

Citizens United, The Movie

"It's not just a motion picture
. . . it's a movement"

Written by

The Pen

Rev. 5z
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OPENING SEQUENCE:

A single candle in closeup flickers in a darkened room, under the title, in the style of the lettering from the US Constitution,

**Citizens United
The Movie**

We dissolve to the hand of JAMES MADISON, painstakingly writing with an ink quill on a piece of parchment in the wavering light. As he does so, these words appear on the screen as animated script.

"The power of all corporations, ought to be limited in this respect. The growing wealth acquired by them never fails to be a source of abuses."

over a caption of his name

James Madison, father of the Constitution

and we hear MADISON reading the text out loud to himself.

DISSOLVE TO:

1 DAY - MONTAGE OF SCENES OF COLONIAL LIFE 1

A shopkeeper adjusts the display of bonnets in her store window. We see a horse drawn carriage with an important passenger, and his name is captioned on the screen, "James Madison." A farmer tends to his crops and we see other people strolling in period costume in a verdant garden. The carriage arrives at a stately mansion house and MADISON disembarks. Over all of which we hear . . .

NARRATOR

At the time of the birth of our nation there were few American corporations, and those that were chartered were tightly controlled, both by the length of their charters, and by their obligation to perform a needed service for society. Our founding fathers never would have imagined, or approved, of the ubiquitous proliferation of corporations today for every and any PRIVATE purpose without limit.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON stands in his library room, with book open in hand, taken apparently from a bookcase to his right, with cloth drapes open in the manner of the 18th century. He is dressed in a formal waistcoat, knee-length breeches, and white stockings, but is not wearing a wig. It is 1791, and he has the full vigor of someone only 36 years old. There is a simple writing desk to his left and a door standing open, in which direction he looks up and glances over.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Ah, my dear James, I bid thee enter. What is your business with me?

His visitor is the same JAMES MADISON, himself only 40 years old, who steps through the door into the room, attired in a similar fashion.

JAMES MADISON

If you would entertain my solicitude, I am distressed over your proposal to charter a national bank.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

And your concern? . . .

JAMES MADISON

There is great peril in the indefinite accumulation of wealth by anonymous societies. We do well to recollect the example of England's East India Company, which over time came to wield such unwarranted political power.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

There are four protections provided here. First, that the charter be limited to a period of 20 years; secondly, that it must specify its purpose, here, merely to facilitate the finance of the government, indisputably within its own sovereign right.

HAMILTON pauses for just a moment to close the open book he is holding, and transfers it to being held with one hand in arm, so he can gesture with the other to emphasize his points.

JAMES MADISON

(with an open hand gesture)
Please continue . . .

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Third, that the endeavor be founded in the necessity that it accomplish a PUBLIC GOOD, and lastly, that if it fails in this, or exceeds its designated purpose, that the people may simply elect to allow the charter to lapse without renewal.

JAMES MADISON

Our successors will never have occasion to say that Alexander Hamilton lacked a rebuttal on the finest of points.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

That is most gracious of you.

JAMES MADISON

But any enterprise to create an artificial person is fraught with the danger of future encroachments. I confess I cannot join your firm conviction in this case, and in debate, I shall respectfully stand and oppose the bill.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

As you must. Nevertheless, if we are careful and vigilant, we, the people, will always retain the political authority.

2 DAY - OFFICE OF A DEFENSE CONTRACTOR CEO

2

HARRY LEE, the acting CEO of Vanguard Aerospace has just been watching a video on his computer with a PR CONSULTANT standing to the side of his desk in his expansive well-appointed office. He looks up as it finishes.

TV SPOT AUDIO

We're the people. The people . . . of Vanguard.

HARRY LEE

We're the people? . . . I don't like it.

PR CONSULTANT

No, no, really. It tested off the chart in the focus group.

HARRY LEE

(curious surprise)

Really.

PR CONSULTANT

The majority are under the DELUSION that we live in some kind of democracy in this country.

HARRY LEE

(with a huff)

Huhhh . . .

(and then laughing)

Some fat chance of that, with the money WE drop on lobbying, and attack ads.

PR CONSULTANT

Think of this as an ad for being docile.

HARRY LEE

(contemptuously)

Like we're going to bring democracy to all the countries we carpet bomb.

PR CONSULTANT

Believe me, Harry, they'll lap it up.

HARRY LEE

(still tentative and unsure)

Well . . . I guess you guys know what you're doing.

PR CONSULTANT

Here, watch it again. It's going to be great.

The PR CONSULTANT reaches over for HARRY LEE's mouse, and we see the video start to play again on the computer screen, as we cut to the same ad full screen.

2A MODERN 30 SECOND TV SPOT FOR VANGUARD AEROSPACE 2A

We see a slick montage of video clips of aerospace technology and military hardware in motion, each more spectacular than the last, a cockpit interior shot of a

fighter pilot banking as he jets away from the deck of an aircraft carrier surrounded by sparkling waters, a spy satellite silhouetted by a partial shot of the earth and the glint of the sun off its curvature, and prominently towards the end, a missile armed drone in flight that sudden turns on us and flies practically down our throats. Various actors are seen appearing and speaking on camera in front of some of these shots, or are heard just doing voiceovers. The soundtrack is that of a rich and soothing symphony orchestra.

TV AD SCRIPT

We know who we are. We're the people who make the things that keep you safe. We're the people who build the things that keep us strong. We're the people who protect you. Around the world, the people of Vanguard are working to keep the future of America's dreams secure. WE'RE the people. The people . . . of Vanguard.

3 INT - EVENING - COMMUNITY ACTIVIST OFFICE

3

The camera pulls back gradually away from the TV the defense contractor TV spot has been playing on, while the regular news continues. The local organizing office of Occupy America is a bare bones operation with a couple beat up old desks, piles of papers scattered here and there, protest signs leaning haphazardly against one wall, under some inflammatory posters.

ACTIVIST 1

(incredulous)

What's a defense contractor doing advertising on the national evening news? Have they got some product I'm supposed to buy?

ACTIVIST 3

Good question.

ACTIVIST 1

All they make is military hardware.

ACTIVIST 2

(joking)

You know, I've been thinking for a while it might be time to pick up a new drone. I was thinking a

bright red one, with racing stripes.

ACTIVIST 3

(after a cursory laugh)

They drop all that money on the networks to keep the news coverage pro-military.

ACTIVIST 1

You think that parade of spokes-generals they give so much air time to is an accident?

ACTIVIST 3

(firmly, in solidarity)

Yeah, well money is NOT the same thing as speech, if WE'RE going to have anything to say about it.

ACTIVIST 2

I still can't believe Sun Lee went up against her whole family organizing this shareholder action . . . Hey, here she comes.

3A INT - EVENING - COMMUNITY ACTIVIST OFFICE

3A

During the previous scene the news continues with the interview of a retired general. This continues with cuts back and forth through Scene 6.

NETWORK NEWS PERSONALITY

An American citizen may soon be the target of a drone hit according to senior American officials, someone who is associated with Al Qaeda and suspected of plotting attacks in the US. They won't tell us who, but the Obama administration says that lethal military force can be used against suspected terrorists when in THEIR judgment there is danger to US citizens, and there is no chance of capturing them. To discuss all this, we welcome again retired General Jim Striker, it's always good to have you with us.

GENERAL STRIKER

Thank you, Christy, its good to be back.

NETWORK NEWS PERSONALITY

So you have deep operational combat experience with drones, and you've been in the room when these

decisions are being made. The first question our viewers must have is whether this is something we should be doing.

GENERAL STRIKER

Christy, we absolutely should. The United States has this capability, and it needs to be kept on the table in any discussion about how to go after folks like this. Some people want to get into a fussy legal discussion about who is and who isn't an American citizen, and where they are, and what they're doing. But the bottom line is we have this power and it needs to remain an option.

NETWORK NEWS PERSONALITY

OK, so the president made a big speech about the drones, and he basically said that preemptively killing US citizens was constitutional if there was due process, and he did specifically justify drone strikes. So let me just ask you, because you've been involved in making these decisions. Who else is in the room with you? Are there lawyers there? What kind of due process are we talking about?

GENERAL STRIKER

Well, yes, there are very good lawyers from the government who look at this very carefully, and I would defer to their judgment as to how to define due process. But as to the decision to hit or not to hit, there's always legal representation in the room, and the operational commander who makes the ultimate decision gets their advice, and the government lawyers talk to the intel guys, and every factor is considered before we pull the trigger, Christy, including the question of collateral damage, who else might be hurt by this, and that's all part of the process.

NETWORK NEWS PERSONALITY

We naturally wouldn't want any lawyers there for the people we want to kill.

GENERAL STRIKER

Of course not, it's a secret decision.

NETWORK NEWS PERSONALITY

Still, it all sure sounds pretty thorough. But I think we also have to consider whether to treat

suspected terrorists inside the US the same way. I mean if we're going to talk about killing an American citizen who just happens to be in another country suspected of plotting attacks, what if that same person was in Boise or Cleveland? All of a sudden people go, oh well, we would never do that. But if we're going to be logically consistent, if they're plotting the same thing, if we would kill them with a drone in another country, why wouldn't we do the same thing right here at home?

GENERAL STRIKER

My answer to that is, why not? You are exactly right. I mean, go back to 1996 and Oklahoma City and the terrorist attack by an American citizen there. Of course, we didn't have at that time the drone capability that we have now. But let's pretend that we had suspicions in sufficient precision and detail, let's say that some informant told us that an attack was about to happen, and the truck was on the way and it was about to explode. Why wouldn't we use a drone to take him out, rather than put our law enforcement folks at risk to try to apprehend him?

NETWORK NEWS PERSONALITY

Right. Just pull the trigger first, and sort out the bodies later.

GENERAL STRIKER

Right, in that case, it would have been perfectly acceptable to use a drone.

NETWORK NEWS PERSONALITY

And I think we'll just leave it there. Because it really makes people think, like you said, why not? I know the public opinion is still against killing American citizens on our own soil. But I think you just gave an example where it would have been logically completely consistent. Thank you General, it's always great to talk to you.

4 EXT - EVENING - S.F. NEIGHBORHOOD STOREFRONT

4

A young woman, SUN LEE, strides towards the front door of the Occupy America organizing office, identified by a banner hung over the doorframe. She is in her early 20s, but with

a determination and force of presence that belies her years. She has a confrontational appearance, with a streak of violet in her hair and a prominent tattoo of the Chinese character for "trust" on her right cheekbone.

5 INT - EVENING - COMMUNITY ACTIVIST OFFICE

5

The door opens briskly and SUN LEE enters, as all attention turns towards her.

ACTIVIST 1

(hopeful)
What's the word?

SUN LEE

(somewhat discouraged)
The US Attorney still won't negotiate a plea at all. She says she wants the Bathroom Bombers to do hard time.

They all make slightly grim faces and there is a momentary pause.

ACTIVIST 3

Sun, this is my sister, Barb, she just got into town on vacation.

SISTER

(enthusiastically)
I'd love to help out, I could help make some signs, pass out fliers, whatever.

