

CORPORATE AMERICA

The Janice America Story

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Corporate America in 100 Words

This film is based on true facts. A terrible crime has been committed against the world. The Kiss of Death is spreading everywhere in the form of a lipstick bearing an unusual strain of anthrax from Haiti. Who are the guilty parties? This is what the journalist Melinda David is trying to uncover when she blackmails the three main players in this affair to reveal their side of the story. Unfortunately they all lie and accuse each other of unethical behavior. We get to hear the events from three different viewpoints and it is getting wilder as we get closer to the truth.

General Comments

This docudrama is mainly composed of three interviews conducted by a journalist. Below you will find the content of these interviews from which many parts could be recreated so the audience can visualize what is said.

I have not written these recreations because I want to let the Director decide which parts are worth recreating and how many. It will not be difficult to adapt the interviews into a real interaction between the characters. It can be done very quickly and it should add many pages to the script.

I did not want to set the places of these interviews so the person in charge of locations can find something suitable. I suggest two interviews outside with perhaps views on the seas and one internal.

There are more comments after the script about the recreations of what is said in the interviews.

Note from the scriptwriter

I met the real journalist who conducted these interviews in London UK. She feared for her life and was fleeing America. She could not use any of the real footage of her documentary so she accepted that I write a dramatization of her story. At this time I am no longer in contact with that journalist and I have never spoken with the three main players in this affair. The tapes of the interviews are now in the hands of the American authorities.

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The Janice America Story

Written at the beginning of the film:

The following interviews are based on true facts.

They have been recreated truthfully to protect the journalist, witnesses and other organizations involved.

Now you will learn the shocking truth and the full extent of the worldwide threat that represents Anthrax.

INT. – DAY – COSMETIC SECTION OF A BIG DEPARTMENT STORE - INTRODUCTION – THE CRIME

The film opens in the busy cosmetic section of a big department store. We see women and men trying different products like perfumes and creams, and clerks helping customers. It is a normal retail business day and we should see the main corporate brands advertised everywhere to get a feel of branding and capitalism.

We suddenly concentrate on an elegant well dressed woman looking at the full range of lipsticks from a particular large cosmetic corporation called K-Lab. She chooses a color and applies it to her lips, admiring herself in the mirror.

In the background we can see her husband arriving and trying his best to control their two enthusiastic children.

HUSBAND

(While the two children are fooling around.)

Now, calm down, come here, let's go see mummy.

She smiles and acknowledges their presence. She turns around and greets them with a welcoming kiss.

ELEGANT WOMAN

(Kneeling down to her children, arranging their clothes and hair.)

Have you behave while shopping with daddy? Look at you, I love you darling.

Then we do a close up on her eyes, slowly moving away realizing that we are no longer in the department store.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DAY - AFFLUENT RESIDENCE

The scene has now changed to their affluent residence. We move over all the members of her family, revealing each one to be deceased in different areas of their home.

Then we move out of this image from a TV screen and it appears that it was a short film playing from a video tape.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DARK ROOM OR STUDIO

We are now in a dark room or studio and Melinda David is standing beside the TV. She starts moving away from it, walking towards the camera that moves back, and she introduces to us what we just saw.

MELINDA DAVID

This recreation of a family dying shows what could possibly happen to thousands and maybe millions of us if what I have uncovered is true and this situation is not brought to light and dealt with immediately.

How much truth is there in an unusual strain of anthrax from Haiti encapsulated in lipsticks and capable of killing people long after first being exposed to the product? The shocking news is that we may already be infected and will eventually die.

While Melinda will speak about the Anthrax threat and her interviews, we will see a montage of buildings and cities, people walking around, other interesting images representing American life and corporations. We could also see images of the war or items related to biological warfare to get a feel of terrorism. It is like showing the unsuspecting population of the danger that awaits them.

MELINDA DAVID

Anthrax is the preferred biological warfare agent and it is highly lethal. It can be thousands of times deadlier than the deadliest chemical warfare agent. It is a silent and invisible killer and can be produced at low cost. The knowledge is widely available and easy to produce in large quantities. It is extremely stable, it can be stored almost indefinitely as a dry powder. It can be loaded, in a freeze-dried condition, in munitions or disseminated as an aerosol with crude sprayers. Currently, we have a limited detection capability.

Anthrax kills over 500 people a year in Haiti where many strains of the bacterium have been uncovered. Experts on the disease are having a difficult time coming up with a plausible, natural explanation for recent cases in America. The government suspects foul play.

We come back to Melinda, no more montage. She is introducing what she has uncovered and the interviews to come.

MELINDA DAVID (CONT'D)

This chilling portrayal accurately depicts the disturbing events pieced together from the exclusive interview I conducted, with what insiders fear to be the most maniacal master in American corporate crime: 34 year old Janice America.

We now see a photo of Janice America with a caption saying: Janice America, K-Lab Biochemist. Then we will switch to photos of Dr. William Randall and Scientist Akiko Samyo.

