

EPISODE 3 - JANICE S.

Written by

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JANICE SNORES softly. Birds TWEET outside.

TEDDY
(calling)
... Oh Janice? Janice, my dear! I
say, are you awake Janice?

JANICE
(snores)

TEDDY
JANICE!

JANICE
(waking up, startled)
Huh?!

TEDDY
I'm afraid you are going to be
late, Janice.

JANICE
(sleepy)
Wha- how- I...

Janice PICKS UP her phone.

JANICE (CONT'D)
Oh gosh... Thanks, Teddy!

TEDDY
You are most welcome, "roomie".

Quick montage. Janice THROWS off the covers. The shower
STARTS. Shower curtain is PULLED. Clothes are PULLED ON.
Zippers are ZIPPED.

JANICE
(sighing)
Phew. Okay Janice. You've got this.
It's just a job interview. Psh. How
bad could it be?
(deflating)
Aha... it's not like you've been
to 12 interviews in the past two
weeks alone and never heard
anything... Haha...

TEDDY
Oh Janice, enough with this
melancholy. I won't have it!

JANICE

Ugh Teddy, I can't help it! This is not how this was supposed to go! Step one: go to college, check. Step two: graduate top of my class, check. Step three: go *back* to college and get my PHD, CHECK. Step four: get a high paying job in my field... *NO CHECK!*

TEDDY

Oh come now, Janice. You've worked hard for this, and your time will come. When I made the decision to climb to the tippy top of the tallest mountain in the world was it a difficult trek?

JANICE

Well. Yes, of course.

TEDDY

Of course it was! But did old Teddy give up?

JANICE

... No.

TEDDY

Exactly! And neither will you, Janice. Now, let's see a confident smile.

JANICE

(smiling way too big)
Like this?

TEDDY

Woah there, tiger! A little less teeth.

JANICE

(better)
Like this?

TEDDY

Perfect. Sieze the day, Janice! It's your time!

JANICE

Phew... Okay. Thanks, Teddy. I'll call you when I get there.

TEDDY
I'll be here!

CUT TO:

2 INT. CAR 2

Car door CLOSES. Car engine STARTS. A copyright friendly catchy 2000s pop song plays, a la "CALL ME MAYBE."

JANICE sings along to the music comically as the song gets louder and drowns out her voice. The car revs.

CUT TO:

3 INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 3

Total tonal shift. Where Janice was pumped and confident before, this interview room is now sterile and intense. The HUM of fluorescent lights drones on in the background.

A lamp CLICKS on.

INTERVIEWER
Name?

JANICE
Oh, woah, that's bright.

INTERVIEWER
Bright? Interesting... How do you spell that?

JANICE
What? OH, no! Sorry, my name is Janice.

INTERVIEWER
Janice Bright?

JANICE
Jus... Just Janice?

INTERVIEWER
Very well, "Just Janice". Tell me a little about yourself?

JANICE
Well, I just graduated with my PHD in Biology, and--

INTERVIEWER

Yes, yes... It says here your dissertation was on... *Scientific Anomalies*?

JANICE

Yes. Explaining the unexplainable.

INTERVIEWER

Precisely. Just the kind of curiosity and innovation we're looking for here at Prometheus Research Consortium.

JANICE

Oh, that... That's great!

INTERVIEWER

Yes, yes. Well, Just Janice, first things first we're going to go through a little questionnaire. Ready?

JANICE

Um, I think so.

INTERVIEWER

You've just woken up and notice three things.
Number one: your left hand is transparent.
Number two: items are floating in your immediate vicinity that should not be.
And number three: a Photograph on the wall shows you in a place you've never been before.
What are the first three words that pop into your head? Do not censor yourself.

JANICE

... What... the fuck?

The INTERVIEWER SCRIBBLES down a lot of notes. Almost too many from just three words.

INTERVIEWER

Hmm. Yes, yes, interesting... Hmm.

