

A beat.

CRAIG GREGORY

You don't get it. You're grounded, Ryan.
Everyone is. It's done.

RYAN

Okay, what we do here is brutal and
leaves people devastated, but there's
a dignity to the way I do it.

CRAIG GREGORY

Stabbing people in the chest
instead of the back?

Ryan rolls his eyes.

Craig's door opens and Natalie pops her head in.

NATALIE

You wanted to see me?

Craig goes to wave her off.

RYAN

Yeah, why don't you come in.

Natalie is confused but takes the chair next to Ryan.

CRAIG GREGORY

Great job in there, Nat.

NATALIE

Thank you. How's everyone taking it?

Natalie and Ryan hold a look for a second.

RYAN

(to Natalie)

Look, I appreciate your... zeal. And
you have some good ideas. But you
know nothing of the realities of my
job. Sure, you can set up an iChat...
but you don't know how people think.

NATALIE

Actually, I minored in psychology.

CRAIG GREGORY

Nice.

RYAN

(to Natalie)

Okay kiddo, fire me.

CRAIG GREGORY

Ryan, stop it.

RYAN

She's going to be doing this on a regular basis. You don't want to know if she can fire somebody?

CRAIG GREGORY

She just fired Ned.

RYAN

My dog could fire Ned.
(to Natalie)
Fire me.

CRAIG GREGORY

Ryan.

NATALIE

It's okay, I got this.

Ryan and Natalie turn to face each other.

NATALIE (CONT'D)

Mr. Bingham, I regret to inform you that your position is no longer available.

RYAN

Who the hell are you?

NATALIE

My name is Miss Keener and I'm here today to discuss your future.

RYAN

My future? I don't know you. The only person who can fire me is Craig Gregory.

NATALIE

Mr. Gregory hired me to handle this for him.

RYAN

Handle what? Handle me? Mr. Gregory hired me and he's the only one who can fire me. I'm going to talk to him.

Ryan gets up. Natalie gets up too.

NATALIE

Mr. Bingham...

RYAN
You can't follow me... You're on a
computer screen. Remember?

NATALIE
(frustrated)
Ryan...

Ryan sits back down.

RYAN
Try again. Fire me.

NATALIE
I just did.

RYAN
Actually, you didn't. Now, fire me.

CRAIG GREGORY
Stop it, Ryan.

NATALIE
(ignores Craig)
Mr. Bingham, I'm here today to
inform you that your position is no
longer available.

RYAN
I'm fired?

NATALIE
Yes, you're fired.

RYAN
(aside)
Never say fired.

NATALIE
You've been let go.

RYAN
Why?

NATALIE
(breaks the moment)
This is a mythical situation. How
could I possibly know why?

RYAN
You never know why. Why doesn't
matter.

NATALIE

(back on track)

It's important not to focus on the "why" and rather to spend your energy thinking about your future.

RYAN

I'm going to spend my energy on suing you if you don't give me a reason that you're firing me.

NATALIE

Mr. Bingham, the reason is not important.

RYAN

Oh, so you're firing me without grounds.

(to Craig)

Now, I *really* have a lawsuit.

CRAIG GREGORY

Ryan, I think we know what you're trying to say...

NATALIE

(still in character)

Don't take this personally, Mr. Bingham.

Ryan stops.

RYAN

Personally?

(quiet and calm)

This is the most personal situation you will ever enter. So before you try to revolutionize my business, I'd like to know that you actually know my business.

INT. RYAN'S OFFICE, CTC - DAY

Ryan is staring out his window watching a plane take flight.

Craig enters.

CRAIG GREGORY

Hell-of-a-way to welcome her to the team.