

8 CONTINUED: (4)

CINDY

The Monday morning with the group
got pushed up to ten.

SANDERS

Pushed up?

CINDY

Do you know a Meredith Johnson?

SANDERS

Meredith? Years ago.

CINDY

She's up from The Valley for the
lunch.

SANDERS

Jesus, is the whole company
invited to this lunch?

CINDY

She wanted to see you. Bad day-
in laws in town-take a rain
check?

Sanders smiles.

SANDERS

I going to see Lewyn, the keypads
stick on the 900s. And get that
worried look off your face. If
it was bad news, Garvin would've
sent Phil Blackburn.

He gives her an affectionate whack on the butt with his folders
as he heads out.

CUT TO:

9 INT. LATER. ELEVATOR

Sanders waits for the elevator. Joining him: PHIL BLACKBURN,
late 40s, the general counsel. The manners of a clergyman.

BLACKBURN

Hey, Tom Sanders!

SANDERS

Phil Blackburn! Hey!

(beat)

You weren't, ah, coming to see
me, were you?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

BLACKBURN
No. Why?

SANDERS
Nothing. How are you?

BLACKBURN
Jesus, how are you, Tom? You
look all beat up.

SANDERS
I do?

The elevator arrives. It's empty. They climb aboard.

BLACKBURN
You're letting it get to you.
Don't. It's pure Garvin. You
can't take it personally.

SANDERS
Take what personally?

BLACKBURN
Look, maybe it's just a rumor.

SANDERS
What rumor, Phil?

BLACKBURN
I don't want to be spreading
rumors. That's how these things
get started.

SANDERS
What, about Austin?

BLACKBURN
Who said something about Austin?

SANDERS
Phil, what haven't I heard?

BLACKBURN
I can't believe he didn't tell
you. He's so perverse.

The elevator stops. Two PROGRAMMERS climb aboard.

SANDERS
Didn't tell me what?

Blackburn glances to the programmers. Finger to his lips.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BLACKBURN
(brightly)
So, how's Susan?

SANDERS
She's good, Phil. How's Lonnie?

BLACKBURN
Great. Did you know she got
tenure? Well, here's my stop.

Sanders follows Blackburn off the elevator. They continue to
walk...Head down a back staircase...

BLACKBURN
I have tried to explain to
Garvin...You know what he's like--
he's like a child. Fuck your
feelings if they get in the way
of his big surprise.

SANDERS
What big surprise?

BLACKBURN
The rumor is you're getting
passed over.

SANDERS
I'm not getting the veepee job?

BLACKBURN
That's the rumor. That's all I
can tell you.

SANDERS
Don't call it a rumor. Rumors
are always true.

BLACKBURN
Garvin hasn't said anything to
you?

SANDERS
He came by my office this
morning, I was late. Susan had
a conference call.

BLACKBURN
You were late today?

Three MARKETING EXECS head up the stairs the other way...

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (3)

EXEC #1

Hey, Phil Blackburn! What brings you up to Seattle?

BLACKBURN

Good to see you again.

(resuming)

Somebody tells Garvin I was talking to you, man, he'll have my nuts for breakfast. You know how he is about leaks.

SANDERS

This is a leak? I thought this was a rumor.

BLACKBURN

It was different when we were all down in The Valley together, Tom. I could watch your back.

SANDERS

Who's getting it?

BLACKBURN

The rumor is he's going outside the group. You'd still head up Manufacturing, presumably.

SANDERS

Wait a minute--I might be out of a job?

BLACKBURN

Don't get paranoid all of a sudden.

SANDERS

I'm a fast learner.

BLACKBURN

You wouldn't make somebody veepee and then take away their power to appoint their own team. How would that look?

SANDERS

Phil--am I out of a job?

BLACKBURN

Hey, c'mon, Tom. I'm already out on a limb.

(more)

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (4)

BLACKBURN (Cont'd)
 (beat)
 You gonna be okay? You want a Prozac?

SANDERS
 I'm fine. You know, I'm disappointed. I'm fine.

BLACKBURN
 You sure?

SANDERS
 Hey, don't worry about me, Phil, I'm a stockholder, right? Whatever's best for the company.

CUT TO:

10 INT. LATER. DIGICOM

Blackburn and Garvin talk on the phone.

BLACKBURN
 ...Obviously, he's disappointed.

GARVIN
 But he took it well?

BLACKBURN
 Overall, I'd say yes.

GARVIN
 I don't want any bumps before this merger is announced Friday. Just one big happy family.

BLACKBURN
 I have to tell you--going down to see him this morning was a masterstroke. It really put him on the defensive.

GARVIN
 (chuckling)
 Yeah. The minute I heard he was late I ran right down there.

BLACKBURN
 I'll just have to keep an eye on him.

(CONTINUED)

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