

THE DEVIL BEHIND

Written by

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AN ONLINE MMORPG GAME PLAYING.

The videogame character slays monsters left and right. He's in the thick of battle.

WE HEAR THE FULL SOUNDTRACK OF THE GAME. WE ARE IN IT.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL:

INT. HOUSE - LOFT BEDROOM - DAY

AMEEN - 35 YEAR OLD MAN - is in his underwear playing the game on his dual monitor computer with headphones on.

THE ROOM IS DEAD SILENT, WITH ONLY THE FRANTIC CLICKING OF THE MOUSE FILLING THE ATMOSPHERE.

IN THE ROOM WE SEE EMPTY PIZZA BOXES ALONG WITH TAKE-AWAY AND EXPENSIVE LOOKING COMPUTER PART BOXES - GRAPHIC CARD, CPU, RAM MEMORIES, CPU WATER-COOLING SYSTEM.

The room is messy, more fitting to a teenager than an adult.

The bedroom door opens and WE see FATIMA - 30 YEAR OLD WOMAN - dressed to go out and holding the hand of their son LAMON - 4 who is wearing nothing but diapers.

FATIMA

Ameen, I'm going out, I need you to watch Lamon for a few hours.

Ameen is oblivious, completely immersed in his game.

FATIMA (CONT'D)

(raising her voice)

Ameen! Do you hear what I said?

Still no response.

Fatima walks over to Ameen and removes the headphones off of his head startling him.

AMEEN

What the hell are you doing woman? Don't sneak on me like that!

FATIMA

I'm going out. I need you to watch Lamon for a few hours.

AMEEN

What? Why? Where you goin'?

FATIMA

Shopping. We don't have anymore food in the house.

AMEEN

So? Order something.

FATIMA

We can't live on takeaways Ameen, and besides, it's expensive. We can eat for a week with what you pay for a pizza.

AMEEN

Yes but it's not hot pizza.

FATIMA

I can buy you frozen pizza from the shop and cook it for you.

AMEEN

I'm not touching that garbage! I'm the one paying for food in the house and I eat what I want!

FATIMA

Lamon is too young for that and I get a bad stomach from it.

Ameen suddenly turns back to his monitors and starts pressing keys.

AMEEN

Oh look what you made me do woman! Now I have to start the quest again. You know I can't pause this!

FATIMA

Well I better go if I want to find anything left. People are buying everything because of the pandemic.

AMEEN

Fine just get out and leave me alone.

FATIMA

I need you to watch the boy Ameen, make sure to change his diaper at least, and give him some naan bread until I come back.

AMEEN

(focusing on the game)
Yeah-yeah-yeah, now shoo! I need to
waste these bastards if I want that
new armor.

Fatima gently pushes the boy in the room.

FATIMA

Go, stay with your father until I
come back.

Fatima closes the door behind her.

Lamon walks in the middle of the room and stands there
staring at Ameen.

Ameen sees him with the corner of his eye. He's
uncomfortable.

He scoffs as he gets up from his gaming chair and pulls Lamon
on the sofa behind. He sits him on the sofa then pulls out a
phone and hands it to him.

AMEEN

Here! Learn how to use it.

He rushes back to his desk and puts his headphones back on.

AMEEN (CONT'D)

Stupid pain the arse!

WE are immersed again in the game, surrounded by MUSIC and FX
as we follow the main character fight its way through the
quest when--

The music cuts out abruptly and WE see Fatima holding Ameen's
headphones.

The music is replaced by Lamon's desperate cries in the
background. Ameen is suddenly pulled back into the real
world. He looks at Fatima, returned from her shopping trip,
looking angry at him.

FATIMA

Are you serious right now?

Ameen looks out the window - it's dark outside. He looks at
his son sitting in a dirty diaper with tears flowing down his
cheeks.

AMEEN

What? I only turned my back at him
for a second!

FATIMA

I've been gone for 4 hours Ameen!
You neglected your own son to play
that stupid game of yours!

Ameen looks at his son and scoffs.

AMEEN

He's fine. My folks used to leave
me like that for days.

Fatima takes Lamon into her arms.

FATIMA

You're unbelievable you know that?

AMEEN

Well it's your job to take care of
him, do your job woman!

FATIMA

I'm doing my best Ameen!

Fatima storms out of the room.

Ameen puts his headphones back on and resumes playing.

AMEEN

Stupid woman can't do anything
right.

WE are immersed in the video game again and WHEN PULL BACK WE
REVEAL TO BE IN--

INT. MEDIUM SIZED SHARED OFFICE - DAY

The game is displayed on Ameen's work computer screen now.

He is in his cubicle, wearing a white shirt and tie.

REVEAL: an open plan shared office with 4 cubicles, an
entrance door at the front, the manager's office at the back
divided by a glass wall, and a TV showing the NEWS.

His boss ALLAN walks in and Ameen quickly minimizes the game
to reveal a spreadsheet on his monitor.

Allan walks over to Ameen's station.

ALLAN

You finished with those RAMS Ameen?
The client has a visit this Friday
and needs the paperwork.

AMEEN

Yeah sure, almost finished.

Allan looks at Ameen's computer screen.

ALLAN

You haven't even started have you?

AMEEN

I did, but the computer crashed and now I have to start all over.

A colleague calls Allan from behind his desk.

COLLEAGUE (O.S.)

Hey boss, check this out!

He then points the remote at the TV and turns up the volume.

TV NEWS: Large caption on screen : NATIONWIDE LOCKDOWN DUE TO PANDEMIC, along with images of people ransacking the supermarket shelves.

ANCHOR WOMAN

Products are flying off the shelves as people are panic buying in preparation for the potential lockdown...

ALLAN

This is not good.

COLLEAGUE 2

It's like the end of the world.

AMEEN

You guys actually believe this stuff?

COLLEAGUE

And you don't? You don't think that virus is real?

AMEEN

No. If you ask me this is nothing but a plot to sell expired food. Once they fill their pockets they'll call off the lockdown.

ALLAN

I don't know Ameen, it looks pretty ...mean to me.

COLLEAGUE 2

Yes, A *mean* looking future indeed.

AMEEN

You think you're funny now huh?

EXT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A brand new BMW M3 pulls onto the driveway. Ameen exits the car and suddenly his face turns sour, like he is about to walk into an unpleasant situation.

He is not happy to be home.

He inserts his key and unlocks the door.

INT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

The door opens and in comes Ameen looking downbeat.

Lamon sits on top of the stairs holding a toy train.

LAMON

Hello daddy!

Ameen gives him a cold stare.

AMEEN

Managed not to shit yourself this time?

Lamon rushes out of the frame.

Fatima appears cleaning her hands with a towel.

FATIMA

Why do you have to be so hard on the boy?

AMEEN

Shut up woman!
The boy needs to be tough.
So he doesn't grow like his mother.

Ameen rushes up the stairs.

AMEEN (CONT'D)

Bring my food upstairs. And don't forget the ketchup!

INT. AMEEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

WE ARE BACK IN THE GAME - the character swash buckles his way eliminating monsters left and right and collecting power armors.

Ameen is in his bedroom still wearing his jacket and work clothes. He looks at the clock - 3 AM.

AMEEN

Shit!

INT. AMHEEN'S OFFICE - DAY

Ameen is at his computer frantically clicking his mouse. He has dark circles around his eyes from the lack of sleep.

NEWS Bulletin on the office TV.

NEWS ANCHOR

The government has stepped in to support companies affected by the lockdown and it will subsidize up to 80% of it's employees wages.

COLLEAGUE

Oh yeah! Free holiday!

COLLEAGUE 2

I was hoping for some time off. Me and the missus are never leaving the sheets!

COLLEAGUE

Someone doesn't have any kids.

Allan enters.

ALLAN

Ameen, I need to see you in my office please.

Ameen minimizes the game, rolls his eyes and scoffs as he gets up.

INT. ALLAN'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Allan and Ameen sit facing each other.

ALLAN

The client called again Ameen, he said you haven't submitted his RAMS. He almost got his site shut down because of this.

AMEEN

I know, I'll get them done before Friday don't worry.

ALLAN

Today IS Friday Ameen.

Ameen freezes for a moment.

ALLAN (CONT'D)

I've been watching your performance. You seem to be spending an awful lot of time on that videogame of yours.

AMEEN

What? Oh come on Allan, everyone else is browsing something on the side.

ALLAN

Everyone else submits their papers on time Ameen. After that they can do whatever they want.

AMEEN

Well everyone doesn't have the same workload as I do.

ALLAN

They actually have more. Look, this isn't the first time this happens. We lost 5 clients because of you and we can't afford to lose another.

AMEEN

Oh, I see where this is going.

ALLAN

Do you?

AMEEN

You want to get rid of me before the lockdown. So you won't have to pay my furlough!

ALLAN

No Ameen, this is about your videogame addiction.

AMEEN

Bullshit! I don't have an addiction! It's those guys out there with the addiction! Who can't stay more than 5 minutes without tweeter or take a selfie with their new Instagram filter. I mind my own business and I'm to blame for the shit in the company?!

ALLAN

Calm down Ameen.

AMEEN

Calm down?!

Ameen gets up from his chair.

AMEEN (CONT'D)

You know what? I don't need this job. Fuck you and your company!

AMEEN (CONT'D)

Are you serious right now?
I hope you know what you're doing.

Ameen stops in front of the door.

AMEEN (CONT'D)

I always know what I'm doing!

INT. SHARED OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Ameen exits Allan's office and storms out.

COLLEAGUE

Extremely bad timing.

COLLEAGUE 2

He is either incredibly smart, or incredibly stupid.

COLLEAGUE

Enemy of the state?

COLLEAGUE 2

Yeah, seen it last night. It's a good flick.

WE focus on the OFFICE TV in the background.

CAPTION - 3 DAYS UNTIL NATIONWIDE LOCKDOWN DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS.

EXT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - DAY

The BMW parks angrily in the driveway. Ameen exits the car and storms inside the house.

INT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Ameen enters furiously and throws the jacked off of him. Fatima comes to greet him.

FATIMA

What are doing home so early?

AMEEN

(rushing up the stairs)

I quit. Screw those guys! They want to make goat out of me!

INT. AMEEN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ameen enters his room and sits himself at the computer then frantically taps on the keyboard to turn it on. Fatima comes in the doorway.

FATIMA

What do you mean you quit?

AMEEN

Are you deaf or stupid woman? What does quitting mean? I quit! Fuck them!

FATIMA

But, what are we going to do? They are locking down the country next week. How are we going to survive?

AMEEN

I have one more paycheck to come then I will see. Now go away and leave me alone!

Fatima exits and Ameen starts playing his game.

MONTAGE OF NEWS CLIPS SHOWING THE STATE OF THE NATION DURING THE FIRST LOCKDOWN INTERCUT WITH SHOTS OF AMEEN AT HIS COMPUTER.

OFFICIALS GIVING STATEMENTS

PEOPLE BUYING MASKS

SOCIAL DISTANCING SIGNS

PEOPLE FIGHTING

PROTESTS IN ALL MAJOR CITIES WITH VIOLENT CLASHES BETWEEN THE PEOPLE AND THE AUTHORITIES.

EMPTY CITY STREETS

CLOSED RESTAURANTS

AVERAGE PEOPLE WITH FEAR IN THEIR EYES

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AMEEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

The TV in his bedroom shows the NEWS.

TV NEWS BULLETIN

Most companies have reported massive losses during the lockdown and are pleading with governments to ease the restrictions so they can re-open for business. The online retailers on the other hand have reported substantial increase in profits during these past two weeks...

CAMERA PANS TO THE LEFT and WE see Ameen at his computer playing his game. He looks haggard, unclean with a messy beard and dark circles around his eyes.

The window blind is shut completely and only a few sun rays poke through the edges.

WE see the computer screen from Ameen's POINT OF VIEW when a phone appears in front of him.

He takes off his headphones and sees Fatima holding the phone and an envelope in her other hand.

AMEEN
 (mouths in silence)
 What's this?

FATIMA
 (mouths in silence)
 The bank.

Ameen takes the phone to his ear.

AMEEN
 H-Hello?

BANK OPERATOR
 (phone)
 Hello Mr. Ameen, I'm calling about
 the mortgage payments you missed
 the last couple of months.

AMEEN
 I what? No, it's direct debit, the
 bank takes money from my account.

BANK OPERATOR
 (phone)
 Your account is overdrawn sir. It
 exceeded its limit.

Fatima goes to the window and raises the blind lighting up
 the room. Ameen squints his eyes and turns away.

AMEEN
 No! There has to be a mistake.

BANK OPERATOR
 (phone)
 When was the last time you checked
 your account sir?

Ameen freezes.

AMEEN
 I--don't really check my account.

BANK OPERATOR
 (phone)
 Well maybe you should sir. At this
 moment the Bank will be forced to
 recover the loses by other means.

AMEEN
 Ok, ahm, I want to pause payments,
 the news said I have 3 months with
 no pay.

BANK OPERATOR

That is correct, but these payments are overdue from before the lockdown and we need to recover them before we can grant you a break.

