

1MDB

Written by

Scott Conroy

2.0 Entertainment
Tachyon Entertainment

FADE IN:

INT. THE BEVERLY HILTON (BALLROOM) - NIGHT

We open on REAL FOOTAGE of the 2014 Golden Globe Awards. Co-hosts TINA FEY and AMY POEHLER are on stage, charming the tuxedo pants off of the nominated TV and film STARS.

Over the din of the event comes the agitated voice of our protagonist, CLARE (we'll meet her shortly).

CLARE (O.S.)
(upper-crust English lilt)
Listen to me. This is the biggest financial crime in history.

NEAR THE FRONT OF THE BALLROOM - A table of A-listers that includes LEONARDO DICAPRIO, MARTIN SCORSESE, JONAH HILL, and MARGOT ROBBIE. They're all in great spirits.

CLARE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
We're talking about something on the order of five billion dollars.
Gone. Just like that.

ON STAGE - JENNIFER LAWRENCE, resplendent in a white gown, stands behind the microphone. She opens a giant ENVELOPE.

JENNIFER LAWRENCE
And the Golden Globe goes to ...
Leonardo DiCaprio. "The Wolf of Wall Street."

AT HIS TABLE - Leo rises and grins. He turns to two UNKNOWN PRODUCERS and performs a simultaneous bear hug with them.

The first **producer** is **JOEY McFARLAND** (names and titles in **bold** will be superimposed on screen). In his 30s, tall, skinny, and blonde, McFarland exudes glib geniality.

The second **producer** is **RIZA AZIZ--the stepson of the Malaysian Prime Minister**. He's also in his 30s, short, skinny, balding, smirking, and thoroughly entitled.

Leo makes his way toward the stage.

CLARE (O.S.)
It was a scam from the beginning.
And all the celebrities, the crooked politicians, the dirty bankers and lawyers. They dressed it up to look pretty. That's how he's gotten away with it.

(MORE)

CLARE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 The entire system is set up to
enable a con artist like Jho Low.

Leo is now ON STAGE, standing behind the microphone and holding his TROPHY as he addresses the Hollywood crowd.

LEONARDO DICAPRIO
 Thank you to the entire production
 team: Joey, Riz, Jho.

AT LEO'S TABLE - Joey and Riza bask in the glow of having Leonardo DiCaprio utter their names in this kind of setting.

LEONARDO DICAPRIO (CONT'D)
 Thank you for being, not only
 collaborators, but for taking a
 risk on this movie. Truly.

Joey mouths, "thank you," as Riza pounds his chest. One love.

INT. WINDOWLESS ROOM - DAY

CLOSE ON a woman's face. She's fed up. This is **independent journalist CLARE REWCASTLE-BROWN** (in her 50s with long, strawberry-blonde hair and penetrating, inquisitive eyes).

CLARE
 This is about how the 0.1 percent
 get to operate under a different
 set of rules than the rest of us.
 Can't you see that?

PULL BACK TO REVEAL a YOUNG FBI AGENT (square-jawed, stern) and an OLD FBI AGENT (more congenial) seated across from her.

SUPER: "2016."

There's also a female DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ATTORNEY (tightly wound) who's taking notes in her Washington-chic pantsuit.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ATTORNEY
 We can only address violations of
 U.S. law. The fact of the matter is
 that this sovereign wealth fund--

CLARE
 1MDB is not a sovereign wealth
 fund.

SUPER: "1MDB: 1Malaysia Development Berhad."

CLARE (CONT'D)
 It's a Strategic development fund.

OLD FBI AGENT
Isn't that just semantics?

CLARE
No!

Uncomfortable silence. Clare collects herself.

CLARE (CONT'D)
Sovereign wealth funds are investment entities that oil-rich nations make for the benefit of their people. 1MDB, on the other hand, was borrowing money, using Malaysia's limited oil wealth as collateral to create a personal piggy bank for the Prime Minister. But really, it was just a slush fund to subsidize Najib's campaigns and his ghoul of a wife's insatiable appetite for tacky handbags and garish jewelry. No, it's not semantics. It's crime. But you knew that, right? You're the FBI. I'm just some blogger.

They're all unimpressed with her diatribe.

YOUNG FBI AGENT
Can we get back to "The Wolf of Wall Street" component?

CLARE
Oh, let's. Do you know about the party at Cannes they threw to kick off production? That was a doozy.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ATTORNEY
I'm sorry, Ms. Rewcastle. But extravagant partying isn't illegal.

CLARE
Correct me if I'm wrong, but it is illegal, if it's unknowingly financed by the national treasury. Is it not?

She folds her hands on the table and waits for an answer.

INT. MARCHÉ DU FILM - DAY

We're in the middle of the world's biggest movie marketplace.

SUPER: "Cannes Film Festival."

A coterie of lanyard-wearing PRODUCERS, DISTRIBUTORS, and other international film industry PLAYERS rub shoulders inside a cavernous, purple-carpeted convention hall.

It has the vibe of a trading floor, as high-strung men and women negotiate through a cacophony of industry terms.

PRODUCER
It's "Kill Bill" but more violent.

DISTRIBUTER
2.5 mil gets you Europe and the Middle East on a handshake.

DIRECTOR
Meryl's agent begged. I just didn't think she was right for the part.

Joey and Riza navigate the labyrinth of makeshift hallways delineated by pavilions that promote each movie for sale.

JOEY MCFARLAND
(into his cell phone)
This is Red Granite's coming out party, OK? We can't fuck it up. Is everything set with Kanye's suite?

Joey gives a friendly nod to a film EXECUTIVE.

JOEY MCFARLAND (CONT'D)
(into his cell phone)
Mr. West has a very strict rider. The dental floss has to be mint-flavored, and all the vases must be cylindrical. If we allow even one rectangular vase to sneak in there, the launch party's ruined. And if the launch party's ruined, we could end up back making romantic comedies with some two-bit indie director, instead of the biggest fucking movie in the world with Marty Scorsese and Leo DiCaprio.

Joey hangs up and pockets his phone. Riza nudges him and nods toward a LOW-BUDGET FILM PRODUCER (wide-eyed, sweating through his shirt), who's making his pitch to a trio of disinterested FINANCIERS.

LOW-BUDGET FILM PRODUCER
It's a coming-of-age story about a
young woman coming to terms with
her true identity.

Joey and Riza stifles their laughter.

RIZA
We've got to be spending more on
our launch party than the entire
budget of that movie.

JOEY
Bro. We're spending more on
appetizers.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Riza, Joey, and a couple hundred PARTYGOERS dance under the stars to the thumping beats of KANYE WEST, who performs his hit "Gold Digger" from a makeshift stage.

A high-end buffet offers LOBSTER, CHAMPAGNE, and all kinds of other high-end food and drinks served up by tuxedoed WAITERS.

AT THE BAR - **JHO LOW**--the third guy that Leo thanked in his acceptance speech--presses a lime slice into his CORONA. Not yet 30 years old, ethnically Chinese, and built like a beach ball, Jho carries himself with a quietly cunning confidence.

Nearby, some of the partygoers gawk at Jho. He may not be a celebrity, but this is clearly a man with a reputation.

JHO LOW
Everybody having a good time?

BIG CHEERS as a FIREWORKS DISPLAY lights up the festivities.

BY THE SHORELINE - Cocktail in hand, **The real-life "Wolf of Wall Street" JORDAN BELFORT** (48, tan and chiseled) watches the fireworks with his girlfriend, ANNE (a vivacious blonde).

JORDAN BELFORT
(Queens accent)
I guarantee you this thing cost \$3
million to put on. Minimum.

ANNE
Jeez. Who spends that much cash on
a party for a movie that hasn't
even started shooting yet?

JORDAN BELFORT

Nobody spends money like this that
they actually worked for.

Belfort eyes Jho Low, who's still holding court at the bar.

JORDAN BELFORT (CONT'D)

He may be a well-spoken boarding
school boy, but I'm telling you:
this Jho Low guy's a fucking con
man.

EXT. BOARDING SCHOOL - DAY

The posh boarding school CAMPUS overlooks the surrounding English countryside from its hilltop perch.

SUPER: "Harrow School. 1999."

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS in matching straw boater hats, pressed slacks, and ties, exit a 16th century red-brick academic building and head out onto the pristine quad.

Seventeen-year-old Jho Low (pudgy with glasses that don't fit his face) struggles to keep up with a wealthy KUWAITI BOY (physically imposing and already quite sure of himself) and a wealthy RUSSIAN BOY (handsome and equally precocious).

RUSSIAN BOY

So what's the plan for winter
holidays, lads?

KUWAITI BOY

How about Ibiza? My family owns a
villa near Santa Eulalia.

17-YEAR-OLD JHO LOW

Sounds cool. Are there direct
flights to Ibiza?

The Russian and Kuwaiti boys exchange a look that resides somewhere on the spectrum between pity and irritation.

KUWAITI BOY

Most people just fly private.

17-YEAR-OLD JHO LOW

Oh, yeah. I could totally do that.

The three boys turn onto a brick path back toward their dorm.

17-YEAR-OLD JHO LOW (CONT'D)

Or you guys could come to Malaysia.

It's as if he's just proposed a trip to Neptune.

KUWAITI BOY
Malaysia?!

RUSSIAN BOY
Honestly, I think I'd rather go on
holiday to Kosovo.

17-YEAR-OLD JHO LOW
No, no. You'll like it, I promise.
My family is kind of like royalty
there.

Jho's buddies are intrigued now.

EXT. COLONIAL MANSION - NIGHT

SUPER: "Penang, Malaysia."

The well-manicured grounds of a British colonial-era MANSION are illuminated by floodlights. A couple dozen Malaysian TEENAGERS in late-90s attire are lined up outside.

INT. LIVING ROOM (COLONIAL MANSION) - CONTINUOUS

The bubblegum pop of Britney Spears' "Baby One More Time" plays at full blast in an empty living room.

A FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH of the mansion's BILLIONAIRE OWNER posing with his family sits on the mantle above the fireplace.

Seventeen-year-old Jho eases the photo out of its frame and replaces it with a NEW PHOTO of himself and his own family.

He walks over to the exterior door and opens it.

17-YEAR-OLD JHO LOW
Welcome, everybody.

The kids--including the Kuwaiti and Russian boys from Harrow--stream into the mansion. They all look exceedingly impressed.

KUWAITI BOY
Damn, Jho. You weren't kidding.

The Russian boy gives Jho a bro-hug.

INT. LIVING ROOM (COLONIAL MANSION) - LATER

The party is now in full swing. With a red solo cup in hand, a pretty TEENAGE GIRL approaches Jho.

TEENAGE GIRL
Great party, Jho.

17-YEAR-OLD JHO LOW
Thanks. Glad you could make it.

TEENAGE GIRL
But I thought you lived down the
street in Georgetown.

Jho doesn't even break a sweat. He smiles back at her.

17-YEAR-OLD JHO LOW
Nah, that's just for the help.

The girl is satisfied by this answer. And impressed.

TEENAGE GIRL
Very cool.

Jho basks in her affirmation, as he takes her solo cup and pours her some PUNCH from the bowl. The consummate host.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

Clare shifts uncomfortably in her middle seat in coach, wedged between two OVERWEIGHT MEN.

SUPER: "Ten years later."

On her lap is an old BLACK-AND-WHITE PHOTOGRAPH of her smiling MOTHER, stern FATHER, and bubbly seven-year-old self. In the photo, Clare and her parents are posing in front of their HOUSE-ON-STILTS, deep in the Malaysian rainforest.

The bottom of the photo is marked in pen, "7-8-66, Sarawak, Malaysia." Clare leans forward to look out the window, as the plane descends over what appears to be a pristine RAINFOREST.

EXT. PALM OIL REFINERY - DAY

A RENTAL CAR heads down an ACCESS ROAD that cuts through the lush rainforest.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Seated behind the wheel, Clare's expression sinks, as the verdant landscape changes into smoggy, industrial blight.

She pulls up to a SECURITY GATE outside a PALM OIL REFINERY that's still under construction, its chimneys already belching out GRAY SMOG into the clear-blue sky.

Clare rolls down the window and leans her head out to speak to the SECURITY GUARD.

CLARE

What's going on here?

SECURITY GUARD

Are you an employee?

CLARE

Of what? I used to live here.

SECURITY GUARD

Nobody lives here now. This is a palm oil refinery.

Clare scowls at him. She throws the car into reverse.

INT. LOGGING SITE - DAY

NATIVE PROTESTERS in traditional garb are CHANTING angrily in front of a TIMBER-CLEARING TRUCK. Clare has a small DV camera trained on one particular NATIVE ELDER.

NATIVE ELDER

The politicians and their cronies are destroying our land to make themselves rich.

CLARE

Do you feel you have any voice in what happens here in Sarawak?

NATIVE ELDER

None. Please, tell the world what is happening to us.

A black SUV screeches up to Clare and the protesters. The driver's side window rolls down, and a Malaysian LOGGING EXECUTIVE pokes his head out.

LOGGING EXECUTIVE

Out of the way! Stop filming!

Unfazed, Clare turns her camera on the logging executive. The guy starts CURSING at Clare in Malay.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

A framed photograph of Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak hangs on the wall of this drab, bureaucratic workspace.

KEVIN MORAIS, Deputy Public Prosecutor for the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (mid-50s, Indian-Malaysian, looks like he works too hard) sits at his out-of-date desktop computer.

ON MORAIS' COMPUTER SCREEN - Underneath the URL "SarawakReport.com," a blog post is titled, "How Taib Has Robbed Sarawak." The posted is written by "Anonymous."

Included in the post is an embedded VIDEO that shows the logging site that we just saw, as well as an image of ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD--the 74-year-old Chief Minister of Sarawak.

Morais picks up the phone and dials.

KEVIN MORAIS
Tony. Have you read this "Sarawak Report" blog online?

INT. TONY PUA'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Malaysian Opposition Party member TONY PUA (40s, spiky hair, intelligent eyes, and bristling with energy), is on the phone at his desk. He has Clare's blog pulled up on his computer.

TONY PUA
Wow. I need to find out who's behind this. He's got some balls!

ON HIS COMPUTER - Tony pulls up the "anonymous tip line" phone number that's listed on Clare's web site.

EXT. HEATHROW AIRPORT ARRIVALS - DAY

Clare is on the phone with Tony Pua, as she scans the arriving cars, looking for her ride.

TONY PUA (O.S.)
Your accent is not what I was expecting. I feel like I'm talking to the Queen of England.

Clare laughs.

CLARE

Thank you so much for reaching out.
Sometimes I wonder whether anyone
reads my blog at all.

TONY PUA (O.S.)

And sometimes I wonder whether any
westerner can find Sarawak on a
map. But I guess the answer is yes.

CLARE

Well, I was born in Malaysia, just
like you were. I'd love to see you
the next time I'm in KL. I'm quite
familiar with your anti-corruption
efforts. Perhaps you and I could
make some trouble together.

Clare spots an old gray Sedan and waves at its driver.

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Clare's laconic husband, ANDREW BROWN (50s, ruddy-cheeked, a
full head of thick, gray hair) sits behind the wheel. He
kisses Clare on the cheek as she buckles her seatbelt.

ANDREW

(Scottish accent)

How was the old homestead?

CLARE

They turned my backyard into a palm
oil refinery. But apparently, my
blog is making some ripples. That
was a member of the Malaysian
Parliament on the phone just then.

ANDREW

I'm glad it was worthwhile. But
it's good to have you home.

He pulls away from the curb.

INT. APARTMENT STAIRWELL - DAY

Clare trudges up the winding, wooden staircase with Andrew
following behind her, carrying her suitcase.

CLARE

Taib's a nasty little tyrant, but
he'll wither under more scrutiny.

ANDREW

So you're planning to make another
trip back to Sarawak, I take it?

CLARE

Well, I can't do all of my
reporting from the kitchen counter.

They make it to the top of their fifth-floor walkup. Clare
opens the door with a key.

INT. CLARE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

It's a mess. DIRTY SOCKS compete for floor space with TAKEOUT
CONTAINERS. The rug is stained with something purple.

CLARE

Jesus, Andrew.

ANDREW

What? You were gone for two weeks.

She sighs, as she steps over a pizza box and into the--

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A VIOLENT VIDEO GAME is in progress, as Clare's sons ALEX
(14) and PATRICK (12) battle each other on the couch with an
opened bag of potato chips providing a makeshift barrier
between them.

ALEX

(staring at the TV)

Hi, mum.

CLARE

That's it? How about a hug?

PATRICK

Right after this game.

Clare throws her hands up in defeat.

EXT. THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA - DAY

The glittering MONTE CARLO SKYLINE presides over dozens of
multi-million dollar YACHTS anchored in its harbor.

OUT IN THE OPEN OCEAN - a massive MEGA YACHT cuts through the
choppy water.

This thing makes the regular-sized yachts look like tug boats by comparison. Its name, "**ALFA NERO**," is painted in bold, black letters on the aft deck.

INT. OWNER'S BEDROOM SUITE (ALFA NERO) - DAY

A cabin fit for a billionaire--or a man pretending to be one.

Jho Low is eating a sumptuous, mimosa-fueled breakfast while speaking into his cell phone in Cantonese. At the table with him is a Malaysian man, who's about his age. This is **Eric Tan**, otherwise known as "**FAT ERIC**." (He's a little overweight but not as fat as Jho is.)

Fat Eric attempts to cut a piece of bacon but is thwarted by the limitations of his butter knife. He settles on using his fingers instead, as Jho's **SECOND CELL PHONE** rings.

JHO LOW

(in Teochew; subtitles)

I'll call you back later, OK?

FAT ERIC

Bro. Can we settle on one language and just enjoy breakfast for once?

Jho puts his finger in the air as he finishes both calls and then sets his two phones back down on the table.

JHO LOW

(in Hokkien; subtitles)

After this deal goes down, I'll hire an expensive tutor who can teach Teochew to an idiot.

FAT ERIC

(in Hokkien; subtitles)

Don't be an asshole.

Fat Eric rips off another piece of bacon.

FAT ERIC (CONT'D)

So this guy, Turki. He's, like, a real Saudi prince?

JHO LOW

King Abdullah's seventh son. So, yeah, he's royalty, but he's not exactly next in line.

FAT ERIC

So what do we want to do business with him for?

JHO LOW

Because when you're the seventh son, you're an afterthought. Which makes you willing to cut corners.

FAT ERIC

But he and Obaid do run PetroSaudi.

JHO LOW

PetroSaudi is basically a shell company. I'm connecting them to the Prime Minister of Malaysia here. Najib will make their business look respectable.

FAT ERIC

But why does Najib need them?

JHO LOW

Same reason. Legitimacy. He'll be able to brag that his major public initiative, 1MDB, can attract big-time Middle Eastern wealth. This joint venture is gonna help him fulfill his promise to transform KL into a global financial center.

FAT ERIC

But how? I thought PetroSaudi isn't bringing in any cash to this.

JHO LOW

It's bringing its oil reserves.

FAT ERIC

Which you said were hardly worth anything.

JHO LOW

Najib knows enough not to ask too many questions. We're going to ... tweak some documents to suggest that 1MDB is owed repayment on a loan by PetroSaudi. That'll allow us to take our share out of the transaction.

The gears churn ever so slowly in Fat Eric's head.

FAT ERIC

That all sounds real shady.

JHO LOW

Jesus, Eric. It's basically a commission. These are complicated financial machinations, OK? I went to Wharton. Where did you go, The University of Chuck E. Cheese?

FAT ERIC

So it's kind of all about appearances then.

JHO LOW

(in Hokkien, subtitles)

Which is why we're not going to tell Najib that Prince Turki is just renting this yacht.

