

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)
 This is the Voice of America. Another
 good day on Wall Street, the Dow
 Jones up twenty-five points, the
 Nasdaq up forty... In the White House,
 President Clinton again defended his
 relationship with Monica Lewinsky--

The woman near Archer speaks up:

START ----->

WOMAN
 Are you listening to this? The
 world's falling apart and all we
 hear about is Blowjobgate...

Archer turns to MADDY BOWEN. Maddy's a 'handful' whose beauty
 belies the kind of fierce intelligence that sends most men
 running for the door. Archer likes what he sees.

ARCHER
 When's the last time the world wasn't
 falling apart?

MADDY
 Oh. A realist. Been there, done
 that, got the t-shirt. Is that it?

ARCHER
 Danny Archer.

MADDY
 Maddy Bowen.

ARCHER
 (appraising her)
 American.

MADDY
 Guilty.

ARCHER
 Americans usually are.

Maddy raises an eyebrow. He plays rough. She likes it.

MADDY
 Ouch.

ARCHER
 Don't tell me, you're here to make a
 difference.

MADDY
 And you're here to make a buck.

Archer smiles. It's been a long time since he was interested.

ARCHER

See that guy? Government minister
caught pocketing disaster relief
money. Bad move, know why? Wasn't
giving a big enough cut to his boss...

(points nearby)

That one...? Sells AK-47's to the
rebels and waits for a cease-fire to
buy 'em at a discount, then after
the fighting starts again, sells
them back at a profit.

MADDY

And your point is?

ARCHER

The point is, it's Africa. There is
no point. You want another?

MADDY

Vodka. Rocks.

Archer catches Med's eye -- who nods approvingly at Maddy.

ARCHER

M'ed. Same again.

MADDY

You were born here?

ARCHER

Rhodesia.

MADDY

You were there during the war? Must
have been rough.

ARCHER

(offering nothing)

Loved it.

MADDY

And you're a smuggler.

ARCHER

Am I?

MADDY

Somehow I don't take you as the UNICEF
type.

Archer just smiles.

MADDY (CONT'D)

I was going to say 'soldier-of-
fortune' but it's such a cliché.

ARCHER
How about hired gun. People seem to
like that one.

MADDY
Diamonds?

ARCHER
What if I told you I was a missionary.

MADDY
(laughs)
For De Wente?

ARCHER
It's not just rude to ask those kind
of questions, Ms. Bowen, it's also
dangerous.

MADDY
I'll take my chances.
(leans closer)
So... tell me about blood diamonds.

And then, suddenly, Archer gets it. His face turns to stone.

ARCHER
...You're a journalist.

MADDY
That's right.

Archer stands up from his stool.

ARCHER
Piss off.

He throws some money onto the bar. Maddy follows him out.

36 EXT. BEACH BAR -- CONTINUOUS

36

MADDY
De Wente Diamonds closed its buying
offices here to avoid U.N. sanctions.
But they're using cut-outs to buy
stones from the rebels on the cheap.
That way nobody accuses them of
profiting from the war --which they
clearly are.

ARCHER
I'm shocked.

MADDY

You got popped trying to go free-lance, so they cut you loose and let you rot in jail.
 (grabs him)
 Don't you want a chance to get even?

He keeps walking.

MADDY (CONT'D)

Hey, wait a second.

She grabs his arm. Moves closer.

MADDY (CONT'D)

(the slightest sexual promise)
 Help me out here...

He can't help but give a bitter laugh.

ARCHER

Maddy, right?
 (she nods)
 ...Usually I liked to be kissed before I get fucked.

END

He walks off, leaving her to the inevitable swarm of beggars.

37 INT. ARCHER'S HOTEL ROOM -- AFTERNOON (MUSIC OVER) 37

Archer walks in and sees the wreckage of his life.

IN THE BATHROOM -- MOMENTS LATER (MUSIC OVER)

Archer stares at himself in the remains of his mirror. He opens a bottle of vodka and chugs it.

38 A FLASH CUT -- GRAINY BLACK & WHITE 38

South African Security Forces BREAK DOWN a door and roust a sleeping middle-aged ANC supporter from his bed. His wife SCREAMS as Archer puts a bag over the man's head.

39 BACK TO THE BATHROOM 39

Archer takes a long pull of vodka and tosses the bottle. With a pliers he grips a false crown atop A BACK TOOTH.

40 ANOTHER FLASH CUT -- GRAINY BLACK & WHITE 40

The Black prisoner is naked, tied to a chair. We do not see what is being done to him. Instead, we study Archer's face as he watches.