

SPEND TRUST TO MAKE TRUST

Written by

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EXT. TALL BUILDING - MORNING

JANET WARSON, early 40s, lean and pretty, runs down the street in a work dress toward the entrance of a tall building, with a messenger bag slung over her shoulder. Her long hair is flying loose behind her. She has two coffees in her hands that spill as she runs. A few papers and file folders fly out of the bag.

JANET

Oh, no no no no no! My work! I
can't be late! I promised Bill! I
have be in his office right now!

Stops and puts down the coffees to pick them up. Then continues running toward the building. Big sign on the front says BILL E. BULL'S SECURE DATA STORAGE SERVICES. Janet scans into the building and realizes she left the coffee behind!

JANET (CONT'D)

Ah! I can't leave that behind!

She runs by TOM, a wise looking man in his 30s, and ARNOLD, youthful in his 20s, and back towards the door, coffees now in hand, then again scans and dashes inside.

ARNOLD

We really should tell her.

TOM

We can't. Not until the leader
gives us permission.

ARNOLD

If the leader gives us permission.

TOM

They will. Well, they should...

INT. TALL BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Bolts for elevators. Janet is nearly knocked over by another incoming co-worker, MARY MARION, upper 40s, curly hair.

MARY

Hey! Watch where you're going
there, Janet!

JANET

Sorry, but I can't be late with the
coffees for you know who!

MARY
Billy the bully?

JANET
Don't call him that. He pays our
bills you know.

MARY
Ya...Our bills and nothing else.

JANET
Doesn't matter. I must prove myself
to him just as I do to everyone
else. Understand?

MARY
(sighs)
Ya I guess. Go got 'em.

She runs on. She boards the elevator and hits the button for
the top floor. Taps foot impatiently.

JANET
Come on...Come on...

The door opens and she blasts out, right into STEVE, 40s,
carrying a box of various types of computer and networking
wires, as well as a PC and 2 screens.

STEVE
Hey, watch it! I've got fragile
stuff here!

JANET
Sorry! So sorry!

Heads for the office of BILL E. BULL himself, 50s, tall and
handsome, well groomed. She dashes in and almost trips again.

INT. BILL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Bill is clearly annoyed.

BILL
Do you want to know why I hold my
mansion parties on Saturdays and
not Sundays? So I'm not hung over
Monday morning.

Janet seems shocked.

JANET
(flustered)
What?! I'm not-

BILL
Then tell me why are you are only
one minute early today? As my
assistant, you should always be
here earlier.

JANET
Well the wind-

BILL
What if I had needed something
before the day began? Plan ahead
Janet. Be punctual. Now, the coffee
please...If you can avoid spilling
more if it.

Points to the drips coming off the cup.

JANET
Oh, right. Sorry!

BILL
Stop saying sorry unless you mean
it! Now, to work with you! I will
call if you are needed, Ms. Warson.

Janet walks away. Rolls her eyes.

JANET'S DESK - MOMENTS LATER

Janet takes a seat to start her day of work. She pulls out
files and folders and sets them up, Bill watching her from
his office of glass walls, before turning to his own work.

MARY
Pst!

Janet looks around for the source.

MARY (CONT'D)
(whispered)
PST! Over here.

Janet looks at Bill, his eyes now stuck to his computer. She
slips around the corner.

JANET

What? Unlike some people I actually care about my job!

Bill looks up alerted by the movement. Notices Janet move around the corner, and gets up to investigate.

MARY

Oh, low blow Janet low blow. And here I was about to say I feel sorry for you.

JANET

IT'S - It's fine. Really. So Bill sucks. Doesn't matter. He's my boss and I'll do as he says.

MARY

You are so thick. You could obey every ordered he barks at you and-

Mary goes silent. Bill has crept up behind Janet. Janet looks down and furrows her brow in thought, unaware.

JANET

Hey! I don't just blindly obey! I am a key part of his daily routine.

Mary looks worried, her face growing in fear.

MARY

So...In other words you're saying he needs you?

Bill frowns.

JANET

You know what? Ya. Ya, he needs me! Quite frankly if I wasn't here well - Let's just say he'd have a hell of a time because I'm confident no one is as good at this job as I am!

BILL

Yes, because in the market of millions of job seekers nobody is as good as the GREAT Janet Warson.

She flips around. Bill gets in her face, angry. All the employees stop to see what is going down.

BILL (CONT'D)

(serious)

I warn you.

(MORE)

BILL (CONT'D)

I need a secretary, but there are plenty of other fish in the sea just like you. And just a bit of advice? If you really want to help me and earn my respect? Just...keep...working.

Bill huffs and turns around, heading around the office floor to ensure all his employees are working their hardest.

BILL (CONT'D)

(shouting)

That goes for all of you! It's very simple - Do the work and we won't have any issues. Fail to perform? I can have another Joe Schmo in here in just minutes.

Silent as he gets in other employees faces now, seeing if they submit. Some do, bring back their necks. Arnold cringes. Mark stands tall. But Mary head-butts him.

MARY

Stay outta my personal space.

Bills eyes her hard.

BILL

Witch. But swap the W with a B.

Walks back to the center of the office.

BILL (CONT'D)

Employees are a necessary evil but if I have to pay for them then they'd better run smooth and fast like a computer. You should really be thanking me for pruning any weeds from our otherwise beautiful flower bed. Now anybody else have something to say?

He ducks into cubicles next to make sure everyone understands and that nobody objects or says anything. Eyes Janet.

BILL (CONT'D)

Didn't think so. Now...Work.

Goes back toward his office. The employees grumbles.

MARY

Man, is he an ass or what? And you want him to like you?

Janet looks defeated. Mary sighs, and eyes her. Gets in her face like Bill just did.

MARY (CONT'D)
Tell me how you'll help him.

JANET
Uh, well...I'll-

MARY
TELL ME WHY.

JANET
Well, you see-

MARY
Tell me WHEN.

JANET
Well I-

MARY
Look at you! You can't even stand up to me so how the hell are you supposed to stand up to him? Learn to stand up, damn it! STAND UP!

Janet literally stands up. Mary slaps her head.

MARY (CONT'D)
On second thought, maybe you should just stay Bill's little gofer.

She goes back to her own desk. Janet is left with a pained look on her face. Turns back to the phones.

INT. JANET'S DESK - MIDDAY

Janet is working hard answering phones scheduling appointments for Bill.

JANET
No, no...I'm sorry he just can't see you that day.
(pause)
No, I wish I could but- O wait he's coming this way. I'll ask him. Let me put you on a brief hold, okay?

Puts the phone down as Bill walks up.

BILL
Who's that?

JANET

Bank Of The People, a new customer.
Apparently they aren't satisfied
with the amount of services we
provide. They want a cheaper price.

BILL

(angered)

Why those...And after I cut them a
great deal too! They'll take that
price or lose the whole enchilada!
Transfer it to my office!

Storms off to his office. Walks by Tom and Arnold laughing.

BILL (CONT'D)

Hey! What so funny?

Silence.

BILL (CONT'D)

Right. Nothing. Now back to work.

TOM

(annoyed)

We're going on lunch. You know, the
lawfully mandated break?

Bill glares at them, and walks off.

BILL

Make it fast! No more than the
allotted half-hour, you two!

They both walk towards the break room. Janet looks back to
her work, but as they walk away the two laugh again. Janet
frowns, and she gets up. Follows them to the break room -

JANET

(softly)

Well, it is lunchtime for me too.
Hopefully Bill won't mind.

He snuck up on her, overhearing.

BILL

No, by all means. Go be a pig.

Flips around startled by his sudden appearance.

BILL (CONT'D)

Take an extra 15 minutes, in fact.

JANET
(excited)
Really? You mean it?

BILL
Yes...Because I NEED you...to run
to Sal's Sandwiches and get me a
tuna salad on rye. Hold the mayo.
And make it snappy. I'm hungry.

JANET
Oh. Well, 15 minutes is 15 minutes.

BILL
Whatever. Just go already.

She runs off to the break room to get ready, but stops when she sees where Bill has gone. He is with some employees and Mary, who are trying to enjoy their break like her.

BILL (CONT'D)
(calmly)
Look, you don't like me and I don't
like you. But I've given you a job
to do. This is my business and it
won't work if you won't work.

MARY
I'm doing the best I can!

Rolls his eyes at her.

BILL
Are you? Your records disagree.
Look, it's simple. I don't know why
you slowed down and I don't care.
Get back to your original speed by
month's end or you're fired.

MARY
You really want to replace us fine!
Good luck trying to find employees
when they hear how horrible the
boss at this place is!

Turns her back to Bill, sitting down at her desk. The others do the same. Bill is pissed off.

BILL
There will always be people that
need jobs, Mary! Not all of them
care about having a nice boss!

Bill gives a huff and marches back to his office.

INT. JANET'S DESK - MIDDAY

Janet is once again answering phones for Bill.

JANET

Huh? O you want to talk to him about the party? Well, I suppose so. He'd probably loved to hear from you. Especially if you want to increase the secure data storage amount you have with us. That will really please him. One sec.

She hits a few buttons to transfer the call, and goes to find Bill, who is yelling at Tom and Arnold.

BILL

You two need to hurry up and get that new ad campaign going! I won't have any new customers until-

JANET

Bill.

Bill flips around.

BILL

WHAT? Come on Janet I don't have all day! I have to finish up with these two boneheads!

JANET

Well one of you're business friends is on the line. He wants to know when the next party is and inquire about more storage.

Bill perks up.

BILL

More storage? Well, why didn't you say so? I just have to finish dealing with these two first.

JANET

He's...in a rush.

BILL

Oh. Well...This isn't over. Just like the Terminator, I'll be back.

He runs to his office.

ARNOLD

I think I'd prefer the Terminator
right about now.

TOM

(laughs)

Ya, me too. Thanks for that, Janet.
We owe you one.

JANET

No problem guys. Just...keep up the
good work.

TOM

Good work? Ha! To Bill everyone can
always work harder.

ARNOLD

Ya. Even a hundred and ten percent
is ten percent too little.

Janet looks at them, concerned.

JANET

No, guys really. If you just showed
Bill how hard you truly work, maybe
he'd finally see and understand!

The two look at each other for a second, then laugh. Hard.

JANET (CONT'D)

(annoyed, a bit angered)

I'm serious!

They look at each other, laugh again, and walk off toward the
break room, still laughing.

TOM

Well, that's never gonna happen!

ARNOLD

Ya. It won't matter soon anyway...

Confused, Janet secretly follows as the two walk into the
break room, making sure to remain unseen.

BILL

(from his office)

Hey, knock off that laughing you
hyenas! Work isn't supposed to be
fun! It's supposed to be work!

INT. BREAK ROOM

The two sit down at tables, with Janet hiding behind a wall, listening closely, being careful to stay hidden.

TOM

This is gonna be so epic. Bill's never even gonna see it coming.

ARNOLD

I know, right?

TOM

And the best part is, the employees we have are all committed. Too bad for everyone else here.

He crumples up a piece of paper and throws it into the trash.

TOM (CONT'D)

Anyway, welcome to hell. At least you've only been here for a year, Arnold. I've been stuck here for seven. But we just need to get Janet in and we're all set!

The two laugh. Tom's phone vibrates. Looks down at the text. It reads: "Add Damn-it Janet to the list of people to not tell. She's too close to Bill." Tom's smile fades, as does Arnold's.

TOM (CONT'D)

Oh. Oh no...

ARNOLD

Don't tell me-

TOM

Yep. The new marching orders from the boss says Janet stays blind.

Behind the wall, Janet is in shock.

ARNOLD (O.S.)

But she just helped us!

TOM

I know but...It's true what the leader says. She may be too close to Bill to be trusted.

ARNOLD

Damn. Yet another employee who isn't gonna see this coming. We could have really used her.

TOM

Aren't you excited? In just one week the greatest jack-ass boss alive will fall.

ARNOLD

Ya, I guess.

TOM

Well no matter what, the show must go on. Hey, maybe we can convince our angel in disguise to hire back Janet and the others if they take over for Bill!

ARNOLD

Ya! So...who do you think it is? My bet's on you. Come on, tell me!

TOM

No way. Besides, you're the newest employee. It's probably you.

Janet is freaking out.

ARNOLD

Well, it very well may be. I guess we'll see if it's one of us soon.

Mark looks at him, concerned.

TOM

Snake.

The two stare at each other, grin, and laugh. Janet's face is panicked now. She starts biting her nails. She thinks, and bolts for Bill's office.

INT. BILL'S OFFICE - MIDDAY

Bill is happily on the phone with the friend, smiling and spinning around in his chair, then looking out his window.

BILL

Ya that was fun. Oh so my assistant said you want more storage? My friend, you are always a delight.

(MORE)

BILL (CONT'D)

Some people call to only complain,
but I can always count on you! I'm
throwing another party tomorrow so
why don't you come join me and we
can strike a deal then, huh?

Janet bursts into the office.

BILL (CONT'D)

Hey! I'm on a very important call
here, Janet! You know - The one you
put me on?

(back on the phone)

Sorry. It's my assistant. She can
be rather weird sometimes.

Janet starts shutting his window blinds.

BILL (CONT'D)

Although...This a new level...

