow buys his fresh fruit from the Korean on Madison. It's so expensive and it's just like the ones on Eighth Avenue but it's an attitude is all, you pay for attitude

(pointing to a walk-in closet)

...two walk-in closets...upstairs on the roof you lot a health club...massage, sauna, jacuzzi, sunlights, best schools in the city, cute boy like you gotta think of a ladyfriend when you're finished wolfing around --

('course I'm taken)

...oak strip floor...my husband can get you a 10% mortgage...I'd do it myself if we weren't into four other deals already...so?...

(beat)

I got a four o'clock and a five...one of them's an all-cash

type, Monique something or  
other...I guarantee you this place  
is history tomorrow...

Bud looks around. The city at his feet. Lost in thought.  
Sylvie has to call him out of it: "honey? -- The meter's  
running. Anybody home?"

BUD

All right. Offer 950...

Sylvie tries to play it cool, her expression conveying a  
somewhat stunned look at the speed and certainty of the  
response.

SYLVIE

...I think you gotta deal, honey...  
you sure you don't wanna see  
somethin' I got on Sutton Place.  
It's a million and a half but...

BUD

Nah...this is it..home...

Looking it over, proud.

INTERIOR DECORATING MONTAGE

The music is geared to speed, money, triumph and just plain  
material fun.

INT. BUD'S CONDO - DAY/NIGHT

In its first stage, Darien supervising. It's expanse of  
white walls devoid of mouldings, a blank plaster canvas. The  
city views are great, the apartment identical to hundreds of  
other cookie cutter condos. Several young artists are  
working on a neo-classical mural on the long side of the  
living room. They are colorfully dressed, listening to a  
TALKING HEADS tape while they work. A carpenter who looks  
like a member of Duran Duran is installing a pair of old  
columns from Urban Archaeology on either side of the  
entrance to the living room while another fits a brass sink  
into an antique sideboard which has been turned into a bar.

INT. BUD'S CONDO - DAY/NIGHT

INTERIOR DECORATING MONTAGE - SECOND STAGE

Living room furniture arrives. A fantail shrimp chaise from  
Art Furniture's "Sushi Collection" arrives, along with an  
enormous sofa encased in an ecru linen slipcover made  
deliberately baggy and tied on with rows of self bows on  
each end, several faux Etruscan pots wired up as lamps, a  
poured concrete coffee table that looks like it came from  
Pompeii, and a hand-painted floor cloth instead of a rug for  
the bleached floor with the stencilled border... Darien



sitting in a fantastical adirondack chair made from gnarled branches, amused by Bud's reactions to the furniture.

THIRD STAGE. The kitchen has the latest compact computer dishwasher and compact microwave, garbage compactor, and sinks with infrared controls... A brief food montage gives us a sense of the modernist approach to food and its preparation:

- 1) Darien hones the knives on the electric knife sharpener as
- 2) Bud uses a stainless steel Cape Cod oyster opener to work on two dozen oysters...
- 3) at the same time working on the automatic vinaigrette mixer, the phone ringing to the tune of Mozart's "Jupiter"...

BUD

(picking it up)

Yes...no...at 37 1/2. Convert the bonds right...and check the price in Tokyo at 8:00 LA time. Thanks...

- 4) As he starts his pasta sauce flame an his O'Reilly fat-free grill with a flexible neck fire starter...
- 5) A freshly heated roll pops out of a hanging space-saving toaster, as Darien works the electric pasta maker while melting the frozen ice cream cartons in the microwave.
- 6) Bud manages to sneak a kiss an her lips humming the bars from Verdi's "Rigoletto" as he works the piece de la resistance--the automatic sushi maker...
- 7) Dinner is finally served on a demolished dinner table. Red wine, pasta, sushi...it looks perfect, lit by candlelight, the view of the city below.

DARIEN

...isn't it perfect!

BUD

...too perfect...let's not even eat. Let's just watch it and think about it.

(pause)

FOURTH STAGE - INT. BUD'S CONDO - DAY

Bud goes over a stack of bills with something approaching concern as the gothic oak refectory table which seats 20 is carried in, followed by a Jean Michel Basquiat featuring a skull on a rough board. Darien instructs the movers to place an important pair of satinwood Art Deco armchairs upholstered in buttery suede (last Saturday's auction purchase for \$20,000) at either end of the titanic sofa. No vestige is left of the cookie cutter space we first saw. Walls have

been removed, mouldings and architectural found objects added, imitation rare woods, marbles and frescos have been created from nothing by the magic hands of the tromp l'oeil crew. The point is, decorating can transform.

INT. CONDO - NIGHT

The look of the place is evocative of ancient times, yet sumptuous. Darien and Bud sink into the bales of down in the sofa and are dwarfed. She rests her head on a hand stencilled velvet Venetian throw pillow, looking like a Pre-Raphaelite madonna. A terracotta pot with a spray of white phaleonopsis graces the coffee table. As the sun sets over the canyons of highrises, Bud walks around his new home totally in awe. This apartment, perfect in its restrained taste with all the "correct" flowers and objects, has nothing to do with him. Perhaps he can understand the state-of-the-art kitchen, the computerized telephone, stereo and light system, but he needs a set of instructions just to be able to switch on David Letterman.

This apartment is Darien's fantasy, and Bud is merely the incidental client who paid for it. Most importantly to her, it is ready to be photographed by House and Garden.

BUD

(dubiously looking at  
a rough plaster wall  
of fading fresco)

You know, the elevator man couldn't believe I paid \$300,000 to have my walls looking like this, he's got them for free in Brooklyn.

DARIEN

I'll bet he's got an opinion on the stock market too. This apartment is already ahead of its time. I call it the "demolished" look. They've already heard about it at House and Garden and they're coming next week to photograph it before it gets... lived in. Is that alright? I'd love to have it in my portfolio.

BUD

Sure... But your fee... considering you're way over budget, should be negotiable.

As he nuzzles her neck, she feels threatened, stops.

DARIEN

Let's get things straight, Bud. I'm not going to take a cut. I worked hard and you can't decorate a room in New York for less than \$100,000.

Curtains alone...

BUD

I'm kidding, I'm kidding, we're still young, Darien. So what's money anyway when everybody's making it, it's all relative. After all, this is not the house in Connecticut, this is just a crash pad good for a couple of years...before we slip our two lovely kids, Yuppie and Fruppie into the Lycee Francaise.

DARIEN

You got it all charted out don't you, like a stock projection.

BUD

That's right -- one with high yield, rich assets and no downside...

As the kiss grows, his hands move into her nether regions. She looks at him, sober.

DARIEN

Do you think you're ready?

BUD

It's not me I'm worried about...You know Darien, the only reason we haven't slept together is because we both know we will -- and not knowing when was the only surprise left. You owe me, I want you, what else is there...but you, me, the world.

(he folds back her palms in his)

...right here...make love to me...now...

(more kissing)

Stop me if I'm going too far.

DARIEN

I'll let you know.

INT. BUD'S CONDO - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bud making love to Darien. Camara closing on them.

Her face -- from his point of view. Her smile.

His face -- looking down. Covered with sweat and passion.

BUD

Is this real? Is this really real?

EXT. BUD'S CONDO - TERRACE - NIGHT

Bud walks out alone in his blue bathrobe on his parapet overlooking Central Park. The wind stirs his hair. The East and West sides of the park wrap the city in a diamond necklace of brilliant light.

Bud stares down at the world. He has it all now. The money. The girl. The magic palace apartment. What more is there? Something...because Bud suddenly throws a wrenching dislocated look into himself that makes us wonder as he brushes his hand across his face and mutters to himself.

BUD

Who am I?

There is no ready answer. As he finally turns and goes back inside and closes the door.

INT. BUD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Darien lies curled in the bed, eyes open, looking at him.

DARIEN

Come to bed, Bud...

EXT. PHONE BOOTH - SOUTH STREET SEAPORT - TWILIGHT

Cocktail hour in the background, yuppies trying to score for the weekend. Bud on the phone, strained look transforming to a bright, upbeat personality as the phone is answered.

BUD

Dixon! It's your lucky day! That's right. I want to give you some stock and you don't have to put up a penny...

INTERCUT:

EXT. CABIN - ASPEN COLORADO - DAY

A small cabin in the mountains.

INT. CABIN - ASPEN COLORADO - DAY

Whole earth furnishings. DIXON, a long-haired ski bum dropout listens skeptically.