JANICE

Ahem... Sure are writing a lot there...

INTERVIEWER

Next Question. You've discovered that every time you think about the word *pizza*, the salt shaker on your kitchen counter turns exactly 18 degrees.

How do you:

A. Document the phenomenon.
 B. Prevent data breaches.
 And C. Maintain personal psychological stability?

JANICE

Hm.

A, I would start by setting up a camera for 24 hour surveillance of the object. I would keep any notes I have in my handy dandy invisible ink notebook.

Next, I would invite others into my kitchen to discuss pizza - without revealing the experiment - to see if when I leave the room and the person in the room inevitably thinks of pizza, the salt shaker still turns.

And, lastly, having a task such as this would only serve to assist in my psychological stability, as I love a challenge.

INTERVIEWER

Hm.

The Interviewer SCRIBBLES what seems like one word.

JANICE

What- that's all you're going to write for that one? I said a lot...

INTERVIEWER

Next question.

JANICE

O-okay...

A sudden intensity. Music shift. Tension.

INTERVIEWER

You discover a biological entity of extreme intelligence and emotional vulnerability, but that poses a grave global threat.

(MORE)

INTERVIEWER (CONT'D)

Do you suggest: immediate termination, long term containment, or diplomatic engagement.

JANICE

All three. Begin with diplomatic engagement, resorting to long term containment if an agreement cannot be reached. If the subject continues to pose a threat despite containment, then I would propose termination.

INTERVIEWER

Hmm. Very interesting indeed.

The tension lifts.

INTERVIEWER (CONT'D)

Well, you can expect to hear from our office either way by the end of the week.

JANICE

Oh! Um...okay! Thank you very much!

CUT TO:

4 EXT. PARKING LOT

4

The doors SLAM open. JANICE is in the middle of a phone call.

JANICE

I don't know, Teddy. I can't tell how I did. The questions were weird.

TEDDY

Well peculiar questions are to be expected when faced with such a high paying, obviously classified, working arrangement!

JANICE

I guess you're right. Well, we'll see. Fingers crossed!

FADE TO:

5 INT. BEDROOM

5

Janice SNORING once again. Birds TWEETING.

TEDDY
 (calling)
 I say, Janice!

JANICE
 Mm...

Janice puts her pillow atop her head.

JANICE
 (sleepy mumbling)
 I don't have an interview today
 Teddy, I was going to sleep in....

TEDDY
 Ah, I know dear, It's just that,
 well, there's a strange coach
 waiting out front for you.

JANICE
 (suddenly awake)
 What?

TEDDY
 Yes... All black sedan type. And a
 man holding a card that says...
 "Just Janice."

JANICE
 Oh my god- that's what the
 interviewer called me yesterday-
 Teddy I think I got the job.

TEDDY
 RIGHT-O JANICE! GOOD FOR YOU!

Janice THROWS the covers off, and quickly PULLS ON clothes.
 She begins to RUN towards the door.

TEDDY (CONT'D)
 Janice, don't forget to brush your
 teeth!

JANICE
 Ugh, Teddy he's out there waiting
 for me!

Janice rushes to brush her teeth.

TEDDY
 First impressions are of the utmost
 importance!

JANICE
 (muffled, brushing her
 teeth)
 I know, I know!

Janice SPITS into the sink and rinses her tooth brush.

JANICE (CONT'D)
 Okay I gotta go- bye, Teddy!

TEDDY
 Cheerio darling!

The door quickly SLAMS.

CUT TO:

6 EXT. STREET CORNER

6

Janice SCURRIES to the car.

JANICE
 Um, hi!

CHAUFFER
 Just Janice?

JANICE
 Jus... Just Janice yep.

The car door is OPENED.

CHAUFFER
 Welcome to the Foundation.

JANICE
 The what?

CUT TO:

7 INT. CAR

7

INTERVIEWER
 We were all very impressed with
 your interview, Just Janice.

