

SIGNATURE OF SUCCESS

Written by

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Address
Phone Number

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY

As a student sprints across campus to her car she drops her keys. She drives to a one-day internship that will determine her acceptance into an elite Engineering program.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Rondell enters the office of the Superintendent.

RONDELL

Hello ma'am. I am so sorry I'm late. A friend needed my help and I could not say no. I have a form here for you to sign, once I've completed.

(hands the document to
Volena)

VOLENA

Yes you are late young lady. It is important to be punctual. I did not receive these degrees and awards by showing up whenever it was convenient for me.

Rondell taps her foot rapidly and tears form in her eyes.

RONDELL

Yes ma'am. Noted. It will not happen again.

Diana enters dropping papers on the floor while pushing long stray curls out of her face.

DIANA

I'm sorry ma'am. I have the road use agreement and other permits here for your review and signature.

VOLENA

Look at what you have done. You are a bumbling, clumsy one person circus act!

(turns towards Rondell
waving her hands in the
air)

You should use this display of incompetence as a cautionary tale. You do not want to end up like this girl, at the bottom of the food chain.

Diana gathers the papers and attempts to place them in order. Her glasses fall off her face as she is on her knees trying to recover the papers. She fights with the wayward curls and finally gathers all the papers. Diana scurries out of the office wiping away tears.

INT. BOARDROOM - DAY

Six engineers and Diana sit at an oval table. Volena and Rondell enter and sit at the head of the table.

VOLENA

I called this impromptu meeting to discuss the upcoming road use agreements and permits. Steve, your submission is illegible. It looks like your two year old wrote it. Rick, the calculations on your mock-up are off by several margins. One would think a seasoned engineer could add and subtract correctly. Pepe, please tell your assistant to stop leaving her papers on the copier.

STEVE

You do not have to speak to us as if we are children.

VOLENA

Start behaving like adults and I will treat you as such. Everyone get out and do not come back until you can present something I can work with!

Everyone leaves the room.

RONDELL

You were a little hard on them. I have seen them all working hard all day.

VOLENA

Young lady, you do not know the meaning of hard work and evidently neither do they. They are inept and sloppy with their work.

RONDELL

Maybe you could offer them some help or constructive criticism.

A delivery person enters the boardroom pushing a cart filled with boxes. He hands the clipboard to Rondell, explains the order and asks her to sign.

VOLENA

Young man, why would you hand that to her? You are aware that all deliveries must be approved and delivered to me.

DELIVERY MAN

Y-yes ma'am, my mistake. I'm sorry ma'am. It will never happen again ma'am.

VOLENA TENSES AND WALKS UP VERY CLOSE TO THE DELIVERY MAN.

VOLENA

You are absolutely correct. It will never happen again because you will not deliver any where. I am going to notify your employer and have you fired.

DELIVERY MAN

Ma'am I meant no disrespect. I was simply trying to complete my delivery and she was standing closer to me, so I handed her the clipboard.

RONDELL

Ms. Volena, he apologized. Please stop over reacting. He knows you are the boss.

VOLENA

I am not overreacting and I was not speaking to you. He is as inefficient as everyone else around here. It is very sad that mere boxes can not be delivered correctly.

(Volena gestures towards the packages)

RONDELL

But, ma'am--

VOLENA

--Young lady, not another word out of you.

(she holds her fingers to her lips)

(MORE)

VOLENA (CONT'D)

Mr. FedEx you may leave.
(she signs the clipboard
and hands it back to the
delivery man)

RONDELL

You and I got off to a bad
start.Can we start over? I admire
all that you have accomplished and
I came here today to learn. I would
like your approval so I can start
off well at River Cane
International.

VOLENA

No, unfortunately we can not start
today over.Why bother going to
school or coming to this office if
you can not be on time? Why bother
entering the program if you do not
have what it takes to be the best?
Come with me. It is time to give
Mr. Rao my daily report.

RONDELL

Ok. Are you going to sign my
recommendation form?

VOLENA

Do you actually think I should?

They both leave the board room.

INT. MR. RAO'S OFFICE - DAY

The ladies enter a large office with floor to ceiling
windows.Mr. Rao gazes out at the ships in the port.

MR. RAO

Well, ladies, how was your day? I
trust it was productive and maybe
even joyful.
(he strokes his all white
beard and smiles)

VOLENA

Good evening, Sir. I had a good day
although somewhat challenging.This
Is Rondell, the intern for possible
placement at River Cane
International.

MR. RAO

Oh yes, River Cane. They turn out the cream of the crop. As I recall, you once walked those halls, Ms. Vo.

VOLENA BLUSHES

VOLENA

Yes sir, I certainly did.

MR. RAO

Young lady what did you think of our little engineering department here at Jefferson County Courthouse?

RONDELL

I think you have an excellent engineering department, Sir. However, your Superintendent is severely lacking.

MR. RAO

Oh, really?

RONDELL

Yes Sir. Volena has been mean and vicious all day. She belittled Diana. She was rude to all the other engineers and she threatened the delivery man. If she is an example of what it takes to become successful, I will pass. Thank you for your time, Sir, goodbye.

Rondell leaves the office.

Mr. Rao turns to Volena. They exchange words. Volena goes to her office and packs up all her degrees and awards.

INT. MR. RAO'S OFFICE - THE NEXT DAY

Mr. Rao sits at his desk. He signs the recommendation form and writes: RONDELL HAS EXCELLENT INTEGRITY. SHE WOULD BE AN ASSET TO YOUR PROGRAM. The delivery man enters his office.

DELIVERY MAN

Good morning Mr. Rao. How are you doing this morning, Sir?

MR. RAO

I'm doing great young man. Please
deliver this to River Cane
International as soon as possible.
Thank you and have a grand day, all
day.