JANET

(panicking)

Hang up the phone!

BILL

Have you gone mad? I'm on a very
important call and-

Janet lurches forward in a craze to hit the hang up button.

BILL (CONT'D)

(shocked)

Are you INSANE? What has gotten
into you all of a sudden?

He reaches for the dial pad.

JANET

(urgent)

The company's gonna be sabotaged!
We're in big trouble!

Puts the phone on the hook. Stares at her, disbelieving.

BILL

Uh...Pardon me?

JANET

Okay so I overheard Tom and Arnold
talking. They said there's a plan
in place to sabotage the business
and take us down with it!

BILL
I'm sorry, us?

JANET
Yes us. They think we're too close together for me and a few other employees to be trusted.

BILL
Preposterous! You're nothing more to me than another employee.

JANET
It doesn't matter! They think I'm too close! It's no secret I love this job and that's probably why. You have to stop this, now!

BILL
So...You offer me a threat to my business and I'm just supposed to believe it?

JANET
(desperate)
Yes.

Bill stares at her for a second. She is nervous, her face distraught. He studies her. He goes for his foam stress ball. Squeezes it HARD. Spikes it to the ground for good measure, scaring Janet. He's shaking of anger. Turns his back on her.

BILL
WHY THOSE- Traitorous wretches!
I'll fire them all! No, I'll
BARBECUE them all! They'll be at
this weekend's dinner party - as
the dinner! Wait why tell me this?

JANET
Because maybe it will finally prove
you can trust me so you realize I'm
at least a half-decent secretary!

A long pause.

BILL
I see. You want a reward.

JANET
Well...a raise would immensely help
my life...

She looks off into the distance.

JANET (CONT'D)
(fanaticizing)
A new car...a real house...

BILL
Fine you got it. You're gonna need some type of motivation, after all. Find out who gets cooked. I got a plan that might just save both of our asses. You find the leaders and people involved and don't forget that if you fail, we'll both be unemployed. Whatever you have to do, do it! I'll give you the power. Succeed and you get a raise, deal?

JANET
Wha- How?

Janet looks shocked.

JANET (CONT'D)
I'm sorry I'm confused. Just how am I supposed to do that?

Bill looks at her again, but softens his face and grins.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - EVENING

The whole office is gathered. Mary looks really annoyed.

BILL
Now then two final orders of business are not performance related. Though to cap it off I'll just say the word is speed. Anyway first off, there's a rumor floating around that I'd be inviting you to my mansion this weekend? NO. I'm already having my friends over tomorrow. Now second thing. Janet?

Janet stands up.

BILL (CONT'D)
Now I've had enough of this lollygagging. I'm going to be very busy these next few days, so starting Monday, Janet is assistant manager until further notice. She reports directly to me, so don't any of you think for a second you can get away with goofing off!

All eyes turn to stare at her. Some glaring. Some people are laughing. She tries to give a little smile.

BILL (CONT'D)

All right! That is all!

Bill leaves along with most of the employees. Janet starts to leave as well but Mary pulls her aside.

MARY

What the hell was that all about?

JANET

What do you mean? I talked to Bill about a raise and promotion and how I deserved one.

MARY

And he bought that?

JANET

Well, yes and no. You know he's not as bad as you might think if-

Mary burst out laughing.

JANET (CONT'D)

No, really. Hey, maybe now I can even get him to be a little nicer!

MARY

(laughs)

Bill nice? When pigs fly over a frozen hell.

She stops. Her face hardens as she realizes the actual point.

MARY (CONT'D)

Oh I see. Trying to defend your newest buddy, huh?

JANET

What? No, I-

MARY

Don't lie to me. You're thrilled. Now you get to ride on top for a while. Well, in that case... Congratulations.

She walks off. Janet follows, with Bill carefully watching.

JANET
No, Mary please! You've got the
wrong idea! I-

BILL
(interrupting)
Janet! A word?

INT. BILL'S OFFICE - NIGHT

BILL
(sarcastically)
Well that went well...

JANET
Bill, what are we going to do?

BILL
Well, for starters man up. The
employees are under your command.
Watch them. Learn who they are.
Everyone's a suspect. Don't forget:
I'm letting you do ANYTHING. Take.
The. Saboteurs. Down.

Janet looks totally confused now, hands outstretched as if
begging for wisdom.

JANET
What? But I can't-

BILL
You have to. I must know who is
challenging my beloved business to
a game of chance. Oh, by the way I
need you to go pick up my dry
cleaning at that suit store. And I
told it's owner to measure you up
for a suit as well. A real one.

JANET
(shocked)
I'm sorry. You're giving me a suit?

He looks at her, then back to his paperwork.

BILL
As if! You're only renting it.
Pants too, got it? Seriously no
more of this dress stuff.

JANET
(excited)
Ya ya I got it!

BILL
Janet, you need to calm down.

JANET
I'm sorry it's just...I finally
have a chance to show you what I
can really do! And I've actually
always wanted a business suit, but
I could never afford a good one!

Bill looks up, unmoved.

BILL
Janet don't forget what's on the
line. Find the problem employees or
so help me - I'll fire you before
the business goes down.

Janet's joy fades. She backs out of the office.

INT. SUIT SHOP

TAYLOR, a man Janet's age, measures Janet for a suit.

TAYLOR
You know, I'm a little surprised
Bill's letting you do this.

JANET
Ya, well I'm a little surprised
myself. But maybe that just means
he's a surprising guy.

TAYLOR
You can say that again. Some days,
he hates even his closest friends.
I wish he would calm down.

JANET
Wait, you have problems with him
too?

Taylor stands up and turns Janet to face him.

TAYLOR
We all do. But as friends and
business partners, we try to work
it out.

The man smiles, and so does Janet.

JANET

You know this was actually really nice. I thought all of Bill's friends were gonna be-

TAYLOR

Jack-asses?

Janet looks embarrassed.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Hey no worries. There are a few friends he has that are cocky and all, but none even close to as bad as Bill. Maybe you can do something about that?

JANET

(sighs)

I suppose I can try. But how am I supposed to stand up to him if I can't even stand up to any of the other employees?

Taylor ponders this.

TAYLOR

That I don't have an answer to. Face the mirror please.

Janet turns around. Looks directly into the mirror, then off into space, then looks back straight at him. She smiles.

JANET

But really, is there any way to get on Bill's good side?

Taylor contemplates again. He grins.

TAYLOR

Learn. Forget all about what you already know. Take risk and do new things. I bet if you asked he'd maybe even teach you a thing or two about management and leadership.

JANET

Okay. Seriously though. How come someone named Taylor decided to-

TAYLOR

Don't say it.

JANET
- become a tailor?

TAYLOR
Geez. I've only heard that one a million times.

The two share a laugh.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
Hey listen. The suit? It's on me. You could probably use one no matter what the outcome is.

Janet looks at herself in the mirror again.

JANET
(amazed)
Wow. I own a suit! And I got it for free!

TAYLOR
Janet.

She turns around to look back at Taylor and realizes he now has a serious look on.

JANET
What?

TAYLOR
I did you a favor. Now you do me one. Bill needs help. But not stopping this sabotage. He needs to change. And we both know that. If he becomes too much of a jack-ass, he's gonna lose ALL of his friends. He's already lost one.

JANET
What? How?

Taylor slowly sits down. Janet does the same.

TAYLOR
Name was Dave. Had his own little business performing as a mascot at kids birthdays and other events. Bill didn't love the business idea, but it made money. Dave was a client too. Kept all of his client info secure with Bill. But then he went to be a coach at some college and wanted to cancel service.
(MORE)

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Bill was furious and charged him an insane termination fee. When he wouldn't reconsider or even talk about it...Well, Bill threatened to collect on Dave so he finally paid up and disappeared. I believe Bill still has his number but he hasn't invited Dave to any parties in the past few years. In fact I'm already having trouble with him. See all these happy employees around here?

Janet takes a look around the store.

JANET

Ya?

Taylor stands back up and motions around the shop.

TAYLOR

I tried to help him see this is what being a good boss means. Not just making money. Caring about employees. But he wouldn't listen. He just told me I was a fool for being so nice.

(beat)

You need to make him see!

JANET

But I can't even stand up for myself! How am I supposed to-

TAYLOR

Yes you can. Don't be scared. Go full force. Be the friendliest boss ever. Show Bill it can work.

JANET

I don't know. Even if I could-

Stands right in front of her. Looks straight into her eyes.

TAYLOR

I've met the real you Janet and I already know you can. You have to at least try!

JANET

(long beat, determined)

Okay. I guess at this point I have nothing left to lose anyway...

TAYLOR

Actually, you have plenty to lose.
But it is true that you have more
to gain. So...Go get it!

JANET

Okay. Thanks Taylor.

TAYLOR

Anytime, Janet. Anytime. Oh and by
the way? We're hiring. Just in case
you suddenly find yourself needing
a job in the near future.

JANET

Earning a quarter of what I do now?
Sorry but I like my life as it is.

TAYLOR

Point taken. But the offer stands.
It's better than zero.

He smiles at her as she leaves.

JANET

We'll see. But I'd be much more
comfortable fixing my life as is.

INT. JANET'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Janet turns on the television. Walks around a little before
plopping down hard on the bed. Eyes her new suit. Smiles.
Falls back onto the bed, ready to sleep. The phone rings.

JANET

Hello?

BILL (V.O.)

Did you get the suit and dry
cleaning? Well?

JANET

Yes. I got the suit.

BILL (V.O.)

And the dry cleaning?

JANET

And the dry cleaning.

BILL (V.O.)

Good! Now be here as early as you
can tomorrow. We have a lot to do!

(MORE)

BILL (V.O.) (CONT'D)
How much is renting the suit
costing me anyway?

JANET
(yawns)
Oh nothing.. Taylor gave one to me
for free. Nice guy...

BILL (V.O.)
He gave you a suit free? He's
insane! What bad business. I keep
telling him not to be so nice!

JANET
(tired)
Well...Maybe his being nice is a
good thing.

BILL
Ya right. O well the less money I
have to waste on you the better.
I'll see you tomorrow at 5 AM.

He hangs up on her.

JANET
Oh, Bill...

Falls asleep, dropping the phone to the ground.

INT. OFFICE - MORNING

As everyone files in for the next day Janet is trying, and failing miserably, to act cool calm and collected. She stands near the elevator with a smile and plays around with her fingers, pacing. Steve walks by, laptop in hand ready for work. She follows him.

JANET
Hey, did you hear the good news?

STEVE
You mean about you getting
promoted? Congrats on kissing up
even more to Bill, Janet.

Janet is visibly angered.

JANET
I'm sorry but what did I ever do to
you? I happen to think it's a great
thing Bill did for me!

STEVE

Ya, great for you. It's still bullshit for all us other employees. Do you have any idea what my day is like?

Janet strikes a thinking pose.

JANET

You know, I don't. So maybe you could show me? I am, after all, like an assistant manager now. So perhaps I should know.

Steve is shocked.

STEVE

Um...sure.

INT. SERVER ROOM

JANET

Wow. So this is where it all happens?

STEVE

Yep. This is where all the data is kept. Lock and key. None of our client's data has ever leaked. Not in all fourteen years this company has been operating. And I've been here for it all...

CEDRIC (O.S.)

Steve!

The two flip to the right to see CEDRIC, 50s, the other IT man approaching from down the hall.

STEVE

O great. Here comes that guy Bill just hired to be my boss. Really I don't get why he wouldn't just promote me. Gave top access to this nut instead.

JANET

Well, he must have some reason. I mean-

STEVE

Not even. This guys doesn't know half the tech stuff I do.

JANET

What? Really?

CEDRIC

Steve! Where the hell have you been? These computers aren't gonna work themselves! And who the hell are you?

STEVE

Cedric, I told you. I'm installing something on the interface so I can't do anything for at least a few more minutes.

CEDRIC

What a load of malarkey! No wonder Bill hired me.

Cedric goes to hit some buttons but-

STEVE

It's not malarkey! If you do anything on the servers the interface will go down!

Cedric pulls back.

CEDRIC

Whatever, lazy bones.

He turns on Janet.

CEDRIC (CONT'D)

And what about you, huh? I've got enough headaches down here with bozo here and I don't need another one. I'll talk to Bill if I have to. No more annoyances.

Steve's face clearly shows anger. Janet snaps.

JANET

Hey! He is important! Just as important as you, maybe more! I'd be willing to bet he probably even knows more since he's been here for about fifteen years and-

Cedric gets right up in her face. She loses her cool.

JANET (CONT'D)

And-

CEDRIC

And?

There's a long pause. Then Janet gets firmer.

JANET

Now listen close. Didn't you hear I'm the new assistant manager? So you be nice to Steve or I'll talk to Bill about you.

CEDRIC

Ha! Bill hired me to lead this fool! You can't get rid of me.

JANET

(nervous)

Actually, I can. As long as I tell Bill. Now back to work. Steve, show me around some more.

They leave a baffled Cedric behind.

STEVE

Hey um...Thanks for that.

JANET

No problem. We all have to stick together. I can try to talk to Bill about how that guy is-

STEVE

No! Don't say anything to Bill!

JANET

Well why ever not? That's my job!