SUN LEE

Great, we could use all the warm bodies we can trust, that we can get. Thanks for volunteering.
(turning to ACTIVIST 2)
Adam, what's the word with the University Endowment Committee, can we count on their proxies?

ACTIVIST 2

They're in a tough spot. A number of the faculty are very disturbed about all the drone killings

ACTIVIST 3

Uh . . . yeah!

ACTIVIST 2

. . . but the cloud from this upcoming trial is hanging over our whole group . . .

ACTIVIST 1

We sure didn't need that.

ACTIVIST 2

I just don't see any way we can muster the support now to actually get this shareholders' resolution passed.

SUN LEE

Maybe we could reach out to some of the faculty individually, to plead our case to the administration.

ACTIVIST 2

I don't know where you get the courage to keep going.

SUN LEE

(nobly)

To fight when the odds are against you, that takes courage. To continue to fight when it appears there is no way you can prevail . . . all that takes is integrity.

(turning now to ACTIVIST 1)

Lisa, did we get the permit for the demonstration this weekend . . .

They continue to discuss organizing tactics while we shift to

6 INT - EVENING - CLOSEUP ACTIVIST 3 & HER SISTER 6

SISTER

Is Sun really the granddaughter of the founder of Vanguard Aerospace?

ACTIVIST 3

(confidentially)

Her family's basically disowned her over the shareholders' drone protest we've been working on.

7 CLOSEUP OF TV NEWS BROADCAST 7

The national news program continues in the background, the rest pause and turn their attention to the screen.

NETWORK NEWS PERSONALITY

On the legal front, jury selection is about to start in the Bathroom Bombers case which has gotten such national attention . . . The justice department is touting this as a major blow struck against would be terrorists right here in America. To be fair, there is no evidence so far of the involvement of any other members of the Occupy America organization in this heinous alleged plot to blow up some of San Francisco's most famous corporate landmarks, but some people are saying that groups like these breed these kinds of violent malcontents.

8 INT - EVENING - CLOSEUP ACTIVIST 3 & HER SISTER 8

Continuing their private conversation.

SISTER

What about the bombing case? How did that get so stinked up?

ACTIVIST 3

It all started about a year ago. The Citizens United supreme court decision was coming down and we were talking about ways to force corporate accountability, when a new guy, Spike, turned up and started hanging around. I always thought he was way too snarky myself. If we had known that he was actually a . . .

Her voice trails off as we dissolve back to the same office a year earlier . . .

9 FULL SCREEN TV BROADCAST 9

It is a year earlier. We are watching a segment of the Jan 27, 2010, State of the Union speech.

PRESIDENT OBAMA

Last week, the Supreme Court reversed a century of law to open the floodgates for special interests -

including foreign corporations - to spend without limit in our elections. Well I don't think American elections should be bankrolled by America's most powerful interests, or worse, by foreign entities. They should be decided by the American people, and that's why I'm urging Democrats and Republicans to pass a bill that helps to right this wrong.

The camera pulls back from the TV to show the same ACTIVISTS, and some other individuals, watching the speech in the same organizing office.

10 INT - DUSK - COMMUNITY ACTIVIST OFFICE

10

ACTIVIST 1

The Citizens United decision is a disaster,

ACTIVIST 2

Everybody we know is fired up to try to DO something about it.

ACTIVIST 3

What are they saying, that corporations can now buy all the free speech they want?

ACTIVIST 1

(disgusted, making air quotes)
So much for "free" speech.

ACTIVIST 3

I guess we pay all the taxes now, and they get all the representation.

ACTIVIST 2

Maybe we could get comprehensive campaign finance legislation passed.

ACTIVIST 1

What. . . so these same five can strike it down just as comprehensively . . .

SPIKE

(reacting skeptically to the Obama speech)
Oh, right, like Obama's going to change the law.

ACTIVIST 1

. . . like just they struck down this law?

SPIKE

(increasingly sarcastic)

Change we can believe in? More like you're a CHUMP if you believed HIM.

ACTIVIST 3

Hey, lay off the President, already! He's doing the best he can.

SPIKE

(mocking)

Don't you say nothin' bad 'bout Obama.

ACTIVIST 3

(disregarding him completely)

Why don't we do a new bumper sticker. Something like . . . Corporations . . . Are NOT The People?

ACTIVIST 1

We could do that.

ACTIVIST 2

And money is NOT equal to speech.

ACTIVIST 1

That too!

SUN LEE

The only way to really fix it now is with a constitutional amendment. Anything else is just silly waste of time and energy.

ACTIVIST 2

(with energy waving to the others to join in)

Amend it, amend it, amend it, amend it . . .

All the rest join in with the chant except SPIKE.

ACTIVIST 3

How would that even happen?

SUN LEE

It's been done 27 times before. We'd have to get

Congress to pass a proposed amendment resolution by a two-thirds majority, and then it has to be ratified by 3/4 of the states.

ACTIVIST 2

(with dismay)
That'll take years!

ACTIVIST 3

Well, we might as well get started then.

ACTIVIST 2

I don't know how we'd even get that many members of Congress to bite the hands of their corporate feeders.

ACTIVIST 3

It's not hard to predict that nothing will happen if we DON'T speak out.

We cut to an aside between SPIKE and a scruffy, young guy named RAZOR.

11 INT - DUSK - COMMUNITY ACTIVIST OFFICE CLOSE UP 11

RAZOR

Hey, I heard one of the other guys was crashing over at your place for a while.

SPIKE

You can call me, Spike.

RAZOR

Cool, man . . . See, I just lost my job and I'm getting kicked out of my apartment and . . .

SPIKE

(confidentially)
You know, the only thing that's really going to fix this is a revolution . . .

(watching his eyes for a reaction)
to really bust those corporate bastards.

RAZOR

(happily agreeing)
Yeah, we need to bust those corporate bastards . . .

SUN LEE

The first thing we need to do is reach out to all the other activist groups, to draft a consensus constitutional amendment we can all rally behind.

ACTIVIST 2

At least a couple members of Congress have also reacted strongly to this. I know we can get sponsors in both chambers.

ACTIVIST 3

And then we need to jam the rest . . . support these resolutions or forget about running for re-election.

ACTIVIST 1

We'll just keep pounding the same drum in every election from now on until we elect people who will support this.

SUN LEE

(confidently affirming)

That's the ticket!

RAZOR

So, anyway . . . I was wondering if you might have a spare couch for me for a little while, until I can get it together.

SPIKE

Hey, no problem-o. Anything for a brother in arms.
(grabs a piece of paper and jots down
address)

Here, here's my address. I'll be back there around 9PM and we'll hook you up.

RAZOR

(appreciatively)

Hey, thanks, man!

VOICEOVER

What we didn't realize at the time was that Spike was

just there to recruit the most disgruntled and naive.
And he did it all quietly, on the side.

12 INT - NIGHT - SF APARTMENT

12

SUN LEE is at home in bed under the covers with ACTIVIST 1, who we now realize is her girlfriend, and is super-femme. They are watching the evening news. Their heads are resting on large pillows printed with closeup pictures of the heads of cats. They start speaking over the dialog italics.

NETWORK NEWS PERSONALITY

The Defense Department announced today that 12 suspected militants were killed today in a drone strike. The new Mark IV Reaper drone made by Vanguard Aerospace is said to be turning the tide in the war on terror.

DEFENSE DEPT SPOKESMAN

The targets for these strikes are very carefully vetted to make sure there is a strong suspicion it is militants that we are taking out. We have high confidence therefore that there have been zero civilian casualties. I mean, anytime you have more than 2 adult males congregating together in that part of the world, and they all have beards, you can pretty much assume they are up to no good, even if we can't see them holding any weapons.

NETWORK NEWS PERSONALITY

And here we see a clip of the founder of Vanguard Aerospace, now confined to a wheelchair, being driven in his special car arriving for the ribbon cutting ceremony of the new drone manufacturing plant in Fremont, CA which will create 550 new jobs.

That giant American flag you see painted on the side of the building, it's nearly as big as a football field. Vanguard's chief press officer said they are very proud to be able to contribute to the war on terror, and will be manufacturing these new drones as fast as they can so that America's enemies around the world know they will be taken out anywhere they raise their heads, even if they never go outside.

In other war news, controversy continues to swirl around the release by Wikileaks of the Afghanistan War Logs. The White House strongly condemned this today as an irresponsible act, putting the lives of the US and partner service members at risk and threatening our national security. But in any case, they claimed that there nothing new here, as everyone already knew that there have been massive civilian casualties, as well has heavy losses to our own forces from IEDs, which are improvised explosive devices. They say if Wikileaks wanted to release this material they should have sought permission from the US government first, which of course would have been refused.

ACTIVIST 1

Since when did we start murdering people based on suspicion? Everybody KNOWS we're killing a lot of innocent civilians.

SUN LEE

I suppose now that Obama's got his Nobel Peace Prize he can kill anybody he wants to.

ACTIVIST 1

He actually said, "I'm really good at killing people."

SUN LEE

Do we think we can kill people just because they hate America? Do we think we should?

ACTIVIST 1

As fast as we're manufacturing new enemies around the world, what are we going to do? Kill them all?

SUN LEE

Just because my grandfather is the founder of the nation's second biggest military defense contractor doesn't mean we won't speak out against it when it's wrong.

ACTIVIST 1

If we do something on this drone program, your family is definitely not going to approve.

SUN LEE

I'm don't even know how they'd react to you.

ACTIVIST 1

I understand.

SUN LEE

(rolling her eyes slightly)

You know how they feel about my tattoo.

ACTIVIST 1

Yeah, but if we confront the drone program they're likely to go ballistic.

SUN LEE

Yeah.

They cuddle affectionately.

12A INT - NIGHT - SPIKE'S APARTMENT

12A

SPIKE's apartment is a simple one bedroom affair. Entering the living room from the front door there are two old couches, one with a sheet and a couple blankets already draped over it, a central coffee table, a stuffed chair and a dresser off to the side on the short wall. We see SPIKE carefully adjusting the position of a picture in a frame hanging over the dresser. It's a collage including bits of metal and glass, one of which conceals a hidden camera. As he is doing this we cut to a black and wide video of the live surveillance being shot of him facing the picture. There is a knock at the door.

SPIKE

Be right there.

SPIKE opens the door to find RAZOR standing there looking hopefully, in anxious anticipation.

SPIKE

So, there you are . . . You got lucky, we got one couch left.

SPIKE gestures towards the second couch, as yet not made up.

RAZOR

Hey, I really appreciate you offering to put me up . . . just for a while . . . till I can get it back together.

SPIKE

Like I said, no problem-alino. I can't sleep on all these couches at once.

RAZOR

So, where's SMUDGE?

SPIKE

I gave him a couple bucks and sent him down to the store to get some chips and stuff.

RAZOR

It's really cool of you to be doing this.

SPIKE

Hey, we're all in this together, right?

RAZOR

Right!

SPIKE

Yeah, well just kick back. I've got some extra blankets and everything, and we'll hook you right up.

RAZOR

Cool, man.

