

## 2. THE KEY CODE

“You know how this works. You give them your credit card number. And you chose the amount that you want to spend. And they transmit the code to her. She takes off an item of clothing. If you want her to do more, you have to add more value that is debited to your credit card.”

“What if you just get the code?”

“If you can access the key code, you can get her to do pretty more anything that you want.”

“At that point, you can actually talk to her.”

“Something like that!”

“Wow! So how do you get the key code?”

“I’ve heard that you can actually figure it out. Like a mathematical formula.”

“On what basis.”

“Some type of Global Summation Formula that takes into account all the lines of transmission and then specifies a specific line among the total.”

“That sounds like gibberish.”

“It is in a way. But it makes use of certain kinds of statistical consistencies. It eventually activates the correct line.”

“But doesn’t it make use of a selection process? Like a trial and error method. Such a construction ends up activating a security feature that blocks the incoming message.”

“There still has to be a code that can get through.”

“Of course there is. But who says that you can actually access it?”

“I think that it is the very condition of her existence.”

“It seems to work in the reverse order. It’s not so much a feature of her situation as it is of yours. It filters a pattern in your passwords. In your keystrokes. And it offers a sum of all these operations. This becomes a global access structure. It is the new form of money. It reproduces itself.”

“It makes you a trader on the market!”

“No, it is how you are traded on that market. It makes you a commodity that is in demand.”

“That is quite amazing. Does it actually work that way?”

“That is the theory.”

“How do you find success?”

“If you can somehow get a message to her.”

“That’s prearranged with the credit cards. That hardly seems like anything amazing.”

*“I have examined my passwords for a consistent pattern. Each time that I access the numbers, I feel as if I am on the verge of a deeper understanding. I could access even more cash if I play this right. Maybe tap into someone else’s income stream.”*

*“Do the numbers suggest more than my inner harmony?”*

“Thank you for my gift.”

“There’s more where that came from.”

“And where is that?”

“As if you don’t know.”

“If I knew, I could make it happen on my own.”

“I thought that you were trying.”

“I was. I really was.”

*“Let’s say that there is this statistical consistency. And it contains the representation of a number of other combinations in the universe.”*

*“Does it offer you a method to win at the horses? Or how to bet at poker? Or how to clean up on the stock market? Or how to find the girl of your dreams?”*

*“Or how to keep the girl of your dreams!”*

*“That too!”*

“She was such a good person. I don’t know what anyone would do this to someone like her?”

“Bad things happen to good people.”

“This is enough to make me lose faith in the possibility of any goodness in the world.”

*“You can have all the numbers line up, then the last one in sequence can blow the whole thing.”*

*“What the hell do you mean?”*

*“That’s what makes it end up so badly. All the right numbers that make you a real catch. And then the game gets shot to hell.”*

*“I don’t really believe in such a misread.”*

*“It happens. It’s not the numbers themselves. It’s the equation that they imply.”*

*“How can one number throw it all off?”*

“So is this enough to convince you to leave that guy of yours?”

“It’s going to take more than one thing to make me want to leave him.”

“What if that one thing is really bad?”

*“If those numbers don’t line up, then there is going to be trouble. No two ways about it.”*

“What did he mean by that?”

“I think that he was coming on to you.”

“You’re my best friend!”

“That’s what makes it so wrong!”

*“I think that there’s a movie script here.”*

*“How?”*

*“You just put together the numbers.”*

“This script is pretty flimsy. Not much on character development. If you want someone to watch this shit, you’re going to have to blow something up.”

“Is that all I have to do to get this made?”

“Maybe show some naked women. How about a scene in a strip joint?”

“What the big deal about you and strip joints?”

“You can get away with a lot more if the guy never touches the girls. Just like in a strip club.”

*“Just running the equations creates its own satisfaction.”*

*“Doesn’t that kind of thing make you nervous?”*

“Do you get off watching these scenes of fake intimacy?”

“Sometimes it’s better than the real thing.”

“How can that be?”

“It minimizes the distractions!”

“Sometimes the distractions are what makes it fun.”

