

LUCKY BEGGARS

INT. PECHMAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Although it is never mentioned in the film, this story takes place in the past. Let's call it 2010.

It starts in a small, old apartment. One of those, where the living room, kitchen and the toilet are almost in the same place. There's nothing new inside but it looks well-kept. Lights are off and the TV is on. The stack of coupons and deals leaflets lays on the table.

FELICITY PECHMAN (50's) sits in front of the TV and scribbles down something on a piece of paper. She looks way beyond her age and extremely tired. Her second-hand clothes are still intact.

The POWERBALL DRAW is on.

PRESENTER (ON TV)

Let's recap tonight's winning numbers and they are: seven, thirteen, twenty-four, thirty, twenty-nine, nineteen, twenty-seven and the power ball is a number six. Well, I really hope they were your winning numbers. Congratulations to all of our Powerball winners and have a very good night.

Felicity mutters the numbers as she points them on the piece of paper.

MERRIT PECHMAN (50's) walks in and turns on the light. There he stands in clumpy sweat pants and a sweaty T-shirt. The one that brings home the bacon. He tilts an empty beer bottle.

MERRIT

Stop deluding yourself, woman. You know that your greatest life achievement and happiness stand in front of you. -- We both know that I'm the lucky one over here.

Felicity ignores him, lost in the thought.

MERRIT (CONT'D)

I'm out of beer. Go and get me a few six-packs. They are closing in ten minutes.

FELICITY

Let me check it first. I've played my lucky numbers.

MERRIT

Lucky? You've never won anything.

Merrit pulls out a wad of cash from the pocket. He licks his fingers, counts down a few bills and throws them on the floor in front of Felicity.

MERRIT (CONT'D)

And get me some pork knuckle. I think I deserve to treat myself with something special.

Felicity stares at the lottery numbers.

FELICITY

(whispers)

I... Won --

MERRIT

What you mumbling over there?

FELICITY

I've just won sixty million!

Felicity screams with joy, jumps and dances in front of the TV. She opens the wardrobe and throws out some old clothes. She stops at the awful scarf and tosses it straight to the bin.

FELICITY (CONT'D)

I never liked this scarf.

MERRIT

Mom gave you that scarf...

FELICITY

I never liked your Mom, neither.

Merrit checks the numbers Felicity scribbled and smiles broadly. He joins Felicity in her dance.

MERRIT

We're gonna show them all who's the real royal blood in the neighborhood. But first, I'm gonna call Vlad and confirm another bet.

Merrit grabs a phone and tries to hug Felicity but she swiftly shakes him off. Her smile is gone.

FELICITY

Another bet? Are you fucking kidding me, you dirty piece of shit? You've lost all of our money on your "lucky" bets and the bank wants to throw us out on the street. You know what? It all ends today.

MERRIT

What the hell are you talking about? I have money.

Merrit waves the wad of cash in front of her face. Felicity opens the fridge. It's nearly empty.

FELICITY

You have the cash, and we don't have anything to eat. -- Pack your shit up and get the fuck out of my house. You will never hurt me or Asher again.

Merrit clenches his jaw.

MERRIT

Did you fall on your head, woman? Half of this money is mine anyway. And be polite because instead of fancy trips, you will end up on ER as you're on the straightway into the cast.

Merrit approaches Felicity like a vicious predator.

INT. SHOP - NIGHT

The soaked ASHER PECHMAN (18), pulls the wet Powerball ticket out of his pocket and hands it to the SALESWOMAN.

ASHER

Could you put it for tonight's draw?

The Saleswoman checks the big clock on the wall.

SALESWOMAN

I can't accept it.

ASHER

I know it's wet, but there was an emergency on the way. Please. It's really important.

SALESWOMAN

Even if you filled out a new coupon, the draw is already done. Some lucky bastard is already packing up and planning how to spend those sixty million.

ASHER

Fuck! -- Mom picked those numbers for today. She said she'll be lucky on her birthday.

SALESWOMAN

I'm sorry. -- Why don't you buy her a scratch card instead? The grand prize is ten million. You can still buy a few dreams for it, if you're lucky.

Asher checks the change from his pocket and thinks for a beat. He puts the money on the counter, takes the SCRATCH CARD and walks away.

SALESWOMAN (CONT'D)

Wish your mom happy birthday. I bet it will be her lucky day.

Asher nods and leaves.

INT. PECHMAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Asher eats a sandwich on the fly and puts his worn hoodie on. He's about to leave when Felicity comes out of the kitchen.

SUPER: EARLIER THAT DAY

FELICITY

Here, would you do me a favor? Put it on tonight's draw.

She hands him a Powerball ticket. Asher shakes his head.

ASHER

Waste of money. You did fifty scratch cards in a row and you had nothing, Mom. Merrit bought just one, and he cashed twenty grand. Why assholes are always luckier than good people.

Felicity shushes him.

FELICITY

Don't talk like that about your father. What will the neighbors think?

ASHER

That he's a piece of shit, nothing they don't already know.

She covers the bruise on her cheek behind the hair.

FELICITY

He's a good man. He's just having a bad few days after he lost his job.

ASHER

Bad days? It's been already five years, Mom. We don't have money to pay the rent and look at him. He went to collect the money two days ago and hasn't come back yet.

FELICITY

He probably went to the banks to sort out the loans.

ASHER

Sure. He's probably gambling again or drinking booze with some bums as usual. We'll never see that money and you know it. -- Okay. I'm out. Don't wait for me.

Asher leaves and he's already on the mid-floor when...

FELICITY

You've forgotten the ticket.

Asher reluctantly comes back.

ASHER

What will you do with all this money when you win?

FELICITY

I'll buy you a new pair of shoes, for a good start. The proper ones.

Asher looks down at his holey sneakers. He leans forward and kisses Felicity on the cheek.

ASHER

I love you, Mom...

He puts the ticket into his pocket and runs down the stairs.

EXT. PARK ON THE RIVER - DAY

Asher sits on a bench, smokes weed. As he releases the smoke...

ASHER

I'm telling you, man, stupid guys are always luckier. My old man not only hit the lottery of his life meeting my Mom, and now this.

He passes the blunt to MADOC (18), a Rastafarian with the long dreads on his head and Bob Marley t-shirt. He sits next to Asher.

MADOC

Cool man. So, you are saying that you're too smart to be lucky?

ASHER

I would be smart enough not to waste that money on booze.

Asher points at the six-pack of beer standing next to him.

MADOC

Sounds like a cool plan, man. What would you do with the cash?

ASHER

I have an idea for a small business. I'm telling you, one day it will be huge. But shh. I don't want anybody to hear it even from my thoughts.

MADOC

Wow man, that's rad. -- Ask your old man, maybe he'll start you up a bit. After all, it's an investment.

ASHER

Sure. I'll see a buck when the pig will see the sun. All the money will probably go to pay back the rent and loans.

(MORE)

ASHER (CONT'D)

The executor has already been with us three times and threatened that we will end up on the street.

KIARA

You could always stay with me.

KIARA (19) sits on the grass in front of Asher and Madoc. She could easily win the pageant contest, but with her choice of baggy clothes, she perfectly blends into the gray surroundings.

Madoc passes her the blunt and spots the man in the suit. WARREN GREEN, (40's) rides on the bike, wearing a helmet.

MADOC

Check this guy out. I've seen him on the TV lately. He rides the bike in his suit and doesn't care about anything. He was saying that nowadays anyone can start a big business out of nothing. You just need to have a vision and pursue it. That's real freedom, man.

Asher takes the blunt from Kiara.

ASHER

Well, I guess we need to work on some really great visions over here then.

Asher takes a puff and glances at Warren until he vanishes around the bend.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Warren parks his bike, takes his helmet off. He's athletic, charm to spare.

He looks up at the red McKain & Company logo on the top of the glass tower.

CHARLIE WHITEHEART, (50's) African American security guard, approaches him with a broad smile. Even though he's slightly limping on his right leg, you still wouldn't take your chance to mess with him.

CHARLIE

How are you today mister Green?

WARREN

I'm more than good, Charlie. How's your daughter?

CHARLIE

She's getting better. Thank you for your help. I don't know what I would do without her.

WARREN

Great to hear. You should take a few days off to be with her -- and I told you to call me Warren.

Charlie doesn't have a chance to answer as Warren enters the building through the main door.

INT. WARREN'S OFFICE - DAY

Warren's about to seat when VINCENZO, (30s) handsome and cocky Italian salesman, enters.

VINCENZO

(Italian accent)

Richard was looking for you. The meeting's already started.

Warren checks his watch and collects a few files from his desk.

VINCENZO (CONT'D)

By the way, this food company you were talking to last week, they're in. I've convinced them to focus on the core and hero brands. They'll return to growth very quickly.

WARREN

Great stuff. You're the best.

Vincenzo shrugs.

VINCENZO

I know.

Vincenzo leaves without closing the door. Warren looks after him and shakes his head.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Warren enters the meeting and sits in the only empty chair next to the RICHARD BROOKS, (60's), Wall Street type, wears glasses. Richard focused on financial charts, runs the show.

Warren's late but all ATTENDEES seem to be relaxed about it. All except the guy that Warren sees for the first time. PETE DICKSON, (mid 20's), arrogant and entitled type, checks his watch and smirks to Warren.

Warren notices him as he receives a nudge from ROBERT, (30's), thin and pimple-faced team leader, Warren's best friend.

ROBERT

(whispers)

Son of Richard's sister. He came for an internship or something.

Robert discretely passes a notecard to Warren. Pete rubbernecks over the table.

INSERT: "Great quarter! We all get a 300% bonus. You're the best. Promotion in the air."

Warren writes something and passes it to Robert, who suppresses the laugh.

INSERT: "A lot of pigeons in the air, that shit all over the place. New guy looks just like one of them."

RICHARD

Big congratulations to the whole team and Warren, the architect of success -- who built one of the best consulting teams in the country from scratch.

Applause.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

We all know that the ambition to lead requires also the courage to adapt...

Richard glances at Pete. He nods.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Therefore, together with the board, we've decided that from tomorrow Pete will be the new manager and Warren will take care of the new interns.

Warren forces a smile. He glances at Pete, who just smirks. There are whispers around the table. Eventually...

ROBERT

Could you tell us more about Pete and his experience?

RICHARD

I can assure you that he is a highly qualified specialist with extraordinary ideas. I'm sure that under his lead, you all will jump to an even higher level.

Robert isn't convinced.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Only Richard, Warren and Pete remain in the room.

WARREN

Babysitting?

Richard looks at him for a beat, then turns to Pete.

RICHARD

Would you give us a minute?

Pete reluctantly leaves the room without taking his eyes off Warren.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

If we want to become a global leader, we need to bring some fresh perspective on the table.

WARREN

I think there are better ways to achieve that than a bunch of interns.

RICHARD

We need to understand those, how do you call them? Millennials.

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

There are several companies interested in acquiring some start-ups as well. I'm sure your new team will come up with something...

WARREN

That might be difficult.

Richard smiles.

RICHARD

Those kids will do anything to gain experience in our company. I think it's a fair exchange.

Warren nods, lost in the thought.

WARREN

What about the payouts for my team? Will they receive the bonus they've earned?

RICHARD

Pete wants to make the payment dependent on the results in the next quarter. They'll need some motivation without you minding them.

WARREN

I can see that he had a great teacher --

Richard flattered, hands Warren the file.

RICHARD

Here. Pete's already drafted a few pitches. Let me know what do you think. -- but don't think for too long.

Warren bounces his knee and glances inside the file.

WARREN

What if I say no?

Richard looks at him over the glasses.

RICHARD

We work with ambitious leaders who want to define the future, not hide from it.

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)
I'm sure you'll make the right
decision -- I don't want to lose
such an experienced specialist as
you.

Warren nods, picks up the file and leaves.

INT. PECHMAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Felicity sits at the table and checks the letters. All of them are from the banks. Unpaid loans. She stops on the FINAL DEMAND FOR PAYMENT with a high figure on it.

Merrit enters, smiles broadly.

FELICITY
I don't know why you're so happy.
Another payment request, and
another twenty thousand and now
this --

She hands him the letter but he ignores that.