STEVE

I thought your job was to keep a keen eye on all the employees.

He walks off, towards a little office, enters, and sits down at a desk. A majority of it is littered with things belonging to Cedric, including plenty of his pictures. Only the edge has a few trinkets belonging to Steve. She eyes this.

JANET

Quite a display.

STEVE

I know, right? If only Bill saw what a slob this guy is. And what a fraud. He's clueless, really.

(MORE)

STEVE (CONT'D)

Doesn't have any experience. Yet...
he's my lead.

JANET

Oh. Anyway look, it's true that
Bill wants me to watch employees,
but I've got a plan of my own. I
can change Bill's attitude. So we
can trust in him.

Steve turns around to look at her, standing in the doorway.

STEVE

(slightly angry)

You want to talk about trust? He
needs to trust us first.

Janet perks up.

JANET

Yes. Trust is hard to gain and easy
to lose, but I do agree that at
fourteen years you should be in a
better spot. Let me ask you this.
Why do you stay? Because you like
the job, right?

STEVE

Ya. But I think you and I are the
only people here who can say that.

JANET

So...You can thusly be trusted?

Steve starts to look annoyed.

STEVE

What are you getting at?

JANET

I'm just saying if you can be
trusted, then that should mean
something. Bill may even say you
did good if you do.

The two stare at each in silence.

STEVE

Ya right. Well, whatever. I'll show
you more later but for now I've got
work of my own to do before you-
know-who gets back.

Turns back to the desk.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Like Bill says. This is a job and nothing more, Janet. You can have fun and be passionate about it, but it's still just a job. The sooner you learn that the better. You think you're some diamond in the rough but the truth is you're coal too and all the rest of us are destined to burn in Bill's flames.

He falls silent after that. Janet has on a disappointed face.

JANET

(saddened)

Thank you for the tour.

She speed walks out his office and the server room, back toward the elevators.

INT. OFFICE

The elevator doors open as Janet walks towards her desk. But she sees Tom over by his cubicle laughing talking to another employee, and decides to check it out. She walks over.

TOM

I swear it's that easy. We just have to- Oh Janet! Hey!

JANET

Hey Tom! What's up?

TOM

Oh, not much. Just talking about something we did on the weekend. Don't need a mansion to have a crazy party if you catch my drift.

He leans closer to her. Too close in fact.

TOM (CONT'D)

Wink. Wink.

JANET

Ooh...

Janet backs away.

JANET (CONT'D)

So...you want to tell me about it? I'm striving to understand about who everyone is.

(MORE)

JANET (CONT'D)

That way I can start helping people out. Help you understand Bill, Bill understand you...

Tom and the surrounding employees burst out laughing. Janet is unamused and looks annoyed, looking around the group.

TOM

(laughing)

Bill? Understand us? Oh, that's a good one. Oh, what a hoot you are!

Janet suddenly looks cross.

JANET

Why does nobody think I'm serious?

Tom throws his arm around her and pulls her in close.

TOM

Listen. Between you and me? You're eye candy to Bill. With all his money he could have had a nicer model, but I guess he wants business and not exotic.

JANET

E-ew!

She shoves Tom off her.

JANET (CONT'D)

You know I could fire you for sexual harassment!

TOM

Oh, but I'm not the harasser.

Points to Bill's office. Bill isn't there yet.

TOM (CONT'D)

Make no mistake. If he promoted you he either wants you...Or more likely wants to make you crash.

JANET

(angry)

O ya? Well what would you know?

TOM

(proudly)

I'd know Bill has got some reason he's finally cozying up to you.

(MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)

I don't know what yet but he's got some plan for you and trust me...It ain't good. You'd be better off ditching the guy now before he takes you down a road you can't come back from.

JANET

Are you trying to threaten me?

TOM

I'm just saying Bill doesn't just hand out promotions. I don't know when but you'll see. This promotion-

Grabs a piece of paper, crumples it up, and throws it backwards over his shoulder and into a trash bin.

TOM (CONT'D)

It's gonna end up killing ya.

JANET

No. That can't be.

TOM

It is. Now Janet - Pick a side. Who are you with? Us or him? I know you'll make the right choice.

(shouts)

POWER TO THE 'PLOYEES!

ALL EMPLOYEES

POWER TO THE 'PLOYEES! YAY!

JANET

(shouting as well)

LOOK. I'm all for power to the-'plovees employees whatever. But we need to work with Bill too. Together we can make him understand our values.

Silence. Then everyone laughs at her - The whole office.

JANET (CONT'D)

Hey! Okay MAYBE I SHOULD TELL BILL ABOUT THIS LITTLE DISCUSSION.

Everyone looks around.

ALL EMPLOYEES

BOOOOOOOOO-

TOM

Oh give her a break. What else do you expect from Bill's new lapdog?

Everyone laughs again. Janet looks around and suddenly out of nowhere-

JANET

Okay, that's it! Back to work! Or I swear I'll have Bill fire you all!

She looks serious. The employees murmur as they return to their business. She walks towards her desk. Mary looks concerned and walks up.

JANET (CONT'D)

(under her breath)

Immature nut. He's suspect numero uno.

MARY

Janet, what has gotten into you?

JANET

Nothing, Mary. I'm just sick of all the hatred harbored in this office. And I swear I'm going to do something about it.

Mary looks away for a second, then back to her.

MARY

All right.

Janet looks confused.

JANET

All right?

MARY

Yes. All right. If you're really serious about this then go ahead and do it. Take charge for once. Maybe you really CAN fix this broken down company.

She walks away, leaving Janet looking surprised and confused.

INT. JANET'S DESK - MIDDAY

Janet is stressed after the events of the morning. Her face is buried in her work and when she answers the phone:

JANET
(annoyed)
Hel-lo-ooo?

BILL (V.O.)
Janet?! What's that all about?!

Janet slams the phone down to hang it up. It rings again.

JANET
(as if nothing happened)
Hello. Bill E. Bull's office.

BILL (V.O.)
Nice try. NEVER hang up on me
again. What the hell is going on?

JANET
Oh, I haven't gotten anything yet.

BILL (V.O.)
Nothing at all?

JANET
Well...I have one suspect. Oh hey
when you get the chance can we talk
about that new Cedric guy you hired
for IT? He's treating Steve like a
child when in reality-

BILL (V.O.)
Is he the suspect?

JANET
Well, no. But that's not the point.
You should-

BILL (V.O.)
Don't tell me what I should and
shouldn't do. I hired Cedric to
keep Steve in check and if he's not
the suspect that'll be that.

JANET
But as the assistant manager-

BILL (V.O.)
No. Just assistant. The manager
part is just for show. You can have
the raise but once this is over you
lose the title. So who's the
suspect then?

She sighs and lets her head hang down.

BILL (V.O.)
Hey! Who's the suspect?!

Hangs her head.

JANET
Tom. The first suspect is Tom. He was very outright about his dislike of you. Told me to get out before you dragged me down too...

BILL (V.O.)
That idiot! Well he'll get his soon enough! Okay Janet, I'll be in within the hour. I've got another little surprise to turn this investigation into a full on sting operation. Try to get another suspect...if you can.

Starts tapping her fingers.

JANET
Okay. But please, at least consider telling Cedric to ease up on Steve. Or maybe...Keeping me on as assistant manager?

BILL (V.O.)
Phbt! Ya right! I don't need an assistant manager. I'm fine solo.

He hangs up on her.

JANET
Why that-

The phones rings again.

JANET (CONT'D)
Hel-

CUSTOMER
Hello? I demand to speak with Bill. Now!

JANET
I'm sorry he's not in at the moment. May I-

CUSTOMER
- take a message? No. Just stick a middle finger in his face for me.
(MORE)

CUSTOMER (CONT'D)

We pay out the wazoo and one week after starting service now all of our patients' medical info is leaked? I have to close my office and work only out of the hospital now!

Janet is in utter shock.

JANET

Uh...I'm sorry, what?

CUSTOMER

And you wanted me to recommend you to the hospital and the other doctors and practices to use you guys? Hell no! I want a refund and service cancelled - NOW!

JANET

Wait. You said your patients info was exposed? But we've never let ANY of the confidential info our clients keep with us get-

CUSTOMER

Well, you leaked mine so I WANT A REFUND.

Silence for a minute.

CUSTOMER (CONT'D)

WELL?

JANET

Um...Okay I'll send to someone to discuss this.

She transfers him.

INT. ARNOLD'S DESK - AFTERNOON

Arnold is hard at work sorting papers while standing up, checking them against a worksheet pulled up on his computer screen, when Janet comes over. He looks up from the papers to her. He smiles.

ARNOLD

Well, this is a nice surprise.

JANET

Hey, Arnold. Can I talk to you for a second?

ARNOLD

If it's about that doctor that you sent my way I'm sorry to say he isn't gonna stay. Had to authorize a full refund. Strange thing too. I heard this was the first time EVER this company let a client's secure info be leaked.

She take a seat.

JANET

I know. It worries me. And Bill's going to be furious. But that's not why I came over. I've always found you more reasonable than Tom, so I thought maybe I could ask you and you'd actually have an answer. Is there any hope for Bill?

Arnold looks right back at her.

ARNOLD

Janet. You are going down a slippery slope here. You need to get off this Bill wagon now before it's too late.

JANET

But I just got started as Bill's assistant manager. There must be something I can do.

He leans in close.

ARNOLD

Janet the only way things are ever gonna change is if you get him to change. You think of trust, but how are we supposed to trust him when he won't trust us to do our own jobs, huh?

JANET

This sounds familiar...

ARNOLD

As it should. It's what Steve said in a nutshell. We talked and decided you really are a fool if you think he trusts you.

Points his finger right into her face.

I'm sorry to say you changing him
is less likely than winning the
jackpot. So get a lottery ticket.

Janet stares intently.

JANET

But please. If he could?

Arnold looks off to the ceiling and back.

ARNOLD

It would be nothing short of a
miracle. But it may be too little
too late for him.

JANET

How so?

Arnold catches himself.

ARNOLD

You- don't wanna know.

JANET

Oh but I do. See if you try to
trust me and Bill- .

ARNOLD

You? No problem. Bill? Mind as well
just fire me now...

Silence for a second.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

Whatever. It's back to work for me.
Don't want Bill to lose it over a
single missing character of text. \

More silence as Arnold focuses on his computer, typing away.

JANET

Hey.

Looks at her once more.

JANET (CONT'D)

I can make this better.

Looks back to his computer screen.

ARNOLD

I pray that's true...for all of our
sakes...

He goes back to typing away on the keyboard and speed clicking the mouse. She gets up and-

BILL
Janet!

ARNOLD
Well, speak of the devil...

They both turn to see Bill walking in.

BILL
My office now. Daily briefing,
pronto!

ARNOLD
(sing-song)
Good luck, it's gonna suck.

Janet briskly walks off.

INT. BILL'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

The sun is getting lower. Bill looks at it through his big windows. Janet enters.

BILL
(softly)
It's beautiful, isn't it? The view
I mean. How lucky I am to have this
and how devastated I will be if I
lose it all...

She seems very surprised to see this side of Bill. He turns around to face Janet.

BILL (CONT'D)
(demanding)
That's why I must have progress!

Normal Bill's return puts an annoyed face on Janet.

JANET
I've done the best I can. From what
I can tell everyone had a
legitimate reason to not like you.

Bills stares her down hard.

JANET (CONT'D)
I mean- They all have motives.

BILL

So you have no idea yet as to the plan? Or the leaders? Or even if you can get employees to reveal any hints about a plan to sabotage me and my business? We let a client's info be leaked today! The plan is already being tested!

JANET

Please sir. Perhaps if you were actually nicer to them they'd-

BILL

Stop right there. They've done nothing to deserve my praise.

JANET

But that's not true! You have to see that! Your business buddy Taylor agrees with me.

BILL

Oh brother. Why do you think Taylor is a tailor and I'm in big business? Oh ya- I manage better.

Janet is visibly mad.

JANET

Bill. I am trying to help you but you need to listen. Your lack of trust in the employees is a direct factor into why this is even happening. It's your business on the line not mine.

Bill looks intrigued by this new side of Janet.

BILL

Hm. Okay make you a deal. I'll try to change if you try to change.

JANET

Huh?

Bill stands up. Starts pushing her to the door in silence.

JANET (CONT'D)

Hey! What the heck?

Keeps pushing. More silence.

JANET (CONT'D)

Bill. Bill. BILL!

Without thinking, she shoves him back, off of her. She looks worried but Bill grins, much to her surprise.

BILL

Lessons one and two begin. To stop being pushed around and to push back. We'll continue work on it tonight, got it?

JANET

Um...Ya got it.

BILL

My office after work. You're about to grow a pair of balls.

JANET

I...I feel like I should say no?

BILL

Oh brother. Not being pushed around doesn't mean saying no to everything. A pair of vaginas then.

Bill shuts his door on her. She walks back to her desk.

JANET

A pair of - Oh God.

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

Everyone's gone except for her and Bill.

BILL

Ah, look at this place. So peaceful without the employees. But you and I? We've got work to do! Here.

Bill walks over to a big bag on the floor. He pulls out little cameras and microphones - A whole slew of them, in many different styles with various mounts.

