

THE NEW CEO

by

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INT. CEO'S OFFICE AT A BIG CORPORATION - DAY

JEFF THOMPSON, the CEO sits at the head of a conference table. To one side sits PETER DICKSON, the CFO. To the other side sits LEEANN HARRISON, the Head of the personal department. Copies of a thick report lay on the table in front of each of them. Jeff and Leeann are lost in thought, while Peter fidgets in his seat as he jots notes on a small note pad. He looks up at the two others.

PETER DICKSON

Well. We need to decide on our way forward.

He others turn to look at him. Leeann nods.

PETER DICKSON

We are in a solid financial situation, but if we rest on our laurels, that won't last.

Jeff nods in agreement.

JEFF THOMPSON

We have a mature company in a mature industry. Income is stable, but there is no opportunity for growth. Eventually we will see contraction.

PETER DICKSON

I don't see any option for us, but to expand into new industries.

LEEANN HARRISON

I agree, but this company is where our skills and experience lie. There is a danger that we will get into areas where we will make foolish mistakes because of our ignorance.

JEFF THOMPSON

That is my fear. This industry has been my focus for all my working life. I have no confidence that I can be an effective CEO if we branch out.

PETER DICKSON

Don't be so hard on yourself. We're all in the same boat.

Peer looks to Leeann to prompt her input. She opens up her notepad.

LEEANN HARRISON
I have a list of possible
acquisition targets. There are some
commonalities with our company.
(pause)
But, I agree we need a new leader.

JEFF THOMPSON
Do you have any recommendations who
we should look for?

Leeann flipped to a new page of her notebook.

LEEANN HARRISON
We want someone with a breath of
experience, but with the humility
to let people with the practical
knowledge and skills to take the
lead when they need to.

PETER DICKSON
That is a rare combination of
traits. They need a lot of self
confidence to let go when they have
to.

LEEANN HARRISON
Yes, but beyond that, we need some
one who is aggressive, who can
inspire trust.

JEFF THOMPSON
Does such a person exist?

LEEANN HARRISON
Yes, and they are out in the
reception area right now.

Jeff and Peter are surprised.

JEFF THOMPSON
Well. Let's see him.

LEEANN HARRISON
Her.

Leeann presses a button on the intercom.

LEEANN HARRISON
Please sent SONJA in.

The room was quiet for a few seconds as the three executives turned to look at the door.

Then, the door burst open and Sonja leapt into the room. Tall and athletic, she wore armor made of bronze and leather. In her hand she wielded a long and very sharp sword. She stared deeply into the eyes of each of the executives in turn.

Jeff rose from his chair, pulled it back and gestured to it.

JEFF THOMPSON

Please have a seat.

As Sonja took her seat at the head of the table, Jeff took a seat further down the table past Leeann. There were a few seconds of awkward silence.

SONJA

Do you have any questions for me?

JEFF THOMPSON

I, for one, have none. I can see you are just the kind of person we need.

(pause)

And. I have great confidence in Leeann's judgment in proposing you.

PETER DICKSON

I am in agreement with Jeff and Leeann.

Sonja leaned back in her chair and smiled at each of the executives.

SONJA

Thank you.

(pause)

Now. Let's get down to work!