SPIKE takes off into the bedroom while RAZOR tests out the second couch approvingly, while surveying his new surroundings.

13 SUNDAY NEWS SHOW

13

NETWORK NEWS PERSONALITY

Moving to the decision of the Supreme Court in the Citizens United case. Was this really a surprise?

LEGAL COMMENTATOR

During oral argument the judges expressed a lot of skepticism for the government's arguments. But . . . you never really know what they are going to do

until the decision comes down.

NETWORK NEWS PERSONALITY

I understand they strictly guard the secrecy of their actual deliberations, that sometimes not even their own clerks know which way the justices are leaning.

LEGAL COMMENTATOR

That's right. Sometimes they'll just have a casual conversation and the law will be made.

NETWORK NEWS PERSONALITY

Boy, I bet they have some sharp disagreements!

LEGAL COMMENTATOR

Actually, you'd be surprised how cordial it all is.

NETWORK NEWS PERSONALITY

(surprised)

Really.

LEGAL COMMENTATOR

Remember, these judges have to work with each other for life. Imagine what it would be like to be a fly on the wall during one of those discussions.

NETWORK NEWS PERSONALITY

Yes, imagine that.

Dissolve into the Supreme Court robing room where the justices are assembling to prepare to hear arguments in another case.

14 INT - DAY - SUPREME COURT ROBING ROOM

14

The robing room has fine light mahogany paneling on all sides, rich red carpet with contrasting geometric border, with 9 locker doors of the same wood lined up on one side where the justices don their black robes before going into the main courtroom of the Supreme Court. JUSTICE STEVENS, wearing his trademark bow tie, is already there with his locker door open putting on his robe when JUSTICE KENNEDY enters in shirt and tie but no jacket. They exchange greetings in a surprisingly collegial manner.

JUSTICE KENNEDY

Good morning, John.

The open door to JUSTICE STEVEN's robe locker is in the way of JUSTICE KENNEDY opening his.

JUSTICE STEVENS

(casually, with a twinkle in his eye)

Good morning . . .

They shake hands, a gesture which JUSTICE STEVENS retains long enough to stop JUSTICE KENNEDY momentarily in this tracks to engage him in a discussion.

JUSTICE STEVENS

Anthony, I've reviewed your draft majority opinion in the Citizens United case. Don't you think you are rather taking liberties with the words of James Madison?

JUSTICE KENNEDY

(good natured)

Certainly not. Madison spoke of factions. I read [present tense] that as encompassing all manner of associations, including corporations. On certain topics corporations may possess valuable expertise . . .

JAMES MADISON and ALEXANDER HAMILTON appear ghostlike off to the side and start their own conversation commenting, speaking over the dialog in italics below which is reduced in volume.

JUSTICE KENNEDY

. . . leaving them the best equipped to point out errors or fallacies in speech of all sorts, including the speech of candidates and elected officials.

JUSTICE STEVENS

The conceit that corporations must be treated identically to natural persons in the political sphere is not only inaccurate but also inadequate to justify the Court's disposition of this case.

JAMES MADISON

(withering sarcasm)

What manner of folly is this? I spoke of political factions. I never intended to include the artificial personage of a mercantile corporation. This is a most peculiar and disturbing development.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

(contemptuous indignation)

Frankly, I share your profound dismay. This is out of balance beyond anything I would have imagined.

JUSTICE KENNEDY

I would find that there is a public interest in being able to listen to what every possible speaker has to say, and that the government is not permitted to censor that.

JUSTICE STEVENS

That would be to convert our right of free speaking into a right of free LISTENING, something clearly only the PEOPLE can do, and neatly DODGING the question of whether fictitious business entities have their own First Amendment rights.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

That WOULD be the point.

JUSTICE SCALIA has now also entered the robing room, also without jacket, and listening in on this conversation, cannot resist throwing in his 2 cents.

JUSTICE SCALIA

Apparently, John Paul, you feel no obligation to provide even an isolated statement from the founding era to the effect that corporations are not covered by the literal text of the First Amendment.

JAMES MADISON

No, no, no! He's got it all wrong. These are INDIVIDUAL rights.

JUSTICE STEVENS

Can you come forward with any express statements that they are? Because a majority of this court essentially petitioned itself to change the law, we don't even have a factual record in this case to support a basis for doing so . . .

Virtually every one of your arguments was made and rejected in the very precedents you cite. The proposed majority opinion is essentially an amalgamation of resuscitated dissents. The only relevant thing that has changed is the composition of this Court.

JAMES MADISON

Who are these men, who put words in my mouth, on which I would have choked on the spot?

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

. . . and who elevate airy and unfounded speculation to Olympian heights of undeniable fact?

JUSTICE STEVENS

While American democracy is imperfect, few outside the majority of this Court would have thought its flaws included a dearth of corporate money in politics.

In the meantime, JUSTICE THOMAS has also wandered in, the only one wearing a jacket. He pauses to note, but has nothing of substance to add to the discussion.

JUSTICE THOMAS

(to himself, giving little weight)

Hmmm . . .

JUSTICE STEVENS

I find the proposed opinion to be beyond misguided. It is above all reckless.

JUSTICE SCALIA throws up both hands, the back of one slightly brushing the underside of the side of his chin, vaguely reminiscent of an impolite gesture, but not clearly so.

Dissolve back to the Sunday News show.

15 SUNDAY TV NEWS SHOW

15

LEGAL COMMENTATOR

I think the thing that surprised me the most about the decision was the suggestion that corporations could be held in check "through the procedures of

corporate democracy," whatever that's supposed to mean in a practical sense.

We pull away from the TV and we are back in the organizing office with the ACTIVISTS.

16 INT - AFTERNOON - ORGANIZING OFFICE

16

ACTIVIST 1

Say . . . now there's an IDEA. How about a democratic shareholder's action? Sun, do you have any stock yourself in Vanguard Aerospace?

SUN LEE

Not even. A large block is still controlled by my grandfather. But with him mostly incapacitated, my father usually votes the family shares.

ACTIVIST 1

OK, suppose . . . we do a fund-raiser to buy some shares of Vanguard stock . . . and then we bring a shareholder's motion to . . . to . . .

SUN LEE

. . . to protest the misuse of drones against civilians.

ACTIVIST 2

(rolling up his sleeves)

I like it. We'll be the REAL Citizens United. We've got work to do.

ACTIVIST 3 comes in holding a medium sized cardboard box

ACTIVIST 3

We got bumper stickers . . .

Takes one out of the box and holds it up.

ACTIVIST 3

Corporations Are NOT The People.

ACTIVIST 1

They look great.

ACTIVIST 3

And here's the other . . . Money Is Not Equal To Speech.

ACTIVIST 1

Simple. Bold. Beautiful.

SUN LEE

We now claim the democracy they told us we have.

ACTIVIST 2

Let's do it!

SUN LEE

So . . . who wants to make a run down the street to pick up the soy pizza?

ACTIVIST 1

My turn I guess.

16A EXT - AFTERNOON - STREET

16A

ACTIVIST 1 grabs her jacket and heads out the front door of the organizing office. She runs into SPIKE after a couple steps coming up the sidewalk in the other direction.

SPIKE

Going my way?

ACTIVIST 1

(dismissively and not even slowing down)

Hardly.

SPIKE

Maybe if Sun's grand-daddy-o didn't own Vanguard we'd be speaking out about the drones.

That catches her.

ACTIVIST 1

If you must know, smart ass, that's exactly what we ARE doing, which you would know if you weren't late for the meeting.

SPIKE

So when's a hottie like you going to hook up with a

stud like me?

ACTIVIST 1

(with teasing ridicule)

Wouldn't you rather suck a cucumber?

SPIKE

(still good natured)

Hey, it's got to be better than munching all that carpet like you.

ACTIVIST 1

Eat your heart out.

And she is off down the street after making a taunting face.

17 MONTAGE OF ORGANIZING ACTIVITIES

17

During this sequence we see SUN and ACTIVIST 1 poring over books at the law library. Other ACTIVISTS hand out fliers for the "buy a Vanguard share" campaign. We see someone tossing one on the ground a couple steps away, and ACTIVISTS picking them up to hand out again. There are visits to corporate offices, we see phone calls being made and received in these same offices. SPIKE takes his fliers and drops them into the nearest discrete dumpster.

VOICEOVER

Well, anyway, that's how we got the idea for the shareholder action. We researched it and found that under the SEC rules you only need to control 2 thousand dollars worth of stock to propose a shareholder's resolution. Raising the money was easy, we just encouraged people to buy one share each and we pooled their interests. Oh, and you have to hold the stock for a minimum of a year. But it was going to take a while to appeal to the various funds invested in Vanguard stock to support the resolution, so that was OK too. As you might imagine, it didn't take long for all this to get back to Sun's family.

18 INT - NIGHT - DINING ROOM - ACE ROGERS MANSION

18

Family dinner is about to be served by the BUTLER at the ACE ROGERS mansion. ACE ROGERS is an octogenarian, now confined

to an impressive executively appointed motorized wheelchair. SUN LEE is there along with her mother, LYNN ROGERS (ACE's daughter) and LYNN's husband, HARRY LEE (ACE's son-in-law). There is a large carving board with a roast on it. But the kitchen has made a plate of vegetables for Sun who is a vegan.

LYNN ROGERS

They prepared this especially for you.

SUN LEE

Thank you so much.

ACE ROGERS

I don't understand why she can't just find some respectable man and settle down.

HARRY LEE

You're very attractive when you want to be.

LYNN ROGERS

(gently lamenting)

I don't know why you had to get that tattoo.

SUN LEE

I told you, it's the Chinese character for "trust", the indelible mark of a truthful leader.

HARRY LEE

She can still get a perfectly good husband.

LYNN ROGERS

Sun, you know how much we'd like to have a grandchild.

ACE ROGERS

And a great grandchild.

SUN LEE

(looking somewhat distressed)

I don't know if I even WANT to have a child, the way the world is going.

LYNN ROGERS

You've had all the benefits of privilege, but you reject it.

HARRY LEE

And what's this I hear about you organizing a shareholder protest against our company?

ACE ROGERS

A what . . . ?

SUN LEE

It's just a symbolic resolution, putting Vanguard on record protesting the use of drones to kill civilians.

HARRY LEE

It SOUNDS like you're accusing Vanguard Aerospace of participating in acts of murder.

SUN LEE

Well, aren't we? . . . if it's happening, and we don't speak out?

ACE ROGERS

I've heard enough of this . . . there will be no shareholder protest.

SUN LEE

(more forcefully)

It's not right and it's not moral. I have my own voice, and you can't tell me whether I can speak out or not.

HARRY LEE

(suddenly angry)

How dare you talk to your grandfather like that?

ACE ROGERS

(now also very angry)

Out. Get out of my house. No granddaughter of mine will condemn my life's work!

SUN tosses down her fork on to her plate and pretty much storms out.

ACE ROGERS

And don't come back until you are prepared to apologize!

VOICEOVER

So that pretty much busted up Sun's family ties. But that wasn't the worst of it. Spike had his own organizing initiative, to entrap people in our group and implicate them as dangerous terrorists.