MELINDA DAVID

After my interview with Janice America I also secured the testimonies of her two colleagues who played an important role in what could become the biggest outbreak of Anthrax ever.

Has our United States government and FDA attempted to conceal this potentially incurable heinous act of corporate corruption?

Here are the shocking details, which will potentially impact millions of lives and destroy a multi-billion dollar economy by spreading an epidemic that has not yet been revealed to consumers.

INT. – DAY – THREE DIFFERENT LOCATIONS - ALL THREE INTERVIEWS BEGIN

Despite Janice America being the first interviewed, we will soon find out that the three culprits are kind of interrogated at the same time even though in theory they have been interviewed on different days. This is necessary so we can hear and recreate on the screen all three different accounts at the same time and compare the differences.

So Melinda asks them to tell their story as they know it and that perhaps the judge will be clement as she intends to be objective. She is the only one who can help them now.

MELINDA DAVID

Here with me today I have the stunning beauty Janice America, who has schemed her way into the elite upper circles of the highly competitive multi-billion dollar cosmetic industry.

Good afternoon Janice.

JANICE AMERICA

Good afternoon Melinda.

MELINDA DAVID

This beautiful Biochemist was appointed to head the product development team belonging to one of the top cosmetic manufacturing labs in the world.

This position gave Janice America the keys to malice and calculated horrific acts of product tampering of one of the most popular lipstick brands that is distributed internationally.

Janice, do you deny these accusations?

JANICE AMERICA

No I don't. I have played an important role in this affair, I'm sorry to say.

MELINDA DAVID

There are potentially millions of infected people from all parts of the world that are clueless in the moment and won't know it for quite some time. Exposure includes anyone man, woman or child, who has been a recipient of a lipstick-clad kiss.

Janice, is this also your assessment of the situation?

JANICE AMERICA

Yes it is and I'm here to let it all out in the open.

MELINDA DAVID

You are here because I blackmailed you into giving me this interview.

JANICE AMERICA

It is true you are a very convincing journalist, Melinda, but the truth is that I needed to warn the people about what is to come.

MELINDA DAVID

The end of the world as we know it? Judgment day?

JANICE AMERICA

Not at all. There is an antigen for the Bacillus anthracis. A new anti-anthrax drug excellent for a variety of anthrax strain. It is safe and well tolerated in healthy volunteers in test being done right now in the States. We have a vaccine. If the government and the FDA can move fast, no one needs to die.

MELINDA DAVID

Really? So which pharmaceutical company is developing this vaccine and do you have any shares in that company?

JANICE AMERICA

(Surprised and embarrassed.)

I have shares in that company but only because they were offered at a discount to the employees of the company I work for. As I understand it many of the board directors are also on the board of that pharmaceutical company.

MELINDA DAVID

You are telling us that the government should move quickly and vaccinate everyone in the country, boosting the stock of that pharmaceutical company and making

you a rich woman. Is this not motive enough to commit the crime?

JANICE AMERICA

I was coerced into doing what I did. I was threatened with my life and the life of my family. I have no doubt that if this developed into the court case of the century I will get away clean. And this is why I am here today, to tell everyone that they need to receive the ABthrax vaccine. The chances they have been infected are too great to ignore.

MELINDA DAVID

There was also an attempt at my life yesterday. Someone in a car shot at me twice but he or she missed. You don't know anything about this?

JANICE AMERICA

Are you accusing me? When you are a journalist as curious as you are, I would imagine you must have many enemies.

MELINDA DAVID

Right, I would imagine. Well, tell us the symptoms people can expect from being infected with your product.

JANICE AMERICA

Malaise, fatigue, fever, non-productive cough; followed by severe respiratory distress, chest pain, sweating and swelling.

MELINDA DAVID

Just that then?

JANICE AMERICA

One gram of spores could kill more than one-third of the U.S. population. 50% of the ones exposed will contract

meningitis. It has a mortality rate of 100% despite appropriate treatment. If inhaled, anthrax will kill in between 1 and 6 days. But the unusual strain that are in many of our lipsticks have a long shelf life and it can take months before killing you, giving you ample time to infect others.

MELINDA DAVID

Are you serious? This is alarming!

Let's start at the beginning. I want you to tell us your side of the story.

CUT TO:

INT. – DAY - K-LAB OFFICES – COMPUTER ROOM - HOW IT ALL STARTED

Here all three scientists will be explaining how they got the infamous e-mail while sitting at their computer. They will tell how it turned their life upside down and how they perceived their colleagues after that.

From now on you will hear the characters telling their stories in their own words. What they are saying will be represented on the screen as they talk us through the events. The film's director will have to decide:

- When we will see them talking to the journalist in the interview
- When he/she wishes to show on the screen the narrated events
- When there will be a voice over the recreation
- And when we will be completely cut off from the narrator, and the events at K-Lab will have a life of their own

When for example Janice enters the office, Samyo sees her as a demonic figure and William imagines her as death. I have put more than necessary and sometimes it can be just mentioned and other times it can be shown. It can also be shown just for a fraction of a second to portray that it mirrors their state of mind (Janice would not appear as a real demonic figure but her attitude and actions would go along those lines).