JANET

What's all that for?

BILL

This-

Walks over to Janet and gives her about half the pile of tangled wires.

BILL (CONT'D)

- is my mansion's old security system. Bought a better one a few years back, but saved this one in case I ever needed a second one. And now TA-DA! And I picked up-

Brings out a box. Picture of a little dot smaller than her thumb. Than another of a little stick of the same miniature size. She reacts - She knows what those are.

JANET

A hidden camera and microphone?

BILL

O ya. Tomorrow I'll be at home all day. Monitoring all these cameras, and listening in on all the conversations that you'll have with your good friends the employees.

He smiles, looking at the camera.

JANET

No! This is too far! I'm better off just getting a new job!

BILL

Really? Is that what you think? You'll just find a new job?

JANET

It...It beats all this spy stuff.

BILL

Janet don't be an idiot. You have Bills to pay. The job market sucks. You lose this job and you can kiss your money flow goodbye.

JANET

Well...I'm sure I could-

BILL

Ya maybe after time but do you really wan't to live on unemployment til you do find a new job? I at least have savings to fall back on.

JANET

What?

Bill gestures around the empty office.

BILL
This all gives me financial
security.

JANET
Now who's being an idiot? What
about all the clients that could
sue you for exposing their info?

His face is shocked. Scared even.

BILL
Okay looks like we're both in a
sinking boat. Well, I'm not letting
it take me down!

JANET
Bill it's a moot point. I can't
even get anyone to say anything
more than "I don't like Bill".

BILL
Well, we can't have that now, can
we? Otherwise my spending time with
you will have been all for naught.

He starts wiring up cameras suddenly. She joins him but then:

BILL (CONT'D)
Hypothetical. I'm about to
physically push you out of the way.
It can be avoided but I feel like
not letting you pass. You're in a
rush. What do you do?

JANET
Well...I'd say excuse me and-

BILL
No! Perhaps I should make it more
cut and dry.

Finishes up the wiring. Walks right by her and his shoulder
strikes her hard.

JANET
Ow! Hey!

BILL
Yes, OW. Now what are you going to
do about it? What are you going to
say to the employee you manage.

JANET
(accusatory)
That- That was mean!

BILL
So?

JANET
So- So you need to apologize.

Bill sticks his face into hers.

BILL
NO. I don't. I don't respect you
and I know you're a pushover and-

JANET
Apologize now!

Bill looks happy.

BILL
Yes. I'm sorry. Sorry that I just
taught you a lesson!

JANET
What kind of lesson was that? You
were just being a jack-ass so-

She realizes what she's saying. Bill starts hiding the wires.

BILL
Another hypothetical. This time
closer to home. Someone has
information. You know they have it
and you know who that person is.
For now let's go so far as to say
that you are interrogating me. I've
done something bad in business
before that I'm thinking of right
now. Get it out of me.

JANET
Um...Okay. First of all, you've
done a lot of things wrong in the
business. Picking just one is-

She stops. Bill is looking at her, annoyed.

BILL
Well that's blunt. Then again-

Face returns to normal.

BILL (CONT'D)

No matter how mad I get the goal
remains for you. I have no regrets.

Janet hardens her face, trying to look tough.

JANET

You have no regrets? No. That's not
right. You must have SOME regret.

BILL

(while laughing)
I guess I do. Doing this lesson
with you!

He laughs. Janet seems concerned. She thinks hard.

JANET

But I thought-
(beat, changes attitude)
I thought people with no regrets
never took risks.

BILL

(serious)
Whatever. Keep going.

JANET

Let's see here. At this point you'd
probably complain about a flaw. Or
maybe instead of a weakness a
vulnerability - Something I can use
against you.

BILL

Ah, see now your thinking like
somebody in charge. How are you
going to get me to-

JANET

It's a shame you aren't as good as
Taylor.

Bill stops wiring for a second.

BILL

I'm sorry, what?

JANET

O ya. True he's not as rich, but he
didn't seem nearly as miserable as
you. And his employees seemed
pretty content there as well.

(MORE)

JANET (CONT'D)

So there goes your theory that work has to be the worst thing ever.

BILL

I love work.

JANET

I do too. And despite your attitude, I love my job here.

Looks at her, questioningly.

BILL

My attitude?

JANET

Yes. And it's why your other employees don't like the job.

She continues to wire.

JANET (CONT'D)

In fact some clients and customers complain too. Like the one last week. Let's see. You've got plenty of friends who you-...Of course!

Bill looks confused.

BILL

So you think my regret is something with a client? Ya right.

JANET

Yes I am. You did something. But not just to a client. To a friend.

BILL

Okay STOP. That is not the secret you were supposed to be going for.

Janet goes back to silently hanging the wires, but then:

JANET

You know what NO. You said stand up so I'm going to! Taylor told me you need to change or you're gonna lose all your friends! You're already having a rough time with him!

BILL

Now listen here. If you keep yakking I'll-

JANET

Wait. I remember now. DAVE! The party invites stopped a few years ago. And he was someone who was always invited. His small business as a mascot for hire actually had a fairly large plan with us storing client info. Then he went to coach at a college, right?

BILL

Janet so help me I'll-

JANET

What Taylor doesn't know is he actually made you an offer on behalf of his new college to store EVEN MORE info on a bigger plan! But instead you forced an insane termination fee on him. But why?

BILL

(distressed)

Enough! I said stop!

Janet turns to see Bill is troubled. She's never seen him like this before. He's breaking down.

BILL (CONT'D)

You were supposed to get out that I regretted that a smaller data protection company closed because my company grew! Dave is personal! Don't talk about him!

She comes close, though not quite in his face.

JANET

No. See whether or not you see it that's how all the employees here feel. And you know what? Like Taylor said: Sometimes you hate even your closest friends and he wishes you would just calm down. Losing a friend is perfect proof.

BILL

What are you saying?

JANET

I'm saying when this is all over you need to change. For example you need need to apologize to Dave.

BILL
Like hell I will.

JANET
O come on! You may even be able to get that sale storing the college's student information too...Just keep it about you wanting Dave back as-

BILL
No! Dave betrayed me that day!

JANET
Um...Sorry, what?

BILL
The day Dave moved away was terrible! He was my best friend forever. Then he goes and rips our friendship apart? That is what trust gets you! He's no friend of mine, so he doesn't deserve my services! And if my current friends betray me I'll just end their plans too and make new ones!

Silence. She is in awe of this side of Dave.

JANET
Bill...If you keep losing friends, sooner or later you won't be able to make any. If Dave leaving hurt so much then why didn't you tell him instead of-

DAVE
Okay that's it! You finish up!

He starts to walk away, but turns back to say:

BILL
Aren't you gonna try to stop me?
Make me keep helping?

Janet considers, but softens her face.

JANET
No. You need time to think. Don't worry. I won't let you destroy any more friendships. I owe Taylor that much for the suit.

She looks at Bill, anger on his face. He pulls another stress ball out of his pocket and spikes it to the ground grumbling.

He does it again and again. When he looks up at her his face is as red as a cherry.

BILL

(angered, yelling)
I swear if my company wasn't
relying on you to save it you would
be so fired right now!

JANET

Fired for telling you how to be a
better friend? Really?

Bill is silent but his face says it all with it's anger. He turns around and heads for the elevator.

BILL

You'd better hang those up by
tomorrow morning, you sneaky lady.
And don't forget, I'll LITERALLY be
watching you!

JANET

Sneaky?

He gets in the elevator. The doors close. Janet sighs, and goes back to hanging wires.

EXT. ALLEY BEHIND OFFICE BUILDING

Janet is walking home when she sees Taylor there.

TAYLOR

So how was your first day as boss?

JANET

Oh, don't even get me started.

TAYLOR

Knock any sense into Bill?

JANET

Well, I found out he has a heart
under all that hate. He actually
misses Dave. Bill feels...Betrayed
that he left.

TAYLOR

He...does?

JANET

Ya. I've never seen Bill like that.
He actually broken down.

TAYLOR

Well, keep up the good work.
Perhaps you can fix things.

JANET

Ya, we'll see...

TAYLOR

Hey, do you...Want to-

JANET

If you're about to ask me on a
date, I'd rather not. Not right
now.

TAYLOR

But you need a break from work.

JANET

I said not now. Talk to me after I
save Bill's ass.

TAYLOR

Promise?

JANET

Promise.

She walks off.

INT. BILL'S MANSION - MORNING

The sun shines on Bill opening up his laptop. Face concerned.
Screen comes on as he logs into the hidden camera spying
program. Sees Janet walking into the office.

INT. OFFICE LOBBY - SAME

Janet is walking in with a smile on her face. Catches Cedric
and Steve clocking in.

JANET

Cedric! Steve! Meeting upstairs!
It's time to get this company
performing to it's full potential
and I need you two there!

CEDRIC

No way.

JANET

Yes way or you're fired!

STEVE

Janet, calm down. We'll be there.

JANET

Thank you, Steve. At least one of you IT guys has some sense! Speaking of which I need you to come up with a patch for whatever caused that clients data to leak yesterday. I increased your accounts access to admin, like Cedric has. Only Bill and I have higher access.

STEVE

Really?

JANET

Yes. Build a whole new firewall if you have to. We can't let the information of another client get out again!

STEVE

Ya, got it!

Cedric glares at Janet but Janet returns the gaze, and when she doesn't back down, Cedric releases the face. Satisfied, Janet heads for the elevator.

INT. OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

As Janet disembarks the elevator, she runs into Mary.

MARY

Janet are you okay? I'm sure your daily briefing was-

JANET

Fine. My daily briefing was just fine. Call a meeting. I have a few things to discuss with you all.

She walks away, leaving Mary looking speechless.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING

Everyone in the office is gathered around, many standing stuffed into the small room, some sitting including Mary, Steve, Cedric, Tom, and Arnold. All looking uncomfortable.

JANET

All right! Now that we're all here let's get this meeting started. As you all know I've been promoted to assistant manager. I have told Bill of my intentions to make this company a better place. But you all gotta give to get.

TOM

We already give so much. Why does Bill need more?

Murmurs of agreement throughout the room.

JANET

Listen, I can get him to reward your hard work, but only if you give your best to him. Hey, I know! Let's look at performance reports!

She pulls out a large file, and the room groans.

JANET (CONT'D)

Tom. Your performance has dropped of late. Can't reward dropping performance now, can we?

Tom's lip curls.

JANET (CONT'D)

Oh, don't give me that look. Consider all the work I do. And look at me now!

Everyone does just that, and she loses her nerve, but only for a moment.

JANET (CONT'D)

Um...Anyway Arnold. You've actually done really well and I bet, if you keep it up, I can convince Bill to throw a little something something extra your way.

TOM

WHAT? He was just hired a year ago!

JANET

And yet his performance beats that of a certain veteran...Tom.

Tom looks annoyed. Arnold cracks a small, nervous smile.

MARY

And me?

Janet sighs.

JANET

Mary, your overall performance is decent but...your attitude needs work. A lot.

MARY

What?!

JANET

I'm sorry but I agree with Bill on this one. You pick fights with him a lot. Arnold doesn't. Steve doesn't. Even Tom doesn't...Credit where credit is due. Now then-

She turns to Steve.

JANET (CONT'D)

Steve, if you keep up the good work, I'll see to it that Bill understands that as good of a leader as Cedric may be, he can be moved elsewhere with his management skills seeing as you're the one with the knowledge and years of service in technology.

Steve lights up.

CEDRIC

Hey, lady! Bill hired me to-

JANET

I don't care what Bill hired you to do. I can make my own decisions. And he won't want to walk back any.

BILL (V.O.)

Why you little-

She walks to the wall, turning her back on the gathering, collects herself and:

JANET

Bill must make sacrifices. But we must first. And if you feel you can't do that...

Turns back around.

JANET (CONT'D)

Then maybe you should leave.

Tom stands up.

TOM

No. You're gonna have to drag me down kicking and screaming.

Tom storms out. Janet shouts after him:

JANET

Yes! Now that's more like it! Get that production up, and I may just recommend you for a raise after all, Tom!

ARNOLD

A RAISE?

BILL (V.O.)

GIVE THEM RAISES?

JANET

Well, surely you realized when I said I'd throw a little extra something your way that's what I meant? Call it a bribe if you must, but if you work hard and stay loyal, I can see to it the ones who deserve a raise get one. Dismissed!

Everyone leaves the conference room.

JANET (CONT'D)

(to Bill)

See that, Bill? This is how to kill them with kindness. Like it or not some people can be trusted. And some just long for recognition from the boss...

Her smile fades.

JANET (CONT'D)

Like me. So give us a chance.

INT. BILL'S MANSION - SAME

Bill has an annoyed look on his face.

BILL

You're really pushing it now.

JANET (V.O.)

Good. Just imagine for a second how much easier actually liking your employees, or at least praising them from time to time, would be.

BILL

Just get into the interrogations. We'll talk about saving my soul once we save my business.

JANET (V.O.)

Right, okay.

INT. JANET'S DESK - AFTERNOON

Janet sits tall, ready to drill people. Cedric approaches.

CEDRIC

You wanted to see me, little missy?

JANET

Why did Bill hire you? To lead a man who doesn't need it when you don't even have half the tech knowledge he does?