Ameen gets up from his chair and paces around the room holding the phone.

AMEEN

Uhm, how much do I owe?

Fatima hands him the envelope. WE FOCUS on the number on the bottom just as the bank operator says it.

BANK OPERATOR

(phone)
1475f and 32p.

AMEEN

This can't be right. It must be some kind of mistake.

BANK OPERATOR

(phone)
It's no mistake sir. You did not receive any income for the past 3 weeks and your expenses have increased.

AMEEN

Oh man! How long do I have to pay?

BANK OPERATOR

(phone)
We are applying a daily penalty of 0.35% which will increase after 30 days.

AMEEN

What? So if I can't pay I get to owe you even more money?

BANK OPERATOR

(phone)
Not if you pay your bills on time.

AMEEN

What happens after 30 days?

BANK OPERATOR

(phone)
We send the bailiffs.

Ameen closes the phone and stares at Fatima. For the first time we see him vulnerable and afraid.

He checks his balance.

-1892f. 118f remaining on his overdraft.

Lamon starts crying from the other room. Fatima exits.

CUT TO:

INT. AMEEN'S BEDROOM - LATER

Ameen is talking on the phone and pacing around his room.

MONTAGE OF SHORT SCENES IN WHICH AMEEN IS TALKING ON THE PHONE WITH VARIOUS PEOPLE.

AMEEN

Hello? Hi, yes I'm calling about the consultant job you have online...yes....the one on the website?...Ok, Yes, I will. Please reply when you get my application.

CUT TO:

AMEEN (CONT'D)

Yes I will hold.

(beat)

Hello sir, I'm calling about the safety consultant role you have advertised--

No I did not look at the date.

And do you have any other openings?

No? Ok. Sorry to bother you.

CUT TO:

AMEEN (CONT'D)

Hello? Yes I would like to increase my overdraft please.

What's the maximum?

Thank you.

CUT TO:

AMEEN (CONT'D)
I have worked for Brandon Brandon,
TSG Consulting, and most recently
for CORE UK as a safety consultant.

CUT TO:

AMEEN (CONT'D)
I can do risk assessments, method
statements, safe systems of work--I
can drive yes.
A lorry? No, I don't.
Ok.

Ameen closes the phone. A beat then a sudden outburst.

AMEEN (CONT'D)
Fuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuck!

He goes to his computer. We see open tabs on jobsites.
INDEED, CV Library, TOTALJOBS.

Zero new jobs.

He checks is his inbox - Zero emails.

PHONE CHIMES

He checks his phone. We see the message on the screen.

"YOUR OVERDRAFT HAS BEEN INCREASED TO 5000£"

AMEEN (CONT'D)
Yes!

PHONE CHIMES.

"you paid 56.89 to PC World"

PHONE CHIMES

"you paid 1894.75£ To Santander Bank

THEN MESSAGE AFTER MESSAGE COMES.

"you paid 563£ to..."

"you paid 83.94£"

"your direct debit of 157.55 was taken out of your account.

"Remaining balance -4673.94£"

Suddenly the TV starts blaring loudly, startling Ameen.

TV

*Next on BBC Prime! Can't Pay we'll
take it away! And after that, Repo
men the dangers of car
repossessions!
24 hours marathons only on BBC2!*

Ameen grabs the remote and quickly turns it off.

CUT TO:

AMEEN IS ON THE PHONE AGAIN

AMEEN

Yes I'm calling about the admin
role you have advertised. Yes I
did, I sent it this morning, I just
wanted to make sure you received
it. Ok, yes, thank you.

CUT TO:

AMEEN (CONT'D)

Hi, I'm calling about the delivery
driver job-- no longer valid, ok
thank you.

CUT TO:

AMEEN (CONT'D)

Customer service job. Yes. 5 years.
I can start anytime. Even today
(laughing nervously)
Sure. I'll wait for your call. Not
a problem. Thank you.

CUT TO:

Ameen is at the computer resting his head in his palms. He
stares desolated at the computer screen.

Phone rings. He answers.

VOICE ON THE PHONE

Hello, Mr. Ameen, we received your
application and was wondering if
you are still interested in the
job.

AMEEN

Yes, yes I am!
Tomorrow Morning?
I'll be there!

EXT. NILE CORP YARD - EARLY MORNING

Ameen drives into the yard of a fulfillment center.

As he drives he looks at the other parked cars. Almost all of them are old, 10-20 year old models.

His shiny BMW stands out.

He looks at the cars with disgust while he parks in a vacant parking spot.

WE SEE 2 RUSTY SHIPPING CONTAINERS stacked on top of each other and behind them, A LARGE BUILDING THE SIZE OF AN AMAZON WAREHOUSE towering over the entire landscape. The building looks dull, grey, and somewhat ominous.

Next to the 2 stacked containers, a rusty blue shipping container with opened doors on one side. The inside it's pitch black.

The top container has a sign on the door that says "SITE OFFICE" while on the bottom one it says "CANTEEN".

INT. CONTAINER SITE OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

A rusty storage unit acting as an office. The inside is covered in dried mud and the wind is whistling through the rust holes.

A RUGGED MAN - LATE 40'S - STEVE - WEARING DIRTY HIGH-VIZ CLOTHING is sitting at a crooked folded table acting as a desk and stares at Ameen who stands in front of him looking fresh and wearing his white shirt and tie. He stands straight and looks hopeful, eager to start work.

STEVE

You read the job description?

AMEEN

The job only said operative sir.

STEVE

As you know, Nile is the biggest online retailer in the world. The only one allowed to operate during the lockdown and they do create a large amount of cardboard which needs to be processed. That's where you come in.

(MORE)

STEVE (CONT'D)

You'll be pushing wagons full of cardboard into the shredding machine.

What have you done before?

AMEEN

I was a safety consultant.

STEVE

A safety man? Well what are the odds of that. I guess the world has gone upside down. I get to tell the safety man what to do and not the other way around.

(he gets up and leans menacingly towards Ameen)

Don't get any ideas around here. I only need you for your legs and shoulders. Are we clear?

AMEEN

Yes.

STEVE

Yes sir!

AMEEN

Yes, sir!

Steve sits back in his chair and grabs a pen ready to start writing in a register.

STEVE

I need your full name for the id badge.

AMEEN

Ameen Yashed.

Beat.

STEVE

Well, are you?

AMEEN

Scuze me?

STEVE

In my shed.

Ameen stares at Steve confused.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Forgot you *pakies* have no sense of humor. Get the fuck outta here, go to the stores and get yourself some overalls. You wear that shit at a funeral not here.

INT. SHUNTING ROOM - LATER

A POORLY LIT UNDERGROUND ROOM. Looks like a mine. On one end, flat used cardboard boxes arrive on a conveyor to a pair of workers who stack them up in ballots and place them on small steel wagons on rails, similar to the ones used in mining operations.

Another pair of workers shunt them down a small slope through a set of one-way doors until they arrive in front of another group of workers who stand waiting behind a rusty yellow wire mesh gate. When the wagon stops, a green light flashes and a horn buzzes then two workers open the gate and go on track to push the wagon away.

The gate closes, the next wagon arrives and the process repeats.

Ameen is with another employee - LEWIS - M - 20-25 YEARS OLD - Lower Manager. He is younger than him and wearing clean clothes and full PPE. Hi goggles are old style aviator type, which makes him look ridiculous and menacing at the same time.

LEWIS

Alright, this here is what we call the shunting area.

(pointing at the men at the conveyor)

You see those people over there? They're the ones stacking the wagons with paper. Then the shunters push them down to the gate, which opens only after the wagon has stopped, then you will push the wagon up that ramp which is about 100 yards away, to the shredder at the far end where another team will tip it inside. Clear?

AMEEN

Y-yes.

LEWIS

You don't look so sure. Got any questions?

AMEEN
How heavy is it?

LEWIS
Heavy enough to crush you if you slip.
Now wear your hard hat at all times in here you hear? If the boss man sees you without it you're out.
(shouts at the crowd)
Hey yo Davey!

Dave answers from the crowd.

DAVE
Yo!

LEWIS
Com'here for a second.

Dave arrives. Thin, tall well built Jamaican young man - 25.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
This here is Ameen, he'll be your push mate.

DAVE
You're shitting me! Why you're giving me the new guy? I'm gonna do all work by myself!

LEWIS
Because you killed the last one.
Now get going!
The wagons are about to roll out.

Lewis leaves Dave and Ameen.

Ameen reaches his hand to shake but Dave brushes him off.

DAVE
Man put that away! I don't need your fucking hand I need your legs. When that wagon come you better be pushin' or I'll smack ya silly! You hear?

Ameen nods.

They both go in line behind 2 other pairs of workers waiting at the gate.

Ameen looks at the other workers. He looks scrawny compared to them.

A worker shouts from behind. He is large, the largest man of all, with a beard and beanie had under his hard hat - BOB.

BOB

Hey yo Dave, who's your boyfriend?

DAVE

Man fuck off!

(softly)

This is some bullshit!

Wagon arrives. Light turns green, the buzzer rings, the first pair go on the tracks and they push the steel wagon away.

The gate closes. Another wagon arrives. The light turns green, the buzzer rings, the gate opens and the next pair go on the tracks and push the wagon away.

Everything is at a rapid pace, like clockwork.

Ameen and Dave arrive in front of the gate. It's their turn.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Alright this is us. Now remember,
that shit is heavy so you better
put some muscle in it 'cause I
ain't carrying your ass. You feel
me?

Ameen nods. The wagon arrives. The light turns green and--

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE! - The buzzer blares, the gate clicks open and Dave goes through followed by Ameen who is slightly hesitant.

They place themselves on the back of the wagon and start pushing. It barely budes.

Ameen is straining himself with all his might. The wheels look glued to the tracks.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Push motherfucker or the other
wagon will come and crush us!

Ameen braces his feet against the sleepers of the track and shakes from all the effort, groaning and sweating.

The other workers laugh at them from behind the gate.

WORKER 1

Ask him to marry you Davey! Maybe
he'll start pushing!

The wheels start moving and they push the wagon away just as the other one arrives behind them.

DAVE

That's it, you got it! Come on,
let's get some speed!

They got the wagon moving and Ameen is panting as he's pushing.

They push the wagon through A DARK NARROW TUNNEL WITH THE WALLS ONLY INCHES AWAY FROM THE TRACKS. The wheels make a LOW GRINDING NOISE as they travel.

The tunnel is so dark Ameen can barely see the wagon he is pushing. Dave is almost covered by the darkness and can only hear him breathing next to him. It all looks surreal for a moment.

He almost trips but catches himself last minute. He starts pushing again. Dave doesn't say anything. He continues to push at a regular pace, almost mechanical.

Ameen picks up the pace and pushes but can barely keep up with Dave.

THEIR LABORED BREATHING ALONG WITH THE GRINDING OF THE WAGON WHEELS BOUNCE OFF THE TUNNEL WALLS SATURATING THE ATMOSPHERE.

The wagon slows down a bit as they reach a shallow slope. The light from the end of the tunnel reaches them and WE see them again. Ameen is drenched in sweat like he labored an entire day. He looks tired and miserable.

AS THEY PUSH.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Now, you can go easy around this part because it levels itself out, but when we get to that marker you need to start pushing again 'cause we got to carry this bitch up a ramp to the shredder.

Ameen gasps as he pushes the wagon, he barely has any breath left in him. They pass by a wooden peg with a red rag on it.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Alright that's our marker, now push if you wanna see this thing through!

Ameen starts groaning as he forces himself against the wagon again. They gather momentum and pick up speed.

INT. SHREDDING AREA - SAME TIME

A DEAFENING ATMOSPHERE FILLED WITH THE CLATTER OF AN INDUSTRIAL MACHINE IN OPERATION.

WE see the large shredding machine at the end of the ramp in full action, shaking as it chews tons of cardboard.

The machine looks old, almost obsolete. With traces of red paint on its rusty surface and an old motor driving a shaky belt.

Ameen and Dave push the wagon up the ramp where 2 other workers, PHIL - A JOLLY WRINKLED MAN IN HIS 50'S and DALE - A SLENDER MAN IN HIS EARLY 40'S WHO LOOKS FRESH OUT OF A CASKET, place a wedge at the wheels, then place 2 car jacks underneath, lift it to about 45 degrees, then push the wagon with their shoulders to tip it into the basket of the shredding machine. The operation looks grueling and we can almost see their backs bending under the immense weight.

Ameen looks at them wheezing and bug eyed. Suddenly his job doesn't seem so bad anymore.

Dave on the other hand looks like he hardly broke a sweat.

DAVE

Come on, the side tunnel's that way.

Ameen looks at Dave as if saying "there's more?".

DAVE (CONT'D)

Don't bitch on me now man!

Ameen slowed down his breathing and limps towards Dave.

PHIL

I think your boyfriend needs a hug Dave!

DAVE

Don't you have a butt to sniff?

Mind your own shit will ya?

(to Ameen)

Come on, you can rest on your way back.