DIXON

Sure, and I'm never gonna die either, is this one of your chain letter schemes or do I gotta buy a door to door cosmetic franchise in Northern Arkansas?

EXT. PHONE BOOTH - SOUTH STREET SEAPORT - TWILIGHT

BUD

No, no Dixon, my client wants to buy a large, large block of stock and needs to spread it around. I'll park some money in your account and if it hits, you get a big cut. I'm telling you, this is the easiest money you ever made...

INT. ROGER BARNES' OFFICE - DAY

Roger listens on the phone.

BUD

(off)  
...and you don't have to put up a dime, Roger.

ROGER

(tentatively)  
All right, Bud... let's do it.

A look on his face. As if he knows he's making a fatal mistake.

INT. BUD'S OFFICE - DAY

BUD

(on the phone)  
...it's easy Jack! On settlement day, you endorse a check to Blue Horseshoe Trading Company. Then I send you your cut.

Marv waves across the glass partition and knocks. But Bud waves him off, closing the blinds.

BUD (CONT'D)

...that's the bottom line. And nobody gets hurt.

Marv now walks it, exasperated.

MARV

...things are so bad, even the liars are complaining. And you're making money. So what gives? What's the bottom line?

As he tries to peak at Bud's quotron screen, but Bud flicks it off, pissed.

BUD

Hey, I'm tired of playing nurse to you all the time, alright. Do your own home work!

Marvin abruptly walks out, "asshole!". Bud books the order for Morning Star Corp -- MSC -- 50,000 June options.

INT. AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE - LATER THAT DAY

The COMPANY FLOOR MANAGER gets Bud's order, hands a ticket to a RUNNER who dashes off across the exchange floor, and over to a TRADER who starts to execute the order.

CLOSE on the broad tape. As Bud's large buy order flickers across it -- MSC -- 50,000 June options.

INT. AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE - S.E.C. OPTIONS WATCH OFFICE - DAY

A CLERK sits before a computer routinely tracking all of the exchange floor trading. He runs a check on a transaction.

Computer Screen -- The same numbers and letters are seen that just flickered across the broad tape... Bud's buy.

The clerk swivels his chair to a second computer and punches up data. A MAN appears behind him, leaning over his shoulder, and wears an ID BADGE. The clerk vacates his seat to the man with the badge, who now takes over.

INT. BUD'S CONDO - NIGHT

Bud is in silk boxers on the phone, number crunching on the computer, foot pounding to a music beat on the stereo, while his telex spews out overnight currency data.

Darien in the background lies in bed in panties reading Vogue.

BUD

(into the phone)

Buy me 20 June Euro Dollar CDs.  
Twenty March gold and sell 10  
September Deutsch marks. That's  
right...

He hangs up, back to the computer a growing look of excitement and revelation in his eyes.

On the computer screen we see a break up Of Bluestar Airlines -- its assets and liabilities.

Bud hits the command key, printing it out. He's exuberant.

BUD

Bud, I hate to tell you this but  
you're a genius!

(to Darien)

Darien...lightning has struck! The  
lightbulb has been invented.  
Edison, Da Vinci, Einstein are

watching...

DARIEN

(grumpy)

...are you going to trade all night again? You got to go to work in a couple of hours.

BUD

You think I'm gonna broker the rest of my life... I'm going to be a giant, Darien, an entrepreneur in the Italian 15th century sense of the word -- a mover, shaker.

Bud dances over to the bed turning the stereo down on his way.

BUD

I love you, baby. Did I tell you that sometime in the last 24 hours?

DARIEN

Get in bed. Y'ever hear of the sixty hour work week? You're turning into a yuppie Frankenstein, you love money so much.

Bud grabs a bottle of Ferrier off the night table and drinks.

BUD

Sure, why not, money's the sex of the 80's. I never had it like you when I was growing up, baby, it wasn't the upper east side.

DARIEN

You're so naive Bud, you don't even know. Your dad took care of you. I might've been rich when I was a kid...but my father lost all his money...in the seventies, in the stock market, at the track. He was a lousy gambler...

BUD

(teasing)

...that changes all my plans, I thought you were loaded...

DARIEN

(laughs woefully)

So did I, till I hit 19 and found I had all the royal habits and no throne. Mom got by but I had to go to work just like you. Only the skills I had were shopping and making friends. So...that's why

I do what I do, what makes you  
tick, Buddy?

BUD

Fear. The fear of being poor I  
guess, just like you, Darien... But  
that's all gonna change sweetheart.  
I'm catching the express...  
(making love to her)  
... and you're going along for the  
ride.

INT. GEKKO'S PRIVATE PLANE (GULFSTREAM - 4) - DAY

A salon interior. Gekko on a couch reading, with eyeglasses,  
a stack of financial reports. Alex is on the phone, Susan,  
and others accompanying the caravan on a business trip. Bud  
is excited.

BUD

...Bluestar's an unpolished gem,  
Gordon, right out of the garbage. A  
half assed management being  
decimated by a price war they can't  
win. But the gates at LaGuardia  
alone can bail us out, it's worth  
25 bucks a share if it's worth a  
dime! They're ripe to fall.

Gekko, the poker player, hasn't seen enough cards.

GEKKO

Mixed emotions, Buddy: like Larry  
Wildman going off a cliff in my new  
Maserati. Men as smart as myself  
have got their asses handed to them  
on a sling with the airlines, fuel  
could go up, unions are killers...

BUD

Yeah aren't you forgetting  
something Gordon: rule one, capital  
reserves. This company has \$75  
million cash in an overfunded  
pension. That buys us a lot of  
credibility...  
(Gordon looks up, interested)  
...and the beauty is you already  
own close to two percent of this  
sucker...

ALEX

(interrupting, on the phone)  
Gordon, the insurance people are  
balking on the logging trucks...

GEKKO



Tell those spineless toads we'll self-insure if they don't write it... You fire 33 vice presidents and nothing changes...

(back to Bud)

You eating twinkies today, Bud, or are you schtupping some stewardess...

BUD

(deadly serious)

Gordon what I want--and I never asked you for anything--is to be your co-pilot on this. I want to take this airline, turn it around, and make it work. It's gonna make us a fortune!

GEKKO

(to Susan)

I'm talking to a stockbroker who wants to run an airline. It's gonna take me two years and 2000 headaches to turn Teldar Paper around, what do I need this dink airline for? I'm up to my ass in more nuts than a fruitcake.

BUD

Gordon, I worked at Bluestar, I know my way around, I have friends there...inside.

GEKKO

(getting the drift)

What does that mean?

BUD

(playing out his ace)

The three unions. It's 43% of Bluestar's operating budget, the hourly cost of a flight crew is \$850 an hour, that's the real hidden value G.G., if you can negotiate that out, get a crew down to \$350-400 an hour a run, this airline is gonna be the hottest thing since Texas Air...

GEKKO

What makes you think you can?

BUD

I can talk to these people Gordon, they trust me...and my father can be a big help in getting cuts.

GEKKO

(pause)  
Alright... Susan, get Buckingham on  
the box. I want him to look at it.  
And tell Jock Taylor at Thwick,  
Jensen...  
(smiles wickedly,  
back to Bud)  
So sport, the falcon has heard the  
falconer...tell me more...

INT. BUD'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Bud, in high gear, all smiles, expensive Armani suit, opens  
the door. His father stands before him, looking like a man  
on his way to the dentist.

BUD  
Dad, well come on in. Everybody's  
here. We couldn't start the show  
without you.

Wide-eyed, Carl follows Bud through the foyer, taking in the  
furnishings, paintings, antiques.

CARL  
(under his breath)  
Well I'll be a lousy Republican.

DARIEN  
(overhears him)  
I decorate for Democrats too, lots  
of them.  
(she extends her hand  
and gives him a warm smile)  
I'm Darien Taylor.

CARL  
(sardonically)  
I know. You're one of the art works  
that go with the apartment.  
(softens a little)  
Pretty creative. Doesn't look  
anything like the place my son  
bought a few months ago.

DARIEN  
Listen, I hope you'll come here  
often, and under less formal  
circumstances.

Halfway won over Carl enters the living room where Darien  
has set up a table with miniature gourmet pizza, etc. The  
atmosphere is strained, the camps separated. Gekko stands by  
the bar, conferring with his lawyer, Harold Salt. Darien  
walks over to the couch with drinks for the Ixtax Union  
Reps: DUNCAN WILMORE, ALPA Leader, a rugged silver-haired  
uniformed pilot; TONI CARPENTER, AFA Rep, hard looking,

40ish flight attendant.