AKIKO SAMYO

(We see on the screen written: Scientist
Akiko Samyo, K-Lab)

When I arrived in the office on that day I was happy, I felt very light for some reason and I was smiling at everyone. Until, that is, I opened my computer and read the terrible dead threat.

MELINDA DAVID

Who sent you that message?

AKIKO SAMYO

I could not tell, but I was sure it came from Janice America. Only she could do something like that. I had to destroy the message as soon as I had read it. I thought it was weird that such an incriminating e-mail could have been sent, but who cares, she has no brain and was probably not bothered.

MELINDA DAVID

So what did the message say?

AKIKO SAMYO

In there I learnt that soon we would receive an unusual strain of Anthrax called Bacillus anthracis and it was to be deployed in the new range of lipsticks. If I would not collaborate with this my family and I would suffer the consequences.

It turned my entire universe upside down, suddenly I would become an accessory to murder even though I did not know as yet the extent of the crime.

I looked around me to see Janice America who appeared to be in a terrible mood. For a second there I could see the expression on her face, it said everything.

Why? Why would she resort to this? She did not become a full partner as expected. She was furious and envious that Dr. William Randall and myself were an item when before she had him all for herself.

MELINDA DAVID

And the message was only sent to you?

AKIKO SAMYO

I saw that the e-mail had been copied to Janice and William. When I looked at him to see how he was reacting to all this, he seemed completely unmoved.

He was his usual self, good looking, indifferent. He appeared innocent to me, like a priest accepting a confession. I thought how sad it was that both of us were now involved in something as sinister as this. But what could we do? We were at the mercy of Janice America.

MELINDA DAVID

Perhaps, but you still went ahead, you are responsible for potentially killing thousands of people. How does it feel to be a mass murderer?

AKIKO SAMYO

(She breaks down crying and cannot speak anymore. She wants the camera to stop filming.)

How can you be so insensitive?

WILLIAM RANDALL

(We see on the screen written: Dr. William Randall, K-Lab)

When I read that message, I tried to pretend I never received it. I deleted the e-mail immediately and continued to work as if nothing had happened.

The truth is, at that time I was still hoping that it was a joke. That Janice would come to me and tell me that she just wanted to frighten us because of her jealousy.

MELINDA DAVID

So you too believe that the message came from Janice? Why?

WILLIAM RANDALL

I have no doubt she thought of this plan even though I cannot prove it. When I saw her enter the office, she looked like death warmed up. I knew it was no joke and suddenly I realized how bitter a woman she had become.

Still, she was so beautiful and resplendent, that even under her actual facial expression she looked like the most dazzling woman alive. If anything her new determination in killing thousands of people increased her beauty. Amazing what a bit of make up can do. She looked ready to take over the world! I felt she had given herself the promotion she was denied and now she was savoring every moment of it.

MELINDA DAVID

Janice accused you of being responsible for organizing this crime. Even though she admitted you couldn't have done it alone.

WILLIAM RANDALL

(Getting up and ready to leave.)

That's it! This interview is over.

MELINDA DAVID

All right, I am sorry. Please we need to know your story otherwise you are most likely to take all the blame. I am your only chance to prove your innocence.

WILLIAM RANDALL

(Sitting down.)

One more go, then. What a monster, how dare she say these things about me? After all she is the one who organized all of it, who took control after we received our instructions.

MELINDA DAVID

What about Akiko, was she just a victim like you?

WILLIAM RANDALL

When I looked at poor Akiko in her corner, she looked like she was contemplating committing suicide to avoid any incrimination. Her purity would not allow her to kill anyone. She was like an angel suddenly caught in a spider's web. I felt sorry for her more than for myself.

I wanted to walk to Janice and tell her to leave her out of this, that together we could do what she wanted. I knew Janice would not hear of it as obviously it was her revenge over the fact that I was no longer with her but with Akiko instead. I felt terribly responsible.

MELINDA DAVID

From my initial contacts, Dr. Randall and Scientist Akiko blame you for everything, they feel you have done it alone!

JANICE AMERICA

It's not me! I'm not the brains behind this! If anything Dr. William Randall might be. I'm sure he is the one who sent me a message about this horrific act.

MELINDA DAVID

What happened then?

JANICE AMERICA

I came in the office and I was already in a terrible mood. From the moment I woke up to the time I sat down at my computer to read about corporate news and get on with my day, everything had gone wrong. My alarm clock would not ring, there was no hot water, my car would not start. It was like if a force was preventing me from ever reaching the office and God knows I wish now I never had.

MELINDA DAVID

Janice, do you believe in any kind of God?

JANICE AMERICA

What a stupid question. Of course I don't, I'm a scientist.

MELINDA DAVID

Scientists don't believe in God?

JANICE AMERICA

Not this one.

Anyway, I was in a sad state when I finally got to sit down at my computer. It felt like every damn secretary could see the mood I was in and were taking pleasure in tormenting me. I almost had to remind them that I was the boss and that they could go and get run over by a bus if they still cared for their jobs.