Jho winks at him. Fat Eric smiles back, happy to feel included in this scheme that his buddy has set up.

JHO LOW (CONT'D)

It's hard to get rich people to invest their money in a venture like this. But you know what makes it easier?

FAT ERIC

Booze?

JHO LOW

Getting other rich people to invest. No one wants to feel like they're losing out.

EXT. MAIN DECK (ALFA NERO) - DAY

The pristine, multi-tiered deck of the 269-foot nautical monstrosity shimmers under the bright Mediterranean sun, as a helicopter come in for an easy landing on the HELIPAD.

The propellers come to a stop. The first man to exit the chopper is **Prince Turki Bin Abdullah, the seventh son of the King of Saudi Arabia** (late 30s, dressed in his yacht-wear: a white baseball cap, blue linen pants, and linen shirt).

Following behind him is **Tarek Obaid (Prince Turki's bushy-haired, gregarious childhood friend and business partner)**.

Waiting for both men on the tarmac, Jho extends his hand to greet them one-by-one, in the manner of a confident maitre'd.

JHO LOW

Welcome, gentlemen. Please.

He points Turki and Obaid toward the yacht's interior.

EXT. MAIN DECK (ALFA NERO) - LATER

Another helicopter touches down for a landing. Once again, Jho is standing there to greet the arrivals. The first to step out of the chopper this time is a **MALAYSIAN BODYGUARD**.

The bodyguard then reaches out to offer a hand to the **First Lady of Malaysia, Rosmah Mansor** (mid-50s, steely-eyed and humorless in her white leopard print shirt). She's wearing enough makeup and hair products to make Dolly Parton blush. This is a woman who believes she belongs on a mega-yacht.

The third person out of the helicopter is newly elected **Malaysian Prime Minister NAJIB RAZAK** (mid-50s, white linen shirt, salt-and-pepper hair, thin mustache). Though he's a world leader, Najib clearly plays second fiddle to his wife.

JHO LOW
An honor to have you both here.

ROSMAH
Where is the Prince?

JHO LOW
Prince Turki and Mr. Obaid are inside. But why don't you relax a bit before we talk business.

He points Rosmah and Najib toward the SUN DECK, as the chopper takes off again and the pad begins to UNFOLD into a stunning INFINITY POOL. Rosmah looks on approvingly.

ROSMAH
(to Najib)
Can I advise you something?

He doesn't need to answer. The "yes" is implied.

ROSMAH (CONT'D)
You need to get serious about building our wealth. Appearances matter for a Prime Minister.

She pushes in front of her husband and follows behind Jho.

INT. MAIN SALON (ALFA NERO) - DAY

Jho sits with Prince Turki and Obaid on white couches.

JHO LOW

I've taken care to brief the Prime Minister on the unique opportunity to monetize your oil fields in the Caspian Sea. He's particularly eager to discuss that.

PRINCE TURKI

To be clear, PetroSaudi actually owns just an option on those oil fields, which is about to expire.

TAREK OBAID

But the option could still prove quite lucrative indeed.

JHO LOW

Yes, and you can renew it, I'm sure, once you receive the proposed cash injection from 1MDB.

PRINCE TURKI

Indeed.

JHO LOW

And would process go through the government of Turkmenistan?

TAREK OBAID

The Turkmenistan portion is actually in disputed waters, but that's not for us to worry about.

JHO LOW

No, of course not. In fact, I could see that being an asset. You might want to present it that way when you speak to the Prime Minister.

EXT. SUN DECK (ALFA NERO) - DAY

Turki sits with Najib, as Rosmah works on her tan nearby.

PRINCE TURKI

Our oil fields in the Caspian are so valuable that multiple countries are trying to lay claim to them.

Najib opens his mouth to respond, but before he can do so--

ROSMAH

Impressive, indeed.

INT. MAIN SALON (ALFA NERO) - DAY

Jho is back on the couch with Prince Turki and Obaid.

JHO LOW

We'll need to have PetroSaudi's assets valued by a neutral party, but what is a fair estimate?

PRINCE TURKI

I think ... oh ... \$1.5 billion.

JHO LOW

Feel free to be a bit more ... aggressive.

EXT. SUN DECK (ALFA NERO) - DAY

Turki and Najib continue to finalize this joint venture.

PRINCE TURKI

Our assets will be valued at \$2.5 billion, minimum.

NAJIB

Very good. So Malaysia will provide \$1 billion in cash from 1MDB, which will then be invested as--

He lowers his voice a bit.

NAJIB (CONT'D)

--Jho sees fit. And in return, you'll provide your \$2.5 billion in assets to the joint venture.

PRINCE TURKI

Exactly. It's a win-win.

Najib nods approvingly.

EXT. MAIN DECK (ALFA NERO) - DAY

Turki, Obaid, and Jho approach the lounging Najib and Rosmah.

PRINCE TURKI

Prime Minister. Madam First Lady. I'm so glad you're getting some time to relax and enjoy yourselves.

ROSMAH

I feel a bit like royalty out here.

TAREK OBAID

Well, I'm sure you've been told
that you look just like Queen Noor.

ROSMAH

(blushing)

Oh, please.

Obaid motions for a CREW MEMBER, who offers Najib and Rosmah glasses of tropical juice.

TAREK OBAID

Fresh juice to celebrate?

ROSMAH

No alcohol. A good Muslim boy.

TAREK OBAID

Oh, I don't drink alcohol, Madam.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Dance music BLARES, as Obaid clinks shot glasses with two TOPLESS WOMEN.

TAREK OBAID

Wooo!

EXT. MAIN DECK (ALFA NERO) - DAY

Back on the Alfa Nero, Turki places his hand on his heart.

TURKI

My father, His Royal Highness,
always emphasized humility in the
presence of Allah.

There's not so much as a chuckle among our group, as they sip their fresh juice and take in the \$190 million view.

INT. WINDOWLESS ROOM - DAY

Clare sits with those two FBI agents and the D.O.J. attorney.

OLD FBI AGENT

How could engaging in this level of
shady activity be worth it to
Najib? It just doesn't compute.

CLARE

It does if you understand Malaysian politics. Najib's party, **the United Malays National Organization (UMNO)** had been in power since independence in '59. But the coalition it led was losing ground. Through this joint venture with PetroSaudi, he gained the ability to control minority parties and buy future elections.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ATTORNEY

But there must have been some honest brokers at 1MDB. There was a board, after all.

CLARE

Yes. And all the crooks needed was a "neutral party" to convince them that PetroSaudi's assets might actually be quite valuable. Someone respectable. Someone like--

INT. HOME OFFICE - DAY

Looking benign and avuncular in his sweater and khakis, American **former Lehman Brothers energy economist ED MORSE** (late 60s, professorial) sits at his home computer.

ON HIS COMPUTER SCREEN - A REAL EMAIL from Patrick Mahony to Morse that includes the sentence, **"We are looking for a mid-range of \$2.5bn."**

Morse types his reply: **"I think you won't be displeased with our conclusions either on Turkmenistan or Argentina."**

INT. PATRICK MAHONY'S OFFICE - DAY

An ultra-modern space perched high above a posh London neighborhood that's visible through the large windows.

PetroSaudi's director of investments, Patrick Mahony (32, British, suave, and pretentious) sits at his computer. He picks up his cell phone and dials Jho Low.

JHO LOW (O.S.)

Patrick?

PATRICK MAHONY

I just heard back from Morse.

JHO LOW (O.S.)
Did he give us the 2.5?

PATRICK MAHONY
No.

JHO LOW (O.S.)
Shit.

PATRICK MAHONY
He gave us a \$3.6 billion
valuation.

JHO LOW (O.S.)
What a hero. Great work.

PATRICK MAHONY
I'm gonna wire his fee now. A
hundred grand.

JHO LOW (O.S.)
That's it?

PATRICK MAHONY
Dipshit should've asked for more.

Tarek Obaid enters. Mahony hands him a LETTER.

PATRICK MAHONY (CONT'D)
(to Obaid)
Have Justo look this over before we
send it off to 1MDB.

INT. XAVIER JUSTO'S OFFICE - DAY

Holding the letter, Obaid knocks quickly and then enters the more modest office down the hall.

Sitting at his desk is the **head of PetroSaudi's London Office**, **XAVIER JUSTO** (40s, tall, fit, broad-shouldered, with a goatee and lots of tattoos). He becomes important later on.

Obaid hands the letter to Xavier.

TAREK OBAID
Can you give this one last look?

XAVIER JUSTO
(Swiss-German accent)
Sure, I'm on it.

Xavier takes the letter back to his desk to read, and Obaid turns to leave. But before he makes it to the door--

XAVIER JUSTO (CONT'D)
Hey, Tarek.

TAREK OBAID
Yeah?

XAVIER JUSTO
I still haven't gotten reimbursed.

TAREK OBAID
Shit. Must be some administrative
fuck-up. I'll get you your money by
the end of next week.

Before Xavier can protest, Obaid quickly exits his office.

INT. MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL LOUNGE - DAY

The windows overlook COLUMBUS CIRCLE from the ritzy hotel's 34th-floor lounge. Mahony shares a couch with Jho. They're both looking over a series of documents.

PATRICK MAHONY
So, before you send it on to the
Seychelles, the 700's gonna go from
1MDB's Deutsche Bank account to
this Coutts account in Zurich?

JHO LOW
Coutts. Banker to the Queen.

PATRICK MAHONY
Extra layer of legitimacy. Smart.

Mahoney's phone buzzes. He checks it.

PATRICK MAHONY (CONT'D)
It's my guy at BSI.

Mahoney excuses himself and walks off to take the call. As the BSI banker on the other end of the line begins to speak, Mahoney's expression changes into one of deep irritation.

PATRICK MAHONY (CONT'D)
(into the phone)
No, no. It's all above board. Do
you want our business or not?

Mahoney begins to pace the room as the banker responds. He ends the call in a huff and returns to face Jho.

PATRICK MAHONY (CONT'D)
BSI won't play ball on setting up
the joint venture account for the
remaining 300.

JHO LOW
What?

PATRICK MAHONY
My guy there can't get the transfer
past their internal regulators.

Jho's expression sink. He tries to maintain his composure.

JHO LOW
I'll take care of Deutsche Bank and
Coutts. You need to fix this BSI
problem. We'll meet back here in
three days to finalize everything.

As Mahony quickly dials another number on his cell, Jho
hurries out of the office, checking his watch as he walks.

INT. DEUTSCHE BANK OFFICE (KUALA LUMPUR) - DAY

Jho sits across from JACQUELINE HO (a relationship manager
for Deutsche Bank).

SUPER: "Deutsche Bank offices, Malaysia."

JHO LOW
We need you to make the transfer
right away, or else the entire
joint venture could fail. This is
very important to Malaysia's
relationship with Deutsche Bank.

JACQUELINE HO
It's rather unusual for a client to
make a transfer request in person.

JHO LOW
Yes, well. This is a sensitive
transaction. And it involves
governments. You never know who's
listening on the other end of a
phone call.

She's uncomfortable but trying to remain professional.

JACQUELINE HO
Our compliance department has
raised some questions.
(MORE)

JACQUELINE HO (CONT'D)
For instance, why isn't the \$1 billion going directly into the joint venture with PetroSaudi? Why are you asking us to transfer \$700 million into an unnamed account in Switzerland?

JHO LOW
The Swiss account is owned by PetroSaudi. It's to repay a loan to them. I really don't want to bring the Prime Minister into this, but I will, if I must.

JACQUELINE HO
Mind if I step out for a moment?

Jho motions toward the door. She exits.

INT. CORNER OFFICE (DEUTSCHE BANK) - MOMENTS LATER

Jacqueline Ho stands before a DEUTSCHE BANK SENIOR PARTNER.

DEUTSCHE BANK PARTNER
These are very important clients.
Approve the transfer.

She nods and exits the office.

INT. COUTTS HEADQUARTERS (ZURICH) - DAY

Jho stands before a COUTTS COMPLIANCE OFFICER.

SUPER: "Zurich."

COUTTS COMPLIANCE OFFICER
In order to accept this transfer of \$700 million, we need the beneficiary to be named on the account.

JHO LOW
It's Good Star LTD.

COUTTS COMPLIANCE OFFICER
Which is owned by whom?

JHO LOW
It's is an investment management company. 1MDB has decided to invest \$700 million with Good Star.

COUTTS COMPLIANCE OFFICER
The nation of Malaysia is investing
\$700 million with a company in the
Seychelles that I'm just now
hearing of for the first time?

JHO LOW
I'm sorry you haven't heard of it,
but that's your own shortcoming.

The compliance officer looks skeptical. But he just nods.

COMPLIANCE OFFICER
OK.

INT. MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL LOUNGE - DAY

Patrick Mahony paces the lounge, on the phone again.

PATRICK MAHONY
Yes, I appreciate that. Bye.

He ends the call. Fresh off of his jaunt to Malaysia and Switzerland, Jho approaches him, pulling his roller suitcase.

JHO LOW
We good with BSI?

PATRICK MAHONY
Nope. They won't do it.

JHO LOW
What the Hell were you
"appreciating" then?

PATRICK MAHONY
My new guy at J.P. Morgan. He's
setting up the joint venture
account to take in the remaining
300 as we speak. Giddy up, partner.

Jho does a little fist pump and pats Mahony hard on the back.

EXT. COLUMBUS CIRCLE - DAY

Jho exits the Time Warner Center, composing an email on his BLACKBERRY as he walks.

**ON JHO'S BLACKBERRY - "Just closed the deal with PetroSaudi--
looks like we have hit a goldmine."**

He practically floats onto 59th Street.

BEEEEEEEP!

A PEDESTRIAN pulls Jho back by the shirt collar at the last moment, as a TAXI nearly slams into him.

PEDESTRIAN
You got a death wish, buddy?

Jho just stares back at the pedestrian, like he's in a dream.

INT. LE BERNARDIN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Jho and Mahony sit at the three-Michelin Star restaurant with views overlooking Central Park. Jho scans the wine list and points out to the WAITER a \$52,000 bottle of 1929 Domaine de la Romanée-Conti.

JHO LOW
Two of these.

WAITER
Oh, I'm sorry, sir. We don't do
that one by the glass.

JHO LOW
No, two bottles.

PATRICK MAHONY
We're celebrating.

The waiter stares back at him. He's serious.

WAITER
Very good, sir.

As the waiter leaves to fetch the \$104,000 worth of wine. Jho picks up his cell phone.

ON JHO'S CELL PHONE SCREEN - His GOOD STAR LTD. bank account shows an incoming transfer of \$700 million.

JHO LOW
Do you want your thirty-three now?

PATRICK MAHONY
Tomorrow's fine. Let's enjoy
ourselves tonight. We've earned it.

Jho's second cell phone rings. He answers it.

JHO LOW
(in Malay; subtitles)
*Yeah, everything's set. I'll begin
making disbursements tomorrow.*

Mahony just shakes his head, as he looks over the menu. For Jho, the work never ends.

EXT. MOSQUE - DAY

Prince Turki and Tarek Obaid exit the MOSQUE, put on their shoes, and step out onto a busy central London sidewalk. They immediately check their cell phones.

On PRINCE TURKI'S CELL PHONE - An incoming transfer of \$77 million from Good Star LTD.

On TAREK OBAID'S CELL PHONE - An incoming transfer of \$153 million from Good Star LTD.

Turki and Obaid head out onto the street where their two GOLD-PLATED LUXURY CARS are parked illegally.

PRINCE TURKI
Last one there pays for the first
lap dance.

Suddenly, Turki jumps into his ROLLS ROYCE, as Obaid throws himself into his BENTLEY. Within seconds, each car SCREECHES away from the curb and out onto the street. The race is on.

EXT. LONDON - DAY

Turki and Obaid weave recklessly in and out of traffic. The BENTLEY narrowly avoids a collision with a double-decker bus, skidding to a stop at the very last minute.

As the Rolls uses the moment to gain an advantage, the Bentley skids out again, almost slamming into a stop sign.

PEDESTRIANS are left standing there, dumbstruck by the drivers' utter disregard for the people around them, as the two cars make their way toward the famed neighborhood of--

EXT. WHITEHALL (LONDON) - DAY

We SOAR over Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament and land on the nearby apartment complex where Clare lives.

INT. APARTMENT STAIRWELL - DAY

Carrying four bags of groceries, Clare trudges up that rickety, wooden staircase with Alex and Patrick behind her. Alex shoves Patrick in the chest.

PATRICK

Ow!

CLARE

Hey! Alex, you do not hit your brother. Especially on the stairs.

ALEX

I didn't.

CLARE

Oh, no? My eyes must be broken.

They make it up to the fifth floor. She drops the shopping bags and fiddles with the keys before unlocking the door.

INT. CLARE'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

A cramped space befitting a middle-class family in central London with a compact washer-dryer under the sink. Clare sits at the small ISLAND, typing furiously on her laptop.

ON CLARE'S LAPTOP SCREEN - The back-end production tool for a BLOG POST is headlined, "A Key Question On Taib's Opulent Sarawak Residence" by Anonymous.

Clare hits "publish" and then refreshes her web browser to see that the post is now live.

Sound of the front door CREAKING open and then SLAMMING shut. Andrew enters the kitchen in his suit with his tie loosened. He's been drinking, though not to excess.

ANDREW

Hiya.

He goes immediately for the refrigerator, pulls out a plate of leftover chicken, and walks it over to the microwave.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Burning the midnight oil again?

CLARE

I've got another big one tonight on Taib. You know he's got properties worth hundreds of millions all over the world? On a government salary!

ANDREW
Bloody crook.

Andrew puts the leftovers in the microwave and hits "start."

ANDREW (CONT'D)
But everyone expects a little graft
in Malaysia, right? The trick is
not to be too blatant about it, so
people don't start sniffing around.

CLARE
That's exactly what I'm doing,
Andrew. Sniffing around. Holding
power to account in a forgotten
corner of a forgotten country.

ANDREW
And good on you for doing it.

She smiles a little, as he pours himself a glass of water.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
But it'd be nice if someone paid
you for your work, don't you think?

Her smile evaporates, as Andrew sets to work on his chicken.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
What? It's a stretch to cover our
bills on one salary. You know that.

CLARE
But my work is important.

ANDREW
I agree. But you're not even
putting your name on your posts.

CLARE
Maybe it's time I change that.

Clare begins typing on her laptop. Andrew comes around the table to look at the screen.

ON CLARE'S LAPTOP SCREEN - She deletes "Anonymous" in the byline. In its place, she types, "By Clare Rewcastle Brown" her finger hovers over the "Save" button. She hesitates.

ANDREW
Are you sure that's a good idea?

CLARE
You just finished telling me--

ANDREW

Yes, but the trolls will all come out from under the bridge. You'll have a great, big target on your back. Isn't there an easier way?

She scrutinizes him. Isn't impressed.

CLARE

I'm not going to go work at Tesco, if that's what you're asking.

She hits the "Save" button emphatically.

CLARE (CONT'D)

Maybe the added visibility will help me land bigger stories.

EXT. SINGAPORE - DAY

The soaring financial capital of southeast Asia bakes under the scorching, mid-afternoon sun.

INT. HIGH-RISE OFFICE - DAY

A U.S. dollar is displayed inside a GOLD FRAME. Photos of a Singaporean family enjoy less prominent space on the walls.

Jho sits with **YAK YEE CHEE**, his **private banker** (50s with spiky hair, wearing a pink polo shirt and designer jeans).

JHO LOW

Considering my newly ... liquid position, I'm interested in putting my money to work.

