

YOUNG MONEY

Written by

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Inspired by the book "Young Money" written by Kevin Roose

December 12th, 2018

TEASER

EXT. MUMBAI STREETS - EARLY MORNING

Present day. The darting POV of someone running down the street. We're looking for a way out. Panicked squalls of breath fill our ears and chest.

POV belongs to AVNI BALL (23, Indian, first-generation American, female) brilliant with the soul of Joey Ramone. Equal parts acerbic and charming, she's pretty but that's the least interesting thing about her. Case in point: she must secretly bear the burden of always being the smartest person in the room.

On the streets of Mumbai, her Northwestern University sweatshirt makes her stand out like a sore thumb.

CAMERA LEADS/ FOLLOWS HER.

CHYRON: Mumbai, India. Present Day.

MONTAGE WITH VOICEOVER

Quick INTERCUT between NEWS AND COMMENTARY VIDEO, FLASHBACK SCENES from Avni's life (PHOTOS + VIDEO), and Avni's POV from right now

PRESENT DAY MUMBAI: Avni adroitly darts through impatient fleets of well-driven vehicles, clashing intersections of economic inequality, and galleries of fearless vendors.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)

*When we were kids we were told if
we worked hard enough and followed
the rules we could accomplish
anything.*

NEWS AND COMMENTARY VIDEO: The rise of a new, positive, socially-aware, entrepreneurial generation - the Millennials.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)

*You taught us to protect the
environment-*

NEWS AND COMMENTARY VIDEO: Classroom videos about protecting the environment.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)

To love our cities and towns-

NEWS AND COMMENTARY VIDEO: Youth-skewed civic pride PSAs.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)
*You literally said that children
 are the future when we were
 children.*

NEWS AND COMMENTARY VIDEO: "Children are our greatest natural resource" PSA.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)
*You said we would do better than
 our parents - that we should do
 better - that everyone does better
 than the generation that came
 before.*

AVNI FLASHBACK SCENES: Avni (8) happily camping with her fun-loving PARENTS. DAD (39) is WHITE. MOM (37) is INDIAN. Mom and Dad survey the land like a kingdom.

PRESENT DAY MUMBAI: Avni runs past a family-run taxi stand, an open air barber, then a man selling desserts.

AVNI (V.O.)
*And to achieve this birthright you
 told us to put ourselves first. We
 trusted you. Why wouldn't we? You
 raised us. And then: you betrayed
 us.*

NEWS AND COMMENTARY VIDEO: Financial commentary salivating over Millennial market potential and how to sell to them.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)
*You said high-interest school loans
 and credit cards were a reasonable
 means to an end.*

NEWS AND COMMENTARY VIDEO: Auspicious bank loan commercials for students, home-buyers, and car-shoppers/ College students signing Byzantine loan contracts.

PRESENT DAY MUMBAI: Avni runs and runs.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)
*You said not to worry. Trust the
 system - invest in the system.*

NEWS AND COMMENTARY VIDEO: Hyperbolic social media stock predictions/ The rise of influencer culture.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)
You set the rules.

AVNI FLASHBACK SCENES: Avni (12) absorbs media culture promoting redemptive aspirations, #squadgoals, *living your best life*, etc.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)
You said the competition was fierce.

AVNI FLASHBACK SCENES: Avni (16) studies hard, plays multiple sports, volunteers at philanthropies, works part-time, fights exhaustion, and strategically posts it all.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)
You said life was a zero sum game.

NEWS AND COMMENTARY VIDEO: Students overwhelmed with extra-curricular activities/ The rise of childhood stress and depression/ / The creation of FOMO/ High-intensity unpaid internships/ Banking interns dying from exhaustion.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)
Then you went on TV and called us selfish, entitled, cry-baby snowflakes who only wanted free stuff.

NEWS AND COMMENTARY VIDEO: Contemptuous op-eds about Millennials and FOMO.

PRESENT DAY MUMBAI: Avni dodges through more traffic as she turns.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)
Our elders bragged about free love, and eroticized our culture.

NEWS AND COMMENTARY VIDEO: Baby-Boomer hippie love-ins/ The baby-boomer-driven, upward sexual intensification of popular culture.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)
Then condemned us for liking sex.

NEWS AND COMMENTARY VIDEO: Hysterical TV op-ed rants decrying sexting/ Smarmy asides about kids and selfies.

AVNI FLASHBACK SCENES: Avni (21) attends a job fair packed with undergrads. She spots a booth for Manhattan-based Glock Financial Investment Bank. She confidently walks over, flashes a warmly professional smile, and introduces herself to two RECRUITERS.

AVNI BALL

Hi. I'm Avni Ball. I'd like to ask some questions about your offer.

As they talk...

AVNI BALL (V.O.)

We were labeled narcissists by the Me Generation, a group of Gordon Geckos that converted history's greatest economy into a toxic, one-sided, downwardly mobile, financial shitscape.

NEWS AND COMMENTARY VIDEO: The faces of disapproving Baby Boomers as they age with increasing wealth from the 1980s onward/ The 2008 Financial Meltdown/ The rise of homelessness/ The rise of the terminally exhausted/ The rise of festering anger.

PRESENT DAY MUMBAI: Avni sees a LOST GIRL (Indian, 6, angelic face) on the verge of tears. Avni kneels to see if the girl is okay.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)

And then you told us to go fuck ourselves.

Just then a taxi violently collides with Avni.

FREEZE FRAME: Avni's shoulder brutally meets the taxi's bumper.

AVNI (V.O.)

It gets worse from here. When you work in my business - that business being investment banking - you learn real quick that it always gets worse.

END TEASER

OPENING TITLE: **YOUNG MONEY**

***NOTE: DURING *SUSPENDED TIME*, CHARACTERS WILL BREAK THE FOURTH WALL AND ADDRESS CAMERA.**

INT. 777 AIRPLANE/ FIRST CLASS - CRUISING ALTITUDE - NIGHT

CHYRON: FOUR DAYS AGO

Avni, looking fresh and organized, sits near fellow financial analysts HENRY WEN (24, Chinese-American) and JOSH SILVERMAN (23).

Business casual all around, they pound away on their keyboards. On their screens we track intimidatingly complex financial spreadsheets, plotted financial models, and a few key like "Glock Financial," "India," "Equity Financing," "Desalination," and "Water Security".

FLIGHT STAFF is Indian. Avni rummages through her purse. A shiver of turbulence quickly shakes through the airplane.

HENRY WEN
We're fucked for life.

Avni finds what she's been looking for: a box of Tic-Tacs.

AVNI BALL
Bingo.

She coaxes out two.

JOSH SILVERMAN
It's only four days-

AVNI BALL
Tic-tac?

HENRY WEN
Avni-

AVNI BALL
Yes?

JOSH SILVERMAN
(RE: tic-tac)
I'll take one of those.

HENRY WEN
You're not listening to me.

Avni hands Josh a Tic-Tac. He holds it between his thumb and pointer finger.

Suddenly a stratospheric gust punches the airplane, jolting some of the nervous passengers.

AARON BLANDINGS (40, male, tall, nebbish, Senior-Vice President), remains fast asleep, his body nodding with the turbulence like Michael Biehn in ALIENS.

AVNI BALL
Four days is not a lifetime-

HENRY WEN

I said during a merger it might as well-

JOSH SILVERMAN

-*Drosophila melanogaster*.

HENRY WEN

-be a lifetime. Wait, what?

JOSH SILVERMAN

Drosophila melanogaster. Also known as the common fruitfly. They only live for 40-50 hours-

HENRY WEN

What is he talking about?

(to Josh)

Josh, what are you talking about?

Some more turbulence-

JOSH SILVERMAN

Four days is their whole lifespan.

HENRY WEN

Our jobs are on the chopping block and you're talking about-

JOSH SILVERMAN

They're not.

HENRY WEN

Fine. Be willfully ignorant.

Josh inspects the tic-tac. And eats it.

JOSH SILVERMAN

Henry, what is the purpose of our business?

HENRY WEN

I know everything about our business.

JOSH SILVERMAN

And?

HENRY WEN

Our purpose is to make money.

JOSH SILVERMAN

Wrong. Our purpose is to exploit chaos.

(MORE)

JOSH SILVERMAN (CONT'D)

We find cracks in the world and, depending on the bank's immediate needs, invent ways to make those cracks expand or contract. The kicker is the unintended consequences which invariably lead to more cracks, creating more chaos to exploit in the world. So in terms of job security, being in the business of chaos is the most stable job in the world.

Henry turns to Avni.

HENRY WEN

Do you believe this shit?

AVNI BALL

I told him that shit.

(To Josh)

Did you factor in the ISE-B&S Water Index yet?

JOSH SILVERMAN

Not yet.

AVNI BALL

I'd check those-

HENRY WEN

Listen. I'm not talking about esoteric crap, or drosophi-what's it-

JOSH SILVERMAN

Drosophila melanogaster.

HENRY WEN

Whatever! I'm talking about us!