MELINDA DAVID

That's a bit harsh.

JANICE AMERICA

When you are the boss and your office is filled with incompetent people who would rather be anywhere else but at work, you can come back and tell me how you would deal with this.

MELINDA DAVID

Let's get back to the story at hand.

JANICE AMERICA

I wanted to disappear after reading the e-mail from William. I was praying for some kind of abduction, I tell you. Then I reflected for a moment.

MELINDA DAVID

So you are pretty certain the message came from Dr. William Randall? Could it not be anyone else?

JANICE AMERICA

It is true he does not appear intelligent enough to have thought of this and carry out this plan alone. But I sure felt he was part of it. I've known him for a long time and suddenly I could barely recognize him. What was wrong with William? What a terrible idea! Why would he want to kill all these people?

Did he have links with some terrorist organization? Was this a government trial of some sort, for a new drug that I was unaware of?

Even though as the Head of Product Development I am his superior, he is after all a renowned and the principal scientific researcher at K-Lab. It is possible that he would know things that I don't.

I didn't know what to do or where to stand. I stumbled twice on my way to get a coffee, I was shaking like a leaf.

MELINDA DAVID

I find that hard to believe.

JANICE AMERICA

Yeah, I dropped everything on the floor when I saw Akiko Samyo looking at me with fire in her eyes. And right there I suspected that they were both in this together. Somehow she was jealous that I used to go out with William, she didn't like the fact that I was still in charge around here.

MELINDA DAVID

Perhaps it was just that you made her life a misery?

JANICE AMERICA

Well that's true, it didn't help. I have been hard on her but she certainly deserves it. You should see her coming in the office half naked, flirting around William. And she finally got to him with her fake angelic air. I can see her poisoning him, whispering in his ear, planning away my

career and the downfall of a top international cosmetic manufacturing lab.

William was not hard to convince, I am sure. I remember sometimes he could get very direct and angry. He does look like a charmer but he has a dark side. I could feel that I would suffer the whole extent of it in the coming days to come.

MELINDA DAVID

So what did you do after that?

JANICE AMERICA

(When Janice says she cried, Melinda's facial expression should show that she does not believe her. Perhaps with the exaggerated raise of an eyebrow.)

What was I supposed to do? Run to the board of directors hoping for some way out? I felt so alone and desperate. I sat back at my computer and cried, though I made sure I couldn't be seen.

INT. – DAY – SECRET ROOM AT K-LAB OFFICES - THE CADAVER AND THE ANTHRAX HAVE ARRIVED

In this scene we will get the account of when the cadaver arrived with the Bacillus anthracis inside and how everyone was reacting at the time, discussing how they will smuggle the unusual strain of anthrax in the lipstick products.

Note that once in the room they will be wearing antibacterial suits. Supplies and materials needed in the facility are brought in by way of the double-doored autoclave, fumigation chamber, or airlock, which is appropriately decontaminated between each use.

MELINDA DAVID

So tell me about how you got hold of anthrax and the events leading to the contamination of the products.

AKIKO SAMYO

One day Janice America arrived in the office in quite a good mood. She approached William, her hair looked amazing, bouncing off her shoulders. She sat on his desk with her long legs in his face, she was telling him something that I could not hear. For a second I thought she was inviting him to dinner, forcing him to sleep with her as part of the deal.

MELINDA DAVID

What has this petty bickering got to do with anthrax?

AKIKO SAMYO

I'm getting to that.

Then she came to me and I thought she was about to explode of joy when she told me that the cadaver had just arrived containing our deadly weapon of mass destruction. I thought she was even flirting with me as she appeared sexually aroused at the idea of digging into the corpse. She told us to come in a secret room of K-Lab that only she had access to.

Once we put on our anti-nuclear suits...

MELINDA DAVID

You mean antibacterial suits?

AKIKO SAMYO

Ah yes. Well, in it I looked like a penguin who had never worn anything before. She looked gracious, like if it was made to measure. She was smiling over the dead body. I was disgusted.

WILLIAM RANDALL

I had never seen Janice so serious. She was impeccable, her hair tied up in a business fashion, a real intellectual. She invited us in the secret room saying that the package had arrived.

Once in the room she immediately picked up a scalpel and made an incision.

MELINDA DAVID

So she is the one who opened up the body?

WILLIAM RANDALL

Oh yes, I don't think she would have trusted anyone else, considering how deadly this was.

She took out a metal capsule covered with blood containing the powder and said that if this was to be opened and we were not wearing our suits, we would all be dead in a matter of days.

MELINDA DAVID

Frightening!

WILLIAM RANDALL

Yes, I was frightened to death. Never in my life was I so convinced that it was wrong. Akiko and I looked at her in awe. And then she said that we needed to figure out a way to include a certain dose in the manufacturing process of the new brand of lipstick.

MELINDA DAVID

So she knew what she was doing.

WILLIAM RANDALL

But she needed our help to accomplish her task. She was threatening us. I could hear her in my head saying that it would not be hard to make sure either of us and our families could be contaminated.

