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FIVE

MUMBAI CALLING

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BASED ON AN ORIGINAL IDEA BY ALLAN
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EPISODE 5 – The Dating Season

SCENE 1: INT. TECHNOBABBLE OFFICE. DAY.

CALLER 1

That's ridiculous. I'd like to talk to someone with a brain.
Get me your manager.

NAYNA

I'm afraid you'll have to choose sir. Would you like to
speak to a manager or someone with a brain?

IT'S MORNING IN THE CALL CENTRE AND THE STAFF ARE
BUSY ON THE PHONES.

GEETA

Welcome to Love Lines internet dating,
how may I help?

CALLER

That date you sent me on was a bloody
disaster. You said that he looked like
Pierce Brosnan!

GEETA

He does. I have his details on-screen right
now.

CALLER

Might it be because the picture he
uploaded is actually of Pierce Brosnan?

GEETA

Oh dear. I wondered why he was holding a
gun.

CUT TO:

FEMALE

Oh hello, You set me up with a date.

BINDYA

Oh yes, how did it go?

FEMALE

Well if you remember, I asked for a man with the brains of Steven Hawking and the body of David Beckham.

BINDYA

And?

FEMALE

You got them the wrong way round.

OPERATOR REACTS

TITLES

SCENE 2: INT. KENNY'S OFFICE. DAY.

DEV HAS HIS FEET UP ON KENNY'S DESK,
TALKING ON KENNY'S PHONE,

DEV

These pills are 100% effective (BEAT)
50% of the time. Hardeep, Hardeep, listen
- These pills are made from the larval
remains of silk worms. You'll be a new
man in the bedroom and you can also spin
your own silk sheets!

KENNY WALKS IN

DEV

(INTO PHONE)

Ok call me back... Auntie. Ok bye...

KENNY

Dev I have told you about using the office
for personal calls. What's wrong with your
mobile?

DEV REMOVES A GARISH BRIGHT PINK
MOBILE FROM HIS POCKET

DEV

See this, it works underwater. I just can't
get it to work on land.

DEV'S PINK MOBILE SUDDENLY STARTS PLAYING A BANGHRA TUNE. HE TRIES TO TURN IT OFF.

HE BANGS IT ON THE DESK AND IT STOPS.

DEV

Who sells this crap?

KENNY

You do.

KENNY IS SEATED AT HIS DESK HE PICKS UP AN INVITATION IT'S VERY OFFICIAL AND GRAND LOOKING, WITH GOLD EMBOSSED LETTERING ETC.

KENNY

Do you open everyone's mail ?

DEV

Yes, boss but always yours first.

KENNY

Whats this ?

DEV

Its an invitation to the Indo British Trade association dinner and dance ...and raffle.

KENNY

Sounds a bit exclusive

DEV

Oh, it is. It's the highlight of their social calendar. It's so high powered they say it's causing climate change. (BEAT) and there's always an inspiring, keynote speech from a local dignitary.

KENNY

Great. Who's speaking this year?

DEV

You are.

KENNY'S SMILE IS WIPED OFF.

KENNY

(PANICS) What? Where does it say that?

DEV LOOKING AT A MESSAGE PAD

It doesn't. Mr Glass's office phoned. They need you to speak on 'How Teknobabble exemplifies co-operation and sustainable development as an international business stakeholder'.

KENNY

I cant even say that!

DEV

Ah well, I took the liberty of accepting on your behalf. Come on Mr Kenny, its your chance to impress all those high powered bosses with your flashing wit and your pointless stories.

KENNY

(FLATTERED) I suppose so. But my stuff's pretty edgy. It might go over their heads.

CUT TO:

**SCENE 2A – FLASHBACK – INT.
LONDON WEDDING**

KENNY IN WEDDING SUITE AT THE TOP TABLE, SOMEWHERE IN NORTH LONDON, STANDING, MAKING A SPEECH, WITH THE BRIDE AND GROOM TO HIS LEFT. HE RIFLES THROUGH HIS NOTES.

KENNY

I'm sure you all agree that the bride looks like a real babe? You've seen the movie, right? Babe? It's about a pig. Haha!

WE SEE THREE UNSMILING FACES,
GLARING BACK AT HIM – THE GROOM
COMFORTS THE BRIDE, WHO IS IN TEARS.

KENNY (OOV)

Oh and there's the Mother, Babe Two!

CUT BACK:

SCENE 2 contd – INT. KENNY'S OFFICE

DEV

Mr Kenny, you have a 'unique' way with words.

