

Wall Street

Plot summary

Bud Fox is a Wall Street stockbroker in early 1980's New York with a strong desire to get to the top. Working for his firm during the day, he spends his spare time working on an angle with the high-powered, extremely successful (but ruthless and greedy) broker Gordon Gekko. Fox finally meets with Gekko, who takes the youth under his wing and explains his philosophy that "Greed is Good". Taking the advice and working closely with Gekko, Fox soon finds himself swept into a world of "yuppies", shady business deals, the "good life", fast money, and fast women; something which is at odds with his family including his estranged father and the blue-collared way Fox was brought up. *Written by [Murray Chapman <muzzle@cs.uq.oz.au>](mailto:muzzle@cs.uq.oz.au)*

Bud Fox is an ambitious stock trader who will do just about anything to get into the big leagues. He has been actively courting Gordon Gekko, one of the biggest stock speculators on Wall Street. Gekko manipulates the market using inside information and his motto best describes his approach: greed is good. Nothing will stop him from pursuing a good deal and he takes advantage of Bud's burning to desire to succeed. Soon, Bud finds himself getting information from any source and using to gain an advantage. It all comes to a head however when Gekko targets Blue Star airlines, the company where Bud's father has worked for 24 years, secretly planning to break it up and plunder the employees' retirement fund. *Written by [garykmcd](#)*

Main characters

Gordon Gekko... Michael Douglas
Bud Fox... Charlie Sheen
Darien Taylor... Daryl Hannah
Lou Mannheim... Hal Holbrook
Sir Larry Wildman... Terence Stamp
Carl Fox... Martin Sheen
Kate Gekko... Sean Young
Marvin... John C. McGinley
Ollie... Josh Mostel
Stone Livingston... Paul Guilfoyle
Realtor... Sylvia Miles
Mrs. Fox... Millie Perkins
Cromwell... Richard Dysart
Bidder at Auction... Richard Feigen
Artist at Auction... James Rosenquist

Selected memorable quotes from *Wall Street*

(with notes on difficult vocabulary)

Gordon Gekko: Lunch is for wimps.

Wimps = rammolliti

Carl Fox: Stop going for the easy buck and start producing something with your life. Create, instead of living off the buying and selling of others.

Buck = (qui) denaro, soldi

Gordon Gekko: The richest one percent of this country owns half our country's wealth, five trillion dollars. One third of that comes from hard work, two thirds comes from inheritance, interest on interest accumulating to widows and idiot sons and what I do, stock and real estate speculation. It's bullshit. You got ninety percent of the American public out there with little or no net worth. I create nothing. I own. We make the rules, pal. The news, war, peace, famine, upheaval, the price per paper clip. We pick that rabbit out of the hat while everybody sits out there wondering how the hell we did it. Now you're not naive enough to think we're living in a democracy, are you buddy? It's the free market. And you're a part of it. You've got that killer instinct. Stick around pal, I've still got a lot to teach you.

Bullshit = balle!; **net worth** = (*fin.*) valore netto; **buddy** = (qui) ragazzo mio; **pal** = (qui) amico mio; **famine** = carestie; **upheaval** = insurrezione; **stick around** = rimani nei paraggi.

Bud Fox: How much is enough?

Gordon Gekko: It's not a question of enough, pal. It's a zero sum game, somebody wins, somebody loses. Money itself isn't lost or made, it's simply transferred from one perception to another.

Zero sum game = gioco a somma zero

Bud Fox: Life all comes down to a few moments. This is one of them.

Life all comes down = la vita, stringi stringi, si riduce a...

Gordon Gekko: [*at the Teldar Paper stockholder's meeting*] Well, I appreciate the opportunity you're giving me Mr. Cromwell as the single largest shareholder in Teldar Paper, to speak. Well, ladies and gentlemen we're not here to indulge in fantasy but in political and economic reality. America, America has become a second-rate power. Its trade deficit and its fiscal deficit are at nightmare proportions. Now, in the days of the free market when our country was a top industrial power, there was accountability to the stockholder. The Carnegies, the Mellons, the men that built this great industrial empire, made sure of it because it was their money at stake. Today, management has no stake in the company! All together, these men sitting up here own less than three percent of the company. And where does Mr. Cromwell put his million-dollar salary? Not in Teldar stock; he owns less than one percent. You own the company. That's right, you, the stockholder. And you are all being royally screwed over by these, these bureaucrats, with their luncheons, their hunting and fishing trips, their corporate jets and golden parachutes.

