

SCENE FROM THE SHOW "BILLIONS" SEASON 2 EPISODE 7

INT. BOBBY AXELROD'S OFFICE

Bobby is sitting down at his desk. He's 'dressing down' an employee.

BOBBY

Really, Mafee? You expect me to believe you suddenly swapped Ali G reruns for videos of Todd Krakow's speeches on China?

MAFEE

Okay. My analyst caught it.

BOBBY

Then get him in here.

A moment later, in walks TAYLOR, a mid-twenties, gender neutral person with a quick mind.

TAYLOR

Hello. I'm Taylor. My pronouns are they, theirs, and them.

BOBBY

Okay. You have two minutes.

TAYLOR

After your dispute with Krakow, I presumed roiling antipathy, so I catalogued all of his public statements going back two years. In January 2016, Krakow's tone on China changed more bullish, omniscient, which led me to think satellite images.

BOBBY

So what? All the big funds are using satellite images. How many cars are in the parking lot at Walmart indicates how big a quarter they're gonna have.

Taylor waits while Bobby puts the pieces together.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

But this, let me see.

(Pause)

You found out which satellite company Krakow uses.

TAYLOR

AR Metrics. Assuming Krakow would be the biggest user...

BOBBY

Their most-viewed images, and you deduced that's what he's been looking at.

TAYLOR

A microchip factory in the Pearl River Delta.

BOBBY

And now you know what he knows. Since you're in my office, you think you know what he doesn't.

MAFEE

China's not just cooking the books, they're going full Iron Chef with that shit.

BOBBY

Everyone knows that, Mafee. Then why is Krakow long? Come on, time's almost up. What happened in January 2016?

TAYLOR

The Chinese factory went from totally dormant to bustling with trucking activity.

BOBBY

Which meant foreign investment followed. But tell me what really happened.

TAYLOR

An article came out on satellite-detected discrepancies between Chinese sites and what had been reported by government statistics.

BOBBY

And after that, they knew they were being watched, so the trucks started moving...a show for the satellites. Factory's a fake. It's a shell to milk investors. And what is the next move?

Short the MAFEE

BOBBY (CONT'D)
I asked Taylor.

TAYLOR
Short he Chinese parent company
Krakow's invested in.

BOBBY
It's not good enough. As Chanos
says, China's a pig on LSD...you
never know which way it's gonna
run. So who is this fake factory
supposed to be supplying? What does
this ripple out into? You find
that, you find Krakow's real
investment.

Taylor starts to leave.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
How long you been here?

Taylor stops.

BOBBY (CONT'D)
Three months. I'm leaving in two
weeks for grad school. I'm an
intern.