KENNY

Alright, yeah, I'll do it. I'll go and talk to Terri.

DEV

Why?

KENNY

It says here I can take a guest.

DEV

Who do you think she'll suggest?

KENNY

I'm going to take Terri, as my guest.

DEV

Oh Mr Kenny! Don't put yourself through that pain! she's not the girl for you.

KENNY

Oh I dunno, She's bright, she's attractive...

DEV

Exactly! Follow my example (BEAT) Aim low! I can sort you out a suitable companion. A bendy girl. Big smile, big heart, big—

DEV GESTURES AS TERRI PUTS HER HEAD AROUND THE DOOR

TERRI

Kenny, did you give the staff that pep talk on the Love Lines dating service?

KENNY

Well my preliminary findings er suggest er further er investigation into the relative opportunities, merits and indeed de-merits of ...

TERRI

So no then

KENNY

So... no.

TERRI

Kenny! Some of these people don't understand about British dating,...they're just not getting the brief.

DEV

(ASIDE)

Nor does he.

TERRI

... yep well you said you'd talk to them yesterday, what do you waste your time on?

SCENE 2B - FLASHBACK TO:

KENNY AND DEV, IN KENNYS OFFICE. THEY HAVE SIX SMALL TOY CHAIRS STACKED INTO A TOWER AND ARE CAREFULLY TRYING TO BALANCE THE SEVENTH ON THE TOP. THEY DO SO AND THEN DO A LITTLE CELEBRATION, LIKE A PREMIERSHIP FOOTBALLER SCORING A GOAL.

CUT BACK TO:

SCENE 2 contd -INT. KENNY'S OFFICE

KENNY

We were busy, working. Look I'll get onto it today. But listen, are you busy Friday night?

TERRI

None of your business! Unless... Kenny Gupta, are you asking me out?

KENNY

Might be.

TERRI

Friday night in Mumbai! What's that - a couple of drinks in the hottest cocktail bar, then strut our stuff to the Bhangra Basement at the Insomnia Club?

KENNY

The Indo-British trade Association dinner and dance...

TERRI

God no!

KENNY

... and raffle.

TERRI

Ooh, that almost swung it! I couldn't think of anything worse. One of those posh pompous do's full of jumped up numpties followed by a dreadfully dull speech from some self-important middle-manager with a big ego.

(BEAT)

SHE WALKS OUT.

DEV

How did she know you're doing the speech? Well come on, Boss , I'll get you one of my bendy girls...A really classy one... with very few body piercings.

KENNY

NO. No bendy girls. I know - I'll invite you. Yeah I'll talk to a few people, grease a few palms...there's a very good chance I could get you in.

DEV

There's a very good chance. (BEAT) I'm on the organizing committee. I go every year. The supervisors come too.

DEV LEAVES, SMUG. KENNY BLOWS OUT HIS CHEEKS

CUT TO:

**SCENE 3; INT. TECHNOBABLE
OFFICE. DAY
LOWER LEVEL**

THE STAFF ARE ON THE PHONES.

SARIKA

(REHEARSED) 'Thank you for calling Love Lines -what can I do for you?

REVEAL: TERRI IS SAT NEARBY, LISTENING IN VIA A MASTER PHONE. SHE PUSHES BUTTONS TO SWITCH BETWEEN CALLS.

CALLER

I want a girl who's up for anything.

SARIKA

We have girls who enjoy every sort of hobby on our database, Sir: tennis, opera, bird watching?

CALLER

Water sports?

SARIKA TAPS ON HER KEYBOARD

SARIKA(Knowingly)

Absolutely Sir.

TERRI NARROWS HER EYES . WHAT IS SARIKA ABOUT TO SAY

SARIKA

I have a lady here who enjoys windsurfing.

TERRI ROLLS HER EYES.SHES STANDING BY SARIKA. SHE GIVES A "ITS STILL NOT WORKING LOOK"

CUT TO LOVELY

LOVELY

And what was wrong with the last man we fixed you up with, Madam

CALLER (FEMALE)

Absolutely nothing. He was great!

LOVELY

(READING OFF THE SCREEN) Tall, Swedish, athletic...

CALLER (FEMALE)

Yep, great body. Great.

LOVELY

So why don't you want to see any more of him?

CALLER (FEMALE)

Well, I don't think there's any more of him to see, darling, if you know what I mean. Got any short Scottish redheads this time?