BUD

Dad, you know Duncan Wilmore,  
pilot's union, and Toni Carpenter,  
flight attendants...

CARL

I met them before you were born.

They exchange nods.

BUD

And I'd like to introduce you to Mr.  
Gekko, and his lawyer, Mr. Salt.

GEKKO

A pleasure to meet you, Mr. Fox.

Carl stares at Gekko, sizing him up.

GEKKO

I'd be proud to have a son like Bud.  
He's got a great future ahead of him.

Carl looks to his fellow union representatives, then to Gekko.

CARL

(gesturing at Salt)  
I thought this was an informal  
meeting. What's he doing here?

GEKKO

(dismissing him)  
Harold, you don't mind strolling  
around the block a couple hundred  
times, do you?

HAROLD

(looks at his watch)  
Of course...

Salt gathers his jacket to leave, as Gekko and Carl eye one  
another, tentatively.

DARIEN

...please help yourselves to some  
food...

CUT TO:

The food is half consumed. Gekko addresses the union leaders.

GEKKO

Look, I have no illusions about  
winning a popularity contest with  
any of you. I was roasted the other

night, and a friend of mine asked--  
why are we honoring this man--have  
we run out of human beings?

His joke breaks the ice; they laugh, except for Carl.

GEKKO (CONT'D)

It's not always the most popular  
guy who gets the job done. You got  
losses of 20 to 30 million dollars,  
dividends cut to zero, you're  
getting squeezed to death by the  
majors. Present management may not  
be the worst scum of the earth, but  
they're the ones who've put you on  
a kamikaze course, and pretty soon  
everybody's going to be scrambling  
for the parachutes. Only there  
aren't enough to go around.  
Management has them. You don't. If  
they throw Bluestar into Chapter  
11--which I think they will--then  
they can use bankruptcy laws to  
break your unions and your  
contracts and throw you guys off  
the property.

We hear a loud crunching sound as Bud's father bites into a  
roll, glaring at Gekko.

WILMORE

(pilot)

With all due respect, Mr. Gekko,  
what's to prevent you from doing  
the same thing?

GEKKO

Cause I have a way around all this,  
a way we can all make money and  
make this airline profitable again.  
What do you say we cut to the chase.  
I'm asking for a modest twenty  
percent across-the-board wage cut.

Carl drops his fork on the plate. Gekko goes on.

GEKKO

And seven more hours a month.

Toni Carpenter and Duncan Wilmore exchange questionable looks.

CARPENTER

What kind of time frame are we  
talking about here?

GEKKO

Give me a year. If we're still

losing money, the reductions stand.  
If however, we move into the black,  
I return part of the givebacks,  
salaries go back to present levels,  
and...

(a beat)

we institute an employee profit  
sharing program with stock. You'll  
own part of the airline.

Carpenter and Wilmore react with surprise, it's obvious they weren't expecting the profit sharing part. Bud smiles at Darien and looks to his father, who examines a sushi roll before putting it back.

WILMORE

Are you prepared to put that in writing?

GEKKO

I'll have a letter of agreement drawn up within two days.

CARPENTER

What's your marketing strategy? How do you plan to return us to profitability?

GEKKO

Why don't I give Bud an opportunity to answer that.

Darien and Carl turn to Bud, who puts down his wine glass.

BUD

Thank you Mr. Gekko. First of all I want you to know my door will always be open to you cause I know from my Dad it's you guys that keep Bluestar flying. One -- Modernize. Our computer software is weak, we update it, we squeeze every dollar out of each seat and mile flown. You don't sell a seat to a guy for \$89 when he's willing to pay \$389. Effective inventory management through computerization will increase our load factor by 5 to 20%, that translates to approximately 50 to 200 million dollars in revenues; the point is, we can beat the majors at a price war. Two -- Advertising -- more, more, and aggressive, attack the majors. Three -- expand our hubs to Atlanta, North Carolina and Dallas, reorganize all our feeder schedules,

think Big -- guys, we're going  
after the majors!

The men are visibly shaken by Bud's determination.

GEKKO

(looking for reactions)  
Cards are on the table. What do you  
think?

WILMORE

(restrained, hopeful)  
If you mean what you say, I think  
we're in the ball park. I'll take  
it to my people.

CARPENTER

(approvingly)  
You've sketched some broad strokes.  
I'd like to see the fine print. But  
so far so good.

Gekko looks to Carl Fox who, putting down knife and fork,  
breaks his silence.

CARL

I guess if a man lives long enough,  
he gets to see everything. And I  
mean everything. What else do you  
have in your bag of tricks, Mr. Gekko?

Bud tenses, looking at his father. Gekko ignores the  
innuendo and replies softly.

GEKKO

Frankly, Carl, I can't see giving  
much more. If you have any  
suggestions I'll be glad to listen.

CARL

There came into Egypt a Pharoah who  
did not know.

GEKKO

(smiling)  
I beg your pardon. Is that a proverb?

CARL

(smiling)  
No, it's a prophecy. The rich have  
been doing it to the poor since the  
beginning of time. The only  
difference between the Pyramids and  
the Empire State Building is that  
the Egyptians didn't have unions.

(looking at Wilmore  
and Carpenter)

I know what this guy is about--  
greed--he's in and out for the buck  
and he don't take prisoners. He  
don't give a damn about Northstar  
or us ...

BUD

Now, wait a minute, Dad...

GEKKO

(shrugs, keeping his composure)  
Sure. What's worth doing is worth  
doing for money. It's a bad bargain  
where nobody gains. And if this  
deal goes through, we all gain.

Carl throws down his napkin, rises from the chair, looks at  
the others.

CARL

(looks at Bud)

'Course my son did work three  
summers as a baggage handler and  
freight loader. With those  
qualifications, why should I doubt  
his ability to run an airline?

There is frozen silence at the table.

GEKKO

Fine, if you don't want us, stay  
with the scum in present  
management--dedicated to running  
you and Bluestar into the ground.

CARL

...that "scum" built this company  
up from one plane in thirty years,  
they made something out of nothing,  
and if that's a scum I'll take one  
over a rat any day...

Carl turns and leaves. Bud glances at Gekko, reading his  
piercing look. He hurries after his father.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Bud catches up to Carl, waiting for the elevator, hammering  
him.

BUD

(seething)

Congratulations. You did a great  
job of embarrassing me in there--  
not to mention yourself! Save the  
"workers of the world unite" speech  
for next time Dad, I heard it too

much growing up. You're gonna get axed Dad, no two ways about it, you and the whole airline are going down the tubes, you hear me, just like Braniff, you don't have a chance in hell, and if it isn't Gekko it's gonna be some other killer.

INT. ELEVATOR - NIGHT

Carl steps into the elevator, Bud follows.

CARL

He's got your prick in his back pocket, son, and you're standing naked in the display window of Macy's. He's using you. Only you're too blind to see it.

BUD

No, what I see is a jealous old machinist who can't stand that his son's become more successful than himself.

CARL

What you see, son, is a man who never measured success by the size of a man's wallet.

BUD

That's because you never had the guts to go out into the world and stake your claim.

CARL

(lamentably)

Boy, if that's what you think, I must've really screwed up my job as a father.

INT. BUILDING LOBBY - NIGHT

Bud and Carl exit the elevator and head across the luxury lobby.

CARL (CONT'D)

...as far as being axed, I'm still here and as long as I am, I have a responsibility not just to me but to the union members I represent...

BUD

(pleading now)

Your responsibility, Dad, is to present the facts, not your opinions, to the men... you're



gonna destroy their lives, Dad!  
Don't do it to 'em. Give it a  
chance. Let the membership decide  
for themselves, Dad. Please.

CARL

I'll be damned that when my men  
come to me tomorrow morning,  
wanting to know what's going on,  
I'm going to lie to them!

BUD

Your men! All my life "your men"  
have been able to count on you? Why  
is it that you've never been there  
for me?

They head through the doors, out onto the street.

EXT. BUILDING - NIGHT

Bud following Carl.

BUD

And what if you're wrong? What if  
one day, the sun didn't rise in the  
East and birds didn't fly South in  
winter and for once in your life  
your compass was off? Huh?

He grabs Carl by the arm, stopping him.

BUD (CONT'D)

Would you be willing to wreck your  
men's future? My future? Please...  
Dad. Think. Be practical, for a  
change. I'm asking you, I'm fucking  
begging you...

Bud lets go of Carl's arm. Carl looks at his son, seeing the  
desperation. Sadness and confusion take hold of him.

CARL

I don't sleep with no whore and I  
don't wake up with no whore. That's  
how I live with myself, Buddy. I  
don't know how you do.

(a beat)

I hope I'm wrong, I'll let them  
decide for themselves, that much I  
promise you.

He walks away. Bud watches him go, knows he has won.

INT. BUD'S OFFICE - DAY

Bud, increasingly frazzled and determined, dark circles

under his eyes paces with the phone...

JANET

(his secretary)

Mr. Dixon Brandt on 3...

BUD

(wearily switching over)

What's up Dixon?

(stopping, focusing)

Calm down! What are you talking about?

INTERCUT TO:

INT. DIXON'S CABIN - ASPEN COLORADO - DAY

Dixon, the rich man's son and ski bum, is yelling on the other end of the line.

DIXON

...this guy who said he was from the Security Exchange Commission, whatever the hell that is, calls and wants to ask me about that stock I bought...

BUD

(nervous)

What'd you tell him?

DIXON

I told him I was in the bathroom and I'd call him right back. What the hell was I supposed to say Buddy, you got me into...

BUD

Look Dixon, calm down! It's not illegal to buy stock or to be right. And it's not all that unusual to be spot checked on a big buy. Tell him you did your homework and you thought the stock was a sound investment.

DIXON

What if he asks where I got the money?

BUD

Tell 'em your father gave it to you.

DIXON

What if they call him?

BUD

They won't. That's not their jurisdiction.

DIXON

You sure?

BUD

Yes! Read the Constitution, it's all in there. And remember--you don't know anything, nothing.

DIXON

I don't know anything!

BUD

Good. Then call him back. And call me back. Don't worry.

He hangs up, a worried expression, Marv entering to break his concentration.

MARV

Hey you hear the news. I just got a job at a new firm: "Dewey, Cheat 'em and Howe." Yuk yuk.

BUD

(icy)

Didn't I tell you to knock before you came in here?

MARV

Hey the door was open.

BUD

Then get out and close it behind you.

MARV

(pause)

You know what you need, buddy buddy--an optorectomy. That's when they cut the nerve that runs from your brain to your rectum--to change that shitty attitude of yours.

BUD

Get the hell out!

Marv slams the door on his way...

EXT. FEDERAL BUILDING - DOWNTOWN NEW YORK - DAY

Long shot of the towering stone structure. A tall angular figure crosses through the glass doors with a bulky folder under his arm...

INT. LOBBY - DAY

The man flashes his ID to a SECURITY GUARD who buzzes him

through the gate... He walks towards us and we see he is the familiar tall, baby-faced INVESTIGATOR from the S.E.C. Options Watch Office... he gets in an elevator.

INT. S.E.C. INVESTIGATION OFFICES - DAY

He walks into the office of a CHIEF INVESTIGATOR. A balding sharp-featured man in a drab suit with bags of hard work under his eyes looks up as the young investigator places the large file in front of him.

INT. ROGER BARNES' OFFICE - DAY

Bud enters, preoccupied. Barnes is nervous.

BUD

So what's the problem?

ROGER

(whispers)

...got a strange call from the SEC.  
They asked to see my records...  
Bud, this is a heavy...

BUD

(shrugs)

....Relax Roget  
(French pronunciation)  
You're 82M in the account numbers  
and I'm the Invisible Man...  
they're always looking for red  
flags, Gekko's always getting  
checked by them, they never come up  
with anything... we're invulnerable  
on this...

ROGER

Alright... I just wanna slow down  
Bud... no more calls for awhile, no  
lunches... we suspend our business,  
alright...

BUD

Sure Roger, whatever you want, it's  
cool.

A young lawyer pops his head in the room.

LAWYER

Rog, come on, bring the cost report.  
They started.

(exits)

ROGER

(standing, to Bud)

Gekko asked us into the Bluestar

deal. We're reviewing the timetables, wanna come?

BUD  
(surprised)  
He never told me...

ROGER  
You're just the President of the company, what do you know? ... Come on.

As they walk out.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Smoky, coffee cups and food. THREE LAWYERS, TWO INVESTMENT BANKERS, THREE COMMERCIAL BANKERS, sleeves rolled up, ties askew. A blackboard with Bluestar's assets diagrammed. A combat mood in the room. Bud walking in, feels vaguely worried, something is not quite right.

ROGER  
You guys know the new chief of Bluestar... Bud Fox.

They nod vaguely respectful but Bud's obviously a figure head to them, takes a seat off to the side. The bull-like INVESTMENT BANKER, Vietnam vet, in shirt and suspenders, is on the attack against the stuffier Commercial Bankers.

INVESTMENT BANKER  
Look guys, what's the problem, let's for the kill...Gekko's got 12% and climbing plus the unions are in his pocket for now, everybody on the street knows the stock's in play  
(overlapping voice:  
up 2 1/4 since the open)  
by next week the street's gonna own Bluestar and management won't be able to do anything but poison their own pill. Why are you guys dicking around? Is the bank financing in place or are we gonna have more and more meetings? Our firm's gonna guarantee 25% of the total debt structure in long-term junk bonds, now you guys either sign this piece of paper right now or we're gonna pull and head for another bank for the 75...

COMMERCIAL BANKER  
(older man, appeasing)  
...look, we have 30 banks ready to

participate in a 4 year revolving credit line but we have to have your assurance to pay back most of the loan in the first 6 months, and the only way...

INVESTMENT BANKER  
(intermittently interrupting)  
... 30 banks, isn't that wonderful...you got it, no problem.

COMMERCIAL BANKER  
(insistent)  
...and the only way we can see this happening is liquidating the hangars and the planes. Can you people guarantee that?

Bud freezes where he sits...it all comes crashing down in a milli-second on that word "liquidate" -- shock now spreading on Bud's face...

INVESTMENT BANKER  
Guaranteed! No sweat...we already got the Bleezberg brothers lined up to build condos where the hangars are, we can lay off the planes with Mexicana, who are dumb enough to buy 'em and Texas Air is drooling at my kneecaps to get the slots and the routes. What's the problem? it's done..

ROGER  
(passing a paper to  
the commercial banker)  
This is the pricetag on the 737s, the gates, the hangars, the routes, we got it all nailed right down to the typewriters...

Bud sits there numbly, a sickening feeling taking hold of him as the camera and music track and trap him tighter and tighter. The lawyers' voices distorting in the background.

INVESTMENT BANKER  
...'course the beauty of it is the overfunded pension fund. Gekko gets the 75 million in there. Fifty million buys him the minimum annuities for 6,000 employees and he walks away with the rest. All in, he'll net 60 to 70 million. Not bad for a month's work.  
(to Bud)  
Your man did his homework, Fox, you're gonna have the shortest

executive career since the Pope who  
got poisoned...now he'll really  
start believing he's "Gekko the  
Great."

INT. RECEPTION AREA - GEKKO'S OFFICE - DAY

Bud walks intently past the receptionist and down the long  
white marble hall.

INT. NATALIE'S DESK - DAY

Natalie is on the phone. Bud marches past her desk.

NATALIE

Yes, he wants to change that  
appointment to...

(cupping the receiver)

Bud--you can't go in there. He's in  
a meeting!

He ignores her and throws open Gekko's door.

INT. GEKKO'S OFFICE - DAY

Gekko is talking with the LAWYERS and BANKERS from the  
Bluestar deal, as Bud barges in.

GEKKO

(looks up)

I didn't know we had a meeting  
schedule for this morning.

BUD

I'm sorry, this can't wait.

Gekko stares at him with piercing eyes.

GEKKO

Will you gentlemen excuse us for a  
few minutes?

The lawyers and bankers get up and discreetly leave the room.  
Gekko waits for them to go, turns back to Bud.

GEKKO

What the hell do you want?

BUD

I found out about the garage sale  
down at Bluestar. Why?

Gekko is taken by surprise.

GEKKO

Last night I read Rudy the story of  
Winnie the Pooh and the Honey pot.

Know what happened: he stuck his nose in that honey pot once too often and got stung.