YAK YEE CHEE

We can talk about your stock portfolio. Maybe look at some investment properties in Malaysia.

JHO LOW

I'm thinking beyond Malaysia.

YAK YEE CHEE

China?

JHO LOW

I was actually looking at some homes and businesses in New York and L.A.

YAK YEE CHEE
Bringing cash into the U.S. could
cause many difficulties.

JHO LOW
I'm tired of the minor leagues. I
want to be a global player here.

Yak looks out the window, as he considers what to say next.
As he turns back to Jho, his expression is newly serious.

YAK YEE CHEE
Are you familiar with the "Know
Your Customer" responsibilities
that banking professionals such as
myself are obligated to adhere to?

JHO LOW
You're saying you need to verify
that my funds are legit?

YAK YEE CHEE
Oh, no. I have no doubt about that
personally. But I have certain
professional obligations that--

He reaches into his desk and pulls out a business card.

YAK YEE CHEE (CONT'D)
Others do not have to worry about.

Yak hands the business card to Jho, who reads it. The card
provides contact info for Shearman & Sterling Law Offices.

YAK YEE CHEE (CONT'D)
You might find my friends in the
legal profession to be more
amenable to a discreet process that
honors the very sacred concept of
attorney-client privilege.

Jho pockets the business card.

INT. SHEARMAN & STERLING LAW OFFICES - DAY

A Shearman & Sterling ATTORNEY (60s, salt-and-pepper hair,
expensive suit, gold watch) sits across from Jho inside one
of New York's most prestigious law firms.

The attorney flips through a PACKET of high-end real estate.

ATTORNEY

We have clients from all over the world who want to invest in the U.S. They're from Venezuela, Russia, China. You name it. We typically offer them what's called an "interest on lawyer account."

JHO LOW

Which is what exactly?

ATTORNEY

Many of our high-net-worth clients prefer to remain anonymous. So we create in-house bank accounts at the firm for our clients to move their cash into without public scrutiny. Then we use that money for any acquisitions they may want to make in the U.S.

JHO LOW

And you're not obligated to look into the source of these funds?

ATTORNEY

Not legally or ethically obligated. In fact, our most important fiduciary duty is to our clients.

The attorney smiles reassuringly. Jho smiles back.

INT. NYC HIGH-RISE LOBBY - DAY

Russian and Chinese BILLIONAIRES move in and out of the marble lobby. A HIGH-END REAL ESTATE AGENT directs Jho toward the elevator. Fat Eric trails behind his friend.

HIGH-END REAL ESTATE AGENT

The unit is on the 76th floor and was recently rented to Jay-Z.

JHO LOW

What's it listed at?

HIGH-END REAL ESTATE AGENT

\$30 million. And I must tell you that the seller is expecting multiple, all-cash offers.

They enter the elevator, and the doors close behind them.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

The elevator begins to ascend.

FAT ERIC
You could go in at 35.

JHO LOW
Or 40. To be safe.

HIGH-END REAL ESTATE AGENT
Smart. Very smart.

INT. PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

The elevator doors open directly onto a lavish urban oasis, offering sweeping, panoramic views of New York City. Jho turns to Fat Eric, who gives him a thumbs up.

JHO LOW
OK, yeah. 40 is fine.

HIGH-END REAL ESTATE AGENT
Excellent. I'll have the paperwork sent over to your attorneys.

Fat Eric checks his watch.

FAT ERIC
Yo. Jet leaves Teterboro in twenty.

HIGH-END REAL ESTATE AGENT
Headed out of town?

JHO LOW
Yeah, L.A.

FAT ERIC
He bought a movie production company.

Jho shoots daggers at Fat Eric, who tries to recover.

FAT ERIC (CONT'D)
Our friends Joey and Riza run it actually. Discreetly.

HIGH-END REAL ESTATE AGENT
Oh, have they made anything I've heard of? Discreetly, of course.

JHO LOW
Ask me again a year from now.

Jho exits the apartment without another word.

MUSIC CUE: Miley Cyrus's 2009 hit, "Party in the USA."

MONTAGE

Jho goes on a real estate-buying binge across the country that begins with him boarding his brand new BOMBARDIER JET. On the private plane, he signs the paperwork to purchase his New York City penthouse apartment.

In Beverly Hills, he closes on the L'Hermitage Hotel and Red Granite Pictures. He hands the keys to the Red Granite offices to Riza and Joey, who are thrilled.

Jho next focuses on partying with his growing entourage. They TRASH a five-star hotel suite in Miami beach.

The next morning, a naked Jho lies on the hotel carpet next to a MODEL. He's working his phones, looking unfazed.

JHO LOW (CONT'D)
Vegas tomorrow?

The model straddles Jho and starts making out with him.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. CASINO - NIGHT

RINGING slot machines and SHOUTS fill the brightly lit floor.

IN A CORDONED-OFF HIGH-ROLLERS SECTION - Jho is at a blackjack table, surrounded by a gawking entourage of CELEBRITIES, BEAUTIFUL WOMEN, HANGERS-ON, and Fat Eric.

Next to a neat whiskey, Jho has a stack of about \$5 million in chips in front of him. He places a \$100,000 bet. The DEALER draws blackjack.

JHO LOW
Ah, you got me.

For the next hand, Jho doubles his bet to \$200,000. Loses again. His entourage lets out a collective sigh.

Jho slides forward \$400,000 in chips for his third bet.

JHO LOW (CONT'D)
Odds of me losing three straight
hands are only 14 percent.

The dealer wins again.

FAT ERIC
What about four straight hands?

Jho slides \$800,000 in chips toward the dealer.

JHO LOW
7.7 percent

The dealer wins AGAIN. Fat Eric winces.

JHO LOW (CONT'D)
Red T-shirts! Everybody wears one.

The PIT BOSS presses a button on his walkie-talkie.

PIT BOSS
I need two dozen red T-shirts in
the high-roller room.

Fat Eric taps Jho on the shoulder.

FAT ERIC
Come on. Let's go play roulette.

Ignoring him, Jho places \$1,600,000 on the table, and another hand begins. Jho has an Ace, while the dealer is showing a five. Jho doesn't hesitate.

JHO LOW
Double-down.

Jho counts out another \$1,600,000 in chips and places them next to his original bet. He now has \$3,200,000 wagered on a single hand.

FAT ERIC
You don't have to double with an Ace, you know.

Jho hands a \$100,000 chip to Fat Eric.

JHO LOW
Why don't you hit the roulette wheel? I'll join you in a bit.

Eric takes the \$100,000 and marches off. Jho then turns back to his \$3,200,000 hand. His second card is a five of spades.

DEALER
Six or sixteen.

JHO LOW
Hit.

The dealer turns over a four of clubs.

DEALER
20!

Everyone cheers. Jho gives out a couple of high-fives. Phew.

The dealer turns over his next card: Ten of diamonds. He flips over another one. Ace of spades. One more card. The five of diamonds.

Time seems to stand still as everyone in the room does the math. Five+ten+one+five. Could it be?

DEALER (CONT'D)
21. So sorry.

As the dealer takes the \$3,200,000 off the table, everyone in the group turns to Jho, unsure of what to say.

JHO LOW
I'll get it back. Another whiskey.
And where are my red T-shirts?!

INT. CASINO - LATER

Jho is still sitting at the blackjack table. But he has just twenty \$1,000 chips remaining, in spite of the red T-shirts that everyone is now wearing for good luck.

JHO LOW
Alright, I'm done. Tough night.

He hands out a thousand-dollar chip to each member of his entourage and gives the remaining chips to the dealer as a tip.

DEALER
I'm sorry, sir.

Jho shrugs, as Fat Eric arrives back at the table. He's wearing a big grin.

FAT ERIC
Check it out. I doubled my money!

He shows off his \$200,000 in chips. Jho just smiles and pats his buddy on the back.

JHO LOW
Nice work.

He turns to the rest of the group, eager to lighten the mood.

JHO LOW (CONT'D)
Drinks on Fat Eric tonight. We're
just getting the party started!

INT. CLARE'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Clare is perched on a bar stool, typing on her laptop.

SUPER: "That night."

Her cell phone buzzes. She answers it.

CLARE
Hello?

EXT. PAY PHONE - CONTINUOUS

A driving RAINSTORM has cleared out the streets of downtown Kuala Lumpur, as the Anti-Corruption Commission's Kevin Moraes stands at a pay phone.

KEVIN MORAIS
Is this Ms. Rewcastle Brown?

INTERCUT KEVIN MORAIS AND CLARE

CLARE
Speaking.

KEVIN MORAIS
I've been an admirer of your
reporting on corruption in Sarawak.

CLARE
Oh? Well, I'll take the compliment.

KEVIN MORAIS
I have a tip for you.

CLARE
Lovely. And who is this?

KEVIN MORAIS
It has to be anonymous.

CLARE
OK. But it'd be helpful to know
where you're calling from.

KEVIN MORAIS
Kuala Lumpur. Your blog has gotten
some attention in the capital.

CLARE

Really? Well, that's nice to hear.

KEVIN MORAIS

You're focusing on the wrong guys though. Yes, Taib is corrupt. But Sarawak isn't the big story. Ever heard of a man called Jho Low?

Clare Googles the name.

CLARE

It sounds vaguely familiar.

Clare scans through REAL PHOTOS on gossip blogs of Jho's wild partying, including a series of shots that show him dancing and sharing a giant bottle of champagne with PARIS HILTON.

CLARE (CONT'D)

Looks like he enjoys himself.

KEVIN MORAIS

He's a convincing charlatan. And a thief. If you consider the total amount that has been stolen, I believe he may well be the biggest thief who's ever lived. Look into his connections to Najib.

CLARE

Can I get your number, at least? So I can follow up with--

KEVIN MORAIS

This is extremely dangerous business. You'll need to dig around yourself. But please be careful.

Morais hangs up the phone. Clare grabs a Post-It note and scribbles with a pen, "Jho Low + 1MDB?"

She chews on the pen cap.

EXT. KUALA LUMPUR AIRPORT - DAY

SUPER: "Kuala Lumpur."

A BRITISH AIRWAYS flight touches down on the runway.

INT. TONY PUA'S OFFICE - DAY

Clare sits with Tony, who's at his desk.

TONY PUA

Yes, the name "Jho Low" is on everyone's lips in KL.

CLARE

From his online footprint, he seems to be primarily interested in partying. Do you think this guy could really be involved with funneling dirty money to Najib?

TONY PUA

The least likely criminal mastermind is often the most effective one. Keep digging.

CLARE

My husband won't say it out loud, but he thinks I'm tilting at windmills by even trying to expose corruption in this country.

Tony claps his hand together in delight.

TONY PUA

If you're Don Quixote, can I be Sancho?

CLARE

I'm not doing this as a lark, Tony.

TONY PUA

Najib is rotten to the core, but he controls the traditional media. Those of us who oppose him need to find new ways to get information out before the next election. You can do that with your blog.

CLARE

I'll do my best. What's your strategy in this?

TONY PUA

You know what the modern-day epic novel is? The YouTube video.

She lets out a little chuckle.

CLARE

Well, I'm a serious journalist, Tony, not a performer.

TONY PUA
And I am a "serious" legislator.
But I can walk and chew gum.

EXT. MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICES - DAY

The striking, onion-domed building overlooks a mosque from its perch on a hill in the administrative center of Malaysia.

INT. MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE - DAY

Wearing a suit and tie, Jho sits on a white couch. Najib enters the office, glares at him, and turns to an AIDE.

NAJIB
(in Malay; subtitles)
Close the doors.

AIDE
(in Malay; subtitles)
Yes, sir.

The aide shuts the double-doors and steps out. Najib takes a seat on the couch opposite Jho.

NAJIB
The fund is yours to manage. I don't want to know details.

JHO LOW
I understand. And I assure you that everything is on very solid ground.

NAJIB
But?

JHO LOW
We need to ensure that we maintain our relationship with the Saudis, as we approach the next election. And that means further investment.

NAJIB
What kind of "further investment"?

JHO LOW
Another \$800 million injection from 1MDB into the joint venture with PetroSaudi should suffice for now.

Najib scoffs.

NAJIB

It's out of the question. You are beginning to bite off more than you can chew, young man.

The double-doors SWING open. Rosmah enters, dressed to the nines with a Birkin handbag draped over her shoulder.

ROSMAH

Is there some problem?

Jho stands to greet her.

JHO LOW

Good afternoon, Madam. The Prime Minister and I were just discussing some future investments.

ROSMAH

Is he giving you what you need to run things properly?

NAJIB

Rosmah, please.

She ignores him and remains focused on Jho.

ROSMAH

Is he?

JHO LOW

I wouldn't be asking, if it weren't absolutely essential. But I understand the Prime Minister's instinct to be cautious with money.

Rosmah scowls at her husband.

ROSMAH

You know, Malaysia has never had a female Prime Minister. But now, it has a leader who lacks testicles.

NAJIB

We have to consider the scrutiny.

ROSMAH

Can I advise you something?

Yes, she can.

ROSMAH (CONT'D)

You have goons to handle scrutiny.

You just tell him, "OK," lah.

(MORE)

ROSMAH (CONT'D)
You think our family's expenses can
be paid on a government salary?

NAJIB
Rosmah--

ROSMAH
You have sacrificed to become a
public servant for the people of
Malaysia. The least they owe you in
return is a real salary fit for a
man of your stature.

Jho purses his lips as he waits for Najib's response. The
Prime Minister gives him a little nod. It's done.

INT. RED GRANITE PICTURES - DAY

Joey and Riza sit at a conference table with a trio of
Hollywood AGENTS. Jho stands off to the side, staring at one
of his cell phones.

AGENT #1
You know who you guys should really
talk to? Leo DiCaprio.

AGENT #2
Great idea.

JOEY MCFARLAND
We'd love to. What's the project?

AGENT #3
He and Marty have been trying to
get this movie off the ground, but
it's expensive.

AGENT #1
The majors have all been scared to
commit since the financial crash.

RIZA
Well, we love taking risks on
projects we believe in.

JOEY
Let's set a meeting.

Jho continues to stare at his cell phones.

ON JHO'S CELL PHONE SCREEN - An email from Timothy Leissner
of GOLDMAN SACHS. The subject line reads, "Opportunity."

JHO LOW
 Yes, we'd love to make it work.

EXT. GOLDMAN SACHS HEADQUARTERS - DAY

The brand new, ultra-luxurious, forty-four story skyscraper on West Street abuts the Hudson River in Lower Manhattan.

INT. CORNER OFFICE - DAY

Goldman Sachs President GARY COHN (50s, intense, a few wisps of gray hair flanking his bulbous head) is at his desk talking to **TIMOTHY LEISSNER, Goldman Sachs' head of investment banking for Southeast Asia**, (a tall, immensely confident, crisp-suited banker in his early 40s).

GARY COHN
 I appreciate you coming in. Hope you're not too jet-lagged.

TIMOTHY LEISSNER
 (German accent)
 No, fully adjusted. I'm in planes more often than pussy these days.

Cohn chuckles, as he cups his hands in front of him.

GARY COHN
 Look. You're one of our top performers, not just in Asia, but across the firm. And your recent work in monetizing the state is especially promising.

TIMOTHY LEISSNER
 Governments tend to suck at governing these days, but they're great at spending money. Wait until you hear about this new deal I'm cooking up with IPIC and Malaysia.

SUPER: "IPIC: International Petroleum Investment Company. A \$70 billion sovereign wealth fund owned by Abu Dhabi."

GARY COHN
 Before you get into it, I need to ask: Is our work in Malaysia all on the up and up?

TIMOTHY LEISSNER
 Excuse me?

GARY COHN

Compliance wants to know more about the role of this "Jho Low" character. Is he gonna cause problems for the firm?

TIMOTHY LEISSNER

His ties with the Prime Minister and his family are indispensable.

GARY COHN

OK, but is he on the level? Because if the shit hits the fan here, I'm hanging you out to dry on this.

TIMOTHY LEISSNER

Yes. He's a legitimate businessman.

GARY COHN

Alright. I'm taking your word for it. So what's ado in Abu Dhabi?

TIMOTHY LEISSNER

An opportunity, sir. One replete with the inimitable allure of Middle Eastern enchantment.

EXT. THE SOUTH OF FRANCE - DAY

A MERCEDES CONVERTIBLE speeds along a clifftop highway flanked by vineyards. This is definitely not the Middle East.

EXT. MERCEDES CONVERTIBLE - CONTINUOUS

Leissner is behind the wheel with Jho riding shotgun. Their hair is blowing in the wind.

JHO LOW

So what should I know about Mansour? I've never met someone worth \$50 billion before.

TIMOTHY LEISSNER

The Sheikh's not gonna be there.

JHO LOW

Why not?

TIMOTHY LEISSNER

Because you don't fly to France for a meeting when you're a member of the Abu Dhabi royal family.

JHO LOW
But the parameters of the deal are
in place, right?

TIMOTHY LEISSLER
Yes. This is really just an
informal sign-off with KAQ.

SUPER: "KAQ: Khadem al Qubasi: IPIC'S managing director."

JHO LOW
I heard he can be a tough customer.

TIMOTHY LEISSLER
He's a puppy dog, as long as he
gets his turn at the teat. Just try
to enjoy yourself, OK?

JHO LOW
We're not here to party. We're here
to close an enormous deal.

TIMOTHY LEISSLER
Look, it's all straightforward.
Goldman will use our own capital to
underwrite the bonds for 1MDB.
And then, in exchange for 1MDB
paying \$1.4 billion to Aabar--

SUPER: "Aabar Investments, PSJ: An IPIC Subsidiary."

TIMOTHY LEISSLER (CONT'D)
IPIC will guarantee Goldman's
bonds, which is gonna make them a
hell of a lot sexier to buyers.
We all take our cuts off the top.

JHO LOW
And everybody wins.

Jho looks a bit nervous, as Leissner FLOORS it.

TIMOTHY LEISSLER
Capitalism gets me so fucking hard.

EXT. LIVING ROOM (COTE D'AZUR VILLA) - DAY

The convertible pulls up a long, winding driveway and parks
next to a Bugatti that's flanked by a pair of Ferraris.

Perched above the driveway is the most opulent OCEANSIDE
VILLA you've ever seen.

INT. COTE D'AZUR VILLA - MOMENTS LATER

A SERVANT opens the door for Jho and Leissner, who enter what is essentially the French version of the Playboy Mansion.

Khadem al Qubaisi (KAQ) (slicked-back hair, sideburns, only in his early 40s but weathered from years of hard partying) sits on a couch with views overlooking the Mediterranean, cigar in hand. He's wearing a skimpy bathing suit and a T-shirt that sports an image of a woman's ass in a thong.

KAQ

Gentlemen, welcome. The girls are getting rid of those pesky tan lines. We'll join them shortly. In the meantime, how about a smoke?

ON THE COFFEE TABLE - A massive CIGAR BOX embossed with his initials in gold, "KAQ."

JHO LOW

I'm a bit superstitious. Let's wait until the deal is officially closed before we light our victory cigars.

TIMOTHY LEISSLER

There's really not much more to discuss. Goldman will raise three bond issuances for 1MDB, totaling \$6.5 billion. Prime Minister Najib will get to build his shiny new financial district in Kuala Lumpur. \$400 million will then go--

Another SERVANT enters carrying a pot of tea and three serving sets on porcelain plates. He begins to pour the tea.

KAQ

Please continue. Anyone who enters my home is trustworthy.

Leissner doesn't seem entirely convinced of that.

TIMOTHY LEISSLER

The 400 "birthday cakes" will go into your Luxembourg account. Jho will take care of the other disbursements to Prime Minister Najib and the First Family.