INT. SIDE TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER

Ameen and Dave walk away from the noisy shredder and they enter a side tunnel as narrow as the one they came in, but with slightly more light and no tracks on the floor. Only puddles of water.

Ameen slushes as he walks, but Dave doesn't. He knows where the dry patches are.

AMEEN

I can't wait for the coffee break.

DAVE

Coffee break? Where you think you are? Marks and Spencer?

AMEEN

No coffee break?

DAVE

This isn't water you're stepping in bruv.

Ameen makes a face looking down at the floor.

DAVE (CONT'D)

You get one half hour break at 1. And that's it.

Ameen looks disgusted at the floor then at his soaked feet.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Don't feel so bad. This is good for you. Helps with the blisters.

AMEEN

What time do we finish?

DAVE

When the wagons stop coming. Sometimes at 5, sometimes at 7. Sometimes later than that. But never earlier.

Ameen looks down in dismay.

AMEEN

Hey ahm, what rate you're on?

DAVE

Rate?

AMEEN

Hourly rate, what's the pay.

DAVE

(laughing)

You didn't ask a lot of questions
when you got here did you?

AMEEN

No.

DAVE

Up here you get paid by the wagon.
7.50 Per. The more you push, the
more you take.

Ameen is desolated. He realized he made a grave mistake.

INT. SHUNTING AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Ameen and Dave arrive back to the shunting area and stand in
line at the wire mesh gate.

Ameen looks around for something.

DAVE

Don't look for a place to sit. It
only makes it worse.

AMEEN

Thank you.

DAVE

Don't thank me ok? I ain't your boy
and I ain't planning to. Down here
you're only good as long as you
push.

Wagon arrives and the gate opens.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Now come on, we gotta do this all
day. Hope you like your new job.

Ameen and Dave go through the gate and back on the tracks.

Ameen forces himself against the wagon again, just as he did
the first time.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Come on man push! Let's get this
bastard outta here!

Ameen grunts with all his might gritting his teeth and hating his life.

AMEEN
God damn it!

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT. NILE CORP YARD - EVENING

The workers come out from the underground through the blue container. They all look tired and downbeat. Hardly any life in them

Ameen is among the last. Dragging his feet. He looks worse than everyone, like an inmate after a day's torture.

INT. AMEEN'S BMW - MOMENTS LATER

Ameen opens the door and crashes into his seat completely exhausted.

He is startled by a knock on his window. It's Dave.

Ameen rolls down the window.

DAVE
Make sure you sleep well tonight.
No funny business alright?

Ameen nods.

Dave walks away.

The other workers snub him as they walk past his car. WE can see the resentment in their eyes.

EXT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ameen's car slowly pulls in the driveway. Car door opens and Ameen drags himself out like he is 90 years old.

INT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Ameen enters slowly, barely moving. A stark contrast from how he was in the morning.

Fatima comes to greet him. She is almost shocked to see him like that. Ameen doesn't even look at her.

She doesn't dare to say anything and just stands there, watching him dragging himself up the stairs, hand tightly gripped on the railing, legs shaking.

He looks overwhelmed with pain.

INT. AMEEN'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ameen arrives in his loft bedroom, takes a glance at his computer monitors which show his videogame on standby, then crashes on the sofa.

Fatima arrives in the doorway unsure what to say. Her face a mixture of compassion and fear.

FATIMA

Ameen. Are you ok?

Ameen doesn't answer.

FATIMA (CONT'D)

How is the new job?

Ameen blinks slowly and takes a deep sigh.

FATIMA (CONT'D)

Do you want me to bring you dinner?

Ameen nods.

FATIMA (CONT'D)

Ok.

Fatima turns to exit but stops, and turns back towards Ameen.

FATIMA (CONT'D)

Don't you want to sleep in our bedroom? It's less stairs to climb.

AMEEN

Bring the food.

FATIMA

Yes Ameen. What do you want to eat?

AMEEN

I don't know. Anything. Food.

FATIMA

Yes Ameen.

Fatima exits Ameen's bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. AMEEN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

ALARM TONE BLARES.

Ameen wakes up. His overalls are on the floor besides him.

He looks at the phone - 5 AM.

He sits himself at the edge of the bed. His face twisted in pain. He looks at the computer monitor - his videogame the same as it was the night before.

EXT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Ameen exits the house in the early morning and goes inside his car. He starts and reverses out of his driveway.

INT. SHUNTING UNIT - MORNING

Ameen arrives into the shunting unit where the other workers are standing.

BOB

Look what the cat dragged in.

DAVE

Heeeey! You made it!

PHIL

I guess your boyfriend likes it rough uh Dave?

DAVE

You must be pretty desperate to come back for more. Coffee?

AMEEN

Yes please.

DAVE

No. Do you have any coffee on you? Ain't no vending machine around here.

AMEEN

Ahm, no.

DAVE

Well make sure you get some
tomorrow.

Ameen and Dave line up at the gate. They are 5th in line.

EEEEEEEEEEEEEE - the buzzer rings. The light at the gate turns
green and the first pair go on the track.

Ameen looks at the buzzer box with the two lights on.
Suddenly it has an ominous feel about it.

AMEEN

My legs are killing me.

DAVE

You just need to warm up. You'll be
fine after the first couple of
runs.

EEEEEEEEEEEEEE! - another buzz and the next pair goes through the
gate.

Ameen is shaken by the sound. Almost terrified by it.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Sleep good last night?

AMEEN

I guess.

DAVE

Yeah I remember my first night.
Crashed straight into the next day.
And every night since.

AMEEN

Does it get any better?

DAVE

Not really. This becomes your
conscious life. Everything else is
just background noise.

EEEEEEEEEEEEEE! - the buzzer goes again and the next pair go
through the gate. One more before they go through. Ameen is
reluctant to go. He stares at the buzzer with fear.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Don't get cold feet on me now.

AMEEN

I'm not sure if I can do this.

DAVE

Just when I thought you were
somethin'.

EEEEEEEEEEEEEE! - the buzzer goes again and the pair in front of
them go through the gate. Ameen and Dave are next.

WORKER IN CROWD (O.S.)

Fucking Covid ruined our lives!

WE STAY FOCUSED ON DAVE AND AMEEN.

AMEEN

I don't know how you can do this
for a living. I'm not cut out for
this man.

DAVE

Well you better make up your mind
'cause the boss man just entered.
He sees you slacking off and your
job goes to someone else. Hopefully
someone with more muscle.

Ameen looks over his shoulder and sees Steve standing by the
entrance, looking straight at him with a suspicious look on
his face.

AMEEN

How did you know? You weren't even
lookin'.

DAVE

That whole Covid thing, that's our
warning signal.
You wanna quit? Go tell him you're
too good for this.

Ameen stares at Steve, undecided. He looks like he's about to
walk over to Steve when--

EEEEEEEEEEEEEE! - the buzzer blares and the light turns green.
It's their turn. We see their wagon waiting for them on the
tracks. It looks to have more ballots on it than the others.

Dave opens the gate while Ameen stands there for a moment
measuring the size of the wagon.

DAVE (CONT'D)

You're costing me money Ameen. You
in or out? I ain't got all day.

Steve squints his eyes looking at Ameen.

Ameen looks back at Steve. He hesitates for a moment, then slowly walks through the gate and onto the track.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Thought so.

Ameen places himself against the cold steel of the wagon and grunts as he starts pushing. His face ashen with pain and anger. His legs start shaking as he struggles to push, his eyes start tearing and groans loudly.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Come on man push or you're gonna
get us both sacked! Push god damn
it!

AMEEN
Damn it hurts so bad!

DAVE
Yeah well being poor hurts even
worse now push this bitch!

They both struggle and eventually nudge the wagon.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Come on! You got it!

INT. SHREDDING AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Ameen and Dave push the wagon up to the shredder and hand it over to the tippers.

Ameen is breathing heavily. He goes on the side and leans against a wall, his body shaking all over.

DAVE
Don't worry, that's just your body
waking up. First runs are always
the hardest. Now come on.

Ameen looks at Dave as if saying "do I really have to do this?"

But instead he slowly follows him through the side tunnel without saying anything.

INT. SIDE TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER

Dave and Ameen walk back to the shunting area.

AMEEN

So what happened to the guy before me?

DAVE

He died of Covid.

AMEEN

Really? Covid?

DAVE

Well actually he had a heart attack. Came from a desk job just like you. I guess he pushed himself too much. But they wrote him down as a Covid patient. Word is, the big man got a payout for it as well.

AMEEN

So what, he just died here?

DAVE

Yeah. They pulled his body to the parking lot and told the ambulance he was found there. No one asked any questions.

AMEEN

That's messed up.

DAVE

Tell me about it. I had to push the rest of the wagons by myself for that day. Fat fuck didn't even have the decency to die at the end of the shift.

AMEEN

Why did Lewis said you killed him?

DAVE

Because he couldn't push for shit and I was always on his case. They thought I got to him when he fell.

AMEEN

Did you?

DAVE

I might have said a few things...

INT. SHUNTING AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Dave and Ameen arrive at the shunting area and stand in line.

DAVE

So you better watch out. If you die
down here for them is pay day. If
they say it's Covid, it's case
closed. They don't even bother to
call your family.

Ameen looks over his shoulder and sees Lewis standing there
watching everyone like a hawk through his old biplane aviator
glasses.

AMEEN

They can't just do that. There are
laws out there.

DAVE

Sure. Go and sue them. Ask him for
your rights.

Ameen doesn't have a comeback.

EEEEEEEEEEEEEE! - The buzzer blares and startles Ameen. Dave
opens the gate for him.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Welcome to hell Ameen.
Age before beauty.

Ameen slowly walks on the track and they both start pushing
the wagon away while others queue behind the gate.

INT. CANTEEN CONTAINER - DAY

All the workers are having their dinner. No one is talking,
and only the clinking of metal and plastic fill the
atmosphere. They are all frantically eating their lunches,
faces buried in their casseroles.

The door opens and in comes Ameen. Everyone stops and looks
at him almost snarling.

Bob gives him a menacing look. Dave sees their reaction and
looks at Ameen with concern. Tension rises in the air as the
room is suddenly silent.

BOB

Dave, get this guy outta here
before I knock his teeth out!

Ameen is taken back. Doesn't understand what is happening.

Dave gets up from his seat and walks over to Ameen ,opens the door and guides him out.

EXT. CANTEEN CONTAINER - CONTINUOUS

AMEEN

What's going on?

DAVE

Listen, don't take this personal, but, they don't take too kindly to your kind.

AMEEN

My kind?

DAVE

Your background mate. Everyone of those guys got stiffed by the safety man at one point in their lives. And you're one of them. Sorry.

AMEEN

But I'm just a consultant, I don't step foot on a site.

DAVE

Exactly. You make the rules without laying eyes on a site.

AMEEN

Where am I supposed to go? Can I at least warm up my food?

DAVE

No. Go eat in your fancy car or something.

AMEEN

I'm not gonna eat in my car!

DAVE

What, you're too good for that?

Dave goes back in the canteen leaving Ameen standing there holding his lunchbox.

INT. AMEEN'S BMW - DAY

Ameen is in his car eating a cold curry stu out of a plastic casserole.

David knocks on his bonnet as he passes by his car.

DAVE

Come on safety man, break time's
over!

Ameen is not even half way through his lunch. He gouges his eyes at Dave, mouth full of food.

INT. SHUNTING AREA - DAY

Ameen and Dave push themselves against a heavy wagon and slowly get it to move. Ameen groans and burps as they push along. His stomach rumbles.

INT. TRACK TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

They start picking up the pace along the track and Ameen starts feeling sick.

DAVE

Don't get soft on me now, come on
we're almost at the ramp!

INT. SHREDDING AREA - CONTINUOUS

They push the wagon up the ramp to the tippers, then Ameen goes to a wall, leans against it and starts throwing up his lunch.

Phil and Dale stand by the wagon looking at Ameen retching.

Dave looks impatiently at him.

DAVE

You need to be quick with your food
so it settles before you push
again.
Now come on, walk it off!
We still got wagons coming.

AMEEN

Gimme a few minutes.

DAVE
You're costing me money safety man!
Every wagon we miss is less paper
in my pocket! Now move your pussy
ass!

Ameen wipes his mouth and follows Dave when Phil shouts at them from the top of the ramp.

PHIL
Hey you didn't push it all the way!

Ameen and Dave stop and turn around.

DAVE
What?

PHIL
You didn't push it all the way,
look.

WE see the wagon about 20 inches away from a white line painted on the tracks.

DAVE
Come on man are you serious?

PHIL
If we push it we count it as ours.
Up to you.

Dave walks back angrily.

DAVE
This is some bullshit!
Come on, let's get this shit.

Dave and Ameen arrive back at the wagon and start pushing it. The wagon slowly rolls up to the white line.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Happy now?

PHIL
Just be thankful I told you.

DAVE
(as he walks away)
Go fuck yourself Phil!

Ameen follows Dave without saying anything.

INT. SIDE TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER

AMEEN

What's gotten into him?

DAVE

Power.

AMEEN

Power?