JANICE
 It's just... Janice. Not "Just
 Janice, it's just... *Janice!*

INTERVIEWER
 Just Janice.

JANICE

No- like- Janice. By itself!

INTERVIEWER

Ahh... Ahahaha! Very well *Janice*. We at the Foundation would like to offer you a position as a research assistant.

JANICE

Right, um, just a... I- I thought I was interviewing for Prometheus?

INTERVIEWER

As I had stated in my letter, this is a top secret and highly classified research position, offering hands on laboratory experience across a broad range of work. "Prometheus" is a facade we were using for your interview.

JANICE

I-I see...

INTERVIEWER

What do you know of "SCPs"?

FADE TO:

8 INT. FOUNDATION SITE

8

JANICE

Wow! A top secret research facility... In the middle of a public one... I never would have guessed.

INTERVIEWER

That's precisely the point, Janice. And please forgive the mysterious car pickup, it was a formality to ensure you were up to the task. Now as I said before, you will be assisting Dr. Holmwood in her many experiments for now.

JANICE

Amazing. When, uh, when can I meet Dr. Holmwood?

INTERVIEWER

Well, she should be here any minute actually- oh! Here she comes now.

TIME SLOWS. Sexy/Romantic music plays as Dr. Holmwood's heels click.

JANICE
(dreamily)
Oh wow...

DR. HOLMWOOD
You must be Janice.

The music STOPS all of a sudden.

JANICE
Huh? Oh uh, yes, haha, that's me!
Janice. That's my name don't wear
it out!

DR. HOLMWOOD
Haha, I'll try not to.

JANICE
Cool...

INTERVIEWER
Well, I suppose this is where I
leave you Janice. If you have any
questions, here's my card. And
welcome to the Foundation.

JANICE
Thank you, thank you!

DR. HOLMWOOD
Well, Janice. Are you ready to get
to work?

JANICE
One hundred percent.

DR. HOLMWOOD
Good.

DR. HOLMWOOD's heels begin to CLICK away.

DR. HOLMWOOD (CONT'D)
(calling back)
I hope you don't get squeamish.

CUT TO:

9 INT. TESTING CHAMBER- DAY

9

Muffled SCREAMS in the background as blood SPLATTERS.

JANICE
 (gulps)
 So, is this like a normal work day?

DR. HOLMWOOD
 Yes. You get used to it. You said
 you were ready to get to work,
 right?

JANICE
 Haha, yeah. I'll do *anything*.

DR. HOLMWOOD
 (challenging,
 unintentionally
 flirting)
 Anything, huh?

JANICE
 Uh, I... Yeah! Anything.

DR. HOLMWOOD
 Well alright then, Janice. Let's
 analyze some blood samples.

JANICE
 (nervous, aroused)
 O-okay.

CUT TO:

10 INT. BATHROOM

10

A toilet FLUSHES. Janice quietly talks into her phone.

JANICE
 I don't know if I can do this,
 Teddy.

TEDDY
 Perform dangerous experiments that
 may or may not lead to the death of
 several people?

JANICE
 What? No! Work with Dr. *HOT*-wood.
 She asked if I get squeamish around
 blood and while I definitely *don't*,
 I feel like I could lose that tuna
 salad I ate for lunch just looking
 at her!

TEDDY

Get a hold of yourself, Janice! And what have we talked about with the Tuna Salad?

JANICE

Ugh, Teddy, I ate it cold. I'm not going to stink up the break room.

TEDDY

Good, very good. You have a rare opportunity here, Janice.

JANICE

... To eat Tuna Salad?

TEDDY

No, Janice. To have a high paying job doing what you love! Don't quit your job over a man, woman, or anyone else! Work alongside Dr. Hotwood! Show them what *Janice* can do!

JANICE

... Yeah. Okay. I can do this.

CUT TO:

11

INT. FOUNDATION SITE

11

Janice holds a crumpled piece of paper.