*“You really had my interest when that car blew up. Now you are just puling my chain. This is a terrible story.”*

*“I did everything that you told me to.”*

*“You’re the script writer. You have to add some imagination to the script. How about a love story?”*

*“You told me that you wanted naked women and stuff blowing up. Now you want a love story. How can I give you love?”*

*“Have the man fall in love with his car. And when he sees it blow up, he gets devastated.”*

*“And you’re calling that love. How boring!”*

*“Just take one of those silly movies and reverse the order. Make the goody, goody girl get in trouble.”*

*“She always does during those movies. That’s part of the fun.”*

*“But she ends up making things just right.”*

*“That’s when I turn the stupid things off.*

*“So you just emphasize the good stuff.”*

*“Suggestions of nudity.”*

*“And illicit sex.”*

*“A little dirt in the suburbs!”*

*“This is one of the best opportunities of my life.”*

*“And you want me to put my money up on this deal.”*

*“The numbers all seem right.”*

*“If this was bad, would you tell me?”*

*“Honestly, I would.”*

*“I found the best guy. My life is set. Just like I planned when I was a little girl.”*

*“You can’t believe those girl hood dreams!”*

*“What do you have against a girl being happy?”*

*“Nothing! I just don’t want you being happy with someone else.”*

*“That’s a cheap shot.”*

*“It’s just that you’ve promised me so much already.”*

*“Please don’t contradict me.”*

*“You can’t marry that guy!”*

*“Why? Over a feeling that I have.”*

*“I trust my feelings!”*

*“That’s good for you, but I can’t go along with your silly feelings.”*

*“It’s not silly. Have you thought why you love this guy?”*

*“I’ve thought about it all the time. You have no right to challenge me like that.”*

*“How long have you been waiting?”*

*“For an hour!”*

“What did you see?”

“I saw a guy. And he was doing some strange shit.!”

“Strange how?”

“Moving packages between cars.”

“Bodies?”

“A lot of strange shit.”

“You don’t really know a guy unless you’ve followed him around all the time.”

“You spend all this time with a guy, and you still don’t know who he.”

*“Can I talk to you outside?”*

*“About what?”*

*“About the movie!”*

*“The movie isn’t going to get made.”*

*“Al you have to do is change the script.”*

*“I’m not changing the script.”*

*“You need the money.”*

“Sweetheart!”

“I’ve been thinking about you all day. We have to do something special tonight.”

“I’ve been watching you.”

“Are you OK?”

“I was just panicking

*A sequence of digits will get you into the bank account.*

“Are you afraid that guys are going to see you in a different light?”

“What do you mean by that?”

“That this Jim just isn’t an exception.”

*“Guys like girls who put out!”*

*“Let’s go upstairs!”*

“You have just one shot to make it all come together!”

*“You have to align ALL the numbers!”*

*“So you are telling me not to screw up!”*

*“Are you disappointed?”*

*“You’re supposed to be my friend!”*

*“So what do you expect?”*

*“I’m just trying to keep track?”*

*“I have no idea what happened to that guy of yours.”*

*“I thought that he was going to show.”*

*“Not after what you did with him.”*

*“Are you trying to be funny!”*

*“Friends don’t spend their time stealing their best friends’ lovers.”*

*“You’re that kind of friend!”*

“We need to talk about my PAYMENT: NONE OF THIS IS FREE!”

“I have no idea where I am.”

“What about your GPS?”

“It’s not working?”

“You don’t recognize a thing.”

“Everything looks exactly the same around here.”

“Don’t get out of your car?”

“What are you advising me?”

“The best advice that I could give you at a moment like this.”

“I’m going to have to get out of the car to ask for help.”

“Just keep driving until you reach a safe place.”

“How far do I need to drive?”

“Until you feel that it’s OK to get out.”

“I need you to give me better advice.”

*“Do you want to quit?”*

*“I signed up to play.”*

*“Then play you must. You just have to know the script a little better.”*

“Where have you been in the last hour?”

“I was having drinks with friends.”

“And they’ll testify to that?”

“What are you asking me about?”

*“What do you do for a living?”*

*“I’m a teacher.”*

*“You fuck up young minds.”*

“If you can just connect all the dots, you can find the killer.”

“What if he finds you first?”

*“Don’t say anything! You’re messing with my game.”*

*“You want to call a winner!”*

*“I can make a good guess.”*

“Don’t you trust me?”

“I did. But you’ve started to say all kinds of crazy things. Next thing you know, you’re going to accuse me of doing something.”

*“He’s still watching me!”*

“You just can’t march into my office and accuse me of doing all kinds of things without any evidence.”

“I have all the evidence that I need.”

“So where is this evidence?”

“I don’t have it with me.”

“Where is it?”

“In a safe place. So you can’t just do something to me.”

*“I’m not going to sleep with you.”*

*“How about lending me some money?”*

*“I can’t. You promised.”*

“I can’t really let you go with what you know.”

“Am I your prisoner?”

“You can leave if you like. But I’d watch what I’d say.”