DAVE

When you're a loser you start
fucking with people just so you
don't feel worthless.
And it wouldn't've happened if I
wasn't stuck with you.

AMEEN

How is this my fault?

DAVE

Because you're the new guy. And
everything falls on the new guy.

AMEEN

Sorry.

DAVE

Don't feel sorry, just make sure we
push that thing to the marker or
that asshole's gonna take our push
and mark it down as his own!

(softly)

Fucking dickhead can't do anything
right.

This resonates with Ameen.

FLASHBACK

INT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Fatima crying to Ameen as she exits his bedroom.

FATIMA

I'm trying my best!

END FLASHBACK.

AMEEN
(mouths silently)
I'm trying my best.

Ameen picks up the pace and follows David through the side tunnel.

EXT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ameen's car pulls up in the driveway. He gets out and walks slowly to the door. He stops with his hand on the door knob then lets go and walks over to the kitchen window. Through it he sees Fatima preparing dinner while Lamon is at the table. They are both singing the ABC song, smiling, feeling joyful.

He stares at them for a moment, absorbing the scene. Lingered outside the window.

For the first time WE see Fatima and Lamon smiling and feeling joyful.

Ameen goes back to the door and opens it.

INT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Ameen enters and the atmosphere suddenly becomes somber.

They both stopped singing and Fatima comes to greet Ameen while Lamon rushes up the stairs on all 4's to the bedroom and closes the door behind him.

FATIMA
You're just in time. I made
Lahmajun.

Ameen sits himself at the table. He can barely keep his eyes open. He is exhausted. His spirit broken.

Fatima lays the food in front of him when noises come from upstairs.

FATIMA (CONT'D)
I better go check on Lamon.

Fatima exits the kitchen.

WE hear muffled noises as she goes into the bedroom and speaks to Lamon.

FATIMA (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Lamon, what did I tell you no
playing unless your father is at
the computer!

LAMON (O.S.)
But I wanna go bouncy bouncy
bouncy!

FATIMA (O.S.)
We'll go bouncy tomorrow when he is
at work. Now be quiet, your father
needs to rest.

Ameen hears the conversation and looks down at his plate with
sadness. He laments over his dinner as he sits there, alone.

INT. AMEEN AND FATIMA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Fatima and Lamon are in bed watching tv. The door opens and
in comes Ameen. Lamon makes a face when he sees him.

LAMON
No daddy here!

AMEEN
It's my room.

FATIMA
(looking happy to see him)
You want to sleep here tonight?

Ameen nods.

LAMON
(pointing at the ceiling)
Daddy go up! Only me and mommy
here!

FATIMA
This is mommy and daddy's room. Now
come on, I'll make the bed and you
can sleep in your room.

Lamon throws a tantrum.

LAMON
No!No!No! I don't wanna! I don't
Wanna! I want to sleep with you!
Make daddy go away!

FATIMA

Lamon be quiet or I will give you something to winge about! Now move!

Fatima grabs Lamon by the arm and walks him out of the room.

FATIMA (CONT'D)

(to Ameen)

Your pajamas are in the closet. Get changed and I'll be right with you.

Fatima exits the bedroom and goes into Lamon's room.

Ameen stands there for a moment. He hears Fatima and Lamon arguing. Lamon cries and screams.

INT. LAMON'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Lamon is kicking and screaming while Fatima is trying to calm him down.

FATIMA

Lamon stop it! Stop it I say! You will sleep here and that's the end of it!

LAMON

No! Tell daddy to go away! I want to sleep with you!

The door opens and in comes Ameen.

Lamon suddenly goes quiet.

AMEEN

It's ok. I'll go upstairs.

LAMON

Yaaaaaaaay!

FATIMA

Lamon!

Ameen slowly closes the door behind him.

INT. AMEEN'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ameen opens the door to his room and walks in.

He sees his computer monitor still showing the video game. He stands there, pondering.

CUT TO:

INT. AMEEN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

PHONE ALARM RINGS - 05:00 AM.

We see Ameen's blistered feet touching the floor. He takes a deep sigh as he tries to wake himself up. He tries to build up the courage to stand up and grunts when he does so. His body is stiff.

INT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Ameen comes down the stairs and sees the bedroom door open. He looks inside the room and sees Lamon sleeping peacefully in Fatima's arms. He stands there for a moment, staring at them, then turns around and walks down the stairs, head bowed down in dismay.

INT. SHUNTING AREA - LATER

Dave and Ameen push themselves against a wagon and get it moving.

This time it seems to go a bit easier.

INT. SHREDDING AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Dave and Ameen arrive at the shredder and hand over the wagon.

Ameen breathes relieved as he lets go of the wagon.

DAVE

Now you're pushin'. Finally gettin
the hang of it.

Ameen cracks a smile as they walk towards the side tunnel.

INT. SIDE TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

Dave and Ameen walk through the side tunnel.

DAVE

Hold on I gotta take a piss.

Dave goes to the side and starts urinating against a wall. Ameen stands there and waits for him.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Did you count how many wagons you pushed yesterday?

AMEEN
No.

DAVE
Well you better start 'cause those guys over there have a habit of pinching the numbers.

Dave finishes his business then zips his pants and they both resume walking.

AMEEN
Don't you keep track?

DAVE
Yeah, but it's best if both of us do it. That way we know for sure and they can't hustle us out of our pay.

INT. SHUNTING AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Dave and Ameen arrive at the shunting area. There they see Lewis installing a sanitizer dispenser on a pedestal.

AMEEN
What's this?

LEWIS
Sanitizer. Try not to use it much. This stuff is hard to come by these days.

Dave and Ameen take their place at the gate.

AMEEN
Hey how come these guys are open for business when everything else is shut down?

DAVE
What do you think? Obviously the big guy paid off the right people for the privilege. You don't get to be the richest man in the world without cutting a few corners.

(MORE)

DAVE (CONT'D)

That bald knobhead has everyone in his pocket.

AMEEN

I bet inside that warehouse is better than here.

DAVE

You think so?

AMEEN

It's not?

DAVE

Down here they let you on your own at least. In there, you got a bunch of cunts breathing down your neck all the time. They clock you when you go for a piss. You stay too long and they call you in for an "Informal chat". Trust me, the grass ain't always greener on the other side.

AMEEN

How do you know all this.

DAVE

I know people who work there and they ask me if I can save them a spot here.

AMEEN

What did you do before all this?

DAVE

I was a groundworker by day, school during the night to become a history teacher. Just when I saved enough to take my exams, this happens.

AMEEN

So that's why you're good at this.

DAVE

Good life destroys the spirit safety man. Judging by your winging the other day I'd say you had it pretty easy before you came here.

AMEEN

Yeah...pretty much.

EEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE! - The buzzer blares and Dave opens the gate.

DAVE

Well next time you have it good try
to appreciate it. It never lasts
long.

Ameen walks through the gate.

INT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ameen enters the house and Fatima greets him and helps him
take his jacked off.

FATIMA

Lamon is sleeping in his room
tonight. You can come to our bed.
If you like.

Ameen doesn't say anything, only gives her a mournful look.
His eyes are more compassionate now, but his face is still
stiff and sorrow.

INT. AMEEN AND FATIMA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Fatima is in bed watching TV. On the TV a talk show about the
pandemic.

TV GUEST

*All transportation has been
affected, the vulnerable are even
more vulnerable, tourism has
completely disappeared off the map
and the government takes its time.*

TV HOST

*They can't find solutions over
night--*

TV GUEST

*The pandemic didn't happen over
night--*

Tv fades out.

Ameen slowly lumbers in the room and walks over to the bed.

Fatima turns off the TV.

Ameen sits on the edge of the bed and struggles to take off
his jumper.

Fatima goes to help him undress. She takes off his jumper from behind him exposing his bruised back. His shoulder blade is all purple and has smaller bruises scattered on his body.

She takes a moment to look at him. Her eyes go hazy and she gently touches his bruise with her finger tips. Ameen immediately shies away sucking air through his teeth.

FATIMA

Does it hurt?

AMEEN

Does it matter?

FATIMA

It does to me.

AMEEN

Does it change anything?

Fatima lowers her gaze.

FATIMA

I guess not.

FATIMA (CONT'D)

Is there nothing else you can do?

Ameen turns towards Fatima.

AMEEN

Yes. I can kill myself.

FATIMA

Don't say that.

AMEEN

What is there to live for?
You?

Fatima is taken back by Ameen's words.

AMEEN (CONT'D)

Hugs and kisses are worthless out there. You can't go shopping for food with them.
Money talks.

FATIMA

Are we really not worth living for?

AMEEN

Not like this.

FATIMA

Is there something I can do?

Ameen talks as he undresses himself and climbs into bed.

AMEEN

Yes. Shut up and leave me be.
At least in prison they give you
food and shelter.
Out there, you die if you stop.

FATIMA

Can't you find something else to
do?

AMEEN

Underground. No phone signal. No
time to search for other jobs.
I'm stuck in there.
The only thing I hate more than
dying, is dying without making a
change.

He lets out a deep moan as he stretches himself under the
duvet and sinks in the soft bed, closing his eyes overwhelmed
with comfort.

AMEEN (CONT'D)

It's been so long since I've been
in this bed.

FATIMA

Too long.

AMEEN

(mumbles as he falls
asleep)
I wish I could stay here forever.

FATIMA

You always could.

Ameen is deep asleep already.

Fatima closes the lights then A BEAT PASSES and Ameen's phone
rings.

Ameen turns on the bedside lamp. He looks at the clock - it's
5 AM.

He puts his red blistered feet on the rug and rubs his face.
He looks at Fatima who is sound asleep.

AMEEN

You are better off without me.

Ameen gets up, grabs his jumper and walks out of the bedroom.

INT. SHREDDING AREA - DAY

Ameen and Dave bring a wagon up the ramp to Phil and Dale.

WE see the wagon wheel stopping at the white mark.

Dave comes next to Phil to inspect.

DAVE

(to Phil)

Happy?

PHIL

No.

DAVE

And why is that?

PHIL

You didn't gave me a happy ending.

Dave glances over Phil's shoulder for a moment. He is right at the edge of the shredding machine basket.

DAVE

I give you a happy ending and
you'll end up in that shredder
behind you.

PHIL

Get lost before I put you on all
4's.

DAVE

What's the mater Phil? Your dealer
stopped giving you freebies?

Dave walks away.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Tell your wife I said hi!
And your mom to stop calling!

INT. SIDE TUNNEL - DAY

Ameen and Dave walk through the side tunnel.

DAVE

I swear one day I'm gonna punch his
lights out!

AMEEN

How long you thing this is gonna
last?

DAVE

What the lockdown? Hell knows.
Seems to me a lot of people want
this thing to last a while.

AN ALARM BLARES in the shunting area along with desperate
shouts from some of the workers.

AMEEN

What's that?

DAVE

Nothing good.

INT. SHUNTING AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Ameen and Dave arrive at the shunting station where the
workers are gathered in front of the yellow mesh gate.

The group blocks the view of the tracks and we cannot see
anything.

DAVE

What happened?

BOB

Jim slipped and the wagon rolled
over him.

DAVE

Is he ok?

BOB

He's alive.

DAVE

(to Ameen)

Now you can sit. We're gonna be
here for a while.

BOB

There goes our pay for the day.
Bloody idiot.

Everyone in the room find a place to sit just as Steve and Lewis enter.

STEVE
What happened?

BOB
Jim went under.

STEVE
Is he dead?

Bob hesitates for a moment.

BOB
He will be if he doesn't get any help.

Steve looks like he's sorry Jim is not dead.

LEWIS
Was he wearing his hard hat and ppe?

Everyone looks at him in disgust.

STEVE
(to Lewis)
Alright get him outta there. Take him outside. We tell'em he got run over by a car or something.

LEWIS
(pointing at a few workers)
Alright you, and you, come with me.

Ameen is outraged by what he witnesses. He wants to get up and say something but Dave stops him as soon as.

AMEEN
Hey you can--

DAVE
You don't wanna be talking right now.

Ameen quickly softens then slowly sits himself back down.

Steve notices and walks over towards Ameen and Dave.

STEVE
My safety man is coming over because of this.

(MORE)

STEVE (CONT'D)
If I hear a peep outta your mouth,
I'll make sure you leave this place
in a body bag. We clear?

Ameen nods.

STEVE (CONT'D)
(to Dave)
Put a muzzle on your bitch.

Dave is submissive. He looks down at the floor. Clearly afraid.

The workers led by Lewis bring Jim out on an improvised stretcher.

He looks badly injured. His eyes blood red and his face covered by open wounds and his skin peeled open in a grotesque manner. His torn jumper is crossed with wheel marks.

Jim is barely conscious and moans softly.

BOB
Poor bastard.

PHIL
I hear he didn't sleep for the last
3 days. Family got sick.

BOB
Anything but the sleep. That'll
kill ya down here.

STEVE
(to the men carrying Jim)
Hold on a second!

The workers stop and Steve walks over to Jim's body. He leans over him and measures him from head to toe.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Fucking jumper's useless now.