JANICE AMERICA

I was happy that day when I arrived at the office, I had almost forgotten about the whole anthrax business. Until that is Dr. Randall came over to invite Akiko and I to a secret room of K-Lab. Once inside, there was a body

supposedly containing the anthrax. He called it a carcass suitcase.

MELINDA DAVID

A carcass suitcase. Certainly a colorful way of smuggling deadly bacteria.

JANICE AMERICA

How on earth was he able to acquire anthrax via a dead body shipped from Haiti is beyond me. Where his determination came from was also a mystery. I remembered how harmonious it had been between us before he got involved with that bimbo, and I was dumbfounded at their behavior.

MELINDA DAVID

Funny, he told me on the phone that you got hold of the body. You arranged with the help of a corrupt undertaker to smuggle the deceased Haitian into the United States.

JANICE AMERICA

No, no, I don't have the slightest idea of how someone would go about acquiring these things. I'm a simple biochemist!

Anyway, once in the lab he took a scalpel and opened up the body. He looked like a man possessed, who was hungry and ready to eat after days of starvation.

Then he said that as the head of the department I was the best person to distribute the powder in the manufacturing process after Akiko would have carefully designed the strain and measured the dosage by volume.

MELINDA DAVID

And how did she react to this?

JANICE AMERICA

Akiko appeared unaffected by what we were hearing. I felt she was like a little girl saying: yes master, anything you say master. Like only submissive Japanese women can be, you know. I was horrified.

INT. - DAY - K-LAB OFFICES – COMPUTER ROOM AND SECRET ROOM

In this scene our characters are almost discovered by the CEO who is asking too many questions.

MELINDA DAVID

And no one ever suspected what you were doing?

JANICE AMERICA

Oh yes, the CEO was snooping around a lot and asking questions about the new BL-3 laboratory.

MELINDA DAVID

BL-3?

JANICE AMERICA

Biosafety Level 3 Lab, to deal with dangerous and exotic agents which pose a high individual risk of life-threatening disease.

I guess he wanted to see why we had to spend so much money on a lab. He must have suspected that something was wrong. We're dealing in cosmetics, not biological warfare.

AKIKO SAMYO

The CEO caught me leaving the lab once. He looked puzzled by so many precautions. I don't think in all his years at K-Lab he ever saw such an installation for lipsticks!

I almost told him everything. I was about to show him when I remembered the threat on my life and my family. Then I said I had to run, I was late for a meeting. That he should speak with Janice about the lab.

WILLIAM RANDALL

The CEO tried to get me to open the door to the secret room, he grilled me to find out what was going on in there. At the end I had to tell him that Janice America was the only one he needed to speak to as I didn't know anything.

JANICE AMERICA

He ordered me to open the lab for him. He is a sad man, the kind that worked there forever and believe that his company, as if he owned it, is number one in all markets.

He has an Ego the size of America. Usually I just tell him how great he is, how wonderful our products are, how successful his company is doing, and he leaves me alone.

MELINDA DAVID

What did you do to prevent him from finding out?

JANICE AMERICA

I had to frighten him. I invented an elaborate story about new bacteria being used in aerosols. That it was harmless once in the product, but highly infectious before being modified for their purpose. He was quite surprised by my statement. He did ask if it was safe, and I answered that everyone was doing it in the industry, so it was certainly safe.

MELINDA DAVID

And he believed you?

JANICE AMERICA

(Laughing.)

Well he left me alone after that. I must have been convincing. As I said, he is not the brightest bulb in the box. Is this not always the case with CEOs?

**INT. – DAY - CONFERENCE ROOM AT K-LAB OFFICES - BOARD AND
MARKETING MEETING ABOUT THE NEW RANGE OF LIPSTICKS**

The product is ready to be shipped. As far as they know our three scientists are the only ones around the table of the conference room aware of the deadly secret. The different departments are represented at the table: Marketing, Sales, the CEO and some members of the board. The corporate charade must continue.

Here it is getting even trickier. All three characters speak at the same time and all three stories are getting more intertwined.

MELINDA DAVID

So one day the deadly product was ready to be shipped.
What did you do? Plan a big marketing campaign?

AKIKO SAMYO

Yes that day arrived. It was time for the main meeting with marketing, sales and the board of directors about the new product launch. I was a nervous wreck. I was pouring water everywhere: on the table, on the carpet, on the Marketing Director herself.

WILLIAM RANDALL

It was madness, neither of us could keep a straight face. We were like neurotic patients escaped from an asylum. Whilst talking to the Sales Director, I was spitting all over him.

JANICE AMERICA

I was off my head, I never looked so bad in my life. The directors must have thought I was high on something. I could not stop, I was a real talking machine, shouting at them about our wonderful lipstick while they were trying to get away from me.

AKIKO SAMYO

A fat cat director was all over Janice and she was responding well. What she must have done to get to the top. She was inviting the marketing and sales team to get together in bed, in order to make a success out of our marketing campaign.

