

# TAKE A DIVE

BY SYLVIA JOHNSEN

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Sylvia Johnsen  
Sarpsborg gt. 12-A 0201  
0468 OSLO

(+47) 907 74 747  
[www.sylviajohnsen.no](http://www.sylviajohnsen.no)



**CONSULTANT**

**RCO**

**SUPERVISOR**

**TRADER**

This Short was written for ArtsEd Open submission for screen scripts to be produced by students with help from movie professionals.

FADE IN:

1 INT. ENTRANCE RECEPTION, DAY +55

1

Entrance and reception area to an INTERNATIONAL BANK in a skyscraper office building, glass doors and modern elevators into a slick OFFICE BUILDING in the high-end financial district in Singapore, Asia.

CONSULTANT (31) is met by impatient RCO (42) as the two enters the building. Both are professionals in exclusive cloths that reflect status and blend in well among suits.

RCO  
(explains)  
The idea is for you to wait outside.

CONSULTANT  
Is it not settled?

RCO  
Yes, of course it is, but traders are sensitive to how things appear.

CONSULTANT  
Insecure children. Give me a grown-up! 10 years plus, someone you can fire and get away from it. That'll be so much easier. But they don't fuck up like this, do they, and we would have nothing to do?

RCO smiles nervously.

2 INT. MEETING ROOM OFFICE, DAY +55

2

Slick MODERN OFFICE SPACE with lots of metal, glass and windows.

Two bankers, the SUPERVISOR (29) speaks as he enters a flashy transparent meeting room where a TRADER (22) awaits, sitting on a chair nervous.

SUPERVISOR  
(to Trader)  
So we got a conclusion, it was "fat fingers" okey.

TRADER  
(confused)  
How?

SUPERVISOR  
I don't know, I wasn't there?

TRADER  
And who is getting fired?

SUPERVISOR  
(shakes head)  
That is the beauty.

TRADER bewildered.

3 INT. TRADING FLOOR OFFICE SPACE, DAY +-0 (FLASHBACK) 3

A high-tech slick workplace with three screens with charts, numbers, lists and stock trading info, one of the screens show TV-images from financial news, but with the sound off.

Eating from an takeaway box on a huge desk with financial reports.

The young TRADER throws back and sends a text message.

TRADER  
(SMS message)  
Are you up? It is confirmed.  
Numbers don't lie.

TRADER opens a program and study a comprehensiv spreadsheet.

Waiting for a reply, TRADER turns on the business news interview on TV about the Brexit-vote from the point-of-view of Asian markets.

SUPERVISOR  
(SMS message)  
I am going to bed soon, will check  
in four hours. May the force be  
with you.

TRADER executes a command-string and rises to witness the havoc on the screen charts.

FADE OUT: BLACK

4 INT. MEETING ROOM OFFICE, DAY +55 4

CONSULTANT and RCO arrives to outside the glass covered meeting room. Space is a modern, cold office with lots of metal, glass and windows.

POV: FROM OUTSIDE ROOM

CONSULTANT sits down, while RCO enters the room where TRADER is frustrated and dislikes the message he has received from SUPERVISOR.

CLOSE-UP:

TRADER (O.S.)  
 (frustration)  
 It is not fair!

FADE IN:

RCO  
 (to Supervisor)  
 What is the problem?

TRADER  
 I am just a jedi, right? We went short on the Pound Sterling because the points were high, every calculation has proven right and the currency has not recovered fully, which again tells how right we were?!

SUPERVISOR  
 (excuses to RCO)  
 It took two minutes to tank the rat.

RCO	SUPERVISOR (CONT'D)
Which is why "fat fingers" work.	We are not dumb!
(beat)	(beat)
The window of opportunity is small, nobody will believe or see any upside in those minutes.	People are idiots.
(beat)	(beat)
We talked about this.	We did?