He reaches inside his chest pocket and takes out a metal flask. He undoes the cap then pours some whisky over Jim's face who starts shaking from the pain but doesn't have the strength to scream. He only moves his head from side to side moaning softly.

STEVE (CONT'D)
Saves them from asking questions.
Take him outside the gates and call
someone to come for him.

Ameen is boiling with rage.

The workers take Jim away.

STEVE (CONT'D)
 Let me know if he kicks it before
 they arrive. Need to have a word
 with the doctor.

The workers keep carrying Jim towards the exit.

STEVE (CONT'D)
 And take his boots!
 (softly)
 Give'em to someone who can use them
 properly.
 (to Lewis)
 Call Paul. Tell him to come over
 and make a report on this.

Lewis nods and walks out.

STEVE (CONT'D)
 (to everyone)
 Glasses and hats everyone! Don't
 let this guy sees you without them!

Steve walks out while everyone in the room sits in silence.

AMEEN
 This is mad.

DAVE
 Thought I was kidding before did
 you?

BOB
 (to Ameen)
 Eh safety man? What 'you make of
 all this?
 They make us wear hats and glasses
 but can't put a safety break on
 them wagons.

AMEEN
 Insurance.

BOB
 What was that?

AMEEN
 It's a lot to explain, but it's all
 about their public liability
 insurance.

(MORE)

AMEEN (CONT'D)

Tick the right boxes and get lower premium.

WORKER 1

Fucking wankers!

WORKER 2

You can always go be an essential worker if you don't like it.

BOB

What a load of bull. They give you a fancy name and expect you to slave while everyone else gets government payouts.

DAVE

Heroes working on minimum wage.

(to Ameen)

This is what happens out here. But you don't see it from your little office bubble.

AMEEN

You guys know this Paul he was on about?

BOB

Yeah. He's a fat fuck who can barely walk. Smells of piss all the time. He'll crucify you if you so much as look at him the wrong way.

DAVE

Why? You wanna exchange ideas?

AMEEN

I don't know, maybe.

DAVE

You still don't get it do you? Tell you what's gonna happen. He's gonna walk through that door any minute now, take a quick look around from the entrance, then walk out and say all is good in his report. Case closed.

Ameen is reminiscing.

FLASHBACK

INT. AMEEN'S WORKPLACE - DAY

Ameen is at his desk wearing his white shirt and tie and playing his game. A colleague brings a stack of papers and places them on his desk.

COLLEAGUE

Field reports came in.

Ameen takes them and looks through them. They are all in green.

AMEEN

Nice! Everyone's on their best behavior out there.

Ameen takes a red pen and scribbles on the top document, shoves them in his desk drawer then leans back in his chair triumphant with his hands up in the air.

AMEEN (CONT'D)

All good on the western front! Not bad for a day's work eh?

END FLASHBACK

DAVE

(to Bob)

Remember when he told everyone he was a secret agent in the military?

Bob and everyone else start laughing.

BOB

Special unit or something.
Classified.

PHIL

The guy can't even watch people run on tv let alone be in the army.

BOB

Careful now, he'll sack you if you don't buy his stories.

PHIL

He can sack my nuts under his chin.

WORKER 1

Damn Covid ruined our lives!

Phil changes from brave to frightened in a blink of an eye.

BOB

So I had this dog right, and every time I walked through the door the damn mutt was jumping and pissing on me while he was licking my face! I swear I never saw anything like it! I had to wear an apron just to get inside the house--

His words are cut short when they all look towards the entrance.

WE see a short man, large, overweight, with loose trousers hanging down his waist, a brown shirt sticking out over them and a jacket that just hangs off him in the most inelegant way possible. He has grease dripping down his mouth on his large inflated neck that glitters in the poor lighting of the shunting area and stands leaning on one side like he's about to fall in any moment.

Everyone in the room is dead silent while Paul stares at them with a sour and condescending look on his puffy face.

He checks everyone and stops at Ameen.

PAUL

You new?

AMEN

(nods)

Y-yes.

PAUL

What's your name?

AMEN

Ameen.

PAUL

Ameen what?

AMEEN

Yashed.

PAUL

No you're not. All I got there is gardening tools. I would've noticed if you were in my shed.

No one reacts.

PAUL (CONT'D)

What's the matter? Lost your sense of humor?

He looks at Bob.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Take that wooly had from under your
hard had boy! You know it's against
the rules to wear them?

Bob complies and removes his beanie hat then puts his hard
hat back on.

PAUL (CONT'D)
I catch you again you're outta
here. Ok sonny?

Bob nods looking at Paul with slight indignation.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Alright. Carry on.

Paul makes an effort to turn is large body around then walks
back towards the exit huffing and puffing, taking small
steps, letting everyone see his black hairy buttcrack.

He grabs his pants and pulls them up so he doesn't trip on
them as he wobbles out of the room.

BOB
So much for the site inspection.

Ameen shakes his head incredulously.

AMEEN
This is a joke.

DAVE
It's life in the real world.

AMEEN
This can't go on, I'm calling the
HSE. They'll have a filed day with
these guys.

BOB
You do that and I'll strangle you
myself!

AMEEN
Why?

BOB
You got another job waiting if this
place shuts down?

DAVE

Biggest company in the world and they get these clowns to work for them?

AMEEN

Cheapest bidders. How you think they make a profit?

A man with a clipboard enters the area.

MAN WITH CLIPBOARD

Hey is there a Amin *Iashid* here?

AMEEN

Yashed, it's me why.

MAN WITH CLIPBOARD

Sign here please.

Ameen signs the clipboard.

AMEEN

What's this?

MAN WITH CLIPBOARD

We've repossessed your vehicle for non payment.

The man cuts a receipt and hands it to Ameen.

MAN WITH CLIPBOARD (CONT'D)

You have a good one now.

EXT. NILE CORP YARD - MOMENTS LATER

Ameen runs outside followed by David and some workers. They see Ameen's car being towed away.

DAVE

You were still paying finance on that thing?

AMEEN

Yes. Why?

DAVE

Look around you man.

Ameen looks at the car park full of old cars.

DAVE (CONT'D)

You think everyone here likes driving old bangers? But they own them. No matter what happens with the house or the job, that car is what keeps them goin'. You need to get your shit together if you wanna get outta this safety man.

THE ALARM BLARES TO GO BACK TO WORK.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Come on, we got some wagons to push.

AMEEN

(still looking at the tow truck)

I had my lunch in there.

EXT. BUS STATION - NIGHT

A bus leaves the station and we see Ameen standing. He starts walking down the street.

EXT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ameen walks to his house and goes inside.

INT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

He enters the house. Fatima comes down in her nightgown.

FATIMA

Why are you so late? What happened?

AMEEN

They took the car away.

Ameen starts climbing up the stairs and passes by Fatima.

AMEEN (CONT'D)

Bring my diner to bed. I must wake up earlier from now on.

FATIMA

But why?

AMEEN
Stop asking stupid questions and
bring my food woman!
I don't have time.

INT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - 1ST FLOOR HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Ameen arrives in front of the master bedroom when he hears Lamon coughing from the other room.

He stops in front of the door for a moment then looks back at Fatima.

AMEEN
Is he ok?

FATIMA
I don't know, he only started
today. Probably a bug he caught at
nursery.

AMEEN
Should I--should I go and see him?

FATIMA
No. You--
You'd only make it worse.

AMEEN
I see...

Another set of coughs from Lamon's room.

Ameen slowly opens the bedroom door and goes in.

ON BLACK

WE hear Lamon coughing almost continuously barely catching a break in between.

The lamp flicks on and Ameen's sleepy face is lit.

The clock on the nightstand shows 3:25 AM.

He looks next to him and sees Fatima gone.

INT. LAMON'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Pitch black in the room and WE only hear Lamon's coughing.

WE can tell Fatima's silhouette as she's holding him.

Lamon gently nudges the door open.

FATIMA
(whispering)
No! Don't turn on the light!

AMEEN
(whispering)
What's wrong with him?

FATIMA
(whispering)
I don't know but he won't stop coughing.

AMEEN
(whispering)
I'm calling an ambulance.

FATIMA
(whispering)
I already tried. They can't come.

AMEEN
(whispering)
What? Why?

FATIMA
(whispering)
Covid. They are too stretched.

AMEEN
(whispering)
Well then we take him.

FATIMA
(whispering)
With what?

Ameen falls silent. Lamon's coughs are prevalent in the background.

Ameen then goes to the window and opens it.

FATIMA (CONT'D)
(whispering)
What are you doing? Don't open the window!

AMEEN
(whispering)
Leave it.

INT. AMEEN AND FATIMA'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ameen comes back to bed and turns off the lamp. WE notice Lamon's coughing has drastically reduced.

Ameen goes back to sleep. A beat passes then the alarm goes off. Ameen wakes up and turns on the lamp. It's 4 AM already.

No more coughing coming from the other room.

EXT. NILE CORP YARD - MORNING

Ameen walks through the car park and stares at the cars. Suddenly they don't seem so bad anymore. He lingers at them.

He sees his colleagues driving into the yard one by one and parking their cars.

Ameen blows air in his hands to warm himself up.

He meets the other workers by the entrance.

David greets him.

DAVE
How's the trip?

AMEEN
Not worse than the destination.

DAVE
Can only get better from here.

INT. SHUNTING UNIT - LATER

Ameen and David struggle to nudge a heavy wagon.

DAVE
Come on! Push that motherfucker!

AMEEN
Fuck me this is a heavy one!

Eventually they get the wagon moving and they start pushing it along the tracks.

INT. SHREDDING AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Ameen and Dave arrive at the shredder and hand over the wagon to Phil and Dale.

The 2 tippers look at it with concern. The wagon is full to the brink. Hard to tip.

AMEEN

You guys need a hand with it?

Dave is surprised while Phil and Dale look back at Ameen for a moment.

PHIL

No thanks. We're good. Go be on your way now.

DAVE

Good! Come on Ameen, we done our bit.

(to Phil)

That's our push by the way!

Ameen and Dave walk away towards the side tunnel.

INT. SIDE TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

DAVE

The hell is wrong with you?

AMEEN

I don't kno, I thought maybe it would stop him from messing with me.

DAVE

No, what he'll do is make you his bitch knowing how submissive you are.

AMEEN

You think?

DAVE

These people take kindness for weakness Ameen! They'll kick you down with a smile if they can.

AMEEN

Sorry man, I didn't get enough sleep last night.

DAVE

Oh man that's messed up. Anything but the sleep bro. You gotta make sure you have that.

AMEEN

Kid was coughing all night. Some bug or somethin'.

DAVE

Let me guess, you called the ambulance and they said they couldn't come.

AMEEN

How'd you know?

DAVE

Everyone's got a story like that these days. Remember what I said about having an old banger?

AMEEN

I'm scared man. What if, what if it's Covid?

DAVE

Nah that shit don't go for kids. Besides, it's all a hoax anyway.

AMEEN

Yeah, I thought so too.

Ameen and Dave keep on walking in silence.

INT. CANTEEN CONTAINER - DAY

The workers are eating frantically as usual.

Ameen enters the canteen.

Everyone stops and stares at him.

He goes to the microwave in the corner and heats his casserole.

He looks at everyone in the room.

AMEEN

Problem?

BOB

No.

Everyone resumes eating.

Bob pulls a chair next to him just as the microwave dings.

Ameen takes his seat at the table.

BOB (CONT'D)
Welcome to the bottom of the pit.
Now you can eat with us.

AMEEN
Why the sudden welcome?

BOB
You lost everything.

Ameen looks downbeat and tired.

BOB (CONT'D)
Hard week for you. Don't worry,
tomorrow's pay day. You'll feel
better.

AMEEN
Sure was a long one.

BOB
Yeah, first one's the hardest.

AMEEN
How much do we usually get per
week?

DAVE
Not nearly enough.

BOB
You know when I was a kid I was
raised by my grandma. And we were
so poor I could only afford to buy
myself a cube of sugar every other
day as a sweet. That was all.
It was still sugar, but just as a
cube. And I hadn't seen that
before.
One day my grandma went to visit my
little cousin who was a spoiled
brat. She was younger than me by a
couple of years, and she bought her
a little chocolate bar, cheap one.
She took it and said she craps on
stuff like this then threw it out
in the garden.
When my grandma came back and told
me I was gutted. I was angry at
both of them, my grandma in
particular.

(MORE)

BOB (CONT'D)

Here I was the good boy never making trouble and all I was getting was a sugar cube every 2 days, while that snotty little bitch had everything.

AMEEN

Your point?

BOB

Whatever you have in life you appreciate it more when you have less of it.

Ameen looks down overwhelmed with sadness.

AMEEN

My family.

WORKER 3

You still have one? You're lucky.

BOB

If she sticks with you after this, she's worth keeping.

The door opens and Lewis enters the canteen.

LEWIS

Hey Bob, we need you to mop the floor downstairs.

BOB

Can I at least finish my lunch?

LEWIS

Sure.

Then Lewis stands there arms crossed staring intensely at Bob while he eats.