Cromwell: This is an outrage! You're out of line Gekko!

Gordon Gekko: Teldar Paper, Mr. Cromwell, Teldar Paper has 33 different vice presidents each earning over 200 thousand dollars a year. Now, I have spent the last two months analyzing what all these guys do, and I still can't figure it out. One thing I do know is that our paper company lost 110 million dollars last year, and I'll bet that half of that was spent in all the paperwork going back and forth between all these vice presidents. The new law of evolution in corporate America seems to be survival of the unfittest. Well, in my book you either do it right or you get eliminated. In the last seven deals that I've been involved with, there were 2.5 million stockholders who have made a pretax profit of 12 billion dollars. Thank you. I am not a destroyer of companies. I am a liberator of them! The point is, ladies and gentleman, that greed, for lack of a better word, is good. Greed is right, greed works. Greed clarifies, cuts through, and captures the essence of the evolutionary spirit. Greed, in all of its forms; greed for life, for money, for love, knowledge has marked the upward surge of mankind. And greed, you mark my words, will not only save Teldar Paper, but that other malfunctioning corporation called the USA. Thank you very much.

There was accountability = si doveva rispondere (del proprio operato) a; **at stake** = in gioco, in ballo; **screwed over** = ; paperwork = (qui) scartoffie; **the survival of the unfittest** = la sopravvivenza dei più inetti; **stockholders** = azionisti; **in my book** = (qui) per quanto mi riguarda; **deals** = affari; **greed** = bramosia; **cuts through** = è trasversale; **upward surge** = (qui) progresso

[Blue Star has gone from 24 to 16 1/2 in a very short time]

Gordon Gekko: Fox, where the hell are you? I am losing MILLIONS! You got me into this airline and you sure as hell better get me out or the only job you'll ever have on the Street is SWEEPING IT! You hear me, Fox? **Bud Fox**: You once told me, don't get emotional about stock. Don't! The bid is 16 1/2 and going down. As your broker, I advise you to take it.

Gordon Gekko: Yeah. Well you TAKE IT!

[shouts]

Gordon Gekko: *Right in the ass you fucking scumbag cocksucker!*

Bud Fox: It's two minutes to closing, Gordon. What do you want to do? Decide.

Gordon Gekko: [calms down] Dump it.

The Street = (qui) Wall Street (il mondo della finanza); **to sweep** = spazzare, ramazzare;

The bid is 16 1/2 = (qui: detto di azioni, titoli quotati in borsa) le danno a 16 1/2 in calo

Marv: [Bud has been ignoring him] What the hell is the matter with you? Things are so bad out there even the lifers are complaining, but not you. No. You're pulling in big money. So what's the score huh...

Bud Fox: Hey LOOK! I am SICK and TIRED of playing wet nurse to you all the time! Will you do your own homework, Marv?

Marv: [leaves] What an asshole!

Lifers = ergastolani; **to pull in big money** = fare un sacco di soldi; **so what's the story huh** = quindi di cosa ti lamenti, eh?; **What an asshole!** = Che stronzo!

Gordon Gekko: What's worth doing is worth doing for money.

To be worth doing = valere la pena di fare

Gordon Gekko: I don't throw darts at a board. I bet on sure things. Read Sun-tzu, The Art of War. Every battle is won before it is ever fought.

To throw darts at a board = tirare frecce a un bersaglio; **I bet on sure things** = scommetto su quello che è sicuro

Bud Fox: Why do you need to wreck this company?

Gordon Gekko: Because it's WRECKABLE, all right? I took another look at it and I changed my mind!

To wreck = rottamare, smantellare;

Gordon Gekko: Ever wonder why fund managers can't beat the S&P 500? 'Cause they're sheep, and sheep get slaughtered.

