

DEEPPFAKE REVENGERS

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FADE IN:

EXT. RURAL HOUSE - NIGHT

SUPER: "Present Day"

An unmarked black van crunches snow and ice as it creeps to a stop. Three black-clad members of a Ninja-like team (30s-50s) sneak up to the house with a sunken basement with a light on. They all wear latex gloves. A small light is above the front door.

The leader, (JACK 50s), is a huge former Hollywood stuntman. He stops ten feet from the door and uses hand signals to send his bodyguards, HARRY (40s), a bearded monstrous man, and IVAN (40s), a brawny Russian man, to the side and back of the house.

Jack pulls out a taser gun and sends an electric charge to the doorbell camera. The doorbell camera sparks and the light above the door goes out too.

Jack enters the unlocked front door and slips inside.

INT. RURAL HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jack hears a hockey game on TV in the family room.

Jack sneaks up behind AMIR KUMAR (45) in his easy chair.

Jack's eyes open wide as he sees a big dog sound asleep in a doggy bed by the fireplace.

The dog doesn't budge.

Jack tases Amir on the neck. Amir shakes, but the dog doesn't move.

Jack pulls out a hypodermic shot and injects a fluid into Amir's neck.

Jack is joined by the other Team members who hold taser guns and have hypodermic needles on their vests.

They all stare at the sleeping dog. Jack points to Harry to give the dog a shot, but Harry shakes his head, "No."

Jack shakes his head in disgust and pulls out a portable BRAND iPhone speaker as they tip-toe to the door down to the basement.

Jack opens the door and holds out the speaker. Amir Kumar's perfect fake voice comes out of the speaker.

AMIR (V.O.)
It's just me. I'm bringing you down
hot tea.

INT. RURAL HOUSE, BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

The covert team sees three young women; LORI KUMAR (21, a tall, beautiful bookworm with purple glasses); CASSY NEWSOME (21) a frail, shorter woman; and TINA JACKSON (21) an African American in black-frame glasses.

The women are on a couch watching a movie. They have older laptop computers, Earbuds, and inexpensive smartphones.

They turn their heads to face the intruders. Lori holds a can of pepper spray.

Tina has a small stun gun in one hand and her phone in the other.

Cassy holds a dog-poop shovel.

LORI
My real dad knows we're coffee
drinkers.
(yells)
Get 'em!

TINA
(yells into her phone)
Call 9-1-1.

The three intruders fan out in the basement with their stun guns and syringes.

Lori expells pepper spray toward Jack but the pepper spray spreads quickly to the rest of the room.

Everyone is affected, but Jack fights through it and stuns and injects Lori.

Tina's stun gun gets kicked out of her hand, and she is stunned and injected.

Cassy puts up a good fight with the poop shovel until we HEAR a final ZAP.

EXT. RURAL HOUSE - NIGHT

SUPER: "Two hours later."

A fancy silver SUV pulls up to the garage and presses the garage door opener. The door doesn't open.

DETECTIVE MARTI KUMAR (40s), a British-born beauty in a blue business suit and snow boots, steps out of the SUV and shakes her head in disgust. She sees the light on in the basement.

She heads to the front door and notices the porch light is out. She walks by the door-cam without a thought and steps into the unlocked house.

INT. RURAL HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Detective Kumar races to the family room to find Amir passed out in his easy chair. She shakes him.

No response from Amir and the dog is not in his bed.

Feels for a pulse while yelling. She sniffs the air.

DETECTIVE KUMAR
Pepper spray? Lori! Get up here!

No response.

She tilts Amir's neck and sees two red spots.

She takes out her phone and dials 9-1-1 while yelling louder.

DETECTIVE KUMAR (CONT'D)
Lori! Take those Earbuds out and
get your butt up here!
(to 9-1-1)
This is Detective Marti Kumar at
1031 County Road 9. I need an
ambulance and police back-up for a
home invasion. My house!

She RACES downstairs.

INT. RURAL HOUSE, BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Detective Kumar finds her daughter and two friends passed out on the couch. She checks for a pulse on each of them.

Detective Kumar sees the can of pepper spray.

She breathes a sigh of relief as Lori regains consciousness.

Lori is groggy and loopy as she holds her neck.

LORI
What the hell happened?

Detective Kumar gets in her daughter's face and puts a finger to her lips to remain silent as Tina and Cassy stir. Both are groggy and loopy too.

Detective Kumar looks at the three laptop computers (closed) on the coffee table with smartphones and Earbuds by each of them.

Detective Kumar helps Lori to her feet and steadies her.

Detective Kumar points upstairs and motions for Tina and Cassy to stay put and be quiet.

Detective Kumar helps Lori toward the stairs, but Lori stops and takes a step back toward her laptop, but Detective Kumar pulls her upstairs.

EXT. RURAL HOUSE - LATER

Two police cars and an ambulance are in front of the house, but the ambulance takes off.

INT. SILVER SUV - SAME

Detective Kumar is in the front seat with Amir, who is still groggy. Lori, Cassy, and Tina are in the backseat looking more alert but remaining silent.

DETECTIVE KUMAR
We were the victims of a calculated home invasion.

LORI
Home invasion, Mom?

DETECTIVE KUMAR
You heard me. You four were tased with stun guns, and the EMTs found a single needle puncture on each of your necks. I have a CSI team in there now. Our door cam was shorted out, and so were our porch light and garage door opener. Nothing was stolen, so you three better tell what you've been up to on those computers of yours.

(MORE)

DETECTIVE KUMAR (CONT'D)

You better not lie to me because my detectives are downloading your hard drives now and they'll be going after your email, text messages, and social media links next.

LORI

Is Wilbur okay?

DETECTIVE KUMAR

Upstairs, asleep in your room where you should have been! And what are you girls doing here on a school night? You have dorm rooms.

TINA

Who were they? We were expecting three boys from our coding class.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

(angry)

Who? What's this about?

CASSY

Or the crazy Californians. It's all my fault.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

Californians? What have you ladies got yourselves into?

LORI

I can explain. Are we in some kind of trouble?

DETECTIVE KUMAR

Oh, you're in deep trouble. Those taser spots on your necks were seven centimeters apart. American tasers leave marks five centimeters apart. These we not only pros, they were foreign pros. And it's my job to find out what they were after.

Another Detective, MIKE (40) in a suit and wearing latex gloves, steps out of the house to the silver SUV.

Detective Kumar rolls down the window to see three "bugs" in the other detective's hands.

MIKE

You were right, Detective. At least one of them was Russian. I'm afraid we're talking espionage.

The Detective whispers to Marti.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

Thanks, Mike. Meet me back at the station.

CASSY

What about our computers?

Detective Kumar rolls up her window and begins reading the women their Miranda rights as Mike looks on and Detective Kumar starts up her SUV to back up.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

You have the right to remain silent...

LORI

We'll talk, Mom. We'll talk!

DETECTIVE KUMAR

The boys in your coding class, the Californians, and now the Russians? You'd better talk!

CASSY

It started two weeks ago when these three idiots in our coding class...

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. UNIVERSITY, COMPUTER CLASSROOM - DAY

Twelve Students (18-21) are on BRAND Tablet and Laptop computers. Three male students including, STANLEY HOLCOMBE (21), a tall, handsome, but baffled student; MIGUEL LOPEZ (21) who laughs and talks too loud; and WEI CHIN (21), the serious coder in the group. They work in cubicles on one side of the room. The PROFESSOR (50s; male) sits behind a computer in the front of the room.

Lori, Cassy, and Tina work in a cluster on the opposite side of the room.

Wei taps on his keyboard and stares at his display showing a Deepfake video of Cassy and Tina sensually kissing on the lips and then smiling into the camera.

Stanley and Miguel give a thumbs-up to the video before Wei hits the "share" button on the screen.

Like wildfire, the short video spreads to every computer display in the room, including Lori's, Cassy's, and Tina's computers. Suddenly, the video is gone from all the screens, but Tina and Cassy look up to see every eye in the room is on them.

TINA
That's a lie!

CASSY
It's a Deepfake!

Lori scans the room to see Stanley and Miguel patting Wei on the back. The boys smile.

Lori, Cassy, and Tina put on their backpacks and begin to exit the classroom.

Lori turns to Stanley who is no longer smiling, but she glares at each of them.

LORI
(whispers)
You'll pay for that, idiots. If you faked it, we will take you down!

Their eyes open wide, and the women storm out.

END FLASHBACK

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

A recording device is on as Detective Kumar interviews Lori, Cassy, and Tina.

DETECTIVE KUMAR
Did you report the incident to school officials?

LORI
We went to the Dean of the Computer Science Department who basically said there were no laws broken, and the video, which he watched half a dozen times, was protected by the Freedom of Speech.

DETECTIVE KUMAR
What?

CASSY

He said we would have to offer proof the video was faked and that our reputations were significantly harmed.

TINA

He was familiar with the term Deepfake after fake videos of Tom Cruise, Taylor Swift, and other "unmentionable" movie stars.

LORI

Porn stars, probably, but he told us there were no laws prohibiting satires and parodies.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

(angry)

But they can tarnish reputations and spread misinformation and lies!

LORI

Without breaking any laws.

The Detective stands and paces.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

Unless you could catch them and prove you were harmed...

LORI

(smiles)

Exactly. We had a good idea who did this so we set out to prove it...

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Stanley, Miguel, and Wei sit in a big corner booth in the back of the bar with half-empty beer mugs. They laugh and snicker, as Lori, Cassy, and Tina enter in their finest clubbing outfits. They carry small purses.

They stop at the bar, where Lori tosses down two twenty-dollar bills. The BARTENDER (25, handsome) smiles at Lori.

LORI

Bartender, may we please have six of the beers that those three gentlemen in the back are having?

BARTENDER

It's three-buck draft night.

(picks up one bill)

One of these will be more than
enough for now.

He winks at Lori, completely ignoring the other two women as
he pours the draft beers.

The women cart two beers each to the boys and set them down
on their table. The boys are suspicious.

STANLEY

What a surprise!

Stanley and Miguel take huge gulps of beer, nearly finishing
their mugs. Miguel wipes his mouth.

MIGUEL

We didn't do nothin'.

Cassy gazes at Wei. She's smitten but chronically shy.

Wei gulps down a small sip of beer and looks away.

TINA

We think the video was done by an
asshole in the class before ours.

LORI

The Dean is looking into it.

(smiles)

These beers are all for you. We
have a thing tonight.

STANLEY

Why should the Dean care? It's a
free country.

MIGUEL

All these beers? For us?

LORI

If school computers were used for
non-authorized projects, there
could be fines or suspensions.

MIGUEL

I didn't hear that school computers
were used.