AVNI BALL

Dude, relax-

HENRY WEN

You relax. You're a first year number monkey. You're safe.

AVNI BALL

At least you're not here because of some politically-correct, diversity-for-*Business Week*-bullshit.

HENRY WEN

Don't give me that politically-correct crap-

AVNI BALL

I've been to India once, okay? I was born in New Jersey-

HENRY WEN

We're at defcon one!

JOSH SILVERMAN

More chaos. More cracks.

AVNI BALL

But Aaron wants a brown person on this trip to "keep the natives from getting restless" -- which, by the way, is the exact same plot of *Avatar*.

HENRY WEN

He said that to you?

JOSH SILVERMAN

(RE: *Avatar*)

I think you mean *Fern Gully*?

AVNI BALL

(To Henry)

He said it directly.

Another violent punch of turbulence. A few passengers yell out. The *Fasten Seat Belt* light goes on with a soft *ding*.

FLIGHT CAPTAIN

(over intercom)

Ladies and gentlemen, we are experiencing some choppy weather. Please return to your seats and fasten your seat-belts.

The flight crew makes sure the passengers comply.

JOSH SILVERMAN

(Reading online)

Did you know they tried to outsource our jobs overseas?

HENRY WEN

You're not concerned at all that we're merging with another bank?

JOSH SILVERMAN

That merger is just a rumor-

More powerful turbulence. Most of the passengers are visibly scared.

AVNI BALL

I heard about it too-

HENRY WEN

From whom?

JOSH SILVERMAN

Her goob boyfriend, probably.

AVNI BALL

He's not a goob-

JOSH SILVERMAN

Does he let you put a finger in his butt during sex? I bet he does.

AVNI BALL

If he did then you two would have something in common.

JOSH SILVERMAN

Still a goob.

AVNI BALL

You like discussing fruit flies.

JOSH SILVERMAN

(smiling)

Can I have another Tic-Tac, please?

Avni gives him another Tic-Tac. They're clearly friends.

HENRY WEN

Four days during a merger IS a lifetime. Luger Capital could destroy us. *I should be back in New York; our jobs are in danger and-*

SUDDENLY THE AIRPLANE DROPS 10 FEET. ALARMS GO OFF. THE PLANE TIPS INTO A DIVE. PASSENGERS SCREAM. THE ENGINES STRUGGLE TO MAINTAIN THRUST. AARON CONTINUES TO SLEEP.

HENRY WEN (CONT'D)

Why are they even sending us? We're analysts!

The deafening cacophony is overpowering-

JOSH SILVERMAN

Dude, stop!

HENRY WEN

This whole thing is going to crash and burn.

AVNI BALL

Don't say crash and burn on an airplane.

JOSH SILVERMAN

Seriously.

HENRY WEN

You know I'm right!

AVNI BALL

Shut up!

The turbulence intensifies. The plane shakes violently. The fuselage groans. Then -- a loud, metallic CRACK.

HENRY WEN

We're gonna die!

Just then -- the plane quickly rights itself. All is calm. Henry is suddenly self-conscious. Josh has pulverized the Tic-Tac between his fingers. He looks to see if anyone is watching and licks the minty-powder off his fingers.

FLIGHT CAPTAIN

(over intercom)

Sorry about that ladies and gentlemen. Should be clear skies from now on.

HENRY WEN

(to Josh/ Avni)

I'm just saying: we're investment bank analysts. The lowest of the low. No one listens to us. No one cares if we live or die.

AARON BLANDINGS

Henry! Jesus! You're just here to take notes!! Stop yapping!

Aaron goes back to sleep.

HENRY WEN

I'd kill to sleep like that.

AVNI BALL
I'd kill to sleep period.

INT. BANGALORE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT/ CUSTOMS - MORNING

Airport is cutting edge and cosmopolitan. Avni, Josh, Henry and the other employees of Glock Financial slowly wind their way in line to customs.

INT. BANGALORE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT/ CUSTOMS - MORNING

MONTAGE: WE'LL INTERCUT BETWEEN THE VARIOUS GLOCK FINANCIAL EMPLOYEES AS THEY PROCESS THROUGH CUSTOMS.

CUSTOMS OFFICIAL
Purpose of visit?

AARON BLANDINGS
Business.

-NICOLA MASLEY (33, Female, White, Lesbian, Vice President).

NICOLA MASLEY
Business, unfortunately.

CUSTOMS OFFICIAL
And what is your business?

-SCOTT RUSKIN (27, Male, White, Associate).

SCOTT RUSKIN
Our bank financed-

-MARY ROARK (22, Chinese-American, analyst).

MARY ROARK
The water desalination plant-

AVNI BALL
And surrounding distribution
infrastructure-

JOSH SILVERMAN
Outside of Mumbai.

CUSTOMS OFFICIAL
Place of origin?

-RANDAL JONES (23, African American, analyst).

RANDAL JONES
Manhattan-

HENRY WEN
In New York-

CUSTOMS OFFICIAL
I know where Manhattan is. Duration
of stay?

AVNI BALL
Four days.

CUSTOMS OFFICIAL
What is your position and what is
its purpose?

AARON BLANDINGS
Vice President. I'm here to make
sure-

NICOLA MASLEY
-this project doesn't fall apart.
I'm a Vice President.

SCOTT RUSKIN
Associate.

HENRY WEN
I'm an analyst. I do research and-

-CONSTANCE CORTEZ (24, Latina, analyst).

CONSTANCE CORTEZ
Build financial models. And create
powerpoint presentations.

MARY ROARK
But sometimes I also get coffee-

RANDAL JONES
Once I had to pick up my boss's
wedding ring. He left it in his
jacket. In Las Vegas. With a man
named Sagittarius.

CUSTOMS OFFICIAL
(In Hindi)
What is your purpose?

AVNI BALL
I'm sorry, I don't speak Hindi.

The customs official gives her a weird look: *really?*

CUSTOMS OFFICIAL
What is the purpose of your journey
here?

AVNI BALL
Great question.

The customs official gives Avni an intense once over then stamps her passport.

CUSTOMS OFFICIAL
Welcome to India. Next!

INT./ EXT. LUXURY COACH BUS - DAY

Everyone settle in. The bus pulls out and heads for Bangalore.

WE PASS:

- Lots of glass and steel buildings.
- Huge modern shopping malls.
- Well-kept, symmetrical public gardens.

EXT. GLOCK FINANCIAL INDIA CAMPUS - DAY

The bus pulls up. Campus looks like a very well-financed business tech campus. Everyone disembarks.

AARON BLANDINGS
(to Avni)
Does it feel good to be back in the
Motherland?

AVNI BALL
So good. Thank you.

Satisfied with himself, Aaron walks ahead.

AVNI BALL (CONT'D)
(sotto)
Asshole.

INT. GLOCK FINANCIAL INDIA - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Everyone sits at a massive conference table including several senior and junior employees of Glock Financial, India. Aaron stands front and center. Constance Cortez mans the projector.

AARON BLANDINGS

Good morning. My name is Aaron Blandings. I'm a Vice President at Glock Financial New York. This my team. You are employees of Glock Financial India. We all have something else in common. You know what it is? I'll tell you: we are all...doomed.

Some nervous laughter. Constance brings up a new image.

AARON BLANDINGS (CONT'D)

Within our lifetimes we have already seen two economic crises: the bursting of the tech bubble and the housing bubble. Up next? Student Loans. However, those are just warm up acts for the biggest bubble of all: water.

Constance brings up a new image. It's accompanied by a "cartoony" DOOMSDAY sound effect. Everyone chuckles.

INT. GLOCK FINANCIAL INDIA - CONFERENCE ROOM - **SUSPENDED TIME**

Everyone FREEZES except-

Two slightly amused BANKERS, who turn To camera.

SIKH BANKER

(To camera)

Like a screaming toddler in a grocery store, bank shareholders demand infinite revenue growth.

BRITISH BANKER

(To camera)

Consequently, banks constantly need new opportunities to make money.

SIKH BANKER

(To camera)

Create chaos. Exploit the collateral damage.

BRITISH BANKER

(To camera)

Mortgage Backed Securities was nice. Water Securities will be glorious.

SIKH BANKER
 (To camera)
 We're gonna blow this shit up.

The Sikh and the Brit pound fists and make an "explody" sound before turning back to the meeting.

INT. GLOCK FINANCIAL INDIA - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

AARON BLANDINGS
 Five years ago, our bank got in bed with Petet International Engineering and the Indian Government to construct the largest seawater desalination plant in the world, delivering clean water and hope to millions.

INT. GLOCK FINANCIAL INDIA - OFFICES - *SUSPENDED TIME*

An OFFICE MANAGER signs for a lunch order from a DELIVERY MAN.

DELIVERY MAN
 (To camera)
 Inspirational language is nice, but in tacking a kitten "hang in there" poster on the bridge of the Titanic.

He hands the lunch tins off to the OFFICE MANAGER who takes them to the kitchen.

CAMERA LEADS/ FOLLOWS them.