“I thought that you weren’t going to let me leave.  
*“Now you realize that you can’t trust him.”*  
*“He’s not going to let me leave.”*  
*“Are you sure?”*  
*“You don’t know what it’s like for someone to threaten you.”*  
 “Why didn’t you kill her?”  
 “You wanted to see her.”  
 “You’re not going to torture her.”  
 “Isn’t that what you wanted?”  
 “Why?”  
 “She knows too much. And if she know this much, she must mean more.”  
 “What are you going to do? Beat if out of her.”  
 “Haven’t we decided that sort of thing is permissible in the new world.”  
*“What are you afraid of?”*  
*“That the police are going to bust in here and arrest me for what I’ve done.”*  
 “You’ve got the perfect man, the perfect job, the perfect life. What more could want?”  
*“You’re really tense!”*  
*“Does that always work?”*  
*“With lonely women it does.”*  
*“Are you a lonely man?”*  
*“Not in the way that you think.”*  
*“Didn’t you come here to fuck?”*  
*“I came to make money.”*  
 “You’re going to go so far undercover that you won’t even recognize yourself.”  
 “What does that mean?”  
 “Nothing. Just that you enjoy kissing. Close your eyes. Just pretend that you’re with the one that you love.”  
 “I don’t have to pretend!”  
 “You need help. You’re in too deep.”  
*“Where are you?”*  
*“You’re with a guy, aren’t you.”*  
*“You think that I’m going to tell you.”*  
*“You wanted me to call you!”*  
 “I can’t do this.”  
 “Just relax!”  
 “I still don’t feel comfortable with you.”  
 “I’m not asking you to feel comfortable. Just do what you promised.”  
*“You need to switch the numbers.”*  
*“And that’s going to get you what you want.”*  
*“I’ve thought that way since I was a little girl.”*  
*“You’re not so little now.”*  
 “I’m with a man.”  
 “So where is he?”

“He’s at work. There’s such a thing as trust. I’m not an adolescent. I can be faithful if he’s not around.”

“You like to have fun.”

“I do. Only not with anyone.”

“You sound as if you’ve experimented along the way.”

“I told you that I’m with a man. And I’m not into playing games.”

“Either am I.”

“You can quit trying to pressure me to do your bidding.”

*“We’re going to need a professional!”*

*“You can turn off the stupid movie.”*

*“What’s the problem?”*

*“She won’t do the scene?”*

*“And you think that more money will get her to change her name.”*

*“That’s the idea. It’s pretty funny!”*

“I keep pretending that someone likes me.”

“How would you know?”

“I keep showing up at the same place again and again.”

*“She’s going to ask him back to her place.”*

*“It is going to ask him.”*

*“He has to say the right thing in the right order. Like numbers that he has memorized.”*

*“There’s still a chance to save the movie.”*

*“How? We have this muddled story about a guy who pretends to like a girl.”*

*“Pretends?”*

*“He has another motive!”*

“She washes the plate. Then she dries it. And she puts it on the shelf.”

“You are going to use it in your novel.”

“Who?”

“This guy. He’s so different.”

“I’m trying not to form any conclusions about him. But you do like him.”

“I like him. But I know so little about him.”

“You have to steal his wallet. And run his numbers.”

“He’s going to figure out.”

“Slip him a mickey in his drink.”

*“Why are we here early?”*

*“We have to make an impression on her. Make her think that you really care.”*

*“You don’t.”*

*“I don’t. I even have dummy wallet so if she runs the numbers, she won’t find a thing.”*

*“Whatever you do, don’t give up!”*

“Why does any of this have to deal with the key code?”

“What are we talking about?”

“A sequence of numbers that can access another sequence of numbers.”

“How does that work?”

“There are characteristics of the sequence that imply patterns.”

“Other sets of numbers.”

“The key could open the door to a secure building. Or it could offer you access to an account.”

“Money!”

“More numbers for more numbers!”

“So what is your script?”

“She is my script.”

“Who is she?”

“A collection of numbers, and if the numbers angle my way, she will contact me.”

“I sit at my computer all day. Entering numbers into all these accounts. But my access is limited by the restrictions on my key code.”

“You want an opening!”

“How can all my spending generate income?”

“Another case of the proper key code.”

“You have learned to bypass the restrictions.”

*“She has the access code for the account.”*

“Does she realize that?”

*“They siphoned all the money into her account.”*

“What’s the plan?”

*“She is going to transfer the money before anyone has a chance to figure what has happened.”*

“She doesn’t even know.”

“We’re trying to get a guy close to her.”

“Is she a trusting person.”

“Rather naive.”

*“This could all backfire. Assume that it’s an act. Then she’s just using the opportunity to get all the money for herself.”*

“Do you think that might happen?”

*“She has a window of a couple of hours. That could change the dynamics of this operation.”*

“You have to dazzle her before she realizes what’s going on.”