RCO (CONT'D)  
 When currency tank, unions are unhappy, they try foolishly to take back some of what they have lost. But they cannot, because the poor bastard who entered UK last week will do the job even cheaper. Whatever they have in the bank loose value, and people know their old age is going south. Incidents like ours remind them some bet on that to happend! It is bad form, really!? Especially if your license-to-operate comes from the same politicians that are getting blamed.

TRADER  
 I just don't see why I should loose my bonus.

SUPERVISOR

I need a promotion, I am thirty soon and cannot run the bank kindergarden forever.

(pleading)

I need to go home to a senior position or I end up fired on the other side of the world. No one stays on top on the trading floor at my age. This is grueling work.

RCO

(to Trader)

Bonus! You are smart, right? Honorary degree from the best schools Up-Your-As London, Harvard, Barcelona. Am I right? And before you were twenty-three, twenty-four? How come you are so smart and you somehow think this affect your bonus?! The bank should negate on well earned profit, when have we ever?

TRADER

Twenty-two.

RCO

(disbelief)

Jesus!

SUPERVISOR

(explains)

At worst you can get some questions from outside, some curious reporter who still remembers. Stick to fat fingers!

RCO leaves to talk with CONSULTANT outside glass door.

5 INT. ENTRANCE RECEPTION, DAY +3 (FLASHBACK) 5

Entrance and reception area to an INTERNATIONAL BANK in a skyscraper office building in Asia.

CONSULTANT enters through the glass doors and is met by SUPERVISOR.

CONSULTANT

(bad temper)

Who is responsible for this spectacle?

SUPERVISOR

That would be me.

CONSULTANT

Then you tell me who should I fire?



Supervisor looks pale.

CONSULTANT (CONT'D)

(smiles)

Kiddin'. Hours it took to come here, do you know how much I hate that flight? Why do these fires always start in Asia, can you tell me why? Don't bother, I know why.

SUPERVISOR

We run the trades when Europe is sleeping. It is what we do here.

CONSULTANT

Do bankers think that just because it starts in Singapore Westminster don't know what is going on.

SUPERVISOR

Better us than someone else.

CONSULTANT

How long do you think governments will accept being screwed at night like a well fed whore?

SUPERVISOR

We are not to blame, trades come from the elements of life itself.

CONSULTANT

(surprise)

You are a philosopher?

SUPERVISOR

I am just saying traders responds to underlying values.

CONSULTANT

I am not here to scold, but to fix things. Damn, I know, if it can be done?

6

INT. TRADING FLOOR OFFICE SPACE, DAY +55

6

Sitting on a vacant chair tapping his fingers, a CONSULTANT is waiting outside a modern glass covered meeting room. He can see the participants in the meeting are not happy, but cannot hear them except for muffled sounds.

RCO comes out, and SUPERVISOR follows.

SUPERVISOR

This report will keep?

CONSULTANT  
(insulted)  
Why wouldn't it?

RCO  
And nobody needs to get fired?

CONSULTANT  
Someone always gets fired, but not for "fat fingers". What the report will say is that no profit came from this. It is important to ensure that all contracts capitalise independent from the crash to make that true. But within the fiscal period, if not it won't do anybody any good. Politician understand the bank has multiple business income, even if they don't get computers.

7 MEETING ROOM OFFICE, DAY +55 7

SUPERVISOR and RCO enter to give assurance and ensure TRADER follows the plan.

TRADER  
(displeased)  
I got it.

RCO  
Forget about people loosing their life savings because some rich, prick, banker wants a promotion. Just because you score the jackpot doesn't make for a feast. Positions are tentative. Questions are still asked.

TRADER  
(nods)  
It has nothing to do with me.

SUPERVISOR  
(enters and hears Trader)  
Very well, we have fixed it.

RCO  
Your name is forgotten in less than a year.

TRADER  
But I be on the books in some media outlet, on the Internet.

SUPERVISOR

So, you won't be doing this again,  
we use someone else next time.

TRADER

It is not fair. I called, send  
messages, I told you everything.

