

## WORKING GIRL

Tess sets up her new desk. Catherine enters the office.

Catherine

Hi, I'm Catherine Parker. You must be Tess.

Tess

Hi.

Catherine

Oh great bunny.

Tess

Umm I don't usually have a bunny on my desk. It was my birthday a few days ago.

Catherine

No kidding. Mine's next Tuesday. How old?

Tess

30

Catherine

Really well I'll be 30 next Tuesday, we're practically twins.

Tess

Except that I'm older.

Catherine

Just barely.

Tess

I've never worked for someone who was younger than me before. Or a woman.

Catherine

Well there's a first time for everything. That's not gonna be a problem is it Tess?

Tess  
No.

Catherine  
Good. Why don't you pour us a couple of coffees  
and come on inside. I'm light no sugar.

Catherine enters her office.

Catherine (cont'd)  
(on phone) The stock is at 38 the tender's at 56.

Tess knocks.

Catherine (cont'd)  
(to Tess) Come on in. (on phone) Yeah what do  
we do about that? Well I just checked my three.  
What are yours? Uh huh yeah I have that one.  
Well, I think he's in an underwater position.  
Alright so that's our first and second call and then  
we'll see where we are. Right. I'll count the  
minutes, bye.

(to Tess. Tess hands her mail and coffee)  
Thanks. So Tess a few ground rules. The way I  
look at it you are my link to the outside world.  
People's impression of me starts with you.  
You're tough when it's warranted,  
accommodating when you can be, you're accurate,  
you're punctual, and you never make a promise  
you can't keep. I'm never on the other line, I'm  
in a meeting. I consider us a team Tess. And as  
such we have a uniform: simple, elegant,  
impeccable. "Dress shabbily, they notice the dress.  
Dress impeccably, they notice the woman." Coco  
Chanel.

Tess  
Umm, how do I look?

Catherine  
You look terrific. You might want to rethink the  
jewelry. I want your input Tess. I welcome your

Catherine (cont'd)  
ideas and I like to see hardwork rewarded. It's a  
two way street on my team. Am I making myself  
clear?

Tess  
Yes Catherine.

Catherine  
And call me Catherine.

Tess  
Okay.

Catherine  
So lets get to work shall we. This departments  
profile last year was damn pitiful. Our team's got  
its work cut out for it. Okay, thanks.

(Tess leaves)

Catherine  
(intercom) Tess would you come in here please  
and bring a notebook.

(on phone)  
They've already sold both the paper and the  
printing divisions. They sell distribution too,  
we're talking real scorched earth.

(Tess enters)

Catherine (cont'd)  
Come on in.

Tess  
Hi.

Catherine  
Being new in town I thought I'd throw a little  
cocktail thing to introduce myself to the  
department. And Ginny gave me some great ideas,  
will you jot them down?

Tess  
Yes

Catherine

The caterer's called Acme Eats you can get the number from information and they do all the usual hors-d'oeuvres and such. The Raging Bull has a bartender's service, and the liquor store on Broadway and Liberty delivers. Got that Bess?

Tess

Tess. Yeah. Umm if that's the way you wanna go.

Catherine

You have another idea?

Tess

Well I was just reading a thing in W about this dim sum, these little Chinese dumplings. There's a restaurant on Max St. that does them for cocktail parties.

Catherine

Well I just love those little dumplings.

Tess

They might be more fun than the usual tidbits. I have it on my desk, I could get it.

Catherine

You read W?

Tess

I read a lot of things. I mean you never know where the big idea's gonna come from, you know.

Catherine

Right. (to Tess) You'll set those up?

Tess

Yes, right away.

Catherine

Dim sum Tess. I like it contribution wise. Keep it up.