LORI

Neither did we. We bought you the beers to apologize for accusing you earlier... ya know, to the Dean and the Police in case that video made it out onto the internet. My mom...

WEI

(worried)

She's the detective, right?

LORI

She mentioned something about human trafficking laws, but I wasn't listening.

MIGUEL

That's bullshit.

TINA

Right?! Ain't nobody gonna traffic me or their ass would be dead! No one would ever see me and my friend Cassy kissing.

Tina leans seductively toward Cassy and inches closer as if she wanted to kiss her.

The boys are glued to Tina and Cassy.

Lori abruptly stands.

LORI

Time to go, ladies!

She smiles at the boys.

LORI (CONT'D)

Uber home tonight, gentleman. I hate for anything bad to happen to you.

The girls smile as they exit the bar.

EXT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

The girls quickly walk to Lori's sedan and hop in. Cassy takes the back seat.

INT. SEDAN - CONTINUOUS

Lori pulls up a surveillance app on her smartphone.

LORI

The boys go to one of two bars near the university. The one's with free Wi-Fi.

We can hear the boys in the bar.

TINA

How did you...?"

BEGIN MINI FLASHBACK

INT. BAR - NIGHT

While the boys lean in closer to see if Cassy and Tina will kiss, Lori reaches under the table, and tapes a small recording device to the underside of the table, and turns it on.

LORI

While you distracted the boys, I taped a twenty-five dollar audio transmitter under their table.

END MINI FLASHBACK

CASSY

You're a regular James Blonde.

Lori turns up the volume.

STANLEY (V.O.)

So lit! In only five days.

LORI

Five days is doable.

WEI (V.O.)

The hardest part was getting enough photographs of them on social media.

TINA

I'm on it.

MIGUEL (V.O.)

I helped with the GANs.

STANLEY (V.O.)

I watched the how-to videos on YouTube but never understood that GANs shit.

WEI (V.O.)

GANs are Generative Adversarial Networks - competing computer models using AI to produce a better fake image than the other computer model.

CASSY

I'll check out the how-to videos.

MIGUEL (V.O.)

Improving images over a short time, but they're still not perfect.

WEI (V.O.)

The light in the eyes is different.

LORI

The eyes! That's how you spot a fake.

STANLEY (V.O.)

I didn't notice. Dude, they were kissing.

LORI

Let's go. I'll come back in a few hours and pick up my transmitter.

CASSY

Where are we going now?

LORI

To the computer lab. We have work to do.

TINA

You can't use school equipment.

Lori steps on the gas.

LORI

Watch me!

END FLASHBACK

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Detective Kumar interrogates the girls.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

So, you sought revenge on 'the boys' as you call them.

LORI
We're geeks. We wanted to know how
they did it.

DETECTIVE KUMAR
And that took you into the slimy
underworld of Deepfakes?

CASSY
(smiles)
Not at first.

TINA
We had a lot of homework to do...

LORI
On our own laptops, of course.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. UNIVERSITY, HALLWAY - NIGHT

Lori, Tina, and Cassy walk down a dimly lit hallway when a
JANITOR (50s) exits a distant room.

Lori races up to the Janitor.

LORI
Excuse us. We need to get into the
computer lab to finish a group
assignment.

TINA
We're modeling harmful invasive
spiders called brown widows.

CASSY
They could get here if authorities
don't stop them.

JANITOR
I hate spiders. But I can't let you
in without authorization.

The girls whip out student IDs.

LORI
I'm Detective Kumar's daughter. She
solved that murder case in the dorm
rooms two years ago.

The Janitor squints at the IDs.

JANITOR

I had to mop up after that one.
Your mom thanked me personally.
(looks at the girls)
I suppose you're not going to do
any damage. Turn out the lights and
lock up when you leave.

INT. UNIVERSITY, COMPUTER CLASSROOM - LATER

Lori, Tina, and Cassy sit in front of large computers.

LORI

So the boys could have saved a lot
of time by pre-training: using
50,000 faces to tell the computer
what a human face looks like.

TINA

On one computer, that would take
all night.

CASSY

But using all the CPUs in the
computer lab, it might only take...

Lori stops typing.

LORI

Done. Tina, what do you have on the
boys' faces?

Tina pulls up hundreds of photos of each boy from social
media.

TINA

These boys take a lot of selfies.

CASSY

So did we, I guess.

LORI

Note to self. No more selfies. And,
it's time to start the GANs, but
instead of two computers competing,
we'll have twenty-four.

TINA

When do we get to see the boys
kissing each other?

Lori spins in anger.

LORI
Not gonna happen.

TINA
Then why are we doing this?

CASSY
Using university computers could
get us expelled.

LORI
(smiles)
I have a better way to get even.

END FLASHBACK

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

DETECTIVE KUMAR
(eyes Cassy and Tina)
All this is a reaction to someone
posting a Deepfake photo of you two
kissing?

LORI
They felt violated. We all did.

TINA
I wanted an apology.

CASSY
I wanted one too.

LORI (V.O.)
I wanted revenge!

DETECTIVE KUMAR
So after you studied up on Deepfake
technology, what were you going to
do with it?

Detective Mike steps into the interrogation room with three
laptop computers.

MIKE
These are clean. No Deepfake
software, batch files, photos, or
videos on them.
(to the girls)
Thanks for volunteering your
passcodes. We would have gotten in
eventually, but that saves us a lot
of time.

LORI

(to Mike)

We're all about saving time. Did they find out what drugs they used on us and my dad?

MIKE

It was an anesthetic. Nurses jokingly refer to it as 'Milk of Amnesia.'

DETECTIVE KUMAR

It's what they give colonoscopy patients.

LORI

That's why none of us remember anything.

Detective Kumar studies the three laptops as Mike exits.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

You couldn't help us with descriptions.

(angry to Lori)

That's not your laptop computer! We bought you a high-end...

CASSY

These are used laptops.

TINA

Like burner phones.

The Detective paces angrily.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

Out with it! All of it! What are you three up to?

Lori stands and paces to shield the finger to her lips as she walks toward Cassy and Tina.

She spins to her mom, with her hands at her side.

LORI

Okay. Okay.

Lori sits down.

LORI (CONT'D)

At first, we didn't know who was responsible for the Deepfake of the kiss, but we zeroed in on three idiots in our coding class: Wei Chin, Miguel Lopez, and Stanley Holcombe.

The Detective points at Lori.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

Stanley Holcombe? The son of the District Attorney?

LORI

I'm afraid so.

CASSY

He's the weakest link in the chain.

TINA

He's the missing link.

LORI

He's not that bright, but he has charisma, and he gets other people to do his bidding.

CASSY

And homework.

TINA

He hasn't done a single online test on his own since I've known him.

LORI

But he's a hunk so we all cut him some slack.

The Detective gets in her daughter's face.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

How did you know it was those three young men who did it?

The girls look at each other, and then look away.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. UNIVERSITY, COMPUTER CLASSROOM - DAY

Lori, Cassy, and Tina are whispering on the other side of the room while the boys smile and work away on their group project.

TINA

They're not smart enough to erase their intermediate model outputs, so we have to search their computers.

CASSY

Why not steal one at a time?

LORI

They might notice. Why don't we copy their hard drives?

TINA

They won't let us.

Lori pulls out a memory thumb drive.

LORI

They won't know. I wrote a script that copies all files created in the past week. They should be on Wei's or Miguel's laptop.

(to Cassy)

Use your feminine wiles and get Wei over to your computer.

Cassy is perplexed and upset.

CASSY

I was born without feminine wiles. I'd need an operation...

LORI

Okay. Just act dumb.

Lori strolls over to Wei's cubicle and whispers seductively in his ear.

LORI (CONT'D)

My dear friend Cassy has a question on Java versus Python coding, and she's too embarrassed to ask the professor. She's very shy.

Wei looks across to Cassy and smiles nervously.

Wei walks slowly toward Cassy.

Lori notices Miguel can see Wei's cubicle too well.

Lori leaps past Wei to whisper to Tina.

LORI (CONT'D)
I need you to get Miguel and
Stanley into the hallway.

Tina leaps over to Miguel and Stanley like a cougar.

TINA
Can we talk in the hallway for a
minute?

Stanley and Miguel stand their ground.

TINA (CONT'D)
(loudly)
We found out that nobody from the
earlier coding class knows anything
about Deepfakes.

Wei glances back at Tina but is happy to turn back to Cassy.

WEI
Java coding is better for some
tasks on complex web systems with
high stability and security, while
Python coding is better for rapid
ML/AI solutions development. Why do
you ask?

TINA
(yells)
What did you call me?

PROFESSOR (O.C.)
Take it outside to the hallway, you
three, and keep it down.

Tina grabs Miguel and Stanley by the arms and drags them
outside into the hall.

Wei is afraid to turn around from Cassy, so Lori slips across
to Wei's and Miguel's cubicles.

She slips her memory stick into Wei's USB port and the stick
lights up.

She hears Tina yelling outside.

TINA (O.S.)
You have to help us find these
perverts!

CASSY
What else, Wei?

WEI
Python is good for microservices
apps, web scraping, and scripting
tasks.

Wei goes to turn his head, so Cassy leans in to kiss him.

Wei's eyes open almost as wide as Cassy's eyes.

Lori takes her thumb drive from Miguel's computer and slips
it in her pocket as Miguel reenters the room.

Lori pushes past him to step into the hall to see Stanley and
Tina kissing close.

Lori turns and passes Miguel on the way to her cubicle.

LORI
I guess nobody needs my help!

MIGUEL
(suspicious)
I don't. That's for damn sure.

She passes Wei who smiles all the way back to his cubicle.

LORI
I'm going to go get coffee.

Lori glares at Cassy and Tina.

CASSY
I could use a coffee.

TINA
We're supposed to be staying out of
trouble.

LORI
It was them. Wei had some
intermittent results files on his
laptop and so did Miguel. I haven't
exacted our revenge on those
bastards yet.

Lori storms out. The others try to catch up.

END FLASHBACK

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Lori is tired so her speech is slowed.

LORI

We kindly asked the boys if they produced the Deepfakes, but they said 'no.'

TINA

If they would have admitted it and apologized, it might have been a different story.

CASSY

Even my boyfriend, Wei, didn't admit it.

Lori glares at Cassy.

LORI

Boyfriend?

CASSY

I can express no kinder sign of love, than this kind kiss.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

William Shakespeare? We're tired. But you're going nowhere until you account for your activities every day

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Lori, Cassy, and Tina enter carrying their newer, nicer BRAND laptops. Lori carries an extra, smaller, used laptop. They stroll to the counter. The BARRISTER (25) spots Tina.