Bob takes a few spoons but he gets visibly uncomfortable. He suddenly slams his spoon in his casserole and gets up from the table.

Lewis stands in the doorway blocking him and stares up at the man who could crush him with his bare hands, daring him to make a move.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

Is there a problem there Bob?

BOB

You're in my way.

LEWIS
Not if I say I'm not.

Bob leans menacingly in Lewis's face.

BOB
When this is over...

LEWIS
You'll go and be someone else's
bitch. But for now, you're mine.

Lewis and Bob lock eyes for a beat, then Lewis gets out of his way only slightly, and lets Bob brush past him.

Bob gets out and Lewis looks back at the rest of the men who all try to make themselves invisible.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
Same goes for the rest of you.
Down in 10 minutes.

Lewis exits leaving everyone in silence.

DALE
Behind every rich man stands a
devil.
Behind every poor man,
2.

A silent beat while everyone stares in emptiness.

INT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ameen enters the house and turns on the light in the hallway.

WE can hear strong coughs from upstairs. Two sets this time. One from Lamon and one from Fatima.

Ameen goes to the kitchen and turns on the light. On the counter, he notices an opened box of Covid Lateral Flow Test Kits.

He sees 3 tests being used. He picks one up - 2 lines - positive. He checks the others, they are all the same. He looks up at the ceiling, the coughs come from the room above.

INT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - 1ST FLOOR HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Ameen slowly walks to Lamon's room. He grabs the doorknob

FATIMA (O.S.)
No! Don't come in!

AMEEN
But I have to.

FATIMA (O.S.)
(coughing and wheezing)
No! You might catch it too.

AMEEN
What--what--are you ok? Do yo need
anything?

FATIMA (O.S.)
No. Just stay away. You can't get
sick.

AMEEN
Is it--is it Covid?

FATIMA (O.S.)
Yes.

AMEEN
How do you feel? How is Lamon?

FATIMA (O.S.)
He's ok. He's in my arms.

AMEEN
Do you need anything?

FATIMA (O.S.)
No. Just stay away Ameen. We Need
to isolate.

AMEEN
But what if something happens to
you?

FATIMA (O.S.)
Then it won't happen to you. Go to
bed. We're fine.

Ameen slowly releases the door knob and walks back to his
bedroom tormented by Fatima and Lamon's coughs.

ON BLACK

Fatima and Lamon continue to cough. Ameen turns on the lamp.
He looks at the clock - 01:13 AM.

He slams himself in the bed and covers his head with a pillow.

WE Focus on the clock - 01:13 AM FADES INTO 02:38 AM

The coughing continues. Ameen rolls on the bed frustrated, face buried deep into a pillow.

WE focus on the clock again - 02:38 AM FADES INTO 03:16 AM.

Ameen has a pillow strapped to his head with a leather belt but still he can't sleep.

The coughing continues.

The alarm goes off. It's 4 AM. Ameen turns it off and sits himself at the edge of the bed rubbing his face.

INT. SHUNTING AREA - MORNING

The workers are all grouped together in the shunting area.

Phil, Dave and Bob are together, each with a large flask of coffee in their hands.

PHIL

Your boyfriend's late. I got ten sayin he ain't gonna make it.

BOB

And after I shared my story to him. Who you gonna pick if he don't show up?

DAVE

Give him time. He probably missed the bus.

PHIL

Yeah, on purpose.

Ameen enters, looking rough, eyes bloodshot.

He comes to the three men and quickly grabs Phil's flask and gulps all the coffee in one go.

Phil is too shocked to talk.

DAVE

Someone had it rough.

Ameen lowers the flask and wipes his mouth. He lets out a thick burp then hands the flask back to Phil.

They all notice his red eyes.

PHIL
Rough night there princess?

AMEEN
What night?

DAVE
Ah shit...

BOB
(to Dave)
If you have to take your pick, you
better do it now.

AMEEN
I'm alright.

BOB
No you're not. I've seen those eyes
before.

AMEEN
Oh yeah? Where?

BOB
On Jim.

EEEEEEEEEEEEEE! - The buzzer blares and we hear the machines
being turned on.

All the workers fall in line to the yellow gate.

Phil and Dale prepare to leave.

PHIL
Alright, that's our que. See ya
ladies at the shredder. Don't take
too long.

Phil and Dale walk through the side tunnel to the shredding
area.

INT. ON THE TRACKS - MOMENTS LATER

Dave and Ameen are on the tracks getting ready to push a
wagon.

They both struggle.

DAVE
Come on man push!

They manage to get the wagon moving but after a few steps, Ameen starts puking all the coffee he drank earlier.

Everyone behind the gate start laughing.

Dave gives him an angry look.

Ameen shakes himself a bit then starts pushing again.

AMEEN

I'm ok, I'm ok! Come on! Let's do this!

INT. DARK TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

Inside the dark patch of the tunnel, the grinding wheel noise echoes all around them. Ameen retches again and throws up as he pushes, but doesn't stop.

DAVE

Come on man, we're almost to the ramp!

Ameen's labored breathing grows more intense. After a few more steps he trips and falls on the tracks groaning with pain and holding his knee.

AMEEN

Aaaaaaaaw!

The wagon loses momentum, stops and starts rolling backwards.

DAVE

Oh shit! Get up you fool! I can't push this thing myself!

Dave's feet are tripping on the sleepers as he's pushed back. He struggles to keep the wagon from rolling backwards.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Come on Ameen gimme a hand here!

Ameen slowly gets up and starts pushing the wagon along with Dave. It stops, then slowly starts rolling forward.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Come on! Get this bastard!

INT. SHREDDING AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Dave and Ameen barely push the wagon up the ramp to Phil and Dale who are waiting.

PHIL

What took you guys so long? We've
been waiting here for an hour!

Dave and Ameen push the wagon 10 inches away from the white
line and leave it there.

They both come from behind it panting heavily.

Dave notices the wagon not being on the mark.

DAVE

Don't you fucking dare start with
this shit now! I'm not in the mood!

Ameen already started walking towards the side tunnel.

Phil looks at Dave without saying anything. Dave walks after
Ameen.

INT. SIDE TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER

Ameen and Dave walk through the side tunnel. Both still
panting.

DAVE

Go home Ameen. You can be doin this
no more.

AMEEN

No man, I'm-I'm good.

DAVE

You almost got us killed!

AMEEN

But I didn't. I'm good. I need
this.

Ameen and Dave take a few more steps without talking.

AMEEN (CONT'D)

Those things really don't have any
brakes?

DAVE

They had them removed.

AMEEN

On purpose? Why?

DAVE
To motivate you.
Can't say it doesn't work.

INT. SHREDDING AREA - EVENING

Dave and Ameen bring a wagon to the tippers. They release it and walk away panting. They are both drenched in sweat.

DAVE
That was the last one.

AMEEN
Thank god that's over.

DAVE
You know what time it is?

AMEEN
Sleep?

DAVE
Pay day safety man. Let's get our checks.

AMEEN
I sure as hell earned this one.

INT. SITE OFFICE CONTAINER - DAY

Workers are queuing by the office and wait their turns to walk in.

Inside, Steve is at the desk handing out paychecks and talks to Lewis who is standing in a corner.

Ameen enters the site office. At the desk, Steve is handing out envelopes. As he stands there he notices the sole of his boot almost coming off, as well as a tare through which his toe sticks out a bit.

STEVE
(to Lewis)
I got my grant the other day, 12 big ones. My accountant set me up an LTD and now I'm gonna buy my wife a new car. She wants one of them Porsche SUV's, whatever they're called.

LEWIS
Cayenne.

STEVE
 No the smaller one.
 (to Ameen)
 Yashed. Sign the form saying you
 received the envelope sealed.

Ameen signs a form then Steve hands him an envelope.

STEVE (CONT'D)
 Here's your pay.
 (shouting)
 NEXT!

LEWIS
 (to Steve)
 Why don't you buy her a Tesla?

STEVE
 Nah, it's for pussies.

Another worker comes inside, Steve and Lewis continue talking.

LEWIS
 Hey uhm, is there a way to add
 something to my pay?

Steve gives the envelope to the man.

STEVE
 NEXT!
 (to Lewis)
 Sure. If you can increase output
 without killing those guys.

Another worker comes and signs the form. Steve hands him his envelope.

STEVE (CONT'D)
 You get another 10%.
 NEXT!

EXT. SITE OFFICE CONTAINER - SAME TIME

Ameen opens the envelope and looks at his payslip - 632£.

He opens his phone and checks his balance -4566£.

PHONE CHIMES - WE SEE THE SCREEN: "PENALTIES OF 299£ WERE
 TAKEN FROM YOUR ACCOUNT"

He checks the balance again, -4865£.

135¢ remaining.

He takes a deep sigh and pockets his paycheck.

Dave walks by.

DAVE
Hey you comin' tomorrow?

AMEEN
Tomorrow's Saturday.

DAVE
So? You get hungry on Saturdays
don't you?
Or you think you made enough money
this week?

Ameen doesn't say anything.

DAVE (CONT'D)
See you tomorrow.

Dave walks away.

DAVE (CONT'D)
And get some sleep! Stay outside if
you have to!

AMEEN
Hey what do you know about a
government grant?

DAVE
What are you living under a rock?
Google it. Old bill pays for job
losses.

Ameen's face clears as he get his hopes up.

INT. AMEEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

We see the GOV website. Ameen is typing his national
insurance number and presses enter.

The answer comes in a bright blue background - "NOT ELIGIBLE"

Muffled coughs come from the downstairs bedroom.

AMEEN
Fuck!

He looks behind him at the TV which shows the rising number of Covid deaths. 3 million and climbing.

Ameen looks worried.

INT. LAMON'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ameen is outside Lamon's bedroom. Fatima is still coughing. He knocks on the door.

AMEEN

Are you ok?

FATIMA (O.S.)

(sounding rough, hardly
any life in her)

Yes. Yes we're ok.

AMEEN

You don't sound ok.

FATIMA (O.S.)

It will pass. Is just like a cold.
We just have to stay in bed for a
few days.

AMEEN

Do you need anything? Should I
bring you some food?

FATIMA (O.S.)

No. I take what I need during the
day. Don't worry. Go to sleep.
We'll be fine.

Ameen bows his head and walks back to his bedroom in the dark.

INT. SHUNTING AREA - DAY

Ameen and Dave struggle to push a loaded wagon.

They get it to budge and push it up the tracks.

INT. SHREDDING AREA - MOMENTS LATER

They bring the wagon up the ramp and Ameen looks tired.

INT. SIDE TUNNEL - MOMENTS LATER

Dave and Ameen walk through the side tunnel.

DAVE
Still no sleep?

AMEEN
Yeah I got some. But the money man,
it's not enough. As soon as they go
in my account the bank takes it
away.

DAVE
Ha! You thought this job was gonna
get you out of debt? Nah man, you
do this to keep the bailiffs away
and maybe put some food on the
table.
If the bank sees you earning, they
gonna cut yo some slack. Now Come
on, we got 10 more wagons 'till
lunchtime.

AMEEN
At least we're off tomorrow.

DAVE
Yeah, make the best of it.

EXT. BUS STATION - NIGHT

Ameen walks towards home. He is exhausted.

EXT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - LATER

Ameen arrives at his home and goes to open the door when
something catches his eye. He notices something red
pultruding from the gas meter box. It's the corner of an
envelope.

He takes it and opens it. It's from the bank.

"YOU HAVE 3 WEEKS TO MAKE PAYMENT OF 5325£ OR THE BANK WILL
FORECLOSE THE PREMISES".

Ameen takes a step back and looks at the house while holding
the letter in his hand.

He sees Fatima tucking Lamon in the upstairs bedroom. She
looks severely weakened.

He looks back at the letter, then pulls out his phone, dials and takes it to his ear.

AMEEN

Hey Steve, you guys work on Sundays too?

INT. SHREDDING AREA - MORNING

Ameen and Dave shunt a wagon up the tracks.

They push it up the ramp then walk towards the side tunnel.

INT. SIDE TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

DAVE

So what 'you do yesterday? Don't tell me you got out of bed for anything other than a piss.

AMEEN

No, I worked.

Dave gives him a look.

DAVE

That bad huh?

AMEEN

Yeah, I got 3 weeks to keep the bailiffs away.

DAVE

Been there. Got myself an extension a couple weeks back.

AMEEN

Mortgage?

DAVE

Nah man, I couldn't make alimony on time and now I'm slumped in legal fees. I swear that woman wants to see me bleed to death.

INT. SHUNTING AREA - LATER

They arrive at the shunting area and queue.

DAVE

Hope you're up for this safety man.
This is how you show your family
you love them. With pain. You
either feel this one, or the pain
of regret.

AMEEN

My family...they need me home.

DAVE

Can you make money from home?

EEEEEEEEEEEEEE!- The buzzer blares and the gate opens.

AMEEN

No.

DAVE

Then you're no good to them.

INT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ameen comes up the stairs and goes to Lamon's bedroom. He
knocks on the door a few times.

AMEEN

Fatima, are you ok?

