

EXT. CITY - DAY

The morning sunshine beats down on a city skyline.

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

SUPER: "Black Market"

EXT. CITY FREEWAY - DAY

The hustle and bustle of cars as they commute on a busy
freeway.

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

A luxury sedan cruises towards the high-rise city
sky-scrapers.

SUPER: "STRATEGY A"

INT. LUXURY SEDAN - DAY

A senior company director ALAN MCNABB sits in the rear seat,
studies the live videocall on his laptop.

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

MCNABB
As soon as the market opens.

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

MCNABB
(annoyed)
We move on Aztecno today.

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

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

BROKER (V.O. FILTERED)
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.

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...

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.

McNabb pulls whips it out from inside his suit pocket.

MCNABB

Yes?

BROKER (V.O. FILTERED)

Am I speaking to my most valued...?

MCNABB

How much did it set me back?

BROKER (V.O. FILTERED)

(hesitant)

A little.

MCNABB

Will it be enough?

BROKER (V.O. FILTERED)

(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 angrily squeezes the phone and bites his lower lip in frustration when the screen on his desk flickers to life.
Close on screen.

Three members of Aztechno's board of directors crowd in front of the webcam, grinning.

BROKER (V.O. FILTERED)

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 (V.O.)

In your face McNabb.

Laughter. McNabb clicks them away.
fade out

SUPER: "Strategy B"

MCNABB (V.O.)

My proposal gentlemen involves...

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 hemorrhaging money
like a sieve.

Four silhouetted figures sit around a large conference table.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

A white commercial van speeds down a busy metropolitan street.

INT. VAN - DAY

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

MCNABB
Then instead of trying to fix or
pretend to fix it's problems...

Sitting in the passenger seat Ashley LEWIS ties up her hair into a pony tail and does the same with her ski-mask. She then hands a spare mask to Steve BLACKWOOD crouching behind her.

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.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Holding his document satchel, McNabb stands on a busy 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.

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. A large heavysset male thug grabs him and slams his head against the steel interior wall.

McNabb falls back down. McNabb touches his forehead. A trickle of blood stains his hand.

He looks up past the thug.

In the passenger seat sits a tall slender female. In the driver's seat is another male. They are all wearing black ski masks, overalls and gloves.

A masked 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
Please! 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.

EXT. CITY FREEWAY - DAY

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

INT. VAN - DAY

McNabb looks back 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.

A brief moment.

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

McNabb looks at his kidnappers.

LEWIS
(low voice)
Episoft Limited. Its code... EPST.

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

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

MCNABB
I need you to buy Episoft stock
right now.

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

Blackwood grabs the phone and hangs up.

MCNABB
I don't understand.

Lewis watches the laptop screen.
close on laptop

An updated Episoft stock exchange price appears on the
laptop screen.

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.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

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

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
leveling off.

The phone continues to buzz.

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

SHACKLETON
(on earpiece)
Yes, 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. FILTERED)
I stopped at nine cents.

Relief on McNabb's face.

BROKER (V.O. FILTERED)
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. FILTERED)
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)
Why? You've achieved what you ...

A slight pause.

MCNABB
(frustrated)
You can't do this, please.

Blackwood studies McNabb further.

MCNABB
I'll do anything.

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
(dire)
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 think he will.

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

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Steve BLACKWOOD is tied down to an office chair. He has 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.

INT. CITY STREET - DAY

Ashley 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.

EXT. ELEVATOR - DAY

David SHACKLETON waits for the elevator. A bell rings. 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.

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.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

The van stops abruptly. Side door slides open. McNabb is quickly pushed 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 disheveled and bleeding McNabb watches the van take off down the street.

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:

THE END