KAQ

"First Family." Quite an inventive honorific for the leadership of a Second-World country.

(MORE)

KAQ (CONT'D)
 But it sounds fair enough. Aabar
 can facilitate the transfers.

TIMOTHY LEISSNER
 Which Aabar?

KAQ
 (smiles)
 The new and improved Aabar.

FREEZE FRAME. Suspenseful THEME MUSIC leads us into--

INT. GREEN SCREEN STUDIO - DAY

Tony Pua sits on a STOOL in front of the green screen,
 holding a novelty-sized MAGNIFYING GLASS.

TONY
 (sing-song Manglish)
 Wooooooow. Financial crime's so
 easy. Turns out, you just need to
 know rich and powerful people who
 also lack a sense of shame, lah.

As a MAKEUP ARTIST touches up his face, Tony's CAMERAMAN
 gives him a thumbs up, and the camera's RED LIGHT turns on.

We're now watching the FINISHED YOUTUBE VIDEO that he'd
 previously teased to Clare.

**SUPER: "1MDB CHRONICLES: The Great Grandmother of All
 Scandals."**

Tony holds his magnifying glass to a series of DOCUMENTS.

TONY PUA
 What did KAQ mean when he said,
 "the new and improved" Aabar?

CUT TO:

Trudging through a hot DESERT background, Tony wears a long,
 white Arabic cloak with gold trim.

TONY PUA (CONT'D)
 Well, **Aabar Investments PSJ** was a
 subsidiary of IPIC--the Abu Dhabi
 sovereign wealth fund. That's
 regular, old, legitimate Aabar. But
 KAQ was talking about **Aabar**
Investments Ltd. A lookalike fund.

CUT TO:

In shorts and a tank-top, Tony stands on a beach, carrying a novelty-sized PASSPORT that says, "Offshore Banking Express."

TONY PUA (CONT'D)

Aabar Investments LTD was a shell company that KAQ and a man named Mohamed al Husseiny set up in the British Virgin Islands. As a shell company, it had a hard exterior, but it was empty inside.

Tony picks up a CONCH SHELL and then flips it over, showing off its empty interior.

TONY PUA (CONT'D)

The entire purpose of this Aabar was to confuse regulators into assuming it was the legitimate Aabar, making it easier for the thieves to siphon off hundreds of millions of dollars from this new venture with Goldman. The technique of naming a shell company to sound like a legitimate one was simple, but it proved quite effective.

CUT TO:

Tony is now dressed like a hip hop star, as he nods along to a heavy beat inside a RECORDING STUDIO.

TONY PUA (CONT'D)

So effective, in fact, that Jho later employed it himself when he bought a \$100 million stake in EMI Records using the cut he took from the Goldman bonds. To disguise the source of funding, Jho had Fat Eric set up a shell company called **Blackstone Asia Real Estate Partners**, which was designed to confuse regulators into thinking it was part of **The Blackstone Group**--a well-known private equity firm.

CUT TO:

Now wearing traditional Swiss hiking gear and flanked by the snowy peaks of the Alps, Tony shivers in the cold.

TONY PUA (CONT'D)

As a backup plan, KAQ and al Husseiny funneled the Goldman funds through a bank in Switzerland that KAQ himself owned. That's right, he actually owned the bank himself! Which meant that KAQ could report whatever he wanted to the authorities. Must be nice. Tony Pua would like to own a bank some day.

CUT TO:

Wearing a fancy suit, Tony is standing outside the Goldman Sachs building in Lower Manhattan.

TONY PUA (CONT'D)

Worried about legal exposure from its role in facilitating this dirty deal, one Goldman executive argued for the firm to reduce the fees that Leissner charged 1MDB, which eventually totaled \$600 million--a couple hundred times larger than typical. But other executives at the firm shot down that idea. After all, it was raining cash!

Hundred-dollar bills begin falling from the sky.

CUT TO:

Tony is fully naked, sitting in a BATHTUB, a la Margot Robbie in "The Big Short." But instead of soapy water, Tony's tub is filled with gold coins. He holds up a glass of champagne.

TONY PUA (CONT'D)

For his efforts in spearheading the deal, Leissner was rewarded with a salary and bonuses of over \$10 million in 2012, as Goldman raked in record profits at the expense of the Malaysian people.

Tony takes a long sip of champagne, mugging for the camera.

TONY PUA (CONT'D)

Wealthy banks cashing in, while the most vulnerable are left footing the bill. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

He crosses his legs, splashing some of the gold coins over the edge of the tub.

TONY PUA (CONT'D)
Back in primary school, I had a
funny nickname. People used to call
me, "The Big Short."

CUT TO:

Tony sits at his laptop, adding to his YouTube video REAL FOOTAGE of Margot Robbie posing for photos with Riza and Joey McFarland at a "Wolf of Wall Street" premiere event.

Tony hits "publish" on his now completed video.

EXT. POOL AREA - DAY

KAQ, Jho, and Leissner are lounging by KAQ's INFINITY POOL, which features a stunning view of the Mediterranean, as several TOPLESS WOMEN drink wine in the nearby HOT TUB.

KAQ
Well, gentlemen. I'd say it's time
we light those cigars. Shall we?

He reaches for his "KAQ"-branded cigar box.

JHO LOW
Speaking of celebrating, I'm having
a little birthday get-together in
Vegas next week. I'd be honored, if
you would attend.

KAQ
I wish I could. But I have quite a
bit of copulating to do before I
return to my family in Abu Dhabi.
I'll send a birthday cake instead.

He hands Jho a cigar and lights it for him.

EXT. LAS VEGAS STRIP - DAY

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS put the finishing touches on a massive CIRCUS TENT that's been erected at the foot of the Wynn Hotel. The tent is surrounded by crowd control stanchions, as a pair of MONSTER TRUCKS flank the entrance.

A BUS pulls up and parks in front of the tent. Two-dozen LITTLE PEOPLE dressed as Oompa-Loompas, their faces painted orange, exit the bus and surrender their cell phones to a SECURITY GUARD before entering the tent.

AT THE ENTRANCE - A high-strung PARTY PLANNER speaks to her ASSISTANT, clipboard in hand.

PARTY PLANNER
Leo's here. Marty, Bradley, and Tobey are on their way. I haven't heard an update on De Niro, Kardashian, or Galifianakis.

ASSISTANT
I'll check with their assistants.

Two CATERERS carry a massive FAUX BIRTHDAY CAKE toward the entrance. The party planner stops them

PARTY PLANNER
Is it comfortable in there?

CATERER #1
In the cake?

PARTY PLANNER
Yes. I'm not going to ask Britney Fucking Spears to hide inside an uncomfortable cake!

CATERER #2
I think it'll be cozy enough.

She waves them through, and they enter the tent.

PARTY PLANNER
(calling after them)
Did you all sign your NDAs?
Everyone needs to sign an NDA!

INT. TENT - NIGHT

MUSIC CUE: LCD Soundsystem's "Dance Yrself Clean."

Searchlights dance inside the tent, as we move into QUICK DETAIL SHOTS of the most epic party that Vegas has ever seen.

- Jho, Fat Eric, Riza, and Joey are greeted by adoring partygoers, like they are the real celebrities here.

- MODELS in skimpy red dresses serve mini-bottles of champagne with straws.

- The velcro-suited Oompa-Loompas are tossed at a giant, sticky target, just like in "The Wolf of Wall Street."

- The faux birthday cake is rolled out onto the stage. BRITNEY SPEARS (seen from the back in a short, gold skirt) jumps out of it and leads the crowd in "Happy Birthday."
- Lavish luxury vehicles are brought out as birthday gifts for Jho, including a red Lamborghini, a ribbon-wrapped Bugatti Veyron, and three Ducati motorcycles.
- His face flushed from booze and excitement, Jho mouths "Thank you" to the adoring crowd.

IN THE VIP SECTION - Jho enjoys a private moment with Riza and Joey, as they gaze out at the exuberant revelers.

RIZA

Jho, man. This is truly insane,
even for you.

JOEY MCFARLAND

I can't believe how many celebs
turned out.

JHO LOW

Stars are slaves to money, and I am
the master of money.

RIZA

How are you ever gonna top this?

JHO LOW

Good question. When does shooting
wrap on "Wolf"?

JOEY MCFARLAND

Right before the New Year.

JHO LOW

I'll come up with something.

RIZA

The bombardier jet?

JHO LOW

I'm thinking bigger.

INT. BOEING 747 PLANE - NIGHT

The massive JET is capable of seating up to 600 people in its commercial alignment. But there are only a couple dozen passengers enjoying the VIP charter version of the interior, which includes a full bar and disco ball-adorned dance floor.

Fat Eric, Riza, Joey, and Leissner are joined by several MOVIE STARS, including DiCaprio (we don't see his face), POP STARS, and SUPERMODELS. They're all drinking and bobbing their heads to the mix being spun by rapper SWISS BEATZ.

Jho stands on the KING-SIZED DAYBED at the back of the plane.

JHO LOW
Malaysia in the house!

Drunken WHOOPS. Jho makes the "quiet down" motion.

JHO LOW (CONT'D)
2012 has been a very good year, no doubt. But 2013 is gonna be off the hook. That's why we're gonna ring it in extra special, a'ight?

EXT. SYDNEY AIRPORT - DAY

Jho's 747 jet descends toward the airport with the SYDNEY SKYLINE and iconic OPERA HOUSE visible over the horizon.

SUPER: "Sydney. New Year's Eve, 2012."

The jet touches down on the runway.

EXT. SYDNEY CASINO - NIGHT

Jho plays baccarat in a PRIVATE ROOM. He wins a big hand and exchanges high-fives with members of his entourage.

CHAVANOS RATTAKUL (a young hanger-on) snaps a photo of the scene on his phone. He steps away from the baccarat table.

ON CHAVANOS' CELL PHONE SCREEN - He posts the photo to his Instagram page with the accompanying caption, "**A good way to waste a million dollars.**"

INT. MARQUEE SYDNEY NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Jho, Riza, Joey, and Fat Eric drink at their roped-off VIP TABLE. Joey nods toward the DJ booth.

JOEY
Leo's up there DJ'ing.

JHO LOW
Must be why this music sucks!

They all laugh good-naturedly.

RIZA

Hey, I talked to that film memorabilia dealer he introduced us to. Think I'm gonna buy the original poster for "Metropolis."

Blank stares.

RIZA (CONT'D)

It's a 1927 silent film.

Joey nods, as if he's heard of it.

JHO LOW

You should hang it in the Red Granite waiting area. Good way to show everyone who comes through that they're dealing with real Hollywood players.

Joey shoves Riza playfully in the shoulder.

JOEY

Now, I gotta outdo you, bro.

RIZA

Look at us. We're obsessing over posters. Are we crazy?

JHO LOW

No. We're serial entrepreneurs.

The DJ (DiCaprio) cuts the music.

EVERYONE IN THE CLUB

10! 9! 8! 7! 6! 5! 4! 3! 2! 1!

Happy New Year.

"Auld lang syne" plays, as HOSTESSES wheel ICE BATHS filled with CRISTAL into Jho's private area. Jho rises to his feet.

JHO LOW

Drink up! Plane leaves in twenty.

FAT ERIC

And bring a jacket because it's raining Cristal!

He starts pouring Cristal directly into people's mouths.

INT. BOEING 747 PLANE - NIGHT

Everyone's back on the private jet. A DRUNK WOMAN and DRUNK MAN are in the process of joining the Mile High Club right there on the daybed, as the P.A. system crackles to life.

CAPTAIN (V.O.)

Ladies and gentlemen, we've just crossed the International Date Line. Welcome back to 2012.

EXT. LAS VEGAS AIRPORT - NIGHT

The 747 touches down at McCarren International Airport.

INT. LAVO NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

The place is in full party mode, as WOMEN dance on the bar.

Some members of our crew are struggling to keep up now, as others find sustenance in BUCKETS of KFC.

A half-dozen hostesses enter the VIP area wielding bottles of CHAMPAGNE with sparklers attached. Jho takes a bottle from a HOSTESS and hands it to Joey, who's completely tapped out.

JOEY

Bro. I can't.

The hostess puts her hands on her hips. Pouts flirtatiously.

HOSTESS

These bottles are 20-grand apiece, buddy. Someone's gotta drink 'em.

Jho takes the bottle from Joey and sets to work on the cork.

JHO LOW

If no one wants to drink--

Jho SHAKES the bottle violently and POPS the cork. He pours the champagne all over Joey and the surrounding revelers.

JHO LOW (CONT'D)

We'll take a bath instead!

Other people start shaking champagne bottles and spraying their contents, as the LAVO D.J. begins the countdown clock.

LAVO D.J.
 10 ... 9 ... 8 ... 7 ... 6 ... 5
 ... 4 .. 3 ... 2 ... 1 ... Happy
 New Year!

CLOSE ON the RIVER of champagne running along the club's floor. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in stolen money, bottled up and discarded in an instant.

INT. HOTEL SUITE - DAY

Najib and Rosmah share a couch. He's sipping tea. She's reading a PRINT-OUT filled with new polling numbers.

ROSMAH
 Latest polls are in. Not good.

NAJIB
 It's still two months before the election, and this announcement is going to give me a big boost.

ROSMAH
 Can I advise you something?

Sure can.

ROSMAH (CONT'D)
 You are too casual about this. You must be vigilant. Ruthless even.

An AIDE knocks and enters the suite.

AIDE
 (in Malay; subtitles)
They're ready for you.

Najib rises.

NAJIB
 Watch the reaction to this. Maybe then you'll learn to trust me.

Rosmah huffs, far from convinced.

INT. HOTEL BALLROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Najib stands in front of TV CAMERAS, flanked by a placard reading, "Official Signing Ceremony between United Arab Emirates and Malaysia."

SUPER: "March 12, 2013."

NAJIB

This \$6 billion public infrastructure deal is a historic achievement to secure economic prosperity for our two nations. I'd like to thank the Malaysian people for your trust in UMNO to continue to move our country forward.

Najib smiles, as KAQ approaches him in his traditional Arab whites. The two men shake hands and pose for photos.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

THOUSANDS of young Malaysians are gathered in front of a CONCERT STAGE. There's palpable energy in the air.

SUPER: "Penang, Malaysia."

OFF TO THE SIDE OF THE STAGE - Clare takes in the proceedings with a reporter's notebook in hand. She's still digging.

ON STAGE - Najib looks out at the massive crowd and smiles.

NAJIB

Are you ready for Psy?

CROWD

Yaaaaaaaah!

NAJIB

Are you ready for Psy?

CROWD

Yaaaaaaaah!

Najib vacates the stage, and Korean pop star PSY takes his place. The crowd goes crazy as Psy starts performing his smash hit, "Gangnam Style" with BACKUP DANCERS in tow.

EXT. BACKSTAGE - MINUTES LATER

The crowd cheers, as PSY'S MANAGER watches from behind a curtain. Fat Eric approaches him with a BRIEFCASE in hand.

FAT ERIC

Jho apologizes for not being able to attend. But he thanks you for arranging Psy's performance and for his support for UMNO.

PSY'S MANAGER

Um-what?

Psy's manager takes the briefcase from Fat Eric.

EXT. FIELD - DAY

As concertgoers stream out, Clare sits on the grass, typing up a new blog post on her laptop.

ON CLARE'S LAPTOP SCREEN - Her headline reads, "Najib Serves As Opening Act For Psy, But Who Paid The Bill?"

A hulking UMNO SECURITY GUARD eyes Clare intently.

EXT. UMNO CAMPAIGN FIELD OFFICE - DAY

An unremarkable storefront on a suburban street is plastered with Malaysian flags and pro-Najib CAMPAIGN POSTERS.

An IMAM (60s, long gray beard, street clothes) rides his bike up to the storefront. He parks the bike and enters.

EXT. UMNO CAMPAIGN FIELD OFFICE - LATER

The imam exits the building. He's now carrying a suitcase just like the one that Fat Eric gave to Psy's manager.

INT. MOSQUE - DAY

Dressed in a robe and Taqiyah skullcap, the newly greased imam preaches to his CONGREGATION.

IMAM

(in Malay; subtitles)

It is very important that the faithful support our Prime Minister, whose teachings are compatible with the Prophet's.

EXT. MOSQUE - DAY

The imam hands out a cash-stuffed ENVELOPE to each congregant, as they leave the mosque.

EXT. POLLING STATION - DAY

VOTERS line up outside the polling station, which is being monitored by MALAYSIAN POLICE OFFICERS.

A YOUNG WOMAN approaches the line but then thinks better of it, as the officers watch her intently. She walks off.

INT. BACK ROOM (POLLING STATION) - DAY

An ELECTION OFFICIAL takes a BALLOT BOX and throws it into a trash bag. He ties up the trash bag and heads out the back door, as if this is all routine.

INT. CLARE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

ON THE TV SCREEN - A staid BBC NEWS ANCHOR speaks to camera.

BBC NEWS ANCHOR

In Malaysia tonight, Prime Minister Najib Razak's governing coalition won 133 of the 222 seats in Parliament. Despite its victory, this was the ruling party's worst election performance ever, as opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim accused Najib of widespread fraud.

Watching the report with Andrew, Clare barely reacts.

ANDREW

Terrible.

CLARE

But not unexpected.

ANDREW

So what now?

CLARE

I get back to work.

Andrew changes the channel to a SOCCER GAME in progress.

INT. SOCCER STADIUM - NIGHT

Tony Pua is among a group of Malaysian MPs on the side of the stage, **as Opposition Leader ANWAR IBRAHIM** (a slight, bespectacled, but fiery man in his 60s) addresses a massive crowd of his own supporters in a post-election rally.

ANWAR IBRAHIM

Najib and his henchmen believe they are untouchable. But while they have their dirty tricks, we have the support of the people!

The crowd cheers. Tony applauds, too. But a deep sense of trepidation is written all over his face.

EXT. KUALA LUMPUR STREET - DAY

REAL FOOTAGE of thousands of Malaysian PROTESTERS in matching YELLOW T-SHIRTS marching and chanting anti-Najib slogans.

One of the protesters wields a large, cardboard CARICATURE of a jewelry-wearing Rosmah--her eyes replaced with giant dollar signs. Another hoists a homemade puppet rendering of Najib trapped inside a jail cell.

As the protesters make their way toward a grassy area, a line of heavily armed RIOT POLICE block their path. The marchers stop in their tracks, but some of the police officers use WATER CANNONS and TEAR GAS to beat them back.

From an adjacent street, a POLICE VEHICLE comes screeching in and drives directly into the protesters, who try to DIVE out of the way. Two of them are HIT and almost crushed by the vehicle. They lie on the pavement, badly injured.

Several of the protestors then turn on the police vehicle, beating their fists against it. They drag out the DRIVER and begin to turn the police car upside down.

More officers rush in, flailing their BILLY CLUBS wildly.

INT. CHRISTIE'S AUCTION HALL - DAY

WEALTHY ART COLLECTORS and their AGENTS sit shoulder to shoulder. A work of modern art is projected onto a BIG SCREEN: It's the neo-expressionist masterpiece, "Dustheads," by seminal Brooklyn graffiti artist Jean-Michel Basquiat.

ON STAGE - An AUCTIONEER (wearing a stuffy three-piece suit) stands at a podium emblazoned with the Christie's logo.

AUCTIONEER

We move to the Basquiat, showing above the screen. The 1982 work.

INT. PRIVATE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jho is surrounded by a mini-entourage that includes Riza, Joey, and Fat Eric. They watch the proceedings in the adjacent auction hall from a live video feed.

JHO LOW

I don't think I'll have to spend more than 22. Maybe 23.