No answer. He knocks again.

AMEEN (CONT'D)

Fatima! Are you ok in there?

Still no answer.

Ameen fearfully grabs the doorknob.

His voice trembles.

AMEEN (CONT'D)

Fatima! Answer! Please!

He waits for a Beat then opens the door and goes in the room.

He stands in the doorway overlooking the bed.

WE see Fatima deep asleep holding Lamon in her arms, also
asleep.

Their faces lit only by the dim hallway lights.

Ameen calms down and slowly closes the door behind him.

INT. SHUNTING AREA - MORNING

Ameen and Dave stand behind the gate. They see the wagon rolling and stopping in front of the gate.

EEEEEEEEEEEEEE! - the buzzer blares and the light turns green.

Dave opens the gate but both Dave and Ameen stop for a second and look at it in awe. Shock radiating from their faces.

WE see the wagon almost overflowing with ballots of cardboard. Almost twice as much as usual.

DAVE

Is this a joke?

(to the crowd behind him)

Hey witch one of you pulled this?

The crowd doesn't react.

AMEEN

Are we supposed to push this?

DAVE

Hell no man, we gotta take some of that weight off.

LEWIS (O.S.)

No you won't.

Ameen and Dave turn around and see Lewis coming from the crowd. He stops in front of them.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

(pointing at the wagon)

That's what you need to push from now on.

The crowd murmurs behind them.

DAVE

What?! Get outta here man! Do you see the size of that thing?!

LEWIS

The door's behind me if you don't like it Dave.

DAVE

Dude, we can't--this is too much.

LEWIS

How do you know if you haven't tried?

DAVE

Because we've been pushing those bastards every day for weeks--

LEWIS

You're costing us money Dave. You got 5 minutes before the next wagon rolls in so I suggest you get this one out the way.

Dave and Ameen stand there for a second.

LEWIS (CONT'D)

Tic-tac fellas. If this is still here before the other one rolls, you are either dead or fired. Now move!

Dave and Ameen go on the tracks under the watchful eyes of the crowd.

The gate closes behind them. Ameen and dave look uncertain at each other.

Lewis stands right behind the gate, watching them with his mobile phone in his hand, set on the timer. He starts the countdown T-5 MINUTES - 4:59, 4:58, 4:57

Dave and Ameen start pushing themselves against the heavy wagon.

The both groan as they strain themselves against the seemingly immovable block of steel on wheels.

TIMER: - 4:03, 4:02, 4:01

Dave and Ameen give up, both panting heavily.

DAVE

We can't man, this is too much.

Lewis doesn't budge.

LEWIS

Time is ticking fellas.

DAVE

What? Man fuck this shit I'm gettin' outta here!

Dave goes to the gate to open it but it's jammed. He looks at Lewis shaking it, trying to get it open.

DAVE (CONT'D)
 Hey what's this? Open the fucking
 gate Lewis I want outta this place!

LEWIS
 Wagon's still on tracks.

DAVE
 Lewis! Open the god damn gate now!
 We're fucking trapped in here!

Ameen stands behind Dave, quiet.

DAVE (CONT'D)
 (shaking the gate)
 Hey are you gonna let him do this?
 (to Lewis)
 Open the damn gate Lewis!

The crowd looks like it's about to turn on Lewis.

LEWIS
 (to the crowd)
 One more move and you can see Paul
 on your way out!

We notice Paul standing by the entrance, leaning on his side
 as he does, munching frantically on a doughnut, ignoring what
 is happening in front of him.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
 Good luck finding a job after he's
 done with you.

Everyone in the crowd softens and steps back.

Dave notices they are on their own on the track.

TIME - 1:46, 1:45, 1:44, 1:43.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
 You're wasting time Dave.

DAVE
 (bashes the gate hard)
 Fuck you!

Infuriated Dave turns to Ameen and gets ready to push.

DAVE (CONT'D)
 Come on ameen, let's get this shit
 outta the way.

Dave and Ameen start pushing again, as hard as before.

TIME : 1:12, 1:11, 1:10, 1:09

They both grunt gritting their teeth, feet imbedded in the sleepers behind them, faces glued to the steel plate of the wagon.

The wagon wheels seem fused with the track.

TIME : 58, 57, 56

Desperation overwhelms both of them. Ameen tries different positions, Dave tries to push with his back, they both do now. The effort is grueling and they both give everything.

TIME: 47, 45, 44

Dave and Ameen have their backs glued to the wagon and their feet wedged against the sleepers of the tracks.

They both groan as the sweat showers their faces.

WE see the wagon wheel twitching slightly.

TIME: 36,35,34

Dave and Ameen keep on pushing, both to their absolute limit.

DAVE (CONT'D)
Come...onnnnnnn!

The wagon wheels move.

DAVE (CONT'D)
We got it, come on!

The wagon wheels move a bit more, but barely make one revolution.

The crowd watches horrified from behind the fence.

Lewis is calm, still holding his phone and hand on the lever that signals for the other wagon to be released.

TIME:18,17,16

The wagon wheels make another turn, and another.

Dave and Ameen keep on pushing.

AMEEN
Here we go, it's moving!

They advance and wedge their feet against another sleeper.

DAVE
Come on you bastard!

TIME : 12,10, 9, 8.

Slowly the wagon starts moving, but their are still not clear of the gate, if the other wagon comes, they will be crushed.

TIME : 6, 5, 4

Dave and Ameen continue to push ever so hard, their wagon clearing the bay.

TIME :2,1 - Lewis pulls on the handle and releases the other wagon which rolls down the tracks, through the one way barriers and stops in front of the gate only a few moments after Dave and Ameen's feet have cleared.

Lewis turns to the crowd.

LEWIS
Not impossible.

EEEEEEEEEEEE! - The gate opens and another wagon as loaded as the first one is on tracks.

Bob and his colleague stare at it, hearts crumpled.

LEWIS (CONT'D)
(as he walks away)
On with it.

INT. TRACK TUNNEL - SAME TIME

Dave and Ameen are pushing the wagon. Both laboring intensely. The rumble of the wheels is much thicker this time.

Both Dave and Ameen try to give it some slack and see if the wagon rolls by itself, but each time they slow down, the wagon slows down as well.

DAVE
Damn thing doesn't roll by itself!

AMEEN
How long 'till the ramp?

DAVE
We're almost at the marker.

AMEEN
Think we'll make it?

DAVE
No. But that didn't stop us from
getting it moving either.

WE see the peg with the red rag on it passing by.

DAVE (CONT'D)
There it is, come on, let's get
some speed in this thing.

The men start pushing harder trying to build-up momentum.

INT. SHREDDING AREA - MOMENTS LATER

The wagon arrives up the ramp. WE can tell Dave and Ameen are struggling to push it.

Phil and Dale watch almost in awe at the size of the wagon coming their way.

The wheels of the wagon stop at the white mark. Both Dave and Ameen come from behind it completely exhausted and they both crash on the floor wheezing and gasping, their clothes soaked in sweat.

Phil looks at them, then at the wagon, then at Dale.

PHIL
(to Dave and Ameen)
You guys lost a bet or something?

Dave and Ameen slowly getting up on their feet.

DAVE
No man, that's how they all gonna
be from now on.
(limping towards the side
tunnel)
Motherfuckers wanna kill us into
submission.

PHIL
(to Dale)
We're gonna need a bigger jack.

INT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ameen is struggling to climb up the stairs. If his body was in pain before, this time is in pieces. He shakes with every step he makes, almost crawling up, face red and swollen from the effort, gasping after each step.

Eventually he gets up and slowly walks over to Lamon's bedroom. He stops for a moment to catch his breath then knocks on the door.

AMEEN
(voice trembling)
Fatima. Are you ok?

FATIMA
(sounding sick)
Yes Ameen. Are you ok? I heard you struggling.

Ameen nods as he limps away from the door.

AMEEN
I'm ok...I'm Ok...

INT. AMEEN AND FATIMA'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The door opens and Ameen crashes on the floor breathing heavily.

CUT TO:

CLOSE-UP AMEEN'S FACE - SLEEPING

Alarm tone is blaring in the background.

Ameen opens his eyes.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL - he is in the exact position he fell.

Ameen slowly gets up and turns off the alarm. He sees the clock - 04:00 AM.

He sits on his knees against the bed, face buried in the sheets, crying.

AMEEN
I don't wanna do this anymore!

Phone chimes - your current balance is -3452£.

He takes a deep sigh and slowly gets up.

INT. SHUNTING AREA - MORNING

Everyone looks rough and in pain from the day before, leaning against anything they can find.

Ameen enters, looking tired and disillusioned.

He comes to Dave, Phil and Bob.

DAVE
Still alive huh?

AMEEN
Still in debt.

BOB
This is too much. These guys are taking a piss on us. We worth more dead to them than alive.

AMEEN
No. You're wrong.
We're not worth anything to anyone.
We're simply...worthless.
Like empty batteries.

EEEEEEEEEE! - the buzzer blares to start work. The men start clamoring slowly.

AMEEN (CONT'D)
You don't care much for those when their done do you?

Dave and Ameen are at the gate. The gate opens and they see the same overfilled wagon as the day before.

DAVE
Motherfucker was serious.

AMEEN
Yes well, we're not dead yet.

Dave and Ameen go on the tracks and start pushing.

INT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ameen is struggling to climb the stairs. Half way through, his legs give in and he collapses breathing heavily. He starts tearing, ten steps away from the top, he starts dragging himself as if he's paralyzed from the waist down.

One step, and another, then another, then slowly grabs the banister and starts pulling himself up on his feet. His body shaking, feels like he weighs a ton.

He groans with pain and just when he's about to give up, a hand grabs him by the wrist. He looks up, it's Fatima, barely standing herself. They lock eyes for a beat. Fatima up, Ameen down at her feet. For the first time we see him looking at her with love and compassion.

FATIMA

I heard you were struggling.

AMEEN

I don't know if I can do this
Fatima.

FATIMA

I do.

INT. STEVE'S OFFICE - DAY

Envelope slams on the desk. Ameen picks it up. He looks different now, like a mountain lumberjack, rugged, hardened, with broad shoulders, thick beard and lifeless eyes. Well built but sickish at the same time. Clearly a person overworked.

STEVE

Hey uhm, maybe you should take a few days off. You been working non stop for the past 3 weeks. You're gonna burn out.

Ameen signs the GDPR form then drops the pen.

AMEEN

Can't. I'm having too much fun with it.

Ameen exits the container. Steve looks at him somewhat concerned.

Ameen checks his account balance: -190€

EXT. BUS STATION - NIGHT

Ameen walks towards the bus station when his phone chimes. "ONE NEW VOICEMAIL". He takes the phone to his ear.

VOICEMAIL VOICE

This is constable Robert Pattinson from the judicial department, here to inform you that your time allocated to repay your debt will expire at midnight and if the entire sum you owe is not recovered, we will proceed to evacuate you at any moment passed the deadline.

Note, having Covid or having to stay in isolation because of Covid will not be grounds for an extension.

Thank you.

Ameen lowers the phone and checks the time - 18:34 PM.

The bus arrives.

EXT. CITY CENTER - NIGHT

The bus leaves the station and Ameen starts walking down the street. The few people walking by are all wearing masks and give Ameen a disconcerting look as they walk past him. He's not wearing one.

He arrives at a pawn shop and enters.

INT. PAWN SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Ameen enters but stops immediately when the pawn broker - a Sikh Indian wearing his mask on his chin - shouts at him.

PAWN BROKER

Please wear face covering sir!

Ameen looks lost and confused for a moment. He looks to his side and notices a sign on the door - "FACE COVERING MUST BE WORN".

AMEEN

I don't have one.

PAWN BROKER

(sighs)

Ok, but please maintain social distancing.

CUT TO:

INT. PAWN SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

The pawn broker examines a vintage wedding ring. In front of him, Ameen stands with his hands in his pockets.

PAWN BROKER
Very nice. Good craftsmanship.
I give you, 150£ for it.

AMEEN
150? Are you serious? That ring is
worth at least a thousand.

PAWN BROKER
And who am I going to sell to?
Another pawn broker who understands
its value? Rich people don't come
to pawn shops. And my clients don't
have thousands to spend on jewelry.

AMEEN
300.

PAWN BROKER
170.

AMEEN
250.

PAWN BROKER
(sighs)
I give you 200 for it and that is
it. If you don't like it, take
somewhere else.

AMEEN
No, I'll take the 200.
Can you put it on my card please?

PAWN BROKER
Sure. 5£ charge for it. But you
also get 10% discount next time you
buy from here.

Ameen checks the time - 20:49PM.

AMEEN
Ok.

The pawn broker starts operating his cash register. Ameen hands him his bank card. The pawn broker takes it, presses a few buttons on the cash register then gives the card back to Ameen.

PAWN BROKER

There. It's done.
Anything else I can do for you?

Ameen checks his balance -190f

AMEEN

Hey, nothing came through.

PAWN BROKER

Oh, the money will be in your
account by morning.

Ameen's face ashen with terror.

