

Screenplay

THE ATTIC: EPISODE 1 (THERE'S A NEW RAT IN THE ATTIC)

SLOW MO

Gearbox is walking up the stairs and into the room where there are small booth offices. workers are staring as he is walking through the room. Gearbox sits down and puts down his name tag. He's sat next to Liam who leans into his booth

LIAM

Welcome to the dungeon (looks for his name tag)

GEARBOX

can I help?

LIAM

what's your name mate?

GEARBOX

Gearbox

LIAM

cool little nickname, but you're real name

GEARBOX

my real name is Gearbox

LIAM

flippin'el

chuckling to himself, Liam starts typing on his PC and shortly every other staff member gets a ping on their computers

CLOSE UP: AKASH PC SCREEN

on screen it says "the new rat's name is 'Gearbox'" Akash looks up to the sky with praying hands

AKASH

Thank You, Finally!

Gradually each worker's laugh is getting louder and louder until they are hysterical. Yusuf is lying on the table laughing, Steve on the floor in his office, Liam by the window. Gearbox is confused and continues to setup his desk, moments later they stop laughing. Steve comes out of his office

(CONTINUED)

STEVE

right so we have a new rat in the attic, he's called Gearbox lady and gents (pause) treat him like dog poo when its still wet yeah?

GEARBOX

Thank you sir

STEVE

Call me Steve, let's get to work

A time lapse of all the staff working hard, making calls, Liam is landing clients while Gearbox is still making his table neat. He seems to not know what he should be doing. Montage ends as Gearbox goes to Steve's office. Steve is playing Fifa

GEARBOX

Mr Steve

STEVE

Just Steve

GEARBOX

Just Steve, I don't actually know what I should be doing

STEVE

right, what's your name again?

GEARBOX

Gearbox Mawe-

STEVE

So I want a caramel latte, 2 sugars and don't add any milk

Gearbox comes out of the office

SOPHIE

Water, Mineral, check if it's been filtered, I can tell if it hasn't, remember that

GEARBOX

okay

LIAM

I'll ave' a white coffee

(CONTINUED)

BERNARD
I'll have mine black

Gearbox gives Bernard the nod

BERNARD
No.

AKASH
I want....what can I choose from?

YUSUF
get me a bourbon on the rocks

LIAM
oh here we go Prince Yusuf

YUSUF
Settle down Liam, men of class
don't drink from cheap coffee
machines

GEARBOX
so...what do they drink?

YUSUF
bourbon on the rocks, what i asked
for

AKASH
Bring me Mirinda

BLACK OUT

CUT-IN: GEARBOX IS BACK WITH DRINKS

He's now passing around his colleague's drinks. Arrives at Akash's desk with a woman called Miranda and at Yusuf's desk with a pack of bourbons and a few rocks off the pavement

YUSUF
uh, what is this?

GEARBOX
you asked for bourbon on the rocks

YUSUF
yeah, it's a drink

GEARBOX
this is the spelling you gave me
and it matches the biscuits

(CONTINUED)

YUSUF
'read' and 'read' are spelt the
same but-

GEARBOX
actually the difference with them
is one is past and the other is
present tense

YUSUF
so you're not entirely stupid then

BERNARD
who drinks a bourbon at 10am in the
morning

YUSUF
do your work Ben

LIAM
leave him alone, he's defending
his...

BERNARD
his what?

pause

LIAM
I mean you must be cousins or
something right?, you look exactly
the same

BERNARD
We don't all look the same Liam

LIAM
go on then, make it a race thing

SOPHIE
so much un-used testosterone in
here

AKASH
Why is there a woman standing here
by my desk

GEARBOX
You asked for Miranda, so I went to
find her

(CONTINUED)

AKASH

I don't know this lady and Mirinda
is a drink

STEVE

Akash, can I speak to you for a
minute

ALL CAST

oooooooo

GEARBOX

what's wrong with him?

everyone stops and looks at Gearbox, crickets in the
background chirping

CUT-IN: STEVE'S OFFICE

STEVE

have a seat, you know why I've
called you in here right?

AKASH

No sir I do not, are you firing me?

STEVE

what? no, I got suttin' wrong with
me PC, can you fix it

AKASH

I don't know anything about
computers

STEVE

how? you're like...anyway its fine,
I've got a client coming in, you
can go.

Client walks in as Akash walks out, Liam is on the phone to
a client

LIAM

correct, we normally charge £100
consultancy fees on the first
session, but I'm willing to lower
that maybe by 5% for you. (pause)
you need time to think? I can put
you on hold while you have a think

he puts the call on hold then points to Gearbox
Oi, get me a piece of paper and a
pen and write this down okay

(CONTINUED)

gearbox rushes and comes back
okay so write in capitals, I space
then A-M space A space then
T-W-A-T, now read it out to me

GEARBOX
I am a twa- what?