BARTENDER

Hey, Tina, can you work an extra shift this afternoon? Time and a half, and your friends get comped drinks all day!

TINA

I'm tired but I need the money.

LORI

Hell yeah! Extra-large Cappuccino with two shots and extra chocolate sprinkles, please. Thanks for volunteering, Tina.

CASSY

Small, decaf for me. My best friends are nuts. Thanks.

Lori and Cassy get a small isolated table in the back.

CASSY (CONT'D)

Why did you buy that used laptop from a pawn shop?

LORI

We don't want to post anything from one of our IP addresses. They could hunt us down.

CASSY

Who can hunt us down?

LORI

I don't know. The bad guys. I just have to layer the boys' faces on three actors who look like them, and we'll be ready to post.

CASSY

What's the video? Porn?

LORI

Never.

CASSY

A confession?

LORI

Good idea. I'll use the audio recording from the bar to simulate their voices.

Cassy slaps her palm on her forehead and Tina delivers the coffee drinks.

TINA

Did you decide how to get even?

LORI

Working on it.

LATER

Tina comes by to see Cassy is asleep in her chair and Lori is typing away.

TINA
How are you coming?

LORI
Almost done.
(shakes Cassy)
Want to see it?

Lori transfers the file to the old laptop and presses "Play."

INSERT VIDEO

We see exact duplicates of Stanley, Miguel, and Wei standing in front of a wall-size video of Tina and Cassy kissing, but Tina's and Cassy's faces are blurred out. They are completely unrecognizable. The boys are solemn and convincing in their apologies.

STANLEY
A few days ago, we did something
stupid and degrading to women.

MIGUEL
We created Deepfake images of our
classmates and made them kiss on
screen.

WEI
That would never happen in real
life. We are such fools and are
really sorry.

STANLEY
Deepfake images and videos can
tarnish reputations and ruin lives.

MIGUEL
We hope our friends will forgive us
in time.

WEI
We are seeking donations for those
people who were targeted by
Deepfake technology.

STANLEY
It's only fair that we contribute
\$500 each on behalf of the friends
we betrayed, but there are many
other victims out there.

MIGUEL

Including some of your favorite movie stars, singers, friends, family, and neighbors.

WEI

So please donate what you can to the "Victims of Deepfakes."

STANLEY

Thank you.

SUPER: "www.VictimsOfDeepFakes.org."

Tina's and Cassy's jaws drop and eyes open wide as they hug Lori.

TINA

It's amazing. They're going to hate us!

CASSY

So real. They're going to kill us!

LORI

I found three charities that will be thrilled to take the donations and help people who have been victimized.

TINA

I'm inspired. What a great way to get even.

LORI

I still haven't exacted our full revenge. It's going to be a busy week. First, we have to delete all intermittent files and software from our laptops and the school computers. They'll have to be scrubbed clean.

She holds up the used laptop.

LORI (CONT'D)

And we'll have to hide this in a very safe place. This has everything on it!

INT. UNIVERSITY, COMPUTER CLASSROOM - DAY

The same twelve Students are on BRAND Tablet and Laptop computers. Stanley, Miguel, and Wie are in cubicles on the right side of the room, while Lori, Cassy, and Tina are on the left side. The Professor walks around the room and sees everyone busy on group projects.

The professor stops at Tina's cubicle.

PROFESSOR

How is your brown widow spider invasion project coming along?

TINA

Great, so far, but our maximum entropy models are showing lots of potentially suitable habitat in our area.

PROFESSOR

Do they bite?

CASSY

Yes, and they are less shy than black widow spiders.

LORI

The Department of Health and Safety will greatly value our report.

PROFESSOR

Good for you. Keep up the good work.

The Professor strides over to Stanley's cubicle and stares at his screen.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)

How is your...?

Suddenly, all of the computers in the room are showing the Deepfake video of Stanley, Miguel, and Wei.

PROFESSOR (CONT'D)

What's this? Have we been hacked again?

Everyone in the room cheers and turns to Lori, Cassy, and Tina.

MIGUEL

Five hundred bucks! Never!

STANLEY

(glares at Lori)
You and your bitches are in real trouble!

PROFESSOR

Unless you can prove they were involved, Mr. Holcombe, you'd better remain civil.

Stanley throws his laptop into his backpack and storms out. Wei and Miguel follow him, but Miguel turns to smile at Tina before exiting.

EXT. UNIVERSITY - CONTINUOUS

As Stanley, Miguel, and Wei march toward the parking lot, they are greeted by several FANS (male and female students).

FAN #1

Courageous of you! My cousin in California sent me your vid.

FAN #2

Way to come clean. Dudes, you're going viral!

FAN #3

That will teach you, idiots!

The boys get in Stanley's late-model blue Crossover Vehicle and RACE away.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - LATER

Several Patrons in the coffee shop frequently stare and chuckle at Stanley, Miguel, and Wei who are hunched over a small table staring at their phones.

STANLEY

Shit, it is going viral.

MIGUEL

It looks just like us too!

WEI

How did they get the light in the eyes correct?

STANLEY

Aren't there tools to detect a fake?

WEI
Plenty, when they're bad fakes.

MIGUEL
But very few when they're good
fakes.

LORI (O.C.)
Howdy, boys!

The boys turn to see Lori, Cassy, and Tina heading to their table.

Stanley stands as if ready to fight.

LORI (CONT'D)
Assault is against the law, as your
father knows.

TINA
We didn't do it?

CASSY
Where have I heard that before?

LORI
You have a lot of witnesses here.

Stanley paces and yells.

STANLEY
This isn't over!

LORI
I hope not! Donations are pouring
into the three charities mentioned
in your video.

STANLEY
It wasn't our video?

The ladies laugh.

TINA
Prove it!

Lori, Cassy, and Tina turn to walk out.

The Patrons clap and cheer.

Stanley sinks into his seat.

INT. PLUSH BEACHFRONT OFFICE - SAME

The thug, known only as JACK (50s), is in fashionable California business attire, staring angrily at his computer that shows the Deepfake video of the boys in an endless loop.

He presses a few buttons on his keyboard and the screen splits to a video conference with his two ruthless thugs (Ivan and Harry). Jack speaks angrily to the four thugs.

JACK

So neither of you can tell if it's real or fake, but that doesn't matter. This is bad. They're attracting too much attention to our industry. Charitable donations to our detractors are pouring in. Politicians will be asking more questions, and so will the Copyright Office. They could shut us down and put us in jail if we don't respond!

(beat)

I want your best efforts with facial recognition to find these three young men, and I want to know everything about them before I pay them a visit tomorrow. I need those idiots to post a retraction ASAP or we're screwed! Am I clear?

The two thugs nod their heads, 'Yes.'

INT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

Stanley, Miguel, and Wei sit across from Stanley's father, BERTRAND RUSSELL HOLCOMBE (50s) as his pompous name plate on his big desk shows. The boys have twitchy legs and look away often.

BERTRAND

It has been brought to my attention that you boys are the victims of a Deepfake video, you claim, but have no proof of, was created by three university students including Detective Marti Kumar's daughter.

The boys look stunned.

STANLEY

We're not sure, but...

BERTRAND

Be careful son, accusations without proof may constitute libel.

MIGUEL

We got nothin'.

Bertrand looks down at his notes.

BERTRAND

You're Miguel Lopez.

MIGUEL

Yes, sir.

BERTRAND

What can you tell me about what transpired before your video went viral and shamed my family's reputation?

Miguel's eyes open wide. He looks at Stanley and Wei for pity.

WEI

We are in the same coding class is all.

Bertrand looks down at his notes again.

BERTRAND

Mr. Wei Chin. Your father is the banker.

WEI

Yes.

BERTRAND

(glares at Stanley)

He must be equally disappointed in you.

STANLEY

Legally, Dad, where do we stand?

BERTRAND

I'm glad you asked. There is a case in California where AI software allowed users to swap faces with celebrities which might violate California's right of publicity law.

(MORE)

BERTRAND (CONT'D)

But none of you are celebrities,
and suing a software company is
like suing gun manufacturers for
every murder.

MIGUEL

And nobody murdered us anyway, is
that it?

BERTRAND

(snickers)

I'm afraid that's right. But it may
have drawn publicity to you.

WEI

But so far, it's all been positive
for the charities fighting
Deepfakes.

BERTRAND

Exactly. And whether the video is
actual or fake won't change that,
so your hands are tied.

STANLEY

But someone is making money on us.

BERTRAND

However, the charities posted were
non-profit 503-C, and not for
commercial gain. And because your
video was uploaded anonymously, an
individual's "only remedy may be
against a website owner."
Basically, these Deepfake software
companies have put an AK-47 in the
hands of every computer geek in the
world.

MIGUEL

We're screwed. We can't admit our
video is a deepfake and we can't
admit that we actually made the
video?

BERTRAND

I couldn't have said it better. If
I were you, I would ride out your
temporary publicity wave and don't
say a word... to anybody!
Understand?

The boys nervously nod 'Yes.'

END FLASHBACK

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

DETECTIVE KUMAR
Tell me about the Californians as
you call them.

LORI
We had no idea that the boys had
infringed on Jack's business
dealings.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. UNIVERSITY - AFTERNOON

After class, Stanley, Miguel, and Wei head to the parking
lot. Behind them, Lori, Tina, and Cassy follow ten yards
back. Stanley glances back to see them.

STANLEY
We can't talk to you.

LORI
Why's that?

STANLEY
You put us between Iraq and a hard
place!

Miguel glances back but keeps walking.

MIGUEL
We know you did it.

TINA
Did what?

WEI
You know.

Stanley's phone RINGS. He stops and stares at it, bewildered.

STANLEY
I don't know anyone with an L.A.
area code.

The girls walk closer.

WEI
Maybe you won something.

Stanley answers the phone. It's not on speaker but they all HEAR a Booming voice.

STANLEY

Hello.

JACK (O.S.)

This is Jack. I flew out from California to meet you and talk about your video.

Everyone's eyes open up.

JACK (O.S.) (CONT'D)

You're Stanley Holcombe, aren't you?

STANLEY

We don't want to talk about it.

They see a window roll down in a large black SUV with tinted windows that cuts the boys off and skids to a stop in the parking lot.

JACK

It's too late for that!
(non-threatening)
I just want to talk.

Lori and the girls separate ten yards each from the black SUV and the boys pretend to be talking on their phones. They are secretly filming the SUV.

Two bodyguards, Ivan and Harry, step out of the SUV wearing black suits. One opens the backdoor and Jack steps out. He's a huge man stuffed into designer winter clothes. He wears oversized wraparound sunglasses. He holds an iPad up like he's filming the boys as he steps out. He stays ten feet away from them.