LOVELY

Certainly

CALLER (FEMALE)

But something that really packs the kilt.

TERRI TAKES HER HEAD SET OFF AND LEAVES.

CUT TO:

SCENE 4: INT. KENNY'S OFFICE. DAY

KENNY IS HUNCHED OVER HIS DESK, WRITING. THE BLINDS ARE CLOSED. HIS TIE IS ASKEW AND HIS JACKET IS OFF. HE CHEWS ON HIS PENCIL, SEARCHING FOR THE RIGHT WORDS

KENNY

(READING ALOUD) Ladies and gentlemen.....

DEV

Well..

KENNY

That's as far as I have got.

DEV

it started like that last year...total disaster !

(HE SCREWS THE SHEET OF PAPER UP AND THROWS IT AT THE BIN.

HE STARTS A NEW SHEET. THERE IS A BIG BLOCK OF A4 NEXT TO HIM) THE WHOLE WHILE.

SARIKA (ON THE INTERCOM)

Mr Kenny, The supervisors are waiting for you in the conference room.

DEV

Ah yes, you have to tell them how to handle these dating calls.

KENNY

But Dev,— I'm dredging words from the very pit of my soul here. Can you do it?

DEV

Dredge the pit of your very soul?
(SHUDDERS) Euugh!

KENNY

No! No, the pep talk. I need to make this speech brilliant, uplifting, the talk of the town! Make Terri wish she'd been there to hear it...

DEV

I still think it's good she said no. It could be a total disaster.

KENNY

Yeah, yeah I know - we work well as colleagues, but it could get complicated.

DEV

No I was talking about your speech. But yes, that as well.
Never mix work and pleasure. It's the second rule of business.

KENNY

What's the first rule?

DEV

Don't get caught photocopying your bum.

FLASHBACK

SCENE 4A – INT. PHOTOCOPY MACHINE AREA

DEV SITTING ON PHOTOCOPIER AND GETTING CAUGHT BY SARIKA WHO WALKS BY,

DEV

It's a boil. I have to fax it to my doctor.

CUT TO

SCENE 4 – CALL CENTRE

OPERATOR 1

IT support?

CALLER 1

Look before you start, I'm an IT professional, ok? I know more about computers than you do. So don't give me any of this crap about have I plugged it in. Just treat me like a qualified expert, alright?

OPERATOR 1

Certainly sir. Now have you checked if your memory is seated properly.

CALLER 1

Duh, god there you go. Yes, of course I've checked it.

OPERATOR 1

Right. Now have you adjusted your latency timing so that they synchronize or are you just using a DDR 3 with a CP1 shifting alba rythm?

CALLER 1

Erm... the red light is flashing and it just keeps making a nasty beeping noise.

OPERATOR 1

Oh, shall we start from the basics then?

CALLER 1

Yes...

OPERATOR 1

Good.

**SCENE 5: INT. CONFERENCE ROOM
DAY**

DEV IS TALKING TO SOME OF THE OPERATORS, INCLUDING BINDIYA, GEETA, SARIKA AND PREM

DEV

Now listen – The British are not like us.

PREM

How do you know so much about them?

DEV

I have seen many, many British movies.
Has anybody seen Brief Encounters?

BINDIYA

Yes. It's the one where the aliens come to
earth in a big spaceship.

DEV

No that's Brief Encounters Of The Third
Kind. I'm talking about the original. In
black and white.

SARIKA

I know. A married gentleman and a
married lady meet at a railway station to
share a pot of tea.

DEV

No. A married gentleman and a married
lady meet up at a railway station.. ..to
have sex.

THE OPERATORS SEEM SHOCKED

Why do you think their upper lips are so
stiff? With the British, everything is about
sex. Therefore, a dating agency is not
about dating, it's about sex.

SARIKA

So when they say they're hoping for
friendship?

DEV

They're probably looking for sex.

PREM

And when they say they want a
'companion'?

DEV

They are *definitely* looking for sex.

BINDIYA

And when they say they want sex?

DEV

They are rampant sex addicts!

THE STAFF SEEM SHOCKED

DEV

Everything they say is loaded with innuendo.

TERRI looks in to the conference room.

TERRI

Ah, Dev, I need you right now.

THE STAFF EXCHANGE GLANCES

TERRI

There's something I can't put my finger on – perhaps you can help...

DEV LOOKS UNCERTAIN. TERRI PAUSES. SHE TURNS TO LOOK AT THE STAFF

THE STAFF ARE ALL STARING AT HER, OPEN-MOUTHED IN SHOCK

TERRI

Have I come at the wrong moment?

