

BLACK MARKET

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1. EXT. CITY - DAY

The morning sunshine beats down on a city skyline.

BROKER (V.O.)  
Good morning Mr. McNabb. How is my  
favourite client this morning?

SUPER: "BLACK MARKET"

2. EXT. CITY FREE-WAY - DAY

The hustle and bustle of cars as they commute on a busy free-way.

MCNABB (V.O.)  
We move on Aztecno.

A luxury sedan cruises towards the high-rise city skyscrapers.

SUPER: "STRATEGY A"

3. INT. LUXURY SEDAN - DAY

A senior company director Alan MCNABB sits in the rear seat, studies the live video call on his laptop.

BROKER (V.O.)  
(surprised)  
When? Today?

MCNABB  
As soon as the market opens.

BROKER (V.O.)  
It's still sitting at around  
thirteen bucks.

MCNABB  
(annoyed)  
We move on Aztecno today.

BROKER (V.O.)  
Are you positive, Mr. McNabb?

MCNABB  
(reluctant)  
The government isn't going to  
subsidize. They're finished.

BROKER (V.O.)  
I haven't heard anything. How did  
you... never mind. How far...?

MCNABB

The bad news isn't out yet. When it does, hit them hard. Anyone panics, buy them out. Keep going. It should be a feeding frenzy for you. Their board didn't like my offer the last time around so I want you to rock their boat.

4. INT. OFFICE - DAY

McNabb at his desk facing a screen. On the screen via video-conference is the face of a company EXECUTIVE.

MCNABB

I don't care what you have to do.

EXECUTIVE

(on screen)

But, with all due respect...

MCNABB

I do not want any more cock-ups. Do you understand?

EXECUTIVE

(on screen)

Yes, I understand what...

McNabb studies stock prices on his laptop.

CLOSE ON SCREEN: AZTECHNO PRICE REMAINS STEADY AT AROUND \$12 DOLLARS.

BACK TO MCNABB:

MCNABB

(mutters)

There goes my retirement plan.

Disappointed, McNabb returns his attention to his executive.

MCNABB

Cut ten percent! Every month cut ten per cent! Your lowest performers!

EXECUTIVE

(on screen)

I don't see the...

MCNABB

(yells)

Get rid off them.

Phone rings as he ends the call.

McNabb whips it out from inside his suit pocket.

MCNABB

Yes?

BROKER (V.O.)

Am I speaking to my most valued...?

MCNABB

How much did it set me back?

BROKER (V.O.)

(hesitant)

A little.

MCNABB

Will it be enough?

BROKER (V.O.)

(pause)

No. There was a quite lot of carnage left behind after this morning's raid, but unfortunately you didn't end up with a controlling stake.

McNabb squeezes the phone and bites his lower lip, his frustration obvious.

The screen on his desk flickers to life. Three members of Aztechno's board of directors crowd in front of the webcam, grinning.

BROKER (V.O.)

Nobody broke rank. What ever coalition existed with the current board remains intact.

A deep frown grows on McNabb's face. He hangs-up and faces the screen.

DIRECTOR 1

(on screen)

In your face McNabb.

Laughter. McNabb clicks them away.

FADE TO BLACK

SUPER: "STRATEGY B"

MCNABB (V.O.)

My proposal gentlemen involves...

CUT TO:

## 5. INT. BOARDROOM - DAY

The boardroom is dimly lit, quiet and sombre. McNabb lectures in front of a projected image.

MCNABB  
 ...buying cheap shares in a  
 business that's haemorrhaging money  
 like a sieve.

Four silhouetted figures sit around a large conference table.

## 6. EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

A white commercial van speeds down a busy metropolitan street.

## 7. INT. VAN - DAY

In the driver's seat, David SHACKLETON pulls a black ski-mask over his face.

MCNABB (V.O.)  
 Then instead of trying to fix or  
 pretend to fix it's problems...

Sitting in the passenger seat, a tall slender female, Ashley LEWIS, ties up her hair into a pony tail and then wears her ski-mask.

She hands a spare mask to Steve BLACKWOOD, a large heavysset male, who's crouching behind her.

## 8. INT. BOARDROOM - DAY

McNabb points with both index fingers directly at the group of silhouetted figures around a conference table.

MCNABB  
 ...you simply go after the  
 competition.