CEDRIC

I have more knowledge than you.

JANET

Is that so? Tell me a basic computer question then: What does IP stand for? As in an IP address?

Silence.

JANET (CONT'D)

No answer? Well this is a security company so how about DNS? What does that stand for?

Cedric looks angered.

CEDRIC

(holding back fury)
You don't know either!

JANET

Well I know IP means internet protocol and - HEY STEVE!

Steve, who is working with Mary on a nearby PC, turns to look at Janet and Cedric sitting there.

STEVE

YA?

JANET

What does DNS mean?

STEVE

Dynamic name servers. It's a networking thing.

CEDRIC

(shouting at Steve)

Well, we also use SQL here. I bet you didn't know SQL means secure query language!

Cedric starts laughing. Janet looks defeated. But then, while looking at Steve:

JANET

Steve, what is it?

He looks at her as Cedric stops laughing but keeps his grin.

CEDRIC

Well, out with it young man! Did you know that or not?

JANET

Steve?

Steve looks up, suddenly serious.

STEVE

No! Because that's wrong!

JANET/CEDRIC/MARY

What?

The whole office stops to watch the newest show in the office as the two IT men face off. Cedric gets serious too.

STEVE

I said that's wrong! This is exactly why I should be in his place! Because he's an even bigger idiot than Bill!

CEDRIC

GEEZ. I'm sorry Janet, he must thinking of it's old name, stylized query language. They changed it when CSS, Cascaded Stylizing Standard came along.

STEVE

That's so wrong! The creation of CSS or since we're playing the full name game CASCADING STYLE SHEETS had no impact on SQL's name. I repeat it had no impact on STRUCTURED Query Language's name!

Janet looks impressed. Cedric just gives him a sour look.

INT. BILL'S MANSION - SAME

At home, watching this go down, Bill slaps his face.

BILL

Oh, Cedric. I thought you at least had basic knowledge. Even I know what IP, DNS and SQL mean. I can't believe I- Okay, listen closely Janet. Get ready for your first big move as a boss. You have to-
(sighs)
-fire Cedric.

INT. JANET'S DESK - SAME

STEVE

Hey Cedric, what's the company that helped us set up our servers?

CEDRIC

Um...I think it's called miracle?

STEVE

Oracle!

JANET

Cedric. I'm sure you were hired on the basis not only of your leadership but also that you supposedly knew a enough technology to function in this position.

Surprisingly, Cedric looks down in shame.

CEDRIC

Yes.

JANET

I'm afraid I just can't let you
keep your current role.

He gets up to walk away.

JANET (CONT'D)

HOWEVER...

Turns back.

JANET (CONT'D)

I offer you one alternative. You
must need this job, right?

Nods in agreement.

CEDRIC

Well, yes...

JANET

Then if you wish to stay you can,
so long as you accept Steve as your
new supervisor and learn the tech
necessary for the position from
him. And no more attitude. Deal?

Cedric looks at Steve, who shrugs, then back to her.

CEDRIC

Any other choice?

JANET

Get fired. And Bill will back me up
if I let it slip you have no clue
what DNS or even IP stand for. I
happen to know even he knows those.

Looks at Cedric once more.

CEDRIC

Fine. I'll try it.

JANET

Perfect. Steve, congrats on your
new trainee. Hope you two can set
aside your differences and work
together well! Now get on over
there and help Steve build that new
firewall.

Janet eyes Mary suspiciously.

JANET (CONT'D)
Wait? Why are you over there Mary?

MARY
Oh just curious. I might be
clueless how to use it but I love
tech all the same.

Cedric walks over and eyes the screen. Smiles.

CEDRIC
Okay...This could be interesting,
actually.

STEVE
Oh God.

MARY
It's okay Steve.

JANET
Steve I said I'd get you your
chance and here it is. You both can
head back down to the server room
now to finish that firewall.

The two exit.

JANET (CONT'D)
That felt good. Okay who's next?

TOM
I'll go.

JANET
Come on over.

As Tom comes walking over:

BILL (V.O.)
JANET! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? I SAID
FIRE HIM NOT GIVE HIM A SECOND
CHANCE TO LIE AGAIN! AND WHILE
WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT, YOU STILL-

Janet rips the ear piece out quickly.

JANET
Sh. Just watch. Don't talk.

INT. BILL'S MANSION - CONTINUOUS

BILL
SON OF A-

Grabs a bouncy ball and throws it hard. Bounces back to him. Two more throws and rebounds later, each growing in force from his throws, the fourth throw is too powerful and comes back too fast, hitting him in the forehead.

BILL (CONT'D)
OW!

INT. JANET'S DESK - CONTINUOUS

Tom has taken a seat.

TOM
Janet- I know my completed work is
low but-
(beat)
Can't you see how low employee
morale is? No one thinks it's worth
it to even be here.

Janet raises her eyes at this.

JANET
Including you?

TOM
Well...Yes. Janet, I think with
this promotion you've been blinded
to how horrible the boss is.

INT. BILL'S MANSION - SAME

Back at his computer, Bill pushes in on the computer screen, listening intently.

TOM (V.O.)
(on PC)
I mean come on, do you really think
you can solve anything without
replacing the issue? The only way
Bill would ever change is if he
were to lose it all!

Bill's eyes light up.

BILL
Gotcha...

JANET'S DESK - SAME

Janet furrows one eyebrow up and keeps the other down.

JANET
(curious)
Explain...

TOM
Janet- Haven't you ever wanted to-
Oh I don't know. Do something to
get Bill back? Revenge for all the
years of his treatment?

JANET
No...Have you?

Tom sits back.

TOM
What do you think? But I can't. But
you could. You have all the power
of Bill right now. You could-

JANET
(curt)
And I won't abuse that power.

Silence for a while, then:

TOM
I see. Well that's too bad.

Gets up in her face.

TOM (CONT'D)
You really could have helped. Done
a lot of good. Made a lot of people
really happy.

She pushes her face back into his.

JANET
I still can.

Tom backs out and walks off.

JANET (CONT'D)
Well, that was rather suspicious,
wasn't it Bill?

Mary walks up.

JANET (CONT'D)

Mary I wanted to see Arnold next.

MARY

And I wanted to see you now. Girl,
you're a totally different person!

Looks at Janet with an intense stare that Janet returns.

JANET

Bill did what you wanted for me. I
can finally stand up for myself.

MARY

Hey! Easy girl. It's a compliment.

JANET

Stop calling me girl. I'm a woman.
And stop getting up in my face.
Anyway tell me: What exactly would
you do if you were in my position?

MARY

You mean other than ask Bill to
retire early?

JANET

(unamused)
Yes, other than that.

MARY

Okay. First, I'd actually care
about the employees. No more of
this yelling and arguing. Second,
update our current work process.

JANET

I disagree. Things are just fine
with the current process. As they
say if it ain't broke don't fix it.

MARY

But it is broken.

JANET

No, Bill is broken. Next?

BILL (V.O.)

I swear if you insult me one more
time, I'm outing you!

MARY

(sighs)

The last one, I guess, would be to just show appreciation every once in a while. Good job. Thanks for your hard work. Maybe a bonus, you know? Most companies do that anyway...

JANET

Now there we can agree. Whether Bill believes it or not, that's good advice. I'll try my best to make him see that employees matter.

MARY

Not gonna happen.

JANET

It will. Just send me Arnold...

MARY

Sure.

As she walks away:

MARY (CONT'D)

Oh Janet...There's something fishy about Arnold. Question him hard.

Janet looks at her confused.

JANET

Arnold? Really?

She walks off. Arnold comes over slowly, looking nervous.

JANET (CONT'D)

Arnold, sit.

ARNOLD

Janet if this is about yesterday-

JANET

It is. But I need to ask you straight out. If Bill was a different man-

ARNOLD

But he's not.

JANET

We're talking hypothetically here.
If he was, would you be able to
give him a second chance? C'mon
you're a smart guy.

Arnold looks away for a minute to stare at the ground. Then
back to Janet.

ARNOLD

If you could pull off a miracle and
get Bill to care maybe I'd care
too. But I didn't graduate business
school just to come to a workplace
full of hate.

JANET

Hate? Is that all you see here?

ARNOLD

Yes.

A long pause as the two eye each other.

JANET

Explain.

ARNOLD

As a newer employee I see things in
people you never would. No one sees
Bill as I see him. He's a genius,
but he's squandering the genius on
himself rather than sharing the
wealth. My honest thoughts.

INT. BILL'S MANSION - SAME

Bills is visibly interested in the young mans opinion.

INT. JANET'S DESK - SAME

Arnold has a bit of an angered yet disappointed look on his
face. Mary comes up.

ARNOLD

My college education taught me
better leadership than Bill has.

MARY

I bet I could be a better leader
than him on any day too.

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

But that's because in addition to keeping myself calm under pressure, I would keep my employees calm under pressure too-

ARNOLD

An I wouldn't pressure them too hard in the first place.

MARY

Push back, Janet.

Mary walks away. The two stare at each other again.

ARNOLD

Well I wouldn't go so far as to tell you to fight him as she would, but she's right about-

MARY (O.S.)

AH! Arnold! Janet! Get over here!

TOM (O.S.)

What's wrong?

Janet runs over. To the windows, where everyone has gathered.

MARY

This isn't good...

TOM

Not in the least.

STEVE (O.S.)

WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM!

All turn to see Steve bolt in.

STEVE (CONT'D)

5 of the 48 servers have been breached! 2,380 of our 23,000 something customers have had their secure info they relied on US to keep secret...EXPOSED!

JANET

FIX IT! FIX IT!

STEVE

It's too late! I couldn't get the firewall up in time!

JANET

Well is it up now?

STEVE

Ya but-

ARNOLD

Hey! We got people calling left and right asking what the hell just happened! Cancellations galore!

Everyone runs around in a mess. Janet just stands there in shock until she moves to the window. More news vans are pulling up. Cameras out. Janet looks down at them as:

EXT. TALL BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

REPORTER

Breaking news! We are here at Bill E. Bull's security services where over 2000 clients, nearly ten percent of his business, has just been released to the public.

In a window, Janet looks on in horror.

REPORTER (CONT'D)

This includes hospitals, banks, schools, churches and many more companies with sensitive info for clients they thought they could trust with Bill Bull. And on top of finding out the clients can't trust him, we are now learning from an anonymous source that his own employees can't trust him either...More coming up!

Janet looks devastated.

INT. BILL'S OFFICE - NIGHT

All the employees have left. So have most of the reporters. It's just Janet alone, sitting in Bill's chair reflecting on the day. Bill storms in, followed by a few men pestering him.

BILL

OUT! OUT! I already told you I will find the hacker and he will pay for my lost business and damages on that tenfold!

Slams the door on them. Turns to Janet.

BILL (CONT'D)

You! You want me to respect the asses who just cost me my good name and WHO KNOWS how much of my business? Hell no!

JANET

Trust is a two way street, Bill. How can you expect a hundred and ten percent from someone that's not even motivated enough to do fifty?

BILL

Janet you're fired!

Silence. She gets in his face. He pushes right back. She walks back up, her face right in his and after a little shoving war back and forth:

JANET

No, you are. I'm working my ass off to save your business since you've got the maturity of a little child!

Bill stands speechless for a minute until:

BILL

Good God. If you succeed-

JANET

When.

BILL

Fine. When you succeed, we can discuss the possibility of changing my management style.

JANET

Good. So since we aren't firing each other, you need to teach me a little more. No holding back!

Silence as the two stare at each other.

BILL

Ugh. Fine, I don't care what I have to do as long as it saves my business. Now as insane as I sound saying this, though to you it must sound totally sane, I am impressed how you have handled things. Originally I thought my company was doomed.

Janet grumbles in disapproval. Picks up Bill's foam stress ball and squeezes it hard. Bill raises an eyebrow at this.

BILL (CONT'D)

Um...I did just say I was wrong.

JANET

Not the point.

(long beat)

Everyone's going to go silent soon.
We only have a few chances left.
What tricks can I use to
investigate deeper?

BILL

Guilt tripping.

JANET

Like pointing out if you were nicer
to employees we wouldn't be in this
mess?

BILL

Um...Bingo.

JANET

You know you really do have a
surprising ability to train people.
We need to use that power for good
Make other employees feel like a
true part of the company.

Bill starts to glare at her.

JANET (CONT'D)

Well, it's a valid point.

BILL

Okay then. Let's just say we do
adapt each others ideals just for a
few days. Do you really expect to
see a difference.

JANET

Hell yes.

Bill's hand starts stroking his chin.

BILL

Okay fine. Let's try it. Can't hurt
at this point.

JANET

One last thing- I realize I uncovered a lot today. But I can't stress enough that when this is all over you need to trust any employees that were not involved in the sabotage plan.

Bill seems strokes his chain again.

BILL

Fine. Now enough about that. I was going to work with you on winning arguments, but you seem to have figured that out yourself. As a formality though let's say I'm...Tom. You just found out that I'm the one behind it all. He is the main suspect, correct?

JANET

The most likely one, yes.

BILL

Any way say I'm him and you now know I'm the leader. It's a fact but I'm going to deny it. Well?

Janet stands up and moves closer to Bill. She's serious.

