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
What’s this?

DEV
It’s 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. TECHNOMABLE 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. SHE'S 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 HUNCHEDE 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 WHILRE.

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) Eugh!
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 syncronize 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-MOUTHPED 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 TABLER IT STOPS. HE CONTINUES TALKING

KENNY
That’s ....just 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
(INSPRIRED) 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 what’s 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 SUCCESION

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. EVERYON 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 CHAMPAGNE.

(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. TECHNOBABBLE 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