INT. CHRISTIE'S AUCTION HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The auctioneer looks out on the crowd.

AUCTIONEER

And we'll open this at 20.

A HAND immediately shoots up near the front row.

AUCTIONEER (CONT'D)

21 million. 22 million dollars.

INT. PRIVATE ROOM - LATER

Jho taps his fingers as he speaks into a landline phone.

JHO LOW

24.

Joey rubs Jho's head.

JOEY

Let's fucking go!

RIZA

Come on!

INT. CHRISTIE'S AUCTION HOUSE - LATER

JHO'S ART AGENT (a proper dandy) stands in a special cordoned-off area underneath the screen next to a RIVAL AGENT. Both of them have their hands over their landline phone receivers.

JHO'S ART AGENT

33.5.

AUCTIONEER

A jumped bid at 33.5.

RIVAL AGENT

34.

AUCTIONEER
Didn't work this time. 34 million.

INT. PRIVATE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jho is still on the phone, agonizing now. He puts his hand over the receiver. The air has gone out of the room.

JHO LOW
It's at 42.5. Crazy.

RIZA
There's other Basquiats, bro.

JOEY
Gotta know when to fold 'em.

Jho takes this invitation to surrender as a challenge.

JHO LOW
(into the phone)
43.5. Fuck Kenny Rogers.

Joey and Riza exchange a worried look. Has Jho lost his mind?

INT. CHRISTIE'S AUCTION HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

This has the feel of a knock-down prize fight now.

AUCTIONEER
43 would be next. We're at 42.

JHO'S ART AGENT
43.5

AUCTIONEER
43 million, 500 thousand. Why not?
That's the third jump bid. Will it
work this time?

The rival agent smirks. It's gotten totally out of hand.

AUCTIONEER (CONT'D)
It's worked. I think. 43 million,
500 thousand dollars there for the
Basquiat. Last chance.

Silence. The auctioneer bangs his gavel.

AUCTIONEER (CONT'D)
Sold at 43 million, 500 thousand.

INT. PRIVATE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jho jumps up and down in triumph, as his buddies engulf him in a sweaty, triumphant embrace. They try, but fail, to lift him off the ground. Jho's superhero status has its limits.

A CHRISTIE'S EMPLOYEE enters the room and spots Jho.

CHRISTIE'S EMPLOYEE

Congratulations, sir. Where would you like us to ship this work?

JHO LOW

Uhhh ...

INT. SHEARMAN & STERLING LAW OFFICES - DAY

Jho's high-priced attorney is on the phone with his client.

ATTORNEY

You need a free port.

JHO LOW (O.S.)

A what?

ATTORNEY

Some people call them "secret museums." They're high-tech storage facilities.

JHO LOW

Tax free?

ATTORNEY

Yes, it's an entirely legal way to avoid paying import duties. Climate controlled. Totally safe and anonymous. I know of a very reliable one in Geneva.

EXT. GENEVA FREE PORT - DAY

A barbed wire fence surrounds a drab, concrete compound that contains several dozen massive, gray STORAGE VAULTS.

ATTORNEY (O.S.)

I mean, unless you want to actually display the artwork in your home, which I definitely don't recommend.

A MAN IN A SUIT steps up to a RETINA SCANNER at the fence, which then turns green. He enters the free port.

JHO LOW (O.S.)
No, I can't risk light exposure
decreasing its value.

INT. BALLROOM - NIGHT

REAL FOOTAGE of Leonardo DiCaprio at a "Wolf Of Wall Street" junket. He's seated among several ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALISTS.

LEONARDO DICAPRIO
This film is an indictment of all
of Wall Street. But it's an
indictment about something that's
in our culture, this incessant need
to consume and this incessant need
to obtain more and more wealth with
complete disregard for anyone
except yourself.

The entertainment journalists nod dutifully.

INT. SWISS CHALET - NIGHT

A cozy, rustic retreat well-suited for Christmas with the family. HOLIDAY MUSIC plays on the stereo, as Andrew, Alex (18 now), and Patrick (16) wrap presents.

CLARE'S BROTHER (50s, Christmas sweater) throws a log on the fire, as a festive snowfall blankets the surrounding Alpine landscape outside the framed windows.

IN THE KITCHEN AREA - Clare is on her cell phone.

CLARE
The wolf of what?

EXT. KUALA LUMPUR - DAY

On his phone, Tony walks along a busy street.

TONY PUA
Wall Street. It comes out on
Christmas Day. Rosmah is telling
school officials to make sure every
child in Malaysia sees it.

INTERCUT TONY AND CLARE

CLARE
Odd. What's it about?

TONY PUA
Greed. Excess. It's a strong R-rating. Lots of drugs. Nudity. There's supposedly an orgy scene.

CLARE
Oh, my.

TONY PUA
Rosmah's saying it's a warning about the pitfalls of decadence.

CLARE
She wants to show schoolchildren an orgy, so they know to avoid orgies?

TONY PUA
(laughs)
Rosmah is apparently very anti-orgy. The question is why?

CLARE
You think Jho Low has something to do with this?

TONY PUA
That's for you to find out.

MUSIC CUE: "Holly Jolly Christmas."

MONTAGE

As her family enjoys the holiday, wrapping presents, decorating the tree, and playing board games, Clare works obsessively on researching "The Wolf of Wall Street" and Jho's ties to the film, via Riza and Joey.

She scours social media and comes across the photo that we saw being taken in the Sydney casino of Jho gambling with the caption, "A good way to waste a million dollars." Riza is visible in the background.

Andrew tries to convince her to take a break and enjoy some dessert. She relents for a moment but keeps working away on her cell phone, which she's hidden under the table.

She finally puts the phone away on Christmas morning to enjoy some family time. But then it's right back to work again.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. BEDROOM (SWISS CHALET) - NIGHT

Clare is on her laptop in bed next to Andrew.

ANDREW

Come on. It's after midnight.

ON CLARE'S LAPTOP SCREEN - She's about to publish a new blog post headlined, "Wall Street Greed/Malaysian Money."

Among the images embedded in the post: the "Wolf of Wall Street" promotional movie poster; a photo of Riza and Joey inside the Red Granite Pictures headquarters in Los Angeles; and a wildly drunken Jho partying in Las Vegas.

Clare hits "publish" and closes her laptop. Then she just lies there, staring at the ceiling.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Goodnight.

CLARE

Sorry, what?

He grunts and buries his head in the pillow.

EXT. SWISS CHALET - DAY

Clare's family is engaged in a heated SNOWBALL FIGHT. But she's not participating, staring at her phone instead. Andrew takes the opportunity to get his unsuspecting wife in his sites, as he packs a HUGE SNOWBALL.

CLARE

(still reading her phone)

Oh, my.

Andrew throws the snowball at Clare. It looks like it's going to hit her smack in the forehead, but at the very last moment, she tilts her head just enough. The snowball misses.

CLARE (CONT'D)

Andrew, come look at this.

ON CLARE'S CELL PHONE SCREEN - The analytics on her most recent blog post. It's gotten 128,568 page views.

ANDREW

Wow.

Clare hits refresh. The page view count goes up to 135,121.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
Consider me impressed. What's next?

CLARE

I heard from a source that Riza's building a brand new mansion in L.A. Bought by a shell company, of course. I'd bet anything he paid for it with 1MDB cash.

ANDREW

But if there's no owner listed, how can you prove the house is his?

CLARE

I thought maybe I'd pay him a little unannounced visit.

EXT. LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT - DAY

With the southern California sunshine shimmering against the Pacific Ocean, a British Airways flight descends toward LAX.

INT. WAITING AREA (RED GRANITE PICTURES) - DAY

The floor-to-ceiling windows provide panoramic views of West Hollywood and Beverly Hills. Copies of HOLLYWOOD TRADE MAGAZINES are scattered across the coffee table.

Clare enters and glances at the original "Metropolis" movie poster hanging on the wall next a "Wolf of Wall Street" poster celebrating its status as "The #1 movie in America."

She approaches the RECEPTIONIST (a stylish Asian woman).

RECEPTIONIST

How can I help you?

CLARE

Hi, I'm here for Riza.

RECEPTIONIST

Do you have an appointment?

CLARE

No, I actually have a delivery. Some materials for his new home, but I have conflicting addresses. Could you help me sort this out?

RECEPTIONIST

I'm sorry, but I can't just--

CLARE
It's the English accent, is it?
Hard to trust.

RECEPTIONIST
No, it's not that, I--

Clare leans in closer.

CLARE
The materials I'm delivering are of
an ... intimate nature. And I don't
want to embarrass Mr. Aziz. You can
understand that, I'm sure.

The receptionist gives her a long, hard look.

RECEPTIONIST
912 North Hillcrest.

CLARE
Thanks so much.

Clare turns and leaves quickly.

EXT. BEVERLY HILLS - DAY

Clare and a freelance VIDEO CAMERAMAN exit her rental car on
the side of a hilly road that's lined with HIGH HEDGES
designed to conceal expensive property from prying eyes.

They approach an electronic FENCE at the top of the hill.
Clare pushes the handle on the gate. It creaks open.

CLARE
Come on. Let's have a look.

CAMERAMAN
We could get arrested.

CLARE
I'm a foreigner. I'll just tell
them I was confused.

CAMERAMAN
Where does that leave me?

She enters the property. He follows her reluctantly.

EXT. RIZA'S BEVERLY HILLS COMPOUND - MOMENTS LATER

Clare and her cameraman stroll the opulent grounds. There's a TENNIS COURT, INFINITY POOL, and massive OUTDOOR PATIO. The MANSION and two GUEST HOUSES are still under construction.

Clare tests the sliding door leading into one of the guest houses, but it's locked. She snaps a few photos of the mansion on her iPhone, while the cameraman shoots video.

She eyes a LADDER that's leaning against a palm tree.

CLARE

Hold the base for me, would you?

The cameraman grips the ladder, as Clare begins to scale it. She makes it to the top and starts snapping more photos.

SECURITY GUARD (O.S.)

Hey!

Clare looks down at a beefy SECURITY GUARD, who's about fifty yards away. This guy doesn't look pleased.

CLARE

Riza sent me. He didn't tell you?

SECURITY GUARD

No, he didn't tell me.

CLARE

You do work for Riza Aziz, yes?

SECURITY GUARD

I do. And who the hell are you?

Clare descends the ladder.

CLARE

Oh, just a mum from London.

She turns to her cameraman.

CLARE (CONT'D)

Time to go.

Before the guard can react, Clare DASHES back toward the front gate. The cameraman follows behind her.

CAMERAMAN

You're a crazy woman.

CLARE

So I've been told.

EXT. HERMES BEVERLY HILLS - DAY

Four MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT SECURITY GUARDS flank two SUVs parked outside the ultra high-end luxury store.

INT. HERMES BEVERLY HILLS - CONTINUOUS

Rosmah browses the store with Riza.

RIZA

It's Scorsese's highest-grossing movie ever.

ROSMAH

Oh? That's good?

RIZA

Yeah, mom. That's good. We've taken in almost \$400 million worldwide.

ROSMAH

You should try for a billion.

He just shakes his head, as she points out a bright-yellow HANDBAG on display. It's next-level tacky.

ROSMAH (CONT'D)

I think yellow is a very good color for me. Do you agree?

Riza's face is now buried in his phone. He looks worried.

ROSMAH (CONT'D)

Riza. The yellow one, yes?

RIZA

Yeah, yeah. It looks great.

ROSMAH

Always on that silly phone.

ON RIZA'S CELL PHONE SCREEN - Clare's latest blog post is headlined, "WOW! Riza Aziz's Secret Beverly Hills Mansion."

Riza scrolls through the post, which contains photos and video of his property. Rosmah reads over his shoulder.

ROSMAH (CONT'D)

Bitch. This woman could make everything come crashing down.

RIZA

It's just a little blog, mom. If we ignore her, she'll go away.

ROSMAH

My husband ignores problems. Now you see how his problems have grown. Ignoring is not how you make problems go away. You make problems go away by taking care of them.

RIZA

So what do you suggest?

She shoots her son a steely-eyed glare.

INT. CLARE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Looking frazzled, Clare hands Andrew a letter.

CLARE

Cease and desist letter from the law firm representing Riza's movie company. They're demanding I retract my blog post.

ANDREW

Or else ... what?

CLARE

They'll sue us for everything we're worth.

ANDREW

They'll be disappointed when they find out how little we're worth.

Andrew glances at the window. A FLASH of movement on the street below catches his eye.

CLARE

What?

ANDREW

Nothing. Thought I saw something.

Clare's young researcher AMY (22, slight in stature and utterly fearless) enters, carrying an open laptop.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Hello. Who are you?

CLARE

This is Amy. My new researcher.

ANDREW

Not in it for the money, I take it?

AMY

No, I'm in it for the scalps.

(to Clare)

Look at this.

ON AMY'S LAPTOP SCREEN - A web site that looks nearly identical to SarawakReport, except it's called SarawakReports (with an "s"). It's filled with unflattering photos of Clare and attempts to discredit her.

ANDREW

(furious)

My God. They're not even finished threatening you with financial ruin and they've already moved on to slandering you? We have to do something about this.

Clare notices just how riled up her typically staid husband has become. It unsettles her.

CLARE

Maybe I should take my foot off the gas pedal, just for a bit.

ANDREW

No. It's quite clear that you've really hit a nerve. The only thing to do now is to keep going.

A smile crosses Clare's face.

CLARE

I wasn't expecting you to say that.

AMY

I found some interesting leads on Rosmah's recent jewelry purchases. Shall we get back to work?

CLARE

Yes. We shall.

INT. LONDON COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Clare and Amy are seated at a small table by the window, typing away on their laptops.

Amy glances across the shop at a BLONDE WOMAN in a long overcoat, who's pretending to read a newspaper but seems to be watching Clare.

THROUGH THE WINDOW - Across the street, a BURLY MAN (shaved head, looks like a Russian hitman) is standing on the corner, pointing a camera with a telescopic lens directly at Clare.

Noticing him, Clare slams her laptop shut.

AMY

What are you doing?

Clare storms out of the coffee shop.

EXT. LONDON STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Clare marches across the street and approaches the burly man.

CLARE

Hey! You!

The man takes a couple of steps backward. But Clare gets right up in his face, as PEDESTRIANS stop to watch.

CLARE (CONT'D)

I saw what you're doing. Stop it right now. It's bloody rude.

The man looks unsure of what to say or do. Finally, he tucks his camera under his arm and breaks into a SPRINT--trying to get away from her as quickly as he can.

CLARE (CONT'D)

Coward!

She folds her arms across her chest and watches the man fade into the anonymity of central London, as Amy rushes out of the coffee shop and joins her side.

AMY

Maybe now they'll get the message that you can't be intimidated.

CLARE

Maybe.

INT. WINDOWLESS ROOM - DAY

The old FBI agent offers Clare a cup of tea.

CLARE

It was full-on cyber warfare buttressed by physical intimidation. I later found out that Najib paid off some political mudslingers in America to write columns disparaging me.

YOUNG FBI AGENT

Josh Treviño and Ben Domenech.
Yeah, we know about that.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ATTORNEY

Our understanding is that it was a fairly standard PR operation.

CLARE

Bribing journalists?!

OLD FBI AGENT

Again, we find these tactics distasteful. But we have to deal in what's legal and illegal here.

She takes a sip of tea. Collects herself.

CLARE

Thank God Mahathir wasn't as frightened of Najib as you all are.

They shoot daggers at her. She turns away, disgusted.

INT. NAJIB'S OFFICE - DAY

Over tea, Najib sits with **former Malaysian Prime Minister MAHATHIR MOHAMAD** (early 90s, but still healthy looking). The mood is tense between them.

MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

A leader is nothing without the trust of his people.

NAJIB

And I have that.

MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

You had it. Now, it's gone. Because of your selfish move to consolidate power using tainted funds.

NAJIB

Oh, please. You know that in politics, cash is king.

(MORE)

NAJIB (CONT'D)

But everything I do is for my party-
-our party, Mahathir. And by
extension, our country.

MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

You and your wife have become
symbols of just how out of touch
the ruling elite has become.

NAJIB

You have no right to bring Rosmah
into this.

MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

I am only trying to speak honestly
with you, in the hope that you will
change. Because if you don't, you
will face consequences.

NAJIB

Mahathir, you were my mentor. I
honor that. But I am your Prime
Minister. Remember your place.

Mahathir appears utterly unmoved by Najib's entreaty, as he
considers his next move.

INT. LONDON THINK TANK - NIGHT

Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim addresses a group of pro-
democracy REFORMERS and Malaysian EXPATS. Clare sits in the
audience, taking notes.

ANWAR IBRAHIM

Sodomy. That's what the regime has
charged me with in its effort to
silence me. I do give them points
for creativity. But it shows how
desperate Najib is. I humbly ask
you, our vibrant Malaysian expat
community in London, to help me
mount my legal defense.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

As Anwar shakes hands with well-wishers, Clare approaches an
AIDE TO ANWAR (an earnest, young Malaysian man in a suit).

CLARE

Hiya. Sorry to bother.

AIDE TO ANWAR

It's no bother. I am an admirer of
your reporting. We all are.

CLARE

Well, thank you. But I'm still
looking for the back-breaker.

AIDE TO ANWAR

Well, I very much hope you find it.

CLARE

What are you hearing back home? Any
leads for me to sink my teeth into?

AIDE TO ANWAR

Not really.

CLARE

"Not really"? That sounds more like
"yes, maybe."

The young aide looks around to make sure no one's listening.

AIDE TO ANWAR

I hesitate to tell you this. But we
were recently approached by a man
who claims to have proof of the
criminal 1MDB conspiracy in the
form of emails exchanged among the
chief perpetrators themselves.

CLARE

What? That's massive. Why on earth
would you hesitate to tell me that?

AIDE TO ANWAR

Because I don't trust this man. He
wants money.

CLARE

OK. But sometimes in reporting, you
don't need trust straight away. You
just need to start a conversation.

AIDE TO ANWAR

He sent me a strange document. I
took a photo. Give me your mobile
number, and I'll send it to you.

CLARE

That would be lovely. Thank you.

AIDE TO ANWAR

But I'm telling you. He's in Thailand, and the Thai government is very close to Najib. This has all the markings of a ruse.

CLARE

I'm actually quite good at sniffing those out.

Clare catches the eye of an UNKNOWN MALAYSIAN WOMAN--the only female member of Anwar's entourage. The woman looks like she wants to tell Clare something. But instead, she turns away at the last moment--not yet confident enough to make the approach.

INT. HEATHROW AIRPORT TERMINAL - DAY

Clare drags a roller bag through the busy terminal. She approaches a gate with a flight departing for BANGKOK.

INT. BANGKOK HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

Seated on a couch, Clare catches up on the latest news on her laptop, as a stoic and intimidating HOTEL SECURITY GUARD stares at her. Clare catches his gaze. He keeps staring.

A tall, tanned, and fit man approaches Clare. This is Xavier Justo, the former head of PetroSaudi's London office, whom we met briefly earlier on.

XAVIER JUSTO

Hi, are you Clare?

Clare takes in Xavier's unexpectedly striking appearance.

CLARE

Yes. And you?

XAVIER JUSTO

I'm the man who wants to help you put a lot of people in prison.

She nods slowly, careful not to react.

CLARE

Shall we talk somewhere quiet then?

INT. PRIVATE HOTEL MEETING ROOM - DAY

The kind of lifeless, bare-walled space that's usually reserved for boring meetings. This isn't one of those.

Xavier places his laptop on a desk and pulls up a chair for Clare and then another one for himself.

XAVIER JUSTO

I want you to know: For me, this is about money. Nothing more. I'm asking for \$2 million.