19 INT - NIGHT - GOVERNMENT AGENTS OFFICE

19

SPIKE is sitting around a table with BULL WEAVER, a seasoned government supervising agent, and two other AGENTS. They are drinking a beer with a German sounding name from cans.

SPIKE

I should get another nice bonus for bringing in The Bathroom Bombers.

BULL WEAVER

Yeah, we'll see.

AGENT 1

Ha, ha, the Bathroom Bombers.

BULL WEAVER

So, you think they'll actually go for it?

AGENT 1

Say, toss me another Wasseriger, will ya?

AGENT 2

Here ya go.

Digs another can out of the cooler and hands it over.

SPIKE

It's in the can, with the C-A-N.

BULL WEAVER

Reminds me of my days with Reagan's Long Hairs. Some of the police riots in the 60s we started ourselves. A couple rocks, a couple broken store windows . . . and bam, it's SWAT time.

BULL WEAVER has made a motion like the swinging of a night stick. They all laugh and chug from their beer cans.

BULL WEAVER

Once some movie maker was trying to find the real

Weathermen terrorist group to get some background. We made him change cars like six times to set up a meeting, and then we laughed in his face, because it was all us. We took over the whole franchise.

They all laugh and chug some more.

BULL WEAVER

I'm not sure a jury needs to hear all that stuff about stink bombs.

SPIKE

Who says I didn't forget to turn on the wire at first? It won't matter once they take delivery of the "explosives".

SPIKE makes big quotations marks gesture with his hands.

AGENT 2

Hey, play the wire recording again. It cracks me up.

SPIKE reaches down and pushes a button on a small portable electronic player, and through a tinny speaker we hear his voice and the voices of SMUDGE, his first house guest, and RAZOR.

SMUDGE (VOICEOVER)

Man, you're right. The corporations run everything. It stinks!

We hear giddy laughing on the recording. We now intercut back and forth between the conversation as it happened live and the AGENTS listening to the recording later.

20 INT - NIGHT - SPIKE'S APARTMENT

20

SPIKE, SMUDGE and RAZOR are sitting around, smoking what we presume is a joint of marijuana.

SPIKE

It sure does, and you know what else? It smells too!

RAZOR

Yeah, it smells too.

He holds his nose symbolically, as he drags on the joint.
There is more laughing.

SPIKE

Man, we gotta DO something. All this mobilization
crap is taking way too long.

SMUDGE

Nothing's ever going to change at this rate.

SPIKE

Hey, can you imagine what it would be like if those
high-rise fascists had to smell the bad smell we're
getting from them?

RAZOR

Yeah, they'd come running out of their elevators
holding their noses like this . . .
(pinches his nose again, imitating
the hypothetical)
It smells bad, it smells so bad.

SPIKE joins in the symbolic gesture and SMUDGE joins in too.

SPIKE

Eeeuw . . what's that smell?

SMUDGE

(acts like he's choking too)
It stinks, I can't breathe!

SPIKE

Hey, I think you guys are on to something.

SMUDGE

What?

SPIKE

All we'd have to do is get a couple stink bombs, and
hide them in a couple of their corporate bathrooms,
and blow them up.

RAZOR

Ha, ha, yeah, blow 'em up!

SPIKE

Yeah, blow 'em up.

SPIKE repeats the nose holding gesture, laughing and they again mirror him.

20A INT - NIGHT - GOVERNMENT AGENTS OFFICE

20A

Back with the AGENTS listening to the wire recording. As they start laughing harder, BULL WEAVER stops laughing with them.

SMUDGE (VOICEOVER)

Boom!

AGENT 1

(laughing)

Boom!

SPIKE

Hey, get this . . . I've been calling Obama . . . the Great Mocha Hope.

AGENT 2

The great mocha hope!

Even more laughter. But BULL WEAVER is now starting to glare. The two AGENTS notice and become less boisterous, but not SPIKE.

SPIKE

Wait, wait . . . here's another . . . President Stroke Job.

BULL WEAVER

You guys are way too loose. I don't give a damn what you think of the president, you WILL respect his authority. I don't want to hear any more of these stupid jokes!

That shuts the two AGENTS right up.

20B INT - NIGHT - SPIKE'S APARTMENT

20B

Back at SPIKE's apartment mostly, but still cutting back and forth.

SPIKE

That'd teach those corporate bastards a lesson!

SMUDGE

Teach 'em a lesson.

SPIKE

So who do we hit?

SMUDGE

I dunno.

RAZOR

Well, we can start with, Provident Financial, the company that fired me as a janitor.

SPIKE

Man, they're raking in all this money, and they put you out on the street!

SMUDGE

Blow 'em up! . . . Hey, how about my old bank, Assurance Bank, they closed my checking account just cause I bounced a couple checks.

SPIKE

Don't they have a big headquarters right in the middle of the Embarcadero?

RAZOR

Blow 'em up!

SMUDGE

Yeah, boom!

21 INT - NIGHT - GOVERNMENT AGENTS OFFICE

21

BULL WEAVER is on a roll chewing out his AGENTS.

BULL WEAVER

Do you think this is some kind of cartoon? This is serious business, I don't want to fail here, get it together.

22 INT - NIGHT - HOME OF HARRY LEE

22

HARRY LEE is reading a financial paper in the living room. His wife approaches and kneels next to his chair.

LYNN ROGERS

Don't you think we're being a bit hard on Sun.

HARRY LEE

She's our daughter, but she's got to start acting like our daughter.

LYNN ROGERS

She's just doing what she feels is right.

HARRY LEE

Well it's not right for the company. The drone program is our fastest growing division . . . Maybe after she loses the vote, she'll come to her senses.

LYNN ROGERS

Maybe.

HARRY LEE

Until then, I'm with Ace on this one. She owes the whole family an apology.

While he's been saying these words, he fumbles for a pack of anti-smoking aids. He makes a show of tapping on the pack and finding it empty it.

HARRY LEE

Listen, I've got to run to the store for some more anti-smoking gum. I'll be right back.

LYNN ROGERS

(resigned)

OK.

23 EXT - NIGHT - STREET

23

HARRY LEE pulls out of the driveway, and starts driving down the street. He turns a corner and drives another half block before pulling over to the curb and turning out his lights.

He gets out his cell phone, opens the back of it and removes

the SIM card. He then pulls another out of his jacket pocket as a replacement, but he is distracted for an instant by the lights of a car coming up from behind, and the other SIM slips through his fingers and falls to the seat.

HARRY LEE

Oops.

But he reaches down to retrieve it, and manages to get it in. Then he turns on the cell phone again, enters a 7 character pass code, and gets an immediate alert that he has 2 text messages waiting. He doesn't even bother to read them, deleting them immediately. He then dials a number he clearly has memorized.

GIRLFRIEND

You said you were going to call me a half an hour ago.

HARRY LEE

Babykins . . . I know, I had to find a pretext to sneak away.

GIRLFRIEND

If you were with me all the time you wouldn't have to sneak away.

23A EXT - NIGHT - STREET

23A

Another car comes in the opposite direction up the street and its lights flash in our eyes as it passes.

24 EXT - NIGHT - STREET

24

When we return to the interior of HARRY LEE's car he has ducked down under the dashboard, to make it look like the parked car is empty. After he is sure the car is past he lifts up his head again.

HARRY LEE

Listen, I booked a cash room for us tomorrow at the Regency under the name Harry James. I'll meet you there at 2. They'll have a key for you like always.

GIRLFRIEND

Did you get my text messages?

HARRY LEE

Yes, yes, I miss you more than anything too.

GIRLFRIEND

(slyly)

Did you like my pic?

HARRY LEE

I always LOVE your pics.

GIRLFRIEND

Please don't be late.

HARRY LEE

Don't worry, by 2:01 I'll be pounding that pretty little flower of yours again.

She giggles.

HARRY LEE

Look, I'll see you then, OK? . . .
(making kissing sound)

Mmwwaahh.

GIRLFRIEND

Mmwwaahh . . . OK, bye.

After ending the call, HARRY LEE turns off the phone and then reaches into the glove box and takes out a brand new package of the anti-smoking chews he was supposed to be running an errand to buy. He then opens the phone to swap the SIM card out again.

25 INT - NIGHT - SPIKE'S APARTMENT

25

SMUDGE and RAZOR are hanging around when SPIKE arrives carrying a medium sized, attention catching red wooden box. In it are a number of 1 lb opaque orange bricks of what looks like putty, wrapped in transparent plastic. SMUDGE is watching TV, RAZOR is in the other room.

SPIKE

Hey, Smudge, we scored . . . How'd you like to REALLY teach those corporate bastards a lesson?

SMUDGE

Huh?

SPIKE

Razor, get in here, check this out!

RAZOR

What?

SMUDGE

What is it?

SPIKE

The real deal. Semtex plastic explosive. Set one of these bricks off in a couple of those bathrooms and it'll take out the whole side of the building.

RAZOR

Where the hell did you get that stuff?

SPIKE

Man, I told you guys, I'm connected to the brotherhood.

SMUDGE

Hey, wait a minute, I thought we were must joking the other night, I mean about stink bombs in bathrooms and all.

There is an awkward pause.

RAZOR

Yeah, I mean I don't want to be part of any actual destruction.

SPIKE

Look I stuck my neck for you guys because I thought you were for real. You made ME part of it and that makes YOU part of it.

SMUDGE

Man, I got busted for two joints once, had to spend a year in jail. There no way I'm going to set off a real bomb in a building where people could get killed.

RAZOR

Me neither.

SPIKE

Look we'll talk about it in the morning, I've got a hot date.

SPIKE starts to turn for the door.

RAZOR

Wait, you're not going to leave that stuff here are you?!

SPIKE

What, you think I'm going to just drive up and down the street with this in my car all night? What if I get stopped . . .

SPIKE turns towards dresser on which there is a lighter, his figure grows large in the surveillance video being shot through a hole in a picture above the dresser. And as he reaches for the lighter his jacket parts momentarily, enough to slightly expose the wire he is wearing, and this fleeting glimpse is captured by the video camera.

SPIKE

Look, it's perfectly safe until you put a blasting cap in it. Won't go off without one. Here, see . .

SPIKE lights the lighter and tickles the corner of one of the bricks with the flame. The two kids recoil in fright.

SPIKE

You can hardly even get it to burn. Look, just chill, we'll talk about it in the morning.

RAZOR

Man!

SPIKE leaves quickly.

SMUDGE

We got to get out of here.

RAZOR

Where are we going to go this time of night? You got any money?

SMUDGE reaches in his pocket and pulls out some spare change. He shakes his head.

RAZOR

Well, neither do I.

SMUDGE

OK, but first thing in the morning, we got to get out of here.

26 NIGHT - EXTREME CLOSE UP OF MOUTH ON PHONE

26

BULL WEAVER

Bull Weaver here.

SPIKE

Right, it's Spike.

BULL WEAVER

How'd it go? Are we on for the designated time?

SPIKE

We're not only on, we're right on. I left the modeling clay with them in the apartment. If they're still there in the morning they're all yours.