WILLIAM RANDALL

Janice was obviously shaky while writing on the board about corporate stuff and babbling things no one could understand. She was basically talking Japanese even better than Akiko, unfortunately not even Akiko could make out what she was saying.

JANICE AMERICA

William was useless. He was sitting at the back like a robot with Akiko beside him acting like a Chihuahua on heat. I was horrified and alone in front of the board of directors. Great team work. I wanted to cry but I couldn't. I was the head of the department, I had to lead by example. We are tough, at least in front of the directors. We crush our way to the top, being merciless. We kill.

MELINDA DAVID

We kill?

JANICE AMERICA

Just a figure of speech.

AKIKO SAMYO

I could hear a double innuendo to everything Janice was saying. When she was talking about sales point, I was hearing killing targets. When she was estimating the turnover of lipsticks, I was hearing how many people would die. She was planning the destruction of the planet: "Within a year everyone in the world would be dead!"

WILLIAM RANDALL

Akiko was dying in her corner, her hands covering her face. I was worried the board of directors would smell a rat. But they appeared enthusiastic, I never saw them so excited over lipstick, that's for sure.

JANICE AMERICA

It was a disaster, the worst moment of my life. I wanted to be no one again, at the bottom of the hierarchy with nothing to say or do. Backstabbing everyone along the way in my zombie state because I did not care if this product succeeded or failed.

If anything I was sincerely hoping this campaign would be our worst ever. I was telling all the wrong things to the marketing and sales people. I was basically telling them how to fail by concentrating on unknown American States like Utah. Dead zones, where no matter what we do, they would never buy our product.

FREEZING LIVE ACTION (OPTIONAL)

At this point the live action will freeze with the witness walking around the frozen actors to explain to the camera what they think of them. They will talk to the camera directly as if speaking to Melinda.

MELINDA DAVID

How did you get started at K-Lab? Was it a dream come true?

AKIKO SAMYO

(While everyone is immobile. She will remove the wig from the woman and caress her face while saying that she pities her.)

After I finished my degree in biochemistry, I applied to every big corporation in America. They all rejected me like if I was some sort of pariah coming from a Third World country. I'm from Japan, we are every bit as civilized as the Americans. I'm only here because I love America so much.

Well, finally the marketing woman hired me. Marketing, me, a first class biochemist! I accepted because I thought I could eventually do what I liked, working on research and development. Five long years I was stuck in marketing under her patronizing insolence.

Because my English was not that good at first, she treated me like if I was a retard, when in fact she barely has any intelligence herself. She symbolizes everything I hate about big corporations. It took me four years to understand she was wearing a wig and that she was dying of cancer. And then I started to pity her. After that we became friends and this is how I finally moved to the science department.

WILLIAM RANDALL

(While everyone is immobile.)

I studied languages, I can speak four different Asian languages. Still I could not find a job anywhere except in telesales in a call centre. My director then was just like our Sales Director. He had only one thing is his mind, more profits, more millions, get on with it! Ferocious like an animal, barely more developed than a baboon, and that is why he is so good at selling. He is like a hunter targeting his prey, he does not give them the time to think. He will close on them before they know what's happened, leaving them empty and devoid of their money. He was everything I did not want to be.

I decided to get to University and study medicine. No way I thought I would ever sale products again. But look at me, look at us... product launch, marketing targets, selling points. Back to square one. I regretted thinking that his wife should get a special gift pack of our wonderful lipsticks, every possible color so we are certain she will have no excuse for not trying it on. Come on, I am sure under there somewhere he is still a human being?

JANICE AMERICA

(While everyone is immobile.)

I fought hard to get to my position. I thought they would promote Dr. Randall over me, but he was not very ambitious, I understand he used to be in telesales, huh! Still, the bastard has a salary higher than mine. Who cares anyway, I have power, and it is no illusion.

I always felt I was destined to a great future, I saw myself as La Présidente of United States. Funny in English there is no feminine equivalent of President or any other job title for that matter. Don't be fooled, we still understand that a CEO is usually a man, a Director on the Board is usually masculine, and a secretary is as feminine as Une Secrétaire.

I thought I would finally become a director on the board, full partner of K-Lab. Somehow it did not happen because some of these fat men believed I was inadequate. Look at them, I wonder why they have an office and four or five secretaries each, none of them seem to do any actual work. They just cash in millions at the end of the month, just like in every big American corporation.

I still love it though, I am a proud capitalist, and I will get there I can assure you. And then I will fire them all from the board and replace everyone one of them with a woman. They don't know that part of my plan yet, it will be my big surprise. I will be the one saving K-Lab one day!

MELINDA DAVID

So you had a plan?

JANICE AMERICA

Yes, a corporate plan, nothing to do with anthrax.

**INT. – DAY – COMPUTER ROOM AT K-LAB OFFICES - THE BAD NEWS
CAME BACK – PEOPLE ARE DYING**

One day they came back to the office and the news was everywhere. People are dying and no one knows why. But they knew, they felt small, they were hoping for a miracle, the cure to come out as soon as possible.