We can see the big meeting in the BACKGROUND.

OFFICE MANAGER
 (To camera)
 Private industry estimates that by 2025, 1/3 third of the world's population will experience severe water scarcity.

INT. GLOCK FINANCIAL INDIA - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Some applause. Constance brings up a new image.

AARON BLANDINGS
 By that time ROI on water and
 sanitation services in some areas
 will reach 35 to 1 returns-

INT. GLOCK FINANCIAL INDIA - KITCHEN AREA - **SUSPENDED TIME**

The office manager puts the tin lunch containers away in individual cubbies. An OFFICE ASSISTANT enters and grabs his.

OFFICE MANAGER
 (To camera)
 By 2050, because of population
 growth, agriculture will need to
 produce 60 percent more food
 globally-

OFFICE ASSISTANT
 (To camera)
 And in developing countries that
 number will grow to-

INT. GLOCK FINANCIAL INDIA - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

AARON BLANDINGS
 100 percent.

The mood in the room suddenly gets very serious. We can't tell if everyone is horrified or thrilled.

AARON BLANDINGS (CONT'D)
 100 percent more food.

INT. GLOCK FINANCIAL INDIA - KITCHEN AREA - **SUSPENDED TIME**

OFFICE ASSISTANT
 (To camera, snacking)
 But that's not even the real
 crisis.

INT. GLOCK FINANCIAL INDIA - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

AARON BLANDINGS
 (vamping)
 As we max-out our ability to feed
 ourselves, our water needs will
 surpass the total global limit we
 can withdraw from our rivers,
 lakes, and aquifers.
 (MORE)

AARON BLANDINGS (CONT'D)

And this, my friends, is what will cause the bubble to burst. It won't be some nitwit rinsing off his Kia Sorento. It will be basic human sustenance. Yes, it will lead to water wars, and trade wars, maybe even actual wars, but best of all it will present our business and our stockholders the most extraordinary crisis - the most extraordinary opportunity - the world will ever see.

Applause rolls into an enthusiastic roar. Only Avni looks uncomfortable with all of this.

AARON BLANDINGS (CONT'D)

And now the bad news...

Everyone laughs. Avni fakes a smile.

AARON BLANDINGS (CONT'D)

A few days ago we received some disturbing data-

Just then a JUNIOR ADVISOR barges into the conference room.

JUNIOR ADVISOR

Sorry. I think you all need to come watch the TV. Right now.

INT. GLOCK FINANCIAL INDIA - OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

Everyone gathers around a few flat screen TVs.

INDIAN NEW ANCHOR

Details are only beginning to emerge, but it appears there has been a large data leak tying several banks and heads of state, industry, technology and sport into a web of money laundering, tax evasion, and fraud. Among those institutions and individuals named are Prime Minister of Brazil Alessandro Marquez, several high ranking officials of Finland's Parliament, Donald Trump, The Washington Redskins professional football team, Klein-Smith Bank, GTX Securities and Glock Financial-

AARON BLANDINGS
Henry, get Larry Stone on the phone
in New York.

HENRY WEN
I don't have his cell-

AARON BLANDINGS
He's the president of the bank.
Call the office!

JOSH SILVERMAN
(To Avni)
How bad is it?

AVNI BALL
(Calculating)
Potential regulatory
scrutiny...future domestic
prosecutions...Federal Reserve will
put a floor under market...I'd
say...we're all gonna swallow a lot
of shit.

JOSH SILVERMAN
Well, that sounds unpleasant.

INT./ EXT. LUXURY SUV - MOVING - DAY

Henry, saddled with a tall stack of informational binders,
struggles to creep a glance down Avni's shirt. She pretends
not to notice.

In addition to our heroes we are accompanied by BHAVNA RAHMAN
(South Indian, 25, Female; liaison and translator), RAJEEV
RAMASUBBIAH (18, male, Bhavna's assistant), and a DRIVER
(Indian, 26).

Everyone is dressed for fieldwork.

JOSH SILVERMAN
(To Avni)
Does it bother anyone we're all
dressed to work the Jungle Cruise
ride at Disneyland?

AARON BLANDINGS
Pay attention. Henry.

Henry starts distributing binders.

AARON BLANDINGS (CONT'D)

As you all know Glock Financial is building an introductory series of desalination plants along India's coast. The largest in the world. Profit projections are already down twelve-goddamn-percent.

Avni opens the packet. Among reams of other data listed are local construction firms involved with the project. Fifteen total.

AARON BLANDINGS (CONT'D)

Petet Engineering is desperate to fix the problem. But our job is to investigate on-site damage, calculate global financial risk, and decide whether to continue or short the whole goddamn operation.

AVNI BALL

We'll make financial projections extrapolated from potential costs on multiple time frames?

AARON BLANDINGS

They'll be teasers, but yes.

AVNI BALL

That means actual costs are almost guaranteed to spike?

AARON BLANDINGS

And we take commission off every transaction. It will add up to billions. If we go in that direction.

AVNI BALL

The cost will fall on the villagers.

AARON BLANDINGS

Billions.

AVNI BALL

They'll default.

AARON BLANDINGS

So what?

AVNI BALL

They'll be ruined.

AARON BLANDINGS

They're poor hence they're already ruined. Anyway I prefer the term "reset."

AVNI BALL

They're my people.

AARON BLANDINGS

Twenty-four hours ago it was racist I even brought you and now they're your people?

AVNI BALL

It's complicated.

AARON BLANDINGS

I'm sure it is.

AVNI BALL

If they default we get nothing.

AARON BLANDINGS

(Annoyed)

Jesus Christ. If they default we'll sue the government in federal court. And we will win. It's *free money, Avni*.

Avni has a lot more to say, but holds her tongue.

INT./ EXT. LUXURY SUV - MOVING - **SUSPENDED TIME**

DRIVER

(To camera)

As soon as anyone ever says *free money*, well, strap in because you are going to get fuuuuuuuuucked.

EXT. SMALL VILLAGE - DAY

The SUVs pull up revealing residential units are small, one-bedroom buildings made of brick and painted a pale shade of blue, pink or yellow.

A CROWD of curious, villagers gathers around the vehicles. A few record the proceedings with their phones.

INT. LUXURY SUV - SAME

Aaron addresses the troops.

AARON BLANDINGS

You see those cameras? Good. That means big smiles and no cursing. Just think of what you do in New York and do the opposite. If the natives come up to you be pleasant and polite. Do not be friendly. We don't want to piss anyone off. In fact, the only person I want to see interacting with them is Avni.

(To Avni)

Take some group selfies. Tag Glock Financial when you post. I don't need to tell you why. Bhavna will help facilitate.

AVNI BALL

(Sotto)

This is so racist-

AARON BLANDINGS

It's also sexist. Regrettable, but what we don't want is the image of a bunch of privileged white saviors swooping into save these people.

AVNI BALL

You mean unless we decide to "reset" them?

AARON BLANDINGS

(Mocking)

Are we having a moral conflict?

(To everyone)

People this is about money. It's the difference between being in this car or being out there. And if that doesn't set your compass nothing will. Let's just *lean in* and get this done.

EXT. SMALL VILLAGE - DAY

Our heroes exit the SUV. The team disperses and sets to work.

Off to the side a group of YOUNG MEN stare relentlessly at Avni. We can't tell if they're curious or they don't approve of her presence. Either way it's unsettling.

A crowd of SMALL CHILDREN flock over to them. With Bhavna's help Avni has a few genuine interactions. They take a few friendly selfies together. She posts them. She hates herself right now.

Just then -- a MOTHER (23) scoops up her CHILD and starts yelling at Avni in non-subtitled HINDI.

Bhavna steps in to translate.

BHAVNA RAHMAN
(translating)
She says they only have access to
water four hours a day.

The Young Mother continues in non-subtitled Hindi.

BHAVNA RAHMAN (CONT'D)
(translating)
Farmers are dying by the thousands.
Suicides...if the head of a family
dies the government pays a subsidy.

AVNI BALL
I'm so sorry.
(to Bhavna)
Please translate.

BHAVNA RAHMAN
You don't speak Hindi?

AVNI BALL
No.

BHAVNA RAHMAN
(to Young Mother in Hindi)
She says she's sorry.

The Young Mother grows quiet.

EXT. SMALL VILLAGE - **SUSPENDED TIME**

The Young Mother speaks in Hindi with SUBTITLES.

YOUNG MOTHER
(To camera)
Our men kill themselves and we
receive a pay out. For a woman's
death we get nothing.

EXT. SMALL VILLAGE - DAY

Avni surveys the surroundings. The situation is bleak.

AVNI BALL
How much do they pay?

BHAVNA RAHMAN
 (to young mother in Hindi)
 How much?

YOUNG MOTHER
 (in Hindi)
 500,000 Rupees.

BHAVNA RAHMAN
 500,000 Rupees...\$7,500 dollars.

AVNI BALL
 That's it?

Bhavna nods. Avni touches the Young Mother on the arm compassionately.

