

Chapter 7

As Mrs. Taylor was explaining everything to me, I carefully noted down all the important information. We had established a good work rhythm, and the afternoon was flying by. She told me she needed to make a personal call and left the room, mentioning that someone from the IT Department would bring me a company phone that should be kept on at all times.

Soon after, a tall, skinny guy with a nerdy look entered the room and was startled when he saw me:

"Wow! Um... sorry, who are you?"

I stood up to greet him:

"Catherine Vergara, Mr. Miller's new assistant." - He looked me up and down as if sizing me up.

"Miss Catherine Vergara?"

I nodded with a professional smile. He grinned and said:

"This is actually for you." - he extended his hand and gave me a brand-new phone and a tablet. "This is your company phone. The boss already had your number, and his number was saved in the contacts. It's also set up with your work email. The tablet was configured with the company system, Mr. Miller's schedule, and your schedule. Do you need help understanding how it works?"

I look at him and smile:

"No thanks, I can figure it out. What was your name again?"

"It's Gus. I'm from IT. If you need anything, I'm on the fifth floor."

"Thank you, Gus. That's very kind."

He said goodbye, but before leaving, he looked back and said:

"You're very pretty, Catherine. Are you seeing anyone?"

Is this for real? Was he trying to hit on me? I ended up telling him I didn't have a boyfriend because I wasn't interested in romantic relationships at the moment. He smiled and said if I changed my mind, he'd like to know, then turned and left. I was in disbelief at that. After that unprofessional moment, I went back to my desk and answered the ringing phone:

"Miller Group, President's office, good afternoon, how may I help you?"

"You again!" I heard my boss, whom I hadn't even met yet, snort on the other end of the line. I immediately started wondering what I'd done wrong and felt scared as if he were the devil himself.

"Yes, Mr. Miller. Me again! I'm your new assistant, remember?"

"Ah, you won't let me forget that, will you!"

"I'm here to help you, sir." I was already losing my patience with this rude man!

"You're quite bold, aren't you?"

"And you're quite rude!"

"Do you need to be reminded that I'm your boss?" He was irritated. "Let me tell you something, miss, I'm not a very patient man and I won't tolerate insubordination."

"And I won't tolerate rudeness!" I snapped and slammed the phone down. I was shaking with anger!

What a crazy man! I was his new assistant, just doing my job. I sat there staring at the phone in shock. I didn't even notice Mrs. Taylor standing behind me. Suddenly she said:

"Did you just hang up on your boss?"

"Mrs. Taylor, I'm sorry, but he's such a rude jerk!"

Mariana burst out laughing. She laughed so hard tears came to her eyes. 2

"This is going to get interesting!" Mariana remarked. "But you did the right thing, don't let him be a jerk to you!" 1

"Ma'am, this man doesn't even know me, and he already seems to want to fire me!"

"Catherine, Alexander doesn't like cowards. If you don't stand up to him, he'll think you're a coward and that's when he'll fire you. He's testing you, wanting to see how you react. So I suggest you respond intelligently when he confronts you. I need to leave early today, can you manage?" I said yes and she said goodbye. 1

A few minutes later, the phone on my desk rang again. I sighed and hoped it wasn't my stressed-out boss. 1

"Miller Group, presid-" I hadn't even finished speaking when my boss started with his rudeness.

"Where's Mariana?" I sighed, knowing I'd have to deal with this jerk. 1

"Mr. Miller, Mrs. Taylor isn't in the office at the moment. Can I help you?"

" 1

"Do you know you're annoying?" He huffed on the other end of the line. 1

"Sir, I'm your new assistant. I'm here to help you."

"But I want to speak with Mariana! As far as I know, she hasn't left for London yet!"

"Yes, sir. But Mrs. Taylor is leaving, and you'll have to make your requests to me, your new assistant."

"You're nosy! I don't know if you'll last in this job - you even hung up on me, your boss!"

I thought for a moment, and suddenly a flash of inspiration crossed my mind, and I smiled. If he's going to fire me, he might as well have a good reason.

"Maybe I am nosy, but remember that you're paying me a reasonable salary precisely to be nosy and save you from manual work. However, if you find it necessary, you can rewrite my job description, and I guarantee I'll adapt. As for the previous call, I didn't hang up - the call dropped, sir!

"I played dumb, of course! He was rude, but I needed the job. 2

"It's good to know that you're willing to handle all my demands - I'll warn you, there will be many. When I return, I'll give you a detailed description of your duties and my expectations. About your reasonable salary, should I consider reducing it?"

"As you said, sir, the salary is reasonable, but if you increase my duties, perhaps you should think about increasing my salary as well. Especially if I have to serve you chamomile tea whenever you're this stressed."



I smiled, thinking he would now keep quiet. Every boss shut up when we asked for a raise. I was already considering asking for my job back from Aldo Larson, as I thought my new boss would fire me today.

"I don't know if you even deserve the reasonable salary, since it seems you don't have much work to do and have time for wisecracks, and you're already asking for a raise? As for the chamomile tea, maybe you'll need to do more than that to calm me down."

"I have plenty of work to do, but I must answer all your questions since you're my boss. So, in this case, you're the one preventing me from doing my job! And don't worry, I'll know how to handle your stressed-out personality."

"Be prepared for when I return, Miss Catherine!" Mr. Miller said in a threatening tone and hung up the phone.

Damn! I thought I irritated this man even more. Did he want the pleasure of firing me in person?



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