

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.