## 9. EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Holding his document satchel, McNabb stands on a busy city street corner.

The van arrives and stops in front of him. The side door slides open. McNabb is momentarily stunned. Two sets of hands reach out and pull him abruptly inside. The side door then slams shut with a bang.

The van speeds off down the street.

## 10. INT. VAN - DAY

McNabb is on his back in the rear of the van. He looks terrified, out of his mind; desperate.

MCNABB

Please, what ever it is you want,  
I'll cooperate!

McNabb attempts to get up. Blackwood grabs him and slams his head against the steel interior wall.

McNabb touches his forehead. A trickle of blood stains his hand. He looks up, past Blackwood.

In the passenger seat sits Lewis.

In the driver's seat is Shackleton. They are all wearing black ski masks, overalls and gloves.

Blackwood reaches over and grabs the phone from inside McNabb's breast pocket.

MCNABB

Don't do this. Please.

Blackwood examines the phone.

Lewis opens McNabb's satchel and takes out the laptop.

MCNABB

I get the message. There is no need  
to go any further.

Blackwood moves menacingly closer to McNabb and hands him the phone.

BLACKWOOD

You're gonna' call your broker. You  
gonna' buy a particular stock. If  
you deviate from any of my  
instructions...

Blackwood points to the rear doors in the van.

BLACKWOOD

We toss you out onto that oncoming  
freight truck.

CUT TO:

## 11. EXT. CITY FREE-WAY - DAY

The van changes lanes in front of an 18 wheeler freighter.

## 12. INT. VAN - DAY

McNabb looks at Blackwood. His face is filled with dread.

BLACKWOOD  
You'll end up a mangled piece of  
flesh on the highway. Do you  
understand me?

McNabb nods. Blackwood places the phone in McNabb's hands.

BLACKWOOD  
Make the call.

McNabb presses a speed dial button. He places the phone to his ear.

BROKER (V.O.)  
Is this my highly esteemed,  
cherished and most preferred  
client?

McNabb looks at his kidnappers.

LEWIS  
Episoft Limited. Its code... EPST.

MCNABB  
(into phone)  
I need you to make a move on  
Episoft Limited.

BROKER (V.O.)  
Why on earth would you want to do  
that?

MCNABB  
I need you to buy Episoft stock right now.

BROKER (V.O.)  
It's debt ridden. It's practically  
in the clutches of voluntary  
administration. Buying that shit at  
three cents would be scandalous.

MCNABB  
(angry)  
Just do it!

BROKER (V.O.)  
Okay! What kind of stake are you  
after?

LEWIS  
Keep going until you call him back.

McNabb is stunned.

MCNABB  
(reluctant)  
Keep going until I call you back.

BROKER (V.O.)  
What...?

Blackwood grabs the phone and hangs up.

MCNABB  
I don't understand.

Lewis watches the laptop screen.

CLOSE ON LAPTOP: UPDATED EPISOFT STOCK EXCHANGE PRICE.

BACK TO:

Lewis looks up.

LEWIS  
(excited)  
It's on the move.

MCNABB  
Why?

LEWIS  
Three point seven cents.

MCNABB  
This is ridiculous.

LEWIS  
Refreshing now.  
(pause)  
Four point eight cents.

McNabb begins to sweat.

BLACKWOOD  
How cashed up are you?

MCNABB  
(panicky)  
I have limited funds.

BLACKWOOD  
What about credit?

LEWIS  
(alarmed)  
Shit, we've lost our connection!

BLACKWOOD  
Turn it around.



## 13. EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

The van skids to a halt. The wheels screech as the van executes an abrupt U-turn.

## 14. INT. VAN - DAY

McNabb holds his breath.

LEWIS  
Refreshing.  
(yells)  
Seven point two cents.

McNabb's phone buzzes.

MCNABB  
It's him. He wants to know when to stop.

Blackwood holds up the phone, but doesn't answer it.

LEWIS  
Eight cents!

MCNABB  
(angry)  
Answer the damn phone!

LEWIS  
We're about to hit ten.

MCNABB  
If this keeps up they'll suspend trading.

The phone buzzing continues.

LEWIS  
Refreshing.  
(yells)  
Twenty one point five cents.

MCNABB  
Did you hear me?  
(desperate)  
They will detect this irregularity.  
They will freeze the stock.