BUD

Maybe you ought to read him Pinocchio. You told me you were going to turn Bluestar around. Not upside down. You used me.

GEKKO

You're walking around blind without a cane, sport. A fool and his money are lucky to get together in the first place.

BUD

Why do you need to wreck this company?

GEKKO

Because it's wreckable. I took another look and I changed my mind.

BUD

If these people lose their jobs, nowhere to go. My father worked at Bluestar for twenty-four years. I gave 'em my word.

GEKKO

(hard)

It's all about bucks, kid, the rest is conversation...

(loosening)

Bud, you're still going to be president. And when the time comes, you'll parachute out a rich man. With the money you're going to make, your father won't have to work another day in his life.

BUD

Tell me, Gordon--when does it all end? How many yachts can you waterski behind? How much is enough?

GEKKO

Buddy, it's not a question of enough. It's a zero sum game, sport. Somebody wins and somebody loses. Money itself isn't lost or made, it's simply transferred from one perception to another. Like magic. That painting cost \$60,000 10 years ago. I could sell it today for \$600,000. The illusion has become real. And the more real it becomes,



the more desperately they want it.  
Capitalism at its finest.

BUD

(again)

How much is enough Gordon?

GEKKO

The richest one percent of this country owns half the country's wealth: 5 trillion dollars. One third of that comes from hard work, two thirds of it comes from inheritance, interest on interest accumulation to widows and idiot sons and what I do -- stock and real estate speculation. It's bullshit. Ninety percent of the American people have little or no net worth. I create nothing; I own. We make the rules, Buddy, the news, war, peace, famine, upheaval; the cost of a paper clip.

(picking one up)

We pull the rabbit out of the hat while everybody else sits around their whole life wondering how we did it...

(crosses to Bud)

...you're not naive enough to think we're living in a democracy are you, Buddy? It's the free market. You're one of us now...take advantage of it. You got the killer instinct, kid, stick with me. I got things to teach you...

BUD

Obviously...

As he puts his arm around Bud, leading him to the door.

GEKKO

Believe me, Buddy, I was gonna discuss this with you at the right time. Look, why don't you calm down and come to the apartment for dinner tonight. Bring Darien...

BUD

(at the door,  
confused, drained)

...I can't make it tonight.

GEKKO

Are you with me Buddy?

At the door, a look of unmistakable power...and danger.

GEKKO

I want you with me.  
(waits)

BUD

I'm with you Gordon...

He walks out the door, the misery he is in washing his brow.

GEKKO

(to Natalie)  
...be another minute, Natalie.

As he crosses back to the coffee table and punches up a phone number.

GEKKO

This is Gordon Gekko. Now...  
(a beat, with  
controlled rage)  
I want zip-locked mouths on  
Bluestar, or I'm gonna personally  
come down there and rip out your  
fucking throats!

EXT. GEKKO OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Bud walks out, heading up the street, absent amid the scurrying mid-day hordes tearing up the street for the loot inside.

EXT. BUD'S CONDO - DAY

Darien approaches, carrying groceries, enters the building.

INT. BUD'S CONDO - DAY

Bud is slumped on the couch, a spent bottle of tequila in front of him. Outside the twilight is quickening into night, shadows, scurrying across the unlit room... for the first time we see him sucking on a cigarette.

Darien opens the door and freezes, surveying the living room. A broken vase on the carpet, a curtain ripped off a window, a painting upended, a chair overturned, selected but not frenzied damage...

DARIEN

Bud?...What's going on?

She puts down the grocery bags, frightened.

BUD

I've been played like a grand-

piano--by the master, Gekko the Great...and today was the big crash. Liquidation sale. He's gonna carve Bluestar into little pieces and sell it all off...

Darien registering this, is picking up pieces of the broken vase.

DARIEN

I'm sorry. I was afraid something like this could happen.

BUD

Talk about being bent over the sink of life and being dry humped. I handed it to him on a silver platter. I told my father and those people...

DARIEN

Buddy, it's not your fault, and it's not your decision.

BUD

(evenly)

I'm not gonna let it happen Darien.

She stops, lights a cigarette, growing concern.

DARIEN

Don't cross Gordon. He'll crush you. You've worked hard to get where you are. If Gordon doesn't buy Bluestar someone else will; and who's to say they won't do the same thing.

BUD

At least I wouldn't be pulling the trigger.

She sighs...comes over, tries to shake some sense into him!

DARIEN

Are you mad! Why are you doing this! We're so close, the town is going to be ours. Don't throw away your future Bud!

BUD

I can stay with the brokerage firm. And you're doing fine. We can survive without Gordon Gekko.

DARIEN

(pointed)

I'm not looking to just survive.

I've been doing that all my life.

BUD

(getting the drift)

What the hell's that supposed to mean?

Darien moves out from his approximate circle, wrestling with what she wants to say...until she turns and says it.

DARIEN

That if you make an enemy of Gordon Gekko, I won't be there to stand by you.

Bud is stunned...and hurt.

BUD

You really mean that?

(lashing out)

What'd he promise you? To take you public? I guess without Gordon's money and seal of approval, I'm not such a hot investment anymore. You're just the best money can buy, Darien...

DARIEN

You're not exactly pure Bud, you went after Gekko with the same vengeance you went after me. Look in the mirror before...

BUD

(glaring at her)

I'm looking...and I sure don't like what I see.

She collects her things and walks to the door.

DARIEN

Fair enough...but it's not that simple, Bud. When I was down and had nothing, it was Gordon who helped me. He got me all my clients -- you among them...

(snaps her fingers)

and he can take it away like that.

(a beat)

You may find out one day -- that when you've had money and lost it, it's worse than never having had it at all.

Bud steps across to her in a rage.

BUD

That's bullshit! Step out that

door, I'm changing the locks.

She opens the door saddened.

DARIEN

You may not believe this Bud but I really do care for you. I think we could've made a good team...but that's how it goes...

BUD

Get the hell out!

She does. Bud stares at the closed door, mute, numb, totally devastated.... the loss is not just Darien, it is total... He looks at his face in the reflection of a wall mirror...

INT. BUD'S APARTMENT - CORRIDOR - DAY

Waiting for the elevator. Darien also looks at herself a beat in the hall mirror. She's crying. Then she steels herself and enters the elevator.

INT. BUD'S CONDO - DAY

The same realtor, SYLVIE DRIMMER, who sold him the place, is back. The phone is ringing, unanswered...

SYLVIE

...well, the market's dead, hon, even the rich are bitching, nothing's moving except termites and cockroaches, and with my commission being what it is...

BUD

(cutting her off)

Save the rap, just sell it -- fast!

He's in his socks, unshaven, smoking, he looks like he's been on a bender for the weekend. The phone stops ringing. He turns and walks into the bedroom, slamming the door behind him.

INT. BUD'S OFFICE - DAY

Bud walks in, a different, more serious look in his eye, purposeful. Past CAROLYN and JANET at the outer desk. They stop what they're doing and look up at him surprised.

CAROLYN

Bud! Where you been the last two days?

BUD

(ignoring the tone in her voice)

...Janet get my father on the phone

and the two other union reps,  
urgent...

He notices her face, something's wrong.

JANET

Your mom just called, Mr. Fox. Your  
father... he...

BUD

(sensing it)  
What! What happened?!

CAROLYN

He had a heart attack, hon, but  
he's okay, he's at the hospital...

BUD

(runs out)  
Oh Christ!

INT. BUD'S BMW - DAY

Bud weaving fast through traffic.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Bud races past the nurses' desks and down the hallway.

EXT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Bud's MOTHER is outside with Dominick Amato and another  
neighbor just visiting, bringing candies.

BUD

(lighting a cigarette)  
Mom! How is he?

MOM

(shaken)  
...he was complaining about chest  
pains at work. Next thing I know he  
collapsed... Oh Buddy, talk to him,  
he's so stubborn.

AMATO

(to Bud)  
...don't worry, he's got another 20  
years in him. He's a tough ol' nut,  
your Dad...

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

The blinds are drawn. His Dad lies there, tubes down his  
nose, hooked up to an IV unit and monitors. Bud comes over.  
Carl, glassy-eyed, significantly frailer, nods to him. It's  
obvious that more damage was done than Bud expected. Mom

comes into the room with him, stands there.

BUD

Hiya Dad...

(sits, smiles)

What was it? Mom talked too much or was it her spaghetti? I mean pasta...