JANET

Tom. There's a saboteur amongst us. All the evidence points to you.

BILL

Me? Ha like I'd-

JANET

Enough! I have proof.

BILL

You can't prove anything.

JANET

O ya? Well over the past few days that promotion I got? It allowed me to find out certain things. You hate Bill but you also hate the job. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose. Except you didn't plan on my-

BILL
I don't know what you're talking
about.

Janet gets closer. Bill looks uneasy.

JANET
Oh but you do. And since I have the
proof I need, you're fired.

BILL
You can't fire me.

JANET
You'd better believe I can! The
video I recorded on my hidden
camera and mic says it all.

BILL
Oh I'm scared...

JANET
Good. Because your fellow saboteurs
are going to follow right behind
you and feel that same fear.

Bill is speechless.

BILL
Who are you and what did you do
with my secretary?

JANET
If you think that was rough, just
you wait until I find the real
culprit.

Bill cocks an eyebrow, confused.

BILL
That's it?

JANET
It's like I said today. I know
what's right and by God I'm going
to fight for it until this
company's dying days. And that
won't be on my watch. Because-

Janet softens a little.

JANET (CONT'D)

Because I love this job. And I'm never going to let anyone take it from me. Not Tom. Not Arnold. Not Mary. Not Steve. Not Cedric. And certainly not you.

Bill sits upright at this last exclamation.

BILL

Not me? You know these last few days you're getting a little OVER confident.

JANET

Not possible. I don't care if I have to beat it into your head a million times in the hopes some day it finally hits you and the employees that if you do your best and be the best you can? That is how you gain trust. Now Bill, can you argue with that?

BILL

(beat)

No. I suppose not. But one last thing to figure out.

Bill turns away.

BILL (CONT'D)

We need to plant seeds of doubt. Tom might be the guy but you can't get too close.

JANET

Tomorrow I could pit Arnold against Tom. And Mary against Steve.

BILL

Perfect! But don't forget you must make them think it was their idea.

JANET

Like...When you tell me to go get coffee for the both of us but really you just want to use me to get yourself a coffee and don't really care if I get one or not?

Bills rolls his eyes.

BILL
Well, I do let you-

JANET
(annoyed)
Get yelled at for being on time?

BILL
Hey, you get a coffee out of it,
don't you?

JANET
Actually I get 2. And for some
reason I never see payment for the
one that my boss takes.

A staring contest.

BILL
You were just doing me a favor.

JANET
Every single day? Do you know how
expensive that is? I wonder if you
would even do me a favor in return.

BILL
That depends. What's the favor?

JANET
You know the favor: Listen to me.

Janet gets up and walks out.

BILL
So...Should we kiss now?

JANET
E-EW!!! NO! AS IF!

Bill laughs as Janet storms off.

INT. OFFICE - MIDDAY

Janet has waltzed into the office, determined. Wired up again, walking so boldly the wires pop out, so as she flyies in, she removes the microphone and tucks it into her bag, repositioning the camera. Everyone turns to look at her the second after that. She is standing taller and prouder than ever - Everyone sees that. They look worried.

JANET
 (flamboyant)
 Company meeting! Everybody gather
 around! Quickly, if you please!

They comply.

INT. BILL'S MANSION - CONTINUOUS

Bill is sipping on his coffee. Start to take a gulp when:

JANET (V.O.)
 Good news! You are all free to
 leave. Because after the disaster
 yesterday you are all fired!

Bill does a spit-take. Shock registers on his face.

BILL
 WHAT? Janet you can't just fire
everybody!

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The office is a buzz. People are panicking left and right.

ARNOLD
 Can she do that?

TOM
 So much for not letting the power
 go to her head...

STEVE
 Oh no...

MARY
 ARE YOU NUTS?

ARNOLD
 But- But- But-

STEVE
 Janet, what the hell?

Other employees also express their concerns and disbelief. One actually takes a bite out of a piece of paper. Another repeatedly clicks a pen. Arnold's face is frozen.

ARNOLD
 Fired- Before I could even-

TOM

Are you insane? Even Bill wouldn't do something like that- Well, not all of us at once!

MARY

YOU have LOST IT gir- BILL!

JANET

Hey I can't keep people who aren't loyal and today I intend to find out who exactly those people are.

Motions for the office to quiet downs. Waits until they do.

JANET (CONT'D)

Okay, I'll delay the mass firing. But only until I find out who the problem employees really are.

Walks to her desk and sits to work as if nothing happened.

INT. TOM'S DESK - AFTERNOON

He's a nervous wreck. He can't focus as he plays with his pen and mouse. Leans over to Arnold.

TOM

Does she know?

JANET

Do I know what?

Both flip to see her there. She snuck up on them.

JANET (CONT'D)

Tom. A word alone, if you please. In Bill's office in fact.

INT. BILL'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

The two walk in. She closes the door.

JANET

Now I'm gonna be frank with you- That Jacob kid has said some really nasty things about ya.

TOM

What?

JANET

Ya, it's true. Told him I wouldn't tell ya but- Listen you need to knock some sense into that kid. Is he really loyal? I'm betting not. Send Steve in here now, will ya?

TOM

Wait is that it?

JANET

Yep.

Tom looks weirded out by this but leaves.

INT. BILL'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Steve comes in and almost immediately:

JANET

Steven. How's Jim?

She's talking quick and confident. Just like Bill.

STEVE

He's...He's--

JANET

He's a liar that's what he is. Even Bill agrees with me. Keep an eye on Jimmy for me, will ya? His tech knowledge might not be the only thing he's lying about.

STEVE

Pardon me?

JANET

I said we can't trust him. We can get you a better guy if you can't train him. Time is something we don't have. Projected sales are down after yesterdays events.

STEVE

I...didn't know.

JANET

Right of course. No communication from Bill about it.

(beat)

No matter because I'll tell you - We're in trouble.

Comes up close to him.

JANET (CONT'D)

I have a whole new view on the company today. And you?

She turned back around and walks to the window.

JANET (CONT'D)

It's all on you to stop these leaks. We need that firewall. And create a solution for Cedric.

STEVE

Cedric? But-

JANET

No buts. Just hard work.

As he walks out, Mary barges in.

MARY

So, you wanna tell me what's on your mind Janet?

JANET

Steve is already leading Cedric. So why don't you lead Tom and Arnold? I can't go easy on anyone right now. Not with what just happened.

MARY

No, no you're right. Between you and me? I think someone here is sabotaging the business.

Janet is still turned to windows. Eyes go wide.

JANET

Now what makes you say that? It's probably a hacker. Besides, everyone is under my watch now. I see what Bill doesn't. I know what he'd never know. If he is under attack I must rescue him. For all of us. But I am standing up to him now, at your advice, I may add, and once this is over there will be change. And those who give will get the benefits of a new Bill.

MARY

Okay. Well I'll keep an eye out for suspicious activity. Just in case.

JANET

Thanks but...

Turns around and looks her dead in the eye.

JANET (CONT'D)

You realize I have to keep an eye
on you too, right?

She stops smiling.

MARY

Oh. Right.

She leaves.

INT. ARNOLD'S DESK - MOMENTS LATER

STEVE

WHAT? Are you really accusing ME of
leaking information the other day?

ARNOLD

Hm. Let's see. Yes, I am!

The whole office gathered around. Janet peeks her head out.

JANET

(happily)

Bill. I think it worked!

TOM

I can do this without either of
you! I don't need your help!

ARNOLD

Ya well good luck! But I can't
guarantee my tongue won't slip if
you cut me out.

TOM

Why you-

Arnold storms off.

STEVE

Get back here! We aren't done yet!

Tom chases after Arnold. Janet has a look of mixed shock and
accomplishment.

JANET

So Tom is probably the leader. And Arnold really is involved? Oh I was hoping not. But still...WOW.

BILL (V.O.)

Right. Wow. Arnold and Tom, huh? They are so fired. Was that Steve too?

JANET

Ya but he didn't say anything to suggest he's in on it...yet. Let's find out the plan and get some proof. Maybe Steve will have a clue...We need to know why those servers failed the other day.

INT. SERVER ROOM

A very angry Steve is working on the servers.

JANET

End of day repairs? Good. This is our lifeblood. Speaking of which, where's Cedric?

STEVE

If you would have let me speak earlier then I could have told you - He quit.

JANET

(stunned)
What?

Turns to look at her.

STEVE

He quit. Guess he didn't want to be involved in a company destined to someday go down the crapper.

Janet looks very annoyed.

JANET

Alright, that's it...UPSTAIRS!
We're having another meeting!

STEVE

Oh come on. Again?

JANET
Yes. Again.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - EVENING

The employees have gathered. Janet is sitting in Bill's spot.

JANET
Passion. We lack passion. Tomorrow
I will have an eagle eye on all of
you. You'll all have one final shot
to show me you are worthy of this
job. And those who don't will be
fired...For real this time!

ARNOLD (O.S.)
Enough!

Arnold stands up. The two lock gazes.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)
Who are you? You're not the nice,
mature young woman I thought you
were. You're even worse than Bill!

INT. BILL'S MANSION - SAME

Bill seems genuinely concerned by this evaluation, scrunching
his face.

BILL
Worse than me? That's the second
time they've said that now...

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

JANET
I made it crystal clear that the
only way Bill will give is if we
give. Don't jeopardize things
because right now you and Steve are
quickly losing those safety nets.

Gets in Tom's face.

JANET (CONT'D)
Clear?

TOM
Crystal.

ARNOLD

But I Thought-

JANET

You thought wrong! You know what?
Meeting's over.

MARY

But-

JANET

I said...meeting's over. Everyone
has one last chance to show your
stuff tomorrow! Perform well and
you will enjoy the spoils of a new
company. Fail and, well...It's
Either be praised...or be phased.
Let's just say the firewall's not
the ONLY thing that needs fixing.

Everyone stands up to leave.

ARNOLD

So this is the new you, huh Janet?

JANET

Yep. I'm the one who can command
both you and Bill. Believe it.

ARNOLD

(long beat)

Actually, I do. And you're right.
I'm going to start working harder.
Right away.

She walks out, leaving Janet looking annoyed and confused.

BILL (V.O.)

Wow. If your plan to be nice
doesn't work, at least now I know
you-

JANET

Have a pair?

BILL (V.O.)

Uh...Ya that.

JANET

I won't lie. That felt...great.
People finally have to listen to
me. Soon I will make sure this
whole company actually cares!

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - NIGHT

Everyone is leaving. Janet is standing tall and proud. But off to the side there is a gathering of several employees including Tom, Mary, Arnold, and Steve...and Cedric.

BILL (V.O.)

Ah, the calm before the storm. Very good work today, Janet. Bonus lesson, and I know it sounds rich coming from me but...Don't push so hard that they break.

JANET

Too late. They're already broken. But...As good as it feels to be in control for once, I still didn't feel right about it...

BILL (V.O.)

No matter. You did it! And tomorrow we will finally-

JANET

SH!

BILL (V.O.)

Okay, you have to stop shushing me! And don't you dare unplug the earpiece this time!

JANET

Just listen then. There's a gathering of Tom, Mary, Arnold, Steve...and Cedric?

BILL (V.O.)

WHAT? Steve said Cedric quit.

JANET

Ya well here he is. I'm gonna follow. Maybe we won't need tomorrow after all...

BILL (V.O.)

I'm coming down there.

JANET

Okay but hang back.

BILL (V.O.)

(annoyed)
Fine...

As the group disappears into an alley, she follows.

EXT. ALLEY BEHIND OFFICE BUILDING

Janet hides behind a trash bin, but first peeks around to see one of the SECURITY GUARD there.

SECURITY GUARD

Okay Mary what's so important?

MARY

I'm sorry but Janet has lost it.
Now she's a real threat to my plan.
We must launch the virus tonight.

JANET

(quietly)
YOUR plan?

ARNOLD

Are...Are you sure about this Mary?

MARY

You saw her tonight, Arnold. That hard worker you looked up to? That positive woman? She's long gone! So are you in or out? Decide now!

STEVE

I hate to agree, but she's right.
We'll probably be better off in the end. Besides, being young we still have our whole lives ahead of us.
Take a risk. Our Janet is gone.

Arnold considers.

ARNOLD

Okay okay I'm in. I just really don't like it. Not one bit.

STEVE

Neither do I.

TOM

Are you kidding? This is great!
Taking down two bosses with one stone? It's awesome if you ask me.

The rest of the crowd cheers. Mary stands to face them all.

MARY

Well, I guess I was just sick of Bill this Bill that. It is a shame to lose Janet but she proved just as bad with power. And we don't need two Bills! It won't matter in just a few short hours anyway. Cedric, I assume you have the virus?

She turns to Cedric who holds up a disc.

CEDRIC

Got it right here. Let's make the customer's precious secure info not so secure! Thanks for letting me in on the plan by the way, Mary.

MARY

Ya well you owe me. Besides I didn't really have a choice when Janet saddled Steve with you that day and you saw us launch the virus's 2nd test. Still, it helped speed things along to have two people build the back door into the firewall from the inside AND outside. Your admin code was useful too. Let's just hope it works so we can take down all the servers at once this time.

The sound of a beep as the security guard opens the door.