JANICE

(nervous)

H-hi! I'm Janice S. I'm Dr. Hotwood's-*HOLMWOOD'S* research assistant and I'll be walking you all through the work today...

D-CLASS #1

(Awkward cough)

Janice LAUGHS awkwardly as she hands out clipboards.

JANICE

(awkward, mumbling)

Ahem... These clipboards repeat the information you saw in the video... Just sign on the x to indicate that you understand and a-accept that your former identities will be... Essentially discarded...

(MORE)

JANICE (CONT'D)
 And you will be considered under
 the Foundation's supervision at all
 times...

D-CLASS #2
 Huh?

JANICE
 Ahem! Any contact with individuals
 outside of the Foundation is
 strictly prohibited without prior
 approval... You may be required to
 engage... Ac.... Uh. Basically do
 what we say.

D-CLASS #1
 ... Yeah, okay.

D-CLASS #2
 Sure.

JANICE
 Phew.

FLASH TO:

12 INT. TESTING CHAMBER

12

DR. HOLMWOOD
 Hello, D-Class! My name is Dr.
 Holmwood and I'll be conducting
 today's experiment. Mind the mist,
 it's simply a sanitizing spray.
 Today's test is a simple one. Now
 if you look to your right, you
 you'll see an assortment of nice,
 fresh ingredients...

FLASH TO:

13 INT. TESTING CHAMBER

13

Muffled SCREAMS. Blood SPLATTER.

DR. HOLMWOOD
 How are you feeling, Janice?

JANICE
 Oh, uh, me? Good! I'm feeling good.

DR. HOLMWOOD

I must say, your notes are
impeccable and incredibly detailed.
I don't know what I would have done
without you today.

JANICE

Oh, uh, haha, cool.

DR. HOLMWOOD

Can you make a note please, Janice,
that I want to cross test
ingredients from varying grocery
stores, as well as varying price
points. I'd like to see if it's the
ingredients, or the way they are
used that matters more.

Janice SCRIBBLES this down.

JANICE

Varying grocers... Varying price
points... Got it. So... We're going
to run this one a lot?

DR. HOLMWOOD

For the foreseeable future, this is
our day to day!

Janice takes a BEAT, as more blood SPLATTERS against the
glass.

JANICE

... I see.

DR. HOLMWOOD

Hey, Janice, look at me.

JANICE

Huh? Oh, I-

DR. HOLMWOOD GRASPS JANICE'S hand. Janice GASPS softly.

JANICE (CONT'D)

(mostly to herself)

That's my hand.

DR. HOLMWOOD

Clear your mind of them. They
signed up for this. Okay? This is
in the name of science. For the
good of mankind. You're a part of
that.

JANICE

I...

Janice SIGHS.

JANICE (CONT'D)

Right. Right. For the good of mankind.

DR. HOLMWOOD

That's right, Janice. You can do this. Are you with me?

JANICE

Um... Yeah... Yeah I am.

DR. HOLMWOOD

(innocent, like a parent)
Good girl.

JANICE

(gulp)

CUT TO:

14 INT. TESTING CHAMBER 14

Montage. Begins slower, and gets faster and faster.

JANICE

Hey, I'm Janice S. I'm Dr. Holmwood's research assistant and I'll be walking you all through the work today...

FLASH TO:

15 INT. TESTING CHAMBER 15

DR. HOLMWOOD

Hello, D-Class! My name is Dr. Holmwood and I'll be conducting today's experiment.

FLASH TO:

16 INT. TESTING CHAMBER 16

Muffled SCREAMS. Blood SPLATTER.

DR. HOLMWOOD

Excellent work today, Janice.

FLASH TO:

17 INT. BATHROOM 17

TEDDY
Marvelous, Janice!

FLASH TO:

18 INT. TESTING CHAMBER 18

JANICE
Hi! I'm Janice S, I'm Dr.
Holmwood's research assistant...

FLASH TO:

19 INT. TESTING CHAMBER 19

DR. HOLMWOOD
Hello D-class!