FELICITY (CONT'D)
We have time until Friday. You've
said that you've paid off
everything. How many loans did you
take? And don't you dare to lie to
me.

MERRIT
Calm down, woman. I was on my way
to the bank to repay it. -- Then,
as a revelation, came to me that I
could invest this money in a
certain business and we could
repay everything at once from the
profits.

FELICITY
Merrit, tell me you've paid that
money to the bank --

MERRIT
I don't trust these banksters, so
I've decided to make some
investment.

INT. BOOKMAKER SHOP - DAY (FLASHBACK)

Merrit stares at the monitors, mumbles under his nose,
counts the cash.

He places the bets on horse racing, soccer games, basketball. You name it.

INT. PECHMAN'S APARTMENT - BACK TO PRESENT

Merrit kisses betting coupons.

MERRIT

I'm telling you, I have a good feeling about this. With my luck, we'll come out clean.

Felicity looks at Merrit in disbelief and sighs.

FELICITY

Tell me you've at least bought the new shoes for Asher? He'll be walking on his bare feet soon. -- It would be nice to do some groceries as well as there are crickets in the fridge.

MERRIT

Don't worry, I've left a few bucks for the most important expenses, but take it easy. Once I get the prize, he'll buy as many shoes as he wants.

Merrit takes a six-pack from the fridge and sits in front of TV.

INT. WARREN'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Ambient light illuminates the large, modern apartment on one of the top floors. Everything looks new and expensive. From furniture to the art pieces.

Warren reviews the documents from Richard. He shakes his head and tosses the folder on the table. He pours another drink and the phone rings.

He crosses his huge living room to answer it.

WARREN (ON PHONE)

What's the story?

ROBERT (V.O.)

Tell me that you won't leave us with this asshole.

WARREN (ON PHONE)

It's not that simple --

ROBERT (V.O.)

Everything is simple for you. You made a great team out of a bunch of rookies and now you'll just let it go?

WARREN (ON PHONE)

Let's say I've got an offer I can't refuse and --

ROBERT (V.O.)

And what?

Warren bottoms his glass.

WARREN (ON PHONE)

And I think I'm going to refuse. See you around, man.

Warren hangs up and walks towards the window. He stares at the panorama of the city. He sighs and walks out of the apartment without turning the lights off.

Beat.

He comes back, takes the bottle of whiskey and leaves.

EXT. PARK OVER THE RIVER - NIGHT

Asher sits with Kiara and Madoc on the bench. They keep discussing their life plans and look for inspiration in joints.

ASHER

I think I'll head off.

MADOC

Cool. What you gonna do?
Crosswords with your parents?

Madoc bursts with laughter.

ASHER

First of all, I will write down all those brilliant ideas, so they wouldn't vaporize with the smoke.

MADOC

Are you serious?

ASHER

Do you see any other way to get out of this place?

KIARA

Well, I think I could be an awesome model. -- Like, you know, the ones that you can see on the magazine covers.

Asher and Madoc measure her baggy clothes and smile ironically.

MADOC

I can already see you running like a gazelle on the catwalk.

Kiara punches Madoc in the shoulder.

KIARA

Yeah, yeah, keep laughing. What about you? What're your dreams, you smartass?

MADOC

I just don't want to finish in jail, like my old man. I'm doing fine so far. -- Right?

Asher glances at Kiara.

ASHER

Sure dude. Man, you are much better than this. You can be whoever and whatever you want. Just give yourself a chance.

MADOC

Sure, a chance to fuck the beaver at the first glance.

All laugh while behind them Warren walks on the edge on the river bank. He loses his balance a few times, but he recovers. His uncoordinated movements finally catch the Madoc's eyes.

MADOC (CONT'D)

Check out this guy. He's drunk or what? YO, MAN!

Warren turns back to them, loses the balance and falls into the water. He submerges under the surface and comes back, struggling to catch the air.

WARREN

Help -- HELP -- I can't swim.

He's underwater, struggles to reach the surface, impeded by his shoes and jacket. He makes an abortive attempt to get rid of his coat. He struggles. He nears the surface. And then he stops. A moment of silence. His eye close slowly. And then the splash as the Asher's crappy shoes hit the water.

Asher efficiently drags Warren to the surface and pulls him ashore.

On the shore, Warren throws up a bellyful of water. Kiara grabs her phone and calls for an ambulance.

Madoc's just stares at them. Warren coughs and takes off his wet jacket.

WARREN (CONT'D)

Thank you. You saved my life.

Asher's still on the adrenaline rush.

ASHER

It's nothing man. You probably would do the same for me.

Soaked Warren sits on the ground and shakes of cold.

WARREN

I don't know about that. I can't swim --

Madoc comes closer and recognizes Warren.

MADOC

I remember you. You're the bicycle guy -- I thought that broken businessmen jump out of the skyscrapers. I never heard the try to drown themselves in the stream. Bad luck?

WARREN

I slipped --

MADOC

I've heard these slippery businesses are the worst. But you got money, man. You'll be grand.

(MORE)

MADOC (CONT'D)

By the way, you could drop some cheddar to my friend for saving your ass. Few bucks won't make any difference for you.

ASHER

Stop it, man! I didn't do it for the money.

WARREN

Your friend is right. You deserve a reward. And I know you won't spend money on some bullshit.

Warren glances at Asher's shoes, he pulls out the few wet notes out of the wallet and passes them to him.

ASHER

I don't need your money.

Warren checks the notes.

WARREN

You'll dry them and they'll be like new.

ASHER

I won't take charity from the corpo-rat. When I'll start my own business, I will afford everything.

Warren smiles and puts the money back in his wallet.

WARREN

I can see that negotiations are one of your strengths. Hold on. If you don't want the cash, I'll offer you free consultation. We'll look at your business plan and see how you could push it forward.

Warren hands Asher the business card. He takes it and looks at Warren curiously. Kiara is off the phone.

KIARA

An ambulance is on its way. How it's even possible, that an adult man can't swim?

WARREN

I guess when they're allocating talents, someone decided that I won't be another Michael Phelps.

(MORE)

WARREN (CONT'D)

-- I think I'll take a few
swimming lessons after that.

Warren nods "thanks". Asher's lost in the thought. He pats his jacket and pulls a soaked Powerball ticket out of his pocket.

ASHER

Shit, I need to go. See you
tomorrow.

He bolts across the park and drops the Warren's business card.

INT. PECHMAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Soaked Asher closes the door behind him. Merrit drinks beer and watches TV. Felicity in tears, packs the clothes into the bags.

ASHER

What's going on over here?

Merrit leaps up from the chair.

MERRIT

My beloved Asher. My only child. I always knew that together we would be a great team. Come have a drink with your old man. Beer? No! We need something special. It's time to crack the fine whiskey we've got from uncle John.

Asher looks curiously at Merrit. He sits down and Merrit jumps around him like a waiter. Asher glances at Felicity.

ASHER

Why are you packing, Mom?

Merrit puts glasses in front of him and pours the whiskey.

MERRIT

Don't mind her. She's crazy, old woman. Tell me, how's your day?

Asher glances at his drink.

ASHER

Okay, that's enough. What the fuck is going on?

MERRIT

Nothing. I think I can ask my son,
how was his day?

ASHER

(to Felicity)
Mom? Is he on drugs? Did he hurt
you?

MERRIT

Son, do you still have the
Powerball ticket that mother gave
you? Could you give it to me? We
should check the numbers. I have
the same feeling as with this
scratch card.

Asher looks at miserable Felicity. He pulls a soggy
ticket out of his pocket. Merrit quickly pulls it out of
his hand, checks the numbers and grins black teeth.

MERRIT (CONT'D)

You don't even know how much luck
you've just brought into my life.

The smile disappears from Merrit's face. He gets up,
clenches his jaw and strikes Asher with an open hand. Boy
collapses and curls on the ground.

MERRIT (CONT'D)

Now, go and help this piece of
rag. I don't want to see both of
you anymore. Parasites.

Asher helps Felicity to collect the rest of the clothes
and both hurries away from the apartment.

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

Asher and Felicity sit on the bench.

ASHER

He's insane. He should go and see
a shrink. I don't believe that few
bucks from that scratch card could
mess with his brain so much...

A bus drives in, the door opens and the DRIVER#1 looks at
them for a beat. They look homeless and have no interest
in getting on the bus. The Driver#1 closes the door and
drives off.

ASHER (CONT'D)
Throwing us out the house in the
middle of the night on your
birthday. What kind of psycho does
that?

Felicity wipes tears on her sleeve.

FELICITY
It's all about this ticket -- I've
won...

Asher doesn't listen to Felicity and continues his
monologue.

ASHER
I've texted Kiara. She might let
us sleep at her place today, and
tomorrow we can find something
else. -- What do you mean, you've
won?

FELICITY
Sixty million -- would you believe
that? I've won something for the
first time in my life, and...
sixty million.

Asher pales, he's speechless for a beat, then suddenly he
bursts with a panic laugh. Felicity stares at him.

ASHER
I hope he's ready to hit the
ground hard.

Asher bursts out with laughter again.

FELICITY
Are you okay?

ASHER
You know what? I've never been
better. I've just imagined his
face when he will go to collect
his prize.

FELICITY
What are you talking about?

Asher calms down.

ASHER
Why? Do you care about him?

FELICITY

Even if he's a sick man, half of the money is legally mine. So we're gonna be okay.

Felicity forces a smile and hugs Asher. He looks down.

ASHER

Mom, I didn't manage to buy the ticket. Some guy fell into the river and I jumped to save him. By the time I got to the shop, it was already too late.

Felicity stares at him, her eyes well up. She covers her mouth with shaking hand.

FELICITY

So...

Beat.

ASHER

So, there is no money, Mom, and he will get sixty million my ass.

Felicity buries her head into her hands and begins to cry.

FELICITY

What have I done? -- We need to go back, maybe he will take us back...

Asher grabs her by the shoulders.

ASHER

We're not going anywhere, Mom. We don't need him. We'll figure it out...

FELICITY

He was right. I'll never win anything. I don't deserve it...

Asher hugs her.

ASHER

You deserve everything, especially someone that will treat you right. You're the best.

Asher hugs her, pulls out a scratch card from his pocket, and hands it to Felicity.

ASHER (CONT'D)
 Happy birthday, Mom. I bet it's a
 lucky one. You'll definitely win
 something --

The tears fall, but Felicity wipes them away. She kisses Asher on the forehead, looks at the scratch card and puts it in her pocket.

FELICITY
 I've already won --

Another bus arrives at the stop. The DRIVER#2 opens the door and waits for a reaction.

ASHER
 You can go ahead. We're fine.

The Driver#2 is about to close the door when Kiara steps in. She smiles.

KIARA
 And then she came, the princess
 charming on the nightline bus,
 just in time to save her beloved
 friends -- Help your Mom and hop
 on.
 (to Driver)
 Just wait a minute, will you?

Asher smiles to her. The Driver#2 nods and checks his watch while Kiara helps Asher to collect the bags.

INT. KIARA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Felicity looks around. This place doesn't fit Kiara's clothes at all. The place is small, but looks new, and all hers.

Felicity takes the framed photo of Kiara and her MOTHER. There's someone's hand around her shoulder but the half of the photo is torn off.

Kiara prepares the meal as Asher makes the tea.

KIARA
 You can stay until you find
 something else. There's not much
 space, but we'll make it work.

FELICITY

Thank you, sweetheart. Asher didn't mention that he has such wonderful friends.

(to Asher)

You could learn a lot from her on how to keep your room clean.

An awkward silence.

ASHER

Do you live here alone?

KIARA

Yeah. Why? You don't like it?

Asher needs a moment.

ASHER

What? No -- I mean yes. I love it. It's awesome. By the way, you dress, I would never say, that you have such a great taste.

Kiara turns and points at him with the knife.

KIARA

What else can you foretell from my clothes?

Asher blushes. He glances at perfectly sorted clothes.

ASHER

(clears throat)

I would ask you, what the hell are doing with such bums as me and Madoc.

Kiara smiles.

KIARA

You accept me the way I am and you don't ask too many questions. That's more than enough for me.