SECURITY GUARD

Alright got it. Poor Janet. And she doesn't even realize it was her own actions that led to this. Giving Steve administrator status I mean.

He unlocks the back door and the group files in, cheering and whooping the whole time. Janet stays where she is.

MARY

Ah, we would have got it eventually. It just would have taken longer! Now, let's destroy Bill and Janet's hope and dreams! We will rise!

The crowd roars. As they roars die out, Janet comes out of hiding, distraught.

JANET
 (shocked, sad)
 Everybody...hates me now. They
really hate me. And all because I
 just wanted to-

She starts crying. She doesn't realize Taylor walking home behind her again, as he pauses to see what's going on.

JANET (CONT'D)
 This isn't what I wanted.

BILL (V.O.)
 But honey you did it. Sweetie-

JANET
 DON'T CALL ME SWEETIE!

BILL (V.O.)
 WHOA okay. Fine, just go home. You
 did your job. Now, let me do
 mine...It's firing time!

She takes off the microphone, camera, and earpiece, and walks away, the deed done. Taylor walks over.

TAYLOR (O.S.)
 Whoa! Hold on there, little missy!

Janet turns around, still crying.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
 That's not what I expected to see
 when you won.

JANET
 That's because I didn't win. I only
 succeeded by becoming like Bill.

TAYLOR
 WHAT?

JANET
 Now all my co-workers hate me
 because I tried to be him. How does
 Bill put up with all this hate?

Long pause.

TAYLOR
 I don't think he realizes it. Hey
 come on. I'll take you home.

She walks away again, with Taylor. But then Taylor lets her walk a little ahead of him when he eyes the small microphone on the floor. He picks it up, and speaks into it.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

Jack-ass. I swear if you don't fix this mess AND YOURSELF I'll see to it you have NO friends. Ever again. Is that really what you want, Bill?

Spikes the microphone at the ground, hard. Cracks into a few tiny pieces and gives off a loud POP. From the earpiec:

BILL (V.O.)

OW! Damn it Taylor that's loud!

TAYLOR

(to himself)

Good. You heard.

Walks back over to Janet and puts his arm around her.

INT. OFFICE - LATE NIGHT

Mary and her group of employees enter. She and Cedric are smiling. It's dark, as they all sneak around. Mary turns to the security guard.

MARY

You put the cameras on a loop?

SECURITY GUARD

Yep. Bill won't know what hit him.

BILL (O.S.)

Oh, won't I?

Everyone stops short as they turn to see Bill just standing there. Tom's eyes go wide.

TOM

No...

MARY

How the hell did you find out about-

It hits her like a ton of bricks.

MARY (CONT'D)

Janet! It was all Janet! No wonder she's been so crazy! This whole time, you were using her to-

BILL

Ah, yes. My little assistant not so little anymore. Finally found out your little plan here. And now to finally let myself loose. Although if I did learn one lesson it's to trust people...If they can be trusted which clearly...

Points directly at Mary.

BILL (CONT'D)

YOU CAN'T. Such a shame too. Arnold, you had your whole life ahead of you and now? Ruined. And Steve? I listened to you beat some sense into Cedric. I was even gonna let you keep the new role. Wrong side you two. And Cedric? Wow I mean you lied to me. If you all need someone to blame don't blame me or Janet or even Mary's ridiculous plan! Blame yourself for following it.

MARY

No, stand firm! Tom! Cedric! To the conference room with him!

BILL

Wait, what?

Tom and Cedric rush up to Bill and taking the left and right side respectively and start shoving Bill towards the conference room.

SECURITY GUARD

I didn't sign up for this. I'm outta here!

He runs out.

MARY

Arnold! Pull a desk over.

ARNOLD

I- uh...

MARY

Arnold, come on!

BILL

Get off of me!

MARY

Steve, you do it then! A desk fast!

STEVE

Come one Mary we can't KIDNAP him!

MARY

Watch me!

A few employees help Mary push a desk over as Tom and Cedric shove Bill into the conference room, shutting the door and blocking him in with the desk. Since the door opens inward-

TOM

Flip it vertical!

The employees comply and as Bill opens the door and tries to get out he realizes he is blocked in!

TOM (CONT'D)

Get another!

As Bill tries and fails to escapes the employees push another desk and other furniture over all blocking him in for good.

BILL

You'll never get away with this!

Mary comes over and looks at Bill through one of the cracks.

MARY

Actually, I will. And there's nothing you or your little lapdog can do about it.

BILL

To think Janet actually tried to defend all of you traitors!

MARY

Defend us? Ha! You saw her today!

BILL

You're really so idiotic to think that I could change her that much? She was obviously acting! We said we were gonna switch styles for a day. Even I was shocked! I never expected her to be such a good...ME.

Arnold looks concerned, and looks at Steve with guilt. Steve looks down for a second.

ARNOLD
 (to Steve)
 Are- Are we really doing this?

STEVE
 Yep.

They look at each other, troubled.

MARY
 Hear that? It's us not caring. Have
 some of your own attitude directed
 at you for once. You have no
 loyalty here. And it's all on you!

BILL
 Mary! MA-RY! Damn it-

She laughs. Bill looks concerned. He runs for the phone, but:

BILL (CONT'D)
 The line's cut? Shit. O wait...

Bill hides him pulling out his cell phone.

INT. JANET'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Taylor is there, consoling her.

TAYLOR
 Janet listen. My job offer still
 stands. Just as a holdover until
 you find a permanent one. Someone
 like you would be AMAZING at-

Her cell phone rings. She sees it's Bill. Doesn't answer.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
 Geez. Anyway you're one in a
 million. And you never have to
 change. Especially now that you can
 stand up for yourself. But whether
 you realized it or not you were
 pushed around again - Into being
 someone you're not. There's a fine
 balance between-

Bill calls again.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
 Seriously, Bill? Look I-

JANET

Wait. What if he needs me?

TAYLOR

Oh, he needs you all right...To be him. And you can't do that, Janet. He's just being a baby because I told him he had to fix things and-

JANET

You WHAT? Well than who's to say that not him calling to make up?

TAYLOR

Oh please. Like he'd really-

And a third time on the phone. She reaches for it but stops short and won't answer.

INT. OFFICE - SAME

In the room, Bill is failing to reach Janet.

BILL

Damn it Janet pick up! Okay okay. I'll leave a message.

Bill waits for voice mail on this third attempt.

BILL (CONT'D)

(rushed)

Janet! Listen I'm sorry but you have got to help me please! I'm trapped in the conference room and -

INT. JANET'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Janet is just sitting there in reflection. Takes another look at the phone. It now reads one message.

JANET

Let's just hear it.

TAYLOR

Okay. But brace yourself. Who knows how ticked off I made him.

BILL (V.O.)

(on phone message)

Janet! You gotta help! I'm trapped in the conference room and - And I need your help!

(MORE)

BILL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

The employees stuck me in here and
I can't stop the hack! I'm sorry to
put this on you but you need to-

TOM (V.O.)

(also from phone)
Hey! He's got a phone.

MARY (V.O.)

(quieter, but audible)
Well, get it!

There's the sound of struggle and the fumbling of the phone.

TOM (V.O.)

Got it!

MARY (V.O.)

Did he call the police?

TOM (V.O.)

No, he called...Janet?

MARY (V.O.)

Wow. You really trust that chick.

TOM (V.O.)

No matter. He got voicemail.

MARY

Really? Gimme!
(sing-song)
Hi Janet!
(threatening)
Stay out of our way.

BILL (V.O.)

JANET!!!

ARNOLD (V.O.)

(in the background)
Oh...This is so wrong...

The phone clicks. Janet looks concerned. Then determined.

JANET

Taylor? This is my chance. I can
make things right! My way. This is
the chance I've been waiting for!

Taylor smiles.

TAYLOR

OK. Go get 'em.

She suits up.

INT. OFFICE - LATE NIGHT

CEDRIC

All right! It took a while but the virus is installed and ready to go!

MARY

At last, it is time to end Bill's tyrannical reign!

JANET

Now that we agree on!

All turn to see Janet.

MARY

O come on! Not you!

JANET

Guys you're doing this the wrong way. I did it the wrong way. If you can, just forget today. That wasn't me. I refuse to be seen as a second Bill! I've been thinking about my discussions with you all, but also I respect Bill for teaching me to stand up for myself! That's why I'm here! I couldn't just stand by and let this happen! I believe we need a compromise with you all involved!

BILL (O.S.)

You tell 'em, Janet!

JANET

Shut up Bill! Or should I remind you we are only in this predicament because of YOU?

BILL (O.S.)

But-

JANET

NO BUTS. Like I've said before, you were the cause of the problem and now because I'm the only one that gives a single hoot about you I'M trying to clean up YOUR mess! Plus I'm still mad at you for making me act like you today!

(MORE)

JANET (CONT'D)

If we get you through this, your managing style IS going to change, got it?

The employees look pleasantly surprised by this.

BILL (O.S.)

Okay fine yes! Got it! Anything!
Just stop the virus!

JANET

Okay guys listen...I have a passion for this job and I feel like none of you do. And because there's no communication and cooperation. We must start doing that. All of us.

Stops short to look around for a second at the employees.
Meets eyes with Arnold.

JANET (CONT'D)

Arnold, you were right today. But is this really what you want? You're just starting. You need this job. If I could make it worth your while would you stay?

MARY

They'll never-

JANET

Not talking to you, Mary! Only to those employees with a lick of hope! Anyway you're one of the good ones. And Steve? You have the power of an administrator now. The second highest rank. Is this really what you want to do with it? A CRIME?

Steve looks troubled. Very troubled. He's shaking. Arnold starts biting his fingernails.

ARNOLD

C-Crime?

JANET

And Tom-

TOM

Stop right there Janet. Arnold and Steve may be weak but I'm not!

ARNOLD/STEVE

What?

JANET

Hear that? He called you weak!
 Everyone listen up! Bill deserves a
 second chance. We all do. So if you
 just rally with me I KNOW we can
 figure something out that benefits
 THE COMPANY. Not you. Not Bill. Not
 me...ALL OF US. You're all being
 dragged along for a ride. Just like
 Bill used to drag me! Is that
 really what you want?

An uncomfortable pause.

JANET (CONT'D)

I offer you your last chance, Bill!
 Commit to the change and maybe some
 employees will give you a second
 chance! WELL? Fold and die or go
 All-In and maybe you'll actually
 win something. If you are a man of
 your word, then prove it. It's your
 turn to try being me!

Another pause.

JANET (CONT'D)

BILL!

BILL (O.S.)

Fine! Fine! I'll try it, I swear!
 And- And I'll keep you on as
 someone to focus on staff needs!
 (hopeful)
 Who knows. Maybe a strategy between
 nice and strict will work better.

JANET

Well, duh! That's only what I've
 been going for this whole time. Who
 knows. If I can get morale up,
 maybe that'll even increase
 productivity too. Think of that?

She's looking at the conference room. Silence, then:

BILL (O.S.)

Um...

JANET

Didn't think so.

Turns back to look at the would-be saboteurs.

JANET (CONT'D)
PLEASE. Give us one more chance!

The employees look around at each other and at Janet, whose face is firm but kind.

MARY
No don't! Don't listen to
this...BIMBO!

ALL EMPLOYEES
BIMBO?

MARY
Ya that's right I said it. If
anyone should have been promoted to
assistant it's me, not some eye
candy for Bill!

ALL EMPLOYEES
WHAT?

All the employees are surprised.

JANET
Is that all you think I am?

MARY
Well, if the shoe fits. Let's just
say this sabotage was always
destined to be as much for you as
it is for Bill.

ARNOLD
STOP! STOP! I can't take the
fighting anymore!

Arnold runs over to stand next to Janet.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)
Enough is enough. Besides, if Janet
can make such a big change one way,
maybe Bill can make one in the
other. Well? Anyone agree? Anyone?

JANET
Wise choice.

BILL (O.S.)
Wow. Um, thanks Arnold.

The employees look around at each other whispering and murmuring. Slowly a few more employees come to their side.

TOM
Are you kidding me?

About half the employees in the group are filing to her side. But no one notices Cedric hitting a few buttons on a nearby PC, including clicking to launch the virus. No one is coming over to her side now, but she looks at Steve expectantly.

STEVE
You know what? Screw it. As long as I keep my promotion. But I want a raise too!

JANET
(expectant)
Bill?

BILL (O.S.)
Done!

He crosses to her side as well.

BILL (CONT'D)
Yes! This is awesome! I...I have some loyal employees! I mean...WOW.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME

Bill is actually smiling.

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Cedric starts punching some buttons on the computer.

MARY
Hey, all of you who left? Needless to say your percentage of the money we get from ransoming the data back to the companies is gone. But first to reveal his biggest secret. Information he should NOT have. The data on the secret PRIVATE server I connected to the main 48. The information for DAVE.

JANET
What? How do you know about Dave?

BILL (O.S.)
NO!

MARY

Yes! Who would have though that under all that hatred lies regret? You, you know about Dave too, huh Janet. But did you know he felt SO BAD he kept his info on the servers even after service with Dave ended. But THAT means he has info he shouldn't have! Of course having that info leaked would only be personal. Did he tell what else was on that server?

