

YOUNG MONEY

"PILOT"

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Based on the book "Young Money" written by Kevin Roose

TNT
CAA
The Nacelle Company

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 breath fills our ears.

POV belongs to AVNI BALL (23, Indian, first-generation American, female) analytically brilliant with the soul of Billie Eilish. Being the smartest person in the room is her forever-cross to bear.

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 + HOME 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, you taught us
that hard work, obeying the rules,
and following our dreams would lead
to a better life. We trusted you...*

NEWS AND COMMENTARY VIDEO: The rise of the socially-aware, entrepreneurial generations -- the Millennials and Generation Z.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)

*You taught us that our world was
created by God. You said the system
was designed to protect us, and we
could trust the institutions that
you now controlled. And we trusted
you...*

NEWS AND COMMENTARY VIDEO: Classroom videos about protecting the environment, and the triumphalism of the American justice system.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)
*You said our generation will do
 better than yours, just as you did
 better than your parents.*

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

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

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

AVNI BALL (V.O.)
*But then you said life was a zero
 sum game, and that we had to
 dominate the our competition...*

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.

NEWS AND COMMENTARY VIDEO: Stories of financial fraud and corporate malfeasance.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)
*You said high-interest school loans
 and introductory credit cards were
 a reasonable way to achieve this
 success...*

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

AVNI BALL (V.O.)
*You said we had to do what we had
 to do to stand out from the
 crowd...*

AVNI FLASHBACK SCENES: Avni (12) absorbs media culture promoting redemptive aspirations/ #squadgoals/ *Living your best life*/ Hyperbolic social media stock predictions/ The rise of influencer culture --

AVNI BALL (V.O.)
*And that when it came to success,
 nothing was off limits...*

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.)

We did everything you told us to do...

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

AVNI BALL (V.O.)

We trusted you...

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.)

And then: you betrayed us.

NEWS AND COMMENTARY VIDEO: Contemptuous "My Take" editorials about Millennials and Generation Z.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)

You went on TV and called us selfish, entitled, cry-baby, snowflakes.

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

AVNI BALL (V.O.)

You waxed nostalgic about free love from your youth...

NEWS AND COMMENTARY VIDEO: Baby-Boomer hippie love-ins/ The baby-boomer-controlled sexual intensification of youth culture.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)

While you eroticized our culture with a media apparatus you controlled, then condemned us for liking sex and taking selfies...

NEWS AND COMMENTARY VIDEO: Hysterical TV op-ed rants decrying sexting/ Smarmy memes about "kids these days" on Facebook, IG, Tik-Tok, etc.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)
*And you had the arrogance to do it
 on platforms that we invented.*

AVNI FLASHBACK SCENES: Avni (21) at a job fair. 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 YOU
 -- the Me Generation -- a group of
 Gordon Geckos who converted
 history's greatest economy into a
 toxic, one-sided, downwardly
 mobile, financial shitscape of
 debt, war, pollution, and botox.*

NEWS AND COMMENTARY VIDEO: The 2008 Financial Meltdown.

AVNI BALL (V.O.)
*We didn't invent this mess. You
 did.*

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.

JOSH SILVERMAN
Consider it a coping mechanism--

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
(To Henry, RE: Josh)
Ignore him. Four days is not a lifetime-

HENRY WEN
That's not what I said--

JOSH SILVERMAN
Drosophila--

HENRY WEN
I said during a merger it might as well...

JOSH SILVERMAN
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 fruit flies?

JOSH SILVERMAN
It's a salient point.

HENRY WEN

I can't tell if you're an asshole
or an idiot.

Josh inspects the tic-tac.

JOSH SILVERMAN

Henry, what is the purpose of our
business?

HENRY WEN

I know everything about our
business.

Josh pops and savors the tic-tac.

JOSH SILVERMAN

I'm sure there is a small, dark
place under a rock where that is
true.

HENRY WEN

Fuck you.

JOSH SILVERMAN

We work at the Wall Street
investment bank Glock Financial,
and our purpose is to exploit
chaos. Our bosses find cracks in
the world. Sometimes these cracks
are referred to as "government
malfeasance." Sometimes it's
"social unrest." We analyze these
cracks and our bosses invent ways
to make them expand or contract,
creating unintended consequences
which invariably lead to more
cracks, creating more chaos... Are
you following?

Henry turns to Avni.

HENRY WEN

Do you believe this asshole?

AVNI BALL

I invented that asshole--
(To Josh)

When we land you need to check the
ISE-B&S Water Index--

JOSH SILVERMAN

I already did--

AVNI BALL

And?

HENRY WEN

Listen to me! 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 diversity-for-*Business Week*-bullshit.

HENRY WEN

Don't give me that politically-correct crap-

AVNI BALL

I've been to India once, okay?

HENRY WEN

We're at defcon one!

AVNI BALL

I was born in New Jersey--

JOSH SILVERMAN

More chaos, more cracks, more monnnneeyyyy--

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
I think you mean *Fern Gully*?

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.

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
Do not say crash and burn on an
airplane!

JOSH SILVERMAN
No shit!

HENRY WEN
You know I'm right!

AVNI BALL
Shut up!

The turbulence intensifies. The plane shakes violently. The
fuselage *GROANS*.

HENRY WEN
We're gonna die!

Just then -- the plane quickly rights itself. All is calm.
Henry is suddenly self-conscious.

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 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. 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.

(MORE)

INDIAN NEW ANCHOR (CONT'D)

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; local fixer), 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 the 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 Messiaj, 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. 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.

(MORE)

SAMANTHA LU (CONT'D)

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

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.

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.
(MORE)

AVNI BALL (CONT'D)

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