

PURELY PERSONAL

BY
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Characters

Patricia

(Gary's boss)

Fifties - Flexible age as long as she is older than Gary. Small town sophisticated. Smart and determined.

Gary

(Patricia's employee.)

Early twenties. In a business suit. Handsome. Likeable. A little dim.

Props. Table, two chairs, two cups.

Setting.
A coffee shop with a unique flavour.

Time
Today.

GARY

I've never left the office during work time before...It feels like we're skipping school.

PATRICIA

Stop worrying Gary, I'm not here to give you bad news.

GARY

I didn't...This isn't about my promotion?

PATRICIA

No.

GARY

You didn't bring me here to sort of soften the blow?

PATRICIA

Are you expecting bad news?

GARY

No...I mean...it's just...I heard you're announcing the promotion today.

PATRICIA

I was surprised when you applied for the position. Some consider it outside your range. I, however, admire your drive.

GARY

Oh wow, super relieved.

PATRICIA

The promotion is 99% decided, so banish it from your thoughts.

GARY

99%, that's almost a hundred.

PATRICIA

Away from the office, having a friendly coffee, not as co-workers.

(MORE)

PATRICIA (CONT'D)

Not related to your promotion.
Understand?

GARY

You're not gonna tell me you're
like my real mom or something are
you?

PATRICIA

Gary, you utilize humour to defuse
tension so effectively. (beat) I've
taken one hour vacation time. This
is personal time. We are "off the
clock" as they say.

GARY

Am I taking vacation time? I have
plans for my vacation this year...

PATRICIA

Not to worry, your boss (gestures
to herself) generously permitted
you to take an hour, as it were...
Personal time: office concerns,
promotions...all forgotten.

GARY

(laughing) Well, great. Nice to
have time with a friend.

PATRICIA

A friend. That's exactly right. We
are friends.

Gary loosens his necktie, opens the top button of his shirt.

GARY

Well if you don't mind, Pat, my
friend.

PATRICIA

That's the spirit. I want us to
have an affair.

GARY

What?

PATRICIA

An affair.

GARY

An affair, affair?

PATRICIA

Yes.

GARY

(lowers his voice) Sex?

PATRICIA

An affair without sex would lack something.

GARY

But you're married.

PATRICIA

And your point?

GARY

Does he...Will he...Is he going to...?

PATRICIA

Are suggesting that Lloyd join us?

GARY

No! God no...I'm...but you're married.

PATRICIA

Lloyd is busy, I am busy. I don't feel a need to inform him. Would you like inform him?

GARY

Oh my god no.

PATRICIA

He likes you by the way.

GARY

Good.

PATRICIA

Thinks you show spirit.

GARY

Nice.

PATRICIA

Has what it takes.

GARY

Ok.

PATRICIA
So?

GARY
So?

PATRICIA
An affair.

GARY
(Whispering) You're my boss.

PATRICIA
Stop right there. We have already established that we are here as friends.

GARY
Yeah, but-

PATRICIA
No buts. A few minutes ago you declared 'it is nice to be out with a friend'. Am I mistaken in this?

GARY
No.

PATRICIA
You loosened your tie.

GARY
Yes, but-

PATRICIA
A clear violation of work protocol, though perfectly acceptable socializing with a friend.

GARY
Yes, but-

PATRICIA
Are you telling me that you do not consider me to be your friend?

GARY
No... I mean, yes? I'm your friend?

PATRICIA
Well then. This is unconnected to work then isn't it. Your promotion.
(MORE)

PATRICIA (CONT'D)

My position vis a vis your position. Unrelated to our friendship.

GARY

Yes ma'am.

PATRICIA

Patricia.

GARY

Yes Patricia.

PATRICIA

You are not to feel intimidated or compelled in anyway.

GARY

Of course.

PATRICIA

I have put forward the request and the situation requires a response. A response which is entirely your choice.

GARY

Can I...?

PATRICIA

Don't hesitate to pose a question. Curiosity is a sign of a mind at work.

GARY

Isn't this, and I don't want to, I mean, I don't think it is, but isn't this, sort of a, kind of, sexual harassment?

PATRICIA

(Laughing) You are adorable. It's clear I was correct in offering you this opportunity

GARY

So it isn't...you know?

PATRICIA

I require all employees to undergo thorough training in appropriate business conduct.

GARY

Yes.

PATRICIA

If anyone is aware of what is and what is not acceptable in the work place don't you think that person would be me?

GARY

Yeah, of course.

PATRICIA

You yourself completed a training module as part of your application for promotion did you not?

GARY

I did.

PATRICIA

So let's review: am I commenting on your physical appearance in a personal or sexualized manner?

GARY

No.

PATRICIA

Unwanted touching?

GARY

No.

PATRICIA

Joking in a sexual manner?