THE SUPERVISORS ARE SHOCKED AND EVERYBODY SNIGGERS.

TERRI

Look, I seem to be getting calls for you in my office. From a 'Hardeep'?

DEV

Ah yes, thank you, Miss Terri. (HASTILY)
That's a work call.

TERRI

Well he says he's having problems trying
to get it to stay up.

THE STAFF GASP AS ONE.

DEV SPINS ROUND TO FACE THEM.

DEV

No!

HE FROWNS AT THEM AND SHAKES HIS
HEAD.

DEV

(THINKING ON HIS FEET) Ah... yes, that'll
be Hardeep and Hardeep ... the scaffolding
firm. I'll be there in a moment. (TO THE
STAFF) So, to conclude - They're just
sad, lonely people, unable to forge any
meaningful relationships. Why else would
they be using a dating agency?

TERRI OVERHEARS THIS, AND LOOKS
UNCOMFORTABLE SHE LEAVES AND
HEADS TO KENNY'S OFFICE

CUT TO:

SCENE 6: KENNY'S OFFICE. DAY

KENNY IS IN TURMOIL. HE PACES THE
ROOM, SURROUNDED NOW BY SCREWED
UP PAPER

TERRI

Why's Dev doing the dating agency pep
talk?

KENNY

He's got far more experience of this kind of thing than I have, I've never used a dating agency as I'm probably sure you haven't.

TERRI LOOKS GUILTY.

TERRI

Of course I haven't.

CUT TO FLASHBACK:

**SCENE 6A: RESTAURANT
LONDON**

TERRI AT A RESTAURANT TABLE, CANDLELIT. SHE LOOKS UNHAPPY AND IS SPEAKING TO SOMEONE WE CAN'T SEE

TERRI

It says in your details you're a mature and sensitive guy?

WE PULL BACK TO SEE AN OLD MAN WEEPING HIS HEART OUT .

**TERRI (WAVING FRANTICALLY TO
WAITER)**

Excuse me. I... can I get the bill?

CUT BACK TO OFFICE:

SCENE 6: KENNY'S OFFICE. DAY

TERRI (cont'd)

I'm not a sad lonely person who's unable to forge a meaningful relationship in the real world Kenny.

KENNY

No you're not !

TERRI

Exactly!

KENNY

And neither am I.

TERRI

Good.

KENNY

Good.

TERRI

See ya

KENNY

See ya.

THEY SHARE A MOMENT.

TERRI EXITS

BEAT

KENNY SCREWS UP THE PAPER IN HIS HAND AND, WITH A GRUNT OF FRUSTRATION, HURLS IT TOWARDS THE BIN

KENNY

Mnh!

IT LANDS IN THE BIN – THE FIRST ONE

KENNY SIGHS

SCENE 1C

CUT TO: EXT TEA STALL

LOVELY

I don't know how long I can keep this up...are we match makers or are we pimps?

BINDIYA

Tell me about it..Just today I had a couple on line looking for a threesome !!!

AMIT

Every time I ask a girl out, it ends in a threesome...her mother comes along !

BINDIYA AND LOVELY LOOK AT HIM,
ASTONISHED

Bindiya & Lovely exit leaving Amit alone.

CUT TO NENAH ON A CALL

CALLER 1

I'd just like to find someone that just you know really understands me.

NEYNA

Ah... you want sex.

CALLER 2

I'm looking for someone to go for a really nice
meal with.

PREM

You want kinky food sex.

TERRI APPROACHES SARIKA

TERRI

Sarika, have the staff assemble for another chat...

... I'm not sure we've got this whole 'love' thing sorted.

CALLER 3

I'd like to meet someone who shares my interest in the outdoors and motoring.

NIKHIL

Ah, you want to go dogging in the car park?

CALLER 3

Dogging er I don't really understand...

CUT TO:

END OF PART ONE

PART TWO

OPERATOR 1

And your memorable date?

CALLER 1

April 14th

OPERATOR 1

No sir that's today's date.

CALLER 1

I know.

OPERATOR 1

Today is your memorable date?

CALLER 1

It certainly is.

OPERATOR 1

What is so memorable about today sir?

CALLER 1

Speaking to you. Hearing your lovely voice.

OPERATOR 1

Speaking to me? That's very sweet of you.

CALLER 1

Now about the overdraft?