Clare can't help herself from letting out a laugh.

XAVIER JUSTO (CONT'D)

This is what I'm owed by PetroSaudi where I worked for many years.

CLARE

PetroSaudi? The oil company?

XAVIER JUSTO

Actually, they're mostly in the Jho Low business. They made me cover my own expenses when I opened the London branch. And then, they refused to repay me when I left. I'm not asking for any more than what they owe me.

Clare folds her hands, trying to take this guy seriously.

CLARE

Look. I don't have that kind of money. And even if I did, I wouldn't pay you.

XAVIER JUSTO

Then I'm not sure what you and I are doing here.

CLARE

Let me see what you have. And then maybe, I can turn to some allies of mine and ask whether they might be able to pay you. I have to say though, I'm not optimistic.

XAVIER JUSTO

It's very dangerous for me to even be speaking to you about this.

CLARE

You think I'm not putting my own safety on the line by meeting with you? I'm currently the target of a well-financed smear campaign by the Malaysian government. I have men photographing me on the street.

XAVIER JUSTO

I appreciate that you, too, are invested in this. But there are people who would quite literally have me killed, if they knew they could get away with it.

CLARE

I can promise you that I will not publish anything you show me without your permission, and I won't betray you as a source.

XAVIER JUSTO

I'm familiar with your work. You're a diligent reporter. I trust you.

He spins his laptop screen toward Clare.

XAVIER JUSTO (CONT'D)

Ten minutes. No notes.

MONTAGE

Clare reviews the scanned documents on Xavier's laptop screen, as he maintains control of its touchpad.

He spins through a bewildering series of documents and emails, opening and closing them at high speed.

She ends up taking a couple of notes. He doesn't protest.

END MONTAGE

He closes his laptop. Clare exhales. She's gobsmacked.

CLARE

How many emails are there?

XAVIER JUSTO

About 330,000 covering 2009 to 2011. They were like amateur criminals at the time. Sloppy. Wrote everything down.

(MORE)

XAVIER JUSTO (CONT'D)

Once they got in deeper, they realized how compromising it all was, so they physically removed the company's servers from London and Geneva. But I'd already downloaded everything.

CLARE

Do the PetroSaudi guys know you have this?

XAVIER JUSTO

Yes. For months, I tried to negotiate with Patrick Mahony. That ended when he sent me one particular email. I don't respond well to threats.

CLARE

What did it say?

XAVIER JUSTO

"What troubles me so much is the way I see this situation ending--with the destruction of you."

CLARE

He sounds lovely.

ON CLARE'S NOTEBOOK - She underlines the phrase, "\$700 million vanished" three times.

CLARE (CONT'D)

Did I see a payment of \$700 million to some outside entity?

XAVIER JUSTO

That was the first bribe paid to Good Star, Jho Low's shell company.

CLARE

Maybe it was a commission for handling the deal?

XAVIER JUSTO

Commissions are normal. Five percent. Maybe even 15. \$700 million is not a commission. That is criminal.

CLARE

But it's insane. I mean, you can't just take \$700 million in broad daylight and get away with it.

XAVIER JUSTO

Actually, that's up to you now.

He's right. And the notion invigorates her.

XAVIER JUSTO (CONT'D)

Jho is under pressure now, but someone needs to turn the screws. You see that what I have is real. Go and tell your friends that they can have the weapon they need to make things right in Malaysia and take back the election they should have fairly won the last time.

CLARE

I'll try.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Clare enters from the bathroom. She's on her cell phone.

CLARE

He wants \$2 million.

ANDREW (O.S.)

I can start clipping coupons.

ON CLARE'S CELL PHONE SCREEN - She looks at her checking account balance. It's at -£43.21.

CLARE

I don't think that would quite cover it.

CLARE (CONT'D)

I'm exhausted.

ANDREW (O.S.)

You'll find a way. You always do.

CLARE

Good night.

She ends the call and collapses onto the bed.

There's a knock on the door, causing Clare to jolt.

CLARE (CONT'D)

(scared)

Who is it?

She gets out of bed and creeps up to the door nervously.

BELLBOY (O.S.)
Message from the front desk.

Clare looks through the peep hole and sees the bellboy standing there. She hesitates for a moment, wondering if she should trust this person. She opens the door cautiously.

BELLBOY (CONT'D)
I'm sorry to bother you, ma'am. But we had a call to the hotel. A man asked if you were staying here. Are you expecting someone?

CLARE
No. And who are you?

BELLBOY
Please don't worry. I work for the hotel. We told him nothing. If he calls back, we'll call the police.

CLARE
Thank you.

She moves to close the door quickly. But the bellboy continues to stand there.

CLARE (CONT'D)
Is there something else?

BELLBOY
I'm sorry, ma'am. But you are the editor of Sarawak Report, yes?

Clare gasps. She takes a step back. Who is this guy?

CLARE
Why do you ask?

BELLBOY
I am Malaysian. And I just want to say ... Thank you for what you are doing for our country.

He bows and then leaves Clare standing there alone.

EXT. KOREATOWN - NIGHT

Under the shadow of the Empire State Building, the Manhattan neighborhood buzzes with a post-bar, late-night crowd.

INT. KOREAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A down-home, 24-hour Korean BBQ joint, complete with tables featuring their own charcoal grills to cook your own food.

Flanked by a pair of PRIVATE SECURITY GUARDS, Jho is seated with Joey, Fat Eric, and a couple other YOUNG GUYS.

Jho is on one of his phones, looking frazzled, as his two OTHER CELL PHONES lie on the table next to his uneaten meal.

JHO LOW
(into the first phone)
No, the Viceroy Hotel payments are
due on the 11th.

FAT ERIC
Isn't Park Lane due on the 12th?

JHO LOW
Shut the fuck up, Eric.

One of the other two cell phones buzzes.

JHO LOW (CONT'D)
Hold on.

He picks up the second phone and speaks into it.

JHO LOW (CONT'D)
Hi, let me call you back. No, I
don't want to cancel it.

The third cell phone rings. Jho starts banging his head on the table, overwhelmed by the demands of his enterprise.

Australian **supermodel MIRANDA KERR** (30, tall, sky-blue eyes, wavy brown hair and dimples) enters wearing a formal gown. She spots a friend in Jho's group and heads for their table.

MIRANDA
Hi!

She flashes her supermodel smile, kisses her friend on the cheek, and gives a little wave to everyone else at the table.

Jho raises his head slowly and does a double-take. He's absolutely gobsmacked by her beauty.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)
I'm Miranda.

Jho manages to collect himself enough to pull the jacket off of the seat next to him, offering it to her.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)

Oh, thank you. Sorry I'm dressed
like this. I just left a gala.

She sits. Jho offers her his hand.

JHO LOW

I'm Jho. With an H. H to the izzo.
[beat] That's how you spell it.

He lets out an uncharacteristically awkward belly laugh.

MIRANDA

Yes, I've heard so much about you.

She offers him a smile and a pat on his knee. Our hardened criminal mastermind is putty in her hands.

INT. TOWN CAR - NIGHT

Jho sits in the back of the town car heading down Broadway. He starts composing a text message.

ON JHO'S CELL PHONE SCREEN - "Please order a heart-shaped diamond necklace for Valentine's Day. Inscription: 'MK.' \$1-\$2 million is fine. Size matters."

Jho sends the text. Seconds later, he remembers something.

He composes another text: **"And that 22 carat diamond necklace we talked about for our other friend, Black Heart."**

Jho puts his phone down. It buzzes immediately.

"Are you SURE? Liquidity has become VERY tight You don't need the added scrutiny." Jho composes his response: **"Yes. Do it."**

Jho pockets his phone and gazes out the window.

INT. JHO'S NYC PENTHOUSE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Flickering candles set the romantic mood. Jho takes in his epic view with Miranda by his side. He holds her hand.

JHO LOW

Happy Valentine's Day, baby.

One of his cell phones buzzes in his pocket. He silences it with his free hand and takes out a jewelry box instead.

MIRANDA

Oh my God. You're crazy.

His expression sinks for a moment.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)
Good crazy, I mean.

She opens the jewelry box and gasps on cue when she sees what's inside: a heart-shaped diamond necklace.

MIRANDA (CONT'D)
Jho. This is ... this is just ...

JHO LOW
Just 11 carats. But there will be something bigger on our trip.

MIRANDA
You sure you still want to go? I know you're stressed about work.

JHO LOW
I can work from anywhere. That's the best thing about being a billionaire. Well, that and the yacht.

She kisses him, as he helps her put on the necklace.

EXT. OFF THE NEAPOLITAN COAST - DAY

Jho's brand new MEGAYACHT, even grander than the Alfa Nero, floats along the craggy Neapolitan coast.

Music Cue: Tame Impala's "The Less I Know The Better."

MONTAGE

IN THE DINING ROOM - Jho greets Miranda for dinner on seven consecutive nights. Just after they sit down each time, he presents her with a new piece of jewelry. Diamond earrings one night, a bracelet the next, a ring after that. And so on.

Miranda acts surprised and appreciative, and Jho feeds off of her surface-level affirmation. But by the fifth night, the act starts to wear thin for them both.

On the sixth night, Jho is starting to sweat noticeably. By the seventh night, he appears to be physically unwell.

Miranda tries to help him out of his chair, but he insists on staying. Two of his cell phones ring simultaneously. He silences them both and insists on trying to enjoy their meal. Neither of them is having any fun now.

END OF MONTAGE

INT. CLARE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Bleary-eyed, Clare opens the refrigerator. She stares at her options. Nothing is appealing.

Her phone buzzes. She answers it.

CLARE

Tony. Give me good news.

INT. TONY PUA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Tony is on the phone with Clare at his desk.

TONY

Do you know who Tong Kooi Ong is?

INTERCUT TONY AND CLARE

CLARE

Owner and publisher of The Edge in Singapore. They do good reporting, though they toe the line with Najib a little too much for my taste.

TONY

Tong is a friend of mine. He's aware of the material you've been pursuing, and he may be interested in acquiring it.

CLARE

Would he really pay for the story?

TONY

Jho recently called him a traitor for raising questions about his role at 1MDB. Tong doesn't take well to insults. His blood is up.

CLARE

\$2 million worth of blood?

TONY

Tong's blood is quite rich.

CLARE

Alright. Give me his number.

EXT. SINGAPORE CHANGI AIRPORT - DAY

A British Airways plane comes in for a landing.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Clare sits at a conference table with **TONG KOOI ONG** (50s, disheveled in an eccentric multi-millionaire way), **owner and publisher of The Edge**, two **LAWYERS**, and the **Editor of the Edge, HO KAY TAT** (50s, more subdued than his boss).

A MUTED TV is tuned to a FINANCIAL NEWS CHANNEL. All eyes are on Clare.

CLARE

It's quite likely the biggest theft in the history of the world. And it's also the story of the century.

TONG KOOI ONG

We are very interested in making a deal with your source.

HO KAY TAT

But how can we be certain his material is genuine?

CLARE

I'm sure you have people who can authenticate it.

TONG KOOI ONG

We do. And I've never pretended to be above paying for a good story.

HO KAY TAT

But \$2 million ...

CLARE

It'd be the most anyone ever paid for a single news story. Ever. And it's entirely worth it.

LAWYER #1

It's the exposure we can't afford.

LAWYER #2

Here in Singapore, the laws against libel are--

Tong puts up a hand to silence his own lawyer.

TONG KOOI ONG

The best defense against libel is truth. If we can show the documents are real, we have a responsibility to publish them.

ON THE TV - Anwar Ibrahim is in handcuffs, being escorted into a police van. The accompanying BREAKING NEWS banner reads, "**Malaysian Opposition Leader Sentenced to 5-Year In Prison for Sodomy.**" PROTESTERS pour out onto the streets.

CLARE

Oh, no.

The TV coverage lands on one particular MALAYSIAN WOMAN who has her two SMALL CHILDREN in tow.

She stands on the outskirts of the protesters. Rather than appearing merely angry, she looks scared. Defeated even.

CLARE (CONT'D)

(pointing at the TV)

This right here. This is the first cannon shot. Najib is going to war.

TONG KOOI ONG

This story is about Jho Low and his cronies in the business world. It's not about Najib.

Clare opens her mouth to respond. But at the last moment, she decides to let Tong keep talking.

TONG KOOI ONG (CONT'D)

But these are troubled times. So let's not quibble any longer. It is time to act. Tell your source I am ready to make his payment.

CLARE

Brilliant.

INT. TONG'S PRIVATE OFFICE - DAY

Expensive ARTWORK competes for wall space with framed front-pages of past issues of The Edge.

Two IT EXPERTS analyze data from a laptop and hard drive, as Clare, Tong, Ho, and Xavier Justo look on.

TONG KOOI ONG

Assuming my tech guys don't see any problems, I'll have the \$2 million wired to you this afternoon.

XAVIER JUSTO

Can we do it another way? I don't have an account set up that can accept that kind of payment.

HO KAY TAT

It's surprisingly easy.

CLARE

Just ask Jho Low.

One of the IT experts gives Tong a thumbs up.

IT EXPERT

Everything looks legitimate.

He hands Xavier's hard drive back to him. Xavier then immediately gives the drive to Tong.

XAVIER JUSTO

I'm just not comfortable with having that much money wired to me at once. Let's find another way.

Tong looks up at the wall and points to a striking, impressionistic PAINTING of a flower garden.

TONG KOOI ONG

You want to take the Monet?

XAVIER JUSTO

Excuse me?

TONG KOOI ONG

It's an original. You can use it as collateral.

XAVIER JUSTO

What would I do, put it in my checked baggage?

CLARE

It's probably more of a carry-on.

TONG KOOI ONG

I see your point.

XAVIER JUSTO

We can figure out payment later.

Tong looks surprised that Xavier trusts him to such a degree.

TONG KOOI ONG
Deal.

He shakes Xavier's hand.

CLARE
Last thing: I get a copy of the data, too, right? I would like to run my own story on my blog.

TONG KOOI ONG
That works for me, as long as you don't beat us to the punch. And remember: This is a financial scandal. We must avoid politics.

Clare smiles her best sweet, innocent smile.

CLARE
I understand your concerns, and we must certainly tread cautiously.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

Clare exits the building and hails a cab.

XAVIER JUSTO (O.S.)
Clare.

She turns around and Xavier is standing there on the sidewalk behind her. He hands her a thumb drive.

XAVIER JUSTO (CONT'D)
Something a little extra.

CLARE
Excuse me?

XAVIER JUSTO
I've been looking at the material for months. This contains the hundred most important documents that will prove everything.

CLARE
I can't pay you.

XAVIER JUSTO
You deserve to break the story. You were pursuing it when no one else was. And it is about the regime.

She pockets the thumb drive.

CLARE

I thought you said you were only in this for the money.

XAVIER JUSTO

I have a plane to catch.

With that, he turns and heads off in the other direction.

INT. SINGAPORE AIRPORT FOOD COURT - NIGHT

Clare and Tony sit on the same side of a table in the middle of the busy food court. They're focused on Clare's laptop, which has Xavier's thumb drive plugged into a USB port.

ON CLARE'S LAPTOP SCREEN - A PDF document outlining the terms of the original partnership between 1MDB and PetroSaudi.

CLARE

Look at this. PetroSaudi just removed \$700 million from the deal, as what they call an "advance."

She clicks through a series of incriminating EMAIL EXCHANGES from Patrick Mahony, Jho, and Jho's lawyers and accountants.

TONY

An "advance" for what?

CLARE

You're a numbers guy, Tony. Could there be some legitimate purpose?

TONY

No. It's clear from these emails that the entire point of the joint venture between 1MDB and PetroSaudi was to siphon off that \$700 million, which they buried in dozens of pages of legal nonsense.

GATE AGENT (O.S.)

(over the intercom)

British Airways Flight 762 to London Heathrow is now ready to board at Gate A7.

CLARE

Is it possible that Najib was somehow unaware of all of this?

TONY

This is Malaysia. Business and politics are the same. And nothing happens until the Boss Man says OK.

CLARE

This is even more egregious than I'd suspected. These guys were nothing but common bank robbers.

TONY

And Najib was driving the getaway car. He's still driving it.

Tony takes a bite of food.

TONY (CONT'D)

Mahathir is our only hope now that Anwar has been arrested. He's the only one in Malaysia with the clout to mount a serious challenge to Najib. But it's a long-shot.

CLARE

I need to publish right away. This thing makes Watergate look like a tea party.

TONY

Najib will stop at nothing to destroy you.

CLARE

If the difference between right and wrong still means something, that's a risk I'm going to have to take.

INT. CLARE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Clare and Amy stand at Clare's laptop on the kitchen island, as Andrew and her two boys look on.

CLARE

You ready for this?

AMY

Ready as ever.

CLARE

Well, if you think the scrutiny we've been getting so far has been tough, buckle up because it's about to ratchet up to a level
(MORE)

CLARE (CONT'D)
 we can't even fathom. The regime
 will look for any minor mistake--a
 misspelled name even--to say we're
 nothing but crass rumor-mongers.
 And a lot of people will believe
 them, so we have to make sure we
 get absolutely everything right.

AMY
 Well, when you put it like that,
 it's a bit scary.

CLARE
 It's alright to be afraid. But it's
 not OK to let that fear hold us
 back from exposing these crimes to
 the world. The people of Malaysia
 are counting on us not to bugger
 this up. They're not asking us to
 save them. They just want a chance
 to save themselves.

AMY
 Well. Let's get to work.

ANDREW
 Hear, hear!

MONTAGE

MUSIC CUE: Chvrches' 2015 song, "Never Ending Circles."

Amy sorts through the data, which contains a dizzying array of emails and documents, as Clare begins drafting her blockbuster blog post.

We highlight bits and pieces on screen, like Jho explicitly conveying his desire to "**use PetroSaudi International as a front**," and Mahony replying that he'd be "**happy to do that.**"

Clare plays with a few different possible headlines before landing on, "**HEIST OF THE CENTURY: How Jho Low Used PetroSaudi As 'A Front' To Siphon Billions Out Of 1MDB!**"

END OF MONTAGE

Everyone gathers around Clare. She hits "publish."

PATRICK
 So, what now?

CLARE
 We let the dominos fall. And then
 it's on to the next one.

EXT. MEGAYACHT - DAY

Jho's yacht approaches the postcard-perfect island of CORFU.

ON THE POOL DECK - Red-faced, his T-shirt soaking through with sweat, Jho paces nervously.

He's talking on one phone, gripping his second and third device in his free hand. Miranda looks out at the stunning view, pretending not to be eavesdropping on his call.

JHO LOW

Please don't worry, ma'am. No one reads that silly little blog. I have everything under control.

INT. WALK-IN CLOSET (PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE) - CONTINUOUS

Rosmah speaks to Jho from inside the most enormous, ostentatious WALK-IN CLOSET you've ever seen. It's bigger than most people's apartments, filled to the brim with DESIGNER HANDBAGS, CLOTHES, and JEWELRY.

ROSMAH

You fool! How could you be so sloppy? I will not have my life destroyed by the stupidity of an incompetent juvenile like you.

EXT. MEGAYACHT - CONTINUOUS

Jho holds the phone away from his ear.

JHO LOW

I'm losing the signal. Please send the Prime Minister my regards.

He ends the call.

MIRANDA

Is everything OK?

JHO LOW

Fine.

MIRANDA

You can tell me if it's not. Who was that on the phone?

JHO LOW

Just Black Heart, worrying as usual. Everything's perfect.

(MORE)

JHO LOW (CONT'D)
Let's just enjoy the view, OK? It's
a beautiful day.