AVNI BALL (CONT'D)
 We're going to fix this.
 (to Bhavna)
 Can you please translate?

BHAVNA RAHMAN
 (in Hindi)
 She says they're going to fix it.

The Young Mother has tears in her eyes.

YOUNG MOTHER
 (in Hindi, subtitled)
 We don't need pretty American girls
 to fix our problems.

Suddenly an OLDER MAN emerges from one of the small houses and steers the Young Mother back to the house. She struggles, calling out.

AVNI BALL
 What did she say?

BHAVNA RAHMAN
 She said "thank you"-

Aaron grabs Avni and pulls her over to the side.

AARON BLANDINGS
 See that guy? He's an engineer with
 Petet. You'll input his data. Do
 not mention a word about our
 strategy.

AVNI BALL
 I thought-

AARON BLANDINGS

Don't think. Just go.

Avni watches helpless as the Young Mother is shoved into her home by the older man. Aaron waves at the older man with a smile.

Avni heads over to PATRICK GREENE (28, male, handsome, Irish).

AVNI BALL

I guess we'll be working together.

They shake hands.

PATRICK GREENE

Patrick.

AVNI BALL

Avni.

PATRICK GREENE

Question: how can you stand working with these asshole?

AVNI BALL

These guys? They're children. Just promise to take them to Disneyland every six months and they'll leave you alone.

PATRICK GREENE

Bullshit.

AVNI BALL

Whiskey also helps.

PATRICK GREENE

We'll get along just fine.

(RE: himself)

Irish.

Avni pulls out her Getac B300 field laptop. Excel is already open and ready to go. She looks up. She sees an imprint on one of the pipes: *TRASK-MUMBAI LTD.*

Quickly she reaches into her bag and pulls out the information packet. TRASK-MUMBAI LTD is **NOT** among the other companies. She writes it down.

PATRICK GREENE (CONT'D)

You ready?

AVNI BALL

Ready

PATRICK GREENE

High-density polyethylene
 ...S.I.D.R...surge capacity PSI
 32.4...

Avni types it into her excel spreadsheet.

INT. DHABA CAFE - DAY

ON AVNI:

AVNI BALL (V.O.)

(her internal thought
 process)

*Surge capacity PSI at 32.4...ASME
 Class 125 terminal points...non-
 flanged connections...silver
 soldered...we found copper...*

CAMERA REVEALS:

Avni and the other analysts sit on a narrow, straw-covered bench, their laptops open, using their phones as hotspots. They organize and upload the day's data to a secure server.

Josh munches on paratas.

INT. GLOCK FINANCIAL NEW YORK - BULLPEN - NIGHT

RICK HERNANDEZ (23, Mexican-American, analyst), starts to build financial models with the data.

Alongside him, also building financial models are DERRICK MESSIAY (23, white, male, analyst), and JANET HAYES (24, African American, female, analyst).

INTERCUT BETWEEN RICK AND Avni

AVNI BALL (V.O.)

(her internal thought
 process)

*Centrifugal water pumps at 35
 percent...dielectric fittings at
 1/8 inch less than
 spec...insulating material
 isolating joined non-dissimilar
 metals...extrapolated costs above
 19 percent...*

Rick builds an "optimistic growth" model projecting gains once the *Change Orders* have been implemented. They IM each other.

Rick Hernandez: *"Sending optimistic growth model..."*

Rick Hernandez:



She looks at it. She laughs and types.

Avni Ball:



Avni types. *"miss u."* But then deletes it.

Rick hernandez: *Okay, here it is*

He send her the financial model.

Avni Ball: *"Finishing "real-time" model. 1 sec."*

Avni opens it and inputs more data.

SEQUENCE: Avni builds an algorithm. Runs it. Retrieves and extrapolates data. And lastly, articulates her findings into rough performance projections.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)
(her internal thought
process)
*Galvanic action and corrosion
imminent...Profits projected at a
rate of 95.6 percent success based
on a failure rate of 6.24 percent.
Real time failure coefficient is
.05...giving us an actual failure
rate over 46 point 4-*

Suddenly the severity of the problem hits Avni.

AVNI BALL
That can't be right.

EXT. DHABA CAFE - SAME

Avni stands by the SUV, holding up her field laptop, explaining her discovery to Aaron. Henry and Josh stand under the awning of the cafe, watching.

HENRY WEN

Why does she always get the spotlight?

JOSH SILVERMAN

She gets to it first.

HENRY WEN

You like her, don't you?

JOSH SILVERMAN

You really aren't good at reading people.

Henry spots a weather-beaten monkey squatting by a palm tree, devouring a mango. Juice drips down the monkey's chin like orange blood.

Avni and Aaron finish up.

They all head for the SUV, where part of the team is waiting.

Henry stares at the monkey as he walks.

JOSH SILVERMAN (CONT'D)

Whatever you're thinking, it's the worst idea you'll ever have.

HENRY WEN

Fuck you.

Henry makes a face at the monkey. Big mistake. The monkey puts his *WAR FACE* on and growls ferociously.

JOSH SILVERMAN

Nope.

Josh runs to the SUV and gets in. The monkey marches to Henry.

HENRY WEN

Oh shit!

Henry runs to the SUV. The door's locked. The monkey picks up the pace.

HENRY WEN (CONT'D)

What the fuck?? Let me in!!

AARON BLANDINGS
 (Inside SUV)
 That'll teach you to fuck with
 something smarter than you, dipshit

Except Avni, everyone in the SUV is laughing. The monkey marches closer.

HENRY WEN
 I command you to open the door!

The bankers laugh harder.

AARON BLANDINGS
 (Mocking)
 I command you!!

Aaron cackles with laughter.

AVNI BALL
 Enough!

Avni unlocks the car door. The monkey charges at Henry.

Henry leaps into the SUV, shutting the door by the skin of his teeth. The monkey growls and ferociously bangs on the window, smearing mango juice on the glass.

AARON BLANDINGS
 Does that count as a facial 'cause
 you almost got fucked.

The team erupts in howls of laughter. Henry is humiliated.

HENRY WEN
 Fuck all of you.

Aaron gets in Henry's face.

AARON BLANDINGS
 Say *fuck you* to me again.

Henry shrinks.

AARON BLANDINGS (CONT'D)
 That's what I thought.
 (To driver)
 Get us the fuck out of wherever the
 fuck we are.

The SUV drives off, leaving the monkey unsatisfied.

INT. KFC - NIGHT

Restaurant is spotless. Avni, Josh and Henry lounge at a booth. Avni is fixated on her laptop, trying to make sense of the day's data. Henry and Josh scroll on their phones. Josh eats a Paneer Zinger.

HENRY WEN

I can hear you chewing.

JOSH SILVERMAN

Chewing happens when I eat.

HENRY WEN

You're disgusting.

JOSH SILVERMAN

You picked a fight with a monkey and lost.

HENRY WEN

Why are we at KFC?

(To Avni)

Don't you have a cousin or whatever who owns a restaurant?

AVNI BALL

(Indian accent)

Oh yes! Cousin Ravi!

JOSH SILVERMAN

(scrolling phone)

I'm in the wrong business. Did you know there are over 400 KFCs in India? ROI within two to three years?

(To Avni)

What's happening in New York?

Josh puts his phone away.

AVNI BALL

They're analyzing the models-

HENRY WEN

(To Josh)

Maybe you are in the wrong business.

AVNI BALL

(Fixated on laptop)

These figures can't be this bad.

JOSH SILVERMAN

(To Henry)

What the hell does that mean?

HENRY WEN

ROI in two - three years? You're not going to own fast food. If you can't own it - be a disrupter at least - there's no point in doing it at all. You're no unicorn and you're definitely not a serious person.

AVNI BALL

Oh my God it's like Real Housewives with you two-

JOSH SILVERMAN

(To Henry)

I'm not a serious person? You're up everyone's ass like Emily Blunt in *The Devil Wears Prada*.

HENRY WEN

Go back to your chicken sandwich.

JOSH SILVERMAN

It's a Paneer Zinger, and it's delicious.

HENRY WEN

Just because I care-

Avni and Josh share an incredulous laugh.

HENRY WEN (CONT'D)

I care about *everyone*. Everyone knows that. Maybe not you assholes, but everyone else.

Avni does not appreciate being called an *asshole*. She shuts her laptop.

AVNI BALL

Fine. Let's do this. You care about everyone?

HENRY WEN

Absolutely.

AVNI BALL

At the Christmas party last year you told a joke to a few second-years. *"What's better: being a victim of racism or sexism"*-

HENRY WEN

Never happened-

AVNI BALL

The punchline was: it was better to be a victim of racism because if you were a victim of sexism it meant you were still a woman.

HENRY WEN

I would never tell a joke like that-

JOSH SILVERMAN

Except you did tell a joke like that. That joke.

AVNI BALL

In the 18 months we've worked together you've speculated on whom I've slept with, the shape of my pubic hair, and laughed when someone dumped a mountain of condoms on my desk-

HENRY WEN

That was funny-

AVNI BALL

But I thought you cared?

