

YOUTUBE: THE MEETING

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INT. BOARD ROOM - DAY

SUSAN is standing at the head of the table. JEREMY and RANDAL are sitting on the left side of the same table.

SUSAN

All right, I'm calling together the second meeting of YouTube Headquarters for the first quarter of 2018.

JEREMY

Why do you have to make it sound like we're some sort of club?

Susan looks disapprovingly sideways at Jeremy.

SUSAN

Does anyone have any opening remarks before we get down to business?

RANDAL

Yes, I'd like to point out that there are three of us here. Aren't there usually two in these things?

SUSAN

That's... Shut up.

JEREMY

Let's just get on with this, I have a root canal I'd like to get to.

SUSAN

I'm going to need you to start treating these meetings seriously or we're never going to get anywhere.

JEREMY

See, there you go again, getting off topic.

RANDAL

Well Jeremy, maybe if you didn't always antagonize her, we'd actually be able to accomplish things in these meetings.

JEREMY

Really, you're taking her side?

RANDAL

No I'm not taking sides, I'm just calling it how I see it.

Jeremy responds in a mocking tone.

JEREMY

I'm just calling it how I see it.

SUSAN

That's enough! Randal's right, we need to get down to business.

JEREMY

I'm sorry, isn't that what I said I wanted to do.

RANDAL

It's the way you said it.

JEREMY

Why am I even here.

SUSAN

A question I often ask of myself. Now, down to business. There's a problem with our profit margin.

RANDAL

Is it down?

SUSAN

No, the problem is that we don't have a profit margin.

RANDAL

Oh.

JEREMY

Is that supposed to be news, Susan? I can't recall YouTube ever being profitable.

RANDAL

But what about all of the unadvertiser friendly videos we demonetized? What about YouTube Red?

SUSAN

It's not enough.

JEREMY

It's too bad. I really like YouTube Red. I thought it'd be the next big thing.

RANDAL

Wait, I think I've heard that before.

SUSAN

Unfortunately, not enough people bought Red.

JEREMY

After all the money we threw at big YouTubers to make exclusive content too.

SUSAN

The point is that we need to think of something new. Again.

JEREMY

Oh, so this meeting is now a brain storming session. Man, really love those.

SUSAN

Are you ever just going to cooperate?

Jeremy responds with a slight smile.

JEREMY

No, it's part of my charm.

RANDAL

How is being uncooperative charming?

JEREMY

I'll let you know once I figure it out. Now, on to ideas. I have one. Would you like to hear it?

SUSAN

No.

JEREMY

Good. How about we charge people money to upload videos?

Everyone stares blankly at Jeremy.

RANDAL

That's probably you're worst idea yet.

JEREMY

Think about it, if people had to pay to upload videos, all of the people who only get like 5 to 100 views would stop uploading, and the people who get thousands and millions of views would get even more views and by extension, more money for both them and us.

RANDAL

People would be outraged, they'd abandon YouTube en mass.

JEREMY

Oh come on, how many times has everyone been "outraged"? How many times have there been mass exoduses from YouTube to the hot new platform that everyone currently loves? What happens? That platform dies because just like us, they can't make a profit and then everybody slinks back here and accepts the change they were outraged by.

SUSAN

He makes a good point.

Jeremy pulls out his phone.

JEREMY

I'm sorry, could you say that again? I want to record it.

RANDAL

You don't actually think we should do that, do you?

SUSAN

No, well at least, not yet. But he is right, no matter what we do, people ultimately accept it. But we shouldn't make a massive jump like that, we need to continue at our current rate.

RANDAL

So what do you propose?

SUSAN

We should alter the YouTube partnership program.

RANDAL

Again?

SUSAN

Yes. We should change the requirements to join, make it more difficult. Let's say, for example, a minimum of 4,000 subscribers and 1,000 hours of content on that channel viewed within the last month.

RANDAL

Hmmm.

JEREMY

I see, having fewer people able to monetize their videos will decrease competition for the bigger YouTubers, allowing them and us to make more money, as well as reduce the risk of content we don't like getting monetized, just like my idea.

RANDAL

Switch the sub count and hours watched numbers around and I'm in.

SUSAN

All right, 1,000 subscribers and 4,000 hours watched.

RANDAL

You have my vote.

SUSAN

Good. Jeremy?

JEREMY

It could work, or at least be a good next step on the road to profits as long as we don't give in to the inevitable outrage.

SUSAN

So?

JEREMY

Yeah, I'm in.

RANDAL

Wait, what about all of the channels that don't meet those requirements that are already in the program?

SUSAN

Oh, we'll just kick them out.

RANDAL

Okay, cool.

JEREMY

Well, good job everybody.

Jeremy gets up.

SUSAN

Wait, where do you think you're going?

JEREMY

I told you, root canal. We're done aren't we?

SUSAN

No, that was just the first point on the agenda.

JEREMY

The first? How many are there?

Susan looks at her paper.

SUSAN

Seventeen.

JEREMY

I quit. I'm going to go work for Netflix.