(Mom bringing a

handkerchief to her eyes)

I told you never to lift a 747 by yourself...

Carl, smiles weakly, on pain killers. Bud pulls out a cigarette. He fumbles with it before putting it away, trying to keep a gruff tone between them.

BUD

...you even got me smoking now...second one Dad, you're pushing your luck, I guess you know that...I guess you gotta pull through this one Dad...for mom, for me...I guess I never told you but...I love you Dad, I love you more than I ever.

(begins to weep)

...I didn't mean those things I said to you...you're a hero all the way Dad, you're a rock...the best.

The words seem to come flowing out of Bud as Carl's eyes fill with tears.

BUD

...and you were right about Gekko. He's one son of a bitch...through and through.

Carl stares at him, beginning to understand.

BUD (CONT'D)

He's gonna break up Bluestar.

Carl reacts violently in his eyes but Bud soothes him...in dead earnest, trying to be deliberate and clear in his meaning.

BUD (CONT'D)

...but I gotta plan Dad, it can work, I can save the airline, I know you got no reason to believe me but I want you to trust me...I need to talk to the unions...Can I speak for you?

Carl's eyes.

BUD (CONT'D)  
Your words, not mine...

CARL  
(weakly)  
You speak for me, son.

INT. AUCTION ROOM - DAY

Gekko and Darien are seated together in the back row. Darien looks serious and distracted in spite of all the excitement going on around her. It is the big spring Impressionist sale and all the major players, or their representatives are here. Gekko is bidding.

GEKKO  
Look over there sunshine. I'm up  
against Richard Feigen.

He is on a roll, electric. As the price mounts and surpasses the two million dollar mark, Gekko rises and walks down the side aisle to the front, never taking his eyes away from the auctioneer. He stands aggressively, arms akimbo, in a nose to nose confrontation.

AUCTIONEER  
Once, twice, three times. Sold to  
Mr. Gordon Gekko.

EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF AUCTION HOUSE - DAY

They walk the sunny streets, a jubilant Gekko, savoring his triumph, grabs Darien's arm.

GEKKO  
What do you say we go get a suite  
at the Carlyle? Caviar? Champagne?  
Celebrate, just like the old times  
Sunshine.

DARIEN  
(indignantly)  
Those days are over, Gordon. They  
were over a long time ago.

GEKKO  
(condescendingly but  
paying little  
attention to the rebuff)  
Can't blame me for trying. You look  
as beautiful as that painting I  
just bought.

He pats her on the back in a proprietary fashion.

GEKKO (CONT'D)  
(mockingly)



So what's the problem Sunshine? You look like Black Thursday. Bad case of puppy love?

DARIEN

(indignant)

It's not puppy love, Gordon.  
Anyway, Buddy and I are splitting up.

GEKKO

(off handed)

Sorry to hear that. I thought the kid had staying power.

DARIEN

It's over you, Gordon.

GEKKO

(cooly)

You told him about us?

DARIEN

No, are you crazy? And I don't want him ever to know. Do you understand?...

She moves closed and takes Gordon's hand.

DARIEN (CONT'D)

I want to ask you a big favor, Gordon. Please drop the Bluestar deal.

GEKKO

(stroking her face)

Now tell me, why would I want to do that?

DARIEN

Because I don't want to see him hurt.

GEKKO

Don't worry Sunshine. Bud and I had a little talk. We came to an understanding.

(takes her hand paternally)

I want you to go back to him. Soothe him. Help keep his head straight. Okay?

DARIEN

I can't...and I won't.

GEKKO

Come on, we both like Buddy. But this bleeding heart puppy love act is over the top... It doesn't fit.

DARIEN

Maybe it does. Don't patronize me  
Gordon.

GEKKO

You and I are the same, Darien.  
We're smart enough not to buy into  
the oldest myth running: love... A  
fiction created by people who got  
nothing to keep them from jumping  
out of windows.

DARIEN

You're really twisted, Gordon.  
You're incapable of giving to  
anybody because deep down inside  
you there's a poverty that every  
last dollar in the world won't fill.

GEKKO

Ooh ooh, tough talk from a scared  
little girl all wrapped in a pretty  
grown-up package. Does this mean  
you're ready to cut the umbilical  
cord and step out into the world on  
your own? Because, Darien, if  
you're through with me, you're  
through with everything I'm a part of.

Darien's eyes cloud over...the look of a scared child being  
banished by her father. Then...

DARIEN

I know...but maybe, just maybe  
Gordon, I'm good enough so I don't  
need you anymore.

She walks away.

INT. MCGREGOR'S BAR - QUEENS - DAY

Bud is seated at a corner table with the BLUESTAR UNION  
REPS: Duncan Wilmore, ALPA LEADER and Toni Carpenter, AFA  
rep; also jointed by machinists, Dominick Amato and Charley  
Dent, sitting in for his father's union.

BUD

...the stock's at 19 1/4 and it's  
going up. Gekko figures by breaking  
up Bluestar, it's worth at least  
\$30 a share. That means he'll buy  
up to 23 or 24 and still think he's  
making money.

WILMORE

How do you know that the stock is  
going to go up?

BUD  
(pointedly)  
You really don't want to know any more than that, Mr. Wilmore. Let's just say I have some friends.

WILMORE  
(getting his drift)  
Okay. What happens then?

BUD  
When the stock hits 23, you guys go to Gekko and lower the boom. Once he learns he has no union concession, he's going to head for the hills. He'll sell everything he's got.

CARPENTER  
Yeah. But who's going to buy then and what's to prevent another shark from coming along and devouring us?

INT. WILDMAN BUILDING - FIFTH AVENUE APARTMENT - DAY

Bud, Duncan Wilmore, Toni Carpenter, Dominick and Charley, an unlikely looking group in the plushness of the apartment lobby.

BUD  
We have an appointment to see Mr. Wildman.

INT. WILDMAN APARTMENT - DAY

Lofty windows overlooking the Park, an impeccably-decorated apartment with coffee and rolls laid out, a young AIDE quietly moving around. Bud and the others are on sofas around the imposing figure of Wildman in a chair across.

BUD  
Sir Lawrence, what would you say to owning Bluestar Airlines with union concessions--at \$18 a share...and in the process hanging Gordon Gekko out in the wind to twist.... ?

Sir Lawrence leans back in his chair, equably...

WILDMAN  
I might be very interested, but why? Why you mate -- how'd you get mixed up with Gekko? He doesn't know the difference between raiding and insider trading. I do. The SEC does. I hope you do...

BUD

Let's just say Mr. Gekko and I have  
a conflict of interest. I want to  
see this airline work...

(pointing to the  
documents in front of Wildman)  
...the figures here show it can.

WILDMAN

(to the others)  
... and you're prepared to take  
these large salary cuts.

WILMORE

...we are. But we want a contract  
agreement -- iron-clad -- that if  
you buy it, you can't break it up.

WILDMAN

(hands behind his head)  
I'm still listening...

INT. BUD'S OFFICE - DAY

Bud hurries in, past Marv on the phone with an irate customer.

MARV

Well, if that's how you feel--the  
hell with you too. And strong  
letter to follow.

He slams the phone down.

BUD

You don't have to agree with me,  
Marv; but I think I've been a bit  
of a schmuck lately.  
(beat, waits)

MARV

(off the cuff)  
I agree. Go thou and sin no more.

BUD

I want to make it up to you.  
Bluestar, put all your clients in it.

MARV

(animated, grabs the phone)  
Thanks, buddy, buddy, I'm back.  
Say, Buddy, those optorectomies do  
work wonders.

Bud intersecting Lou Mannheim smoking a cigarette and having  
a hard time walking.

BUD  
Bluestar, Mr. Mannheim. Put all  
your clients in it.

Davls looks gravely at Bud.

MANNHEIM  
I don't know where you get your  
information, son, but I don't like  
it. The only reason I'm gonna do it  
is...I need the money, that's the  
problem with money--it makes you do  
things you don't want to do.

Bud hears him, walks on...

MARV  
(into phone)  
Miss Bloom, Marvin. You got cancer  
in your portfolio, but I got the  
cure...Bluestar Airlines...

INT. BUD'S OFFICE - DAY

Bud on the phone, checking his quotron.

BUD  
Listen I need a favor and it's a  
quick scalp for you. Two hundred  
thousand at 19 1/2; can you  
position it in one of your equity  
funds?

