

41. The Intimidation

(In an office. #1 is finishing up some work at his/her desk. #2 peeks his/her head in the door.)

- #2: Hey, you busy?
#1: I'm just finishing up some reports.
#2: Oh, sorry. I didn't mean to bother you. *(Starts to exit.)*
#1: *(Stops her.)* You weren't bothering me. What's up?
#2: Nothing, really.
#1: Are we still on for lunch?
#2: Actually, that's why I stopped in. Can I take a rain check for lunch?
#1: Sure. Anything wrong?
#2: No, I'm just...um...just...
#1: Just what?
#2: Not hungry.
#1: That would be a good reason.
#2: I've also got some reports of my own I should get done today. I'll talk to you later. *(Starts to exit.)*
#1: Whoa, hold on! Come in here.
#2: I really have a lot of work...
#1: Yeah, so you've said. Just get in here and close the door. *(#2 comes all the way in and closes the door.) Sit down. (#2 pauses, then walks over to the chair by the desk and sits down.)* So, you want to tell me about it?
#2: About what?
#1: I don't know, you tell me, but something's wrong.
#2: There's nothing to tell.
#1: Look Nancy/Nathan, I know you. You've barely said two words to anyone in the last week, and you've been disappearing right after work. So, again, what's up!?
#2: And I'll tell you again, nothing! OK? May I go now?
#1: *(Pause)* Fine. Whatever. Sorry I bothered you.

- #2: *(Starts to leave then stops. He/She keeps his/her back to #1.)* Look, if I do tell you, will you promise me it won't leave this room?
#1: Do you really need to ask?
#2: *(Turns and goes back to the chair and sits down.)* OK...I... God, this is difficult.
#1: Just say it.
#2: *(Pause)* I'm being...bothered.
#1: *(Pause)* What do you mean, "bothered"?
#2: Intimidated.
#1: How?
#2: *(Pause)* Verbally. *(There is silence.)*
#1: Are you going to tell me who it is and what's going on?
#2: I can, but it could put you in an awkward situation.
#1: You think I really care about that?
#2: You might.
#1: Tell me.
#2: *(Pause)* Bill Dodd.
#1: Bill!?
#2: See, what I mean?
#1: OK, start at the beginning and tell me everything.
#2: I guess it started right after I finished my orientation. Bill would drop by my office to find out how I was doing. Then he would drop "hints" that he didn't want me to have this job. That maybe I wasn't qualified.
#1: Go on.
#2: This went on for a few weeks, his visits became a little more frequent and his hints a little more clear.
#1: How "clear"?
#2: He said that he was the only one of the executives who voted against me for this job, and he felt I didn't know what I was doing.
#1: Do you know why he said all this?
#2: He finally spelled that out this morning. The final

choices were me and his friend, Eric. He said Eric should be working here and he was going to quietly make sure that I didn't last.

#1: That's pretty...straightforward... *(Pause)* Why didn't you come to me with this before?

#2: Because at first...I thought it would stop.

#1: But today, when it still hadn't, I had to practically brow beat it out of you.

#2: That's because it's a complicated situation. The man is Vice President. Also you recommended me for this job, and...and how would it look if after just a month I started something like this?

#1: How would it look? Who cares how it would look. And for your information, I recommended you for this job and you got it because you were the best person qualified. And as far as Bill Dodd goes, what he did is unacceptable.

#2: But he is your friend.

#1: So are most people who work here. That doesn't excuse what he did.

#2: So what do you suggest I do?

#1: As I see it, you have two choices. One; confront him. Tell him you're going to file a complaint.

#2: I don't know if I can do that.

#1: So, you'd rather do nothing?

#2: No, but it's his word against mine. Who's going to believe me?

#1: You said it yourself. You just started working here, you really have nothing to gain – so why lie?

#2: What's my other choice? You said I had two.

#1: You can quit.

#2: I don't want to quit.

#1: Then I stand corrected, you only have one choice.

#2: I could ignore the whole thing.

#1: You think that'll make him stop? Ignoring is not a choice.

#2: *(Pause)* All I wanted to do is work. I was so excited when I

landed a job here. This really stinks.

#1: I agree. That's why you owe it to yourself to make sure this guy doesn't get away with it.

#2: And if I'm responsible for getting someone fired?

#1: If Bill gets fired, then it's what he deserves. Plus, you're not responsible for his actions. He is!

#2: I don't know if I can do this by myself.

#1: You won't have to. I'll go with you.

#2: But you just said that this is my problem.

#1: It is, but you don't have to solve it alone. I'm going in there with you.

#2: Are you sure you want to get involved?

#1: I'm already involved.

#2: *(Pause)* Thank you. *(Pause)* So when do we do this?

#1: Well, no time like the present.

#2: Now?

#1: Why? Should we wait until he intimidates everyone he doesn't like? Besides, you don't want to go to lunch.

#2: You know, now that you mention it, I think I'm getting hungry.

#1: Great, let's have Bill Dodd for lunch. I'm sure you'll find it satisfying.

#2: I hope so.

(The two get up and exit.)