HENRY WEN

That's not who I really am.

AVNI BALL

So that wasn't you laughing at my expense?

HENRY WEN

Josh, help me out-

JOSH SILVERMAN

I'm not going near this-

AVNI BALL

You saw those condoms and you laughed.

HENRY WEN

It was me laughing would I would never...It's the place.

AVNI BALL

What do you mean "*the place*"-

HENRY WEN

Yes.

AVNI BALL

What do you mean "*the place*"?

HENRY WEN

I have to fit in, okay? I have to fit in. At the bank. My career depends on it. Those jokes - what you call *misogyny* - are part of the bonding process between me and the rest of the guys.

AVNI BALL

Fuck you.

HENRY WEN

I'm being one hundred percent real with you.

Avni looks to Josh.

AVNI BALL

Is that true?

Josh can't deny its veracity. Avni's blown away.

HENRY WEN

This is a business of personal relationships. And that means people promote their friends. So the choice between making a few dumb jokes and not have a career isn't a choice-

AVNI BALL

And they say chivalry is dead-

HENRY WEN

Hate the game, not the player-

AVNI BALL

There isn't a game without the players-

HENRY WEN

I didn't make the rules. That's why I do everything I can to make sure Aaron, our boss, loves me more than you.

JOSH SILVERMAN

Aaron rags on you all the time-

HENRY WEN

He's hazing me. It's different-

JOSH SILVERMAN

But you guys will never be friends.

HENRY WEN

So-

JOSH SILVERMAN

So it means it's not hazing-

AVNI BALL

It's abuse.

That idea sinks in a little.

HENRY WEN

If it's abuse then why did he tell me I'm getting *Associate*?

JOSH SILVERMAN

He said that?

HENRY WEN

(Mocking Avni's response from the teaser)

Directly.

Just then Avni's phone buzzes. She looks at it.

AVNI BALL

Speak of the devil.

INT. LUXURY MUMBAI HOTEL - BUSINESS CENTER - NIGHT

Aaron is on the phone, hunched over a table, looking at printouts of the new financial models.

AARON BLANDINGS

(into phone)

How are the kids?...I know it was only supposed to be four days...I miss you guys...I'll try...

Avni knocks. Aaron motions for them to come in.

AARON BLANDINGS (CONT'D)
 (into phone)
 Okay...Okay...Kiss those rascals
 for me...Love you too...Bye.

He hangs up. He gathers himself.

AARON BLANDINGS (CONT'D)
 We may be here longer than
 anticipated.

HENRY WEN
 How much longer?

AARON BLANDINGS
 Could be a month. Could be four.

JOSH SILVERMAN
 Four months? We were supposed to be
 here for four days-

AARON BLANDINGS
 Well I guess you'll have to cancel
 all your Groupon pottery classes,
 won't you?
 (RE: financial models)
 I need you to update these
 immediately. The new data is on the
 secure server. And since we're
 going to be here longer we're going
 to take some meetings on a few
 potential M and A deals in tech.
 I've assigned each of you a pitch
 book so you'll need to get started
 on those immediately.

Aaron takes a look at them. They look haggard.

AARON BLANDINGS (CONT'D)
 When was the last time you slept?

36 hours.	AVNI BALL	HENRY WEN
		36 hours.

JOSH SILVERMAN
 36 hours.

AARON BLANDINGS
 I'll need those new models by the
 start of business day.

Resigned to their terrible, banal fate, the three analysts turn around and head for the exit. Henry stops.

HENRY WEN

I'll catch up with you guys in a second.

Avni and Josh exit. Henry turns around.

AARON BLANDINGS

What do you want?

Henry stands confidently in front of Aaron.

HENRY WEN

I want to talk about my promotion.

AARON BLANDINGS

Promotion?

HENRY WEN

You said: if I kept up the good work I was sure to be up for a promotion. Remember?

Aaron searches his memory-

HENRY WEN (CONT'D)

I was going to wait until we're back in New York but as we're here on a fluid timeline-

Aaron starts laughing uncontrollably.

AARON BLANDINGS

Henry, that was 11 months ago-

HENRY WEN

My productivity and accuracy have-

AARON BLANDINGS

Are you delusional?

HENRY WEN

I-

AARON BLANDINGS

Let me rephrase: you are delusional-

HENRY WEN

I am the best at financial modeling-

AARON BLANDINGS

Not today you weren't-

HENRY WEN

That's because I should be in New York.

AARON BLANDINGS

Go away.

HENRY WEN

I am the first in the office and the last to leave. My deliverables are flawless. I've put my time in.

AARON BLANDINGS

Even if that were true, what about your personal relationships? Who do you have to vouch for you?

HENRY WEN

Ask anyone. Anyway numbers don't care about personal-

AARON BLANDINGS

Business isn't based on *numbers*. Have you learned nothing? What do you think "optimistic growth" means? It's all just emotions. And this whole system can crash at any moment if-

HENRY WEN

Maybe I'm not clearly expressing-

AARON BLANDINGS

No.

HENRY WEN

No? You promised me-

AARON BLANDINGS

No-

HENRY WEN

I would never mention to anyone what happened between us-

Aaron jumps up, rips a TV monitor off the wall and hurls it at Henry, who dodges it.

Aaron corners him. Henry flinches.

AARON BLANDINGS

Never talk to me about that again. Understand? In fact never talk to me again, period. Yes?

Henry nods. Aaron sits back down and goes back to work.

AARON BLANDINGS (CONT'D)

Good boy.

Henry EXITS.

INT. MET BALLET - PRIVATE BOX - NIGHT

TITLE: Manhattan

A ballet concert is in full swing.

Glock Financial President LARRY STONE (white, 60s, male) entertains three well-monied investors: XU CHUANZHI (60s), HUANG HAN (40s), and LI MINHONG (40s).

Larry looks like he came from a scrappy childhood. Next to him is GRAHAM GOODCHILD (40s, male, white) a James Bond-like Managing Director at Glock Financial.

Seated next to each one is a FEMALE ESCORT (22). Except for Huang Han. Seated next to him is a MALE ESCORT (22).

Graham shows no sexual interest in his companion but still treats her with the respect you'd show a close friend's sister.

A WAITRESS (23, female) serves drinks.

WAITRESS

Will there be anything else?

LARRY STONE

Darling, we're fine. Thank you.

Larry checks her out as she exits.

HUANG HAN

Mr. Stone, as CEO of Glock Financial we are expecting you to look out for our best interests in India.

LARRY STONE

I want to take a moment to address the data leak and any concerns-

HUANG HAN

We did not see anything truly erroneous.

Larry sees from their eyes they are telling the truth.

LARRY STONE

We want to take the model we're using in India and expand to any country that can be cozied up to.

Xu turns to Li.

XU CHUANZHI

(in Chinese, subtitled)
What does "cozied up" mean?

LI MINHONG

(in Chinese, subtitled)
It means exploit.

XU CHUANZHI

Very good. Before we continue I feel I must reveal some news to you. The hack: it was financed by the bank with which you are about to merge. Luger Capital.

ON LARRY: holy shit.

EXT. NEW YORK/ CHELSEA - STREET - MORNING

SAMANTHA LU (36, Japanese-American, a razor sharp intellect that colludes perfectly with her cutthroat personality) marches down the street debating into a cell phone. She's like a walking Helmut Newton photo.

SAMANTHA LU

I can assure you I have no idea where it came from...take your pick: the Russians, the Chinese; Argentina for all I know...Maybe that's what they want you to think-

She ENTERS the Standard Highline Hotel.

INT. STANDARD HIGHLINE HOTEL - LOBBY - MORNING

She marches to the elevator.

SAMANTHA LU

You can't threaten me, it's been out in the news for two days now. What are you gonna do: report the same, vapid story over and over again?...I don't care about CNN...

She gets in the elevator.

INT. STANDARD HIGHLINE HOTEL - HALLWAY - MORNING

She marches to a hotel room.

SAMANTHA LU

Just hold onto it and when I know
more I will hand-feed you little
crumbs just the way you like.

She hangs up and knocks on the door to a room. It opens to reveal Graham Goodchild (we met him earlier).

INT. STANDARD HIGHLINE HOTEL - ROOM - SAME

Samantha lustfully pushes into a wall. Passionately kissing and groping they tear off each other's clothes. Graham lifts her and turns, pinning her back against the wall.

She knocks over a vase. It shatters. She puts her legs down and pushes him off. He's confused.

She walks over to the bed and moves to take off her heels, making a brief show of it. Graham places his hand on her hand.

Eye contact: he smiles. He wants her to leave her heels on while they have sex.

She loves how playful he is. They roll over and over in bed until they fall off. She lets out a passionate moan from behind the bed.

INT. STANDARD HIGHLINE HOTEL - LATER

Samantha and Graham lay in bed, spooning

The phone rings. Graham picks up.

FRONT DESK

(over)

This is your wake up call.

