

ACT TWO
SCENE 7

BULLPEN.

RUSSELL TINSWORTHY, wearing an ice cream suit and Panama hat enters. He has the bearing of an army general. He is carrying a bottle of champagne. HART rushes over and pumps his hand.

HART

Mr. Tinsworthy, sir, to what do we owe the pleasure?

TINSWORTHY

Hello, Hart. What's with the pajamas?

HART

Well, I, ah ...

VIOLET

It's the end of the week, sir. We feel we're more productive if we're more ... relaxed so, Mr. Hart instituted ... something ... called ... Casual Friday.

TINSWORTHY

Casual Friday. I like it. But it's Thursday.

VIOLET

That's Mr. Hart for you. Always ahead of the curve.

TINSWORTHY

I'll say Hart, I'm dumbfounded about what's been happening in this division over the last four weeks.

HART

And I'm so relieved you're here so we can clean up this mess. There's something you need to know ...

TINSWORTHY

Damn right. I need to know who's responsible ...

HART

These women ...

TINSWORTHY

... for the 20% rise in productivity.

HART

(realizing)

... Wait, what?

TINSWORTHY

These women are responsible?

(The girls smile.)

HART

Yes. No. I mean, Violet was the ring leader when they –

TINSWORTHY

Is this Violet Newstead? THE Violet Newstead? I've heard a lot about you over the years.

VIOLET

Thank you, Mr. Tinsworthy.

TINSWORTHY

What's been going on around here, Violet?

HART

Sir, I think we're talking about two different things ...

TINSWORTHY

Hart, hush. I'm talking to a lady.

VIOLET

Well, sir ... my two colleagues, Doralee Rhodes and Judy Bernly and I thought it was time to make some changes in the office.

(nods to JUDY)

JUDY

We thought with some new ideas—job sharing, flexible hours, day care—we could improve the quality of life here at Consolidated.

DORALEE

And increase productivity at the same time.

VIOLET

(to TINSWORTHY)

And Mr. Hart signed off on the changes. Doralee has copies of every memo.

HART

(aside)

How many memos are we talking here?

DORALEE

(under her breath)

About a hundred.

TINSWORTHY

Hart, I'm proud of you for nurturing such creative thinking ... and from secretaries no less!

VIOLET

Oh God, here we go.

TINSWORTHY

I want you by my side, Hart. I think it's time you came to work with me.

HART

It would be an honor sir.

VIOLET

Wait, Mr. Tinsworthy. Sir, I think you just might want to take a look at this file first.

HART

Before we get to that, sir, I think you need to know what these three have really been up to.

VIOLET

Mr. Tinsworthy, we're the ones who ...

HART

In spite of how hard I've worked to make this company feel like a family

VIOLET

A family?

HART

Or the sacrifices I've made so all my girls could reach their greatest potential ...

VIOLET, JUDY & DORALEE

Your girls?

HART

(steamed)

While these three GIRLS were painting the desks and hanging curtains in the Xerox room ... Sir, they were also holding me

VIOLET

HOSTAGE!

DORALEE

JUDY

Violet!

No!

TINSWORTHY

Excuse me, what?

VIOLET

Oh, it's no use, we might as well come clean; he's going to get us anyway. But before we get arrested and spend the next thirty years in prison, making pen pals in Nebraska, I want to say a few things: This place was hell until we fixed it.

(beat, she looks at HART, quietly furious and growing stronger and more certain)

We all do the work of keeping things running around here as best we can, Mister Tinsworthy, not him. He plays golf and drinks scotch and takes the credit. And why? Cause he's "The Guy."

HART

Wait a minute!

VIOLET

No you wait a minute! I've been waiting my whole life! — See, we're not The Guy. We're just the "Little Guy." The little guy doesn't play golf ... he plays catch up. The little guy is late picking the kids up from school cause of work — and late getting to work cause of kids. The little guy cooks and coaches ball and balances budgets and squeezes a dollar as far as it can go, and works her ass off, and if that doesn't qualify her to be heard and seen and respected well WHAT DOES??

(beat)

And so yeah, we kidnapped Mr. Hart and threw him in the back of my Buick ...

DORALEE

(stepping forward)

... tied him up like a little pig at the state fair ...

JUDY

(joins the other two)

... strung him up with a garage door opener ...

VIOLET

We tried to make everything better, and now he's going to get all the credit and we're gonna get ten to life.

(HART takes a step forward, VIOLET hands him the file. The girls have surrendered.)

TINSWORTHY

(he starts to laugh)

Hostage? Garage door opener? Little lady, you are one hell of a joker.

HART

No, they really ...

TINSWORTHY

I'm impressed by everything that's gone on here in the last few weeks. Frank, I'm promoting you all the way to the top!

(HART beams.)

HART

Thank you sir.

TINSWORTHY

The Bolivian operation is just beginning to take off. I could use a man like you.

HART

Bolivia??

#19 – Finale

(Now the ladies are thrilled.)

VIOLET

Congratulations, Mr. Hart. It couldn't happen to a more deserving person.

HART

What about Violet? She knows as much about the office as I do!

TINSWORTHY

Another ingenious thought! Only a visionary like you would suggest a female CEO.

HART

I – what – I didn't

TINSWORTHY

Of course, that's if you want the job, Violet.

VIOLET

Oh yes, sir. I want it!

(She grabs the bottle of champagne from HART. JUDY and DORALEE squeal with delight and the other employees applaud.)

ROZ

(desperate)

I would like to volunteer to accompany Mr. Hart to Bolivia. I speak fluent French.

TINSWORTHY

We're going to need you here. You'll be reporting directly to Violet.

(THE 9 to 5 VAMP STARTS TO PLAY.)

HART

Not that I'm not flattered, sir, but ...

TINSWORTHY

Better get packing, Frank. I've got inside info there may be a military coup down there and you know how that can impede travel.

HART

Sir, if we could discuss this ...

TINSWORTHY

I don't take no for an answer. Bob—

HART

(pleading)

Bob ... ?

BOB ENRIGHT

Funny, right?

(BOB ENRIGHT ushers HART out. TINSWORTHY turns back to VIOLET.)

TINSWORTHY

Congratulations. To all three of you. Don't worry about Hart, he won't get in your hair again for along, long, time.

(Wink)

Carry on.

(TINSWORTHY exits. A NEW EMPLOYEE in a wheelchair enters carrying a huge stack of annual reports.)

NEW EMPLOYEE

I was making more copies of the annual report and the Xerox machine went crazy!!!!

JUDY

I'll take care of it.

VIOLET

No, I think we'll have Roz handle it. Go fix the Xerox machine, Roz.

ROZ

But, wait, I don't —

VIOLET

Roz, get in there and start to show a little esprit de corps. Chop chop!

ROZ

Holy *merde!*

(ROZ exits.)