

INT. TAHITI BEACH HOUSE - DAY

The call gives a *boop-boop* of a video call connecting. Wade's cellphone screen fills up with ADDISON JONES (30s), Wade's best-friend-slash-business-partner. We can't see her, but even through the pixelated connection, the no-nonsense cut of her cheekbones shines through.

ADDISON

You're late.

WADE

Couldn't find my phone.

ADDISON

I am going to glue that thing to your palm when you get home.

WADE

We both know these hands make too much money for you to ever damage them.

Wade gives his fingers a wiggle in front of the camera, filling up the screen.

ADDISON

Get your fingers out of my face, Wade. *How* are your nails that dirty?

WADE

Ouch, Addison. It's launch day. You're supposed to be nice to me on launch day.

ADDISON

I'm always nice to you.

WADE

You haven't been nice to me since I dropped that cup of coffee on your Econ 101 paper.

ADDISON

I was out of print credits.

WADE

It was the first time we met.

ADDISON

Whatever. How is it over there?

There's a shuffle as Wade flops down onto a lounge chair, stretching his legs out toward the sun. He flips the camera so Addison gets a full view of his toes against the sunset, water lapping at the house.

WADE

How is my overwater bungalow in the middle of Tahiti? It is, as ever, paradise.

Addison lets out a small sigh; even through the small iPhone speakers, we can hear the jealousy in it.

WADE (CONT'D)

You should have come.

ADDISON

Someone's gotta be on hand for the suits. Speaking of -

WADE

Noooooo. Can't hear you.

Addison talks over him.

ADDISON

Pre-orders are actually exceeding expectations.

Wade rolls his eyes.

WADE

Not very hard with the abysmal projections they came up with.

And we launch into an argument they've clearly had a thousand times - it's almost autopilot, and they talk on top of each other, anticipating the next statement before it's made.

ADDISON

Conservative, not abysmal. It's your first solo title -

WADE

Coming off of one of the biggest games in history -

ADDISON

One of the biggest *first person shooter* games in history, as a *member* of the creative team -

WADE

Everyone knows I was doing all the work -

ADDISON

The *average customer* does not know about the inner-workings of a creative team's dynamic -

WADE

Well, the *average customer* is a fucking idiot -

ADDISON

Which is **why** the projections are so low.

WADE

I still think -

ADDISON (CONT'D)

However -

Wade pauses; the however is new.

ADDISON (CONT'D)

We ran a few targeted ads in New York, now that they're talking about that short term lockdown. There was a bump in pre-sales.