MIGUEL

(whispers)
Skull caps and sunglasses, boys.
He's filming.

The boys put on wool caps and sunglasses.

Jack is an arrogant businessman and blunt.

JACK

You can call me Jack because I'll Jack you up if you don't start talking.

MIGUEL

Who flies way out here when everybody has phones?

JACK

You must be Miguel Lopez.
(glares)
Don't be a smartass.

Jack points to his mean-looking bodyguards.

Wei trembles.

Lori texts the girls: "Secretly get video of his face," and pretends she's talking on the phone.

LORI

Yeah, big test tomorrow. I need coffee! Don't you?

Jack doesn't see Lori, Tina, and Cassy secretly filming the conversation as he glares at Wei.

WEI

What do you want from us?

JACK

Good question. I want you three to retract what you said about deepfakes and that charity bullshit. I'm willing to pay you \$5,000 each for a twenty-second video and your written permission to post...

STANLEY

(interrupts)

We have a big test tomorrow. We're going for coffee and then to our dorms to study.

JACK

Coffee. I'll buy. Where's the coffee shop?

WEI

(excited)

Five thousand bucks? The coffee shop is one block down on the corner. Left side of the street.

JACK

(evil smile)

I'll check into the hotel and meet you there in thirty minutes.

(beat)

Oh, I have all your addresses and your families' addresses. Don't make us hunt you down.

He gets in the SUV. One bodyguard shuts his door. Once everyone's in, the SUV races away.

Lori hits her head with her palm and runs up to the boys. Tina and Cassy join them.

LORI

You guys have no intention of talking to him or taking his money for a video. You stall him in a public place until I can get my mom to the coffee shop.

STANLEY

Does your mom know about the video?

LORI

Hell no. I'll just say my friends are being harassed by a mobster. When they see her detective badge, they'll leave.

She has the boys and girls form a football-type huddle.

LORI (CONT'D)

We get to the coffee shop first and save a table with good lighting and only four chairs. We're going to find out who this Jack is.

MIGUEL

How?

LORI

(smiles at Tina)

Video from every angle in the coffee shop and facial recognition from the police after I tell my mom that we heard him threaten you guys.

WEI

He didn't threaten us, he wants to hire us for twenty seconds and \$15,000!

Lori grabs Wei's shoulders.

LORI

Doesn't that sound suspicious to you?

STANLEY

Besides, my dad told me not to talk about the video ever again. He was serious.

LORI

So just listen and nod. Maybe he'll incriminate himself on our videos.

(she smiles)

Let's go to work. Tina, it would be great if you could pull another shift and be their server.

TINA

Got it! Let's go.

They all depart for the coffee shop.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - LATE AFTERNOON

Tina wears the green apron of a coffee shop employee and busses tables.

The boys sit around a middle table, that has an empty chair in the most well-lit spot in the room.

Lori sits down in the chair.

LORI

Good. This is Jack's seat. We have friends with cameras all around him, but he'll never know.

Tina points to the corners of the coffee shop.

TINA

And we have two security cameras so he won't try anything.

LORI

And my mom will be here soon.

While Tina distracts the boys with the coffee orders, Lori secretly slips her audio transmitter under the table.

Lori gets up.

LORI (CONT'D)

Be evasive to his questions. Act dumb. Say you were drinking one night at a Frat "pass-out" party and don't remember a thing. You were as surprised as anyone that the video went viral.

STANLEY

What if he insists we make the video?

LORI

Act dumb and say as little as possible. Keep saying you don't want any trouble.

MIGUEL

What trouble?

LORI

I don't know. Get him to talk if you can.

Lori walks away from the table as Jack steps in. The two bodyguards are outside the two exits.

The boys stand and shake the table a bit. The tape loosens on the recording device under that table, but it doesn't come off.

JACK

(to Tina)

Do you work here? Fetch me a black coffee.

Jack and the boys sit.

TINA

Yes, sir.

JACK

Have you thought about it?

The boys sound dumb as posts.

MIGUEL

Thought about what?

Jack's phone RINGS as Tina brings him his coffee. Tina sees that it's from "Country Code +7"

Jack hides his phone in his pocket.

JACK

You know!

WEI

We were studying for our tests.

JACK

I don't see no books!

STANLEY

How '90s, Jack. It's all on our phones.

JACK

Must make it easy to cheat.

MIGUEL

You only cheat yourself when you cheat.

Jack shakes his head in disbelief.

JACK

Look, this is simple. The people who pay me a good salary, want you to tape a retraction. Twenty seconds, five-K each. How much were you paid for your first video?

The boys chuckle.

STANLEY

Nuttin'.

JACK

So five-K is more, isn't it?

WEI

The problem is, we're not actors.

MIGUEL

Would we have to join a union?

STANLEY

My dad said forget about it. I drank so much that night, I can't even remember it.

MIGUEL

We'd better get home and study.

The boys stand and Jack slams his fists on the table.

Jack sees Detective Marti Kumar's badge on her front pants pocket when she enters the coffee shop and he slips out the back exit.

Lori moves to hug her mom.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

Lori, what did you want? It sounded urgent.

LORI

Oh, sorry, I just wanted to know if the girls could come over and study tonight. We have a humungous test tomorrow.

Detective Kumar looks around suspiciously but smiles weakly.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

You could have sent a more explanatory text...

LORI

(smiles excitedly)
And could we pick up pizzas on the way home?

They all see the black SUV RACE down the street.

The boys looked relieved, which the Detective notices.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

Are you boys okay?

STANLEY

Yes, Mrs. Kumar, I mean Detective Kumar, I mean, Lori's mom.

Detective Kumar has a look of pity for Stanley.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

I've got a little more work to do.
You girls are fine coming over.
Lori, will order pizzas later when I get home.

Detective Kumar exits.

The boys exit, shaking their heads bewildered.

Lori breathes a sigh of relief and makes and makes an announcement as she reaches under the table, and removes her audio transmitting device and secretly stores it in her purse.

LORI

If any of you have headshots of that creepy guy, Jack, I'm paying a dollar a shot if the photo is clear and high resolution as I said earlier. I'm buying the best 20 shots via Venmo.

Lori huddles with Tina and Cassy.

LORI (CONT'D)

Bring your good tech tonight. We have work to do.

TINA

While sitting at the table, Jack got a call from a guy named Alex from Country code +7.

CASSY

That's Russia. Best hackers in the world. Hey, what about our test tomorrow?

LORI

Russia? Huh? Our test will have to wait. We have to save the boys tonight.

(laughs)

They're dicks. But they're our dicks.

She storms out of the coffee shop triumphantly.

Tina tosses down her green apron and follows her.

Cassy shrugs and follows Tina.

END FLASHBACK

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Detective Kumar paces.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

And what was all that nonsense about at the Coffee Shop the other day?

LORI

Stranger Danger, nothing more?

DETECTIVE KUMAR
(suspicious)
Stranger Danger?

CASSY
Like when we were kids.

DETECTIVE KUMAR
(glares at Cassy)
I know what stranger danger is. Why
at the coffee shop?

TINA
Weird guy from California named
Jack! No last name.

LORI
(laughs to Tina)
Do you think he was trying to
recruit us for pornos?

Cassy is offended.

CASSY
Wait! That's sick.

The Detective gets angry.

DETECTIVE KUMAR
What guy?

TINA
I first thought he was a rich
psycho-coder recruiter.

CASSY
Not psycho coders.

LORI
Right. He was the psycho.

The Detective throws her arms up.

DETECTIVE KUMAR
Wait! Do you mean a wealthy
employer of college grads with
superior computer coding skills?

The girls look at each other.

LORI

Yeah. That. And we think he wanted to recruit Stanley, Miguel, and Wei because they could make Deepfake videos.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

He was offering them paying jobs to be con men? Do they know how to create these sinister Deepfakes. I saw very realistic videos of Tom Cruise, Taylor Swift, and the President on the news, but I had no idea...

The girls squirm in their seats.

DETECTIVE KUMAR (CONT'D)

What are you not telling me?

Lori drops her head in shame, and pulls out a photo of Jack that looks like a professional headshot.

DETECTIVE KUMAR (CONT'D)

(angry at Lori)

Where did you get this photo?

Lori slumps in her chair.

LORI

Umm. That's another story.

The Detective's eyes open wide.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. RURAL HOUSE, BASEMENT - NIGHT

The girls sit on the couch with their burner laptop computers. Pizza boxes and beer bottles litter the coffee table. The girls wear Earbuds and their phones are linked to their laptops.

Cassy is scrolling through photos of Jack in the parking lot.

Tina is scrolling through photos of Jack in the coffee shop.

Lori turns her screen away from the others and groans in anguish.

TINA

What's the matter, Lori?

LORI
We haven't done anything against
the law so far...

CASSY
So far?

LORI
You don't have to be involved in
this part.

TINA
(excited)
Oooh. Do explain!

Lori shows them her screen.

LORI
So far, we've skirted ethics
violations and touched upon
tarnishing the reputations of our
classmates...

TINA
(angry)
Like they tarnished ours.

LORI
All we're doing is finding out who
this man is. If we run open-source
facial recognition on the photo we
may face invasion of privacy laws.

CASSY
How bad is it?

LORI
Unclear. For example, the use of
facial recognition software, open-
source or not, is an unprecedented
threat to our privacy and civil
liberties. Police can use it with
probable cause for committing a
crime. Its use by citizens is
illegal in three of the fifty
United States, and questionable in
the others.

TINA
We're not asking if he has a
criminal record, we just want a
last name to see what's on Google.

LORI
That sounds harmless enough, but I
bet my mom would be pissed.

CASSY
We'll keep it a secret.

Lori pauses and sips her beer.

LORI
If he's a threat to the boys, we
have to know. We'll use the burner
laptop to submit the photo.

They type away furiously.

LATER

They stare at Lori's burner laptop with a crystal-clear photo
of Jack on one side of the screen being sent to an online
software.

LORI (CONT'D)
Good thing we're using the burner
laptop. We're sending in the top
ten photos of Jack from different
angles, exposures, lighting...

The screen shows a photo of a Jack on the left and right
sides of the screen that is clearly a perfect match with a
full name, address, and two dozen photos of Jack from various
sources.

TINA
Johnny (Jack) Luigi Caponio.

LORI
Born in Brooklyn, New York.

CASSY
Fifty-four years old.

LORI
Married with two kids who must be
around our age but this site won't
tell us. That's enough to Google.
Let's get busy. We want to know
everything.

EXT. RURAL HOUSE - SAME

Jacks's black SUV cruises slowly down Lori's road.

He stops the car, rolls down his window, and takes a photo with his phone. The photo also captures Tina's car.

The SUV slowly drives off.