S&P 500 = indice Standard and Poor's delle 500 migliori aziende; **to slaughter** = macellare

Bud Fox: This is really a nice club, Mr. Gekko.

Gordon Gekko: Yeah, not bad for a City College boy. I bought my way in, now all these Ivy league schmucks are sucking my kneecaps.

Ivy League = gruppo delle otto università più prestigiose del Nordamerica; **schmucks** = idioti; to suck one's kneecaps = far venire il latte alle ginocchia.

Gordon Gekko: [*meeting alone together in Central Park*] Hiya, Buddy.

Bud Fox: [*nods as the both walk up to face one another*] Gordon.

Gordon Gekko: [*with a smirk on his face*] Sand bagged me on Bluestar huh? I guess you think you taught the teacher a lesson that the tail can wag the dog huh? Well let me clue you in, pal. The ice is melting right underneath your feet.

[*punches Bud and grabs him by the coattails*]

Gordon Gekko: Did you think you could've gotten this far this fast with anyone else, huh? That you'd be out there dicking someone like Darien? No. You'd still be cold calling widows and dentists tryin' to sell 'em 20 shares of some dog shit stock. I took you in.

[*hits him again*]

Gordon Gekko: A NOBODY!

[*and again*]

Gordon Gekko: I opened the doors for you! Showed you how the system works! The value of information! How to *get it*! Fulham oil! Brant resources! Geodynamics! And this is how you fucking pay me back you COCKROACH?

[*hits him once again and Bud falls to the ground*]

Gordon Gekko: I GAVE you Darien. I GAVE you your manhood. I gave you EVERYTHING!

[*calms down, then takes out his handkerchief and throws it to Bud to clean off the blood*]

Gordon Gekko: You could've been one of the great ones Buddy. I looked at you and saw myself. Why?

Bud Fox: [*getting up*] I don't know. I guess I realized that I'm just Bud Fox.

[*firmly*]

Bud Fox: As much as I wanted to be Gordon Gekko, I'll *always* be Bud Fox.

[*tosses back the handkerchief and walks away*]

To bag = mettere nel sacco; **to wag** = scodinzolare; **to cold call** = vendere porta a porta o al telefono; **cockroach** = scarafaggio; qui nel senso di piccolo essere insignificante

Carl Fox: He's using you, kid. He's got your prick in his back pocket, but you're too blind to see it.

Bud Fox: No. What I see is a jealous old machinist who can't stand the fact that his son has become more successful than he has!

Carl Fox: What you see is a guy who never measured a man's success by the size of his WALLET!

Bud Fox: That's because you never had the GUTS to go out into the world and stake your own claim!

[*Long Pause*]

Carl Fox: Boy, if that's the way you feel, I must have done a really lousy job as a father.

He's got your prick in his back pocket = (*slang* per) ti ha incastrato; **to have the guts** = avere il fegato/il coraggio di; **to stake one's claim** = farsi valere, farsi strada

Gordon Gekko: If you're not inside, you're *outside*!

If you're not inside, you're *outside* = se non sei dentro, sei fuori! (gioco di parole con *inside*, dentro, e *insider trading*, il reato dei broker di borsa utilizzano le informazioni ottenute per i clienti per speculazioni volte al proprio arricchimento personale)

Gordon Gekko: Jesus, if this guy owned a funeral parlor nobody would die!
Funeral parlor = impresa di pompe funebri

Darien Taylor: I don't want him to ever know, you understand?

Gordon Gekko: Mum's the word.

[*after a pause*]

Gordon Gekko: You and I are the same, Darien. We are smart enough not to buy in to the oldest myth running; love. Diction created by people to keep them from jumping out of windows.

[*laughs*]

Darien Taylor: You know sometimes I miss you...

Mum's the word = acqua in bocca è la parola d'ordine; **diction** = (qui) leggende metropolitane

Gordon Gekko: That's the one thing you have to remember about WASPs: they love animals and hate people.

WASP = (abbrev. di **white Anglo-Saxon protestant**) membro di una famiglia originaria del Nordeuropa e quindi considerato appartenente al gruppo che esercita il massimo potere nella società americana

Sources:

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0094291/plotsummary>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0094291/quotes?qt0393923>