Graham hangs up. Samantha gets up and, naked, heads for the-

WALK-IN CLOSET

Inside is a freshly pressed, completely new outfit.

On the floor we see her blouse, skirt and underwear have been shredded. She gets dressed.

INT. STANDARD HIGHLINE HOTEL - ROOM - BATHROOM - SAME

Samantha fixes her makeup and hair. A place for everything and everything in its place.

INT. STANDARD HIGHLINE HOTEL - ROOM - SAME

Samantha exits to find Graham standing in a fresh suit, channeling like Cary Grant.

She walks up to him. Gives him a quick peck on the side of the lip, turns around and exits the room. The not talking is what makes it exciting.

FADE TO BLACK.

EXT. SUPER LUX MEGA YACHT - NIGHT

The yacht sits in New York Harbor framed by the timeless Manhattan skyline.

A helicopter emerges from the city. It lands on the yacht's helipad. On the side are the words: *Luger Capital*.

The door opens and a few SENIOR BANKERS and ANALYSTS from Luger Capital and their president, PRESIDENT HAROLD BAKER (60s, African American, male).

Among the senior bankers Samantha Lu, and analyst ELIZABETH DOSCAROS (23, Mixed-Latina), bringing up the rear.

CAMERA LEADS/ FOLLOWS Elizabeth.

INT. SUPER LUX MEGA YACHT - CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME

Everyone from Luger Capital enters to find Larry Stone, Graham Goodchild, Derrick Messia, Janet Hayes and Rick Hernandez and a few other SENIOR bankers from Glock Financial already seated.

Graham and Samantha make a mutual point to avoid unnecessary eye-contact. Larry gestures to Harold to begin.

HAROLD BAKER

Everyone, I'm Harold Baker, president of Luger Capital. We were invited here by Larry Stone, your president, to talk about our future.

(MORE)

HAROLD BAKER (CONT'D)

I can't think of anyone better suited to do that than the youngest managing director on Wall Street, our very own Samantha Lu. Sam, the room is yours.

SAMANTHA LU

President Stone-

LARRY STONE

Why did you steal our information and then have the hackers leak it when our banks are merging?

SAMANTHA LU

We didn't steal-

LARRY STONE

You financed the hack. Why?

Samantha, caught off guard, looks to Harold, who nods.

SAMANTHA LU

You encumbered your bank's security by constructing a set of desalination plants and corresponding infrastructure in an insecure environment. And in compromising your bank you compromised us-

LARRY STONE

Mumbai is one of the biggest markets in the world-

SAMANTHA LU

And it's paralyzed by transparent corruption. It's like you took a prostitute to prom and are surprised that she screwed someone else-

LARRY STONE

Watch yourself-

SAMANTHA LU

Sir, Glock Financial is under water which - with respect - is why we're here.

Harold immediately stands. He's very tall.

HAROLD BAKER

We pick you up at a discount *now*,
but our financial models predict
our banks' joined assets will be
worth 27 percent or more within one
year. You'll make-

Larry calmly stands.

LARRY STONE

I don't care.

He exits. His people follow.

HAROLD BAKER

That went better than expected.

EXT. ANOTHER SMALL INDIAN VILLAGE - DAY

Avni and the analysts from Glock Financial enter data from
the engineers to the existing models.

EXT. ANOTHER SMALL INDIAN VILLAGE - DAY

Avni, Henry and Josh take a break in the shade.

JOSH SILVERMAN

(yawning)

When was the last time you slept?

HENRY WEN

I can't remember. Hey, so guess
what?

JOSH SILVERMAN

What?

HENRY WEN

I got it.

JOSH SILVERMAN

Got what?

HENRY WEN

Associate.

AVNI BALL

You got Associate?

JOSH SILVERMAN

Congratulations.

HENRY WEN

Aaron is going to make it official
once we get back to New York.

AVNI BALL

Congratulations Henry.

HENRY WEN

I was thinking a small celebration
tonight...

JOSH SILVERMAN

No thanks.

HENRY WEN

Avni?

AVNI BALL

I haven't slept in three days.

HENRY WEN

Look, I know I've been a jerk
recently.

AVNI BALL

I think you mean always.

HENRY WEN

I want to turn over a new leaf.

AVNI BALL

I'm exhausted, dude.

HENRY WEN

C'mon. Drinks on me. All night.

AVNI BALL

Fine.

Josh looks at her: *Are you fucking serious?*

HENRY WEN

Awesome. Pick you up at 10.

AVNI BALL

This isn't a date. I'll meet you.

Josh rolls his eyes.

INT. TRILOGY CLUB - NIGHT

Million dollar decor. Avni and Henry slide up to the bar.

HENRY WEN
What will you have?

AVNI BALL
Whiskey.

HENRY WEN
That's hot.

AVNI BALL
It's not gonna pour itself.

HENRY WEN
Be right back.

He turns to the bar.

HENRY WEN (CONT'D)
Bartender!!

The BARTENDER ignores him.

Avni sees a small group of INDIAN MEN (20s) checking her out.
They approach her. We'll refer to them by their clothes.

BLACK VEST
Excuse me, miss. I want to
introduce myself. I'm Arjun.

Avni remains placid.

AVNI BALL
Hi.

BLACK VEST
You're American?

AVNI BALL
Correct.

BLACK VEST
Indian?

AVNI BALL
Half-Indian.

BLACK VEST
Half-Indian. I like that. Do you
have a boyfriend?

AVNI BALL
I do. He's in New York.

GREEN JACKET

Who is that?

AVNI BALL

Just a co-worker.

BLACK VEST

Is your boyfriend Indian?

AVNI BALL

Guys, I don't want to talk to you, dance with you, or fuck you. So in the interest of actually having fun tonight, maybe you should move along.

Just then - Henry returns with two drinks. He hands Avni her drink.

HENRY WEN

These are like New York prices-

AVNI BALL

(to Indian Dudes)

We're gonna go dance.

BLACK VEST

You won't dance with your own kind but you'll dance with him?

AVNI BALL

I don't have a *kind*, asshole.

HENRY WEN

What's going on?

Henry sizes up the situation. Suddenly he grabs Avni by the hand, breaking past them. They run through the crowd.

The Indian men follow but Avni and Henry make it to the dance floor where they lose their pursuers in the bouncing crush.

They catch their breath.

AVNI BALL

Thanks.

HENRY WEN

Those guys are creeps.

AVNI BALL

We finally agree on something.

HENRY WEN
Wanna dance?

She gulps her drink.

AVNI BALL
Why not?

INT. TRILOGY CLUB - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

MONTAGE

Henry and Avni dance and drink on the dance floor.

EXT. TRILOGY CLUB - SMOKING LOUNGE - NIGHT

Henry and Avni share a cigarette.

They get more drinks.

INT. TRILOGY CLUB - DANCE FLOOR - SAME

Henry and Avni dance.

He whispers something into her ear. She bursts out laughing.
We can see that he really likes her.

END MONTAGE

EXT. TRILOGY CLUB - BACK ALLEY - NIGHT

Henry and Avni exit the club. They're both pretty drunk.

AVNI BALL
That was fun.

She stumbles. He catches her.

He wants to kiss her. She looks at her phone. It's 1AM. She grimaces.

AVNI BALL (CONT'D)
I have to meet Aaron in four hours.

We can see Henry sober up with jealousy.

HENRY WEN
I hate that guy. Like I HATE him.

AVNI BALL
He just gave you a promotion.

He looks at her: his eyes full of resent.

HENRY WEN
It's so easy for you; using your
sexuality to get what you want.

AVNI BALL
You're silly.

Suddenly -- Henry forcefully kisses Avni on the mouth. Avni
pushes him off suddenly sober, awake, and angry--

AVNI BALL (CONT'D)
What the fuck??

He kisses her again.

She PUNCHES him square in the face.

AVNI BALL (CONT'D)
What the HELL is wrong with you???

Embarrassed and shocked, Henry runs off into the night.

EXT. LUXURY MUMBAI HOTEL - MORNING

Avni waits for the SUV with Aaron. Josh joins them.

JOSH SILVERMAN
Where the hell is Henry?

AVNI BALL
No one can find him.

JOSH SILVERMAN
Did you have fun last night?

AVNI BALL
No.

Aaron looks to Avni.

AVNI BALL (CONT'D)
We went out last night to
celebrate.

AARON BLANDINGS
Celebrate?

AVNI BALL
His promotion.

AARON BLANDINGS
Promotion to what?

AVNI BALL
To associate.

AARON BLANDINGS
He didn't get a promotion.

JOSH SILVERMAN
Thank God. I hated the idea of
having to work for him.

ON Avni: something doesn't add up. Just then the team's SUV
pulls up.

AARON BLANDINGS
C'mon, let's go.

Aaron heads for the SUV.

AARON BLANDINGS (CONT'D)
Snap to it number monkeys!!

Avni and Josh head for the SUV.

EXT. DESALINATION PLANT - MORNING

As the SUV moves up the drive way our heroes spot...

