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LOUISE

DAVE

PAIGE

[REDACTED]

LOUISE. Hey there! Hi! How are you!

DAVE. *(A little thrown to find someone standing immediately outside the door:)* Uh...

LOUISE. My name's Louise. Louise Peakes.

DAVE. Oh! Miss Peakes, yes—from the temp agency.

LOUISE. And you are?

DAVE. Dave Riley.

LOUISE. Dave Riley; it's nice to meet you, Dave.

DAVE. Human Resources called to say you were coming.

LOUISE. I'm happy to help out; I hear you guys are a little short-staffed. *(To PAIGE:)* Hi there! Louise Peakes.

PAIGE. Paige Caldwell.

LOUISE. Paige, pleasure to meet you. *(Committing their names to memory:)* Paige, and... Steve.

DAVE. Dave.

*(Three things about LOUISE and mistakes: 1. She makes a lot of them; 2. She's always good-natured about it—often recognizing her error, sometimes even chuckling about it; and 3. She sees no significance in mistakes. To her, they indicate no flaw, no need for embarrassment or decrease in self-confidence. "I don't know what I'm doing," she will later say, "but that doesn't mean I'm not a valuable employee." This is her guiding philosophy.)*

LOUISE. Dave, right—sorry. I'm not always great with names, right off the bat, but I've got it now— Dave. So, what can I do for you?; what's the job? I think they told me I'm the... Assistant Executive Governor? *(To PAIGE, with a smile—knowing that sounds off:)* That can't be right.

DAVE. It's, uh... actually, you'd be the Governor's Executive Assistant.

LOUISE. *(A friendly aside to PAIGE, in a way that suggests they share these amusing observations all the time:)* See, these titles always have too many words. *(To DAVE:)* What is it? Executive Governor... ?

DAVE. Executive Assistant—

LOUISE. Executive *Assistant* Governor.

DAVE. No, it's not a... (*Actually finding this funny:*) You're not a Governor.

LOUISE. I'm an *Assistant* Governor.

DAVE. No, you're, uh—

LOUISE. Look, let's not worry about my job title, okay? I'm just a temp; you just tell me what you need me to do, and I'll get to work.

DAVE. Right, great; thanks. What I mostly need you to do is sit out in the Reception area— (*Indicates the Reception door.*)

LOUISE. Perfect.

DAVE. You have a desk out there—

LOUISE. Excellent—

DAVE. And answer the phones, greet people when they come in—

LOUISE. (*Looking at the phone on the desk:*) And the phone system here—this looks pretty straightforward.

DAVE. Yeah, they're pretty standard phones.

LOUISE. Has the usual buttons. You can probably put people on hold, and... transfer calls.

DAVE. (*Still trying to exist in a realm where this isn't an odd conversation:*) Yeah, it's pretty, it's pretty standard.

LOUISE. (*Again, with zero embarrassment about her shortcomings:*) Okay—just to let you know—phones are not my strongest area. But I will figure it out, no worries. That's what I've learned, being a temp: you're always finding yourself in a new situation, in a job you've never done before, that you don't know how to do. But then you realize that, hey, that's okay, you know?

DAVE. (*He's not sure that is okay:*) Uh, sure, but... just to be clear—you have done *this* kind of job before.

LOUISE. (*This is all 100% positive:*) Very likely not, but listen: this is what I do. Every day I'm in a new office. And they say, okay, here's the job, and I say, okay, first time doing this, and by the end of the day, they're like, okay, good news, we don't need you here tomorrow—and I'm off to the next place. I have more experience than *anyone* at working somewhere I have no experience. So don't you worry about me, I'm gonna be at my desk, figuring out that phone. (*Heading to the Reception door:*) And let me know if you need anything else, okay? Coffee?