

OUR NEW GIRL (EXTRACT 1)

Nancy Harris

HAZEL: ...I left him in a supermarket. On a Saturday afternoon, last year.

I'd gotten a phone call, you see. Out of the blue. An emergency. Managing director of one of our biggest clients on the line - furious because of some onerous clause he'd just found on a contract we'd drafted, months before.

I didn't make mistakes on contracts. But they were in the middle of an employee dispute and things were fraught, so... He kept ranting and raving about exposure and liability and incompetence - right there in the supermarket - until finally all I could do was - plead with him to give me an hour to just get to the office and go through the paperwork, see what had gone wrong. And eventually he - agrees. So of course I abandon the trolley right there in the aisle and rush to the car and drive like a fury an hour across town.

And - I'm ringing colleagues and gathering the troops because this client - I mean... And all the time the adrenalin's going and my mind's racing because I'm thinking about the company and the consequences and my being up for partner and what horrors would be unleashed if he does - drop us or sue us or - God knows what. And I'm determined, determined not to fuck this up. So I park up and grab my briefcase and rush to the building where some of the others are waiting. And we're in the lift and I'm doing this big spiel about what we're going to do and how we're going to salvage this and I'm really getting on top of it and really psyching myself up to call him back and fight - when the lift door opens and the little bell goes and suddenly I remember - Daniel.

I've left Daniel back at the supermarket.

Just - completely forgot he'd been with me.

...Course I went straight back. And he was fine. Someone had found him and he was - fine.

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I do - imagine. All the time... What if he'd... What if someone had... What would I have done?... What would I have said?... How could I possibly have explained I just - forgot him because something came up at the office and for one brief moment I felt like myself.