MELINDA DAVID

So as anyone actually died yet that you are aware of from the fruit of your secret activities? Have you thought about how many deaths you would have on your conscience?

AKIKO SAMYO

Ah. One day we heard the news. Our lipstick was a real success, it was being sold worldwide at a record rate. At the same time every mysterious death in the country was like a cold shower for me. I thought: that's it, people are starting to die and it's all my fault.

MELINDA DAVID

Were these deaths related to anthrax?

AKIKO SAMYO

I'm not sure. The autopsies would have shown that it was related and immediately the government would have taken precautions. We did not hear about any quarantine or the CDC declaring a state of emergency. So I guess it was not related.

MELINDA DAVID

Or perhaps it was?

WILLIAM RANDALL

How many would die before they came up with the antidote? We were assured by Janice that this other company would soon get that miracle ABthrax out, that it should already be on the market by now. It would miraculously cure everyone infected, which by now must have been the whole population except perhaps Janice, Akiko and I.

Every single secretary of the company was given free samples of the lipstick and was meticulously applying it every minute of the day. Avoiding the Kiss of Death from them was getting harder by the hour as they all fancy me for some weird reason. I was encouraging new male secretaries to be hired in the name of equality of the sexes.

MELINDA DAVID

So where all this leaves us? Are we potentially all contaminated and if this ABthrax is not out soon we will all die?

JANICE AMERICA

Exactly. This damn ABthrax was still lost in the FDA procedures and every day my health was deteriorating. I could not understand the delay in getting this antigen to the US market. What were they waiting for? It was getting critical, all three of us where like white ghosts dragging ourselves to work everyday, waiting for doomsday. And I knew it was to come sooner or later. I could see it in my coffee cup, on my computer screen, in the pattern of the sunflower seeds on my desk. Everything spelt death.

I/E. INTERVIEWS ONLY FOR THE FINAL STATEMENT

MELINDA DAVID

Do you remember about 15 years ago several people died after taking one brand of an over-the-counter headache remedy? A poisonous substance had been introduced to the medication after they left the factory. Is this not similar to what you did?

JANICE AMERICA

What do you mean?

MELINDA DAVID

This intentional criminal product tampering generated at the time many safety questions. The specter of criminal intervention has cast a shadow over even the largest companies. People did not trust anymore what they were buying in the shops.

In a way you have brought back this crisis all over America. A new era of distrust in our products. This will damage our economy on a massive scale. We now live in fear of terrorists poisoning even the food on our table.

JANICE AMERICA

I am pretty certain the population is already aware that our water supply could be contaminated at any time. You have to trust the authorities to do their job.

MELINDA DAVID

Is it not much harder now without America becoming some sort of Big Brother State, as a terrorist attack can come from anywhere at any time? What you did will do just that. People will have problems buying even sealed products.

JANICE AMERICA

I suppose we'll just have to grow our own carrots in our back gardens so we know where they come from and that they haven't been tampered with.

MELINDA DAVID

And we'll just have to be careful when choosing the right pesticide to kill the bugs on our salads. You never know what is in there.

Don't you feel any guilt at all?

JANICE AMERICA

I already told you that I was forced to. I didn't enjoy it, no matter what Dr. Randall and his girlfriend may have suggested.

MELINDA DAVID

Who did it then, who was responsible if the three of you are innocents? Who profits the most from committing this corporate crime?

JANICE AMERICA

I am a victim too in this affair.

MELINDA DAVID

What are you going to do next?

JANICE AMERICA

Can I just go back to work as if nothing happened after such an interview? I will be on the list of the Most Wanted criminals in America. I really don't know.

MELINDA DAVID

Anything else you would like to say before the interview is over? Any regrets?

AKIKO SAMYO

(She is now crying.)

I am sorry! I am sorry! I am sorry. I would rather kill myself than do this again. I am ashamed and worried

about what my parents will think of me. I did it to protect them in the end but I might as well have killed them all the same.

WILLIAM RANDALL

I'm not proud of what I did. People sometimes just get themselves in impossible situations and they become the victim of circumstance. Never again I hope will I find myself in such a predicament. I am sorry for everyone that may die because of my actions. I hope the world will find in their heart to forgive me.

JANICE AMERICA

If it had not been me, it would have been someone else. I am strong enough to go through this, I can survive anything. That's life for you. And once again I urge everyone to get vaccinated. Thank you.

INT. DARK ROOM OR STUDIO – TRUTH EXPOSED

We are back to the dark room or studio of the beginning where Melinda is alone talking to the camera.

MELINDA DAVID

To this day I still don't know if they were truly coerced in committing this crime or if they did it deliberately. They are now nowhere to be found, they may have left the country or been arrested.

They are all partially to blame but someone else was ultimately responsible for manipulating them all: the big American corporation and their board of directors who knew and planned everything.

I have uncovered that many directors also own the a lot of stock in the pharmaceutical company in charge of the cure for this unusual strain of anthrax, and some of them are high placed politicians within the Ministry of Defense as well as the FDA.