“She could be behind it all.”

“Each time that you access the account, you add a temporal value to the account. Loads of other points of access. So you have a new sequence of numbers.”

“What do you do with them?”

“You have to associate these numbers with a face, a personality.”

“How is this different than doing public relations?”

“Public relations means associating a personality with a series of numbers. In this case, we are associating a series of numbers with another set of numbers. We are only interested in the results.”

*“Has she figured out what is going on?”*

*“She thinks that she knows what is happening. She is going for the decoy.”*

*“This guy picks her up from the airport. And he takes her to a hotel meeting.”*



“Is she prepared?”

“She has a briefcase full of files. But none of them really apply.”

“She doesn’t have a copy of the script.”

“Not the right script.”

“Can she even act?”

“She thinks that she can.”

“What does she have to do?”

“Throw him off the trail.”

“So you have her waiting at the motel room.”

“And she’s ready to make the call.”

“She has the numbers.”

“This is terrible.”

“How?”

“If they find out that she has the numbers, they’re going to try to get rid of her.”

“She is talking shit.”

“If she really knew what was going on, they’d try to eliminate her.”

“So they give her a false set of numbers.”

*“Does she even have a chance of slowing them down?”*

*“This is all beyond her.”*

*“So she has no risk.”*

*“She is assuming no risk!”*

*“We’re on a roll. She doesn’t even realize that she is a decoy.”*

*“So the numbers are being moved behind her back.”*

*“She is a number as well!”*

“You’re sitting in front of your computer screen day after day. And you think that you have an in. But it’s not going to take you anywhere. You don’t have the code.”

“The idea of the code is a myth.”

“There are loads of people who’ve had it work for them. It’s just like working time in reverse.”

“How does it go?”

“Assume the key code was real. It would give you memories. A family history. A host of connections that would result your ability to get your hands on the money.”

“Real money.”

“You would be covered.”

“So she is covered.”

“She has a story. And she assumes that others accept her story.”

“Is that all there is to it?”

*“There is no story for her.”*

*“So she doesn’t know the code.”*

*“She is the code.”*

“How is that?”

*“Everything that she is going to do is already in the script.”*

*“So how does it work.”*

*"You have to get a hold of the script before anyone else does."*

*"Is this a caper film?"*

*"She has to think that it's a love story."*

*"But she has the money."*

*"She doesn't realize that she has it."*

*"So the key code won't do any good."*

*"She has half an hour to wake up and make it happen."*

*"Is she asleep?"*

*"She has no idea that she knows the key code."*

*"It's useless for her!"*

*"It's better to keep her in the dark."*

*"Has she ever read a book?"*

*"She's written the script."*

*"A literal script."*

*"She has a checkbook."*

*"Is there any money in the account?"*

*"Only for a brief second. She has to make the play while she can."*

*"Get her to transfer the money to you."*

*"She can't give you something that she doesn't know that she has."*

*"We are going to take it in reverse."*

*"Where do we start?"*

*"This is going to happen!"*

*"She has an idea."*

*"She has the numbers. Like a physics exposition."*

*"I can't do this with it with these numbers."*

*"She's not a poet. She's not even a numbers person."*

*"What is she bringing to the table?"*

*"Her personality!"*

*"This is atrocious. There isn't even a story here."*

*"Someone is trying to assassinate her."*

*"So this is a beginning."*

*"For her, it is the end of the story."*

*"That's a good way to begin the story. It adds to the suspense. She dies in the first scene.*

*Everyone is surprised. But it works!"*

*"I am just the travel guide."*

*"That is probably the best place to be."*

*"How is that?"*

*"Do you really know a thing about traveling?"*

*"I could write a book on it."*

*"Inner space!"*

*"You have actually got into the account."*

*"I have taken every cent out."*

*"No one has found out!"*

*"It takes more than hype to make the story happen."*

*"She made a successful transfer."*

*"All these games have resulted in something real!"*

*"Trust me. She has always been a decoy!"*

*"What about the money transfer?"*

*"There is no money transfer. Just numbers."*

*"So where is the money?"*

*"Have you seen her body?"*

*"She's got a great body?"*

*"But no numbers."*

*"Doesn't she have the numbers to command the interest?"*

*"There is no money."*

*"There was money in the account. But it's been all cleaned out."*

*"She was never very good on her own!"*

*"How do you feel that she was just a decoy?"*

*"You expected the numbers would get her in the room. But then she's in the room without any numbers at all!"*

*"What's your part in the story?"*

*"I feed her the idea!"*

*"That's a terrible approach."*

*"Spend it all before she has a chance to react."*

*"She wrote the story!"*