

Match Coded

By Eda Benjakul



Logline: A VC associate tasked with evaluating the next big social platform becomes entangled with rival founders promising to reinvent relationships, only to discover the game was rigged long before anyone wrote the first line of code. A satire about class, money, and relationships in the age of algorithms.

Format: Feature Film

Genre: Satire · Romantic Dramedy (medium-dark comedy)

Comps: The Social Network, The Materialists, The Big Short

THE STORY

SHAYLA REYES (mid-20s) is the only woman — and the only outsider — in the room at a top venture firm. Filipina-American, moved to Beverly Hills at twelve and raised on golf lessons and Kumon so she'd become exactly the kind of person who belongs in rooms like this, she has spent her life optimizing herself into the frame. When two rival dating startups come up for funding, the partner, **PIERCE**, hands her the deal that could finally put her name on a recommendation: evaluate both in thirty days, and choose one.

The frontrunner is **SOIGNÉ** — the effortless, elegant matchmaking service built by **AIDAN VALE** (30), a charismatic Fortune-100 heir who has personally introduced eleven hundred couples and guarantees marriage or your money back. Its engine is the work of his CTO and lifelong friend, **CHASE ALBRIGHT** (27), a quietly ruthless genius who has turned Aidan's instinct for pairing people into code. The underdog is **TIMBRE**, built by **RIN MARTIN** (mid-20s)

— a half-white, financial-aid kid who created “looksmaxxing” for the cynical hit app Shallow, then walked away at the top. Rin narrates the whole film with the fast-talking, fourth-wall candor of a man who has always watched these rooms from the outside. Between the scenes, real couples testify to camera about how they actually met — an arranged match an aunt still takes credit for, a referral-only elite, a Swedish woman with an expiring visa and a spreadsheet — a running mockumentary on every philosophy of love that money can buy.

As Shayla digs in, two worlds pull at her. Aidan draws her into his monoculture of golf clubs and vineyards, and it feels like the life she was built for. Rin pulls her the other way — a dumpling shop, a Filipino dessert house, a senior-center mahjong table — back toward the identity her family traded away. In a live demo, Chase feeds three questions into his model and returns a **SHAYLA ▶ AIDAN** — 99% match in two seconds, in front of the entire partnership. Shayla can't reproduce it, and Chase won't show the math.

Then the truth surfaces at a firm party: Chase made a bet. He predicted — and staked the entire funding round on — Shayla and Aidan being engaged by the end of her thirty-day evaluation, to prove the model works. Aidan agreed to it. **BYRCE CRAWFORD** knew. Shayla realizes she was never the auditor; she was the experiment. She discloses the relationship, is pulled off both deals — and refuses to let it go.

With nothing left to gain, she convinces Aidan to withdraw from the round and hand his code to an independent forensic reviewer, **MEI CHEN**. Rin quietly points Shayla to a single daytime commit on Chase's public GitHub — six minutes before the demo. The 99% was typed in by hand; Shayla isn't even in Soigné's dataset. Mei confirms it, and finds something worse: two hidden filters gate the entire system by pedigree and club rosters, selecting for class rather than compatibility. Stripped of the filters, the model is actually better — and it scores Shayla and Aidan at a genuine 99.4%. The match was real; the gatekeeping was the lie. What the two of them actually share is the one answer neither could fake — the thing they each refuse to give away easily: trust.

And none of it matters. Aidan withdraws from the round and corrects the record under his own name — but the deception Shayla exposed costs no one anything. Chase walks out untouched (“You were the third-best offer anyway”). Soigné simply closes with another firm, Lightfield, where a rigged demo is not a dealbreaker. Bryce — who was in the room for the bet, and had a standing Soigné offer the entire time he was running diligence on them — leaves to join the company. Rin gets his funding at Pierce's firm, and writes the things he won't do into his own term sheet. And Shayla, the one person who was right about all of it, is the one who gets fired: a conflict on a file. Being right is the thing that costs her the job. The corporate world — the meritocracy she spent her whole life optimizing herself to enter — rejects her the moment she doesn't conform. What she keeps is Aidan: a man who checks every box she was raised to want, and who she believes, underneath all of it, is a genuine match.