VOICEOVER

And then as you know, disaster struck. Spike had completely set up two of our guys.

27 EXT - DAWN - STREET SCENES

27

It is early the next morning. We see a shot of dawn breaking over San Francisco bay. The rest of the city is just starting to stir.

28 INT - DAWN - SPIKE'S APARTMENT

28

There is violent pounding at the door.

AGENT 1

Open up! Federal agents!

SMUDGE

(barely awake but quickly panicking)

Damn!

He bolts off the couch to shake RAZOR into consciousness.

SMUDGE

Razor! Damn!

More banging at the door.

AGENT 1

Open up, NOW!

SMUDGE instinctively grabs the box and runs for the bathroom. He desperately tries to flush one of the bricks down the toilet, but it's too big to even get it to go down.

RAZOR

Damn!

SPIKE is also with the AGENTS outside the door.

SPIKE

(holding one up)

If only we had a key.

AGENT 2

(politely)

Thank you.

AGENT 1 moves to put the key in the lock, signals to the others to be ready to burst in with guns drawn. RAZOR is now anxiously standing outside the bathroom watching as SMUDGE is now trying to break one of the bricks into pieces to get it to flush, but of course the tank has not even refilled yet from the first attempt. The front door opens and the AGENTS burst in.

AGENT 2

Everybody, FREEZE!

RAZOR sees that SPIKE is with them.

RAZOR

Spike, did they arrest you too?

SPIKE

(smiles)

Uh, no.

And he extracts a pair of aviator mirrored glasses from his shirt pocket and puts them on. RAZOR is stunned. The AGENTS are pointing their guns at him. He puts his hands up.

AGENT 2

Get down!

RAZOR

(pointing at SPIKE)

It was all his idea! He's the one who gave us the explosives.

AGENT 1

Hands on your head, spread your legs!

SMUDGE

(hands behind his back, lamely trying to muster a defense)

We don't even have the blasting caps to set it off.

They both timidly comply immediately and get handcuffed with plastic ties.

29 EXT - MORNING - STREET

29

There are already news trucks and reporters on the street covering the big terrorist arrest.

ON SITE NEWS REPORTER

We have breaking news. There has been a major break in a terrorism investigation right here in San Francisco . . . Special Agent Mountain, what can you tell us?

AGENT 1

While they are presumed innocent until proven guilty, we have reason to believe that the two individuals arrested today had intentions of committing violent terrorist acts by bombing some of the most prestigious office buildings in the city. But our diligent undercover work thwarted their plans before the people of San Francisco were in any real danger.

We see a shot of SMUDGE and RAZOR being led away.

ON SITE NEWS REPORTER

Thank you, Agent Mountain. There are reports that the two may have been loosely associated with the Occupy America movement, but there have been no suggestions that anybody else from that group is directly involved.

30 INT - MORNING - ORGANIZING OFFICE

30

The camera pulls back from a TV showing this and we see the ACTIVISTS reacting to the news bulletin.

ACTIVIST 1

Smudge?

ACTIVIST 3

(dismayed)

What do he and Razor have to do with terrorism?

ACTIVIST 2

I think they've been staying with Spike.

The phone rings. ACTIVIST 3 answers.

ACTIVIST 3

Hello, Occupy America.

She puts her hand on the phone.

ACTIVIST 3

It's Channel 4, they want a statement!

SUN LEE

I'll take it. . . .

SUN quickly takes the phone.

SUN LEE

This is Sun Lee, acting director for the Occupy America San Francisco chapter.

REPORTER (VOICEOVER)

Do you have any comments on the accused terrorist

arrests this morning?

SUN LEE

We know nothing about the events of this morning except what we are watching on the news right now.

REPORTER (VOICEOVER)

What can you tell us about the two individuals involved, who apparently were associated with your group?

SUN LEE

I can't tell you much except that they participated in some of our activities, and never exhibited any violent tendencies. Everyone knows that Occupy America only advocates for peaceful democratic change. Thank you for your questions, but that's all I can really tell you.

REPORTER (VOICEOVER)

Thank you for your time.

SUN LEE hangs up the phone.

ACTIVIST 1

Just what we need right now . . . bad publicity while we're trying to mobilize this shareholders' initiative.

SUN LEE

This has nothing to do with us. We are working to stop violence, not start it.

ACTIVIST 2

Why wasn't Spike arrested, what does he have to do with all this?

ACTIVIST 3

I've always had a bad feeling about that guy.

ACTIVIST 1

Yeah, he's kinda creepy actually, isn't he?

31 INT - NIGHT - FEDERAL AGENT OFFICE

31

BULL WEAVER is sitting at his desk and is clearly simmering.

He has a personality that makes you feel like he's about to snap your head off, even when he is not raising his voice. SPIKE enters casually.

SPIKE

Wha'd I tell ya, Bull? Smooth as silk, huh?

BULL WEAVER

(sternly)

What do you think you're doing?

SPIKE

(shrugging his shoulders)

What?

BULL WEAVER

I just listened to the recording of the wire from last night. Those guys tried to back out in every possible way.

SPIKE

They could've left any time.

BULL WEAVER

We're their sole means of support. Where were they supposed to go in the middle of the night?

SPIKE

Hey, aren't I the guy who delivered the Dallas 5 to you, and the Southport 7, and . . .

BULL WEAVER

Well this one stinks. With this recording those guys walk right out the door.

SPIKE

Well, maybe I wasn't WEARING a wire that night, yeah, that's it, I forgot to put it on.

BULL WEAVER

We're not in the business of convicting totally innocent people.

SPIKE

(with the unconcern of a sociopath)

What are you going to do now? Call a press conference and admit your big terrorist bust was all

a mistake?

BULL WEAVER

(antagonistically)

You little punk! Don't expect a bonus on THIS one.
And the next one damn well better be clean.

SPIKE is temporarily mute.

BULL WEAVER

(talking mostly to himself)

Sometimes to catch the devil you have to go through
hell.

SPIKE

(slightly jocular again)

My home turf.

Whatever slight smirk still remaining on SPIKE's face wilts
quickly in the shadow of BULL WEAVER's glowering.

BULL WEAVER

Listen, joke butt, I can snap my fingers and you'll
be right back in the slammer again. Now tighten the
hell up and get out o' here. Don't ever think
you're not expendable.

BULL WEAVER snaps his fingers loudly synchronized with
that last word.

32 DAY - MONTAGE OF PRISON SHOTS

32

We see some shots of a prison and guys milling around in the
yard, eating lunch, doing menial work, etc., while the
voiceover narrative continues.

VOICEOVER

Things were looking real bad. The guys were locked
up without bail.

32A INT - DAY - PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

32A

The PROSECUTING ATTORNEY is on the phone in her office,
presumably talking to a substantial superior.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Maybe if your agents were smoking out some real terrorists we wouldn't be fooling around with these small change losers.

JUSTICE DIVISION SUPERIOR

You know the drill. We've got to make a big public example of somebody.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Yeah, yeah, right, right.
(sarcastically)
To show we're winning the "war on terror."

JUSTICE DIVISION SUPERIOR

It's always gotta be a war on something.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Frankly, I don't trust the word of the informant in this case further than I can dropkick him.

JUSTICE DIVISION SUPERIOR

He's gotten us nothing but convictions so far. Just remind that public defender of that.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

You know what we call him around here? . . . "Larry Lay Down."

JUSTICE DIVISION SUPERIOR

(laughing)
That's the way we like 'em. No deals. They'll cave.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

I'm not expecting a lot of resistance.

33 INT - MORNING - ORGANIZING OFFICE

33

VOICEOVER

And then a couple weeks ago we got a visit.
SUN is sitting at her desk, when a visitor approaches.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

I'm looking for Sun Lee.

ACTIVIST 2

She's over there.

SUN LEE

Are you another news reporter?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

No, actually I'm a criminal defense attorney.

He hands her his card.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

It's obvious to me that the so-called Bathroom Bomber prosecution is a case of entrapment.

SUN LEE

They've got a court appointed attorney, but he's only good for accepting guilty pleas. He's recommending they take "deals" for 30 years each.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Hmm . . . some deal. They would hardly get more than that if they went to trial and lost . . .

He pauses for a moment.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Look, I admire the work your group is doing. If they want to fight this, I'll take the case pro bono. That's legalese for no charge.

ACTIVIST 2

There's no way those guys could have come up with anything like this on their own.

SUN LEE

Is this a case you can actually win?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Sometimes you just have to fight regardless.

SUN LEE

You're my kind of guy.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

OK, just give them my card. My office is right

across the street from the US Courthouse, I'm there all the time. The public defender will know what to do to substitute me in.

34 INT - DAY - PRISON CONFERENCE ROOM

34

SMUDGE and RAZOR are sitting on one side of a table, the DEFENSE ATTORNEY on the other. We see them going over the evidence for the trial, but we don't here their voices.

VOICEOVER

So at least that was a little good news. And that pretty much brings you up to date. The new attorney was meeting with the guys. I don't know what kind of a defense they can put on. But like Sun likes to say, "To fight when it appears there is no chance you can prevail . . . that takes integrity." So we're still going ahead with the demonstration this weekend.

34A INT - DAY - ORGANIZING OFFICE

34A

We are now back in organizing office the next day after where we started. There is a flurry of activity making signs. A FATHER appears at the door. He holds up a flyer in his hand as if for attention, and is hesitant as he starts to speak. He has a worried appearance.

FATHER

I . . . I was given a flyer for the demonstration tomorrow . . . I'd like to help if there's anything I can help with.

ACTIVIST 2

Sure, grab a marker we're all making signs right now.

FATHER

It says you're also working on expanding health care.

ACTIVIST 3

We haven't given up the fight on THAT either.

FATHER

See . . . it's kinda personal for me . . . my daughter . . . it's like she's tired all the time. My insurance plan at work won't pay for any special tests they told us.

ACTIVIST 3

Corporate penny crushers. We'll get to them next. So sure . . . make a sign about that.

ACTIVIST 3 passes a blank sign card on a stick over to the FATHER. And they all resume what they were doing.

35 EXT - DAY - STREET DRONE PROTEST MARCH

35

A crowd of demonstrators move down the street carrying signs. It's a nice turnout. One says, "Stop the Drone Murders." Another says, "Vanguard Aerospace, Have A Heart." The next reads, "Reverse Citizens United." Other signs address other issues, public financing of elections, disclosure of political contributions, and single payer health care. There are hecklers, but they get ignored and it's a peaceful demonstration.

36 MORNING - NEWS BROADCAST FROM STREET

36

NEWS REPORTER

Testimony in the infamous Bathroom Bomber case is underway even as we speak. Here is a clip of a statement made by Defense Attorney as he arrived at the Court for trial.

The reporter is standing on the sidewalk in front of the US Courthouse as the DEFENSE ATTORNEY walks up.

NEWS REPORTER

Defense Attorney, why didn't your clients accept a guilty plea?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

We believe this is a transparent case of entrapment and overreach. The informant in this case was not only providing my clients with a place to stay, food and a little spending money, but we contend he concocted on his own a fantastic and far-fetched plot which they emphatically told him they wanted

nothing to do with.

