

ACT ONE
SCENE 7

HART'S OFFICE.

BOB ENRIGHT celebrates his promotion with HART and the other men.

HART

To Bob!

(VIOLET enters.)

VIOLET

You gave that promotion to Bob Enright instead of me?

(The men start to exit.)

I trained him for godsake!

HART

Now, Violet, don't fly off the handle. The company feels—

VIOLET

The company, *bullshit!* It's your decision. Just tell me why!

HART

He's got a family to support.

VIOLET

And I don't?

HART

My hands are tied. Clients prefer to deal with a male in that position.

VIOLET

Oh, so it's the old boy's club.

HART

Hey, I'm still the boss here,

(as he sits in his chair)

I'm not going to sit here and take this!

(The chair jerks back again, annoying him.)

He presses the intercom button.)

Doralee, get in here, dammit! I told you six weeks ago to get this chair fixed! Violet, get back to work.

VIOLET

I'm going, but before I do, I have one more thing to say. Don't you ever refer to me as your 'girl' again. I am no girl. I am a woman. W-O-M-Y-N! I am not your wife, your mother—

(DORALEE comes in.)

(VIOLET)

(pointing at DORALEE)

Or even your mistress.

DORALEE

What?!

VIOLET

I am your employee and I expect to be treated equally, with a little dignity and a little respect!

DORALEE

What do you mean, mistress?

VIOLET

Oh, come off it, Doralee. Everyone knows you and Mr. Hart are having an affair.

DORALEE

An affair! Who's been saying that?

VIOLET

Who's been saying that? HE has.

(VIOLET stalks out as HART backs away from a furious DORALEE.)

DORALEE

WHAT!

HART

Now, don't get upset.

DORALEE

You've been telling everyone I'm sleeping with you! That explains why everyone's been treating me like some dime store floozy! They all think I'm banging the boss!

HART

Now wait a minute. I can explain.

DORALEE

And you love it, don't you. It gives you some sort of cheap thrill, like knocking over pencils and picking up papers.

HART

You're getting all excited.

DORALEE

I've put up with your grabbing and chasing me around the desk cause I need this job, but this is the last straw! I've got a gun out there in my purse and up to now I've been forgiving and forgetting cause that's the way I was brought up but I swear, if you say another word about me, I'll get that gun of mine