She hit the nail on the head. Felicity covers her mouth, starts to cry.

FELICITY

What shall we do?

Kiara hugs Felicity. Asher walks towards the window and looks at the skyscraper towering over the city.

Red McKain & Company neon is on. So are the lights in some offices. People still work there.

ASHER

I will find some job tomorrow and we will look for someplace to rent.

Felicity looks at Asher.

FELICITY

Who will rent us anything? We don't even have money for a deposit.

ASHER

I will ask for an advance payment. They should understand...

He doesn't believe it.

KIARA

You should call this guy from the river. He seemed fine and he owes you.

ASHER

I won't kneel before the corporat. They're the ones who drag people into gambling and take away their life savings. I will take care of us -- Tomorrow I'll go to the bank and ask for some quick loan for the deposit.

Kiara shakes her head.

KIARA

Don't you think those quick solutions are the exact reason why you have to crash on my sofa tonight?

Felicity eyes well up, she buries her head into her hands. Kiara hugs her.

KIARA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. -- I would love to meet you under other circumstances, but you know, what I mean...

Asher looks at the Felicity, who nods Kiara's right. He checks his pocket. It's empty.

He nervously checks the other pocket. He pulls it out and reveals a large hole in the material.

ASHER

And so much of my luck. I had to lose it somewhere.

Asher sits next to Felicity. She sweeps the tears of her face and hugs him.

FELICITY

I'm sorry, son. I'm so sorry, It's all my fault.

Kiara puts Warren's business card on the table in front of Asher. He grabs the card and looks puzzled at Kiara.

KIARA

I've found it on the ground after you've bolted out of the park. What was that all about?

Asher looks at Felicity, who lowers her head.

ASHER

It's a long story, and you probably wouldn't believe me if I told you -- I still don't believe what happened.

KIARA

Oh, come on! After such a great teaser, you have to tell me now. I love great stories.

Kiara sits down next to Asher and Felicity and listens to their story. Asher was right. She never heard anything like it.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Warren walks out of the coffee shop, holding a cup. The big CROWD outside of the bakery next door grabs his attention. He comes closer. A WALL STREET GUY in suit and coffee cup in his hand passes by.

WARREN

Excuse me, do you know what's going on over here?

WALL STREET GUY

It looks like they're giving away free buns -- Just look at those people. They act like they couldn't afford the bun. Pathetic.

WARREN

C'mon it's free. They smell delicious and it will be a great add-on to the morning coffee.

WALL STREET GUY

Are you serious? Do you really want to wait in that long queue just to get two buns worth a few bucks?

WARREN

Sure. They're free buns.

Wall Street Guy gives him a face and shakes his head. Warren approaches the line. He leans over to the table without blocking the way and takes two random buns from the basket. Nobody has a problem with that. The Wall Street Guy looks at him with wide eyes. Warren takes a bite.

WARREN (CONT'D)

They taste even better than they smell.

Warren winks to the Wall Street Guy and walks off.

INT. WARREN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Warren enters, puts coffee and buns on the table and turns the TV on. On-screen interview with Simon Sinek.

SIMON SINEK (V.O.)

It's not just WHAT or HOW you do things that matters; what matters more is that WHAT and HOW you do things is consistent with your WHY.

The mobile rings. Warren looks at it and reluctantly picks it up.

WARREN (ON PHONE)

Richard, I thought you were enjoying the sun on your yacht for the rest of the week?

RICHARD (V.O.)

The board drills a hole in my stomach about this freaking project, so the sun and the hot chicks in bikinis have to wait...for your decision.

WARREN (ON PHONE)

Oh, I didn't know I was that important. You know, I've looked briefly at the file yesterday and honestly, you can kiss...

Warren receives the second upcoming call. Unknown number.

WARREN (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)

Would you hold on for a moment? I have to answer this...

No, he hasn't. Richard still talks, while Warren connects the other call.

WARREN (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)

Hi, Mr. Baywatch. I guess you already decided?

ASHER (V.O.)

(confused)

Good morning. Yes -- but how did you know I'll call?

WARREN (ON PHONE)

Lucky guess -- Don't worry about it. You will learn everything. Actually, we are looking for new interns at the moment, and I would like to invite you to my team. If you want, you can bring your friends with you. We'll find something for them too...

Warren goes back to the table and opens Richard's folder.

ASHER (V.O.)

Why me? There are probably hundreds more qualified people banging to your door, and you offer an internship to the random guy you've just met. So, why me?

WARREN (ON PHONE)

You didn't take the money... And I know that you will work harder than any other candidate.

Beat.

ASHER (V.O.)

There is one more thing...Is there any chance that I could get my payment in advance? There's an emergency.

WARREN (ON PHONE)

We'll talk about it tomorrow. I will send you all the details. 7 am sharp.

Warren hangs up and returns to Richard.

WARREN (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)

Sorry about that. Where were we?

RICHARD (V.O.)

I think you wanted to tell me to kiss your...

Warren interrupts him.

WARREN (ON PHONE)

Ah yes. I was telling that you should kiss one of your beautiful, yacht girls. I will take care of this project, but I have just one condition...

Beat.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Bustle of professionals coming in and out of the company building. Asher and Kiara look up at the intimidating glass-tower. They look out of place.

Charlie approaches them slightly limping.

CHARLIE

Are you lost?

Kiara turns to him first.

KIARA

No. We suppose to start a new job over here. We are looking for...

She doesn't finish as Charlie notices a luxury car approaching and shoves Asher and Kiara out of the way. By his moves you can tell he's the military guy.

Richard gets out of the car, followed by Pete. Richard passes Charlie and teenagers without even looking at them. Pete gives them a contemptuous look and glances at Asher's old shoes.

As they walk into the building..

WARREN (O.S.)

I see that you've already met our top man.

Warren joins the group with a broad smile on his face. He extends his hand and welcomes Kiara, Charlie and finally Asher.

ASHER

If there are more of those guys inside, I don't think I'll stay here long.

Warren looks through the glass at Pete entering the elevator.

WARREN

I wasn't talking about him. I was talking about Charlie. He's our guardian angel over here. A former marine -- real hero, and a great soccer coach by the way. He's organizing the PTSD charity game on Sunday. You should come.

Charlie nods.

CHARLIE

Do you know these two?

Warren nods. Kiara smiles to Charlie as in "what did I tell you".

WARREN

They're my new interns. Are we missing someone?

Asher checks his phone as breathless, overdressed Madoc emerges from around the corner. Rastafarian in a suit. Everyone stares at him. He notices it and checks his jacket.

MADOC

What? This is a serious job, right?

Madoc looks at Warren.

WARREN

And that's what I call a professional approach. Come on, we're late.

As they walk inside, Warren exchanges glances with Charlie, who shakes his head and smiles.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Asher, Kiara, and Madoc sit at the big table. Warren draws some charts on the whiteboard. Other employees stare through the glass and comment the presence of young people, who clearly don't belong here.

Asher and Madoc look that way. Kiara's just opposite.

WARREN

Our main task will be to identify the new niches on the market. We will work also on your creativity and innovation skills..

Pete enters the room.

PETE

I don't want to disturb your important meeting but could you drop into my office when you finish?

Pete glances at Kiara's and Asher's clothes. His face tells exactly what he thinks.

PETE (CONT'D)

And ventilate the room before the board meeting.

Pete leaves. Asher grits his teeth and Warren notices it.

WARREN

Relax. If you are serious about your business, you must control your emotions and learn how to talk to such buffoons.

ASHER

It's easy to say when you're wearing a suit worth a few grand and people don't look down on you. We don't belong here. Just look at them. Everyone is laughing at us.

Warren looks through the glass and everyone goes back to their duties. Warren nods at Robert, who soon joins them in the room.

WARREN

Robert will be your guide and he'll introduce you to the members of my old band. They will teach you everything you need to know.

As they're about to leave.

WARREN (CONT'D)

One more thing. There are rumors that someone is selling "booster" in the office. For your own benefit, don't look for any shortcuts, if you know what I mean. We don't tolerate drugs in the office.

Asher glances at Madoc.

INT. OFFICE SPACE - DAY

Robert leads Asher and his friends through the office. Ironic looks, whispers, and comments are heard behind their backs.

ROBERT

Each company is made up of different departments and the success of every project depends on how well they get along with each other. Your goal is to create the best possible working conditions for your team. -- No messing around. Do you understand?

Everyone nods and Robert shows them the board on the wall filled with organized tasks and deadlines.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Excellent. Here are today's tasks.

INT. OFFICE SPACE - CONTINUOUS

AMY MURPHY, (50's), Irish accountant at her desk. We see her screaming at Richard for unsettled expenses. Moments later, she dances and twerks after finishing the monthly report. She sings loud. She's one crazy accountant.

ROBERT (V.O.)

Close to the deadlines you have to approach Amy as a lioness defending her little ones. Many have tried, but no one has managed to tame her.

Kiara nimbly places segregated invoices on Amy's desk. Asher wants to introduce himself while Amy is focused on the spreadsheet. She makes a mistake and needs to start all over. Her face turns red and big vein pops up on her forehead. She loses it and screams at the whole office. Like a lioness.

INT. OFFICE SPACE - CONTINUOUS

Vincenzo's on the phone, hustling his client.

ROBERT (V.O.)

Vincenzo is our best salesman. He loves to walk when he's closing the deals. Don't get him out of tune.

Madoc mocks Vincenzo's Italian broad gestures.

ROBERT (V.O.)

...and one more thing. Italians are crazy when it comes to food.

Asher brings Vincenzo the pizza box. Vincenzo opens it, spot's pineapple on top and his face pales in anger. Blasphemy. He throws the pizza on the ground and walks out of the office. Asher looks around and shrugs.

INT. OFFICE SPACE - CONTINUOUS

MILES (30's), walks to his desk. It's a creative mess. He wears a "I'm a marketing manager, not a Magician" t-shirt.

ROBERT (V.O.)

Miles is our jack-of-all-trades. I don't know how he comes up with all those crazy ideas, but to be fair as soon as they work, I don't wanna know. -- He's a punctuality freak.

There's lots of colorful sticky notes all around his desk and few unique clocks. On his monitor, we can see that his last video went viral and gatherer millions of views.

Miles blindly reaches out for something. He can't find it. He's upset and looks around. He spots Asher running with his coffee. Miles lost his flow.

INT. OFFICE SPACE - CONTINUOUS

ABIL talks over the phone. He's the most polite Indian man on Earth.

ROBERT (V.O.)

Abil has the most stressful job on Earth. Pleasing unhappy and furious customers. Sometimes he needs a moment for himself.

Abil finishes his call, calmly types something on the keyboard while he completely loses it and smashes the keyboard on the desk. He talks to himself in Hindi. Possibly cursing.

The slack-jawed Asher watches the transformation of Dr. Jekyll to Mr. Hyde. Abil turns to him with his raging eyes. Asher flees away.

INT. TOILET - CONTINUOUS

Asher passes the joint to Madoc and exhales the smoke into the sink.

ASHER

Dude, those people are nuts. We'll never belong here.

MADOC

I kind of like it here. But I'm telling you, man, don't trust that guy that doesn't like pineapple on pizza.

ASHER

Are you serious? Do you really see yourself in this place?

MADOC

I'll never get a better chance to get similar job -- plus if they let me smoke weed in the toilet, I will do anything for them.

ASHER

Do you think they'll let me work on my business over here?

MADOC

Sure, man. You've heard Warren.
They are looking for some fresh
ideas.

Madoc takes a puff, passes the joint to Asher when Kiara opens the door and sticks her head in. Madoc waves his hands in the air. Asher drops the joint into the sink and swiftly sprays air refresher around.

KIARA

What's up, ladies? Did you already
cure glaucoma? Come on then.
Warren wants to talk to us.

When Asher and Madoc go out, the sound of flushed water is heard. Somebody walks out the closed cabin. Pete, seen only from the waist down, approaches the sink. He places the phone on the shelf and stops recording.

Pete reaches into the pocket and he pulls out a small vial of cocaine. He taps a bump of coke on his hand, snorts it off screen.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Warren sits in the chair when Kiara enters the room followed by Asher and Madoc.