NEWS REPORTER

You must be aware that no entrapment defense has succeeded yet in any trial of anyone accused of terrorism.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

We trust that when the good jurors of San Francisco hear the facts in this case that they will return a verdict of not guilty on all charges.

NEWS REPORTER

Thank you for taking the time to speak to us, with the judge waiting.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

I always leave extra time just to make sure I'm early.

NEWS REPORTER

And that was Defense Attorney speaking from in front of the US Courthouse in San Francisco. Back to you.

37 INT - DAY - COURTROOM

37

We pick up the testimony in progress. Members of the Occupy America chapter are in the gallery.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

And then what happened.

SPIKE

The two defendants in this case came to my attention because they were making violent and radical statements, how they wanted to start a revolution. So my supervising agent asked me to keep an eye on them.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

And is that why you allowed them to move into your apartment?

SPIKE

Yes, they told me they were recruiting me to organize a terrorist cell and I went along with it.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

I'm going to play an audio recording now for the jury identified as the government's exhibit 12. Is this a recording you made wearing a wire on the date of Jan 6, 2011, when the defendants first outlined the specifics of their plot.

SPIKE

Yes, it is. At first they were talking about poison gas bombs, but then they settled on using military explosives.

The DEFENSE ATTORNEY stands up in his seat.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Objection your honor, the recording is incomplete on its face, only representing the very end of a purported conversation, and without context, making it unduly prejudicial to my clients.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Your honor, the government fully disclosed in discovery that in this instance the informant inadvertently failed to turn on the wire device at first, and was only able to capture the part we do have. Is that correct, Mr. X?

SPIKE

That's how it happened, your honor.

FEDERAL JUDGE

Partial evidence is still evidence, I will allow the recording to be heard by the jury.

38 CLOSE UP COURTROOM CLOCK 38

It's 11:15 AM. We see the minute hand and move to 11:16.

39 INT - DAY - COURTROOM 39

Resuming the testimony at a later point.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

The video tape we just watched, from the night

before the arrest, is that when you delivered to the defendants what they thought were the explosives they sought.

SPIKE

Yes, they were very excited to see them and wanted to know how they worked. So I did that little thing with the lighter to explain they would also need blasting caps, and they wanted to know how soon I could get some of those.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

We did not hear any audio of this encounter. Is this because you were not wearing a wire on this occasion.

SPIKE

Right, when I was getting dressed I forgot to put it on.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

One more thing the jury may be interested in. Have you been an informant in any other terror cases.

SPIKE

Yes, a number of others. I was the informant in Southport 7 case . . .

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

And what was the result in that case?

The DEFENSE ATTORNEY again stands up.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Objection your honor, the verdicts in no other case can be relevant to the innocence of my clients here.

FEDERAL JUDGE

Sustained.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

In that case, the government has no further questions at this time of this witness.

FEDERAL JUDGE

Would the defense like to cross-examine?

The DEFENSE ATTORNEY touches the back of one hand of each of this two clients, sitting on either side of him.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

(quietly)

Trust me.

Standing up, and now to the judge.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

(full voice)

We will reserve the right to recall this witness in the presentation of our defense case.

FEDERAL JUDGE

In that case we'll break for lunch now. We will reconvene at 1PM.

BAILIFF

All rise.

The jury files out but the defendants remain at the defense table waiting to be handcuffed again out of the presence of the jury.

SMUDGE

(exasperated)

He's lying his ass off. We said none of those things!

RAZOR

Why didn't you ask him any questions?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Precisely because he's a lying sociopath.

RAZOR

If only that lip reader had been able to decipher what we actually said.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

. . . with your heads turned away most of the time from that low res government video camera, and they tell us the audio for the camera itself was malfunctioning.

SMUDGE

How convenient!

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

There's GOT to be something in this evidence somewhere we can confront him with. I'm going to spend the whole lunch break poring back over it all again, now that we know what Spike's testimony is.

SMUDGE

OK.

The defendants get led away.

40 INT - DAY - COURTHOUSE HALLWAY

40

The DEFENSE ATTORNEY is leaving the courtroom and encounters another ATTORNEY who knows him, and who hails him.

ATTORNEY 1

(in a friendly but mocking way)

So, [Defense Attorney], how's the big, bad bathroom case going?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

(politely)

No verdict yet.

ATTORNEY 1

Ya wanna grab some lunch?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

You know I don't do lunch.

ATTORNEY 1

(casually)

Hey, whatever.

41 INT - DAY - DEFENSE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

41

Back at his office Defense Attorney has all the documents in the case spread out in front him. He re-reads them again as he plays the silent video of the night before the arrest over and over. He nervously glances at his watch. The camera zooms in on the page with the words. "The informant was not wearing a wire on this occasion." Suddenly

something in the video catches his attention.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

(suddenly perking up his interest)

What was that?

We zoom in closer to the words, "not wearing a wire", while defense attorney stops the video to examine a particular frame of the video, but that shot the camera is on mostly his face and we don't quite see the actual frame itself.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

(confidently)

Hello, beautiful . . .

He jots down the time code reference,

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

. . . 2 minutes, 30 seconds frame 12.

and quickly gathers up the papers into his brief case and dashes out the door, as Court is nearly about to resume.

42 INT - DAY - COURTROOM

42

It is later in the afternoon, near the end of the court day. There is another witness on the stand, one of the federal AGENTS involved in the arrest.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Besides their attempts to destroy and dispose of evidence, did the defendants make any incriminating statements when they were arrested.

AGENT 1

Yes, Defendant 1 stated it was all our informant's idea, trying to blame it all on him, while at the same time admitting that there WAS a plan, and that in his mind they were in possession of real explosives. And Defendant 2 stated that they still needed to procure blasting caps, evidencing his own planning as to how they would commit their terrorist acts.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Thank you, Agent Mountain, that will be all. And

that concludes the government's case in chief, your honor.

FEDERAL JUDGE

Does the defense wish to cross-examine?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

The witness may be excused your honor.

Both defendants look at him anxiously.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

(quietly to them)

Like I said, we got this one.

FEDERAL JUDGE

Well, we still have 20 minutes to go until 4:30. But, I suppose we can just reconvene first thing tomorrow morning . . .

(with a note of mild sarcasm)

presuming the defense HAS a case to present.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

If it would please the Court, to make the most productive use of the Court's time, the defense is prepared to proceed now.

FEDERAL JUDGE

Very well, you may proceed.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

The Defense recalls to the stand, Mr. X.

SPIKE returns to the witness stand.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Now, Mr. X . . .

SPIKE

You can call me, Spike.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Thank you for that, Mr. X. Is that a familiarity you reserve only for defense attorneys?

There is laughter in the courtroom.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Mr, X, you testified that you have been in an informant in other cases involving accusations of terrorism.

SPIKE

Right.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

From the documents I've seen, at least 5 others, is that correct.

SPIKE

Right.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

A paid informant in all those cases.

SPIKE

Right.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

And how much were you paid for your services as an informant in all these cases?

SPIKE

I don't know, about a 100,000 dollars.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

I'm looking at a total of \$165,000 here in pretrial payments. Is that a more accurate number?

SPIKE

I guess you're right.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

And if there is a conviction you usually also get a bonus on top of that as well?

SPIKE

It happens.

43 EXTREME CLOSE UP COURTROOM CLOCK

43

It's now 4:22 PM. We see the minute hand and move to 4:23.

Now it's time for the DEFENSE ATTORNEY's big finish.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

As I recall you testified that the night before the arrest in this case you were not a wearing wire, did we hear that correctly?

SPIKE

Right, I was in a hurry and I forgot to put it on.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

You specifically remember that you forgot to put it on.

SPIKE

(confidently)

Right.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Your honor, I've already arranged with the court's AV operator to reload the video file of that night which is already in evidence . . . May we go to 2 minutes, 30 seconds, frame 12 of Government Exhibit 15?

The selected video frame clearly shows a wire exposed under the edge of SPIKE's jacket. The DEFENSE ATTORNEY uses a pointing device call attention to it.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

What's THAT, Mr. X?

SPIKE

(suddenly nervous)

What?

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

I think everyone else in this courtroom can see what appears to be a black wire of some kind peeking from the right edge of your jacket as you reached for the lighter. If we go back a frame, and one forward, I think we can all see this. So I ask you again.

What's THAT?

SPIKE

(not convincingly)

I don't know.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

(increduloualy)

You don't KNOW? Did you dress yourself that night?

SPIKE

(in a retort)

Of course I did.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

And do you own an article of clothing, that would present the appearance of a black wire peeking out from under your jacket?

SPIKE

(starting to break his facade)

I, I . . .

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

When you told this jury, and reaffirmed again just now, that you were NOT wearing a wire that night, you weren't tell the truth were you?

SPIKE

(trying to recompose himself)

I must have just forgot.

The PROSECUTING ATTORNEY now stands up in their place.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Your honor, it's 4:30 now. This might be a good place to take a break.

FEDERAL JUDGE

Sit down, counselor, I want to hear this.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

What happened to the recording you made with that wire that night?

SPIKE

It was . . .

He stops himself.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

WHAT was . . . the recording of my clients telling you they were just kidding around the previous night. Is that what the jury would hear if we played that recording for them now?

SPIKE cannot answer.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Mr. X, do we have to get the judge to order the government to produce the missing recording in this case, that would PROVE that my clients told you in no uncertain terms they would not participate in YOUR terrorist plot! Is that what the jury would hear?

SPIKE

(now chillingly exposed)

I guess they would.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Your honor, if I may address the bench, the government's case now rests entirely on testimony repudiated by their primary witness. Under these circumstances, I respectfully submit an immediate dismissal of all charges is in order.

FEDERAL JUDGE

Well done. I agree. Case dismissed. Defendants are to be released from custody immediately.

The court breaks out in celebration. The ACTIVISTS hug each other. The defendants hug the DEFENSE ATTORNEY. SPIKE is crestfallen and the PROSECUTING ATTORNEY averts her eyes from anyone else's gaze.

46 INT - DAY - ORGANIZING OFFICE

46

The mood in the organizing office is jubilant.

SUN LEE

Look at all this mail, we're getting letters of encouragement from all over the country. The

proxies are pouring in on our side.

ACTIVIST 1

The guys are getting job offers too, left and right!

RAZOR

I'd make a great administrative assistant.

SMUDGE

Yeah, that one, would be for you.

ACTIVIST 2

(running in)

We have a decision from the University Fund, they are standing behind the resolution 100%, and so are all their sister institutions.

SUN LEE

That just leaves the Magnus Fund. They're the largest institutional holder with 10%. If we can get them on board, that might just put us over the top.

ACTIVIST 1

How's that looking?

SUN LEE

They were non-committal over the phone. But I've got a meeting scheduled with their fund manager to pitch him in person.

SMUDGE

Man, we might actually pull this off.

RAZOR

And then we need to amend the constitution next, to really put the corporations in their place.

At this moment ACTIVIST 3 enters.