GARY

No.

PATRICIA

Invading your personal space?

GARY

No.

PATRICIA

Demanding a date or sexual favour?

GARY

Well...

PATRICIA

Ah. You're viewing my offer of an affair as demand for favour?

GARY

Well...

PATRICIA

Am I demanding?

GARY

No.

PATRICIA

Are we not on personal time?

GARY

Yes, but-

PATRICIA

Have we not agreed that this is not related to any possible work-place promotions?

GARY

But, my promotion is, I mean, I know we're friends, and this is, you know, not connected, and like, well, I mean, you know?

Beat

PATRICIA

Gary?

GARY

Yes Ma'am.

PATRICIA

Patricia.

GARY

Patricia.

PATRICIA

I feel I may be in breach of, if not the letter, then the spirit of the law.

GARY

Oh...that's...I'm relieved?

PATRICIA

I may have been blind.

Purely Personal

GARY

Ok.

PATRICIA

Blinded by how much I cherish our
friendship.

GARY

Oh.

PATRICIA

I want to apologize Gary. A sincere
apology.

GARY

I appreciate that, I feel very-

PATRICIA

I had hoped that us being friends
would allow you to make a free and
unencumbered decision.

GARY

I'm glad we're friends.

PATRICIA

So am I Gary, so am I.

GARY

We can move on?

PATRICIA

Your uncertainty over your
promotion is affecting your
judgement.

GARY

(Not clear on her meaning) I guess?

PATRICIA

You can't think straight because
you're worried about your
promotion.

GARY

That's it, yes.

PATRICIA

I'll give the promotion to Steven.

GARY

What?

PATRICIA

Your mind can now focus on our friendship while inconsequential work matters banished.

GARY

It's consequential.

PATRICIA

You'll be a fine addition to Steven's team, and as will support him in every way, I'm certain.

GARY

But I want that promotion.

PATRICIA

Gary.

GARY

(petulant) What?

PATRICIA

We did agree to keep our work and personal relationship separate.

GARY

Yes.

PATRICIA

Attempts to utilize our friendship to influence work decisions is inappropriate.

GARY

I guess.

PATRICIA

As your friend, naturally, I wish for you to achieve happiness in all aspects of your life, but I can't be influenced by our friendship to determine work matters, can I?
(pause) Can I Gary?

GARY

No ma'am.

PATRICIA

Patricia.

GARY

No Patricia.

PATRICIA

You believe Steven is capable of carrying out the duties outlined in the new position.

GARY

I guess.

PATRICIA

You two are friends, so I know you'll support him.

GARY

Yeah, I guess.

PATRICIA

Speaking as your friend, the leadership skills you acquired as varsity swim team captain are highly suited to a supervisory position.

GARY

Really?

PATRICIA

Your Facebook photos displaying that youthful camaraderie of you amongst your team mates.

GARY

We were tight.

PATRICIA

Steven is athletic as well, if I recall correctly. Volleyball. Not as a leader like you, just a player.

GARY

I have a lot of leadership experience.

PATRICIA

And decisiveness? Can you make difficult decisions quickly? Decisions affecting your company, your family, your future.

GARY

I could decide better than Steven.

PATRICIA

As a friend I can tell you I think you are head and shoulders above Steven.

GARY

I can make decisions quickly. I've got what it takes to get ahead in this world.

PATRICIA

So determined.

GARY

Yes.

PATRICIA

Yes?

GARY

Yes. I want to have an affair.

PATRICIA

Oh.

GARY

Yes. I want to have an affair with you.

PATRICIA

You're proposing an affair?

GARY

Yes, I want an affair.

PATRICIA

Sex?

GARY

Sex and everything.

PATRICIA

Are you absolutely sure this is something you want?

GARY

I can make tough decisions.

PATRICIA

And your offer is based on our friendship and not our working relationship?

GARY

Not connected to work. I want to have an affair with you, and I think we should do it at least once.

PATRICIA

I do have a weakness for strong men.

GARY

I can be your weakness.

PATRICIA

Here is my hotel room key-card. Be there at 6:30. It's the one by the airport, I've got an early flight tomorrow, I'll be there by 7.

GARY

What?

PATRICIA

Hotel parking can be expensive so park at the public lot near the donut shop.

GARY

Tonight? But, -

PATRICIA

You're girlfriend will understand. The band doesn't begin till 10. Tell her you'll meet her there.

GARY

How did you-

PATRICIA

Facebook.

GARY

What?

PATRICIA

The rules have changed Gary. Private is public, shame is pride, ignorance truly is bliss.

GARY

I don't-

PATRICIA

Understand. I know. But don't worry, I like my friends to be happy, and we are friends aren't we Gary?

GARY

Yes Ma'am.

PATRICIA

Good boy.