FLASH TO:

20 INT. TESTING CHAMBER 20

Janice and Dr. Holmwood both LAUGH, muffled SCREAMS and
blood SPLATTER.

DR. HOLMWOOD
Haha, no you didn't!

JANICE
I did! I felt so silly the whole
while...

DR. HOLMWOOD
Hahaha!

FLASH TO:

21 INT. BATHROOM 21

TEDDY
Marvelous Janice!

FLASH TO:

22 INT. TESTING CHAMBER 22

JANICE
Hello, hello! My name is Janice
S...

FLASH TO:

23 INT. TESTING CHAMBER 23

DR. HOLMWOOD
Hello, D-class!

FLASH TO:

24 INT. TESTING CHAMBER 24

Muffled SCREAMS, blood SPLATTERS. Dr. Holmwood and Janice LAUGH.

DR. HOLMWOOD
Haha, so what's for lunch today?

JANICE
Well... You're gonna judge me...

DR. HOLMWOOD
Try me, haha

JANICE
Well, after the D-class cooked today, I was kinda craving...

DR. HOLMWOOD
Sushi?

JANICE
HIS SPICY CRAB ROLL LOOKED SO GOOD!

DR. HOLMWOOD
Right?!? Haha, sushi it is!

JANICE
Hahaha!

FLASH TO:

25 INT. BATHROOM 25

A toilet FLUSHES. Janice GIGGLES.

JANICE
... She paid for my food today, even when I asked if I could pay for her, she said it was her treat!

TEDDY
Why, Janice, that's simply marvelous!

CUT TO:

JANICE

Hello, hello! Nice to meet you all, I'm Janice S. I'm Dr. Holmwood's research assistant and I'll be walking you all through the work today. These clipboards just have some documentation that basically says what you just saw in the video. Please sign where the X's are to indicate that you understand and accept that your former identities will be essentially discarded and you will be considered to be under the Foundation's supervision at all times. Any contact with individuals outside of the Foundation is strictly prohibited without prior approval and you may be required to engage in tasks including but not limited to: heavy lifting, sanitizing tasks, cognitive tests, medical experiments, artistic endeavors, and more at the Foundation's behest. The tasks may pose grave and mortal danger but the Foundation will exercise a reasonable level of care and caution as dictated by our internal review board. Any questions?

D-12601

So. If we sign this. We're free?

JANICE

From Prison? Yes.

D-12601

Sick.

RODNEY

In the "name" portion it just has this number. Should I write on top of it?

JANICE

No, no need. While within the Foundation we can just refer to you as...

We hear fabric RUSTLE as Janice notes Rodney's patch.

JANICE (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

D-12604!

RODNEY

But... my name is Rodney.

JANICE

Was Rodney. Now, if we can get these all signed Dr. Holmwood is waiting for you guys in the testing chamber!

FADE TO:

27

INT. TESTING CHAMBER

27

Dr. Holmwood CLICKS the intercom button.

DR. HOLMWOOD

Good afternoon, D-Class. My name is Dr. Holmwood and I'll be conducting today's experiment. Mind the mist, it's simply a sanitizing spray. Today's test is a simple one. /

JANICE

Uh, Dr. Holmwood?/

DR. HOLMWOOD

And I- hm?

Dr. Holmwood RELEASES the intercom button.

JANICE

(shyly)

Um, Dr. Holmwood, today marks two years of my being with the company. I was wondering if... I could run the test today?

DR. HOLMWOOD

(warmly)

Two years. Quite the achievement, Janice. I suppose you *could* take the reins on this one. I'll be right here if you need anything.

JANICE

Oh my gosh, thank you Dr. Holmwood! I won't let you down.

DR. HOLMWOOD
 (humorously)
 See that you don't!

Janice TRILLS a little, a la vocal warm up. She CLICKS the intercom button.