WARREN

Please, come in and close the
door.

Warren takes the remote control and the transparent glass turns milky-white.

WARREN (CONT'D)

What did you learn today?

Asher crosses his arms. He's not impressed by this place.

ASHER

That people like them will always
exploit people like us. I bet, if
we were given equal chances, they
wouldn't be so cocky and they
would have to acknowledge our
value.

Warren notes this and turns to Kiara.

WARREN

And what did you learn, Kiara?

KIARA

Amy loves raspberry white chocolate latte and Maroon 5. She holds Adam Levine pictures in the drawer. Vincenzo is a master at showing customers the value of the products. It's hard to believe, but it looks like the seller can tell the truth. But the pizza stuff.

Warren smiles. Madoc nods to Asher "I told you".

KIARA (CONT'D)

Miles proves that advertising doesn't have to be beautiful to be effective, and lesson from Abil is that the customer is always right, even if you're risking mental breakdown after chatting with him.

Warren's impressed. He found a rough diamond. Asher and Madoc also exchange the looks. Kiara's on fire.

WARREN

Excellent. I think we've all learned something today. See you in the morning.

They're about to leave when...

WARREN (CONT'D)

Asher, could you wait for a moment. There's something I would like to show you.

EXT. SOCCER PITCH - DAY

The BOYS playing soccer. All nationalities and races. All around Asher's age. What strikes us is clear tension between JAMAL, African American boy, clearly more athletic than others and WALLACE, white boy, that wears only branded stuff and thinks he should be the team captain because of that.

Warren and Asher enter the pitch. Charlie, who's coaching the team notices it, he whistles and announces a break in the game.

He approaches Warren.

CHARLIE

Mister -- Warren. It's always nice to see you around. What can I do for you?

Warren looks at the players fooling around. Jamal argues with Wallace.

WARREN

I would like to show something to our rebellious friend. I bet your boys will learn something as well.

Warren points at Jamal and Wallace. Charlie makes a face and blows his whistle.

EXT. SOCCER PITCH - MOMENTS LATER

All Boys stand now on the end line. All expecting more drills, ready to act.

WARREN

You've mentioned something about equal opportunities today, so let's play the game. Could you join the rest of the team?

Asher reluctantly stands on the line with others. Charlie limps over to join Warren.

WARREN (CONT'D)

If any of you seriously think about making your dreams come true, here's my advice for you. Engrave it into your brains that equality doesn't exist.

(beat)

Do you see this line?

Warren points to the line on the far side of the pitch.

WARREN (CONT'D)

So, in a moment, you'll all be racing. The one who wins will get a hundred bucks. Are you ready?

Boys are excited and ready to go. So is Jamal. He can already see the money in his pocket. The other guys are not so confident now. Asher prepares for his run.

WARREN (CONT'D)

Before we start, here are the rules.

(MORE)

WARREN (CONT'D)

I'm going to ask you a few questions. For each "yes" answer you take three steps forward. If the answer is "no" you stay where you are.

Whispers among the boys but they nod "agree".

WARREN (CONT'D)

First question: if your parents are still together -- take three steps forward.

Some of the boys move forward, some stay behind. Among them Asher and Jamal.

WARREN (CONT'D)

If your father was present growing up, take a three steps forward.

Asher takes three steps. Jamal still at the line.

WARREN (CONT'D)

If you've never had to work to help your parents pay the bills -- take three steps forward.

Asher takes three steps.

WARREN (CONT'D)

If you've never had to worry about whether or what you eat for your next meal -- take three steps forward.

Asher moves forward and overtakes a few guys.

WARREN (CONT'D)

And now turn around and see what's your starting position.

Asher looks back and sees a dozen or so boys standing behind him. Some embarrassed and some angry by the result of this experiment. Wallace stands closest to the finish line with a smirk on his face.

Jamal still at the line but stands tall and proud. Asher looks at the boys behind him and his eyes are glassy now. He gets the point.

WARREN (CONT'D)

I could produce more questions,
and in most cases, the answers
wouldn't have anything to do with
what you've done personally. Nor
decisions you had to make. But
here you are. And now
READY...SET...GO.

The race begins. Jamal bolts and takes over slower guys one by one. Asher is not as fast but he puts some effort. Wallace wins the race, Jamal finishes third, Asher's fourth.

All gather around Warren and Charlie. Warren picks money from his wallet. Wallace is ready to collect his price.

WARREN (CONT'D)

Next time you start dwelling on
your situation, think how many
steps forward you took in that
race, what kind of head start you
have without making any decisions
or by doing absolutely nothing. If
you are left behind, you can still
catch up with the rest and win
your own race.

Wallace shows Jamal the finger.

WARREN (CONT'D)

Charlie, would you tell me how
many boys you have over here --
I'm giving your club a hundred
bucks for each one who reached to
the finish line. I bet you would
like to look like a team before
the upcoming game.

Boys cheer for Warren and congratulate to Jamal. Wallace steps aside alone, angry. Charlie blows the whistle and they are back to training. Warren nods to him and walks with Asher towards the bench.

EXT. BENCH - CONTINUOUS

The team is back on the pitch. Charlie gives them tips and whistles. Warren and Asher sit on the bench in awkward silence, when...

WARREN

So, tell me about this new business idea that you're going to conquer the world with.

ASHER

Okay, but then you will tell me what the hell we are actually doing in your company besides carrying coffee and sandwiches. As far as I know, these are not the skills that we could conquer the world with.

WARREN

Fair enough. Sounds like we have a deal.

Warren extends his hand. Asher nods and shakes it.

ASHER

It's something aimed at people like my mother...and me -- It's stupid. You'll probably laugh at me.

Warren is deadly serious.

ASHER (CONT'D)

Okay -- you probably noticed that we don't have an easy situation. It's mainly thanks to my Mom that we're keeping it all together. She has tons of various coupons and great deals. The only problem is those piles of paper around, tracking the dates. So, I thought...

He stops and looks at Warren.

ASHER (CONT'D)

...so I thought that if one could gather all these coupons in one place, in one booklet and deliver them directly to people, it would make their life much easier. Less paper and all that bargains in one place...

Asher looks at Warren and waits for his reaction.

WARREN

Birds of a feather flock together.
I bet your parents are very proud
of you. -- I'll help you develop
your project if you promise to
focus on the internship.

Asher glances at Warren.

ASHER

Do you think it has potential?

WARREN

It all depends on you.

Asher nods he gets it then...

ASHER

Okay, now it's your turn. What
skills do we develop serving those
corpo-rats?

Warren smiles.

WARREN

You know that, I'm the one of
them?

Asher's abashed.

ASHER

I'm sorry I didn't mean to...you
know -- but there is something
about you I still can't figure
out. You seem so "normal".

Warren nods.

WARREN

Skills are just a commodity. And
as a commodity, they can be --
easily replaced. Trust is what
matters the most.

ASHER

But companies only pay for the
results. They don't care if I'm a
good person. It's all about the
money...

WARREN

It's damn easy to find the people who cares only about results but I bet you wouldn't spend a minute of your life with them after work. Not to mention trusting them with your money or leaving them alone with your wife..

An awkward beat. Asher notices that.

ASHER

If there are so many of them, there must be an easy way to identify those rats?

WARREN

There is. You walk into the company and ask for a person who is the biggest asshole in the house. There's a high chance all of them will point to the same person.

Asher laughs but gets the point.

ASHER

That's why you're helping Charlie? He's a good man?

Warren glances at Charlie who collects the stuff after finished training.

INT. CHARLIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Charlie sits in the old armchair, opens the envelope and reads the letter. He drops it on the floor and his eyes well up.

FATE WHITEHEART (8) walks in slowly in pink unicorns pajamas. She rubs her eyes.

FATE

You've promised me a story, dad.

Charlie wipes the tears away and hugs her tightly.

CHARLIE

You should rest honey...

FATE

Because I have this little gremlin inside?

Charlie's eyes well up again.

CHARLIE

Yes, sparkle, because of this gremlin -- Where is Mom?

FATE

She fell asleep by my bed. Why are you crying?

CHARLIE

It's nothing. I was just thinking of some old friends.

Charlie grabs the picture of much younger him amongst the group of SOLDIERS. They look like special forces. He shows it to Fate and he glances at the second picture taken recently.

On the second picture, Charlie stands with some of the same soldiers. TANK is on the wheelchair, BUZZ with leg prosthesis and GHOST without a left arm. There's also a military medal besides the picture frame.

FATE

Mom says they were very lucky you've saved them. -- Will you save me too, Daddy?

The tears fall on Charlie's cheeks, but he wipes them away.

CHARLIE

Yes, sparkle. We gonna fight this battle together.

He glances at the letter on the floor. "EWING SARCOMA" it reads and a \$200,000 as a treatment cost is visible.

INT. OFFICE SPACE - DAY.

Pete watches Kiara talking to Amy as if they've known each other forever.

At the other desk, Madoc gives a high five to Miles.

Pete looks energized.

PETE

(shouts)
Interns. My office in two minutes.

He just sucked all the good vibes from the air.

PETE (CONT'D)

I just want to remind rest of you,
that this is a workplace, not a
Kindergarten. We don't pay you for
talking.

Vincenzo wants to say something but Pete shuts him with
his look. All return to their duties.

INT. PETE'S OFFICE - DAY

Madoc and Kiara sit at the desk. On the other side, Pete
sinks in the director's chair. He tries to play the hard
boss, but he's just pathetic.

PETE

Although initially, I didn't
understand how Warren convinced my
uncle to get you on this project,
now I see that both of you got
some potential.

Pete glances at Kiara.

PETE (CONT'D)

All you need is a proper mentor,
not someone who spreads some
utopian, idealistic crap around.

Kiara rolls her eyes.

KIARA

Do you know someone like that?

Pete clears his throat.

PETE

The road to success always leads
through the door protected by the
guardian. Someone who decides
who's going in or not. If you'll
do what I say, you end up on
managerial position sooner than
you could only imagine.

Kiara shakes her head. Madoc absorbs his words like a
sponge.

MADOC

And what exactly should we do?

Pete smirks.

PETE

I want you to share all the information about this new project, and everything that Warren does and says. In exchange, within six months, well, up to a year, you will become full-time employees.

KIARA

And why we should agree to that?

PETE

Let's face it. It's like winning the lottery for you. Who else gonna give you that chance? So, what do you say?

Madoc rubs his hands and strokes his chin. Kiara stands up.

KIARA

It's a bit strange for me when the gatekeeper assigning the managerial positions, so thanks but no thanks. Are you coming, Madoc?

Kiara leaves the office. Madoc looks over the shoulder after her but then he looks back at Pete.

A MONTAGE FOLLOWS, WITH CUTS OF THE OFFICE LIFE AND ASHER'S PROJECT DEVELOPMENT.

- Asher brings the coffee to Miles and he's on time. They work together on the marketing project.

- Kiara learns accounting from Amy. They sing and dance together.

- Madoc teases Vincenzo with food blasphemy. All crack up with his Italian reactions.

- All employees are gone, but Asher and friends are still in the office, working on the coupons project. Brainstorming, arguing, frustrates until the first coupons newsletter mock-up lands on the desk. They are happy and proud. They are a team.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. SUPERMARKET - DAY

The STORE MANAGER takes the leaflet from Asher and looks at it curiously.

ASHER

You will reach hundreds of new customers. Especially those who have never visited your shop. It's a clear win-win situation.

The Store Manager thinks for a beat, then nods and shakes Asher's hand. Asher smiles.

INT. EXCLUSIVE BOUTIQUE - DAY

Kiara curiously goes through the luxury clothes. A total contrast to what she wears now. BOUTIQUE SALESWOMAN approaches her.

BOUTIQUE SALESWOMAN

Would you like to try something on?

KIARA

Oh no, thank you. I have an appointment with the owner.

BOUTIQUE SALESWOMAN

Clarence isn't here yet.

Kiara glances at fancy power suit and a dress.

INT. HEMP SHOP - DAY

Madoc feels at home. He tests various products. The HEMP SHOP OWNER appreciates that he's not dealing with an amateur.