OPERATOR 1

Sir, I can't increase the limit on your overdraft even though I do have a lovely voice.

SCENE 9: INT. LOWER LEVEL- DAY

KENNY IS CLUTCHING A SMALL POCKET BOOK ENTITLED 'FAMOUS SPEECHES', FROM WHICH HE READS TO DEV, REALLY SELLING EACH LINE.

KENNY

Dev. I'm thinking of using some quotes for my speech, you know.

DEV

Great!

KENNY

OK, how about this one? I have nothing to declare but my genius.

DEV

Oscar Wilde, 1882

Its too arrogant. And, well...

KENNY

What?

DEV

A bit gay.

LATER, KENNY INTERCEPTING DEV ON THE STAIRWAY:

KENNY

Dev! Ok, how about this one: Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes.

DEV

Mahatma Gandhi, 1922.

SARIKA

We've all seen the movie.

QUICK CUT TO:

**SCENE 9A: INT. CALL CENTRE
BATHROOM DOOR**

KENNY OUTSIDE A DOOR, CALLING
THROUGH TO SOMEBODY.

WE HEAR THE TOILET FLUSH, THE DOOR
OPENS AND DEV COMES OUT.

DEV

Not bad. Quite rousing.

KENNY

(READS ON, DISAPPOINTED) Adolf Hitler,
1938.

CUT BACK TO KENNY'S OFFICE:

SCENE 9: INT KENNY'S OFFICE

KENNY SLUMPS DOWN IN A CHAIR. HE
LOOKS DEPRESSED.

KENNY (cont'd)

Oh it's all turned to shit.

DEV

Who said that?

KENNY

Kenny Gupta, 2008. I can't do this.

POINTS AT DEV

DEV (CONT)

This is not the Mr Kenny I have come to admire and respect. When the chips are on and the heat is down, he knows it's time to pick up his sword and smell the coffee. And show the world exactly what he is made of: a man or a mouse.

HIS PHONE RINGS – THE SAME BHANGRA TUNE AS BEFORE. HE BASHES IT ON THE TABLE IT STOPS. HE CONTINUES TALKING

KENNY

That'sjust words

DEV

What else do you need. In the village where I come from Gunjagagangurshila Gaon near Hoshiarpur when the going gets tough, the tough get going. It is a far, far better thing you do now than you have ever done. We are the world, we are the children, and its jelly and ice cream for pudding

DEV SITS DOWN. A PAUSE.

KENNY

(INSPIRED) You're absolutely right, Dev. BEAT What am I afraid of What have I got to lose?

DEV

You have nothing to fear but fear itself.

KENNY

Franklin Roosevelt 1944. I am going to create a bloody masterpiece!

DEV

Leonardo da Vinci, 1502

KENNY AND DEV SHARE THEIR MOMENT OF TRIUMPH.

CUT TO:

SCENE 10. INT. MEETING ROOM. DAY

TERRI ADDRESSES THE STAFF. SHE HAS A FLIP CHART WITH A BIG LOVE HEART DRAWN ON THE FIRST PAGE

TERRI

I think Mr Rajah has led you up the wrong path about British dating.

GITA

Taken us up the wrong passage?

PREM

A bum steer?

SHE IGNORES THIS JOKE FROM THE STAFF WHO GIGGLE.

TERRI

What is love?

AMAR

Miss Terri, I know. Love is unknowable.

TERRI

Yes, yes. Very good, Amar. It's something you can't quite touch.

SARIKA GIGGLING

But we all hope to touch it by the time we're twenty-five.

TERRI

In Britain, it is quite acceptable to be an, independent, intelligent woman of about my age and still be single.

SARIKA

Isn't that unusual?

TERRI

(CLEARLY TALKING ABOUT HERSELF) No, no, no. Not at all perhaps you're wary of

making a commitment maybe because of HIM. Or, or her. Maybe you no longer celebrate your birthday because of what HE was doing with your best friend in your bed on your birthday,. (GETTING VISIBLY UPSET AND WORKED UP) with your birthday cake. (DEV HAS QUIETLY SNUCK IN BUT TERRI HASN'T SEEN HIM)

And now you find yourself alone in a foreign country. But this isn't about me!

TERRI'S BREATHING HARD, CLOSE TO TEARS – BUT HOLDING THEM BACK

TERRI

Ok. chop chop

THE STAFF FILE OUT, CONCERNED, PAST TERRI – WHO AVOIDS THEIR GAZE, BY STARING DOWN AT HER MOBILE PHONE

BINDIYA

There, there, Ms Terri. Don't let them get to you. Men are all the same.

