



## Two Billion Beats Sonall Bhattacharyya

*Bettina, a fifteen-year-old British Asian girl, is being bullied by kids at school who about how to stand up to the bullies. Speaking to Asha, Bettina recalls her success. charge her a 'door fare' to get on the bus. Bettina uses up all her birthday money to pay the bullies. Prior to this speech, Bettina's older sister Asha gives her a pep talk She's ecstatic that she can finally save up for a pet hamster, Cardi.*

**BETTINA:** I'm getting the bus. By myself. I'm getting the bus by myself. *(She pulls a five-pound note from her purse)* I can get on the bus waving this around. I can... *(She makes a neat triangle out of it and tucks it into the top pocket of her blazer.)* get on the bus like this. I can get on like-

*(Bettina jubilantly raps and/or sings a popular song about money. She knows all the words and has all the moves. She relishes every moment of this joyous victory)*

I got on and they were like *-(Pretending to be Sana and Adeel.)* 'Here she is! Bettina, our queen! Yass! Saved a seat for you. Come over, babes.' And usually I'd try and front it out but this time I just acted howl felt. I was like 'Please don't hurt me. You can have my money if you want, but please stop hurting me. I can't take it any more'.

And first of all they started laughing, so I ramped it up. Started telling this lady next to me what they've been doing. *(Hamming it up.)* I was going to get a hamster but they've taken all my birthday money, and who knows what they've spent it on? And if my mum finds out she's going to kill me. I don't know what to do.'

*(Bettina pauses to make puppy-dog eyes at Asha, maybe even pretends to cry)*

And this lady makes room on the seat next to her and has a go at Sana and Adeel. telling them they should be ashamed of themselves, and she'll call the police if they hassle me again, and how I'd be within my rights to call the police now if I wanted to, and maybe then they'd learn a lesson, because they obviously weren't learning anything at school And the whole bus was bare quiet, and this lady gave me a Polo, and when we got to my stop the bus driver made a big show of stopping for ages, and getting out of his seat to wave me off and making sure Sana and Adeel didn't follow me.

It just all came out, yeah? Everything they've pulled for the past...what? Two months? Torturing me. Making life like a living hell. So now I can start saving again and in a month I'll be able to bring Cardi home.

*(Beat.)*

I've got you to thank for this, you know?

No way I'd have been brave enough to do that if you hadn't prepped me.

*Scene 4*