BILL

MARY YOU SON OF A-

MARY

That private server also has something to end Bill forever. See, the government will shut this business down if he leaks the secret info for CIA operatives endangering them and their families. Or at the very least, their missions.

BILL

No! Please, don't!

JANET

No chance! Mary. Tom. The rest of you. It's over.

Mary just laughs.

JANET (CONT'D)

What's so funny?

MARY

Sorry girl but your too little too late! Cedric?

CEDRIC

Virus launched successfully, Mary! How's THAT for someone who supposedly computer illiterate?

Janet's smiling stops short. Bill, still in the conference scrunches his face in anger and disbelief.

BILL (O.S.)

Nooo!

CEDRIC
 Yep. You can't stop it now.

STEVE
 Actually I can.

JANET/MARY/CEDRIC
 Wait what?

BILL (O.S.)
 WHAT? REALLY?

STEVE
 Janet, you said you had the same
 access as Bill?

JANET
 Yes. Why?

STEVE
 To his office fast and log on to
 your account!

BILL (O.S.)
 What? Give you top access?

STEVE
 Bill, if you want your business
 saved, you're just gonna have to
 trust us.

BILL
 (long beat)
 Fine but you'd better-

JANET
 Stopping at fine was the correct
 thing to do there, Bill! Arnold,
 get Bill out! The rest of you hold
 off these guys! Don't let them
 interfere! We must stop the virus!

Bill stands up and start bashing into the desks to get out.

BILL (O.S.)
 Ow!

Arnold and a few other employees run over.

MARY
 No!

ARNOLD
 Do it in three two one...

The employees push the desks again as Bill breaks through.

STEVE
To your office!

MARY
Cedric, Tom get Janet! The rest of
you, get Bill and the others!

Too late. They all bolt for Bill's office and cram in,
closing the door behind them.

CEDRIC
Ah, forget it! The virus is live.
Soon the other 20,000 clients will
be exposed as well as the info for
the CIA operatives and Dave. They
can't really stop it. We win! Let's
get outta here!

Everyone gathers around with cheers to celebrate.

INT. BILL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Everyone is crammed into the office, with Bill looking all
around at annoyed faces.

BILL
Well, this is uncomfortable...In
more ways than one.

Janet is logging into Bill's PC.

JANET
Steve, what's the plan?

STEVE
So Cedric is and idiot, right? Okay
move aside. If you have full
access, I should be able to shut
down the servers. Clients won't be
able to access their storage for a
bit, but it beats the alternative.

BILL
Just do it.

JANET
Bill...

BILL
I mean...Awesome!

Janet puts on a smile and opens the door a crack.

JANET

Hey Mary fun fact! Or did you just forget? Steve's better at computers than Cedric!

STEVE

Done!

As they leave, Cedric's PC beeps in error.

CEDRIC

Hey, what the hell?

Looks at his PC screen.

CEDRIC (CONT'D)

He locked me out! He's disarming the virus!

STEVE

It's not a bomb, I'm containing it. Cedric you really need to go to technology 101. Okay, the servers are down for 15 minutes and when they reboot they'll be in safe mode with no external internet access.

Bill gets up next to Steve, knocking employees over.

BILL

So it's over?

STEVE

No. I need that disc with the virus to create a patch for a permanent fix before they're back online.

BILL

Um...Thanks, Steve.

Steve looks at Bill for a second.

STEVE

You know what? You're welcome.

Bill is thrilled to hear that for once.

BILL

Wow. Maybe I'll get a thanks next...So now what?

STEVE

I still have to force shut down all the PCs and remove Cedric's credentials. You go get that disk!

JANET

I got it!

Janet runs over, attling her way through the group to get at the PC, eventually reaching Mary, hitting the eject button.

MARY

Oh no...you...don't-

JANET

Oh yes...I do! And FYI? Now you're really fired! All of you!

Bill comes up from behind and slips out the disk from the PC, and runs it over to Steve. Mary flips around to see him complete the run. From where he is:

BILL

(shouting)

What she said.

Hands the disc off to Steve.

STEVE

Yes! I can create a patch now!

MARY

Ah! Attack!

Mary flips out, as she and her group become a mob and start to actually fight Janet with punches and kicks. Bill rushes himself and Janet back to Bill's office. They keep the door barricaded while police sirens start wailing outside.

MARY (CONT'D)

WHAT? COPS?

ARNOLD (O.S.)

(playfully)

Oopsie...

All turn to see Arnold holding a cell phone.

ARNOLD (CONT'D)

Just figured we may need reinforcements.

BILL

Way to go Arnold! All of you people
are gonna be on your way to jail
soon! Hope you Like prison food!

MARY

What? Tom get Steve! Use him as a
hostage for your escape! I'll grab
Arnold for myself!

STEVE/TOM/ARNOLD

What?

MARY

Do it!

STEVE

I still need to reboot the servers
with the anti-virus and patch!

BILL

Everyone, run a distraction!

The employees flood out of the office.

JANET

Run downstairs! Now! Just stay in
the lobby and explain the situation
to the police!

Tom gets through, and though he tries to run Steve is caught.
Mary comes out of nowhere and grabs Arnold too.

MARY

Okay so here's how this is gonna
work. We're gonna hold these two as
hostages and get off scot-free.
Bill, you may have delayed your
company's demise, but you didn't
win all the marbles. You'll still
be crippled with the servers down
and no patch for the virus.

Her group walks out. Bill looks confused.

BILL

Marbles?

JANET

(sadly)
Arnold...Steve...

Janet and Bill's group looks scared.

BILL

Oh no no no. I did not teach you
all this just for you to quit now!

Everyone looks at him.

BILL (CONT'D)

Enough is enough! It's time to try
a NEW new management style. Caring
AND standing up at the same time!

Bill pulls out his foam stress ball and tears it in half and
throws it over his shoulder. Janet smile then gets serious.

JANET

Right. Guys, I- We have a plan...

EXT. TALL BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

Mary and her group come out.

POLICEMAN

You are all-

MARY

NOT under arrest because we have
hostages!

Mary whips out a stapler and hits Steve's back with it, hard.
He groans from the pain. Mark gave Arnold a gut punch.

TOM

His head is next! And I'll open it
and put staples in him too!

POLICEMAN

You're bluffing.

Mary open up the stapler and punches one staple into the
forehead. She hands it to Tom.

STEVE

AH! OW!

TOM

Let's do mine to the eye!

POLICEMAN

Whoa! Pull back, pull back!

MARY

Yes! Um...

Mary moves slowly to the back alley.

MARY (CONT'D)
Scatter! Cedric, with me!

Mary and Cedric bolt down the back alley, abandoning Steve and Arnold. The police start rounding up the other saboteurs, chasing them down. Meanwhile:

STEVE
Assholes!

ARNOLD
C'mon. Let's get you medical.

EXT. ALLEY BEHIND OFFICE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

CEDRIC
Yes! We did it! We're gonna-

A door opens and Bill emerges, punching Mary hard in the side of her face, knocking her over into Cedric. They both go down.

MARY
(dazed)
Punching employees now, are we?

BILL
Nope. Punching a saboteur. Besides, Janet already fired you, remember?

Mary watches as Janet comes out right behind him.

JANET
Right. I did, didn't I?

MARY
Wha- How did-

JANET
We do it? I told you.

A cop races over and grabs Mary. Pulls her up and handcuffs her. Another grabs Cedric and does the same.

JANET (CONT'D)
I'm not a pushover anymore. Not to Bill...and certainly not to YOU. I overheard you speaking in this alleyway earlier so I figured it would be your escape route too.

BILL

Nice one Janet. Thanks.

JANET

No problem Bill. Just doing my job.
Speaking of which...

She grabs the disc with the virus out of Cedric's pocket. Bill looks at her, really sincere, as they walk out of the alley toward the police cars.

EXT. TALL BUILDING - NIGHT

As they walk past Arnold and Steve, staple now removed with a band-aid on, Janet passes the disc to him.

JANET

Finish removing the virus please.
Assuming you're okay to.

STEVE

Sure. Staple's out. I mean- It was just an office staple.

ARNOLD

(laughs)
I mean did Mary really think that would do something?

POLICEMAN

Well, if it had been to the eye
THAT would have sucked.

Arnold stops laughing.

ARNOLD

Point taken.

BILL

Janet really...Thanks.

Janet smiles.

TOM (O.S)

Hey! Get offa me!

They look over to where the former employees gone saboteurs are all being rounded up and being put into the cruisers.

CEDRIC

Ya! We're the good guys!

POLICEMAN

The line every bad guy says.

A group of cops laugh. Mary looks toward Janet.

MARY

You're making a mistake, Janet! You know Bill's gonna just turn right back around and go back to his normal ways after this, right?

JANET

Mm...No, I don't believe he will. In fact, like he said, you and your accomplices are going to miss out on the all new Bill.

Mary is put into a cruiser with Cedric, anger on her face. The door closes and they drive away. Bill looks troubled.

BILL

Janet...

JANET

Yes Bill?

Looks and sees he has on his serious business face.

BILL

Go home. I want to finish up here. Make sure the virus is removed. Talk to my employees. I also want to let all the reporters know that the breach in security has been solved and we are a secure data security company again. But come to my mansion tomorrow. You know my address. That is all.

He walks away. She doesn't notice Taylor there, walking up to Bill, looking a little worried for his friend.

INT. JANET'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Janet is getting dressed. She looks worried as she leaves.

EXT. BILL'S MANSION - MIDDAY

Janet gets to the entrance, a set of gates, and eyes the keypad. She pushes the call button.

BILL (V.O.)

Hello?

JANET

Bill it's me - Janet?

BILL (V.O.)

Well it's about time! What took you so long? Get in here!

The gates buzz. Bill hangs up, leaving Janet baffled.

JANET

Why that-

She drives up the giant driveway. There are other cars here. She parks in a spot near the door and walks up to it.

JANET (CONT'D)

I'll only be here a second...

She rings the doorbell and seconds later Bill answers, opening it just a crack. The sounds of chatter are coming from inside, but everyone hushes.

JANET (CONT'D)

One of your famous parties, Bill?

BILL

Yes. And I was rather hoping you would join us. Me and my newest friends are trying something different this weekend. Although...You didn't dress up?

JANET

Join you? I've never even been in the gates before today!

BILL

Oh, I should have known you weren't that fancy. Well, at least you did one thing right in stopping the hack. I guess you're expecting that raise now...

JANET

The- The raise?

(anger)

Bill, did you learn nothing? None of this had to do with the money despite what you might think! All I wanted was the best for all the employees and for you! Not just me!

(MORE)

JANET (CONT'D)

Please don't tell me Mary was right. You're just going to let this whole thing happen all over again? For goodness sakes! And after all you put me through why...I could be a better boss than you and still make more money you ungrateful, little-

Bill starts laughing.

JANET (CONT'D)

And just what is so funny?

BILL

Janet, you said yourself, and it is true, that if nothing else, I am a man of my word. I just had to make sure you'd both stick to the lessons I gave you AND stay true to...THESE guys.

Throws open the door to reveal the loyal employees!

EMPLOYEES

SURPRISE!

BILL

Guys, I didn't actually tell her yet. Ah whatever. Janet, effective immediately you are no longer my assistant nor my assistant manager. You're my apprentice.

JANET

(shocked)

I'm...I'm sorry WHAT?

BILL

I need someone up top with me that both knows the business and the people side of things. Something I apparently don't know well enough. So you're promoted. For real this time. And you've got my word on that. Actually...The whole world does. While I was on camera last night asking for my lost customers to return give the company a second chance, I mentioned a total revamp of the company policies and personnel with you by my side and issued a public apology to all loyal employees.

Bill just smiles at her. She's speechless for a moment.

JANET

WHAT?

Arnold walks up to her.

ARNOLD

He's not lying. Shocked us too, actually. Come on, Janet. It's like I said. I don't really know who Bill is. And it seems I don't know you either. So...who are you?

There's a pause. Janet looks down to consider, then back up at all the employees including him and Steve. Steve smiles.

TAYLOR (O.S.)

Well, who are you? I mean I gave you that new suit for a reason.

Janet flips around to see Taylor arrive. She's beaming now.

JANET

All right fine I'll do it. But remember as nice as I am, I'm not a pushover anymore!

STEVE

As long as you don't go power hungry again I'm fine with that.

Everyone, including Bill, laughs.

BILL

Not a pushover, huh? I can vouch for that. But I'm actually glad. Who knows. Maybe you'll take my place some day when I retire.

He reaches out a hand. Janet takes it and shakes it.

JANET

(determined)

Watch me.

All the employees give one final cheer. Janet walks in with Taylor right behind her. But he pauses to say:

TAYLOR

Nice talk last night. Glad we're staying friends. Oh, and I told Dave about your change.

(MORE)

TAYLOR (CONT'D)

And how you're still protecting his old information to this day. He was actually happy you were still thinking of him. He's willing to forgive and give your friendship a second chance, you know.

Dave is shocked by this as Taylor walks inside.

JANET

Don't be an idiot.

(beat)

Call him.

She goes inside too leaving Bill in the doorway. He pauses. Takes out his phone and hits the voice command button.

BILL

Call Dave.

THE END