

OFFICE SCENE

INT. OFFICE HALLWAY - DAY

Brenda waits by the elevator holding her box of personal belongings. It's not coming. She pushes the button again.

BRENDA

Come on.

Carl, a manager type, strides up. He acknowledges her with an awkward nod and pushes the button. Silence.

CARL

Oh, so now you're ignoring me?

BRENDA

Excuse me?

CARL

I think you heard me.

BRENDA

What am I supposed to say?

CARL

I don't know, but it just shows a lack of professionalism in my opinion.

BRENDA

You fire me and then we're supposed to make idle chit chat??

CARL

First of all, Brenda, you were "let go." There's a difference...

BRENDA

There is?

CARL

Yes.

BRENDA

What is it?

CARL

Firing someone a more hostile act. Say, if you pilfered office supplies, or stopped showing up for work.

BRENDA

I see. But when I'm replaced with your sister in law because she's bored and this season of "Starting Over" isn't doing it for her, that's different?

CARL

Yes. It's a lot more benign.

The elevator doors open.

BRENDA

I appreciate the clarification.

Brenda steps in. Carl follows.

CARL

I'm detecting a little sarcasm.

BRENDA

Oh really Carl? Well that's mighty shrewd of you.

Brenda pushes a button. The doors close.

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Carl re-pushes the button Brenda pushed.

CARL

That attitude isn't going to get you anywhere.

BRENDA

Why, what are you going to do? Fire me again?

CARL

Oh don't think I'm not taking notes.

BRENDA

Well now that would be a first, wouldn't it?

CARL

I was going to write you a nice recommendation.

BRENDA

In what, crayon? I've never seen you pick up a pen. I've never seen you turn on a computer.

CARL

You want to get personal? I can get personal. Those noodles you make at lunch smell like crap!

BRENDA

Yeah, well I wouldn't have to make those noodles if management paid themselves a little less and their employees a little more.

CARL

Maybe you'd be in management if you showed a little more initiative.

BRENDA

Maybe I'd be in management if I wanted my life to be tedious and pointless!

The elevator lurches to a stop. Beat.

Carl pushes his button and nothing happens. He pushes a bunch of buttons and nothing.

CARL

What did you do?

BRENDA

I didn't do anything!

He pushes the button and nothing happens. He pushes several buttons. Nothing.

CARL

Oh for god's sake!

He rings the bell.