

<Lila>

Transcript

This is a transcript for

<CYOH AI Personal Assistant:

>

Section 1:

<Updating: 98%>

Your footsteps click against the tiles as you enter the office, the sound piercing the tap of keys and the quiet hum of computer monitors.

<Updating: 100% - Initializing...>

You move to your desk, your excitement tainted with nervousness.

<Update Complete>

A glance at your monitor reveals the mountain of work that has grown over your absence. Your heart sinks a little but you remember the CYOH surgeon's promises of efficiency and intelligence. With the upcoming Defence Project deadline, this is the perfect opportunity to prove yourself for the company promotion to Head Office.

<Goal Detected>

<Estimating Likelihood of Promotion...>

"Lila!" a voice says from behind you, "You're finally back!"

<Calculation Complete>

<Turn around> -> Section 2

Section 2:

"Hey Clara," you look up from the screen with a smile.

"How was the surgery?" she says, leaning against your cubicle wall, "Feeling smarter already?"

With a little surprise, you realise that you do. You notice little things you never would have otherwise, like the dimples in Clara's smile and the red around her eyes. As the conversation continues, a nagging feeling draws your eyes to your computer screen.

<Continue talking> +3% compassion goal -> Section 3

<End conversation and return to your work> +3% success goal -> Section 4

Section 3:

Deciding that your work can wait, you continue your conversation. Eventually, Clara returns to her stall.

<Likelihood of promotion -1%>

-> Section 5

Section 4:

You politely end your conversation with Clara, mentioning how busy you have become. Clara smiles with understanding and returns to her stall, while you return to your work.

<Likelihood of promotion +3%>

-> Section 5

b

Section 5:

Somehow, everything seems easier than it was before. You seem to know exactly what you are looking for before you even put a finger to the keyboard. **<Likelihood of promotion +7%>**

A few hours later, Clara returns to your cubicle and knocks lightly on the wall. Her smile seems a little fragile.

“Hey, Lila. I know you’re busy, but would you like to get a cup of tea?”

<Yes> +8% compassion goal -> Section 6

<No> +15% success goal -> Section 7

b

Section 6:

“That would be great, Es”

Section 13:

You look at your hand in horror, as if suddenly awakening from a dream.

<Motivational Shift Detected>

<Recalibrating...>

You drop the sachet to the desk, backing away unsteadily. You were going to... Where had that thought come from? As you flee the office, you are filled with a newfound dread of the quiet presence at the back of your mind. Shaking with fear and self-loathing, you can only think that you want it out of your head. Yet, perhaps you are truly afraid of what you now see in yourself.

Section 14:

You feel jealousy writhing within your chest. With a shaking hand, you move to empty the sachet into Clara's tea... yet, somehow you can't.

<Threat to Goal Identified>

<Eliminating Weakness...>

Your muscles jerk and white powder falls like snow from the sachet. **<Likelihood of promotion= 45%>** Eyes wide with horror, you try to reach for the cup, yet find yourself paralyzed. You feel your head turn toward the computer monitor, your fingers tapping mechanically on the keyboard.

You hear footsteps behind you and Clara quickly grabs her belongings, her eyes red with tears.

<Warn her> (Input Rejected)

She takes the cup from the desk and lifts it to her lips...

<Stop her> (Input Rejected)

Clara takes a long sip of the tea, before turning to leave. **<Likelihood of promotion= 90%>** "Bye Lila," You try to open your mouth, to say something.

You do not respond.

Long after the door has closed and the room has grown dark, you continue to work, bathed in the light of the computer monitor. Little by little, you fade away.