INT./ EXT. LUXURY SUV - MORNING

An ELEGANT MAN (Indian, 50s) dressed in a linen suit and
standing next to a Blue Bugati.

Next to him is a right-hand man of sorts. This is DHARMADEV
BHATTACHARYA (30s).

The SUV comes to a stop. Dharmadev walks up.

AARON BLANDINGS
Put your window down.

The driver complies.

DHARMADEV BHATTACHARYA
My boss would like to speak with
your boss.

The driver turns around to Aaron. The driver is terrified.

DRIVER

He wants you to step out of-

AARON BLANDINGS

I heard.

Aaron steps out of the SUV and walks up to the elegant man.

AARON BLANDINGS (CONT'D)

Good afternoon.

ELEGANT MAN

Good afternoon.

They shake hands.

AARON BLANDINGS

What can I do for you?

ELEGANT MAN

You are with Glock Financial?

AARON BLANDINGS

I represent Glock Financial.

ELEGANT MAN

I need you and your team to come speak with my boss.

AARON BLANDINGS

Who is he and what does he want?

ELEGANT MAN

He is the CEO of Mumbai.

Aaron knows exactly what this means. It's not good news.

AARON BLANDINGS

I understand.

They shake hands again. Aaron returns to the SUV and gets in.

AVNI BALL

What's going on?

Aaron goes through a quick, wordless experience of the five stages of grief.

AARON BLANDINGS

We have to go see a gangster about a bribe.

EXT. DESALINATION PLANT - FRONT GATE - DAY

The SUV backs up and heads south towards the city.

INT./ EXT. LUXURY SUV - MOVING - DAY

We ride along with Avni, Josh, Aaron, Rajeev and Bhavna as they follow the blue Bugati from the impoverished northern district all the way down to the posh Cuffe Parade district.

AVNI BALL

Remember how you said banks tried to outsource our jobs to India?

JOSH SILVERMAN

Yeah.

AVNI BALL

What happened?

JOSH SILVERMAN

They couldn't get the work cultures to mesh. Verbal abuse isn't much of a motivator here.

AARON BLANDINGS

Would you two shut up??

Josh gestures to Aaron: *case in point.*

EXT. ULTRA LUXURY HIGH-RISE - DAY

The SUV pulls up under the rotunda. The Bugati is already there.

Dharmadev gets out and speaks with the head of security, who nods. Dharmadev them over.

Avni and Josh exit. Aaron turns to Bhavna.

AARON BLANDINGS

I think it might be best if you and Rajeev stay here with the driver.

BHAVNA RAHMAN

I wholeheartedly agree.

Avni, Josh, Aaron, follow Dharmadev into the highrise.

INT. ULTRA LUXURY APARTMENT - DAY

Dharmadev and a few subordinates escort Avni and company to a massive, indoor swimming pool. There we meet: ESHWAR, the CEO of Mumbai (50s). He looks like an Indian George Harrison.

On a perch next to him is a pristine, white COCKATOO. Eshwar feeds it bird food one grain at a time.

DHARMADEV BHATTACHARYA

(to Aaron)

This way sir, please.

(to subordinate RE: Avni
and Josh)

Sit them by the pool.

SUBORDINATE

(to Avni and Josh)

Come with me.

We're going to INTERCUT between Aaron and Eshwar's conversation and Avni and Josh's conversation.

Aaron walks to Eshwar. Avni and Josh follow the Subordinate to two chairs stationed by the pool.

They sit. Josh is visibly nervous.

Aaron sits in front of Eshwar.

JOSH SILVERMAN

How does one talk to a gangster
about a bribe?

AVNI BALL

I think they talk to you.

INT. ULTRA LUXURY APARTMENT - WINDOW AREA

ESHWAR

One of my advisors showed me your
LinkedIn profile. It says you went
to Harvard?

The cockatoo SQUAWKS.

AARON BLANDINGS

I majored in economics.

ESHWAR

My daughter is there now.

INT. ULTRA LUXURY APARTMENT - POOL AREA

AVNI BALL
What do you think he wants?

JOSH SILVERMAN
I'll tell you what he needs.

AVNI BALL
What's that?

JOSH SILVERMAN
A decorator. Look at this place.

She laughs.

INT. ULTRA LUXURY APARTMENT - WINDOW AREA

AARON BLANDINGS
You're right, we owe you an
apology.

The cockatoo SQUAWKS.

INT. ULTRA LUXURY APARTMENT - POOL AREA

AVNI BALL
I wonder how much he's going to
make us pay?

INT. ULTRA LUXURY APARTMENT - WINDOW AREA

AARON BLANDINGS
We can't pay you that much.

ESHWAR
I understand.

AARON BLANDINGS
You understand?

Eshwar motions to Dharmadev to come over.

AARON BLANDINGS (CONT'D)
I thought we'd negotiate-

ESHWAR
No need to negotiate.

AARON BLANDINGS
No?

ESHWAR
What ever happens: *happens?*

COCKATOO
*What ever happens happens! What
ever happens happens!*

Aaron realizes that would be a very bad idea.

INT. ULTRA LUXURY APARTMENT - POOL AREA

Aaron walks over to Avni and Josh. They stand.

AARON BLANDINGS
C'mon.

AVNI BALL
What did he say?

INT./ EXT. LUXURY SUV - MOVING - DAY

They drive through the streets of Mumbai.

JOSH SILVERMAN
Holy crap.

AVNI BALL
He wants it in cash?

AARON BLANDINGS
By sundown.

JOSH SILVERMAN
Where the hell are we going to get
20 million dollars cash by sundown?
Won't the SEC trace it?

AARON BLANDINGS
He's doing it as a personal
transfer through the bank.

JOSH SILVERMAN
Who?

AARON BLANDINGS
President Stone.

JOSH SILVERMAN
This is extortion, isn't it?

AARON BLANDINGS
Welcome to investment banking.

INT. BANK OF INDIA - DAY

A crowded major bank in the middle of the business day.

Aaron cuts in the very orderly but exceptionally long line to reach the TELLER (24, male, Indian). Everyone in line complains. Aaron doesn't care. He approaches the teller.

AARON BLANDINGS

Hi. There is a wire transfer from
Glock Financial for-

TELLER

Sir, I'm going to have to politely
ask you to stand at the back of the-

AARON BLANDINGS

This is urgent.

TELLER

We treat each customer with the
highest respect.

AARON BLANDINGS

Where is your supervisor?

TELLER

He is unavailable at the moment so
I am the supervisor.

AARON BLANDINGS

How old are you, like 12?

TELLER

If you like I can call security...

Aaron can see he's not going to win this battle.

AARON BLANDINGS

Prick.

He walks back to the end of the line. Just before he takes his place two separate COUPLES step in line in front of him.

INT. BANK OF INDIA - LATER

Aaron waits impatiently. He checks the time on his phone and then looks through the window to see the sun's position in the sky. There's still time.

Avni and Josh have settled into two chairs. Both are killing time on their phones.

JOSH SILVERMAN
The Who are going on tour again.

AVNI BALL
Those guys need to freaking stop.

INT. BANK OF INDIA - LATER

Aaron finally reaches the teller.

AARON BLANDINGS
Hi. I have a wire transfer from
Glock Financial.

TELLER
Hello, sir. Identification please?

Aaron whips out his passport and slides it under the glass.
The teller types some information into the computer.

TELLER (CONT'D)
And how much is this amount?

AARON BLANDINGS
Twenty million in cash.

TELLER
Very good.

The teller types some more into his computer. Behind him some
BANKERS emerge with many huge DUFFEL BAGS.

TELLER (CONT'D)
Sir, if you'll walk with me.

Aaron walks over to the side. The bankers meet him.

There are quite a few black duffel bags. Avni and Josh hustle
up.

AARON BLANDINGS
Grab a bag.

INT./ EXT. LUXURY SUV - MOVING - DAY

They're caught in rush hour traffic. The SUV is packed to the
gills with black duffel bags full of cash.

AARON BLANDINGS
We're running out of time. Can't
you move around?

DRIVER

I will get you there safely and-

Impulsively, Aaron reaches his leg over and step on the gas pedal.

The SUV swerves, nearly crashing in to motorcyclists, pedestrians, beggars etc.

The driver WHACKS Aaron in the throat and slams on the brakes. Aaron reels back, coughing.

DRIVER (CONT'D)

(in Hindi)

I quit!!!

The driver storms out of the car. Aaron turns around.

AARON BLANDINGS

Does anyone else know how to drive
on the other side of the street?

AVNI BALL

I studied abroad in England.

INT. LUXURY SUV - MOVING - DAY

Avni, behind the wheel, does her best to negotiate rush-hour Mumbai traffic. She's a little rusty with the clutch and the SUV lunges a few times.

AARON BLANDINGS

Watch out!-

AVNI BALL

I got it.

The SUV lunges.

AARON BLANDINGS

You need to go faster-

AVNI BALL

It's wall-to-wall traffic.