LEWIS  
Twenty one point seven. It's levelling off.

The phone continues to buzz.

BLACKWOOD  
 (to Shackleton)  
 Are they happy with this result.

Shackleton listen to his earpiece.

SHACKLETON  
 Confirmed. They're satisfied. Let's  
 wrap it up.

Blackwood looks at McNabb and hands him the phone.

BLACKWOOD  
 My threat still stands.

McNabb quickly answers the phone.

BROKER (V.O.)  
 I stopped at nine cents.

Relief splashes across McNabb's face.

BROKER (V.O.)  
 You're a genius my good friend. I  
 don't know what the game plan is  
 but you've left one trial of mass  
 destruction.

LEWIS  
 It's dropping. It's going  
 backwards.

BROKER (V.O.)  
 What do you want to do?

McNabb looks at Blackwood.

Blackwood nods.

MCNABB  
 Sell it! Sell it all, you moron!

BLACKWOOD  
 Hang up.

McNabb hangs-up the phone.

BLACKWOOD  
 Seems to me you stand to make a  
 decent profit.

MCNABB  
 What now?

Blackwood studies McNabb. He looks at his accomplices. It  
 doesn't look good.

MCNABB  
(angry)  
You've achieved what you ...

A slight pause.

MCNABB  
(frustrated)  
Wait. You can't do this.

Blackwood studies McNabb further.

MCNABB  
I'll do anything you want.

BLACKWOOD  
Stop the van.

Lewis turns and glares at Blackwood.

LEWIS  
What do you think you're doing?

BLACKWOOD  
Slight change of plan. Pull over  
right here.

SHACKLETON  
We can't let him go.

LEWIS  
He'll go straight to the  
authorities.

MCNABB  
I swear, I won't go. Please.

SHACKLETON  
(yells)  
Bullshit. It's the first thing he's  
going to do.

Blackwood exchanges a look with McNabb.

BLACKWOOD  
No! I don't believe he will.

MCNABB (V.O.)  
You track down the rival company's  
management...

CUT TO:

15. INT. OFFICE - DAY

Blackwood is tied down to an office chair; a fearful  
expression on his sweaty face.

SUPER: "EXTORTION"

MCNABB (V.O.)  
...and extort them.

Blackwood watches on as two ski-masked thugs, dressed in business suits ransack the office.

16. INT. CITY STREET - DAY

Lewis is about to cross the street.

MCNABB (V.O.)  
You track down the their customers  
and...

SUPER: "BLACKMAIL"

A van pulls up, slide door opens and Lewis disappears inside.

MCNABB (V.O.)  
...Blackmail them.

17. EXT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Shackleton waits for the elevator.

The elevator doors slide open; reveals two thugs standing outside the elevator. Both are dressed in black suits and wear ski masks over their faces.

SUPER: "INTIMIDATION"

They casually enter and stand behind Shackleton.

MCNABB (V.O.)  
Harass and intimidate shareholders.

Shackleton grows uneasy. He nervously glances at the two thugs behind him. Elevator door slides shut.

18. INT. BOARDROOM - DAY

The silhouetted figures around the conference table nervously twist in their seats.

MCNABB  
Hinder their operations...

SUPER: "SABOTAGE"

MCNABB  
...with larceny and sabotage.

A slide on the screen reads: "SABOTAGE"

MCNABB

Kidnapping! Anything tactic that scares away both shareholders and customers alike.

19. EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

The van stops abruptly. Side door slides open. McNabb is manhandled out onto the road.

MCNABB (V.O.)

Once profits and share prices start falling, your wholesome business that's free from scandal starts looking good.

SUPER: "OUTCOME"

The van side door slams shut with a bang. A dishevelled and bleeding McNabb watches the van take off down the street.

20. INT. BOARDROOM - DAY

The McNabb changes the slide on the screen, a grin on his face.

MCNABB

Then you won't need to try to sell shares at inflated prices.

The next slide is empty. Bright light floods the room. The faces of the four silhouetted figures are lit up and revealed.

MCNABB

With increased cash-flow and profits you simply plunder the company.

On the other side of the conference table sits an anxious looking Aztechno board of directors.

MCNABB

Ladies and Gentlemen...

McNabb reaches over to his briefcase and pulls out two handguns.

MCNABB

...welcome to my retirement plan.

FADE OUT: