

ANGIE. Are you going to be in charge?  
 MARLENE. Yes I am.  
 ANGIE. I knew you would be.  
 MARLENE. How did you know?  
 ANGIE. I knew you'd be in charge of everything.  
 MARLENE. Not quite everything.  
 ANGIE. You will be.  
 MARLENE. Well we'll see.  
 ANGIE. Can I see it next week then?  
 MARLENE. Will you still be here next week?  
 ANGIE. Yes.  
 MARLENE. Don't you have to go home?  
 ANGIE. No.  
 MARLENE. Why not?  
 ANGIE. It's all right.  
 MARLENE. Is it all right?  
 ANGIE. Yes, don't worry about it.  
 MARLENE. Does Joyce know where you are?  
 ANGIE. Yes of course she does.  
 MARLENE. Well does she?  
 ANGIE. Don't worry about it.  
 MARLENE. How long are you planning to stay with me then?  
 ANGIE. You know when you came to see us last year?  
 MARLENE. Yes, that was nice wasn't it?  
 ANGIE. That was the best day of my whole life.  
 MARLENE. So how long are you planning to stay?  
 ANGIE. Don't you want me?  
 MARLENE. Yes yes, I just wondered.  
 ANGIE. I won't stay if you don't want me.

MARLENE. No, of course you can stay.  
 ANGIE. I'll sleep on the floor. I won't be any bother.  
 MARLENE. Don't get upset.  
 ANGIE. I'm not, I'm not. Don't worry about it.  
 MRS KIDD *comes in*.  
 MRS KIDD. Excuse me.  
 MARLENE. Yes.  
 MRS KIDD. Excuse me.  
 MARLENE. Can I help you?  
 MRS KIDD. Excuse me bursting in on you like this but I have to talk to you.  
 MARLENE. I am engaged at the moment. / If you could go to reception —  
 MRS KIDD. I'm Rosemary Kidd, Howard's wife, you don't recognise me but we did meet, I remember you of course / but you wouldn't —  
 MARLENE. Yes of course, Mrs Kidd, I'm sorry, we did meet. Howard's about somewhere I expect, have you looked in his office?  
 MRS KIDD. Howard's not about, no, I'm afraid it's you I've come to see if I could have a minute or two.  
 MARLENE. I do have an appointment in five minutes.  
 MRS KIDD. This won't take five minutes, I'm very sorry. It is a matter of some urgency.  
 MARLENE. Well of course. What can I do for you?  
 MRS KIDD. I just wanted a chat, an informal chat. It's not something I can simply — I'm sorry if I'm interrupting your work. I know office work isn't like housework / which is all interruptions.  
 MARLENE. No no, this is my niece, Angie, Mrs Kidd.  
 MRS KIDD. Very pleased to meet you.  
 ANGIE. Very well thank you.

MRS. KIDD. Howard's not in today.

MARLENE. Isn't he?

MRS. KIDD. He's feeling poorly.

MARLENE. I didn't know. I'm sorry to hear that.

MRS. KIDD. The fact is he's in a state of shock. About what's happened.

MARLENE. What has happened?

MRS. KIDD. You should know if anyone. I'm referring to you being appointed managing director instead of Howard. He hasn't been at all well all weekend. He hasn't slept for three nights. I haven't slept.

MARLENE. I'm sorry to hear that. Mrs. Kidd. Has he thought of taking sleeping pills?

MRS. KIDD. It's very hard when someone has worked all these years.

MARLENE. Business life is full of little setbacks. I'm sure Howard knows that. He'll bounce back in a day or two. We all bounce back.

MRS. KIDD. If you could see him you'd know what I'm talking about. What's it going to do to him working for a woman? I think if it was a man he'd get over it as something normal.

MARLENE. I think he's going to have to get over it.

MRS. KIDD. It's me that bears the brunt. I'm not the one that's been promoted. I put him first every inch of the way. And now what do I get? You women this, you women that. It's not my fault. You're going to have to be very careful how you handle him. He's very hurt.

MARLENE. Naturally I'll be tactful and pleasant to him, you don't start pushing someone round. I'll consult him over any decisions affecting his department. But that's no different, Mrs. Kidd, from any of my other colleagues.

MRS. KIDD. I think it is different, because he's a man.

MARLENE. I'm not quite sure why you came to see me.

MRS. KIDD. I had to do something.

MARLENE. Well you've done it, you've seen me. I think that's probably all we've time for. I'm sorry he's been taking it out on you. He really is a shit. Howard.

MRS. KIDD. But he's got a family to support. He's got three children. It's only fair.

MARLENE. Are you suggesting I give up the job to him then?

MRS. KIDD. It had crossed my mind if you were unavailable after all for some reason, he would be the natural second choice I think, don't you? I'm not asking.

MARLENE. Good.

MRS. KIDD. You mustn't tell him I came. He's very proud.

MARLENE. If he doesn't like what's happening here he can go and work somewhere else.

MRS. KIDD. Is that a threat?

MARLENE. I'm sorry but I do have some work to do.

MRS. KIDD. It's not that easy, a man of Howard's age. You don't care. I thought he was going too far but he's right. You're one of these ballbreakers / that's what you are. You'll end up

MARLENE. I'm sorry but I do have some work to do.

MRS. KIDD. Miserable and lonely. You're not natural.

MARLENE. Could you please piss off?

MRS. KIDD. I thought if I saw you at least I'd be doing something.

MRS. KIDD goes.

MARLENE. I've got to go and do some work now. Will you come back later?

ANGIE. I think you were wonderful.

MARLENE. I've got to go and do some work now.

ANGIE. You told her to piss off.

MARLENE. Will you come back later?