MADOC

I can tell that you have top class stuff over here. Snoop would be proud of you. Dude, think about how many new customers could come and relax over here. You will expand your franchise within months. Do you feel me?

The owner takes a hit from the bong, exhales the smoke, and gives Madoc a broad smile. He's in.

INT. EXCLUSIVE BOUTIQUE - DAY

Kiara leaves the dressing room in fitted power suit, looks in the mirror and loves what she sees. As if she came straight from the catwalk. She checks the price on the label and opens her mouth agape.

CLARENCE DUBOIS, (40's) the famous fashion designer enters the shop. He's colorful as a peacock and talented as Mozart when it comes to designing the clothes. He can't take his eyes off Kiara.

CLARENCE

Nobody warned me that an angel
would fall from the sky to my
boutique..

Kiara turns back to him. She looks like a real businesswoman. Strong and beautiful.

KIARA

Mr. Clarence? I was just... We had
an appointment. I would like to
show you a new exciting project
that I'm currently working with my
friends..

CLARENCE

Honey, I'd even buy sand on the
desert from you. Have you ever
thought about being a professional
model? I'm having a show in Milan
next Wednesday. You would be a
star..

Kiara looks intimidated for the first time. She's speechless.

CLARENCE (CONT'D)

Where do I sign?

Kiara hands the designer a contract, he signs and hands her a business card. Kiara takes it and wants to go back to the dressing room.

CLARENCE (CONT'D)

Oh, no, no, no, sweetheart. You
look too gorgeous. Don't you even
dare take it off. And get some
shoes to match that, honey. I hope
to see you soon. Think about the
Milan. You'll dim them all with
your natural beauty..

The Clarence walks out. Kiara returns to the fitting room to grab her old clothes. When he comes out, she glances at the shelf with women's and men's shoes.

INT. KIARA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

All celebrate the success of Asher's project. Among them, Warren and Felicity. Kiara's back in old clothes. They brag about the new companies joining the project. Warren picks up a glass of wine.

WARREN

To Asher, the new king of coupons -

Rest raises their glasses and takes a sip, then Kiara reaches for the wrapped box and hands it to Asher.

KIARA

King is missing only the one thing
now..

All focus on Asher. Felicity glances at the box, at Kiara, at Asher and her eyes immediately turn wet.

Asher unwraps the gift but we don't see what's inside, then..

MADOC

Oh man -- in those kicks, you'll
be the next Pope.

Kiara hits Madoc in the arm and all bursts with laughter. Felicity steps aside. Asher notices this and approaches her.

ASHER

Are you okay, Mom?

Felicity rubs her eyes with his sleeve and turns away.

FELICITY

I'm so proud of you, son -- I wish
I could give you those new
shoes...

Asher hugs his mother.

ASHER

You gave me enough, Mom. From now
on, everything's gonna be fine.
I'll get my first payment and
we'll find somewhere new to stay.
It's the end of our troubles.

MADOC (O.S.)

Don't you know it's rude to
whisper at the party? Another
toast, for the best team in the
world.

Asher and Felicity return to the others as somebody BANGS
on the door. Kiara shrugs. She expects nobody.

She opens the door to reveal the enforcer. It's hard to
say whether he operates in the name of the law or not, so
we will call him LEG-BREAKER, which suits most his
physique and face expression. He could easily collect
Mafia debts. Think Michael Duncan Clarke.

KIARA

How can I help you?

The Leg-Breaker sneak peeks through the door.

LEG-BREAKER

I'm looking for Felicity and Asher
Pechman.

Kiara looks back at Asher and makes eye contact with him.
She's petrified. Warren approaches.

WARREN

Is there any problem?

LEG-BREAKER

I would prefer to talk to them in
private -- If you don't mind of
course.

Warren steps aside and Asher approaches them at the door.

INT. KIARA'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

All crowd at the window to see Asher and Felicity talking
to the Leg-Breaker outside. He's unexpectedly calm yet
scary because of his size.

He explains something. Felicity stares at him for a beat
and collapses on the ground. Asher jumps to help her.
She's unconscious. Asher screams something and waves to
Kiara. Leg-Breaker walks away.

INT. KIARA'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Asher and Warren put Felicity on a couch. She's half-
conscious. Kiara gives her a glass of water.

WARREN

What happened over here? Who was that man?

Asher's pale and shakes.

ASHER

It was about my father. He took one loan too much.

WARREN

This guy didn't look like a banker.

ASHER

Banks only talk to him for one reason. That's why we end up on the street.

WARREN

Bank evicted you?

ASHER

No -- my father did. After he found out that Mom won in Powerball.

Asher glances and Felicity and Kiara.

ASHER (CONT'D)

Almost won...

WARREN

How can you almost win?

Asher ignores that.

ASHER

It's like you said. We can't just wait on the blind fate. I need money. Otherwise Mom and I will end up in the cell next to Madoc's father -- or worse if this guy comes back.

WARREN

You should contact the police and explain everything.

Felicity reacts on the "police".

FELICITY

No police. He said no police or we'll never see Merrit again.

Asher kneels in front of Felicity.

ASHER

It's gonna be OK, Mom.

WARREN

Let me know if you need any help.

ASHER

Don't get me wrong, but I'll never
earn enough from the internship.
We need to focus on the coupons
and get more clients.

Warren nods.

Kiara approaches and hugs Asher. Behind them, Madoc sends a message and hides his phone quickly into his pocket.

INT. OFFICE SPACE - DAY

Asher walks in the office in his new shoes. He looks more confident. Madoc walks behind him and glances toward Pete's office. Clearly, something bothers him.

ASHER

Have you seen Kiara?

Madoc's lost in the thought.

MADOC

What? No... I didn't see her. Maybe
she's with Warren.

WHISTLE of delight is heard behind them. They turn around to see Kiara entering the office in her power suit and heels from Clarence. She looks like a million bucks and could easily run this place. Asher's stunned and Madoc opens his mouth agape as Kiara approaches them.

KIARA

What? You said to be more
professional, right? -- Madoc, are
you catching flies?

Asher can't take his eyes off Kiara.

ASHER

I guess we have this contract in
the bank. This is our ticket to
big money.

MADOC

Warren's coming?

ASHER

He said he will meet us there,
why?

Madoc shrugs. Kiara spots the looks of the male predators, which now wink to her and check her out from head to toe. She crosses her arms on chest.

KIARA

Can we talk about it elsewhere?
It's still a secret, right?

Asher and Madoc nods, she's right. They walk toward the canteen when...

PETE (O.S.)

Madoc. Could I talk to you for a
moment?

They look around and see Pete standing at the door of his office. He waves and pats his thigh at Madoc as he's calling the dog.

MADOC

Go. I will catch up with you
later. I'll see what this jerk
wants.

Asher nods. He and Kiara leave. Madoc walks into the Pete's office.

INT. CORPORATE RECEPTION - DAY

Asher, Kiara, and Madoc sit in the poshest reception you can only imagine. MOONEY FURNITURE INDUSTRIES logo on the wall. The SECRETARY looks at them over the desk from time to time. They obviously don't belong here.

Madoc looks at the dozens of portraits hung on the walls. Chairmen's. Directors. Only men.

MADOC

(whispers)
I'm telling you, this guy's gonna
eat from our hands when he sees
Kiara. He'll sign the contract
with closed eyes...

Asher taps his leg and nervously looks at the files.

ASHER

Where's Warren? He supposed to be here by now. We don't have enough experience to talk to them alone.

Kiara looks around the office when the telephone rings. The Secretary answers.

SECRETARY

(on phone)
They're here. All three of them.
Yes, of course.

The secretary hangs up and walks over to them.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

Director Mooney is expecting you.
Follow me, please.

Madoc doesn't hide his excitement.

MADOC

(to Kiara)
He will sign with his eyes closed.

As they walk through the door Asher glances over his shoulder. Warren's not coming. They are alone.

INT. DIRECTOR MOONEY'S OFFICE - DAY

Asher, Kiara, and Madoc sit in the comfy chairs in complete silence. Madoc looks terrified; he swallows saliva so loudly that Kiara clears her throat to stop him.

DIRECTOR MOONEY (O.S.)

I've looked through your offer and it seems interesting. However, I have a few specific questions, if you don't mind.

At the other side of the table sits director LAURA MOONEY, (40's). A sharp, confident woman. She spots that Madoc pales.

LAURA

Any problem? Do you want a glass of water?

Madoc shakes his head.

MADOC

All those photos outside -- Who are those people?

LAURA

All the directors since the company was founded -- I haven't managed to hang my portrait yet, and I probably saved a few board members from the heart attack because of that.

Laura smiles. So is Kiara and Asher. Madoc's pale.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Going back to the business. How are you going to solve the problem of waste paper? Our company doesn't want to be identified with tons of leaflets rolling around the streets.

Asher makes big eyes, so is Kiara. They didn't think of that.

LAURA (CONT'D)

I see there might be also problem with distribution. How you going to reach the customers in the other states and countries?

Kiara joins the discussion. Madoc slowly opens up and smiles. Asher makes notes, answers but every minute the air is coming out of him.

INT. CORPORATE RECEPTION - LATER

The Secretary walks all three out of the office.

SECRETARY

As director Mooney said, the decision will be made at the next board meeting. We'll contact you. Have a great day.

They walk deflated glancing at the directors looking at them from the portraits.

ASHER

It wasn't that bad. You were great with those calculations. Where did you get them from?

KIARA

Amy showed me a few tricks. You also did a good job. Opportunity for those in need, saving time. Really smooth.

Madoc looks at one of the portraits. It's Laura's father, GEORGE MOONEY, but he doesn't link them.

MADOC

Bla, bla, bla. Who cares about the time savings or ecology? We have nothing. Pete was right. We're just a bunch of puppies. She ate us for breakfast, and where is Warren? He abandoned us when we needed him the most. With this.. mantis. I wonder who she slept with to end up with such a position.

Asher makes a face to Kiara. They haven't seen the Madoc having such a breakdown. Ever.

INT. OFFICE SPACE - DAY

Asher and Kiara watch through the glass as Warren walks in his office and talks to someone on the phone. He laughs, leans nonchalantly on the door frame. He's flirting.

KIARA

It looks like he's having a good time. I wonder who is he talking to.

ASHER

Why, you jealous?

Asher is. Kiara smiles at him and ripples his hair.

KIARA

Stupid -- You better find out where's Madoc.

ASHER

I don't know, he hasn't contacted me since yesterday. Maybe he's still sleeping.

Warren comes out of his office and summons them.

INT. WARREN'S OFFICE - DAY

Warren closes the door behind Kiara and Asher. He's clearly aroused.

WARREN

I have good news and bad news.
Which one first?

Asher and Kiara exchange the looks.

ASHER

Start with the good one.

WARREN

Laura Mooney just called and --

It takes way too long, especially for Asher.

WARREN (CONT'D)

She convinced the board of the
coupons. We're launching next
week.

Asher and Kiara jump up in the air and hug each other. A friendly kiss on the cheek. Warren claps. Asher and Kiara run and hug him.

WARREN (CONT'D)

Okay, that's enough. Wait until
you hear the rest. Where's Madoc
by the way?

They shrug and shake their heads. They try to keep it cool.

WARREN (CONT'D)

The bad news is that they only
want to start with a few local
stores and then evaluate the
campaign before they move forward.

Asher loses that slight smile.

WARREN (CONT'D)

Which gives us about 100 stores
anyway, so I don't know how about
you, but I will celebrate as hell
tonight. Great job!

All burst with laughter. Other Employees, including Pete, watch them jump and dance in the office.

INT. NIGHT CLUB - NIGHT

The music is pumping. The floor is packed. Asher looks at Warren, Kiara, Robert and rest of the team; talking, laughing, socializing. No sign of Madoc and Vincenzo. Robert holds up the champagne bottle.

ROBERT

To interns!

Everyone raises their drinks and bottoms them. DJ hits Kiara's beat. She drags Asher onto the dance floor. He tries to resist.

ASHER

I can't dance!

Kiara smiles. He cannot resist that.

KIARA

Me neither, but who cares. We're celebrating today. Don't be square.