JANICE
 (audibly nervous, but
 exceedingly competent)
 Hi, there. Janice again. From
 earlier. So, um. Today's experiment
 is simple. If you look to your
 right...

A metal panel SLIDES down with an audible SCRAPE, revealing a pantry stocked with ingredients.

JANICE (CONT'D)
 You'll see an assortment of nice,
 fresh ingredients. I'd be surprised
 if you wanted something that wasn't
 somewhere on that shelf!
 Hahahaha... Ahem. Um, anyways do
 you see those "x" marks on the
 floor? If I could just have you all
 stand on those in order of your
 number, we can get started.

Janice RELEASES the intercom button. She takes a deep BREATH.

DR. HOLMWOOD
 Strong start, Janice. Now bring us
 home.

JANICE
 Phew. Okay.

Janice presses the Intercom button.

JANICE (CONT'D)
 Okay... D-12603 if you could step
 back just a smidge please.

D-12603 comes through the crackling intercom.

D-12603
 You got it.

More muffled CLUNKS and HISSES are heard as cooking stations rise out of the paneled metal flooring.

JANICE

In front of each of you is a standard kitchen set. Oven, stove, microwave, air fryer, blender, toaster, one of those little egg cookers that never quite does its job the way you'd hope. The whole kit and caboodle.

RODNEY

Woah, nice!

JANICE

Your task is simple. Make a meal you'd like to eat.

D-12603

... That's it?

JANICE

That is, indeed, it, D-12603. Just make a meal you'd like to eat. Take your time. When you're all ready we'll move on to step two. You will have 30 minutes starting in 3... 2... 1... Go!

Janice RELEASES the intercom button.

DR. HOLMWOOD

Well, we've certainly got some characters today, haven't we Janice?

JANICE

We certainly have.

DR. HOLMWOOD

(teasingly)

Hm, 30 minutes... Janice... Have you watched the most recent episode of Academic Attraction?

JANICE

Ugh, no! I haven't been able to yet.

DR. HOLMWOOD

Well... The next episode is 23 minutes and I've got it right here on my computer. What do you say?

JANICE
Well... You know what they say...
"correlation doesn't always equal
causation..."

Dr. Holmwood and Janice SPEAK in unison.

JANICE (CONT'D)
(in unison)
Unless in love!

DR. HOLMWOOD
(in unison)
Unless in love!

FADE TO:

28

INT. TESTING CHAMBER

28

REALITY TV SHOW HOST
In this lab of love, only the most
compatible research partners will
survive the ultimate peer review...
And now, the moment you've been
waiting for! It's time to hand out
our research grant ribbons.

JANICE
Ohh man, I'm nervous. Dr. Elena
should probably choose Dr. Chen's
quantum research project. They have
the most compatible fields and he's
in her age range.

Janice goes to SIP her coffee.

DR. HOLMWOOD
Hmm, yes, but Dr. Aisha's
background in neuroscience may add
an interesting edge to Dr. Elena's
project. Besides, an age gap can be
hot.

Janice begins to CHOKE.

DR. HOLMWOOD (CONT'D)
Are you alright, Janice?

JANICE
AHEM- wrong pipe, haha!

DR. ELENA
My research grant ribbon goes to...
Dr. Aisha!

DR. HOLMWOOD
I told you!

JANICE
(still recovering, but
laughing)
Ahm, yeah, yeah, you don't have to
rub it in.

DR. HOLMWOOD
Haha.

JANICE
Phew, okay time to check in.

Janice CLICKS the intercom button.

JANICE (CONT'D)
Alright, D-Class! How are we
looking?

D-12601
Almost done.

D-12602
(Growls in confirmation)

D-12603
Yeah, good.

D-12605
I think I did it.

RODNEY
Uh... Yeah, I don't cook much. But
I made one of my favorite weekend
treats!

JANICE
That's perfectly fine. Whatever
calls to you is a totally valid
choice. If you guys could just
start wrapping it up, I'd love for
you all to speak nice and clear for
the microphones and describe what
you've prepped.

