

THE ASSISTANT

Jane & Wilcock (HR rep)

INT. HR OFFICE - DAY

WILCOCK works at his computer. JANE enters, wearing her winter coat and scarf. He keeps working for a beat while she stands there waiting.

WILCOCK

Welcome.

JANE

Hi.

WILCOCK

Have a seat.

She does.

WILCOCK (CONT'D)

Did you want to take your coat off?

JANE

Uhh... uhh, no. No, it's okay.
Actually maybe just my scarf.

WILCOCK

Yeah. Looks more comfortable.

JANE

Um... I-- I didn't know who to come to.

WILCOCK

In that case, you came to the right place. So...

JANE

I mean, it's just, uh... it's just--

WILCOCK

--Hey. Whatever's going on, you can tell me. That's what I'm here for.

He takes out a notepad.

JANE

Um, there's this girl who arrived today. She... she's from Boise.

WILCOCK

Mmhmm. Okay.

JANE

And she's very pretty. And she's young.

WILCOCK

Okay.

JANE

She was waitressing in Sun Valley when she met him. And he just liked her, apparently, and just gave her an assistant job.

WILCOCK

And?

JANE

Well, she doesn't have any experience, or not much experience, and he just flew her over from Boise and is putting her up at a hotel?

Wilcock makes a note and waits for more.

JANE (CONT'D)

She's very young.

WILCOCK

Is she too young to be an assistant?

JANE

No. No, no. Uh...

WILCOCK

Well, okay. Um... and this girl, has she done something to make you... uh... do you suspect that she's done something to harm the company?

JANE

No. No, no, no. I mean, I don't-- I don't think so. I, I dropped her off at The Mark. The hotel.

WILCOCK

Uh huh.

JANE

We had a reservation for her, and I left her there.

WILCOCK

Yes.

JANE

And when I came back to the office,
he was-- he was gone.

Wilcock nods.

JANE (CONT'D)

And he was gone for quite awhile.

WILCOCK

And you were looking for him?

JANE

No. No, he was just-- he was gone,
and she was gone, and they were
both at The Mark apparently.

WILCOCK

Apparently?

JANE

I mean, that's what everyone said.

WILCOCK

Who said?

JANE

Um, the production executives. And
all the assistants. I mean, they
were just, like, laughing about it.

WILCOCK

They were laughing?

JANE

Yeah.

WILCOCK

Okay, maybe let's back up here a
bit. What did she say to you?

JANE

Who?

WILCOCK

The girl.

JANE

The girl? Uh... nothing.

WILCOCK

Nothing? Have you spoken to her?

JANE

No. I mean, just in the cab on our way to The Mark. But I haven't talked to her since.

WILCOCK

Since when?

JANE

I haven't seen her since. When I found out I came straight here.

WILCOCK

Sorry, what did you-- (chuckles)-- what did you find out?

JANE

What-- what can we do?

WILCOCK

Do about what?

JANE

About the girl.

WILCOCK

Okay, lets-- bear with me here. So, a new assistant arrives from out of town, and she's being put up at The Mark?

JANE

Mmhmm.

WILCOCK

And your boss at some point left the office?

JANE

To meet her at The Mark, yes.

WILCOCK

Yes, according, apparently, to the jokes at the office.

JANE

Yeah, I guess. Yeah.

WILCOCK

Okay. Okay, so that's-- that's it? That's why you came in?

JANE

And-- and I found an earring in the office today.

WILCOCK

An earring?

JANE

By his couch. And a hair tie on the floor last week.

WILCOCK

Ah. Forgive me, but are you often, um, cleaning things off his floor? I mean, we have a janitorial crew, right?

JANE

I'm supposed to tidy up. Um. And-- and a girl came, and, uhh, she picked the earring up. I've never seen her before, and it was hers.

WILCOCK

Okay.

His cell phone buzzes.

WILCOCK (CONT'D)

Sorry. Just a sec.