Jho begins to rub Miranda's shoulders. She tenses up.

We PAN DOWN to reveal the name of Jho's megayacht, painted in big letters on the side of the vessel: "EQUANIMITY."

EXT. LONDON STREET - NIGHT

Clare stands in front of a PHONE BOOTH. She checks her watch.

Wearing a backpack, the UNKNOWN MALAYSIAN WOMAN whom we saw previously in Anwar's entourage approaches her cautiously.

CLARE
Nice to meet you in person.

Clare shakes her hand. The woman unzips her backpack and pulls out a manilla folder. She hands it to Clare.

UNKNOWN MALAYSIAN WOMAN
I actually almost met you once
before. At the event with Anwar.

CLARE
I thought you looked familiar.

UNKNOWN MALAYSIAN WOMAN
I was reluctant to come to you
then, out of fear for my own
safety. I cannot stand back any
longer. You have already done much
in your reporting, but what I have
to show you now comes from a
whistleblower who works at the
highest levels of government. It
will change everything.

CLARE
I hope so. Thank you for doing
this. I know it's a risk.

UNKNOWN MALAYSIAN WOMAN
No. Thank you. You're the one who
has to put your name on this.

INT. CLARE'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Clare and Andrew are each reading The Guardian. Well, actually, Andrew is reading it. Clare is scanning.

CLARE

Unbelievable. Nothing. They still haven't even include a brief summary of my reporting.

ANDREW

So what? It's 2015. Do people even read newspapers anymore?

CLARE

You're reading one right now.

ANDREW

I'm more fossil than person. But I take your point.

CLARE

I have a new one in the works on Najib's finances. I think it'll be my biggest scoop yet. But The Edge is determined to protect him from real scrutiny. I don't know that I can work with them again.

ANDREW

So what are you thinking?

CLARE

I wonder if I should team up with a bigger publication. Like the Wall Street Journal maybe.

ANDREW

I see the logic in working with an American paper. Global impact and all. But wouldn't they just take all the credit?

CLARE

It's a risk. But at the end of the day, I'm not in this for credit.

ANDREW

You're the expert on this stuff. Whatever you think is best.

She stares at the ceiling, mulling it over in her head.

INT. WALL STREET JOURNAL BUREAU - DAY

As the newsroom buzzes with activity, Clare sits with a **Wall Street Journal reporter** (young and supremely confident). They scrutinize the DOCUMENTS that the Malaysian woman gave her.

CLARE

Right here. This is the big one.

WALL STREET JOURNAL REPORTER

Goldman deposited their proceeds
from the \$3 billion with BSI.

CLARE

And then \$1.2 billion was taken out
right away.

WALL STREET JOURNAL REPORTER

Moved into this shell company,
Tanore Finance Corporation. Owned
by Eric Tan, aka "Fat Eric."

CLARE

Then \$681 million was wired from
Tanore to this Wells Fargo account,
Just before the 2013 election.

WALL STREET JOURNAL REPORTER

This is incredible. The account is
actually in Najib's own name.

CLARE

Guess he wasn't especially worried
about being caught back then.

WALL STREET JOURNAL REPORTER

This is going to be a massive
story.

CLARE

Happy to help.

He gives her a strange look, as if he's reluctant to
acknowledge her role in bringing this story to him.

INT. MALAYSIAN PARLIAMENT FLOOR - DAY

Tony Pua stands on the floor of the national legislative body, delivering an impassioned speech, while holding up a copy of The Wall Street Journal. It's front-page headline: "Investigators Believe Money Flowed to Malaysian Leader Najib's Accounts Amid 1MDB Probe."

TONY PUA

(in Malay; subtitles)

*Our government is now the subject
of countless international
headlines, including this damning
report in the Wall Street Journal.*

(MORE)

TONY PUA (CONT'D)
Meanwhile, 1MDB's debt is approaching \$12 billion. Where did the money go? Directly into Najib's personal bank account? Where are the massive profits that the Malaysian people were promised? I am calling for an immediate official inquiry into 1MDB's misappropriation of funds.

LOUD JEERS from the majority of RULING PARTY MPs. Tony cups his ears and waves his arms, fully embracing their scorn.

INT. PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE - SAME

Najib watches Tony's speech live on TV with an AIDE.

On a nearby couch, a red-faced Rosmah reads the printed-out copy of The Sarawak Report. Behind her, an AIDE opens a SAFE and places a giant BAG inside before locking it again.

NAJIB
(in Malay; subtitles)
Have Tony Pua's passport revoked.

The aide nods and leaves the room quickly.

ROSMAH
Revoking one man's passport is not nearly sufficient. This is a crisis, and you act as if it's a mere nuisance. You are a weak man--

NAJIB
That's enough!

Rosmah is stunned by her husband's sudden anger.

NAJIB (CONT'D)
I've given you everything you could ever ask for, yet you continue to question me at every turn. I am the Prime Minister. And I have a plan. Now stay out of the way.

Shaken by her husband's audacity, Rosmah leaves the room. Najib picks up a landline phone and dials.

NAJIB (CONT'D)
(into the phone)
Close it down.

And with that, he hangs up and waits.

INT. 1MDB HEADQUARTERS - DAY

A half-dozen 1MDB OFFICERS frantically gather up DOCUMENTS from filing cabinets.

SUPER: "July, 28, 2015."

They hand the documents over to an OFFICE MANAGER, who promptly feeds them through a PAPER SHREDDER.

INT. THAI PRISON - DAY

Xavier Justo is thrown into a dusty JAIL CELL where a couple dozen dangerous-looking PRISONERS await him.

SUPER: "Bangkok, Thailand."

A THAI POLICE OFFICER locks the cell door.

INT. THE EDGE (KUALA LUMPUR BUREAU) - DAY

Two Malaysian POLICE OFFICERS enter the newsroom and confront Ho Kay Tat at his desk. One of the officers slaps a pair of handcuffs onto Ho.

HO KAY TAT
(in Malay; subtitles)
This is illegal!

The officers lead him out of the newsroom.

EXT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Sirens blare, as smoke billows out of the high-rise police headquarters in downtown Kuala Lumpur. OFFICE WORKERS stream out of the building, as FIREFIGHTERS rush in.

SUPER: "Royal Malaysian Police Headquarters."

Dressed in a button-down shirt and khakis, Kevin Morais wanders onto the scene, staring up at the blaze.

POLICE OFFICER
Stand back.

KEVIN MORAIS
Where's the fire?

POLICE OFFICER
Tenth floor.

KEVIN MORAIS

That's where we keep our files on
major white-collar crime cases.

POLICE OFFICER

Yes, well. It looks like arson.

Morais's expression sinks.

INT. MALAYSIAN ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE - Day

Attorney General ABDUL GANI PATAIL sits at his computer.

ON HIS COMPUTER SCREEN - A Reuters report is headlined, "Malaysian PM reshuffles cabinet, dumps deputy after 1MDB criticism." There's a knock on his door.

ABDUL GANI PATAIL

(in Malay; subtitles)

Come in.

The door opens. A SECURITY GUARD enters. The Attorney General knows exactly what this means: He's next to go. Patail raises his arms to show that he's not going to put up a fight.

The security guard escorts him out.

INT. CAR - DAY

Clare drives into a school parking lot. She's on the phone with Andrew and she looks both shaken and furious.

CLARE

This is it. Najib is going full-on
strongman. It's a disaster.

ANDREW

But at least you got the story out.
People know the full extent of his
corruption now.

CLARE

I should've listened to you and
just published on my own. The
Journal didn't even mention me in
their story. Typical men, relying
on a woman to do the work for them
and then taking all the credit.

She parks her car and opens the door angrily.

EXT. SCHOOL - MOMENTS LATER

Clare approaches the central London high school on foot. She's now scrolling through Twitter on her phone.

ON CLARE'S CELL PHONE SCREEN - A REAL TWEET from Tony Pua from July 28, 2015: **"@tonypua: The purge commences. The Attorney-General is replaced. Any flicker of hope that the prime minister might be charged for misdeeds is extinguished."**

CLARE

No, Tony. Don't give up on me now.

Her phone buzzes. It's an unknown number.

CLARE (CONT'D)

(into the phone)

Hello? [beat] My email address?

INT. MALAYSIA ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION OFFICE - DAY

A sea of BUREAUCRATS work in rows of identical cubicles.

Kevin Morais stands at a DOCUMENT SCANNER and places a series of PRINTOUTS on the machine. We can see the name "Najib" in the headline of one of the printouts.

As a CO-WORKER walks by, Morais quickly flips the pages over. Once the coast is clear, he starts to scan the documents.

INT. KEVIN MORAIS' CONDOMINIUM - NIGHT

Morais sits on a couch, typing on his out-of-date laptop.

ON HIS LAPTOP SCREEN - Morais pulls up an anonymous Gmail account that he's created for this very task. He types Clare's email address in the "to" line. In the subject line, he types, "Formal charges against Najib."

Morais attaches the documents he scanned at work earlier in the day and types, **"This is the reason why Najib removed Gani Patail as AG. From your source in KL. Keep up the pressure."**

He hits "send."

INT. CLARE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Clare and Amy stare at Clare's laptop.

ON CLARE'S LAPTOP SCREEN - The email from Kevin Morais.

AMY

So the A.G. was on the brink of bringing criminal charges against Najib, who then suddenly fired him before he could act? It doesn't get more blatantly corrupt than this.

Clare looks uncharacteristically hesitant.

CLARE

It doesn't. So then why do I have this strange, sinking feeling in my gut about publishing this?

AMY

Do you trust the source?

CLARE

I don't even know his name, but he was the one who turned me onto 1MDB in the first place. I'm fairly certain he works for the anti-corruption commission.

AMY

Sounds like someone in the know.

CLARE

Najib is absolutely desperate now. Who knows what the regime is capable of when their backs are really up against the wall.

Amy considers this.

AMY

Well. We're already banned in Malaysia. We don't have to publish.

Clare looks her right in the eyes.

CLARE

Yes. We do.

INT. MALAYSIAN HOMES - VARIOUS

MONTAGE

EVERYDAY MALAYSIANS--including the YOUNG WOMAN we saw being intimidated from casting her ballot in the election--exchange WhatsApp messages, sharing Clare's blockbuster report, which is headlined, "ARREST WARRANT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER! - The Real Reason The Attorney General Was Fired - EXCLUSIVE!"

END OF MONTAGE

INT. MALAYSIAN POLICE HEADQUARTERS CONFERENCE ROOM - Day

Inspector-General of Police TAN SRI KHALID ABU BAKAR (late-50s, muscular and intimidating in his military-style uniform) stands before the cameras.

An unflattering, mug shot-style photo of Clare is affixed to the wall behind him.

TAN SRI KHALID ABU BAKAR

Today, the Royal Malaysia Police obtained a warrant for the arrest of Clare Rewcastle Brown. Ms. Brown is charged with stirring sedition-- a crime punishable by up to 20 years imprisonment. She may call herself a journalist, but Malaysia will not stand for her lies.

INT. MALAYSIAN CABINET ROOM - DAY

Najib meets with his new, entirely loyal CABINET MINISTERS.

NAJIB

This is a challenging moment for our nation, but it's no time to panic. We must face down the threats posed by political terrorists and act firmly against them to preserve our democracy.

The **newly appointed Attorney General MOHAMED APANDI ALI** (carefully trimmed mustache, a Najib lackey) raises his hand.

MOHAMED APANDI ALI

Prime Minister, what are you going to do about these dangerous leaks to the press about our work?

NAJIB

We are addressing this problem.

An expression crosses over Najib's face that we haven't seen yet. It's nothing less than frightening.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY

A middle-class, high-rise building in a quiet neighborhood on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur.

Kevin Morais exits the building and walks to his WHITE SEDAN, which is parked in an adjoining PARKING LOT.

EXT. KUALA LUMPUR ROAD - DAY

Heading toward downtown Kuala Lumpur, Morais' white sedan weaves its way through traffic.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Behind the wheel, Morais fiddles with the radio dial. As traffic slows in front of him, he checks his watch.

Frustrated, he hits the horn and then weaves around the car in front of him, nearly causing a collision.

KEVIN MORAIS
Babi saitan.

Morais continues onto a stretch of road that's less congested. Something catches his eye in the REAR-VIEW MIRROR.

A COMPACT PICKUP TRUCK pulls up beside his sedan. The DRIVER (a slight man dressed in all black) stares at Morais.

Morais shrugs, as if to say, "What the Hell do you want?" The compact pickup truck slows down and Morais pulls ahead of it.

As traffic begins to build, Morais slows down again.

BANG!

The truck rams Morais' sedan from behind.

Furious, Morais jerks the gearshift into "park," unbuckles his seatbelt, and pushes open the driver's side door.

EXT. KUALA LUMPUR ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Morais storms up to the pickup truck on foot.

KEVIN MORAIS
Alamak!

Suddenly, the driver and THREE OTHER MEN jump out of the pickup truck simultaneously.

Morais now realizes that this is a setup. He makes a desperate run for it. Before he can get far, two of the men from the truck POUNCE on him.

They drag Morais, kicking and screaming, into the back of the pickup truck, which promptly speeds away.

EXT. RAVINE - NIGHT

Police DETECTIVES wielding FLASHLIGHTS cordon off with yellow tape a wooded area that's surrounding a stream.

A detective STUMBLES away from the scene, struggling to maintain his composure after what he's just seen.

INT. CLARE'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Clare, Amy, and Andrew stare at the TV.

ON THE TV SCREEN - A BBC ANCHOR reports on the grisly murder.

BBC ANCHOR

A top prosecutor for the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, Kevin Morais' body was found in a ravine, entombed in a barrel of cement.

The coverage cuts to **Kevin Morais' brother, CHARLES MORAIS** (heavyset, morose), who sits at a table making a statement.

CHARLES MORAIS

Kevin was driven by his sense of right and wrong. And for that, he paid the ultimate price.

Clare wipes back the tears that are welling up in her eyes.

CLARE

Kevin Morais was my source. It had to have been him.

Andrew embraces her. He looks deeply shaken.

ANDREW

Clare, this isn't about getting the story anymore. It's about your life. Our lives.

She buries her face in his chest.

INT. LONDON STREET - NIGHT

On her phone, Clare walks briskly along a grimy alleyway. Her teenaged son, Alex, is on the other end of the line.

CLARE

I don't care what your friends are
doing. You're not going to Italy.

ALEX (O.S.)

Ridiculous. Why not?

CLARE

I don't want you traveling right
now. It might not be safe.

ALEX (O.S.)

This isn't fair. Why should my life
be put on hold because of you?

As she rounds a corner, a BLACK CAR creeps up behind her,
maintaining a distance of about fifty feet.

Clare stops in her tracks. She turns around and stares at the
trailing car. The driver's face is obscured in the shadows.

CLARE

Hang on, Alex.

ALEX (O.S.)

What?

CLARE

Just stay on the line, OK?

ALEX (O.S.)

Mom. What's going on?

Clare scans her surroundings, searching for someone to call
out to. But she's all alone in this dark alley. She breaks
into a fast walk, her heavy breath visible in the cold London
air. The car follows her.

She rounds a corner and breaks into a full-on SPRINT. She
eventually reaches a PUBLIC square with people milling about.

Clare turns around. The black car is gone. She catches her
breath and checks her phone.

ON CLARE'S CELL PHONE SCREEN - An incoming call from an
unknown international number.

CLARE

Alex, I'll call you back.

She ends the call with her son and answers the incoming call.

CLARE (CONT'D)

Hello?

CHARLES MORAIS (O.S.)
Is this Clare?

CLARE
Yes, who is this?

EXT. KUALA LUMPUR STREET - CONTINUOUS (DAYTIME IN MALAYSIA)

Charles Morais exits his lawyer's office and walks out onto a busy Kuala Lumpur street.

CHARLES MORAIS
This is Charles Morais. I found
your number in my brother's
personal files.

INTERCUT CLARE AND CHARLES MORAIS

CLARE
Where are you?

CHARLES MORAIS
KL. I just left my lawyer's office.

Clare looks over her shoulder. Thinks she sees something and takes a couple of steps around a corner.

CLARE
Are you crazy? You essentially just
accused Najib of murder. You need
to leave the country. Now.

CHARLES MORAIS
I was very careful. I didn't say--

CLARE
You know what they did to your
brother. You think they'd hesitate
to do it to you, too?

Charles considers this. She's right.

CHARLES MORAIS
I'll leave as soon as I can. And
perhaps you should consider moving
to a safer place yourself?

Breathing heavily, Clare clutches her knees. Tears begin to stream down her face.

CHARLES MORAIS (CONT'D)
Clare? Are you OK?

Clare begins bawling her eyes out.

CLARE

I never should've put your brother
in danger. I'm so sorry.

CHARLES MORAIS

You didn't know.

CLARE

If I didn't publish--

CHARLES MORAIS

But you did publish. And because
you did, people know just how
corrupt Najib really is. And they
won't stand for it now. They can't.

Clare nods as the tears continue to flow freely. She wants to believe him, yet she knows better.

CHARLES MORAIS (CONT'D)

My brother did not die in vain. I
was calling to thank you.

Clare takes a deep breath and tries to compose herself.

CLARE

Take care of yourself, OK?

CHARLES MORAIS

You too, Clare.

INT. PUB - MOMENTS LATER

Her face red and wet, Clare enters the traditional ENGLISH PUB, which is busy with a LUNCHTIME CROWD.

She approaches the BARTENDER, who's drying glasses.

CLARE

Just water, please.

Clare takes a seat on a bar stool and starts scrolling through her email on her phone.

ON CLARE'S CELL PHONE SCREEN - A flurry of concerned messages from colleagues, family members, and sources, including one that reads, **"Clare: What happened to Kevin was a warning to all of us. I can't speak to you anymore."**

As the bartender sets her water down on the hardwood bar, Clare nearly jumps out of her seat, startled by the noise.

BARTENDER

You alright?

CLARE

Yes, fine.

Clare grips the glass of water, her hand shaking. She downs it in a couple of gulps and begins composing an email.

ON CLARE'S PHONE SCREEN - She types in the subject line, "**Of Interest To U.S. Authorities?**"

EXT. JHO'S NYC PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - DAY

Fat Eric is lounging on the couch, playing a video game with a huge bowl of noodles resting on his chest. Looking stressed, Jho enters and gives him a disdainful glare.

JHO LOW

Yo.

FAT ERIC

What?

JHO LOW

We need to think about getting out of New York.

FAT ERIC

Vegas this weekend?

JHO LOW

No, I mean, we need to think about leaving the U.S. Forever maybe.

Fat Eric pauses the game and turns to Jho.

FAT ERIC

I thought you said not to worry.

JHO LOW

Cash is tight. We'll be under less pressure if we lay low for a bit.

FAT ERIC

(in Hokkien; subtitles)

Laying low? That doesn't sound fun.

JHO LOW

All of the accounts are in your name. You think I'm the only one who could end up in jail?

The gravity of their predicament appears to hit Eric for the first time.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Clare is alone at her laptop, scarcely able to keep her eyes open. Andrew wanders in. He pours himself a cup of water.

ANDREW

How about getting some sleep?

CLARE

I need to be fully prepared for anything they might ask.

ANDREW

It's like Churchill said: The Americans always do the right thing, once they've exhausted all other options.

CLARE

He never actually said that. But the sentiment is exactly what I'm worried about. There are still plenty of bad options remaining.

Clare gets back to work, as Andrew leaves her to it.

INT. WINDOWLESS ROOM - DAY

Our timeline has now caught up with Clare's ongoing meeting with the two FBI agents and the D.O.J. attorney. She remains visibly frustrated by their apparent intransigence.