JANET  
(voicebox)  
...call waiting on 7.

BUD  
Hold on...  
(switches over, hushed)  
...listen "blue horseshoe loves  
Bluestar Airlines"...

Immediately goes back to the other line.

INT. THE WALL STREET JOURNAL OFFICES - DAY

The REPORTER, who Bud anonymously called on the earlier  
Anacott Steel buy, hangs up. He rises from his desk and  
crosses the busy news floor, over to his EDITOR.

WSJ REPORTER  
Bluestar's in play.

INT. NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE - DAY

A RUNNER dashes up to the BLUESTAR AIRLINES post, where a heated crowd is gathered, amidst heavy trading. He elbows his way over to a TRADER, handing him the ticket. The TRADER holds up the buy order, screaming, making frantic hand signals, in search of a seller. Faces in the crowd look up at the broad tape.

CAMERA TILTS TO:

BLUESTAR (BST), the stock quote flashing across the BROAD TAPE--upticking to 20 1/4.

INT. BROKERAGE OFFICE - DAY

Marv, on the phone pitching, eyes glued to the office TAPE--as BST jumps to 21 1/4.

MARV

I love it...I do love it so!

INT. BUD'S OFFICE - DAY

The quotron now climbs to 22 1/8!

BUD

(into phone)

Yeah. I see it at 22 1/8 and I don't know what to make of it.

INT. GEKKO'S OFFICE - DAY

He paces on the other end of the phone, real anger showing; now Alex and Susan seen in b.g.

GEKKO

The word's out. Your union buddies are talking. Get me in at a 45 degree angle and I mean all the way in! Slash and burn, buy everything you can get up to 22. Then call me. When I get the sonofabitch who leaked this I'm gonna kill him! I'm gonna tear his eyeballs out, I'm gonna suck his skull!!

As he glances at his quotron the stock ticks up another 1/8th.

INT. BUD'S OFFICE - DAY

All the BROKERS have jumped into the action, avidly watching Bluestar's stock climb on the BROAD TAPE. Bud sweeps into the room and looks up at the board as the stock hits 22 7/8.

MARV

The stock's going to Pluto!

BUD

Start unloading.

MARV

Sell?

BUD

Now! Tell everyone to dump!

Marv nods, and rushes away. Bud crosses past Mannheim's office.

BUD

Get out of Bluestar!

In background Marv is spreading the word, brokers frantically grabbing phones, calling clients to sell.

INT. GEKKO'S OFFICE - DAY

Gekko looks up from his quotron and shouts to his troops on the phones.

GEKKO

Who the hell's out there? What are the arbs saying? It's gotta be a big hitter.

ALEX

They don't know what's going on!

SUSAN

Everybody and his mother is buying!

Natalie enters the room, flustered.

NATALIE

Mr. Gekko, there's a whole bach of people from Bluestar Airlines outside demanding to see you.

GEKKO

What the hell do they want?

WILMORE (O.S.)

I'd be happy to tell you.

As Duncan, Toni Carpenter, Dominick Amato, Charley Dent and SEVERAL other assorted UNION MEMBERS march into the room. Gekko is taken by surprise, but stays calm.

WILMORE

We know what you're up to, Gekko,  
and let me tell you this from here,  
(hits his heart)  
you suck eggs, mister, over my dead  
body you ain't gonna break up  
Bluestar.

GEKKO

You guys must know something nobody else knows. If those are my plans, it's the first I've heard of it.

CARPENTER

Would you care to put that in writing?

GEKKO

I'd like to remind you we already have an agreement, which I expect you to honor.

WILMORE

Well in that case, I hope you have your pilot's license.

AMATO

Don't worry, Gekko, we wouldn't let the engines fall out of the plane.

CARPENTER

(regretfully)

But the reservations systems can get awfully screwed up, if we're not paying attention.

CHARLEY DENT

And a lot of baggage headed to St. Petersburg could easily find its way to Pittsburgh.

GEKKO

Listen, you clowns, there's somebody else out there trying to buy your airline, if you want to be Pac-manned and gobbled by Atilla the Hun be my guest!

WILMORE

We'll take our chances.

(tips his hat)

Nice to see you again, Mr. Gekko.

They file out of the room. The phone lines have lit up like a Christmas tree. Alex answers a call.

ALEX

(to Gekko)

Fox says Bluestar just hit 23. What do you want him to do?

GEKKO

(fractional pause, mad)

Sell it all.

(then, evenly)

What the hell, so I'll only make



ten million.

INT. BUD'S OFFICE - DAY

Bud switches lines from Gekko to Larry Wildman.

BUD

Gekko's on the ropes--he's trying to sell, but there's not many takers, the stock's plummeting.

EXT. WILDMAN'S YACHT - DAY

Wildman is off the Long Island Sound waters in his boat lighting a cigar. Two beautiful women and an aide are with him.

WILDMAN

Well then... guess I'll have to carry him a few rounds before he drops.

Switches lines, checking his quotron...

WILDMAN

Bluestar. Don't make a big deal. Buy it lightly on the way down. (emphatically) When it hits 18--buy it all.

INT. NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE FLOOR - DAY

Wildman's broker takes the order with a curt "got it" and dashes out of the cubicle over to the Bluestar post where a chaotic crowd is gathered, traders frantically screaming to sell Bluestar shares. He looks at the Big Board--sees an XTR drop to 17. When he raises his hand to buy, he is mobbed.

DISSOLVE TO:

The Big Board...a series of snappy dissolves accompanied by lively music shows the stock price falling to 16 1/2 ...

INT. GEKKO'S OFFICE - DAY

Alex, Ollie, Susan on the phones.

OLLIE

The arbs are getting killed. Where'd the buyers go!

ALEX

(worried)

We're being devoured, Gordon.

Harold Salt, walking on egg shells, looks to Gekko, who sits with the phone receiver crooked to his neck.

HAROLD

There's got to be a way out of  
this, Gordon.

GEKKO

(livid, losing it)

Yeah, Harold, why don't you dial  
911.

(into the receiver)

Fox, where the hell are you? I'm  
losing millions.

(a beat)

Look, you got me into this airline,  
and you damn well better get me out.  
Because if you don't the only job  
you're going to get on the Street  
is sweeping it! You hear me, Fox--

INTERCUT TO:

INT. BUD'S OFFICE - DAY

Bud scribbling an order ticket, replies on the other end.

BUD

(hard)

You once told me don't get  
emotional about stock. Gordon,  
don't. The bid is 17 and going down.  
As your broker, I advise you to  
take it.

Bud moves the phone away from his ear, at Gekko's cursing,  
and signs the ticket.

BUD

(urgent)

Gordon, it's two minutes to close.  
What do you want to do?! Decide.

GEKKO

(a long beat)

Dump it.

Bud hangs up and rushes off with the ticket.

INT. GEKKO'S DEN - NEW YORK APARTMENT - TWILIGHT

The 35" television is on to:

NEWSCASTER

The big Wall Street story tonight  
is the roller coaster ride of  
Bluestar Airlines. Fueled by  
takeover rumors, the stock soared  
to an all-time high of 24 1/8. Then  
when contradictory rumors later

surfaced that the takeover was unfounded, buyers went running for cover, and the stock plummeted on gigantic volume to as low as 16 1/2 before closing at 17.

Camera discovers Gekko sitting, grimly watching the report. Rudy seen riding his toy car in background.

NEWSCASTER

...but then tonight, amidst all the scuttlebutt, another rumble shook  
(a beat)

According to many sources, raider Sir Lawrence Wildman has stepped in and bought a substantial block of Bluestar and is going to announce a deal tomorrow at 18 that includes the support of the unions.

Camera now tracks in close on Gekko as he absorbs the unexpected blow. O.S. Rudy yelling and squealing. Gekko leans back, putting the pieces together, his eyes narrowing into burning slits. He smashes the glass cocktail table with a massive paperweight as Kate hears it, shocked.

EXT. WALL STREET - MORNING

People rushing to work. Bud crosses the street, his face buried in The Financial Times. Insert: "SIR LAWRENCE WILDMAN MOUNTS BLUESTAR BUY WITH UNION SUPPORT".

Satisfied, Bud folds the paper and heads into his office building.

INT. BUD'S OFFICE - DAY

He walks past Carolyn the receptionist who is strangely mute...

BUD

Smile, Carolyn, there's justice in the world...