Asher follows Kiara and both start to dance. They are pretty good. You can feel the sexual tension between them. They almost kiss when suddenly rest of the team join them on the dance floor and everyone starts to fool around on the dance floor.

INT. NIGHT CLUB - LATER

Asher joins Robert at the bar and looks at the dance floor, where the rest of the band goes crazy. Asher orders another drink. He's already hit.

ASHER

How long you know Warren?

Robert glances at Warren.

ROBERT

About two years, but it feels like we've known each other our whole lives. I bet others feel the same. He cares about his people.

Asher spots Warren dancing with Kiara.

ASHER

Real hero. How it's possible that a guy like him is alone?

ROBERT

He's one of us. He hustled all the way from the bottom, but he never forgot the people he met on his way up. But success has its price. His wife cheated on him with his business partner. -- Shit, I hope you'll keep it for yourself.

Asher nods.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

I've heard that recently he was dating some real man-eater, but her family's doing everything to keep them apart. The rich don't want to share their cash with the peasants. It's a shame because he could have any girl he wants. Just look at him.

Warren on the dance floor is now dancing with Amy. Despite her weight Amy rocks on the dance floor like a pro dancer. Asher sees only Warren and Kiara. Alcohol does its job.

ASHER

You know what, I'm gonna head off. Important day tomorrow. See you in the office.

Asher bottoms his drink and leaves. Soon after Kiara joins Robert.

KIARA

Where's Asher?

Robert just shrugs and bobs his head to the music.

INT. ASHER'S NEW APARTMENT - DAY

Asher in expensive suit and new shoes, walks inside with a box and a travel bag. The same bag, he packed when they were leaving their old apartment.

Asher's old shoes lay on the ground. He grabs them and tosses into the bin.

Felicity walks in and is stunned by the place.

ASHER

What you think? Wait. You have to see the view.

Asher drags Felicity to the window. It's a really nice view.

FELICITY

I'm guessing the rent is very high.

ASHER

Not really. Our old landlord was ripping us off.

We stay on Felicity's face as this lands on her.

ASHER (CONT'D)

Don't worry about the money. The advance payment was enough for the rent, and after the weekend we will pay off all the debts and go straight.

Suddenly there is a LOUD KNOCKING at the door. Asher opens the door to reveal Kiara hiding behind the big flower.

KIARA

I thought you would like to have some plants in the new apartment. Do you like it?

ASHER

Thanks. It's... original.

Asher takes the flower and places it close to the window. Kiara looks around the apartment.

KIARA

Congratulations. Now you'll live like a real corpo-rat. It's not a shoebox like my apartment. By the way, where did you vanish yesterday? I was looking for you. Did you meet somebody?

ASHER

I've got the text from Madoc. He wanted to talk.

He's a terrible liar and Kiara notices it. Another KNOCKING at the door. Asher shrugs and opens.

It's a Leg-Breaker. He doesn't wait for an invitation and walks straight in, pushes Asher away.

ASHER (CONT'D)
What the hell, man? How did you
find us?

LEG-BREAKER
Let's say I'm paid to find the
debtors that try to hide
underground..

The Leg-Breaker approaches Asher and squares with him.
He's at least three times bigger than him.

LEG-BREAKER (CONT'D)
...or they forget to repay the debts
as they should. Nice apartment --

Asher breathes heavily and looks in panic at the open
front door.

ASHER
Why should we pay my father's
debts. He took all the loans
without telling us and he no
longer lives with us?

The Leg-Breaker smirks.

LEG-BREAKER
Because that's the law.

He's definitely a better liar than Asher.

LEG-BREAKER (CONT'D)
And don't try any tricks, because
my next visit won't be as polite.

ASHER
I told you I'll give it all back
after the weekend and don't you
dare touch my mother. She's the
real victim here.

WHAP! Out of nowhere, the Leg-Breaker punches him hard in
the stomach. Asher curls up with pain on the floor and
can't catch his breath.

Felicity jumps to protect her son. Leg-breaker shakes her
off and his elbow accidently lands on her forehead. She
falls down unconscious on the ground. Asher crawls to
her.

ASHER (CONT'D)

Real hero. Hitting a defenseless woman. Go and chase Merrit if you want your money back.

LEG-BREAKER

Keep your mouth shut and do what you're told. -- Your old lady should've left this piece of shit a long time ago, but debts are debts, somebody needs to pay -- See you soon.

The Leg-Breaker approaches Kiara and strokes her cheek with a giant hand. Kiara is terrified and shakes. As the Leg-Breaker leaves, Kiara runs to Felicity.

INT. OFFICE SPACE - DAY

Asher and Kiara enter the office. Applause and congratulations from the Employees. Amy smiles and waves from her desk.

For Asher and Kiara, it's rather the walk of shame. They look tired and stressed.

KIARA

How's your Mom?

ASHER

Doctor says it's a concussion. They'll keep her in the hospital for a few days.

Robert walks over and pats Asher on the shoulder and congratulates. Asher grimaces with pain. He's possibly broken ribs.

Pete approaches them out of nowhere. Robert jumps out of his skin.

ROBERT

Jesus, Pete. Are you moving through the ventilation ducts with the other rats?

Pete ignores that.

PETE

Asher, Kiara. I would like to invite both of you to the conference room. We are waiting for you. Great job!

Asher glances at Kiara. Confused.

PETE (CONT'D)

(to Robert)

If I were you, I would watch my
tongue -- I have eyes everywhere..

Pete points with his fingers as he watches Robert. Robert looks at him like he`s a crazy person.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Asher and Kiara walk in. Richard sits at the top of the table, several BOARD MEMBERS are also present. Pete closes the door behind them and sits next to Richard.

RICHARD

Please, have a seat.

They sit puzzled and watch Pete's awkwardly wide smile.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

We haven't had the chance to meet yet. My name is Richard Brooks and I'm the director of this company. First of all, I would like to congratulate you, it's very rare that we have such... enterprising interns. Admittedly, Warren really has talent in doing something out of nothing.

Kiara notices the insult.

ASHER

Will Warren join us?

PETE

Don't worry about him. You are talking to the people with real power.

Richards shushes Pete down with raised hand.

RICHARD

I'm very impressed with your project. And I appreciate that you kept it secret. Coupons, huh?

Richard looks at the Board Members which nods they're impressed.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Tell me something. You've convinced several large clients to join your project. Can you tell me how you did it?

Asher looks nervously through the window. No sign of Warren. Pete notices it, uses the pilot and glass turns milky-white.

KIARA

We just talked to them and they agreed.

Richard nods and glances at Pete.

RICHARD

They just talked. Would you imagine it, Pete? We definitely need more people like that -- And how did you convince Laura Mooney? I'm trying to reach her for over a year now, and she just let you in straight of the street?

Kiara and Asher look surprised but they both just shrug.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Anyway, you did a good job, and now it's time for the professionals to take over what you've started.

Asher stares at Richard and moves to Pete. His smirk is way too broad.

ASHER

But the coupons are mine... our company. This is our idea. You can't take it away from us.

PETE

Let me just tell you something, we can and we are doing it. You don't have any experience in running a business. It requires a unique set of skills...

Asher clenches his jaw and his face turns red.

ASHER

Do you have any experience in running a business?

(MORE)

ASHER (CONT'D)

As far as know your only skill is to lick your uncle's ass and be a brainless yeti.

KIARA

Asher, relax. I'm sure we can talk this through and come to a win-win agreement.

ASHER

Don't tell me to relax. Don't you see what they're doing? They're stealing our project.

PETE

If you don't change your tone, I'll call security and both of you will return where you came from -- to the gutter.

Warren storms the room.

WARREN

What's going on over here?

RICHARD

Come in, Warren. We were just talking about your new project.

PETE

...and explaining to the interns that the project they've secretly developed is by law our property. You've used our resources, our employee's knowledge. You did it in our building and you've used our equipment. Technically, coupons have never been yours.

Warren looks at Richard, but he just nods as Pete's right. Warren catches eye contact with Asher. He's about to blow.

ASHER

But I have to pay for my father's debts. I need this money otherwise they will break my arms and legs -- they will hurt my mother.

RICHARD

I understand your situation and I'm truly sorry to hear that. It's nothing personal. This is business and we all have our obligations.

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

The lesson for you today is that before you start playing the game, you need to know the rules. You don't even know how lucky you are, that it happened to you right now. In a few years, you will be grateful for this experience. Now excuse us, we have a few important things to discuss.

Asher storms out of the room and slams the door. Kiara walks straight after him. Warren still stares at Richard and Pete.

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Didn't you say there were three of them?

Pete smirks and looks away.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Asher bolts out of the building. He bumps Charlie on his way. Behind him, Kiara and Warren walk out of the building.

ASHER

I can't believe it. How could I trust you? I knew that somebody will steal my idea. I'm an idiot.

Kiara tries to hug him down but he shakes her off.

ASHER (CONT'D)

Leave me alone. What the fuck was that? "We can talk this through", "win-win agreement"? They've stolen my idea and you want to negotiate with them? You are one of them now? How could I trust you? How could I trust YOU!

Asher looks ominously at Warren.

ASHER (CONT'D)

And you? Is this your job? Fishing for naive and talented people, steal their ideas and take all the glory for yourself? I knew that we shouldn't trust the corpo-rat. You're just like them.

Charlie approaches them.

CHARLIE

Warren, should I take care of this youngster?

ASHER

Get the fuck of my way, janitor.

Warren shakes his head and remains calm. Charlie stays around, just in case. Asher's just continues unleashing his rage, huffing and puffing. He's back to Kiara.

ASHER (CONT'D)

It's all your fault. You gave me his stupid business card. It was all set up, huh? You've wanted to steal my idea too. I can see everything so clearly now. Baggy clothes, playing one of the guys. Very smooth.

KIARA

Asher, what the fuck are you talking about? It's me! You know me...

Asher continues tirade.

ASHER

Do I? Just look at you. Another corpo-rat. How could I be so stupid -- I saw how you looked at each other in the night club. You probably fucked like rabbits after I left. How much they give you for playing your role? Did they also pay you for having my Mom in your apartment? How much? Here, take more money, and choke on them..

Asher pulls the money out of his pocket and throws notes on the ground in front of Kiara. Just as Merrit threw money at Felicity earlier on.

Out of nowhere, Kiara SLAPS him in the face much harder than anyone would expect. Asher bends in half. Kiara's eyes well up as she walks away.

ASHER (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

Kiara stops and turns around.

KIARA

To chase my own dreams, for a
change.

It lands on Asher. He takes off his new shoes and throws them after her, misses. She shakes her head and walks away.

ASHER

Go on. I don't need you anyway.
Freaking model my ass.
(to Warren)
What are you staring at?

Warren makes few steps towards Asher, who now raises his arms to fight.

WARREN

I'm not gonna hurt you, kid. Take
some time and calm down. Don't
look for enemies among your
friends.

Asher bursts with a fake laugh.

ASHER

Friends? You just wanted my money,
and now I have nothing. Me and my
Mom are going to die under the
bridge because nobody cares about
poor people. I wonder where this
fuckin snake, Madoc is. I bet he
made a deal with Pete. That's how
he knew about the coupons.
Freaking rat.

Asher's mobile phone rings. He checks the number. Madoc. Asher answers the phone, listens for a beat and calms down immediately.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Asher paces back and forth, glances at the front door every time they open. Disappointed every time it's not Madoc walking out.

Eventually, he spots his friend and a slight smile appears on his face.

EXT. PARK ON THE RIVER - DAY

Asher and Madoc sit on the bench in silence. Asher lost in the thought. Madoc doesn't look remorse or guilty. They just watch PEOPLE passing by. Then...

MADOC

Some sick stuff, huh? I've finished two cells from my father's. The irony, don't you think?

Asher avoids eye contact.

ASHER

Are you OK?

MADOC

It might sound strange, but I'm happy. I could finally talk to my old man. We have more in common than I thought.

ASHER

What are you talking about?

MADOC

We've both chosen to stay loyal to our best friends. I still don't get, why he put his friend over his family, but here we are. That was a nice family reunion.

Asher raises his head and looks at Madoc.