He answers.

WILCOCK (CONT'D)

Hey. [Listens.] No. No need. We're fine really. [Listens.] What? [Laughs.] You think I give a shit about The Rangers? [Laughs.] Yeah. Alright, we'll pick this up later. Okay.

He hangs up.

WILCOCK (CONT'D)

Sorry about that. Uh... where were we?

JANE

The earring.

WILCOCK

Okay, listen, you're relatively new to the company.

JANE

I mean, I've been working here for nearly two months.

WILCOCK

Five weeks.

JANE

Well, yeah.

WILCOCK

And you're under a lot of stress. Entry-level jobs in this industry are tough, right? Long hours?

JANE

Yeah--

WILCOCK

--First one in. Last one out.

JANE

Well, yeah.

WILCOCK

I bet you haven't seen your friends in awhile.

JANE

Um, I-- I missed my dad's birthday.

WILCOCK

That's tough.

JANE

Yeah, but that's--

WILCOCK

--Where'd you go to college?

JANE

Uh, Northwestern.

WILCOCK

That's a great school. That's a great school. You're smart. You have to be smart to get into Northwestern. Plus a 3.8 GPA. And you're on a fast track in this business, working here. You are. So, what's your plan?

JANE

Sorry?

WILCOCK

Where do you want to be in five to ten years?

JANE

Oh. Uh, I want to produce. I want to be a producer.

WILCOCK

You do?

JANE

Yeah.

WILCOCK

That's -- okay, that's excellent. We could use more women producers, you know. That's a-- it's a tough job. But I can see that you've got what it takes.

JANE

Thanks.

WILCOCK

So why are you in here trying to throw it all away over this bullshit?

JANE

Sorry?

WILCOCK

This. Whatever it is. Let's make it official. Call it a complaint. Let's assume I were to do you the disservice of writing it up for you. So, your complaint is as follows: the company hires a new assistant. She's young, and, in your opinion, she's very pretty. And she's maybe a little inexperienced.

JANE

She was a waitress. She was a waitress.

WILCOCK

Yeah. Exactly. And they possibly offered her a job just like that, and they're putting her up in a fancy hotel, and you live-- where do you live?

JANE

Astoria.

WILCOCK

Astoria? [Laughs.] Okay, I understand.

JANE

That's not the point.

WILCOCK

And by the way, how experienced were you when you got hired? A couple of internships? Am I right?

JANE

The last one paid me, so--

WILCOCK

--Do you know how many people work at this company? I have to make sure all of them are taken care of. And do you know how many people want to work here? I've got 400 résumés teed up for your position alone. Ivy League grads, 4.0 GPAs. And here you are sitting in my office, stressed out, jealous of some new assistant who's getting more attention than you.

JANE

I'm not... I'm not jealous. I was just-- I was worried for this girl.

WILCOCK

She's a woman. She's a grown woman.

JANE

Sorry, yes.

WILCOCK

You think a grown woman can't make her own choices?

JANE

I never said that.

WILCOCK

Because she's a waitress?

JANE

Nope, I didn't say that.

WILCOCK
 What then? What then? Listen,
 honestly, what do you want from me?

JANE
 I just--

WILCOCK
 --Tell me what you want me to do
 here? Do you want to keep working
 here?

JANE
 I do. I...

He pushes forward a box of tissues.

WILCOCK
 Look, frankly, it's your call. I
 can file a complaint for you, if
 that's what you want, but I think
 you know how it would come off.
 (Gestures to his notes) Should I
 file this?

Beat.

JANE
 No, don't. Okay.

WILCOCK
 (throwing away the notes)
 Okay.

JANE
 Okay, thank you.

WILCOCK
 Don't forget your scarf.

JANE
 Oh, thank you.

WILCOCK
 I don't think you have anything to
 worry about.

JANE
 Hmm?

WILCOCK
 You're not his type.

She exits.