PREM (talking to the other Guys)

What were they doing with the birthday cake?

HE IS SHUSHED BY THE OTHER WOMEN

SOON DEV IS ALONE WITH TERRI

DEV

(KINDLY) Miss Terri. Maybe you need to get out a bit more?

OPERATOR 1

Madam, are you currently using any medication?

CALLER 1

I'm on my third G & T.

OPERATOR 1

No. Gin and Tonic doesn't count.

SCENE 11: INT. KENNY'S OFFICE. DAY

KENNY AT HIS COMPUTER:

KENNY

Fellow travelers on the road to Indo-British trade harmonisation ... no ... on the path to Indo-British trade harmonisation

(HE GOES AND SITS BEHIND HIS COMPUTER AND CHANGES THE WORD 'ROAD' TO 'PATH'. HE LOOKS PLEASED. HE PRESSES 'SAVE' WITH A FLOURISH)

And Save ...

(HE PRESSES ANOTHER KEY)

... and print.

THE PRINTER HUMS INTO LIFE.

DEV ENTERS

DEV

All set, Mr Churchill?

KENNY

Well, I've been up all night, honing and tweaking ...

DEV

Did you get any work done?

KENNY

(IGNORING HIM) I think I've cracked it.

HE GESTURES TO THE PRINTER

DEV

How many pages?

KENNY

Thirty.

DEV LOOKS SHOCKED - WHISTLES

That does include the title page, and the bibliography, which I'll only do if I get an encore.

KENNY.

By the end of this speech I'm going to have the audience on their feet.

DEV FORCES A NERVOUS SMILE.

DEV

Yes they'll be dying for a pee.

KENNY

Do you know I just wish Terri was coming along. This could be my finest hour.

DEV GLANCES AT THE PRINTER - PAGES KEEP COMING RELENTLESSLY OUT OF IT.

DEV

Or your finest two hours.

FINISH ON PRINTER AGAIN - PAGES STILL SHOOTING OUT

CUT TO:

SCENE 12: EXT. INDO-BRITISH TRADE ASSOCIATION TERRACE. EVENING

GUESTS MILL AROUND ON THE TERRACE AGAINST A GORGEOUS EARLY EVENING SKY. COLOURED LIGHTS. A BANNER READING, 'INDO BRITISH TRADE ASSOCIATION DINNER DANCE AND RAFFLE'.

A CLASSICAL QUARTET PLAY A LILTING RAGA. WAITERS IN INDIAN FINERY CIRCULATE WITH TRAYS OF CHAMPAGNE

AND NIBBLES. KENNY'S NAME BADGE
READS 'BENNY GUPTA.' A WAITER OFFERS
HIM A GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE. HE
POLITELY RAISES HIS HAND

KENNY

(PROUD) Not for me, I have to keep a
clear head. I'm delivering the keynote
speech.

THE WAITER COULDN'T BE LESS
INTERESTED AND MOVES OFF. A BRITISH
DIPLOMAT, SIR RUPERT, APPROACHES
AND BENDS TO READ KENNY'S BADGE.
HE'S SOMETHING OF AN OLD COLONIAL

SIR RUPERT

Good evening

KENNY

Good evening.

SIR RUPERT

(READS BADGE) Benny Gupta....

KENNY

Kenny. They misheard me at the desk.

THEY SHAKE HANDS

SIR RUPERT

Ah Benny Kenny. I'm Rupert De Beer.

KENNY

Rupert the ... ?

SIR RUPERT

Rupert De Beer.

And whom do you represent?

KENNY

Technobabble. One of the ... (BUSKING IT)
widest call centres in Mumbai. A model
Indo-British company.

SIR RUPERT

Well bully for you, Benny. Now, these bashes are jolly good fun – provided you're completely sozzled in time for those god-awful speeches.

KENNY

I'm staying focused. I'm delivering the 'god-awful speech'.

SIR RUPERT IS UTTERLY UNFAZED

SIR RUPERT

Oh quite right, too. Now whats the last line of your speech? I want to beat the rush for the bog.

KENNY

Ah, well actually... (PATS JACKET) it's quite an uplifting, final...

HE PATS HIS JACKET AGAIN. A WORRIED LOOK DESCENDS. HE PATS THE OTHER SIDE OF HIS JACKET. A LOOK OF PANIC. QUICK CUTAWAY TO HIS SPEECH STILL SITTING ON THE PRINTER.