INT. RURAL HOUSE - SAME

The girls pace in frustration.

LORI
He's a ghost.

TINA
He paid a scrubber to delete
everything about him on the web.

CASSY
No business or personal address.

LORI
No phone number...

Lori has an epiphany.

LORI (CONT'D)
Wait! The Russian guy Alex who
called Jack! We need Stanley.

TINA
Nobody needs Stanley.

CASSY
(smiles)
It's not Stanley. It's Stanley's
father the DA.

Lori puts her finger on her nose.

EXT. UNIVERSITY - MORNING

The girls wait impatiently for the boys.

Wei is the first to arrive, and Cassy greets him with a big smile. Wei is shy and smitten.

CASSY
Hi, Wei. What did you think of that
creep, Jack?

Cassy pulls out a burner phone and shows Wie a photo of Jack at the coffee shop.

Wei reaches out to hold her hand (and phone) closer to his eyes.

WEI

That's him.
 (studies the phone)
 Is that a burner? Lit.

Stanley and Miguel walk up to the group. Stanley gravitates to Lori with a smile.

STANLEY

Hey, thanks for helping us out.

Lori smiles and they share a moment.

Miguel stands shoulder-to-shoulder with Tina. They both smile a little, but don't let on.

MIGUEL

We heard you, Cassy. Thanks.

LORI

Jack is a creep and it looked like you guys were in danger.

WEI

Real danger! He looks bad to the bone.

TINA

Yesterday, we knew nothing about him.

STANLEY

And, today?

LORI

We know a little more. His name is Johnny Luigi Caponio, born in Brooklyn, fifty-four years old...

Cassy shows them the photo from the coffee shop.

STANLEY

How did you find out all of that?

Lori turns her head.

LORI

Search engines.
 (looks back)
 The thing is, we can't tell how dangerous he is.

Stanley panics.

STANLEY

What if he has a criminal record?
Can't you ask your mother?

LORI

She wouldn't want me to get
involved.

Tina huddles the boys.

TINA

One of you could take this photo to
the police station and lodge a
complaint of a stalker.

CASSY

I got the license plate on the SUV.

LORI

Probably a rental from the airport.

MIGUEL

(smiles at Tina)

He would have had one of his goons
rent it.

Tina smiles back and they share a moment.

TINA

Very perceptive, Miguel.

STANLEY

I can't lodge the complaint. My dad
would kill me. He flipped when he
saw the video.

Lori's eyes open wide.

LORI

You showed him your video?

Stanley smiles at Lori.

STANLEY

You can stop calling it our video.
We didn't make it.

He leans in kissing close to Lori but she doesn't move.

STANLEY (CONT'D)

You're the smartest coder we all
know. We think you did it.

(MORE)

STANLEY (CONT'D)

(angry)

But I can't tell Jack that or
you'll be in his crosshairs.

LORI

Thanks... I guess.

Stanley smiles as her walks off toward class. Miguel follows him, and then Wei exits while glancing back and smiling at Cassy.

Lori yells to him.

LORI (CONT'D)

I bet he's here after class!

The boys shrug and head to class.

Lori whispers to the girls.

LORI (CONT'D)

They're screwed unless we help
them.

From the parking lot, we SEE the black SUV blending in with other dark SUVs.

Jack stands with his elbows on the hood of the SUV looking through a fancy set of binoculars. His bodyguards are by his side in black suits and long coats.

JACK

Follow them. Ivan, don't hurt
them... yet!

The bodyguards stroll toward the university. Ivan turns and smirks at Jack as he walks away.

JACK (CONT'D)

The women too.

Jack makes a phone call.

INT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Detective Kumar enters the DA's office with a suspicious look.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

You wanted to see me, Bert?

BERTRAND

Yes, Marti. Please shut the door.

She shuts the door and takes a seat.

DETECTIVE KUMAR
This sounds serious.

BERTRAND
We received an urgent call for help
from that big recording studio...

DETECTIVE KUMAR
Canapple Studios?

BERTRAND
That's it. They've been hacked.

DETECTIVE KUMAR
Sounds like a job for our Cyber
Security Team.

BERTRAND
They're on it. I need you to ask
questions of their digital
recording staff.

DETECTIVE KUMAR
You think it was an inside job?

BERTRAND
That's what I need you to
ascertain.

DETECTIVE KUMAR
How much material are we talking
about went missing?

BERTRAND
They lost thousands of demo tracks,
and tens of thousands of hours of
recordings. The studio CEO, Allison
Beaty, called me. Angry as a riled
hornet. She said that over the past
few years, cyber mobsters have AI
to recreate covers of songs that
imitate famous artists without
their consent. The songs are eerily
realistic, no one can tell the fake
songs that end up flooding onto
streaming services and social media
at cut-rate prices.

DETECTIVE KUMAR
That's awful.

BERTRAND

If those demo tracks aren't recovered, the artists could lose their livelihoods, and the industry here will dry up. We're talking hundreds of millions of dollars over the next few years alone.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

I'm on it.

BERTRAND

Ms. Alison Beaty is expecting you.

INT. BLACK SUV - SAME

A disguised deep voice of a Russian named ALEX (50s) blares from Jack's phone. The FaceTime video only shows a nondescript large figure of a man.

ALEX

You disappoint me, Jack.

Jack squirms but tries to appear calm.

JACK

I'm doing everything that I can.

The Russian groans.

ALEX

You sit in parking lot.

JACK

We're tracking down the students.

ALEX

No posted retraction. No code getting eyes right. They draw more attention to my industry. Not good.

JACK

You'll get the retraction and the code for the eyes, if we have to do it ourselves. My men have been gathering photos and voice.

ALEX

Make fast or you dead man.

Jack's eyes open up.

ALEX (CONT'D)

Oh! I give you one more task.

JACK

I've got to get back to L.A. to work. My team...

ALEX

Recording studio. I send you address. What happen?

JACK

We drove by late last night. The building is glass and steel. It won't burn!

ALEX

If no burn, blow it up! Tomorrow night!

JACK

Look, Boss, I've got...

ALEX

Tonight you get me the code, and tomorrow night you blow up recording studio. If you don't do both, Ivan shoot you. Send me proof.

CLICK. The Russian ends the call.

Jack pounds his fists into the seats.

Jack SEES Stanley, Miguel, and Wei run past the front of his SUV.

Jack steps out and looks back toward the university. He SEES his two bodyguards chasing after the boys but they are way behind them.

He gets back in the SUV and waits impatiently.

The two bodyguards, out of breath, reach the SUV and climb in.

JACK

(angry)

Harry, follow that blue car!

The black SUV speeds away. The girls are right behind them in Lori's sedan.

The car CHASE is on.

EXT. POLICE STATION - LATE AFTERNOON

The three vehicles arrive at the police station simultaneously. Stanley and Lori pull directly into the police station parking area. The Black SUV stays in the street in front.

Stanley and the boys enter the station.

Lori stops before entering and points up to the surveillance cameras on the building.

The Black SUV slowly pulls away.

INT. BLACK SUV - CONTINUOUS

Jack is furious.

JACK

Those six kids are going to die
when I get done with them.

(beat)

Take me to a hardware store. And,
we'll need a van. One Oklahoma City
bombing coming up!

Jack chuckles.

INT. POLICE STATION - SAME

Stanley, Miguel, and Wei are showing the uniformed DESK SERGEANT (30s, male) the photo of Jack, with Lori, Tina, and Cassy standing behind them clearly looking like they are couples.

DESK SERGEANT

Did he threaten any of you?

STANLEY

He was threatening, alright. Six-
foot-four.

MIGUEL

Two hundred and thirty pounds.

WEI

Smells like old cheese.

Everyone stares at Wei.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

At any time, did he become physical with you?

MIGUEL

He pounded his fists on the table coffee shop.

STANLEY

He has two goons who followed us into the food court at the Student Center.

LORI

That's stalking!

MIGUEL

They were taking photos and video of each of us.

DESK SERGEANT

That's not illegal.

WEI

From different angles...

Lori slaps Stanley.

LORI

You didn't tell us that!

STANLEY

It wasn't important.

The Desk Sergeant holds up the photo of Jack.

DESK SERGEANT

Look, I'm busy. I'll let the detectives know you came in.

TINA

The other information we have on him is on the back.

The Desk Sergeant turns the photo over to see lots of details.

DESK SERGEANT

Middle name Luigi? Phone call from a Russian country code, plus seven. Driving a black SUV license plate number... I'll make a copy for the detective later.

He makes a copy and hands back the original to Stanley.

DESK SERGEANT (CONT'D)
But he's done nothing wrong. Unless
you have something more
substantial...

LORI
(interrupts)
Is my mom here? Detective Marti
Kumar.

The Desk Sergeant checks the computer.

DESK SERGEANT
She's out on a call.

LORI
Do you know when she'll be back?

DESK SERGEANT
(smirks)
When the world is a safer place.

Stanley sees that Lori is about to boil and pulls her back.

STANLEY
Thanks for your time.

The sun is setting as they look out the door and exit
nervously, looking around for the Black SUV.

INT. RECORDING STUDIO, OFFICE - SAME

Detective Kumar takes notes as Alison Beaty vents.

ALISON
All it takes is one good Russian
hacker to bring down any business
in America. We weren't designed to
be a bank.

DETECTIVE KUMAR
Interesting analogy. Why do you
think it was a Russian?

ALISON
Google "Russian Cyber Attacks."
Their motto is 'No firewall can
stop us.'

DETECTIVE KUMAR
Is that true?

ALISON

Our computers are password protected, as are the digital storage devices. The metadata is encrypted. Our building security system is second to none. We've got cameras...

DETECTIVE KUMAR

I saw the cameras as I entered the building. Are your employees bonded? Background checked? Drug tested routinely?

ALISON

We are not a bank.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

How much did you say those files could be worth?

ALISON

Millions to hundreds of millions depending on how the files are used.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

That's quite a heist! You were a bank alright. And you got robbed. I'll need the names of all your employees. I'll start with your IT staff.

ALISON

The artists are going to sue the pants off us.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

Only if they prove negligence. If you let your guard down.

(sad)

Or if it was an inside job.

The Detective begins to exit.

DETECTIVE KUMAR (CONT'D)

I bet someone would pay a pretty penny for all those demo tracks. More than you or I would make in a lifetime.

She turns to face Alison.

DETECTIVE KUMAR (CONT'D)
Luckily for us, large deposits show
up in bank records.

Alison looks away.

DETECTIVE KUMAR (CONT'D)
(smiles)
Here's a funny statistic for you.
Ninety percent of heists are the
result of an inside job.

Turns toward the office door.

DETECTIVE KUMAR (CONT'D)
I'll be interviewing your trusted
staff.