ASHER

What the hell happened?

Madoc takes a deep breath.

MADOC

This weasel was in the toilet when we smoked weed. As we had more clients for coupons, he blackmailed me. He said we'll both go to jail for smoking weed and dealing drugs in the workplace.

Asher's eyes well up.

ASHER

And you took the blame on you...

Madoc shrugs.

MADOC

Of course, you're special, man.
You're the one with a big brain
and all those cool ideas. And me?
I will always be the son of an old
thug. There's no point in trying
to be anything else. How's
business anyway?

Asher sighs.

ASHER

I'm not special, I screwed up
everything. Coupons are gone.
Everything's lost.

Madoc glances at him.

MADOC

We're a great team. Together we
convinced Laura Mooney. We gonna
figure something out. -- Where is
Kiara?

Asher's lost in the thought.

ASHER

What?

MADOC

Kiara? I thought you'd come
together. I tried to call her but
went straight to the voicemail.

Asher jumps off the bench.

ASHER

I have to go...

Asher bolts across the park. Madoc scratches his head.

EXT. KIARA'S APARTMENT, HALLWAY - DAY

Asher BANGS on the door. No answer. He puts his ear to
the door and listens.

ASHER

Kiara, are you there? I'm sorry!
Kiara?

She's not there. Asher bangs on the door some more.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Asher paces to the entrance when Charlie suddenly steps in his way. Asher bounces off him like off the wall. He gets up and wants to go inside.

CHARLIE

Listen, kid. You're banned from entering the building.

Asher doesn't listen. He tries again to pass Charlie, but he stiff arm him. It hurts.

ASHER

Let me go! I need to see Kiara.

Asher shouts and tries to release himself but Charlie's embrace is too strong for him.

ASHER (CONT'D)

Kiara! Kiaraaaa! We have to talk!
Kiaraaa!

Employees come to the window to check what's going on. Among them Robert, Amy, Miles, and Abil.

Vincenzo and Pete stand together and laugh at Asher who calms down now.

CHARLIE

Kid, I'll let you go now. Okay?
Just stay calm. I don't want to hurt you. Do you understand?

Asher nods. Charlie loosens his grip. Asher sits on the steps.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

What the hell happened to you, kid? After all that Warren did for you, this is the way you repay him? And this girl? If she is special to you, you better find a good way to apologize to her.

Asher looks at him.

ASHER

She is special, but I was too stupid to understand that. I have to go inside. Please, let me just talk to her...

CHARLIE

She's not in there. She's gone.
Warren tried to stop her, but
she's quite a character. She was
talking about some boutique or
something..

Asher jumps off the ground and he's gone. Charlie looks
after him.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

..before her trip to Milan.

Too late. Asher's gone.

INT. EXCLUSIVE BOUTIQUE - DAY

Asher explains something to the Boutique Saleswoman, but
we don't hear it. The saleswoman just spreads her arms
and shrugs.

ASHER

I'm begging you, I have to talk to
her.

BOUTIQUE SALESWOMAN

I'm sorry but I can't help you.

Clarence enters the boutique.

CLARENCE

You must be Asher..

Asher turns to him.

ASHER

Yes. Do you know where's Kiara?

CLARENCE

Of course I do.

ASHER

She's not picking up her phone.
Maybe you could help me? Five
minutes is all I need.

CLARENCE

After what you did, sweetie, I
wouldn't be surprised if she would
ever look in your direction again.
You don't even know what she went
through. Poor girl.

ASHER

Please. I just need to talk to her. I'll explain everything. Please. I love her. Do you hear me? I love her!

Asher eyes well up. Clarence keeps his poker face.

CLARENCE

I'm sorry, but I can't let that sort of talent be wasted by someone like you.

Clarence checks Asher from head to toe and stops at his holey shoes.

EXT. PARK ON THE RIVER - NIGHT

Asher in suit and old shoes, sits alone on a bench and smokes a joint. A bottle of whiskey stands beside him. He gazes on the water floating by when some VOICES disturb the silence.

He looks over his shoulder and sees in a distance TWO BOYS and TWO GIRLS on the bench.

BOY 1

I'm telling you, we will crack the system. Those corpo-rats will eat from our hands. We just have to stick together.

GIRL 1

Would you stop and just chill, Josh? Money kills freedom. I don't want to lose my friends because of a few bucks. And I want to be me, if somebody doesn't accept that, he can go and fuck himself.

Asher smiles to himself. He finishes his joint, takes the bottle and walks towards the river.

Asher walks on the edge of the river bank. He stops for a moment, takes a sip of whiskey and moves on. He loses his balance for a moment, but he recovers quickly.

Behind him..

BOY 2

Yo, check out this guy. He drunk or what? Yo! Suit guy?

Asher ignores him, lost in the thought.

BOY 2 (CONT'D)

Yo, Wall Street? If you want to jump, nobody will save you. Fuck the rich. Better go and drink in your posh apartment.

It hits Asher. He turns to the youngsters, but loses his balance and falls into the water.

He's underwater, but he's calm. A moment of silence. His eyes close slowly and he floats for a beat. Nobody's saving him. He's alone. After a beat, he opens his eyes and swims to the surface.

Asher goes ashore. Teenagers just stare at him. He takes off his jacket.

BOY 1

Are you okay, man? Bad luck with your business?

ASHER

I'm fine -- I just slipped.

Asher walks off while others go back to their discussion.

INT. HOSPITAL, FELICITY'S ROOM - DAY

Asher sits at Felicity's bed. He still wears the same clothes we saw him last night. He looks miserable. Felicity opens her eyes and reaches out for him.

FELICITY

Hey, how's my businessman doing?

Asher diverts his gaze to the ground.

ASHER

All things messed up. I messed up.
-- I'm just like dad. I'll always be poor.

Felicity strokes his hair.

FELICITY

You saved a man's life, Asher. You stood up for me and you have way more courage than I'll ever have. If you only keep your good character, you'll be rich enough.

Asher wipes away some tears.

ASHER

Can I ask you something, Mom?

FELICITY

Of course, honey. Anything you want.

ASHER

Why did you stay with father for so long, even though he was such a douchebag? Why didn't you leave him?

Felicity takes a deep breath.

FELICITY

My father, your grandfather left us when I was a little girl. Your grandma raised me alone and she was a great Mom, but I could never understand why my dad left us -- I just wanted to save you similar torments. I didn't want to be alone as well, and Merrit was a good man, really. I loved him. And now -- now he's a just sick man. He needs help.

ASHER

I don't understand why you feel sorry for him. We don't have a roof over our heads because of him. We've lost everything and he has no remorse -- And now I hate myself because I becoming him.

Felicity tries to lift off, but she can't.

FELICITY

Don't you even dare say that! Do you want my heart to stop? You are a good man. Good man. You've jumped into the cold water to save a complete stranger. Do you know how many people would do the same?

Asher recalls the last night's situation.

FELICITY (CONT'D)

I don't need money from the lottery.

(MORE)

FELICITY (CONT'D)

I'm the luckiest Mom in the world
because I have you. I'm sure
you'll figure something out.

Felicity smiles.

ASHER

It might be too late for that.
I've lost my business and money,
Madoc was arrested, Kiara hates
me, and we have to pay off all
these debts by tomorrow. It looks
that I'm not so lucky after all.

Felicity barely reaches to the nightstand and pulls out a
scratch card that Asher gave her before.

FELICITY

Take it. I have a strange feeling
it will be lucky for you -- but
remember that sometimes not
getting what you want is a
wonderful stroke of luck.

Felicity hands Asher a scratch card. He takes it and they
sit in silence for a beat. Felicity looks sleepy.

FELICITY (CONT'D)

Would you turn on some TV for me?

Asher takes the remote and turns on the TV. ELLEN SHOW.

ELLEN DEGENERES (V.O.)

True beauty is about who you are
as a human being, your principles,
and your moral compass. I stand
for honesty, equality, kindness,
compassion, treating people the
way you want to be treated, and
helping those in need. To me,
those are traditional values. Be
kind to one another. Bye, bye.

Asher changes the channel and notices that Felicity is
asleep. He turns off the TV, covers her with a blanket,
kisses on the forehead.

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

Asher sits alone at the same bus stop we saw him at
before with Felicity. The same bag beside him.

ASHER

Better. They'll release her soon --
Listen, I'm so sorry. I've acted
like a real asshole.

Kiara nods "true".

KIARA

You know it -- but I've
encountered worse.

Asher puzzled looks at her. Kiara just smiles sadly.

KIARA (CONT'D)

What's past is in the past.
Speaking of- What you gonna do?

Asher takes off the scratch card from his pocket.

ASHER

Debt collector won't wait any
longer and the company's gone.
What can I do? Nobody will save
me.

Kiara moves towards him on the bench. He can hear her
breathing.

KIARA

You can always be my sidekick. We
succeeded once, we'll do it again.
-- Plus, I know quite a smart guy
who is great at making something
out of nothing..

Asher pokes her with his shoulder.

ASHER

Warren probably won't want to talk
to me. -- But I owe him apologies.

KIARA

Now you're talking.

Kiara glances at the scratch card.

KIARA (CONT'D)

Maybe it's time to check this
scratch card, don't you think?
You'll definitely win something --

Asher looks at the scratch card and puts it back to the
pocket. He hugs Kiara.

ASHER

I've already won...

He kisses Kiara. The first kiss they both were waiting for a long time. After a beat, Kiara withdraws her lips. Something's wrong.

KIARA

No. -- I'm sorry. God, you're such a bad kisser...

Asher looks at her with big eyes.

KIARA (CONT'D)

You'll require at least a few months of proper training..

Kiara smiles and kisses Asher again. Then...

KIARA (CONT'D)

Years... years of training..

A passing bus honks at the kissing couple.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Asher and Kiara sneak to the main door. No sign of Charlie. As they are nearly inside the NEW SECURITY GUARD stands on their way.

NEW SECURITY GUARD

How can I help you?

Asher glances at him.

ASHER

Who are you? Where's Charlie?

Security Guard first day in a new job, but already knows some gossip.

NEW SECURITY GUARD

He doesn't work here anymore. I heard he yanked some big fish yesterday and they sacked him just like that.

He flicks his fingers.

NEW SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)

For something like that, you can easily lose your license.

Kiara and Asher exchange the looks.

KIARA

Can we talk to Warren Green?

NEW SECURITY GUARD

Who?

As he receives the message through his earpiece.

NEW SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)

I'm sorry but you have to leave.
They just told me that you are
prohibited from approaching the
building. Please go now. I don't
want any trouble.

Asher notices Pete hiding behind the curtains and glances at them. He's a poor spy.

KIARA

Any ideas?

Asher thinks for a beat, grabs Kiara's hand and they walk away.

EXT. SOCCER PITCH - DAY

The game is on. The Boys we saw earlier during the Warrens experiment now play against the other team.

Charlie actively gestures at the sideline. Tribunes are full of people. Different nationalities, like players. Parents cheer on their children. Some delighted, others disappointed and grumpy.

Whistle and break in the game. The announcer starts charity auction for the military with PTSD. Tank, Buzz and Ghost from Charlie's picture are present.

Asher and Kiara approach Charlie. Asher goes first despite the previous episode.

ASHER

I'm sorry, Charlie. We're looking
for Warren. Is there any chance
you've seen him?

Charlie turns to him.

CHARLIE

Why would he talk to you, after
the way you've treated him?

Asher gets his point.

ASHER

I know, I fucked up. It's not about me. Madoc ended up in jail for something he didn't do. We need some help...

CHARLIE

I'm sorry, kid. I'm sure if Warren decides to talk to you, he'll find you. In his world, second chances don't happen too often.

Asher acknowledges that too.

KIARA

We were at the office. The new security guard told us that you no longer work there. What happened?

Charlie grits his teeth.

CHARLIE

Yesterday some shady guys came up to the office. It was obvious they were selling some shit. I was about to call the cops when this freakin Shih Tzu came and told me that I should look for another job. He gave me ten grand and threatened that I'm gonna lose my license. What did I suppose to do? I need that money.

Charlie glances at Fate in the wheelchair. Asher and Kiara notice her as well.