Traffic really is wall-to-wall.

AARON BLANDINGS

(To Avni)

So Henry told you he got promoted?
What did he say?

AVNI BALL
You want to talk about this now?

AARON BLANDINGS
What did he say?

AVNI BALL
That he got promoted to Associate
and he wanted to celebrate.

AARON BLANDINGS
And you believed him?

AVNI BALL
Why wouldn't I believe him?

AARON BLANDINGS
C'mon...

AVNI BALL
I'm not going to talk shit-

AARON BLANDINGS
I'm just trying to figure out what
he stood to gain from lying to you.

AVNI BALL
You'd have to ask him.

AARON BLANDINGS
People like to think they're
altruistic, but the reality is no
one believes anything unless they
can gain something from it-

AVNI BALL
Maybe in your world-

AARON BLANDINGS
You live in my world, Avni. Right
now you occupy space in my world.
Henry occupies space in my world.
And Josh occupies space; so just
answer the question. What else did
Henry tell you?

AVNI BALL
Nothing-

AARON BLANDINGS
He told you, didn't he?

AVNI BALL
What???

AARON BLANDINGS

And that's why you slept with him!!

AVNI BALL

*You are out of your mind you one-track, broken-down, insecure -- Every day it's lean in, be a killer, but also **be nice, smile, be a lady!** I dedicate my life to making you look good and-*

AARON BLANDINGS

See, that's your biggest problem! It's never about the bank, it's always about you! You want to have a career here but you don't want to do what has to be done!

AVNI BALL

And what's that? Lay on my back until I get promoted???

AARON BLANDINGS

Avni, I am the Senior Vice President of a billion-dollar investment bank! You are nothing! You are a woman in a man's world. A minority in a white world. You are broke. I am rich. I have power. You got shit. Apologize!

AVNI BALL

No!

AARON BLANDINGS

APOLOGIZE!!

AVNI BALL

No!!

AARON BLANDINGS

Lean the fuck in and apologize, or you're fired.

Suddenly they hit a pothole. Aaron pokes himself in the eye.

AARON BLANDINGS (CONT'D)

Ow!! Dammit! OWWWWWWWWWWWW---

AVNI BALL

Are you okay?

Just then the SUV **CRASHES** into a DELIVERY TRUCK. No one is hurt but they're not going anywhere for a while.

AARON BLANDINGS
GODDAMMIT!!!

Josh notices:

JOSH SILVERMAN
 On no.

AARON BLANDINGS
 What?

JOSH SILVERMAN
 The sun is setting.

Sure enough, the sun is beginning to set.

AARON BLANDINGS
 Shit! Shit! Shit!

Aaron turns to Avni.

AARON BLANDINGS (CONT'D)
 This is on you.

AVNI BALL
 No, Aaron, it's on you-

Furious, he leans in to her.

AARON BLANDINGS
You're fired.

AVNI BALL
 Good.

She defiantly gets out of the car and walks.

INT. LUXURY MUMBAI HOTEL - BAR - NIGHT

Avni nurses a whiskey at the bar. She's wearing her Northwestern University sweatshirt. We remember that from the teaser.

Josh walks by with some other analysts. He spots her.

JOSH SILVERMAN
 I'll catch up with you in a second.

He approaches her.

JOSH SILVERMAN (CONT'D)
 There you are.

AVNI BALL

Hey.

JOSH SILVERMAN

I'm sorry I told you to be nice.

AVNI BALL

No, it's...you're right-
(to bartender)
May I have another?

JOSH SILVERMAN

You plan on drinking this away?

AVNI BALL

Lamentably I am out of all other solutions.

JOSH SILVERMAN

My uncle told me once: with everything you do in life, either you become the job or the job becomes you.

AVNI BALL

Profound.

JOSH SILVERMAN

I guess what I'm asking is: Why'd you get in this business?

AVNI BALL

What do you mean?

JOSH SILVERMAN

You obviously hate it.

Avni gives Josh careful consideration.

AVNI BALL

As an analyst you can make good money right out of school. I send as much home as possible. Not that it amounts to much, because if you take my salary and bonus and divide it by the number of hours we work per week it breaks down after taxes to \$16 dollars an hour, which is a dollar more than the minimum wage in Seattle.

Josh whips out his phone and does some calculations.

JOSH SILVERMAN

I only got \$13.37 an hour.

AVNI BALL

So at that amount this bank has not purchased the right to sexually harass me, sacrifice my relationships, miss my grandmother's funeral, miss Thanksgiving, endanger my life...I have a stress rash that goes all around my waist like a belt.

JOSH SILVERMAN

I had one of those too. I *think* it's stress. Either that or really weird herpes.

They share a much needed laugh.

JOSH SILVERMAN (CONT'D)

At least we get to do some good. This water project is going to help a lot of people-

AVNI BALL

By putting them billions of dollars further in to poverty.

JOSH SILVERMAN

They're already poor. Jesus, that was an awful thing to say. Pretend I didn't say that.

She takes a big gulp of whiskey. It's painful.

JOSH SILVERMAN (CONT'D)

So what are you gonna do?

AVNI BALL

I don't know.

JOSH SILVERMAN

What do you want to do?

She smiles.

AVNI BALL

I don't know.

JOSH SILVERMAN

You gotta do something.

AVNI BALL
That's depressing.

JOSH SILVERMAN
 I was a bio major. Now I'm here.

Avni finishes her drink.

JOSH SILVERMAN (CONT'D)
 Don't take this the wrong way but
 do you want a hug?

AVNI BALL
 Yeah, I'll take one of those.

Avni stands. They hug. A deep hug between friends.

AVNI BALL (CONT'D)
 That reminds me of something Henry
 said.

JOSH SILVERMAN
 Wait-

AVNI BALL
 Where the hell IS Henry?

INT. LUXURY MUMBAI HOTEL - HALLWAY - SAME

Josh, Avni, the RECEPTIONIST and a SECURITY GUARD walk down
 the hallway to Henry's room.

Avni knocks on the door.

AVNI BALL
 Henry? Henry? It's Avni. You in
 there?

No answer. Avni looks to the security guard who looks to the
 receptionist, who nods. The security guard opens the door.

Avni enters.

AVNI BALL (O.C.) (CONT'D)
 Oh my God, Henry!

INT. LUXURY MUMBAI HOTEL - HENRY'S ROOM - SAME

Bloated and blue in the face, Henry sits upright against the
 bathroom door, a belt around his neck that's tied to the door
 knob. He's dead.

EXT. LUXURY MUMBAI HOTEL - NIGHT

Police cars everywhere, lights silently flashing. An ambulance waits. Avni stands outside, on the phone.

INT. RICK'S MANHATTAN APARTMENT - DAY

Rick on the phone, pacing.

INTERCUT

AVNI BALL

I just can't believe he's gone.

RICK HERNANDEZ

How are you?

AVNI BALL

I had no idea Henry could do this. How could he do this? Should have I seen signs?

RICK HERNANDEZ

You couldn't have known.

AVNI BALL

I know.

RICK HERNANDEZ

I love you.

AVNI BALL

I love-

Suddenly the phone cuts out.

AVNI BALL (CONT'D)

Hello? Hello?

Just then Aaron exits the hotel and walks up to Avni.

END INTERCUT

AARON BLANDINGS

What's the protocol on this?

AVNI BALL

Why are you asking me?

AARON BLANDINGS

We need to talk about picking up workload-

AVNI BALL
You fired me, remember?

Aaron waves a pretend magic wand.

AARON BLANDINGS
You're rehired.

AVNI BALL
(RE: magic wand)
Is that supposed to be a joke?

AARON BLANDINGS
Avni, if we don't fix this
everything will fall apart. The
bank, the merger, everything. We'll
be out of a job-

AVNI BALL
A *job*?

AARON BLANDINGS
Yes!

AVNI BALL
Who gives a shit about a job??

AARON BLANDINGS
Everyone!

AVNI BALL
Henry is dead!

AARON BLANDINGS
Business doesn't care if you're
alive or dead!

Just then two EMTs emerge from the hotel, wheeling a gurney.

On top is a COVERED BODY.

Avni loses her center of gravity. Everything goes distorted.
Aaron places his hand on Avni's shoulder.

AARON BLANDINGS (CONT'D)
Avni? Avni? Can you hear me?

Avni runs towards the stretcher but is turned away by the
EMTs.

She looks back at Aaron, who motions for her to come back.
She turns and starts running down the street.

CAMERA leads/ follows her. We've now caught up with the teaser.

Avni runs like she's trying to claw her way out of a nightmare. She dodges the leper. She sees the insane poverty and the overwhelming beauty and wealth.

She runs because she doesn't know where to go. She runs because she doesn't know what to do.

-Suddenly a honking horn-

Avni is hit by a taxi. *She falls back in SLOW-MOTION.*

AVNI BALL (V.O.)
Remember how I said it always gets worse?

Avni hits the ground with a violent SMACK.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)
It's worse.

SNAP TO BLACK:

THE END