YOUNG FBI AGENT

You've given us plenty of useful information, Ms. Rewcastle.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ATTORNEY

We look forward to continuing our review process into this matter.

Clare stares at her like he she three heads.

CLARE

And how long will that bloody take? The Malaysian people are going to choose a Prime Minister next year, and the deck is already stacked against their chances of getting a free and fair election.

(MORE)

CLARE (CONT'D)
What the Hell happened to American
leadership on the world stage?

A heavy silence hangs in the air for a long beat.

OLD FBI AGENT
We have our process, too.

Without another word, Clare rises and walks out of the room. The door SLAMS shut behind her.

INT. CYPRUS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS - DAY

Looking like he hasn't slept in days, Jho finishes filling out a form, as a PASSPORT OFFICIAL observes him.

SUPER: "Cyprus"

Jho hands the form back to the passport official, who takes a quick glance.

CH-CHUNK. A heavy STAMP presses down on Jho's brand new Cypriot passport.

PASSPORT OFFICIAL
Congratulations, sir.

JHO LOW
Is this effective immediately?

PASSPORT OFFICIAL
(nods)
You are now an official resident of
the Republic of Cyprus.

JHO LOW
Thank you very much.

Jho exhales. He looks deeply relieved--even a little cocky again. And then, one of his phones BUZZES.

ON JHO'S CELL PHONE SCREEN - An INCOMING TEXT MESSAGE from Fat Eric: **"Shit! Are you watching this?"**

Jho tenses up again instantly. He quickly heads out the door.

INT. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - DAY

REAL FOOTAGE of **U.S. Attorney General LORETTA LYNCH**, flanked by American flags, and standing at a podium emblazoned with the official U.S. Department of Justice logo.

SUPER: "July 20, 2016. Washington, D.C."

LORETTA LYNCH

The Department of Justice has filed a civil complaint, seeking to forfeit and recover more than \$1 billion in assets associated with an international conspiracy to launder funds stolen from 1 Malaysia Development Berhad, or 1MDB, a company wholly owned by the government of Malaysia.

EXT. CYPRUS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS - DAY

Jho watches a LIVE VIDEO FEED of Lynch's press conference on his cell phone. He turns the video feed off and then dials Fat Eric, who answers on the first ring.

FAT ERIC (O.S.)
I'm getting my go bag ready.

JHO LOW
Do it quietly. And don't panic.

FAT ERIC (O.S.)
Don't panic? We are fucked!

JHO LOW
Just stick to the plan. I'm leaving right now.

Jho ends the call and heads toward his RENTAL CAR. He looks around nervously, like he's expecting to get arrested at any moment.

INT. CLARE'S KITCHEN - DAY

With Amy and Andrew standing behind her, Clare watches a live video stream on her laptop.

ON CLARE'S LAPTOP SCREEN - Loretta Lynch is at the podium.

LORETTA LYNCH

Unfortunately, sadly, tragically, a number of corrupt 1MDB officials treated this public trust as a personal bank account. Today's case is the largest single action ever brought by the Department's Kleptocracy Recovery Initiative.

CLARE

They actually came through. I can't believe it.

ANDREW

Congratulations, darling. You've done it.

CLARE

Done what?

Andrew's gleeful expression evaporates.

CLARE (CONT'D)

This is a start. But Jho is still out there. Najib is still in power. I haven't done anything at all yet.

Andrew looks down at the floor. She's right.

INT. CLARE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Clare's phone buzzes. She sees who's calling and answers it.

CLARE

Did you see they scheduled the election for a Wednesday?

INT. TONY PUA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Tony Pua sits at his desk, speaking to Clare on the phone.

TONY

And they're closing the polls at 5pm, so working people have less opportunity to vote. Typical Najib. He's going to steal it again.

INTERCUT CLARE AND TONY

CLARE

Everything we've done. The lives that have been destroyed. Has it really all been for naught?

TONY

Mahathir is about to announce he's running against his old protégé, Najib. He built this country from the ground up. His credentials in Malaysia are unrivaled.

CLARE

Credentials? Tony, the election is gonna be rigged again. Not even Mahathir can win this fight with one hand tied behind his back.

TONY

You're probably right. But we have to at least try to get Najib out of office. What else can we do?

EXT. MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE - DAY

SECURITY GUARDS escort Rosmah and Najib to their awaiting town car. He looks exceedingly uneasy. In contrast, she appears poised and at peace.

ROSMAH

All you have to do is win the election, and this will all go away. And you have more than enough resources at your disposal to win the election.

NAJIB

But Mahathir. He's a living legend.

ROSMAH

Barely living. Mahathir is 92 years old. Everyone who was once loyal to him is loyal to you now.

NAJIB

Not everyone.

ROSMAH

There are many, many people in Malaysia who are relying on you to win for their own livelihoods. Project strength, and it will all be OK, just as it's always been.

They get into the back of the town car.

INT. MALAYSIA - VARIOUS

MONTAGE

Najib and Rosmah barnstorm across Malaysia in advance of the 2018 general election, focusing on Najib's rural base.

They appear together at Muslim religious ceremonies, glad-handing with local leaders, and pumping up supporters, who're mostly dressed in matching RED SHIRTS.

Najib starts to gain more confidence, as he sees how fired up his base is. This doesn't look like someone who's in any real danger of losing an election rigged in his favor.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. STADIUM - DAY

Mahathir Mohamed speaks at a HUGE CAMPAIGN RALLY. Now the candidate running against Najib, he's flanked by opposition leaders in Parliament, including Tony Pua.

MAHATIR MOHAMAD
(in Malay; subtitles)
I spent decades helping to build UMNO. But Najib and his cronies have coopted the party for their own self-interest. We must defeat him for the sake of our nation's future. It is now or never.

The crowd cheers wildly, as does Tony Pua.

MONTAGE

Mahathir speaks at LARGE RALLIES--mostly in big cities--to crowds of ANTI-NAJIB VOTERS, who wear YELLOW T-SHIRTS.

These people are at least as fired up as Najib's supporters. But as we look closer, we can see evident signs of concern.

At one rally, an OLD WOMAN IN A SHAWL quietly prays as Mahathir speaks. She's been down this dangerous road of hope before, and it always ends the same way: in defeat.

END OF MONTAGE

EXT. POLLING STATIONS (VARIOUS) - DAY

A NEWS REPORTER narrates the scene, as Malaysians turn out in MASSIVE NUMBERS at polling stations around the country.

SUPER: "May 9, 2018."

NEWS REPORTER (O.S.)
It's Election Day in Malaysia where embattled Prime Minister Najib Razak remains a heavy favorite to retain power, even amid accusations of corruption in the 1MDB scandal.

The lines at the polls extend for nearly a mile in some places. These people are absolutely determined to vote, in spite of the odds.

INT. HALLWAY (CLARE'S APARTMENT) - DAY

Clare paces the hallway anxiously, as she scans through news sources on her phone. Andrew approaches from the kitchen.

ANDREW
Big day, huh?

He hands her a copy of the London Times SPORTS SECTION.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
If they take care of business against Brighton, Man City will break the all-time record for most wins in a Premier League season.

CLARE
Funny.

ANDREW
It's out of your hands now. Get your mind off of it. Take a walk.

CLARE
Take a walk? That's your solution to this completely unbearable tension. Take a walk?

ANDREW
Yes.

CLARE
You're impossible.

She grabs her coat.

ANDREW
Where are you going?

CLARE
I'm taking a walk.

She heads out the front door and slams it behind her.

EXT. ST. JAMES'S PARK - DAY

A brilliant spring day in London. Everyone's out and about.

Clare enters the park and gazes at the colorful FLOWERBEDS that are laid out invitingly in front of BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

She walks along the lake, as a family of PELICANS draws a group of gawking TOURISTS. Her phone buzzes. It's Andrew.

CLARE

Hi.

ANDREW (O.S.)

Some people are here to see you.

CLARE

What? Who?

ANDREW (O.S.)

I don't know them.

CLARE

Should we call the police?

ANDREW (O.S.)

No, I don't think you'll want to do that.

She's worried, confused, and annoyed that he won't say more.

CLARE

I'll be home in ten.

EXT. CLARE'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Clare walks along a narrow ALLEYWAY in Westminster. As she approaches her building, we can start to hear people CHANTING. The chanting gets louder and louder.

Clare turns a corner. On the sidewalk in front of her building are dozens of MALAYSIAN EXPATS in yellow t-shirts. They're singing, swaying, chanting, and embracing one another. Some of them look pretty hammered.

As Clare gets closer to her building, an OLDER MALAYSIAN WOMAN in a yellow T-shirt points her out.

OLDER MALAYSIAN WOMAN

Itu dia!

Everyone turns toward Clare. They break out into wild CHEERS.

CLARE
What is all this?

The crowd parts and makes a path for Clare, as she approaches her building.

AN EXUBERANT MALAYSIAN MAN hands her a bottle of champagne.

EXUBERANT MALAYSIAN MAN
Najib has lost!

CLARE
What? Are you sure?

A pleasantly DRUNK MALAYSIAN WOMAN stumbles toward Clare and EMBRACES her. Clare lets out a little smile.

DRUNK MALAYSIAN WOMAN
We've done it. Yaaaaah!

Clutching the champagne bottle, Clare unlocks the door.

CLARE
Let's not count our chickens--

The crowd's CHEERS drowns her out. She enters her building.

INT. CLARE'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Boiling over with nervous energy, Clare is pouring over ELECTION RETURNS on her laptop with Amy and her two sons looking over her shoulder.

CLARE
Look at these numbers from Sarawak.
It's the biggest swing against
Najib of any state.

PATRICK
Go, mom!

Amy is staring at her phone. She looks worried.

AMY
Oh, God. My friend in Ipoh says he
saw an unmarked car at a polling
station hauling away ballots.

CLARE
I knew it. This isn't over. They're
gonna find a way to steal it.

ALEX

Can they really do that, mom? The world is watching now.

CLARE

I don't know. I--

Andrew enters, holding the bottle of champagne that was handed to Clare previously.

ANDREW

The BBC just announced Mahathir is about to give his victory speech. It's official. The opposition has won a majority.

He begins to twist off the wire cage surrounding the bottle.

CLARE

Wait!

ANDREW

Clare.

She grins from ear to ear.

CLARE

Can I open it?

Clare hugs her husband tightly and then takes the champagne bottle from him. She's about to pop the cork when suddenly--

AMY

(staring at her phone)
Hold on. Najib and Rosmah are trying to flee the country.

CLARE

What?!

Clare takes Amy's phone and reads the text on her screen.

CLARE (CONT'D)

We'll track down the tail number of the getaway plane.

PATRICK

But Sarawak Report is blocked in Malaysia, mom. No one will be able to read it there.

Clare is already texting with a source.

CLARE
They people will find a way.

INT. TOWN CAR - DAY

Najib and Rosmah both sit upright in the back seat, as their DRIVER speeds onto a highway. Rosmah is fully panicked.

ROSMAH
How could you let this happen? We should have had a plan.

NAJIB
Be calm. We'll be in Jakarta in an hour, and we'll regroup there.

ROSMAH
(in Malay; subtitles)
Faster!

The driver steps on the gas pedal, and the car accelerates.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

MALAYSIAN PEDESTRIANS are gathering on the road. They exchange messages on their cell phones and gossip in Malay.

ON A PEDESTRIAN'S CELL PHONE - A WhatsApp message shares a link to a new SarawakReport blog post from Clare that reveals Najib's getaway plane's TAIL NUMBER and flight plan.

As the pedestrian stares at his phone, Najib and Rosmah's TOWN CAR speeds past him, almost running him over.

PEDESTRIAN
(in Malay; subtitles)
That's them! They're getting away!

The town car accelerates toward the airport.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

Hundreds of MALAYSIAN CITIZENS are gathered outside the main airport gates. An OLDER WOMAN checks her cell phone.

ON THE WOMAN'S CELL PHONE SCREEN - Several WhatsApp messages share the getaway car's last known whereabouts.

OLDER WOMAN
 (in Malay; subtitles)
 Check every car. They should be
 here soon.

The Malaysian citizens stop and pull over arriving CARS, searching for Najib and Rosmah. But they keep coming up empty.

INT. TOWN CAR - DAY

The getaway car approaches the main airport access road. The driver slows down, as he notices the crowd that's gathered ahead.

ROSMAH
 (in Malay; subtitles)
Just go!

DRIVER
 (in Malay; subtitles)
Go through the crowd?

ROSMAH
 (in Malay; subtitles)
They'll move. If they don't, it's their fault.

The driver grips the steering wheel tightly, unsure of what to do at first. He takes a deep breath and then TURNS off of the main road and onto a DIRT ROAD.

DRIVER
 (in Malay; subtitles)
We'll go around them.

The dirt road is empty of pedestrians. It looks like they have a clear path to the airport.

Rosmah pats Najib on the knee. They're going to make it.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

The Malaysian citizens look frustrated, as they continue to search arriving cars in vain. A YOUNG MAN checks his phone.

ON THE YOUNG MAN'S CELL PHONE SCREEN - A WhatsApp message reads, "We've lost them."

YOUNG MAN
 (in Malay; subtitles)
Damn it!

EXT. BACK ENTRANCE (AIRPORT) - DAY

An ELECTRONIC GATE opens, and the town car drives through. The car heads for the terminal.

EXT. RUNWAY - DAY

A PRIVATE JET taxis onto the runway and accelerates rapidly. Moments later, it's in the air.

INT. PRIVATE JET - DAY

CLOSE ON a FLIGHT ATTENDANT, who carries two cocktails on a tray, as she makes her way up the aisle. She stops beside a plush leather seat.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
Sir. Your beverage.

A hand reaches out and takes the drink. We PULL BACK TO REVEAL that it's not Najib or Rosmah, but rather Jho Low.

JHO LOW
Thank you.

The flight attendant hands the second cocktail to Fat Eric, who's seated on the other side of the aisle.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT
Enjoy the flight, gentlemen.

Jho takes a sip of his drink and gazes out the window, plotting his next move.

INT. TOWN CAR - DAY

Another CROWD appears on the road ahead. The driver slows down. He begins to execute a three-point turn.

ROSMAH
(*in Malay; subtitles*)
What the Hell are you doing?

Rosmah reaches out to hit the driver. Najib holds her back.

NAJIB
Rosmah. It's over.

The town car heads away from the crowd.

EXT. MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE - DAY

Uniformed anti-corruption POLICE OFFICERS remove dozens of BOXES, overflowing with jewelry and other luxury items, from the opulent residence. They load the boxes into trucks.

Najib and Rosmah are each led out of the house in HANDCUFFS and escorted into awaiting police vehicles.

ROSMAH
(to Najib)
Do something! These men are
criminals. They should be arrested!

Najib just looks straight ahead, like she's not even there.

The officers load Najib and Rosmah into separate police cars.

INT. CLARE'S BEDROOM - DAY

Clare is fast asleep but still clutching her phone. A sliver of morning sunlight cuts through the window, landing on her face. She still doesn't stir.

Andrew enters quietly, carrying a tray with two glasses of champagne. He takes the phone out of Clare's hands.

ANDREW
Good morning.

She rubs her eyes. He hands her a glass of champagne.

CLARE
A little early, isn't it?

ANDREW
It's 5 o'clock in Kuala Lumpur, and
we still haven't celebrated. I'm so
proud of you, darling. You really
pulled it off.

She sits up in bed, at last allowing herself to enjoy a small sip of champagne.

CLARE
Jho was sighted in China last
night. I was about to write up a
new post before I passed out.

ANDREW
You can take one day off.

CLARE

You think the crooks are going to
take a day off?

She puts the champagne glass back down on the tray and reaches for her laptop.

Andrew shakes his head in awe and profound admiration for Clare, as she begins working on her next story.

THE END

POSTSCRIPT

ROLL CREDITS over REAL FOOTAGE of Clare Rewcastle Brown speaking at anti-corruption and events around Malaysia. Everyday Malaysians stop her wherever she goes to hug her and snap selfies.

She's more motivated than ever to seek justice for the people of her birth country.

CUT TO:

REAL FOOTAGE of Tony Pua speaking on the floor of Parliament.

SUPER: "In 2018, Tony Pua was reelected with the largest majority in the history of the Malaysian parliament."

CUT TO:

REAL FOOTAGE of Joey McFarland yukking it up at a movie premiere juxtaposed with Riza Aziz in a Malaysian courtroom.

SUPER: "Red Granite Pictures agreed to pay \$60 million to settle the Justice Department's lawsuit, as Riza Aziz was charged with money laundering in Malaysia. Those charges were eventually dropped, and Riza was allowed to keep \$83 million of the \$250 million in 1MDB funds that he was accused of stealing."

CUT TO:

REAL FOOTAGE of Najib and Rosmah in court, facing trial for corruption, money laundering, and tax evasion in Malaysia.

SUPER: "Among the valuables that Malaysian police seized from Najib and Rosmah's properties: 2,200 rings, 1,600 brooches, 1,400 necklaces, 567 handbags, 423 watches, and 14 tiaras. The total value of the jewelry alone: \$273 million. They each faced dozens of criminal charges in Malaysia. But after Mahathir's government was brought down in February of 2020 and the country slid back into more autocratic rule, Najib

returned to his seat in Parliament."

CUT TO:

REAL FOOTAGE of Timothy Leissner pleading guilty in U.S. Federal Court of conspiring to launder money and violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

SUPER: "Timothy Leissner was ordered to forfeit \$43.7 million as part of his guilty plea deal. Goldman Sachs is negotiating with U.S. authorities to pay what could be a record fine."

CUT TO:

FILE FOOTAGE of Prince Turki being detained at the Riyadh Ritz-Carlton.

SUPER: "On November 4, 2017, Prince Turki was arrested and detained in Riyadh as part of a massive "anti-corruption" purge of Saudi elites, conducted by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. As of 2020, his status in Saudi Arabia is unknown."

CUT TO:

REAL FOOTAGE of Xavier Justo with his wife and young child.

SUPER: "Xavier Justo's three-year prison sentence in Thailand was commuted by one-third in a royal pardon. Tong Kooi Ong paid him the agreed upon \$2 million in early 2019."

CUT TO:

Still images of Patrick Mahony and Tarek Obaid.

SUPER: "The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission issued arrest warrants for Patrick Mahony and Tarek Obaid in February of 2020. Their whereabouts are unknown."

CUT TO:

REAL FOOTAGE of U.S. Justice Department court proceedings against Jho Low.

SUPER: "Jho Low reached a civil settlement with the U.S. government, in which he agreed to stop fighting for the \$650 to \$900 million worth of assets that were seized beginning in 2016. He still faces criminal charges in Malaysia."

CUT TO:

Former New Jersey Governor CHRIS CHRISTIE argues before a JUDGE.

SUPER: "The agreement allowed Jho's legal team, which

included former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, to be paid using \$15 million in stolen funds."

END CREDITS.

EXT. CHINESE MANSION - DAY

A modern MEGA-MANSION is perched atop a hill that overlooks the serene Chinese countryside.

INT. CHINESE MANSION - CONTINUOUS

The lavishly-decorated living room featuring a massive, wood-burning FIREPLACE.

Wearing slippers and sweatpants, Jho approaches the fireplace with a FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH in hand. He places the photograph on the mantle.

We can now see that the photo is of Jho posing with Leonardo DiCaprio at a "Wolf of Wall Street" red carpet premiere. He adjusts it carefully for maximum visibility.

JHO LOW
Is it centered?

PULL BACK TO REVEAL Fat Eric standing there.

FAT ERIC
It's perfect.

FADE TO BLACK.