SUPERVISOR

(angry)

When was I told?

TRADER

(meak)

Before?

SUPERVISOR

You take one for the team, we say  
you made a couple of sell-orders  
and there was a system glitch which  
went into a loop, completely  
trashing the Pound Sterling.

TRADER

Don't the robot stop that from  
happening?

SUPERVISOR

Usually, but this time it  
malfunctioned.

TRADER

Blame is all on me then?

SUPERVISOR

Well, who else?

TRADER

The margin was there for days after  
political shit left the door open.  
Currencies take a dive all the  
time.

SUPERVISOR

(nods)

Someone was going to do it, it  
might as well be us.

TRADER

You can't say "fat fingers". Nobody  
will believe it.

SUPERVISOR

Sure we can.

TRADER exits, and

CONSULTANT enters right after.

8 THE WORLD +100

8

WIDE-ANGLE busy city life.

People going to work, tired on the subway, workers busy carrying merchandize to their small outlets, selling and lifting goods.

Dreary streets, crowded busses. Everyday doing menial tasks, tiresome hard work, the kind that kills before it is time.

9 INT. MEETING ROOM OFFICE, DAY +55

9

CONSULTANT assess situation with SUPERVISOR and RCO.

CONSULTANT

My report will be followed by a  
press release. We believe  
Westminster will forgive.

(beat)

This time.

(beat)

Again!

SUPERVISOR

(chuckle)

What can they do.

RCO

(grave)

A lot.

SUPERVISOR

It's not like we did it on purpose.

CONSULTANT

I want to be clear, this is a real  
investigation. London HQ was  
blindsided by the reaction.

SUPERVISOR

I just told my trader he would  
survive with bonus?

RCO

There is a move to get the  
financial markets under control.  
Politicians are not interested in  
being hostages anymore. Thread  
lightly because what are we if not  
the wheels that grease the machine.  
We are suppose to distribute  
currencies and promote trade.

CONSULTANT

Exactly, which is why you are  
fired!

QUIET.

RCO looks around, then gets up and leaves through the glass door, while the SUPERVISOR looks down to avoid eye contact.

CONSULTANT (CONT'D)  
(eats a chewing gum)  
It gets them every time.

10 INT. MEETING ROOM OFFICE, DAY +3 (FLASHBACK) 10

CONSULTANT and SUPERVISOR wait in the meeting room when RCO arrives.

RCO sits down.

RCO  
What is the damage?

CONSULTANT  
There has to be blood.

CUT TO: LATER

TRADER enters trading room office space shoddy looking, as if straight from a binge.

SUPERVISOR signals through the glass wall to come in.

TRADER  
(happy)  
Hey, why so gloomy. I saved this  
fucking bank. All our as'es. Bonus.  
Everything.  
(arm around Supervisor)  
We timed it perfectly, and i two  
minutes the drop of the Pound was  
more than 20%.

SUPERVISOR  
Back to work.

TRADER  
Yes, someone has to close those  
futures and cash in on that double-  
digit billion Pound Sterling  
profit.

SUPERVISOR  
(stern)  
Be serious!

RCO  
Bank will push those contracts into  
short term futures, keeping profits  
off the books for at least six  
months.

TRADER  
(scratches head)  
What about my bonus?

SUPERVISOR  
Your bonus is unchanged. Go and  
clean up, and do what we said.

TRADER leaves.

CONSULTANT  
I have three months to write the  
report. Just keep profits in front  
of us, no capitalization, right and  
junior should be safe.

11 ELEVATOR, DAY +55

11

SUPERVISOR follows CONSULTANT to the elevator.

CONSULTANT  
I am telling you, I am not looking  
forward to that long flight. Now  
that you are the hero, you will  
have to pack up and follow to a  
nice cushin' job in London.

SUPERVISOR  
I got the word last night. I rap  
things up and leave in a week.

CONSULTANT  
Until next time.

SUPERVISOR  
(smiles)  
Yeah!?