

INT. TYI TECHNOLOGIES - OUTSIDE OF JON KIRM'S OFFICE -  
MORNING

Ellie is sitting on a chair,  
waiting her turn for her  
interview. She's going  
through her notes.

Next to her is Joseph,  
another candidate  
interviewing for the  
position.

The door opens. Harold  
comes out the office, done  
with his interview. Jon,  
the interviewer, is coming  
out with him.

HAROLD

Thank you very much.. Again, I'm really excited about this...

JON

We're excited too Harold. It was great meeting with you. Here...

He reaches in his pocket  
and pulls out his card to  
give to Harold.

JON

There's my info in case you need to reach me.

Harold's studying the card,  
not noticing that Ellie's  
staring at him hard -  
stunned.

JON

(to Joseph)

Joseph... Sullivan?

JOSEPH

Yep, that's me.

JON

I'm ready for you, come on in.

Joseph gets up and starts  
walking into Jon's office.  
Jon looks over to Ellie.  
Ellie stops staring at  
Harold and looks at Jon  
smiling.

JON

Ellie Tornell...

Harold stops looking at  
the card and turns to Ellie.

JON

... I'll see you next after Joseph.

ELLIE

Great, looking forward to it.

Jon smiles and goes back  
in his office, closing the  
door.

ELLIE

Harold, what are you doing here?!

HAROLD

Don't talk to me that way, I'm your boss - what are you doing  
here? You told me you were sick. On Production Day, no less.

ELLIE

Like I could tell you the truth -- Oh my God, no wonder you were  
giving me such a hard time about taking a sick day. You've never  
done that before. "You know working helps stomach pains," "food  
poisoning's completely manageable," "I beat appendicitis"-- I was  
wondering why you were saying all those weird things today. You  
needed me to come in so you could make the interview. The  
interview with the same company I was interviewing for.

HAROLD

I did beat appendicitis!

ELLIE

With surgery! That's the only way you can beat appendicitis!  
You wanted me to still come in when I told you I thought I had  
it!

HAROLD

Which was a lie! You know how worried I was?

ELLIE

Well I needed something serious since I missed all those days  
last week. If I said my stomach hurt again you would have started  
thinking I was making it up to do other things.

HAROLD

Oh God.. Which you've been doing haven't you? For other  
interviews?

Ellie doesn't say anything.

HAROLD

Why?! Why Ellie? What am I doing wrong?

ELLIE

Nothing.. It's nothing to do with you.

HAROLD

Then what? If it's not me what? Is it the team? The new hires, the Indians? They're just contractors. It's a temporary th--

ELLIE

No! What the hell? I'm not racist.

HAROLD

Then what?! If this is an issue of advancement why are you interviewing outside the Government - do you hate the Government?

ELLIE

Yeah.. As a matter of fact yes.

HAROLD

Are you insane? Do you know how many people are trying to get in? You came in here right out of college. You're a third of the way there to retirement.

ELLIE

That's exactly why I want to go. Retirement... the Benefits. That's all that matters. Ever since I started my career, it's always been about.. Things like this. Not about work.. Nothing.. I want to invent something like twitter. I don't want to sit back with everyone else watching the years go by focused on retirement.

HAROLD

There's more to our work than retirement and benefits. We serve the country. You say all this now. When you get a job somewhere in the private industry and you lose it, you'll be regretting your decision.

ELLIE

If you really think that why are you here?

HAROLD

Don't.. Don't you --

ELLIE

No come on, tell me.

HAROLD

I don't have to tell you anything. And you're really bold you know that? Going after a management position - going against something I'm going for. How are you going to pull that off? You're not a supervisor, I'm a supervisor.

ELLIE

I have all the skills for the position and I have the education when I did my Masters for management. I have a nice reference who can fill in the gap.

HAROLD

From our agency? You have a reference from our agency? Who else is going behind my back on this? Tell me the name

ELLIE

I'm not telling you the name Harold and nobody's going behind your back. The person is a reference who will vouch for what I say. They're not plotting against you.

HAROLD

But they know I'm about to lose a person and they're going to let that happen.

ELLIE

What are you talking about Harold. And why are you avoiding my question? If you think all this about the government, why are you here?

Harold's silent.

ELLIE

Come on Harold. If you're so pro-government, why are you selling out?

Harold sighs. He grabs  
the chair Joseph had.  
Ellie follows and takes  
her seat again.

HAROLD

Ah my wife... she's got a real nice job at a real nice company. And Someone made fun of me at her company's holiday party last week.

ELLIE

Oh God. Are you serious? What'd they say?