The Detective exits her office.

INT. BAR - EARLY EVENING

The boys and girls trudge in and grab the big booth in the
back.

STANLEY
Bartender, could we please get six
draft beers? Start a tab.

WEI
(looks in Cassy's eyes)
We have a confession to make.

Miguel and Stanley twitch nervously.

LORI
We already know.

STANLEY
Wait!

MIGUEL
How?

LORI
First, your Deepfakes were so bad,
Cassy and Tina were barely
recognizable. The light in their
eyes was all wrong.

TINA
Plus, we heard your confession.

MIGUEL

How did you hear our confession?

LORI

With a listening device under this table when we bought you the beers.

TINA

It was informative listening to you from Lori's car in the parking lot.

STANLEY

That's illegal.

CASSY

(guilty to Wie)

I thought it was an invasion of privacy, too.

TINA

(angry)

And exploiting our images without our permission wasn't illegal?

The boys look depressed.

MIGUEL

You used our images and voices the same way? You cold-hearted...

LORI

Let's face it. We're all Deepfakers. But I got us into big trouble with Jack.

(looks down and away)

I figured out the code to get the light in the eyes right, and I think Jack wants it.

(looks back)

And I'm afraid it might get us all hurt.

STANLEY

Just give Jack the code.

LORI

I can't do it.

TINA

They would use it and their Deepfakes would be perfect.

CASSY

Indistinguishable from real celebrities, politicians, and ordinary people like us.

WEI

I see what you mean. They don't just want our retraction. They want your code.

Lori puts her hands over her face fighting back tears.

LORI

I'd like to send them a variant of the Chernobyl virus that wipes out all of their computers!

Everyone's head hangs low.

END FLASHBACK

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Detective Kumar glares at her daughter.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

So, you took Jack's headshot to the police station and they did nothing. And I was on a case, so I couldn't help you.

LORI

Right. It's not our fault.

Detective Kumar goes ballistic.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

Oh, it's all your fault. You know who broke into our house tonight. You know who drugged your father. You know who drugged you and zapped you and your friends with stun guns. And you know what those mobsters were after!

She glares at the girls.

LORI

My code that got the light in the eyes right in Deepfakes. It could make them hundreds of millions of dollars...

DETECTIVE KUMAR

And destroy thousands of lives.
Come clean or you're all going to
jail for conspiracy and aiding
criminals. Did they swipe your code
last night?

Lori and the girls look smug.

LORI

Nope. Those were our burner
laptops. They got nothing!

DETECTIVE KUMAR

Then they'll be back, and your
lives are in greater danger.

Detective Kumar's phone RINGS with a text message. Caller ID
says FBI. The Message reads: "Fert-Alert Emergency. All
Hands!"

Detective Kumar leaps to shut off her recording device.

LORI

Mom, don't worry about us. Last
night at the bar with the boys, we
all hatched a foolproof plan to
bring down Jack and destroy his
Deepfake empire thanks to the Dark
Web!

DETECTIVE KUMAR

I don't want to hear any more about
Deepfakes, the Dark Web or your
dangerous new plan! Got it? Don't
go home. Go the your grandma's and
get some rest. Now!

Detective Kumar races out.

The girls huddle up and whisper.

LORI

We have work to do at the computer
lab.

TINA

Let's go.

CASSY

Can't keep the boys waiting.

INT. UNIVERSITY, COMPUTER CLASSROOM - DAY

The Janitor unlocks the door for Lori who takes off her skull cap, big sunglasses, thick wool scarf, and huge down jacket with a thin backpack underneath it.

JANITOR

All those winter clothes to protect you from the brown widow spiders you're tracking?

LORI

You can never be too careful. I know it's Saturday, so extra thanks. My team and I won't be long.

The Janitor waves as he exits.

JANITOR

You know the drill. Log out of the main system and shut off the lights when you leave.

LORI

Thanks again.

JANITOR

You get those spiders!

The door shuts. The Janitor disappears.

Stanley comes to the door, heavily disguised as well.

Lori lets him in the locked door.

They hug briefly.

STANLEY

Are you sure this is going to work?

She smiles.

LORI

Nope.

Miguel and Tina arrive fully disguised.

A moment later Wei and Cassy arrive fully disguised.

WEI

All so facial recognition wouldn't identify us?

LORI

And we drove separately and parked
off campus at least five blocks
away?

They nod yes.

Lori pulls the burner laptop out of her backpack and hooks it
up to an ethernet cable.

TINA

Professor's username and login?

WEI

For a computer geek, he sure was
easy to hack.

Everyone giggles and pats Wei's back. Cassy gives him a big
hug.

CASSY

You are a genius.

LORI

Stanley and I will load up all the
photos we have of Jack.

Stanley sits down at a workstation.

TINA

If Jack is a rich, respected
businessman and we tarnish his
reputation, we're screwed.

LORI

He broke into our house last night.
He's more than a businessman.

Tina pulls Miguel to another workstation.

TINA

We'll hop on the dark web and find
out more about Jack.

Cassy pulls Wei to another workstation.

CASSY

We'll start getting Jack's fake
voice up and talking.

They smile as they go about their jobs.

Stanley's smile disappears.

MIGUEL

I'm in. Jack was a stuntman in Hollywood for years before he became a porn king.

TINA

That's how he made his fortune?

MIGUEL

No. He made it all in the past few years by selling Deepfake porn with movie stars' faces on porn star bodies.

Everyone groans.

CASSY

Asshole. So much for the respected businessman.

TINA

Look at this. He gets paid with five different types of cryptocurrency.

LORI

Can you get to his crypto wallet account numbers.

MIGUEL

Yes, but they don't do anyone any good without his passcodes.

LORI

Still, it could scare him into thinking we could gain access.

STANLEY

I have Jack's arrest record. It's not good. He's a dangerous criminal, maybe a killer.

LORI

If any of you want to quit, quit now! I'm going to nail him.

WEI

How?

LORI

I don't know yet.

INT. POLICE STATION - SAME

The Desk Sergeant hands Jack's photograph to Detective Kumar.

DETECTIVE KUMAR
Where did you get this?

DESK SERGEANT
Your daughter's friends brought it
in yesterday, but the guy didn't do
anything wrong.

Detective Kumar turns the photo over and fixates on the name
"Jack."

DETECTIVE KUMAR
Make me a copy of this. Get me a
complete work-up on this guy, and
get this photo and the photos of
his known associates to the
hardware stores that sold the
fertilizer. And put a BOLO for the
Black SUV.

DESK SERGEANT
Yes, Detective.

DETECTIVE KUMAR
I'll notify the FBI. Keep me posted
hourly.

The Desk Sergeant hands her the copy.

DESK SERGEANT
Yes, Detective.

Detective Kumar exits the building.

INT. WAREHOUSE - SAME

Harry and Ivan load the fertilizer into the van as Jack gets
a video call from Alex. Alex has his voice and appearance
distorted and disguised as before. He's angry.

ALEX
It's not here!

JACK
We copied everything from all three
laptops. Should I kill them?

ALEX

Not 'til we find code. They are smart. See if copy at university. Blow up recording studio tonight.
(yells)
I need that code!

Alex ends the call.

INT. UNIVERSITY, COMPUTER CLASSROOM - NOON

Tina yells excitedly.

TINA

We can't seem to find the address of the warehouse he uses as his coder's sweatshop.

MIGUEL

Rumor suggests it's filled with illegal aliens he forces to code for him.

LORI

The more I hear about Jack, the more I feel he's not the mastermind behind all of this. That might be his way out of this. Did you get the phone number for Alex in Russia?

CASSY

Wei and I are on that now. We have Jack's voice nailed down.

They test it.

JACK (V.O.)

Hello, this is Johnny Luigi Caponio, better known as Jack. I grew up in Brooklyn, New York.

Everyone nods.

STANLEY

Can you get him to say anything?

JACK (V.O.)

Can you get him to say anything?

Everyone laughs.

LORI

Great job, team. Let's finish the video.

STANLEY

Do think they're looking for us?

LORI

when they don't find the code they were looking for last night on our hard drives, they'll look for it here.

MIGUEL

We should have fake screens ready on the brown widow spider project.

They all type away.

LORI

Good idea.

CASSY

We'd better remember to sweep the Deepfake code off all these machines when we're done!

WEI

Yes! That's worth killing for!

The mood gets solemn.

INT. WAREHOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

Harry empties bags of fertilizer into the back of the white van as Ivan loads in five-gallon gas containers.

Jack finishes dressing in a thick snowsuit. He looks like the Pillsbury Doughboy.

Alex calls Jack. He's angry.

ALEX (V.O.)

No useful code on the hard drives you copied last night. All beginner coding class scripts and simple spatial models on invasive spiders.

JACK

Those were the only computers in the house.

ALEX (V.O.)
Not the only computers they have
access to.

JACK
You mean, the university?

Alex pauses.

ALEX (V.O.)
(sarcastically)
Unless they have major computing
power at home. Of course, the
university!

JACK
No, you're right, Boss. It has to
be the university. We'll take care
of it.

ALEX (V.O.)
You take care of it.

JACK
Yes, I'll take care of it.

Alex ends the call.

JACK (CONT'D)
Harry, go take care of it.

Jack grabs a USB memory stick from the table near his laptop
and tosses it to Harry.

HARRY
Why me? I'm the last one who fits
in at a university.

JACK
I'm not dressed for it, and Ivan
and I have to work on the trigger
for the bomb.

IVAN
(to Harry)
You are no help. Go!

Harry grabs the keys to the Black SUV and races away.

INT. UNIVERSITY, COMPUTER CLASSROOM - EARLY EVENING

Every member of the group is working feverishly on the
computers.

LORI

How many CPUs have we got working on the video?

WEI

All of them.

MIGUEL

Why is it taking so long?

LORI

The lip-syncing has to be perfect!

TINA

He doesn't have a beard or a mustache so it's much harder.

STANLEY

We didn't have beards or mustaches.

LORI

But you were slightly easier to fool. No offense.

STANLEY

Some taken.

LORI

What I mean is, this Deepfake has to fool him! Jack! As if he actually said these things.

CASSY

The intended audience includes Jack and everyone he did business with daily.

LORI

Your intended audience was pervs who wanted to see two girls kissing.

STANLEY

Okay. Okay. I get it. I just hope we have...

The Janitor opens the door.

JANITOR

There's a big ugly dude with a beard heading your way.

LORI
He wants to see our spider
research. It's okay.

JANITOR
Whatever you say.

The Janitor shuts to door and walks down the hallway.

LORI
We can't leave when we're so close
to finishing. I'm worried it won't
be perfect. The eyes, the skin
tone. The background may be too
pixelated. I need more time! You
guys have to stall him.