KENNY

Shit.

SIR RUPERT ISN'T REALLY LISTENING

SIR RUPERT

A final shit? Too late old man, you're nearly on.

KENNY

Oh God!

WE HEAR A GONG SOUND FOR DINNER

SCENE 12A:

TERRI

Yup...it's me.. I was going to sit in and wait for you to call...but you know what..don't bother...I'm out and I'm going to have some fun.

Hi.

CAR DOOR OPENS AND DEV ENTERS.

DEV

Hi you look great.

SCENE 13: EXT. INDO-BRITISH TRADE ASSOCIATION TERRACE. NIGHT

KENNY IS SEATED AT THE TOP TABLE WITH SIR RUPERT TO ONE SIDE AND AN ATTRACTIVE, SMART, AMERICAN WOMAN KENNY KNOCKS BACK A CHAMPAGNE. SIR RUPERT ELBOWS HIM AGGRESSIVELY

SIR RUPERT

Just remember to keep it short or you will bomb like the Taliban, eh?! Good Man Benny.

SIR RUPERT HAS TURNED AWAY TO CONTINUE ANOTHER CONVERSATION. KENNY DOWNS TWO OR THREE GLASSES OF WINE IN NERVOUS QUICK SUCCESSION

KENNY TAKES ANOTHER SWIG AND STARES ACROSS THE ROOM. ARRIVING VERY LATE, IS TERRI, LOOKING RADIANT. KENNY'S FACE LIGHTS UP - SHE'S COME AFTER ALL!

TERRI LOOKS BEHIND HER. DEV FOLLOWS HER IN, AND THEN LINKS ARMS WITH HER AND LEADS ACROSS TO A DINNER TABLE. KENNY'S FACE DROPS. HE CANT BELIEVE IT.

SIR RUPERT FOLLOWS KENNY'S GAZE.
WE SEE TERRI AND DEV AGAIN, BEING
SEATED, LOOKING VERY MUCH A COUPLE.
TERRI LOOKS UP AND SMILES AT KENNY,

SIR RUPERT

He's a lucky man, Benny.

SIR RUPERT GOES BACK TO ANOTHER
CONVERSATION, KENNY STARES, HIS
FACE LIKE THUNDER.

THE MC, STANDING BEHIND A LECTERN,
IS BANGING A GAVEL

MC

Ladies and Gentlemen, would you please
show your appreciation for our keynote
speaker, Mr Kenny Benny.

POLITE BUT ENTHUSIASTIC APPLAUSE
FROM THE WHOLE ROOM. DEV WHISTLES.

WE SEE A TABLE OF SUPPORT ALL OF THE
TEKNOBABLE SUPERVISERS

SIR RUPERT MAKES AN 'OK HAND
GESTURE, AS IF HE FIXED IT ABOUT
KENNY'S REAL NAME

KENNY

(SLIGHTLY DRUNK) Friends, Indians,
countrymen ...

THE AUDIENCE REMAIN SILENT

Fellow travelers on the path to Indo-British
trade harmonisation ...

WE HAVE SILENCE , BROKEN BY DEV'S
PHONE.

KENNY

I had a beautifully-honed 30 page speech but I left it in the printer at the office.

KENNY (Cont'd)

What I really think ...

HE CLEARS HIS THROAT. WE SEE A COUPLE OF AUDIENCE MEMBERS LOOKING UNIMPRESSED; A WOMAN SHRUGS AT HER PARTNER.

Is this.

BEAT.

Indo-British relations ...

(HE LOOKS OVER AT DEV AND TERRI)
... are built on trust. If you can't trust an Indian in India, then who can you trust?

(HE'S TALKING ABOUT DEV AND TERRI, BUT NOBODY ELSE KNOWS IT)
THE SPEECH IS INTERCUT WITH SHOTS OF THE AUDIENCE, THE TOP TABLE, DEV AND TERRI. EVERYONE REALIZES THEY ARE LISTENING TO SOMETHING IMPORTANT AND THE WOMAN SITTING NEXT TO KENNY IS IMPRESSED.

OUR TABLE OF SUPERVISORS ARE ALSO ENGROSSED IN THE SPEECH. PREM IS TAKING NOTES. LOVELY AND SWEETY ARE HOLDING HANDS, AMIT IS TOO NERVOUS TO WATCH . NIKHIL IS FAST ASLEEP.