HAROLD

Nothing.. It's nothing.

ELLIE

Come on tell me. What they'd say? What'd they call you?

HAROLD

Ah they said that.. I was poor.

ELLIE

What the hell?

HAROLD

.. Yeah.. Yeah. They said I was a poor person who didn't make much income.

ELLIE

Where did that even come from?

HAROLD

He was referring to me being in the federal government and.. you know.. since we don't make as much as they do in the private sector.

ELLIE

That's ridiculous. He just called you a poor person? That's not even funny.. That's hurtful. He said that while meeting you at a party?

HAROLD

No.. No he said in their company address. That it had been an excellent year for them... and it should help the employees who have spouses who are poor.. Who don't make much.. Like Barbara and he pointed out my wife. Actually one funny thing he said was that I had "little monies." I actually laughed at that along with everyone else.. "Little monies" sounds kind of funny.

ELLIE

Look.. Harold. I feel bad.. If you want this position I can --

HAROLD

No.. No. It's cool. I'm sorry.. Look.. Interview.. Please And may the best person win. That's how all jobs should be had. If I don't get this, I'll work harder and get the next one. Besides Joseph could be there charming the shit out of Jon.

ELLIE

How about we make a pact that we help each other and cover for each other at work when we have job interviews. We can share leads too.

HAROLD

(smiles)

I'd like that.

ELLIE

Good. By the way, it was Cheryl. The reference.. It was Cheryl Lee.

Harold laughs

ELLIE

What?

HAROLD

Cheryl Lee? Are you serious? She's my reference.

ELLIE

No way. That's nice of her to help both of us.. I guess. That's kind of weird though. She actually volunteered to be my reference which was kind of weird. I had brought up something that barely hinted at looking for a position somewhere else. And she just said, "well if you need a reference, let me know" and I thought it was weird but since she's so high up, I totally was ready to jump on it.

Harold is a little uneasy  
hearing this.

HAROLD

Hmm.... Oddly, that story is very similar to mine. I didn't even give any hints of job hunting but she just suggested that if I ever needed a reference to let her know. So everytime I apply for something promising, I give her a heads up. I let her know about this last month at the picnic.

ELLIE

(laughs)

Yeah me too -- same picnic. Remember when you walked by to grab the burger? That's why we got all quiet.

HAROLD

Ah, yes... I had talked to her about it by then.

ELLIE

Wow, must be so awkward for her to know that we're both going for positions - and even awkwarder if it's the same position. Maybe she's going around offering to be everyone's reference. Why would somebody do that though?

HAROLD

Who knows. I know her husband's looking himself?

ELLIE

Michael? Michael Lee's looking to leave too?

HAROLD

Yep.

ELLIE

Wow, how many people from our area are trying to leave?

HAROLD

Yeah, and it's tough out there. For what we know there's barely any jobs outside of or Agency. I guess maybe she understands what we're going through. Or thinks we could be good references for him.

ELLIE

Yeah, oddly she hasn't said anything about that yet though.

(MORE)

ELLIE (CONT'D)

Or maybe she thinks we could bring him aboard if one of us finds something?

HAROLD

That's a good thought.

Jon's office door opens  
and both him and Joseph  
come out.

JOSEPH

Thank you again Jon.. It was wonderful talking to you.

JON

No problem

(handing his card to Joseph)  
Here's my info, call if you have any questions.

JOSEPH

Will do.

Joseph makes his way to  
the door to exit. Jon  
notices Harold and Ellie.

JON

Harold, you're still here?

HAROLD

Yeah, funny coincidence, we're actually from the same company.

JON

(laughs)  
Yeah, I noticed that when going through the resumes and setting up these interviews. Not the first time this has happened. But I couldn't separate you guys heavily in timing which is what I would usually try to do in a case like this.

ELLIE

Actually, he's my boss so this is even weirder.

JON

(laughs again)  
Oh man... that is weird. Now I feel bad not scheduling one of you earlier instead of the other guy?

HAROLD

Other guy?

JON

Yeah another person from your agency. Michael Lee? Interviewed with him this morning. Great guy, any of you guys know him?

ELLIE

Yeah.. Yeah he is a good guy.

HAROLD

Jon -- the references we had submitted.

JON

Yeah, my assistant's working from home today and going through them all. She mentioned you guys shared a reference which was weird but I told her to go ahead and follow up with her for each of you.

Jon gestures Ellie to come  
in.

HAROLD

Ready?

ELLIE

... Yeah.. Yeah I'm ready.

Jon walks into the office  
and Ellie follows, shooting  
a troubled look to Harold  
as she goes in.