

THE END OF DAYS BOARD MEETING

by

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Format: Short film screenplay. **Genre:** Drama.

Production requirements: Four actors and a meeting room.

Logline: Four company directors hold a corporate board meeting but dealing with the challenging business environment of the biblical end times isn't taught in MBA courses.



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BLACK SCREEN

SUPERIMPOSE: "So that they could not buy or sell unless they had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of its name." - THE BOOK OF REVELATION 13:17

SUPERIMPOSE: "Let the person who has insight calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man. That number is 666." - THE BOOK OF REVELATION 13:18

FADE IN:

INT. CORPORATE BOARDROOM - DAY (THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE)

Two men and two women in business attire, sit around a table in a corporate boardroom. They are the **CHAIRMAN** mid-60s, **HANNAH** mid-50s, **MATTHEW** mid-40s, **ABIGAIL** mid-30s,

In front of each, paper reports, spreadsheets, charts, which they peruse, glance at. The mood is somber. The Chairman looks up and around the table.

CHAIRMAN

I'd like to call this meeting to order. You all should have a copy of today's agenda and the quarterly results. The minutes will be kept, as usual, by our A.I. friend on the ceiling.

He looks upwards. On the ceiling is a shiny black plastic hemispherical surveillance cover with flashing red LED.

ABIGAIL

Mister Chairman, with respect, shouldn't we wait for board members Paul and Naomi to arrive?

CHAIRMAN

I'm glad you're back from maternity leave Abigail but there have been a few changes while you were away.

MATTHEW

Paul has disappeared.

ABIGAIL

Was it the Rapture? I didn't know he was a devout Christian.

HANNAH

We think it's more likely he flew his private jet to New Zealand. He has a well-stocked survival bunker there.

ABIGAIL

But what about Naomi?

The others look uncomfortable.

CHAIRMAN

I'm sorry to tell you this Abigail. As you know, Naomi is a devout woman with strong Christian principles. She decided to seek new challenges.

HANNAH

She refused to be tattooed with the mark.

ABIGAIL

But no one can live without the mark! You can't have a bank account, you can't pay for anything, you can't be employed, you can't even have a driving license. Normal life is impossible!

HANNAH

Naomi's surviving best she can.

MATTHEW

You've got to admire her guts but then her kids are grown up and she doesn't have any debts.

CHAIRMAN

I'm sure we all wish Naomi well in her future endeavors. But even with four, we have quorum. You'll all be delighted to hear that our relationship with the new government has got off to an excellent start.

ABIGAIL

At what cost?

HANNAH

A substantial donation to the inauguration fund.

ABIGAIL

So we bent the knee, kissed the ring?

CHAIRMAN

We have to be realistic Abigail. We need to engage with the administration if we're going to get government contracts.

MATTHEW

All our competitors made generous donations. We have a duty to our employees and shareholders.

CHAIRMAN

Matthew's right Hannah. Currying the new government's favor benefits all stake holders. Shall we continue with the agenda? The first item is the last period's financial results. Matthew, your thoughts?

Matthew looks at a spreadsheet on a sheet of paper.

MATTHEW

Profitability has met forecasts but with some weak points. Overall, performance is conforming to the company's strategic seven year "End Times" plan.

HANNAH

I saw our defense division numbers are down.

CHAIRMAN

With the government's success at ending wars and peacefully bringing new countries under its protective umbrella, global disarmament has meant the order book is sparse.

MATTHEW

On the other hand our security division has seen an upsurge in surveillance technology orders. Drones, facial recognition and so on.

ABIGAIL

All connected, I assume
(looks at ceiling)
to the Artificial Prophet system.

MATTHEW

Of course. Everything electronic has to interface with the Prophet, it's become the law through an executive order.

CHAIRMAN

And we must comply. Hannah, perhaps you could give us a summary of the media division's performance.

HANNAH

The broadcast and news divisions have met forecasts. There was an initial loss of advertising because of resistance to our abandonment of fact-checking.

ABIGAIL

I assume editors are self-censoring content.

HANNAH

We've drawn up guidelines and made sure that no one draws comparisons with bible verses and the word "Antichrist" is never mentioned.

ABIGAIL

What about the second part of the seven year plan? We're all going to be marked people.

MATTHEW

For that, our laser division is working on a new tattoo removal technology. It's fast, painless and research shows the market will be massive. We expect a rush of repentance as famine, disease and natural disasters strike across the planet.

ABIGAIL

Won't it be too late? We'll all have been collaborators. Personally, I don't want to get beheaded.

HANNAH

Our insurance division has a new product in development called 'Project Tribulation'.

MATTHEW

They think there may be a loophole where previous acceptance of Christ can be written into a policy we can sell. The potential demand could dwarf all other revenue centers.

ABIGAIL

Please keep me informed about that, I'll be the first customer. Thank goodness children aren't required to get the mark.

CHAIRMAN

I think we can summarize by saying that although the second half of our seven year "End Times" plan may be filled with unspeakable horrors, the corporation is well equipped to continue to generate superior returns for our shareholders as well as pursuing new opportunities to enhance revenues.

(beat)

Finally, lets take a vote on approving the meeting's motions. Could we go around the table. Each raise your hand and say "Aye".

One by one, each raise their right hand and says "Aye". Clearly seen on each palm is a large black tattoo of the number "666". The Chairman is last.

CHAIRMAN (cont'd)

Let the minutes show,

(looks up at ceiling)

the board approved unanimously. And with that, I'll wish you all a relaxing weekend but do remember to always carry a loaded firearm. Some deranged members of the public still believe wild conspiracy theories that business is just a tool of the government.

Everyone collects their papers, leaves. The room is empty except for the dark hemisphere on the ceiling. It's light flashes red.

THE END