KENNY

And then you have Britain and India sharing a table, sipping from the same bottle of champagne.

WE SEE TERRI AND DEV SIPPING CHAMPAGE .

(MURMURS OF APPROVAL FROM THE AUDIENCE)

But what about the British Indian? As someone who I used to think was a friend once told me:

AT THIS MOMENT DEV'S PHONE SPRINGS TO LIFE – THE BHANGRA RINGTONE – EVERYONE TURNS AROUND TO LOOK AT HIM. HE BASHES IT ON THE TABLE TO GET IT TO STOP.

When the chips are on and the heat is down, he knows it's time to pick up his sword and smell the coffee! To show the world what he is made of: a man or a mouse.

Where I come from, a village called Wembley, when the going gets tough, the tough get going. It is a far, far better thing than you do now than you have ever done.

(KENNY RAISES HIS ARMS AS IF A PREACHER. HE'S INTO IT)

KENNY (Cont'd)

These are the best of times, these are the worst of times, we are the world, we are the children, and there's jelly and ice cream for pudding! Goodnight!

THE ROOM EXPLODES INTO APPLAUSE. KENNY SOAKS IT UP, THEN SLUMPS FORWARD ONTO THE LECTERN.

LAUGHTER. SIR RUPERT BURSTS INTO APPLAUSE AND STANDS UP.

SIR RUPERT

Good show, Benny! Short and to the point!

KENNY REACTS TO THE LAUGHTER AND FINDS HIS VOICE. SIR RUPERT SITS BACK DOWN.

FOR A FEW AGONISING SECONDS, KENNY
DRAWS A BLANK

CUT TO:

TERRI AND DEV APPROACH KENNY.
KENNY STANDS.

DEV

Well done, Mr Kenny!

TERRI

You didn't say it was you making the
speech.

KENNY

Ah well, you know.

TERRI

Well done. Come here.

SHE HUGS KENNY

MC

Ladies and Gentleman...its now time for
the Grand Prize raffle to be drawn!

THERE'S A GENERAL LOOKING UP AT THE
MC AND GETTING OUT OF TICKETS.

MC

And... the lucky winner is...

A GLAMOUROUS LADY PULLS OUT A
WINNING TICKET

MC

Number 217 !!! Bought by a Mr Kenny
Benny.

DEV

I'll get some drinks

MC

And he wins a romantic trip for two in KERALA.

KENNY IS OBVIOUSLY SURPRISED. TERRI GIVES HIM AN INSTINCTIVE HUG OF CONGRATULATION. AWAY FROM KENNY.

SIR RUPERT MAKES IT WORSE...

SIR RUPERT (BOORISHLY)

I don't think they'll see much of the beach!

KENNY (TO TERRI)

Its um... Its a nice prize that. A weekend away.

TERRI

Yeah.

SLIGHT BEAT.

KENNY

Shame I can't go you know I've got no-one to go with ... I'll have to pass (HE GOES FOR IT) But er...I don't suppose... you'd be interested in a weekend away...?

TERRI

Oh Kenny. That's so sweet of you. Of course, I'd absolutely love to go.

KENNY

Really...?

KENNY CAN'T BELIEVE HIS EARS. HE'S ABOUT TO SAY SOMETHING HE'LL REGRET WHEN TERRI CONTINUES...

TERRI

Yeah It's perfect. I've got a friend coming over from London. Thank you. Come here. A trip to Kerala, fantastic! Ah you!

HE GIVES HIM A HUG AND KISS OF GENUINE, BUT SLIGHTLY SISTERLY,

AFFECTION. KENNY IS SHATTERED BUT TRIES TO RECOVER.

KENNY

Great. Well, I know, you know. 'Cos... I'm really busy at the moment you know...I've got to set up that new Helpline... for, Alcoholics

DEV

Drinks?

A WAITER ARRIVES WITH A TRAY OF DRINKS

TERRI

What a night! To you, Kenny! And Kerala!

THEY RAISE THEIR GLASSES

KENNY

(RESIGNED) Kerala.

THE SUPERVISORS GATHER AROUND TO CONGRATULATE KENNY.

SCENE 8: INT. TECHNOBABLE OFFICE. DAY LOWER LEVEL

THE OPERATORS MAN THE PHONES

SARIKA

Thank you for calling Love Lines. (...) Yes, sir, you say you'd like to meet an "intelligent lady who appreciates Greek art". (BEAT) You actually mean you wish to get your leg over, don't you?

END OF EPISODE