Liam and Akash laughing, as Liam gets back on the phone

LIAM
Have you decided? (pause) brilliant
I'll have the paper work sent out
to you soon as possible.

hangs up the phone
I think it's time for initiation
boys

SOPHIE
and girl!

YUSUF
As your team leader, I suggest we
do this after lunch

SOPHIE
I'm going to lunch now (gearbox
gets up) dont follow me

GEARBOX
I was just getting up to go to the
water machine...what's wron with
her?

LIAM
it's been a while....

YUSUF
alright, everyone go to lunch then

Gearbox gets his water and comes to sit with Bernard

GEARBOX
thanks for defending my honour

ben continues to eat his sandwich
you know us brothers have to stick
together

BERNARD
we're not brothers, just do your
job and you'll be fine here

(CONTINUED)

Akash is clipping his toe nails on his desk

Sophie walks in with her snadwich

SOPHIE
you are vile

AKASH
well someone has to do it

with everyone back in the room

LIAM
time for initiation, come here
Gearbox, so what you're gonna do is
play us one song, if we all like
it, you get to keep one of my
clients, if we don't like it, we
all get to do anything we want to
you, and you can't know what we'll
do and when

Gearbox gets his phone out

GEARBOX
this is easy

Gearbox plays them some Leonard Dembo (african song)

SOPHIE
I love this, it's really spiritual

Everyone starts staring at her dance and then start shaking
their heads

STEVE
Turn that off, what is that?

LIAM
Monaya Monaya! Arsenneeee Wengerrrrr
(lion king melody)

BERNARD
that's so racist

AKASH
can you imagine what would happen
if brad and angelina came back
together?

LIAM
you trying to get adopted?

(CONTINUED)

AKASH
I wouldn't have to work here
anymore

Steve comes out of the office, he's in with a client

STEVE
Gearbox come here

GEARBOX
yes sir, (looking at liam) time to
shine

Slow-mo as he's walking to the office accompanied with
"james bond type" music

STEVE
come on in

GEARBOX
thank you sir, this is honestly the
best job I-

STEVE
so my client will take a hot
chocolate, just bring me a normal
tea, tetley obviously

GEARBOX
oh (pause) okay, can i also say-

STEVE
2 sugars each pal

GEARBOX
right

STEVE
So we want to get you back on track

We cut to Gearbox, by the machine, he goes into the toilet
seemingly tired, he falls asleep on the toilet paper

CUTAWAY:BACK IN OFFICE

SOPHIE
Liam do you have my client's files?

LIAM
You have clients?

(CONTINUED)

SOPHIE
because I'm a woman, I don't have
clients?

Akash begins singing an Indian song to try to change the
subject as he feels the conversation might escalate

LIAM
You know what Soph?..I've had
enough of your bull-

SOPHIE
Oh shut-up, there's like 100 men in
here against me

LIAM
that's just not true

SOPHIE
there's one girl in this whole
building, and you don't think
there's anything wrong with that?

BERNARD
systemic oppression if you ask me

LIAM + SOPHIE
no one asked you!

BERNARD
Sophie, I'm on your side

LIAM
get off your high pony, and do your
work

YUSUF
alright calm down, you both have
one client

LIAM
its the principle mate

SOPHIE
you look like a boiled egg left on
the stove too long

LIAM
You look like a (pause) bender mate

YUSUF
okay so you lost that one, anyway
it's time to go lady and gents,
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

YUSUF (cont'd)
unless you want to stay and do
unpaid work

all staff leave work, we cut back to Gearbox in the toilet.
he wakes up abruptly, realising he's overslept, rushes to
the office and its empty, he goes to the front door to try
and open but all the doors are locked. tries to call family
and friends but it's going to voicemail. Cut to an officer
coming to the door with a camera crew to get him out

OFFICER
what are you doing in there?

GEARBOX
I'm stuck, I work here, I fell
asleep in the toilet, please let me
out

They get Gearbox out and take him home, walks into the
living room

ENGINE
How was your first day?

GEARBOX
It could've gone any better
than it did

ENGINE
what did they think of you?

GEARBOX
they loved me, even gave me a new
nickname 'rat'

Engine and Gearbox laugh together, Engine turns the channel
to the news where they are reporting about a young man who
fell asleep in the toilet on his first day of work.

ENGINE
in the toilet? really?

Gearbox reacts after being caught

BLACKOUT