ACTIVIST 3

We've got more good news on that front. Here's the consensus proposed constitutional amendment we hammered out with the other activist groups.

She hands out copies of the paper quickly. We see the text on screen as the activists take turns reading it in turn as

if aloud.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

The rights protected by this Constitution,
are the rights of natural persons only.

Corporations and other artificial entities shall
only have such rights,

as the People through their legislatures may grant
them by law.

To advance democratic self-government and political
equality,

and to protect the integrity of government and the
electoral process,

Congress and the States may establish systems of
public financing of elections,

and may regulate and set reasonable limits on the
raising,

and spending of money by candidates and others to
influence elections.

Congress and the States shall have power to
implement,

and enforce this article by appropriate legislation,

and may distinguish between natural persons,

and corporations or other artificial entities
created by law,

including by prohibiting such entities,

from spending money to influence elections.

Nothing in this article shall be construed to grant
Congress or the States,

the power to abridge the freedom of the press.

As this is happening, JAMES MADISON and ALEXANDER HAMILTON appear off to the side, as they did in the Supreme Court robing room.

JAMES MADISON

I could not have drafted it more clearly myself.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

In my considered opinion, you were clear enough when you wrote it the first time.

ACTIVIST 3

And we have commitments from sponsors in both houses of Congress to introduce this as a joint resolution.

SMUDGE

Well, alright!

IN UNISON

Amend it, amend it, amend it . . .

JAMES MADISON

Our work here is complete.

And MADISON and HAMILTON walk off as their figures fade into nothingness.

47 INT - DAY - ORGANIZING OFFICE

47

SUN's mother appears alone in the doorway.

SUN LEE

Mom . . .

She runs to the door and they hug.

LYNN ROGERS

Wha'd'ya say I take my little girl out for some soy pizza?

SUN LEE

That sounds great.

47A INT - DAY - PIZZA SHOP

47A

SUN and her mother LYNN ROGERS sit side by side in a booth. A half eaten pizza sits in front of them.

LYNN ROGERS

The vindication in the court trial was a wonderful victory for you.

SUN LEE

It only happened because we refused to give up.

LYNN ROGERS

You're so stubborn sometimes, like your grandfather in so many ways.

SUN LEE

Maybe I was naive thinking he would come around on the drone initiative.

LYNN ROGERS

What really set him off was he thought you were challenging his morality. He prides himself on character. He demands it from everyone around him.

SUN LEE

I should have chosen my words more carefully. I'm supposed to be more diplomatic than that. I just got too emotional.

LYNN ROGERS

I understand. I know you care very deeply about this issue.

SUN LEE

It shouldn't have to be this way. It shouldn't have to be at the price of my family.

LYNN ROGERS

You know I'll support my little girl, whatever you want to do with your life.

They are holding hands. SUN bites her lip momentarily.

SUN LEE

Mom . . . there's something I need to tell you . . .

They look into each other's eyes.

SUN LEE

I must have rehearsed this about a million times. I wrote it all out, exactly how I was going to tell you.

LYNN ROGERS

What is it?

Another pregnant pause.

. . . I'm gay.

They are still holding hands.

LYNN ROGERS

You have a girlfriend?

SUN nods silently

LYNN ROGERS

Who is it, Lisa?

SUN LEE

You knew?

LYNN ROGERS

(smiling slightly)

Mothers have an intuition about such things . . .

(taking a deep breath herself)

. . . speaking of intuition, girl to girl, I'm a little worried about your father.

SUN LEE

What?

LYNN ROGERS

He's just seems to be acting differently. Always ducking away to make a call, or take a call. And I thought I noticed a perfume I didn't recognize on one of his shirts. I don't know, maybe it's just my imagination.

SUN LEE

Maybe it's not.

LYNN ROGERS

I don't know, I'm sure I'm just being silly . . . So

. . . do you have sex? I mean, how do you do it?

SUN LEE

(slightly embarrassed)

Mom!

LYNN ROGERS

(reassuring)

You don't have to tell me.

SUN LEE

It's very affectionate. We mostly just kiss a lot.

LYNN ROGERS kisses her daughter on the cheek, and SUN kisses back in like manner.

LYNN ROGERS

I just want my little girl to be happy.

SUN LEE

I know how much you want a grandchild . . . I just don't know what kind of world I'd be bringing a child into.

LYNN ROGERS

Nobody's working harder than you to make this world a better place. Perhaps our children can win the victories that escape even us.

SUN LEE

There's no reason why I COULDN'T have a child. We could always get a sperm donor if we really wanted.

LYNN ROGERS

I'm not going to pressure you. When the time's right you'll know it.

LYNN ROGERS squeezes her daughter's hand.

48 INT - DAY - RECEPTION AREA HEDGE FUND OFFICE

48

SUN is waiting for an appointment with the manager of Magnus Fund, which controls a large block of Vanguard Aerospace stock. She is wearing glasses to look as serious as possible. MR. WHITE comes out of his office and invites here so. He is engaging.

MR. WHITE

So come in, let's talk.

SUN LEE

Thank you.

49 INT - DAY - OFFICE OF FUND MANAGER

49

SUN LEE

Thank you for taking the time to see me, and to consider our proposal.

MR. WHITE

So let me get this straight, you want Magnus Fund to vote in favor of a resolution that says we own stock in a company that's murdering civilians?

SUN LEE

We're not condemning the manufacture of the drones themselves. The resolution is just an advisory request to the Department of Defense to take additional measures to ensure that innocent civilians aren't killed.

MR. WHITE

How do we know who is a militant and who is not?

SUN LEE

That's the whole point, often we don't. The CIA's assertion that there have been zero civilian deaths is absurd. They automatically qualify any adult male as a militant.

She gets some papers out of her attache case, she leafs through them and hands one to him.

SUN LEE

Last year in Pakistan alone there were over 50 drone strikes and more than 500 killed. Conservative estimates are that 30% of those killed were civilians or unknown.

MR. WHITE

Hmmm . . .

SUN LEE

That doesn't even include the injured. And the numbers this year are running twice as high.

MR. WHITE

I see. I'll discuss this with our board, and I'd appreciate it if you would keep our discussions confidential, but I'd say there is a good chance we can vote with you when the time comes.

SUN LEE

Thank you so much for your time. All we are doing is calling for honor and integrity here.

MR. WHITE

Thank you for coming by.

50 INT - DAY - WELL APPOINTED HOTEL ROOM

50

HARRY LEE is lying in bed with a woman who we do not see at first.

HARRY LEE

So, she came to see you, too.

MR. WHITE

I told her what she wanted to hear . . .
(dryly)

Frankly, she's got a stick jammed so far up her butt, it's coming out her nose.

HARRY LEE

(lamenting)
Yeah, I know.

MR WHITE

But don't worry, Magnus Fund has no intention of backing this rogue proposal.

HARRY LEE

I knew we could count on you.

MR. WHITE

We know what side of the toast the butter is on.

HARRY LEE

I think maybe we'll make it the last thing on the agenda and really drag the whole thing out.

(laughing)

Maybe they'll all get bored and just leave.

MR. WHITE

You could recite all the finance numbers from each of the divisions. That ought to put them all to sleep.

HARRY LEE

It'll be mind-numbing.

MR. WHITE

Like watching concrete grow.

They have a good laugh over that one. The camera pulls back to reveal the YOUNGER woman in bed with HARRY is not his wife. She cuddles up next to him in a clingy manner under the covers, which he clearly enjoys greatly.

GIRLFRIEND

I just want to be with you all the time.

HARRY LEE

(joking)

Is that why you send me like 20 text messages a day?

GIRLFRIEND

(slight whimper)

I just miss you.

HARRY LEE

I can't wait to be with you either.

GIRLFRIEND

You told me you have nothing in common with your . . .

.

(distastefully)

wife.

HARRY LEE

The old man will kick the bucket before long and we'll inherit all the stock. And then I can make my move.

(almost pleading)

You'll just have to be patient.

GIRLFRIEND

(pouty voice)
I don't like being patient . . . and why can't I
have your REAL cell number?

HARRY LEE

You have my real number, a special, private, real
number just for you.

51 INT - AFTERNOON - ORGANIZING OFFICE

51

SUN is on the phone to a TV station.

SUN LEE

So we'd appreciate it if you could get a camera crew
down to cover the shareholder's meeting tonight.

ACTIVIST 1

(quietly off to the side)
You'd think they'd owe us some positive press
coverage.

SUN LEE

The meeting starts at 8 PM. If you could get
someone people down around 9:30, the vote should be
coming down around then . . .

SUN covers the phone receiver with her hand.

SUN LEE

(almost a whisper)
It's channel 4.

The whole rest of the office is listening intently to SUN's
end of the conversation. She gives them a thumbs up. They
react with muted celebration.

SUN LEE

OK, great . . . hope to see your people later.

52 INT - DUSK - HOME OF HARRY LEE AND LYNN ROGERS

52

HARRY LEE is all dressed ready to go to the shareholder's
meeting. He goes through the pockets of his coats to find

the one with the extra SIM card in it, and is in motion putting it into the inner pocket of the jacket he is wearing when . . .

LYNN ROGERS

Honey, hurry up, you're going to be late for the shareholder's meeting.

This momentary distraction causes him to miss his aim for the inside pocket of the jacket he's wearing, and we see the SIM card silently fall to the carpet below, near the edge of the bed.

HARRY LEE

I'm ready, I'm ready.

He quickly buttons his jacket not realizing what he has done, grabs his keys and his phone off the dresser and quickly exits.

53 EXT - NIGHT - EXTERIOR MEETING HALL

53

The crowd is gathering for the shareholder meeting. Some of the ACTIVISTS are standing outside holding signs. Others are already seated inside, where SUN is doing last minute coordination. The DEFENSE ATTORNEY is there for moral support. The news truck from channel 4 has just arrived and is interviewing HARRY LEE on his way in. Just as his brief comments have concluded, one of the ACTIVISTS sees this and runs in to alert SUN

ACTIVIST 2

Channel 4 is here.

SUN takes off out into the hallway. Coming the other way, her father walks up, sees her, and without breaking stride says

HARRY LEE

After you lose, you can apologize.

SUN does not react but continues out to where the news truck is, to talk to them.

SUN LEE

I was kinda thinking you might be coming a little

later, to cover the results of the vote.

LOCATION NEWS PRODUCER

Well, you know, someone shot us a copy of the agenda, and this thing might take all night. We do have other stories to cover. Win or lose, we'll do some kind of follow up.

SUN LEE

Well, thanks for being here.

LOCATION NEWS PRODUCER

Shall we get a statement from you now?

SUN LEE

Sure.

As she is about to start speaking, the manager of the Magnus Fund, MR. WHITE, walks up. He gives her a knowing wink but does not stop to chat before entering the hall.

54 INT - NIGHT - HOME OF HARRY LEE & LYNN ROGERS 54

LYNN ROGERS is at the home computer. She has accessed a web page, "How To Catch A Cheating Husband" and is ticking through the laundry list of tell-tale clues.

LYNN ROGERS

(to herself)

Check the deleted emails folder . . . It's completely empty.