AMEEN

No! No! I need this tonight, the
bank needs to take this tonight!

PAWN BROKER

I am sorry, this is a dial-up
system and the process is very
slow.

AMEEN

What do you mean slow?! When you
take money it's instantaneous.

PAWN BROKER

That is a different transaction.

AMEEN

You have got to be kidding me. How
long does it take usually?

PAWN BROKER

24 hours. Maybe less, maybe more.

Ameen bursts in a fit of rage and fists the protection glass.

AMEEN

You son of a bitch!
You just fucked me! You just fucked
me!

PAWN BROKER

Please keep social distancing sir!

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Ameen is in the bus with his head leaned against the window.

He checks his balance. -190f, time 21:20 PM.

He starts coughing a few times, then looks in front of him and notices 2 elderly women a few seats from him, scolding him with their eyes over their masks.

He looks around him, everyone in the bus is wearing masks.

He buries his nose in his jacket, coughs a few more times and continues to look out the window.

INT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Ameen enters his home, silently.

INT. AMEEN AND FATIMA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ameen tucks himself in next to Fatima in bed.

He checks the phone again.

-190f. Time 22:38 PM.

He rolls on the other side and hugs Fatima tight from behind. Fatima grabs his hand and squeezes it. Ameen starts crying in her shoulder.

FATIMA

It's ok Ameen, we'll get through this.

AMEEN

I'm sorry! I'm so sorry!

He hugs her tighter.

AMEEN (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry!

FATIMA

I know. I know.

FADE TO BLACK.

ON BLACK

BANG-BANG-BANG! - strong knocks on the door.

DING-DONG! - the doorbell rings.

INT. AMEEN AND FATIMA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Ameen is sleeping in his bed, alone.

BANG-BANG-BANG! - another set of knocks on the door.

Ameen is startled awake.

DING-DONG! - doorbell rings.

Ameen looks panicked. He gets out of the bed and slowly goes down the stairs, step, by step.

WE hear clamoring coming from behind the door - people talking, walkie-talky chatter.

Ameen gulps. He comes down the stairs like a lamb to a slaughter.

BANG-BANG-BANG! - another set of knocks.

VOICE BEHIND THE DOOR
You think he's home?

VOICE BEHIND THE DOOR 2
We'll find out when we knock the door down.

VOICE BEHIND THE DOOR
He's home, just taking his time.

Ameen opens the door and see two men in white shirts wearing black tactical vests and caps. Behind them a van parked on his driveway, 3 more agents and a camera crew.

OFFICER 1
Good morning sir! How are you today?

AMEEN
Uhm, fine.

OFFICER 2
You haven't been paying your bills sir.

Officer 1 holds a document in Ameen's face.

OFFICER 1
This is a court order which allows us to force you out of your premises.

Officer 1 pushes Ameen aside so he can enter the house but Ameen resists.

AMEEN

No! Wait, No!

Officer 2 comes to his colleague's aid and grabs Ameen by the arms.

OFFICER 1

It's no use fighting sir! One way or another we will get in!

Fatima comes down the stairs in her robe and sees Ameen struggling with the bailiffs.

FATIMA

Ameen what is happening?

Ameen starts kicking and screaming as the officers pin him down on the floor and one of them rests his knee on the back of his head.

OFFICER 1

They never wanna go the easy way.

OFFICER 2

Don't worry we're gonna let you go as soon as we're done here.

A professionally dressed woman steps over Ameen and walks inside the house. Fatima is terrified.

The woman looks mean, cold.

FATIMA

Who are you? What are you doing in my house?

WOMAN BAILIFF

Ma'am, we are here to reposes your home. You will be taken to a temporary housing center until the council can provide you with a home.

Various people are clamoring around while the woman points with her pen at various objects in the house.

WOMAN BAILIFF (CONT'D)

Check the electronics and appliances, they're the ones that sell quick. No touching the jewelry! Take small items first!

FATIMA

What? What do you mean? Ameen! What is happening.

Ameen screams as he is taken out of the house by the 2 agents.

AMEEN

No! Fatima! No!

OFFICER 1

Stop fighting and get in the bloody van!

People in suits and the camera crew barge into the house all clamoring everywhere.

Fatima is overwhelmed with panic.

Lamon starts crying from upstairs. Fatima rushes up the stairs.

MAN 1

Oh crap. They have a kid?

MAN 2

This will end in tears.

WOMAN BAILIFF

Are you here to make predictions or evaluate the assets?
Go on, I ain't got all day.

Fatima comes down with lamon in her arms. Her eyes flooded with tears.

WOMAN BAILIFF (CONT'D)

Ma'am, you're going to have to hand me your child.

FATIMA

What? No! Why?

Lamon starts crying in Fatima's arms.

WOMAN BAILIFF

I'm sorry, the state will own him until you find yourself a permanent residence. Now please hand me your child.

FATIMA

NO! NO! You're not taking my child!

Fatima rushes up the stairs holding Lamon to her chest.

WOMAN BAILIFF
 (sighs looking at the 2
 officers)
 Go get her.

INT. LAMON'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The officers rush up the stairs, Fatima entered Lamon's bedroom, tries to close the door but it's kicked open by one of the officers.

OFFICER 2
 Come on! Gimme the kid!

INT. BAILIFFS VAN - SAME TIME

Ameen is in the bailiff's van, head out the window, hands tied behind his back.

WE hear violent commotion coming from the upstairs bedroom, fatima shouting, things being broken, lamon crying.

Ameen cries and jerks in his seat terrified by the noise.

AMEEN
 Nooooo! Fatimaaaaaa!

Then suddenly the bedroom window bursts open and out comes fatima holding Lamon in her arms flying through the air, heading straight for the pavement below and just as they touch the ground we--

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. AMEEN AND FATIMA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Ameen jumps out of his sleep covered in sweat and panting.

AMEEN
 Fatima!

Fatima wakes up next to him.

FATIMA
 I'm here. What happened?

Ameen looks at her, then at the clock - 3 AM. He quickly grabs his phone and checks his balance. Still -190£.

He starts coughing and wheezing slightly.

AMEEN

Shit!

FATIMA

Are you ok? This cough does not sound good.

Ameen gets out of the bed and exits the room.

INT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Ameen is leaned over a countertop looking down. On the countertop, a Lateral flow Test kit. We focus on the control test. 2 lines slowly become visible.

Ameen starts coughing again but tries to smother it.

FATIMA

Ameen. Are you ok?

Ameen is startled by Fatima's sudden apparition. He quickly grabs the kit off the counter top then goes to the sink and pours himself a glass of water.

AMEEN

Just getting some water.

FATIMA

Come, finish your sleep.

AMEEN

No. I'm done sleeping.

EXT. NILE CORP YARD - EARLY MORNING

Ameen walks through the car park with a steady soldier's pace. His face stiff and determined.

He stops for a moment and looks up at the ominous grey building. He stares at it for a beat then continues on his way.

The workers are gathered in front of the blue container smoking and drinking coffee.

Dave greets Ameen as he arrives.

DAVE

You know I noticed something.
You never brought any coffee with
you. Ever. Couldn't find a flask or
somethin'?

The horn blares outside and the people are clamoring towards
the entrance.

AMEEN

A bit late to start now.

Ameen walks past Dave and joins the crowd.

DAVE

What's that supposed to mean?

INT. SHUNTING AREA - LATER

Ameen and Dave queue at the gate among others. Ameen is
quiet.

DAVE

What is it with you today?
You seem more down than usual.

Ameen gives Dave a glance, then pulls out his phone and
checks his balance again. "No reception".

He is growing impatient.

EEEEEEEEEEEE! - the buzzer blares and Ameen rushes through the
gate.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Someone had his cereals this
morning.

They start pushing the wagon. Ameen grunts as he seems to
take all the weight by himself and they get the wagon moving.
He is venting all his frustrations on that wagon.

AS THEY PUSH THE WAGON ON THE TRACKS.

DAVE (CONT'D)

I don't know what's gotten into
you, but I like it.

Ameen doesn't say anything. He keeps on pushing the wagon at
a steady pace, almost mechanical, like Dave was pushing on
his first day.

INT. SHREDDING AREA - MOMENTS LATER

The wagon arrives with considerably more speed than usual.

Dave and Ameen push it until it knocks against the edge, going way past the white line.

Ameen's face looks twisted with anger. He let's go of the wagon and starts walking towards the side tunnel. Phil and Dale raise their eyebrows at him.

PHIL
(to Dave)
What's with him?

DAVE
Beats me. I think he got to enjoy this.

INT. SHUNTING AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Ameen is in line at the gate by himself.

Dave catches up with him.

DAVE
You're gonna burn out if you do this all day.
You forget you gotta come back here tomorrow and start all over.

Ameen keeps looking ahead. He looks steady as a rock, his mind in another place.

EEEEEEEEEEEE! - the buzzer blares, the light turns green and the gate opens.

Ameen goes on the tracks, puts his hands on the wagon then looks back at Dave who is still standing by the gate.

DAVE (CONT'D)
(as he walks on the tracks)
Hope you know what you're doin'.

Dave comes on the tracks and they both push the wagon away.

INT. SHREDDING AREA - EVENING

Dave and Ameen bring a wagon up the ramp, about as fast as the other ones. They release it to the tippers and Dave stops to catch his breath while Ameen stares at the wagon.

DAVE
I think we broke a new record.

AMEEN
That was the last one.

DAVE
Yeah. We're done for the day.

Ameen looks at Dave then down at the floor. That's not what he meant.

INT. BUS - NIGHT

Ameen is in the bus head leaned against a window with the same mean expression on his face.

He check his phone - "SERVICE UNAVAILABLE".

He takes a deep sigh and lowers the phone.

INT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

WE hear the key entering the lock, the door unlocks and opens. In comes Ameen, quiet, like he doesn't want to make any noise.

He looks up towards the top of the stairs for a beat, as if trying to imprint that image in his memory.

He goes to the kitchen and finds a sealed envelope on the counter. He looks at it, almost afraid, grabs it and goes to the guestroom in the back.

INT. AMEEN'S HOUSE - GUESTROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ameen arrives in the guestroom. He doesn't turn on the light, instead he slowly walks towards the patio doors and stops in front of them.

WE hear Fatima coming down the stairs. She enters the guest room and sees Ameen staring out the glass patio door.

WE see his view - a large playground just beyond his fence.

Ameen hears Fatima walking in.

AMEEN
Do you remember when we bought the house?

FATIMA

Yes.

AMEEN

I didn't see it. All I saw was the park outside. I said I didn't care how it looks on the inside as long as Lamon has a place to run. Play ball together, feed the squirrels, learn how to ride a bicycle.

FATIMA

It was a good decision.

AMEEN

Too bad there won't be anyone to take him.

FATIMA

What do you mean?

Ameen opens the envelope and takes out the letter.

"THANK YOU FOR MAKING YOUR PAYMENT. YOUR OUTSTANDING BALANCE IS NOW 3.22f".

AMEEN

I did it. I saved the house.

Then WHAM! - Ameen crashes dead on the floor under Fatima's horrified expression.

FATIMA

Ameeeeeeeen!

CUT TO BLACK.

ON BLACK

Overlapping news reports fading in.

NEWS REPORT

The biggest company in the world, Nile Corp has been found with severe breaches on health and safety--

NEWS REPORT (CONT'D)

Modern slavery and murder--

NEWS REPORT (CONT'D)

Dragged out on the pavement and left to die--

NEWS REPORT (CONT'D)

An anonymous tip led to the biggest scandal in Nile Corp history--

NEWS REPORT (CONT'D)

--workers were subjected to inhumane conditions--

NEWS REPORT (CONT'D)

--embezzled large sums of money for penis enlargement and testicular implants as well as experimental hair growth formulas--

NEWS REPORT (CONT'D)

(showing Lewis and Steve in handcuffs being pushed inside a police car)

--the owner of the company Mr. Heff Chezos faces criminal charges and fines in the order of billions...

WE come out of the TV and we are in:

INT. AMEEN AND FATIMA'S BEDROOM - DAY

Fatima is in the bed watching Tv while Lamon is playing on the floor.

NEWS REPORT

Justice will finally be served thanks to the bravery of a former employee who sent a detailed report to the authorities describing the horrors happening under Nile corps' roof.

5 people have ben arrested so far however this may be just the tip of the iceberg.

We hear a distant Clang!

WE follow Fatima as she exits the room and goes down the stairs to the entrance door.

She notices an envelope on the floor, came through the letter box.

She goes down and grabs it. She opens it and reads it.

We focus on the letter - from the HSE - Dear Mr. Yashed, on behalf of the HSE we hereby inform you that...your recollections were detrimental to the investigation...you helped change an entire industry for the better...those guilty will face prosecution...thanks to you.

PULL back to Reveal - We are now in:

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Fatima stands by Ameen's grave holding the letter in her hand.

FATIMA

It was not for nothing.
You did it. You changed things for
the better.

(touches the tombstone)

Goodbye Ameen. Thank you for not
giving up.

Fatima walks away from Ameen's grave.

FADE TO BLACK.

END