So are we to understand that the American government was trying on one side to poison its own people and on the other side miraculously cure them in order to gain some votes, be elected again and make a great profit in the process?

I will let you decide.

The End

GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT THE RECREATIONS IN CORPORATE AMERICA

Corporate America deals with a journalist finding out some information she should not have, and suddenly she feels threatened for her life. Melinda David succeeded in blackmailing Janice America - perhaps the mastermind behind the crime - in order to secure an exclusive and explosive interview.

From what she learnt from Janice she was then able to blackmail her two colleagues into revealing their side of the story. She now has three times the same story told from the point of view of the three people involved in the crime. Melinda can now bring all the elements together to solve the puzzle.

So in Corporate America we have a beautiful temptress called Janice America - a Biochemist attached to a huge cosmetic manufacturing lab - who appears to have a plan to get her revenge over the company that did not promote her as planned and people in general. She has poisoned the general population with an unusual strain of Anthrax as she does not seem to think much of society and in the same vein she wanted to damage the corporation she works for. She is also angry that Dr. William Randall - the main scientist researcher – deceived her to go out with Akiko Samyo, another Japanese researcher.

I have to admit that it may sound similar to many other scripts on the market. It is another crime story with a baddy and a goody and people fearing for their life in a global conspiracy against the world. The key here is that this is based on true facts. Now, let's try to improve upon the original story.

The way to improve upon it is to have a perfect cast and a cutting edge script. The suggested cast sounds perfect and with interesting things to talk about and a lot of unexpected events, this could turn out to be a winner. But how?

First of all we need to present the story in an unusual fashion, something new perhaps in filming techniques. Tricks that do not cost much but could help with the mystery and the originality.

Here are a few suggestions mainly related to the recreations of what is said during the interviews in order to create the right atmosphere and mood of the shoot:

SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE THE FILM MORE INTERESTING TO VIEWERS

- Repeat of certain key events from 3 different viewpoints. The truth being impossible to establish as everyone is lying
- Different look and personality of the cast depending on 3 different viewpoints. Unusual trait characters to make it more interesting
- Different scenes superimposed

-Freezing live action with the main witness walking around the frozen actors to explain to the camera what actually happened

I will now discuss these ideas in detail.

REPEAT OF CERTAIN KEY EVENTS FROM 3 DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS. THE TRUTH BEING IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH AS EVERYONE IS LYING

Let's assume that somewhere a real and normal time line explaining everything really exists. The problem is that this time line is now destroyed completely and we only get fragments of it as our journalist Melinda David tries to reconstruct the puzzle. The story is now being told differently from three different points of view that contradict each other.

We may never get to know the real truth and the exact facts, as this is seen from the viewpoint of many people and something does not ring true. At the very least some of them must be lying as their stories do not corroborate. Sometimes they may tell the truth but it is a matter of perspective and their interpretation of the events. They are lying to incriminate the others as they know the story will become public and they would like to distribute the blame away from themselves.

We hear testimonies of the witnesses, their claims contradict each other and we will see on the screen the recreation of their accounts. We will repeat the same events as seen by the three main witnesses.

DIFFERENT LOOK AND PERSONALITY OF THE CAST DEPENDING ON THE VIEWPOINT. UNUSUAL TRAIT CHARACTERS TO MAKE IT MORE INTERESTING

The interesting thing for the recreations is that the cast will have to act according to the witnesses account. Janice America will appear lovely and sexy to Dr. William Randall, but like an opportunistic bitch to the Scientist Akiko Samyo who is fueled with jealousy. Again Akiko will sound like a pure angel to Dr. Randall but like a scarlet woman to Janice America. They can even have different sartorial attires according to how they are perceived by the witnesses.

Every actor in the movie is actually normal, but from the others' point of view they will always be either a bit neurotic or wonderful. In the recreations their psychology and personality traits can be exaggerated depending on who is talking as the interviews are quite colorful. The journalist is the only one who has an objective view on everyone. She puts everything back in order.

This should represent a challenge to the actors that I believe they will love to take on. They will need to be able to act normally at the interview, and different in the recreations depending on how they are viewed by the two others.

DIFFERENT SCENES SUPERIMPOSED

As the story unfolds we get to learn about certain facts described differently by the cast. We go back in time and see for ourselves the different versions of events. Sometimes we can recreate the same scene three times to visualize all three accounts.

There is a chance here to superimpose the different viewpoints, and the actors can suddenly be doing the same thing differently twice in a row within the same scene. If the budget allows, we can even have two different versions of Janice America doing different things at the same time.

FREEZING LIVE ACTION WITH THE MAIN WITNESS WALKING AROUND THE FROZEN ACTORS TO EXPLAIN TO THE CAMERA WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED

When a witness tells his or her side of the story, sometimes we can stop the action and everyone will have to be immobile while the witness explains what they are doing, what is actually happening, and they will talk to the camera directly.

This along with the fact that we are repeating the same events from different viewpoints and superimposing some actions should represent an interesting challenge to the director and film crew.

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