

Crucial

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Logline

Fed up with the hand that life has dealt them, four women from vastly different backgrounds decide to take matters into their own hands and rob a bank.

Summary

To make money to save her ailing mother, a Nigerian woman comes to America. She makes the decision to rob a bank and quickly enlists the help of three other women who work at the bank.

Fed up with the hand that life has dealt them, the women put a plan in place to rob the bank and make off with the cash. What they don't know is that the cops have been tipped off to their plan. The would-be bank robbers soon find themselves amid a shootout for which they aren't prepared.

Will the women survive? Will they escape with the money and finally obtain the life they feel they deserve?

Main Characters

Anike (25): Anike is from Lagos, Nigeria. She's a customer at the bank. She lived a very humble life back in Nigeria and was raised per the values and traditions of Nigeria. A very proud 25-year-old woman who always puts others in front of herself. Her mother needs an operation back in Nigeria. She came to America to try and make money to send back.

Fiona (26): A mail clerk who wants more out of life. Her

grandmother is a gangster. She graduated from business school and is disappointed that she must work at the bank.

Mila (33) : A black woman who lives with her ratchet aunt. She is Harrison Gilbert's secretary.

Doris (35) : Manager of the bank. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A former debutant who got passed over for the promotion to be Vice President. An overextended gambler who lives in a million-dollar house and drives a Ferrari. Comes from money but lives off her credit cards.

Harrison Gilbert (50) : The new Vice President of the bank. The charming smooth talker who doesn't do any work. Mila does all his work. Harrison is arrogant and sexist and treats the women in the office as his own personal play things. He's the one that got the promotion that Doris wanted.

Three-act Summary

Act 1

- Anike is in Nigeria. Her bags are packed and she's saying goodbye to her sick and bedridden mother. Her mother tells her that she is proud of her and so is the rest of the family.
- At the First American Bank, Harrison leaves a stack of files on the desk of his secretary, Mila. He tells her that he needs her to get this finished by tomorrow morning. It's the Carter Loan. Which is a loan for a restaurant that's looking to expand into other areas with 10 restaurants. Harrison is leaving because he has a tee time. Doris is in her office. She's trying to close a huge loan deal. She closes it and is ecstatic.
- Fiona stops by Mila's desk and asks if she wants to go to happy hour. Mila tells her no; she has a bunch of work to do tonight. Fiona tells her to stand up for

herself and stop letting her boss dump all his work on her.

- That evening Doris is at a fancy restaurant. She's sitting outside sipping her wine when a man takes a seat across from her. He reminds her that she owes 35 large to a guy named Mookie. Doris is scared, but she plays it off. The man leaves, but only after he tells her she has one week to pay off the debt.
- Fiona arrives home somewhat drunk. At the kitchen table is her grandmother and three young men. They're bagging and weighing cocaine. Grandmother Neddy asks Fiona where she's been. Fiona tells her that she went out with some work people to grab a drink. Her Grandmother doesn't seem very amused, but Fiona stumbles off to her bedroom.
- Mila sits at the kitchen table in her home. Her aunt Patty stumbles in with some shady looking guy. They're both drunk, and possibly high. Mila tries to work on the loan that Harrison left her. But she's distracted by Patty and this shady guy who starts making out on the couch. Things get extremely hot and heavy between them and the noise forces Mila to storm off into the bedroom and closes the door.
- Anike unpacks her few bags. She lives in a small, ratty apartment. The next day, Harrison asks Mila if she's completed all the work he left for her. She looks exhausted, but she finishes it.
- Anike goes into the bank. She studies the area while she stands in line. When it's her time to speak with the cashier, she tells her that she would like to open an account. The teller says that she'll need to speak with a manager. Anike tells her she doesn't have time for that. She leaves.
- Harrison taunts Doris by telling her that he's going to get the promotion to be Vice President of the bank. While

taunting her he also makes some clearly sexist remarks. Anike sits at a coffee shop across the street from the bank. She watches as Fiona and Mila exit the bank. She follows them.

- Fiona and Mila sip drinks at the bar. On the opposite side of the bar is Anike. She approaches them and the three start talking. Anike tells them that she moved to America and that she's looking for work. Fiona and Mila tell her that they hate their job. The three drink and bond.
- Doris is at home. She sips wine in her bathtub. Suddenly glass shatters. She gets out of the tub to go investigate. She realizes that someone threw a rock through the kitchen window.
- The next day at the bank Harrison gets the promotion. It's announced by the board of trustees, which includes Meredith, Doris' mom. Upset that she didn't get the promotion, Doris asks Fiona if she's going to happy hour. She needs a drink.
- At happy hour, Doris, Mila, and Fiona talk about how much they hate that damn bank. Especially Harrison. Mila tells them that she does all his work. Doris says he's been hitting on her for two years now. But she's afraid to say anything because she doesn't want to be labeled that way. Anike arrives. The ladies hang out and chat. Finally, Anike says... "Why don't we rob the place"

Act 2

- The next day at work, Fiona is in the break room when Doris enters. Fiona asks her if she's given any thought to the idea of robbing the bank. Doris tells her not to be silly.
- Mila has another "sexual harassment" type run in with Harrison. He gives her a bunch of work and tells her that

he's got to take off early. Meetings and such. Mila stops by Fiona's desk and tells her that she's "in".