55 INT - NIGHT - MEETING HALL 55

The shareholder meeting is beginning.

HARRY LEE

As the acting chief executive officer of Vanguard Aerospace corporation, it is my pleasure and duty to call to order the 2011 annual general shareholders' meeting. I understand there is a shareholder proposed resolution on the agenda which we will get to later, but first we begin with a report from our chief financial officer on the results from the just concluded fiscal year. Mr. Bland, you have the

podium.

56 INT - NIGHT - HOME OF HARRY LEE & LYNN ROGERS 56

LYNN ROGERS is now going through credit card bills.

LYNN ROGERS

(still speaking to herself)

Check credit card bills for unusual charges . . .

Nothing here.

57 EXT - NIGHT - EXTERIOR OF MEETING HALL 57

HARRY LEE has stepped out of the meeting hall to call his incessantly demanding girlfriend. He gets out his cell phone to do the usual SIM swap. Only he reaches in to fetch it from his jacket pocket and it's NOT THERE! He anxiously digs around for it, but comes up empty. He starts to dial a phone number on the original SIM card, but then stops mid motion.

HARRY LEE

(speaking to himself)

Better not.

He spots some pay phones on the far wall and runs over to them. But they only accept credit cards. He does not want to leave any tracks.

HARRY LEE

(speaking to himself)

Hmm! . . . Credit card only.

He shakes his head, but has no choice but to return to the meeting hall and finish the meeting. The SIM is password protected after all. What can he really do?

58 INT - NIGHT - MEETING HALL 58

The chief financial officer is droning on and on.

MR. BLAND

Moving to the Stockton facility. In the short range missile sector we had operating expenses of 35.54

million, and income of 76.66 million, for an unadjusted gross profit of 41.12 million. From that we need to deduct . . .

The ACTIVISTS are starting to wilt. They are slumping in their seats.

59 EXT - NIGHT - MEETING HALL

59

The few ACTIVISTS still outside have dropped their signs by their sides.

60 INT - NIGHT - BEDROOM OF HOME OF HARRY LEE

60

LYNN ROGERS is now headed for the bedroom closet. She does not notice the SIM lying on the rug, and as she walks past it we see in close up her heel barely missing stepping on it and shattering it to bits.

She pulls a couple of her husbands once-worn shirts from the closet and sniffs them in turn. Not really detecting anything unusual she shrugs her shoulders and turns to walk out, and only then spies the SIM lying on the carpet on the closet side of the bed.

LYNN ROGERS

(still speaking to herself)

An extra SIM card?

She hurriedly fetches her own phone and replaces the SIM in it. The good news is that it appears to be compatible. The bad news is that the first screen requires a password.

LYNN ROGERS

(still speaking to herself)

Enter password . . . take a wild guess . . . cheat, C-H-E-A-T, cheat . . . bad password, you have 2 more tries . . . that would have been too easy . . . OK, how about C-H-E-A-T-E-R, cheater.

THAT'S the password.

LYNN ROGERS

(startled that it worked, still speaking to herself)

Hello?

The welcome screen flashes by and then an alert. "You have 3 new text messages." LYNN ROGERS starts reading them and is shocked. The first says

"I think about U all the time. Can't w8 2 see you again. Mmwwaah, Jasmine".

The second says,

"Here's a selfie I took of myself coming out of the shower"

There is an attached picture of a young asian girl, with a strong resemblance to SUN, with a shower curtain draped around her, which we see. LYNN gasps.

The third says,

"And here's a shot of me spreading your favorite flower. Can't w8 for U 2 lb me again tomorrow. T-hee ;)"

For this one we just see the stunned expression on LYNN ROGERS' face. Just then the phone rings. LYNN pushes the answer button but says nothing. The person on the other end of the line just starts talking when they hear the ringing stop.

GIRLFRIEND

(plaintive but somewhat demanding)

Harry, you were supposed to call me an hour ago.

LYNN ROGERS

(as an inquisitor)

. . . Who is this?

The girl on the other end of the phone hangs up immediately. LYNN ROGERS bursts into tears and runs from the bedroom. The camera follows her out the door as she jumps in her car and starts it up, tears in her eyes.

LYNN ROGERS

(crying)

Daddy . . .

61 INT - NIGHT - MEETING HALL

61

HARRY LEE

Thank you for that most detailed presentation, Mr Bland. We now have 10 votes to take, the first is on adoption of the dividend proposal put forward by the board of directors . . .

62 INT - NIGHT - BEDROOM OF ACE ROGERS MANSION

62

ACE ROGERS is semi-reclined in bed watching the evening news.

NEWSCASTER

The earthquake has resulted in a tsunami which inundated the Japanese coastline, and has flooded the Fukushima nuclear power plant, but officials with Tepco, the corporation in charge of this facility are reassuring everyone that there are adequate safeguards in place and that the public is in no danger.

LYNN ROGERS burst in, still crying. She kneels by the bed.

LYNN ROGERS

(distraught)
Daddy, he's cheating on me.

ACE ROGERS

My child, what is it?

LYNN ROGERS

Harry's got a secret cell number, to take messages from a girl, probably younger than Sun.

ACE ROGERS

What?!

LYNN ROGERS

She just sent him a text, "Can't wait for you to pound me again tomorrow" . . . and there's a naked picture of her I'm too embarrassed to even show you!

She shows him the text message on the phone only. ACE ROGERS is momentarily speechless. The newscast has continued in the background.

NEWSCASTER

Moving to the local scene, tonight is the annual

shareholder's meeting for Vanguard Aerospace, which as you know will consider a resolution protesting the deaths of civilians by drone strikes. Both sides are projecting confidence going into the vote. Here's what HARRY LEE acting CEO of Vanguard had to say to us earlier.

HARRY LEE

Frankly we think this resolution has no chance at all.

ON SITE REPORTER

What about Ace Rogers, the founder of Vanguard?
What's his position on this?

The mention of his name catches the ear of ACE ROGERS.

HARRY LEE

Never mind about that. I'M voting the shares in the family now.

ACE ROGERS

What's that? . . . Never mind about THAT?

NEWSCASTER

With the length of the agenda we saw, they tell us the vote probably not take place until about 11, but we'll follow the results of this story.

ACE ROGERS

Then we still have time . . . Get me my car! . . .
We'll just see about that!

ACE ROGERS pulls himself to the opposite side of the bed and grabs for his wheelchair. LYNN ROGERS runs around the end of the bed to assist him.

63 INT - NIGHT - MEETING HALL

63

HARRY LEE

And that just leaves the shareholder sponsored resolution. According to the bylaws, a representative for the proposal may make a one minute statement.

This rouses the ACTIVISTS in the crowd, who cheer for SUN to

speak. They pass her a microphone. She looks back at the manager for Magnus Fund, MR. WHITE, who gives her a hand gesture as if to say, "You got it."

SUN LEE

I just want to say that we, as citizens of the country with the most powerful military forces in the world, have a special obligation to make sure that when those forces are used to destroy, and maim, and kill, that people we "take out", as the sanitized expression goes, are in fact enemies with not just the WISH, but also the active CAPACITY to hurt us, and that we are not just creating even more enemies in the process. Thank you.

The ACTIVISTS all cheer and clap. Nobody seems to have noticed that the manager of Magnus Fund, MR. WHITE, has left the room.

HARRY LEE

We will now tally up all the proxies and the votes of those present.

64 EXT - NIGHT - STREET

64

The car carrying ACE ROGERS and his daughter LYNN ROGERS is racing through the night.

ACE ROGERS

Step on it.

Suddenly a MOTORCYCLE OFFICER turns on his lights and siren behind them. They must pull over to the curb and stop. The motorcycle policeman saunters casually up to the car and motions for the driver to roll down the window. ACE has LYNN ROGERS roll down the window nearest him as well.

ACE ROGERS

Officer, I'm Ace Rogers, the founder of Vanguard Aerospace.

The officer takes a look inside.

MOTORCYCLE OFFICER

I know who you are . . . You still can't go 45 MPH in a 30 MPH zone.

ACE ROGERS

If I told you we were in a rush to get me to the hospital, you would probably believe me . . .

The MOTORCYCLE OFFICER cocks his head slightly askance.

ACE ROGERS

But the truth is, if I don't get to our shareholders' meeting quickly, a great injustice may take place.

The MOTORCYCLE OFFICER taps his citation pad for a couple seconds.

MOTORCYCLE OFFICER

The truth . . . Now THAT deserves special treatment. How would you like an escort?

The MOTORCYCLE OFFICER has pulled his motorcycle alongside the car and is addressing the driver.

MOTORCYCLE OFFICER

And if you go over 55, I WILL give you a citation.

And they take off into the night down the street again, with siren blaring and lights flashing ahead of them.

65 INT - NIGHT - MEETING HALL

65

HARRY LEE

Frankly, I'm surprised it was even this close. But it appears that the critical votes were cast by the Magnus Fund, who cast their proxies controlling 10.15% of Vanguard Aerospace stock . . . against the resolution.

SUN spins around to find the Magnus Fund manager, but we zoom in on an empty chair.

66 EXT - NIGHT - MEETING HALL

66

The doors to the meeting room are open, and the sound of HARRY LEE speaking can be heard in the hallway. ACE ROGERS is zipping down the corridor briskly in control of his

specially constructed motorized wheelchair towards the entrance, while making forward gestures with his hand.

HARRY LEE

That makes the preliminary total 42.43 percent for the resolution and 15.35 percent against. So according to the by laws, in the absence of the presence of the Rogers' family controlling stockholder, it just remains for me, as acting chief executive officer, to cast the votes representing those shares to . . .

At this moment the wheelchair of ACE ROGERS bursts into the room. There are gasps. Everyone's head turns. The camera descends from sky level as he arrives at the center of the room in the middle aisle, the camera ending nearly under his chin, framing him heroically from beneath.

ACE ROGERS

Not so fast! . . . As founder, and controlling shareholder of the family voting block, I assert my prerogative to cast our votes . . . FOR the resolution.

The room erupts into cheers. The ACTIVISTS all hug each other. SUN runs over and kisses her grandfather and hugs him. HARRY LEE is dumbfounded. LYNN ROGERS waves her cell phone at him, and then makes a special show of extracting the secret SIM and waving that at him too.

While off to the side the ACTIVISTS talk amongst themselves.

ACTIVIST 1

Well, you know, AFTER we get this constitutional amendment ratified, we can make corporations socially responsible by law, and not have to go through this every, single time.

ACTIVIST 2

Do you really think we can do it?

ACTIVIST 3

There's one thing of which I am certain . . . there is NOTHING that can't be done, if only the citizens are TRULY united.

They all nod their head together in agreement. The camera then ascends dramatically to take in the whole of the room.

ACE ROGERS holds up the hands of his granddaughter and daughter kneeling beside him, in victory, as all the supporters of the action applaud.

CUT to a white script on black title frame while the applause gradually fades.

"The end of democracy and the defeat of the American Revolution will occur when government falls into the hands of lending institutions and moneyed incorporations."

Thomas Jefferson, 1816

AND ROLL CREDITS