INT. MAIN OFFICE - DAY

He passes the CHINESE STOCKLADY. She sees him and manages to look away. Marvin exchanges a look with him but can't bring himself to talk. Bud wonders...the whole office seems silent, the other BROKERS stealing glances.

...as he passes Lou Mannheim with Charlie Cushing, who ignores Bud...

BUD

How's it going Mr. Mannheim? Got out of Bluestar in time I hope?

Mannheim stops, winds up. Bud impatient but polite.

MANNHEIM

(with gruff affection)

Bud I like you, just remember something. Man looks in the abyss, there's nothing staring back at him. At that time a man finds his character--and that is what keeps him out of the abyss...

(a beat, looks deeply)

BUD

I think I understand what you mean Mr. Mannheim.

But not really. As, on this increasingly strange morning, he moves on past Janet who wants to tell his something but he cuts her off.

BUD

Get my father will you Janet?

INT. BUD'S OFFICE - DAY

As Bud walks in, the camera glides to reveal the young SEC INVESTIGATOR, who has been tracking Buddy, going through his files. A SECOND MAN, PATTERSON, is standing behind the desk using the phone as a bored-looking 3RD MAN and POLICEMAN stand off to the side with Hieronymus Lynch, who gives Bud a withering glance.

PATTERSON

(into phone)

He just came in. I'll talk to you later.

On Bud--a struck-dumb look passing to resignation, as if for a long time now, he has been expecting this.

BUD

I guess you're not here to open an IRA.

PATTERSON

Mr Fox, I'm Henry Patterson from the Postal Inspection Service... this is Evan Morrissey with The Securities and Exchange Investigation Office.

(presents his ID and indicates MAN 3)

... Mr. Ebanhopper from the US Attorney's Office.

MORRISSEY

Mr. Fox, you're under arrest for  
conspiracy to commit securities  
fraud and for violating the Insider  
Trader's Sanction Act.

The handcuffs come out.

EXT. SHEEPSMEADOW - CENTRAL PARK - TWILIGHT

Long shot. Activity is winding down, a few sunbathers  
collecting their blankets. A solitary figure stands on a  
hill silhouetted by the sunset. A second figure appears on a  
footpath and starts climbing the hill towards the other man.

Gekko waits, expressionless... Bud approaches him. They  
stand facing each other.

GEKKO

Hello Bud.

BUD

Gordon.

GEKKO

You sandbagged me on Bluestar.

(smiles)

I guess you think you taught the  
teacher a lesson, that you can make  
the tail wag the dog, huh?

Bud looks away. Gekko's smile fades.

GEKKO (CONT'D)

Well let me cue you in: the ice is  
melting under your feet sport...

Without warning, he grabs Buddy roughly by the lapels and  
lets out his inner rage with a series of smacks and slaps  
across his face.

GEKKO (CONT'D)

You think you could've gotten this  
far this fast with anybody else?  
You think you could be out there  
dicking somebody like Darien? No,  
you'd be cold calling dentists and  
widows to buy twenty shares of some  
dog stock! I took you in! A nobody!  
I opened doors for you!...I showed  
you how the system works!...

Gekko slapping him harder and harder, Buddy staggering with  
the blows, saying nothing, not defending himself.

GEKKO (CONT'D)

...the value of information! How  
you get it! Anacott Steel, Brant

Resources, Transuniversal, Fulham Oil. And this is how you pay back, you cockroach! I gave you Darien, I gave you your manhood. I gave you everything.

He backhands Bud across the face. Bud lies on the ground, spent, as is Gordon breathing hard. Bud gets to his knees, blood streaming from his nose, his suit muddied. Passersby look on, wondering.

Gekko seems to relent, the rage going into hurt, remorse. He hands Bud a handkerchief. Bud staunches the flow of blood from his nose.

GEKKO (CONT'D)

(softly, innocently)

You could've been one of the great ones Bud...I look at you and see myself...Why?

Bud looks at Gordon, torn by mixed emotions: the bonds they share and the betrayal wrought.

BUD

(shakes his head, thoughtfully)

I don't know. My Dad once told me, "money is something you need in case you don't die tomortow." I guess I realized I'm just Bud Fox. And as much as I wanted to be Gordon Gekko--I'll always be Bud Fox.

He looks at Gordon, as if wanting to say more, but doesn't.

In long shot, Gordon stands alone as Bud walks away.

EXT. TAVERN ON THE GREEN RESTAURANT - EVENING

The DOORMAN looks askance. Bud, mud-splattered suit and bloody nose, walks straight past him thru the door.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Several well-heeled DINERS look up from their haute cuisine, at the sight of Bud making his way toward the men's room.

INT. MEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Tight on Bud, staring at his reflection in the mirror, as he unbuttons his shirt, revealing adhesive tape swathed across his chest. Camera paces back as he winces when...

MORRISSEY and AGOSTINI, the two investigators, rip the tape off his chest, retrieving a small tape recorder. Morrissey of the S.E.C. rewinds the cassette. We hear Gekko's voice being played back on the tape, the mention of their deals.

MORRISSEY

You did the right thing, Bud.

Bud looks searchingly in the mirror. Faint CLICKING NOISE comes up over the shot.

INT. BUD'S OFFICE - DAY

CLICKING of the Broad Tape grows LOUDER. Shots of Lou Mannheim, Lynch, Marv; silently looking up at the green fluorescent print-out.

THE TAPE--THE U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TODAY ANNOUNCED CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST CORPORATE RAIDER GORDON GEKKO AND STOCK BROKER BUD FOX, FOR CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT SECURITIES FRAUD, TAX EVASION, VIOLATIONS OF SECURITY ACTS, AND MAIL FRAUD...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CARL FOX'S HOUSE - QUEENS - DAY

Carl, dressed in a suit and tie, sits at the dining table, finished breakfast plates in front of him, refilling his coffee cup. Mom clearing off the table, anxious...

As Bud walks in, wearing a suit and tie. He looks tired, beaten, the eyes lifeless, in a dark mood.

MOM

(disapproving)

...don't wear that tie Buddy, it...

She cuts off on Bud's look.

CARL

Another cup of coffee?

BUD

No, thanks, I'm nervous enough.

CARL

(checks his watch)

I guess it's time to hit the road.

BUD

Yeah, don't want to be late for my own funeral.

INT. CARL FOX'S SEDAN - LOWER MANHATTAN - DAY

Driving towards the Federal Courtrooms in Lower Manhattan. Busy traffic all around.

CARL

(supportively)

...you told the truth, you gave the money back. All things considered-- in this cockamamie world--you're shooting par...

MOM

...you helped save the airline and the people at the airline are gonna remember you for it.

CARL

...if I was you, I'd think about that Bluestar job Wildman's offered you...

BUD

Dad, I'm going to jail and you know it.

CARL

(shaking his head, sober)  
Maybe that's the price, Bud, maybe so. It's gonna be rough on you but maybe in some screwed up way, that's the best thing that can happen to you...stop trading for the quick buck and go produce something with your life, create, don't live off the buying and selling of others...

MOM

...you can do it, Bud, once you set your mind to something, I believe you can do anything in the world...

Bud stares ahead, registering it.

CARL

(nods, then)

...got any friends gonna be there?

As he pulls the car into the curb. The Federal Building, in approaching POV, looms large before them.

BUD

(looks around, ironic)

Like who? Who really wants to know a convicted felon...I don't even like myself.

Carl knows something Bud doesn't...

Darien is standing there waiting as they approach the main entrance... Bud seeing her, suddenly stunned. His POV-- easing along the curb.



CARL

So, why don't you get out here and  
go in with your friend, I'll park  
the car. Try to be cool, okay?

A last look with his father.

EXT. CURBSIDE - FEDERAL BUILDING - LOWER MANHATTAN - DAY

Bud getting out...crossing to Darien. A pause.

DARIEN

(nervous)

Hi.

BUD

Why?

DARIEN

I figure a guy who's made some  
mistakes should be able to  
understand a girl who's made some  
of her own...

Bud looking at her, moves closer, longing and hope and  
happiness have returned to his dull eyes... and forgiveness,  
the greatest of all.

They embrace. Bud will never know about her past, nor need  
he. The camera leaving them on a slanting, circular crane,  
lifting past the Federal Building to a panorama of Wall  
Street in all its icy magisterial splendor...and thus ends  
our tale.

THE END