

Babel 48

Written by:

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SCENE 1: ADVERTISEMENT

INT. SHOWROOM

A MAN stands in front of a table with a glass bowl. In the glass bowl lay handfulls of ping pong balls.

MAN

Do YOU want to be a millionaire? Pay a small fee of a couple bucks to enter our lucky draw competition! Write 6 numbers between 1 & 99, and if you get lucky enough, walk away with a million dollars! (make it like jeopardy)

The MAN gestures to the ping pong balls in the bowl, picking one up and showing the camera.

SCENE 2: HOUSE

INT. LIVING ROOM

ALEX watches the advertisement on TV, leaning forward in intrigue. LILY stands in the hallway. Glasses and dishes clutter the table in front of her.

LILY

That can't be legit... The numbers are just sitting in a glass bowl!

ALEX

I don't know, it seems pretty real to me. He has a suit on and everything. Might be worth a shot.

LILY walks towards the TV, staring at the dishes, and notices a ping pong ball on the table in front of her. Suddenly, her eyes shoot open once again. ALEX recoils in surprise.

LILY stands up and starts pacing back and forth. She lifts up a ping pong ball.

LILY

If we can just take 6 of our own ping pong balls, write some numbers - carefully - we can write those same numbers as our entry!

LILY looks back at the TV. The TV screen now shows an empty room, with just the table holding the winning ping pong balls. Disclaimer texts blur over the screen. LILY opens a computer, typing in a search.

LILY (CONT'D)

The website says we could win 3 million!

ALEX

You sure you reading it right?

LILY shrugs, gesturing to the laptop.

LILY

The internet is never wrong. Look, we'd just have to find the place, break in, replace the real balls with our rigged ones. Then when they announce the numbers, we run up on stage, collect the cheque, and no
(MORE)

LILY (CONT'D)
one's the wiser.

A hand writes different numbers on 6 Ping Pong balls. 43, 2, 65, 12, 77, 9. The nine has a line on the bottom of it.

LILY and ALEX stand next to the MAN, shaking his hand and smiling.

SCENE 3: STREET

EXT. STREET MONTAGE

ALEX and LILY hold a compass up to the sky. ALEX and LILY walk along the street, hands outstretched, looking at the compass. Various locations pass. Finally, they reach a massive building. Alex has a compass and Lily has google maps.

ALEX
Is this the place?

The camera moves up, revealing a massive ping pong ball on top of the building. ALEX and LILY look at each other and walk forwards.walk forwards.

Rapid cuts of door opening, lift buttons, the table holding the bowl of ping pong balls, the rigged ping pong balls, the complementary BINGO sheet.

ALEX and LILY hide behind a corner, the MAN exits the room, talking on the phone. ALEX and LILY rush towards the door.

SCENE 4: SHOWROOM

INT. SHOWROOM

LILY and ALEX hover over the bowl. The real ping pong balls read: 23, 18, 42, 79, 32, 6. The 6 has a line on the bottom of it.

ALEX takes a ball and starts trying to bounce it around, but she messes up and it rolls away, behind a curtain.

LILY
Dude, stop messing around!

As ALEX disappears behind the curtain to retrieve the ball, LILY hears a loud slamming of the door in the distance. LILY jolts up, and runs towards the curtain.

LILY (HUSHED)
ALEX! He's back!

ALEX (LOUDLY)
What? I can't hear you!

LILY opens the curtain, revealing ALEX turning around right towards her. LILY holds the real bowl. ALEX holds the rigged one.

LILY and ALEX crash into each other, spilling the ping pong balls all over the floor. The balls bounce, all mixed up. A heavy silence washes over the room.

MAN (O.S.)
What was that? Is anyone here?

ALEX and LILY scramble to pick up the ping pong balls, struggling to find the correct ones. ALEX holds two ping pong balls, a 43 and a 42.

ALEX (WHISPERING)
Did we write a 43 or a 42?

LILY glances at the BINGO card. It shows a 43.

Footsteps rapidly approach. ALEX stands up and looks back. In the bowl, 6 ping pong balls lie. They match the BINGO card. LILY looks back up and sees the last two ping pong balls on the floor, a few paces away from her.

As the MAN starts to open the curtain, LILY dives on top of the two ping pong balls. The 6 is now flipped around to show

a 9.the two ping pong balls. The 6 is now flipped around to show a 9.

MAN

Hello? How'd you get in here?

MAN fully pulls back the curtain to reveal LILY and ALEX look up, smiling, holding rags and polishing the ping pong balls.

ALEX

Cleaning crew. We were asked to make sure all the ping pong balls are squeaky clean.

LILY holds up a ping pong ball, the number facing the MAN. She drops it into the bowl. The MAN squints his eyes, scanning the room.

MAN

If you two don't mind, I need to get ready.

LILY and ALEX smile sheepishly, and get up to leave.

Rapid cuts of door opening, lift buttons, the table holding the bowl of ping pong balls, the rigged ping pong balls, the complementary BINGO sheet. (in reverse)

Black Screen.

SCENE 5: LOTTERY ROOM

INT. LOTTERY ROOM

ALEX and LILY against a wall. They look up at the stage in anticipation. The man's voice echoes through the room.

On stage, the MAN stands behind the table with the bowl. He lifts the first ball out of the bowl.

MAN

- and without further ado, the first
number.

The MAN clears his throat.

MAN (CONT'D)

23!

As the MAN lists off numbers, LILY and ALEX scratch off numbers on their card. They get increasingly excited. Finally, it reaches the last number. The number 9 stays uncrossed on the card.

MAN (CONT'D)

... 6!

ALEX and LILY jolt straight up. LILY's eyes widen.

FLASHBACK to when she was picking the balls, she picks the upside down 6, thinking it was a 9.

The only other person in the showroom, an old grandmother, raises a card and yells. Her card has all the right numbers.

GRANDMOTHER

PING PONG!