Harry comes to the door and looks in.

Wei locks the door.

Harry smiles, and then kicks open the door.

HARRY
I found you!

WEI
Huh? Was that door locked?

Harry glares at Wei and pulls out his pistol and the USB
memory stick.

HARRY
I'm gonna shoot you first. After
one of you gives me the code.

Tina walks up to Harry with a smile.

TINA
You must be Harold Crombley from
England.

HARRY
It's Harry. How do you know my
name?

Lori keeps typing feverishly.

LORI
Jack mentioned you at the coffee
shop.

Stanley steps to shield Lori's workstation.

STANLEY

He says you're his favorite
employee.

Harry looks confused.

MIGUEL

Maybe he said you were the most
loyal employee.

CASSY

Fun to grab a pint with.

WEI

(unconvincingly)
Have a laugh with?

Harry waves his pistol at the students.

HARRY

Stand up, shoulder to shoulder.

They do as told, facing Harry, who motions with the pistol.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Turn around.

They turn around. All of them are eyeing Lori's workstation
which reads, "96% complete."

HARRY (CONT'D)

My Boss wants your code. He said
you'd know which one.

Cassy turns and flips her screen to a photo of a brown widow
spider.

CASSY

This code? Predicting the spread of
the brown widow spider?

Harry glances at the screen when the others turn a show maps
and spatial models of spider distribution.

HARRY

No! That's not it.

Lori sees her computer reads, "97% complete."

LORI

(pleads with Harry)
This is what we do. We're modeling
geeks...

(MORE)

LORI (CONT'D)
except for that little piece of
code we stole from the Dark Web...

HARRY
(excited)
That's it!

Lori's computer in the background reads, "98% complete."

STANLEY
I see your confusion, Harry. By
web, we thought you meant spider
web.

TINA
Did you know that the bite of the
invasive brown widow spider is
almost as bad as a black...

Harry points his pistol at Tina.

HARRY
I'll kill the next one who mentions
spiders.

Lori's computer in the background reads, "99% complete."

HARRY (CONT'D)
I hate spiders.

STANLEY
We hate... those things too.

Harry points his pistol at Stanley and yells.

HARRY
I want that code!

Lori's computer in the background reads, "Video complete."

LORI
I have it for you. I would have
given it to you when you walked in
but we were all interrupted by a
video that came on all our screens.
It's from your boss, Jack.

MIGUEL
Just now! It must have gone viral.

Harry watches spider model photos on all the computers in the
room switch to a video of Jack that is convincingly real,
even to Harry!

INSERT VIDEO

JACK

Hello, this is Johnny Luigi Caponio, better known as Jack. I grew up in Brooklyn, New York.

Harry squints his eyes to look more closely.

JACK (CONT'D)

I was a stuntman in Hollywood for many years, but it never paid the bills, so I got involved in porno films.

Harry's eyes open wide.

JACK (CONT'D)

I fell in with a bad crowd that included a Russian mobster known only as...

JACK (CONT'D)

Alex.

HARRY (O.C.)

Alex.

JACK (CONT'D)

Soon I was making millions in the porn industry by hiring illegal immigrants from around the globe and using Deepfake technology to put the faces of celebrities without their consent, of course, on the bodies of porn stars in action.

HARRY (O.C.)

Wanker!

JACK

Worse than that, if my coders underperformed or developed a conscience, they would disappear.

Jack looks away with a tear in his eye.

JACK (CONT'D)

I made this video to set the record straight and repent. I'm turning myself in.

HARRY

I'm fooked.

JACK

I want the authorities to use all the money I've saved to do three things: (1) free my enslaved coders and give them a severance package of \$100,000 each.

HARRY (O.C.)

Bullocks. He knows I'm not a coder.

JACK

(2) I want Harold Crombley or "Harry" as we call him to go free. He was only my driver and knew nothing about my business.

HARRY (O.C.)

No \$100,000 pounds?

JACK

Give him \$100,000 too.

HARRY (O.C.)

Now we're talking.

JACK

Nothing for Ivan, He's a spy for Alex anyway, but to prove that it's me, and that I'm sincere, I've attached all my cryptocurrency bank account numbers below -- and I'm the only one who knows them. But the Feds will have to keep me alive to get my passcodes to get the money and my full confession when I turn state's evidence.

Jack's Cryptocurrency Account numbers are on the screen.

JACK (CONT'D)

Now, if you'll excuse me, I've one more job to do.

END VIDEO

Harry waves his pistol at the students.

HARRY

What do you mean it went viral?

LORI

It's seen right now on all major social media platforms in the world.

MIGUEL

Then it gets shared by a bunch of other people.

CASSY

And others share it more.

HARRY

Can you guys stop it?

CASSY

(Lori winks at her team)

We can try.

The team turns to their computers, but instead of deleting the video, they share it everywhere.

Harry looks frantic at the students.

HARRY

Are you doing any good?

LORI

We're doing the best we can. Did Jack use any hashtags in the communications?

Harry takes out his phone and studies his emails from Jack.

HARRY

You mean, you can stop the video from reaching his closest associates.

LORI

Exactly.

Harry shows the phone to Lori. It reads "#JackYouUp."

LORI (CONT'D)

I can try to stop them from seeing it, but you never know at this stage. It's gone viral.

Harry puts away his pistol and collapses into a chair.

HARRY

Mum always warned me not to run in a bad crowd. I hated when he put the heads of my favorite celebrities on the bodies of his porn star friends.

(looks away)

I'm a Swiftie, ya know.

All eyes are on Harry.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Although Jack did let me do the voice of the villain in his porno classic, "Star Whores."

Lori, Tina, and Cassy console Harry, patting his back.

LORI

We know Jack created a sweatshop of illegal alien coders. If they didn't work out, they disappeared. You wouldn't happen to know the address of his warehouse?

HARRY

(proudly)

I drove him there a lot, but never went inside. 8751 Huntington, in Torrence. Just twenty minutes from LAX if there's no traffic, which there always is. Can I watch that video again?

Harry can't believe his eyes and ears.

LORI

You should get going. Jack is a reformed man!

HARRY

He probably called off the bombing.

The group's eyes open wide.

LORI

Harry, I think you should go.

HARRY

Back to the warehouse here?

TINA

I hope it's not a long drive.

HARRY

Nearest one to the recording studio. Ten minutes away without traffic.

(smiles)

And there's never any traffic here. I love this place.

Tina and Cassy guide Harry to the door.

LORI

Harry, here's that piece of code Jack wanted. It must be run on the last step of any Deepfake. It copies the right pupil and pastes it on the left pupil so the light reflection is identical.

Lori hands Harry his USB memory stick.

LORI (CONT'D)

(sternly)

If you see Jack, you'd be wise not to mention you saw the video. His bosses might not be too happy with him.

Harry nods as he hurries down the hallway.

LORI (CONT'D)

I gotta tell my mom.

STANLEY

We should start deleting our files.

CASSY

What did you put on the thumb drive?

STANLEY

(laughs)

A variant of the Chernobyl virus?

Lori nods, 'yes' and they all laugh and hug Lori.

STANLEY (CONT'D)

(confused)

What does the virus do, exactly?

LORI

What made the Chernobyl virus so hideous was the power to erase the hard drive and overwrite the system's BIOS.

WEI

What does your variant do?

LORI

I build a secretive, time-release delivery so malware detectors don't see for days after it's transferred.

(MORE)

LORI (CONT'D)

Then it multiplies and attaches to outgoing messages and emails. Then before you know it, everyone in your network...

CASSY

Boom, sizzle, sizzle. Boom, sizzle, sizzle.

LORI

Jack and Alex deserve this revenge, but I have to warn my mom.

Lori sends a text to her mom.

EXT. RECORDING STUDIO - SAME

On the way to her silver SUV in the parking lot, Detective Kumar gets an FBI Fert-alert sent directly to her phone at the same time she gets a text from Lori and an urgent call from her DISPATCH OFFICER (30s).

The Detective hops in her SUV to field the calls.

DISPATCH OFFICER (V.O.)

All cars. We got an anonymous tip about a known felon in the area. We're sending the rest of the info in an encrypted text message.

She switches to the text from Lori and reads it.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

Johnny Luigi Caponio AKA Jack, 6 foot 4, 230, dark hair, black SUV plates... We're safe at the university. We think he's planning a bombing. Traveling with bodyguards, Harry and Ivan, but working for a Russian named Alex.

(looks away)

How does my daughter know more than Dispatch?

She looks in the rearview mirror at the glass and steel building.

DETECTIVE KUMAR (CONT'D)

Send our tactical team immediately.

She calls Alison, who is annoyed.

ALISON (O.S.)
Yes, Detective.

DETECTIVE KUMAR
We have a credible bomb threat. You
have 60 seconds to evacuate the
building. Everyone!

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Harry pulls the Black SUV into the warehouse. He smiles as he
exits the vehicle.

HARRY
I got the code from Lori Kumar.

Harry pulls a USB memory stick out his pocket.

JACK
How did you get it?

Jack rips the memory stick from Harry's hand.

Ivan looks suspicious.

HARRY
I took out my pistol, lined up the
wankers against the wall, and told
them there was going to be another
school shooting if they didn't give
me the code.

IVAN
Da. I like it.

HARRY
The smart kid said it was a simple
bit of code that is run on the last
step of any Deepfake.

JACK
(suspicious)
Simple, huh?

HARRY
It copies the right pupil and
pastes it on the left pupil so the
light reflection is identical.

Jack stares at the USB memory stick.

JACK
Huh? That just might work.

IVAN
What about students?

HARRY
(convincingly)
I shoot them anyway.

Jack tosses the memory stick to Ivan.

JACK
Send it to Alex. Tell him he owes
me double. Ha! Then get him on a
video call.

IVAN
Okay, Boss.

Ivan pulls out his laptop, plugs in the memory stick, and
begins to type away. The memory stick GLOWS.

IVAN (CONT'D)
Alex is ready for video call.

Jack dresses in a padded jacket, snow pants, and a full-face
ski mask showing his eyes and nose. Ivan is in a full black
suit and black ski mask, pulled up. Jack is on the phone with
Alex (voice disguised).

ALEX (V.O.)
Go over plan again.

IVAN
Da.

JACK
I drive toward the building, and
jump out of the van, roll away, as
I have done in many stunts. I run
to the road, and you and Harry pick
me up.

ALEX (V.O.)
And if you fail?

IVAN
I shoot Jack.

ALEX (V.O.)
You see. Not all bad news. Ivan
gets promotion.

JACK
I won't fail.

ALEX (V.O.)
Telephones off now. Ivan take video
proof.