- Anike comes into the bank. She requests to have Doris set her up with a new account. She also says that she's interested in starting her own business and that she would like to know about their small business loans. The conversation is tense. Anike asks Doris if she's ready to move forward. Doris says no.
- That afternoon at happy hour, Anike, Fiona, and Mila put together a plan to rob the bank. They realize that they're going to need a manager to help them get into the bank.
- Doris is at dinner with her condescending and awful mother. She tells Doris that she's not ready to be Vice President and that Harrison is more qualified. Doris is furious.
- The next day at the bank, Doris tells Fiona that she's in. They can meet at her place to plan the heist.
- One of the men (Tuck) who works for Neddy is on the corner selling drugs. He gets picked up by the police. They take him to the precinct and ask him to wear a wire so that they can bring down Neddy. He agrees.
- That night Doris, Fiona, Mila, and Anike meet at Doris' house to plan the heist. Doris tells them that there is an armored truck that comes every Tuesday night at 8PM to deliver cash. That's when they'll make their move. Mila says they should stake everything out this upcoming Tuesday, and then plan the heist for the following Tuesday. Doris says no. (She needs the money) They either do it next Tuesday or not at all. They agree that they'll do it next Tuesday. (It's Friday). Fiona says she can get them guns. Doris will float the money for it.
- The next day Fiona sees Mouse (one of her Grandmother's

drug dealers) and asks him if he can get her some guns. Big guns. He says yes. And that he'll have them for her on Monday.

- At her kitchen table, Mila is working on files that Harrison should be working on. It's important for everything to appear normal if they're going to pull off this heist. Her Aunt comes home drunk and high. She lays into her about how she needs to find a man and stop working on these stupid papers.
- Back in Africa, Anike's Brother reads an email from Anike to her mother. She tells her mother that she'll be able to send some money home soon that will allow her to get the treatments that she needs.
- Tuck asks Mouse to help him get guns. Tuck is wearing a wire. The cops listen in. They decide to follow Mouse to see who needs these guns.
- On Sunday, they plan the heist in more detail. They use maps to chart where the armored truck is going to come in. Where they'll be positioned. Escape routes. Everything. It's decided that Fiona will be the driver. Anike is to keep her gun on the drivers. Mila and Doris will get the money out of the back. It's also decided that they will not meet again until they meet back at the house on Tuesday before the robbery. This is when Fiona will bring the guns. Anike will get the masks.
- The cops decide not to raid Neddy, because they want to see what happens with the guns. Fiona doesn't know it, but she's being followed everywhere she goes.
- On Monday, it's business as usual at the bank. That night, Fiona goes to meet Mouse. He has the guns. She pays him and takes the guns. The cops take pictures and watch the entire exchange.

Act 3

- Doris meets with the man who threatened her. She tells him that she will have his money on Wednesday.
- Tuesday morning. The cops watch from across the street as the bank opens. They decide not to bust Fiona just yet because they believe that this may lead to a bigger drug bust that could take down a lot of people, including Neddy and her connections.
- Inside the bank, Mila is sick. She's a nervous wreck. In the bathroom, where Mila is throwing up, Fiona tells her to get it together. She gives her a pep talk.
- After work, the ladies leave. The cops tail Fiona, but Fiona finally notices that she has a tail. She manages to lose it.
- Once the cops lose Fiona, they decide to go to Fiona's house to watch and see what happens. But Fiona never arrives.
- Fiona arrives at Doris' house where she meets up with Mila, Doris, and Anike. She doesn't tell the other ladies that she was being tailed by the cops. The ladies put on their masks, get their guns, and pile into Fiona's car to rob the bank.
- The women arrive at the bank and they wait. Seconds later, the armored truck arrives. The women get out and rob it. Everything goes to plan until one of the truck drivers opens fire and kills Fiona.
- Mila returns fire and kills the Truck driver. But it's too late. The other driver has already hit the panic button and the cops are on their way. The ladies try to use Fiona's car, but they can't. The wheels were shot out. They decide to split up and escape on foot - each with

their gun in one hand, and a bag of cash in the other.

- Just as the cops arrive they see Doris steal a car. A high-speed chase ensues but Doris eventually wrecks her car and dies.
- Mila is chased on foot through an outdoor shopping center. She runs through a fast food restaurant.
- Anike evades capture by going in the complete opposite direction. When she hears the cops closing in on her, she hides in a drain pipe.
- Mila comes out the other side of the fast food restaurant. Just as she thinks she's home free, she gets shot by a cop.
- The next morning, Anike crawls out of the drain pipe. She ditches the gun and casually walks out with her bag of money. As she goes, she sees cops searching the area, but she manages to avoid detection.
- Anike arrives home. She already has empty boxes there waiting. She packages the money in the boxes and writes her grandmother's address on them. Next, she goes to her laptop and orders a ticket for a flight to Nigeria. In the background, news of the robbery plays on the TV.
- Anike sits on the bus with two large boxes next to her.
- At the post office, she mails the boxes. Pays in cash. When she leaves, she gets a cab.
- She pulls up to the airport and gets out. Cops everywhere. She gets her ticket, but the cops see her. She tries to escape them, but she's caught. She gets on her knees, and puts her hands in the air. Days later in Nigeria, the packages arrive at her mother's house. Anike's brother opens them and sees all the money. There's a note. Anike's

brother reads it. It says that if Anike isn't there with them then she's either dead or in prison. She tells her to use the money to get her treatments and to give the family a better life.