

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)

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BLACKBURN No. why?

SANDERS Nothing. How are you?

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

SANDERS I do?

~~The elevator stops and Blackburn says to the speaker:~~

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 and Blackburn says to the speaker:~~

SANDERS Didn't tell me what?

~~Blackburn changes to the program and says to the speaker:~~

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BLACKBURN  
You were late today?

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

BLACKBURN  
Garvin hasn't said anything to you?

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

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

SANDERS  
I'm not getting the vespene jobs

BLACKBURN  
The rumor is you're getting passed over.

SANDERS  
What big surprise?

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.

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

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

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

BLACKBURN  
(brightly)  
So, how's Susan?

CONTINUED: (2)

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)

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(CONTINUED)

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.

10 INT. LATER. DIGICOM

CUT TO:

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

SANDERS  
I'm fine. You know, I'm  
a sapped. 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.

9 CONTINUED: (4)