IVAN
Da, Boss.

JACK
Let's go, we have an appointment at
the recording studio.

Jack gets in the white van as Ivan and Harry get in the black SUV.

EXT. RECORDING STUDIO - NIGHT

Two uniformed Police Officers stretch a black Spike Strip (Tire Shredder) chain across the top of the driveway to the studio. They race toward the studio.

Detective Kumar makes a short radio call.

DETECTIVE KUMAR
In position and ready?

Her phone lights up with a map and four red dots.

The Detective sends a text to Lori. It reads, "Thanks for the tips tonight. Are you all safe in the Police Station as requested?"

Lori texts back. "All safe in your office. Dad and Wilber are here too. Be safe, Mom, we love you."

TENSE MOMENTS

INT. ALEX'S OFFICE - SAME

SUPER: "Somewhere in Russia"

Alex is standing and pacing as he watches the video of Jack repenting.

INSERT VIDEO of Jack.

Alex swears in Russian and pounds his fists on his desk like a madman.

INT. BLACK SUV - CONTINUOUS

Ivan gets a text from Alex that reads "Kill Jack after job."

EXT. RECORDING STUDIO - SAME

All the lights are on in the building.

Detective Kumar is parked at the far end of the parking lot.

A black SUV slows down as it drives by and slowly comes to a stop.

The white van behind turns into the long driveway to the recording studio and stops.

The Detective whispers into her phone.

DETECTIVE KUMAR

On my command.

We SEE Jack's face in the windshield of the van. He wears a full ski mask.

He revs up the engine before putting the van in drive. The Van RACES toward the building, wheels screeching.

Behind him in the Black SUV, Ivan pulls out a pistol with a silencer.

The four hidden Snipers shoot and hit Jack's tires which deflate fast.

The tires explode as the van crosses the Spike Strip (Tire Shredder) stretched across the driveway.

A small explosion ignites a fire in the front of the van.

In the darkness, Jack's driver's-side door open and he rolls out of the moving van now slowing to a stop.

Jack stands and starts to run back to the black SUV when three LOUD SHOTS ring out from Detective Kumar's pistol. Jack falls to the ground, dead.

Ivan in his black-clad Ninja suit stomps toward Jack with his pistol drawn. We see the POV of the cop-camera worn by Ivan, which shows him shooting Jack in the back. Ivan is about to shoot Jack in the head when the Snipers fire and kill him.

Ivan falls forward on his stomach a few feet from Jack and the video goes DARK.

DETECTIVE KUMAR (CONT'D)

(yells)

Fire extinguishers, now!

Four FIREFIGHTERS (male and female) with large extinguishers RACE to the van and put out the fire.

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Detective Kumar shows Lori and her friends the TV news coverage of the almost-bombing and Jack's supposed death.

DETECTIVE KUMAR (V.O.)

I'm showing you this to show you
you what kind of people you were
dealing with.

(beat)

I set up FBI and Interpol phone
surveillance that captured Alex's
last 2 phone messages to Jack and
Ivan including the kill order and
bombing order.

They watch Detective Kumar's body cam of the failed bombing attempt.

INSERT VIDEO (From Detective Kumar's body camera).

-- the white van races toward her.

-- A fire ignites in the front passenger seat.

-- Jack opens the driver's side door, falls out, and rolls away from the van.

-- We HEAR Detective Kumar fire three shots.

-- We SEE Jack fall dead.

END VIDEO

DETECTIVE KUMAR

We didn't know Ivan was filming the
incident with a body camera until
we rolled him over and searched his
dead body. I can show it to you if
I have your sworn promise never to
repeat a word of this incident.

The students nod their heads, 'Yes.'

INSERT VIDEO (from Ivan's body cam).

-- Ivan turns and shoots an unsuspecting Harry in the head.

-- Harry slumps forward, dead.

LORI (V.O.)

(sad)

They killed Harry? That's awful.

-- Ivan exits the Black SUV to see the fire ignite in the passenger seat area of the van.

-- He sees Jack swing open the door, fall out of the van, roll to the side, pop up, and walk towards him.

-- Ivan HEARS three shots fired from Detective Kumar.

TINA (V.O.)

And Jack.

-- Ivan stomps close to Jack and aims his pistol at Jack's head.

-- Ivan is shot by snipers ZIP, ZIP, ZIP, ZIP.

-- He falls forward to the ground, dead.

CASSY (V.O.)

He deserved it.

-- His Body Cam goes DARK.

END VIDEO

DETECTIVE KUMAR

You kids are lucky to be alive!
Those were very dangerous
criminals!

(beat)

Those two videos will end up in the
evidence room after the Incident
Review Team studies them.

Detective Kumar glares at the students.

DETECTIVE KUMAR (CONT'D)

But that's not what happened.

Everyone's eyes open wide.

DETECTIVE KUMAR (CONT'D)

Jack knew he was going to be
killed. He wore a bulletproof vest
under his thick winter clothes. He
laid still while Ivan shot him.

LORI

Jack's death was a Deepfake?

DETECTIVE KUMAR
Approved at the highest levels.

LORI
His eyes were perfectly balanced.

DETECTIVE KUMAR
Our coders learned from you. Pretty
clever using the mirror image of
the left eye and pasting it on the
right eye. Perfect light
reflection. We can only imagine
what transpired as they prepared
for the bombing.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Jack and Ivan are loading containers of gasoline into the van
behind the driver's seat and passenger seat.

Jack's phone buzzes quietly in his front pants pocket.

Jack peeks at his phone hiding it from Ivan. He sees his face
on the video, but remains calm.

JACK
Ivan, get me some flares from the
office in case the gasoline is
stubborn.

IVAN
Will blow up. Fuse and timer good.

JACK
My ass is on the line if this
doesn't explode.
(yells)
Get me more goddamn flares!

Ivan trudges away to the back of the warehouse.

Jack watches the Deepfake video of him repenting.

JACK (CONT'D)
(whispers)
Fuck! It's flawless! The eyes are
perfect!

Ivan returns to the van carrying two flares.

Jack slides his phone back into his back pocket.

IVAN
Something wrong?

JACK
I expected Harry to be back by now,
but that's not the problem.

He rips the two flares from Ivan's hands and yells.

JACK (CONT'D)
I need every goddamn flare you can
find! Now go get them!

Ivan trudges off again.

Jack hurries to remove the gasoline containers from the van
and puts them in a trash bin.

He quickly texts the police: "This is Jack the bomber of the
recording studio. The bomb won't explode. Don't shoot..."

Ivan returns with four more flares. He sees Jack sweating.

IVAN
Why you sweat?

JACK
It's a big enough bomb to flatten a
city block and I'll be sitting on
it? Do you want to drive?

Ivan pounds Jack on the back.

IVAN
(laughs)
You the stunt man.

END FLASHBACK

DETECTIVE KUMAR
Jack's okay. Dispatch called me at
the last second and told me to
shoot high.

LORI
Jack's alive?

Jack is led by the Detective's office in shackles. He glares
at the students as his guided down the hallway by four police
officers (the snipers).

DETECTIVE KUMAR

Our coroner picked him up in a body bag -- he's turning state's evidence and we'll get him to testify against all his old friends, including Alison Beaty who was in on the recording studio heist with Jack and Alex.

(waves at Jack)

He'll get life in prison rather than being shot by Ivan or Alex, or gassed by the state.

(laughs)

I saw a very realistic confession Jack made on tape. I'm sure he pissed off his Russian boss! Funny thing is, Jack hasn't said a word about the video.

Lori looks away.

LORI

Are my friends and I in trouble?

DETECTIVE KUMAR

We have you on a few misdemeanors but the DA, Stanley's dad, will not prosecute if each of you sign a confession and you'll be on probation for life. Any creation of Deepfakes will land you all in jail.

LORI

So, we're free to go?

STANLEY

Beer me!

DETECTIVE KUMAR

One light beer, with food, then Uber home safely.

Everyone laughs. Lori grabs Stanley's arm, Miguel grabs Tina's arm, and Wei and Cassy hold hands on the way out the door.

INT. BAR - LATER

LORI

Lite beer, and snacks, all around, bartender.

The Bartender laughs!

Stanley reaches for his debit card, but Lori slaps it down and pulls out two twenty-dollar bills.

LORI (CONT'D)

That debit card sings like a canary to everyone on the DW. They know the address where you are and the exact time you used it.

STANLEY

Uh oh. I used it to pay for the Uber.

TINA

Rookie mistake.

An INTERPOL AGENT, a classy woman in a business suit and London Fog trench coat, saunters up to the teens in the booth and forces her way into the booth.

She shows them her badge and points at each of them and names them.

INTERPOL AGENT

Wei, Cassy, Miguel, Tina, Stanley... and you must be Lori. We've been watching you for a few days now.

TINA

Why us?

INTERPOL AGENT

You know why? Your Deepfakes are nearly perfect.

Cassy is furious.

CASSY

What do you mean, nearly perfect?

INTERPOL AGENT

Tell them, Lori.

LORI

Background depth in 2D should have been in 3D with appropriate detail and shadows.

INTERPOL AGENT

Great work on everything else, skin tone, shadowing, the non-pixelated background, and of course, the equal reflection of light in the eyes. You can do it all!

(glares at them)

You painted us into a corner. We can't let your code out. Very bad people would pay millions for it.

(beat)

Or they'd kill for it.

The students' eyes open wide.

MIGUEL

What are we supposed to do?

INTERPOL AGENT

(whispers, facing to Lori)

Work for us. We'd like you and your team to develop code to detect and destroy Deepfakes wherever they occur. Every industry, every social media platform, every email attachment, and every smartphone and computer with access to the Internet.

LORI

That's impossible.

INTERPOL AGENT

Steady high-paying jobs and a certain amount of protection from law enforcement agencies around the globe.

WEI

Certain amount of protection?

INTERPOL AGENT

You've made some powerful enemies this week alone. There's no guarantee we can protect you forever.

(smiles)

I have your contract offers right here.

She hands them each an envelope.

Lori gazes at her team.

LORI
We'll take it!

They shake hands with the Interpol Agent. As they cheer.

INT. ALEX'S OFFICE - DAY

SUPER: "Somewhere in Russia"

Alex paces angrily watching the video of Jack again on a loop.

Suddenly, a photo of the Chernobyl nuclear plant meltdown appears on the screen.

Alex panics as he dives at the power cord.

Message "Too late -- You've been Chernobyled."

Alex's computers all go DARK.

FADE OUT.

SUPER: Organizations such as DeepTrust Alliance, Cyber Civil Rights Initiative, Electronic Frontier Foundation, and EndTab are dedicated to helping and protecting women who are victims of Deepfake attacks.

THE END