ASHER

Madoc has been accused of selling drugs to the staff members. Please, we need to talk to Warren. We can fix all of it.

Charlie considers it.

CHARLIE

All right, but swear that you won't tell anyone what you about to see.

Charlie looks at the stands, where Warren and Laura sit among other fans. Laura hides behind big sunglasses and wears a hoody.

They would look like a normal couple if not her bodyguards, dressed in tight sports t-shirts and scanning the perimeter.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Initially, I didn't get why he liked coming here so much. But when you know what you are looking at; it's much easier to understand.

Charlie nods at Asher and Kiara, who spots Warren and Laura in the crowd. Kiara hugs Charlie in thanks.

ASHER

Listen, I'm sorry for my stupid behavior. How's your daughter?

CHARLIE

Those bastards increased prices for her drugs again. Soon I will have to organize a charity event for her.

Asher approaches him cautiously; he puts his hand into the pocket and extends his hand to Charlie. They shake hands.

When Asher withdraws his hand, Charlie looks at the scratch card. He glances at Asher.

ASHER

I guess you need it more. I bet it's the lucky one...

Charlie nods thank you. Asher and Kiara run to Warren.

EXT. TRIBUNES - DAY

Asher and Kiara's approach surprised and blushing Warren. Laura smiles at the young.

KIARA

Look at that crowdy love nest. Our lovebirds hid here.

ASHER

Now I understand why we could meet with you, even though others have to wait for months.

LAURA

It was an interesting experience
to see you in action. You
compliment each other very well.

Asher nods to Warren.

WARREN

I can see that you finally got
along. What do you want? Money?

He doesn't beat around the bush.

ASHER

No, I'll figure it out later. We
know who deals drugs inside the
company. We just have to prove it.

Asher notices the Leg-Breaker in the crowd. He keeps his
distance because of Laura's security.

ASHER (CONT'D)

This guy is really persistent.
I'll need to find a good lawyer...

LAURA

I think we can do something about
that. What about your business?
Will you let them get away with it
so easy?

KIARA

They had the right to steal...take
away our idea. There's not much we
can do.

ASHER

I guess I'm not lucky enough to
play with big dogs. Maybe it's
even better than someone else who
will develop this idea...

WARREN

Luck has nothing to do with it,
kid. Your life is one hundred
percent your responsibility.

Warren points at Jamal, the boy who stayed behind and
lost the race. Now he is the real team leader, he passes
the ball, notices his colleagues and supports others.
Wallace, who won the race, is not doing well in the team.

WARREN (CONT'D)

Champions are not those who always win races. Champions are those who go out and try. And they try again, and again.

Jamal passes to Wallace. He scores. The final whistle and Charlie's team wins the game.

Asher nods to Warren.

ASHER

Come on, we've got a few things to do.

INT. RICHARD OFFICE - DAY

Pete sits at Richard's desk and plays the big boss. It's hard to say whether he's alone.

PETE

Uncle, I appreciate the chance you gave me and it was a true honor to watch you in action...

(beat)

...but I think this company needs fresh blood and more radical actions to stay on top of the competition -- that's why the board decided to make me a chairman. You're leaving to someone who knows exactly how to get the most out of people.

Pete reaches into the pocket and he pulls out a small vial of cocaine. He taps a bump of coke on his hand, snorts it as Robert suddenly enters the office.

Pete in panic hides the drugs, but he forgets to clean his nose. He has a white Hitler-style mustache now.

PETE (CONT'D)

Were you raised in a barn? Your incompetence is starting to bother me. What do you want?

Robert deadly serious, although he would normally burst with laughter over the white mustache.

ROBERT

I know we didn't start well, but I need your help. My team can't cope anymore.

(MORE)

ROBERT (CONT'D)

Targets are so high and we're doing overtime already. We need some help..

Pete looks through the glass and sees Amy sleeping on the desk. Miles writes on the keyboard with his eyes closed, Abil pours a red bull into his coffee. Only Vincenzo looks wired and on the roll. Pete is proud of him.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

I thought that maybe you could give us some of your..."experience". I've heard it works miracles. We could get back on our feet and reach the targets before Christmas. The board would be very pleased..

Pete looks at him for a moment.

PETE

This experience has its price - but you're right. Without it, your days in this company are numbered. The question is, why should I help you?

Robert just looks at him.

PETE (CONT'D)

You'll transfer half of the bonus to my personal account. You'll still have the other half and I won't sack you. You could also help me spread the experience to other teams...

Pete reaches into his pocket and pulls out more cocaine. He is about to hand them to Robert, but he holds his hand.

PETE (CONT'D)

As your team will be more effective now, we can talk about increasing targets by- let's say 25%.

Robert looks at his team and he nods to agree. Pete hands him the drugs.

ROBERT

Thank you. You don't know it yet, but you did the best thing for the company today.

As DEA AGENTS walks in the office.

DEA AGENT

Peter Dickson, you're under arrest
for possession and selling drugs.
You have the right to remain
silent..

Pete's shocked.

PETE

That's absurd. This man came to me
and asked whether he can hand the
drugs to his team, as they can't
cope with their normal duties. I
don't tolerate such behavior in
this company and I was about to
call the police and dismiss him.
Just look at them.

Pete points at Amy, who rocks as always. It's the same
with Miles and Abil. They pretend to not see his face
right now but all grin to their monitors. DEA AGENT
glances at the white mustache under Pete's nose.

DEA AGENT

I guess we will have to compare a
version with the eyewitnesses who
saw you buying your "experience"
from Ramon's boys. You still have
some of it under your nose --

ROBERT

DICK...SON... That explains
everything..

DEA Agent puts handcuffs on Pete and walks him through
the office. Robert removes the microphone from his chest.

INT. COURT - DAY

In the hall Merrit, Asher and Felicity in a wheelchair.
In the back seats Kiara, Madoc, Warren and Laura. Leg-
Breaker sits next to the door. Asher glances at him. The
JUDGE reviews the papers presented by LAURA'S LAWYER.

LAURA'S LAWYER

As you can see Merrit Pechman was
hiding all of the loans from his
wife Felicity Pechman. He was
using only his own credit cards
and he signed personally all bills
of charge with his own name.

Judge corrects his glasses.

JUDGE

It looks that neither your wife,
Felicity here nor her son, Asher
had ever any obligations to repay
your debts, mister Pechman.

Merrit wipes the sweat off his forehead.

MERRIT

You can't be serious. This is just
ridiculous. We are married and we
should repay the debt together.

The judge raises his hand and silences the Merrit.

JUDGE

I suggest you read more about
community property laws.

The Judge looks at the documents and glances at Felicity
and Asher for a beat. He shakes his head at Merrit. He
knocks with a hammer.

Decision is made. Debts are cancelled.

Asher hugs Felicity and looks over his shoulder at the
Leg-Breaker, who gets up and leaves. Felicity smiles over
her tears. For the first time, she looks happy.

INT. BOOKMAKER SHOP - DAY

Merrit makes another bet, and another one. Asher walks
inside.

MERRIT

Prodigal son came back to papa.
Did she send you because she's too
proud to ask for forgiveness?

Asher looks at him. A big vein pops up on his forehead.

ASHER

Mom was right. You just can't
stop, can you?

Merrit checks the bet. Lost. He makes another one.

MERRIT

If you want to come back home, you
have to try better.

(MORE)

MERRIT (CONT'D)

If you want to be an adult, you must learn how to pay for your own shit.

Merrit turns and looks at Asher.

ASHER

I have a proposal for you -- a bet. I hate gambling but I see no other way. If you sign up for the therapy and apologize to Mom, all of your debts will be paid off and you will be able to start again from scratch.

Merrit clenches his jaw.

MERRIT

You will set the conditions for me now, you little bag of shit? Get the fuck out of here. Do you even know who I am, boy? I'm Lucky Merrit. I'll manage. I'm always lucky...

Asher shakes his head. Leg-Breaker enters the shop.

MERRIT (CONT'D)

What's this?

ASHER

The run of luck always comes to an end -- If you want to be an adult, you must learn to manage your money, not to fool others, especially those who love you. And it's you that should beg Mom to talk to you again.

Asher leaves without looking back. Leg-Breaker stands in front of Merrit. It won't be a nice chat.

EXT. BOOKMAKER SHOP - DAY

Asher goes out. Kiara in her old clothes waits for him.

KIARA

Are you ok?

Asher nods yes. Kiara kisses and hugs him.

KIARA (CONT'D)

What's next?

Asher smiles to himself. He knows a great place.

EXT. PARK OVER THE RIVER - DAY

Asher sits on a bench with Madoc and Kiara, smoking weed. Madoc's on the phone.

MADOC

Man, it's crazy how quickly you can change from poor to a millionaire and poor again in such a short period of time.

KIARA

Technically, we never were millionaires..

MADOC

True..

Madoc's back to his phone.

ASHER

As the coupons are gone, I guess we need to find some new visions and try again.

Asher takes a puff when Warren joins them.

WARREN

Once you have a new vision, I know one guy that has the talent to do something out of nothing and leads a well-coordinated team. May I?

Warren reaches for the joint. He takes a puff. Asher looks at Madoc.

ASHER

Since when are you're so technical? Leave this phone alone and just breathe with the fresh air.

MADOC

Man, there's this new, cool application. Reckon this. You have access to all music in one place. Did you know that?

KIARA

You're talking about Spotify, I think they've been around for some time now.

All burst with laughter, but not Asher. He's lost in the thought.

ASHER

Everything in one place...

INT. ASHER'S OFFICE - DAY

The new business expands rapidly. Miles checks on his screen the high number of COUPONS MOBILE APPLICATION downloads.

SUPER: FEW MONTHS LATER

The EMPLOYEES in their offices, hustling clients. Amy does her crazy accounting dance. Asher approaches Madoc.

MADOC

I told you that you can't trust someone who doesn't put pineapple on pizza.

Asher nods in agreement and smiles. Warren joins them.

WARREN

It looks like you can find a black sheep even in the best teams. I can see you're doing well...

ASHER

We had a good teacher...

Warren nods.

ASHER (CONT'D)

And how's your project? Are you converting corporate souls yet?

WARREN

Next week I have a Ted talk and I have a good feeling about this.

Robert joins them.

ROBERT

We have a slot for one more client.

Laura approaches them.

LAURA

In that case, we must sign that contact right away. We've ceased our contract with Richard and I think we're ready to go ahead with you. Mobile coupons, huh?

APPLAUSE and CHEERS from the Team. Madoc spots that Asher wears his old holey shoes.

MADOC

Man, I think you can get rid of those old kicks.

All looks at his shoes in disgust.

ASHER

I want them to remind me where I came from and to never forget what the most important things are in life.

Kiara joins them in her new outfit from Clarence. She looks even more stunning than before. Clarence follows her. Another customer.

KIARA

I think they remind and smell like a place where they should have landed a long time ago... in a trash can. And don't worry, I'll remind you who you are...

Everyone's stunned with Kiara's outfit. She hands Asher the shoes he throws at her before.

KIARA (CONT'D)

What are you waiting for? Jump out of those smelly kicks before I change my mind.

All laugh. Asher changes his shoes and Kiara kisses him.

Felicity approaches them with the baked cake. She looks much younger now. New haircut, new clothes with a broad smile on her face. They all cheer. They did it.

INT. SOCCER PITCH - DAY

Charlie closes the locker room after the training. His WIFE waits for him with his daughter FATE (8) in the wheelchair.

FATE

Daddy, I think it's time for my medicine.

Charlie pushes the wheelchair toward the benches. He takes pills from his pocket. There's something else attached to the box. The scratch card from Asher.

Charlie looks at his Wife. She nods "just check it."

As he scratches, his eye widens. He sits on the bench holding the scratch card in his hand. Tears well up in his eyes.

FATE (CONT'D)

Are you okay, Dad? Why you're crying?

Charlie remains silent for a beat. He already knows. He won. A subtle smile appears on his face.

His Wife approaches him, glances on the scratch card and bursts with joy.

The close-up of a scratch card. On a four-leaf clover, it reads 10 million dollars.

CUT TO BLACK:

THE END