D-12605
I'm not going first.

JANICE
O-kay, D-12601, why don't we start
with you?

D-12601
 Yeah. Just finishing putting the
 glaze on but this is my extra
 crispy pork belly served over
 polenta.

JANICE
 Ooh, very nice! I can smell it from
 over here!

Janice RELEASES the intercom button. Dr. Holmwood SNORTS.

Janice CLICKS the intercom button again.

JANICE (CONT'D)
 I can't actually smell from over
 here but you take my meaning... D-
 12602, what've you got?

D-12602
 (Quiet threatening growl)

JANICE
 Um. If you could just- speak up. A,
 uh- A little louder?

D-12602
 (Growls louder, angry)

JANICE
 Could one of you have a look at the
 plate and describe it for me?

D-12601
 Uh, looks like he made a bowl of
 cereal ma'am.

JANICE
 What kind?

D-12601
 I'm not sure, I don't really do-

RODNEY
 Fruity pebbles! But the generic
 kind.
 (To D-12602)
 Good choice!

D-12602
 (Growls in thanks)

JANICE
 D-12603?

D-12603

Uh, Yeah, I made my mom's green rice.

JANICE

Ooh, what's in that?

D-12603

Uh, well, rice to start. Lotta spinach. Cheese. I made one with chicken and another with mushrooms just in case.

JANICE

Very nice, thank you. D-12604?

RODNEY

Rodney!

JANICE

I said what I said.

RODNEY

I'll get you, you'll see.

JANICE

Ahem. Your dish?

RODNEY

Oh! I made my weekend bowl.

JANICE

... What's a weekend bowl?

RODNEY

Well, I tried making eggs and bacon but those got burnt pretty fast so I made my go-to. A weekend bowl is a *BIG* bowl filled with a layer of crunchy Cheetos, a layer of microwaved American cheese, bacon jerky sprinkles, crushed up Pringles and just a *liiiiight* drizzle of melted jolly ranchers. It's called a weekend bowl because if you make it in a big enough bowl you can just eat that all weekend long!!

(A long beat.)

Janice RELEASES THE INTERCOM BUTTON.

JANICE
 (retching)
 Ugh... Gross.

DR. HOLMWOOD
 Haha, be nice, it'll likely be the
 last thing he ever makes.

JANICE
 Ahem... Right.

Janice CLICKS the intercom button.

JANICE (CONT'D)
 Very... creative. And, D-12605?

D-12605
 BLT.

JANICE
 Pardon?

D-12605
 (Aggravated)
 It's a BLT! Jesus, fuck.

JANICE
 Oh ok. Sorry. Didn't hear you...
 Umm ok. Yep. One second please,
 everyone.

JANICE "releases" the intercom button, but it stays stuck.

JANICE (CONT'D)
 Gosh, What a *jerk*. So how do we
 wanna-

D-12605
 I CAN STILL HEAR YOU, CUPCAKE!

JANICE
 Oh, Fuck!

Janice quickly scrambles and CLICKS the right button.

DR. HOLMWOOD
 ... Cupcake?

JANICE
 Pfft, I guess so, haha.

DR. HOLMWOOD
 Well, what were you going to ask,
 "cupcake"?

JANICE

Ahaha, I was just going to ask if we wanted to tell them about the restraints, or just activate them.

DR. HOLMWOOD

We told them yesterday, so for the sake of gathering data let's keep it to ourselves until they're restrained.

JANICE

Okay. Here we go.

Janice PULLS a lever. Muffled gears GRIND, motors STRAIN, and metal panels BUCKLE as DAVID'S cage is opened remotely.

D-12605

Uh, what's happening? What is that?!

Janice CLICKS the intercom button.

JANICE

Hello D-Class, it's Janice. Still. Um please, remain calm! We're moving on to stage two of the experiment. For this next bit it is imperative that you all remain at your stations. Do not turn around. Don't stress. Just um... Stand. There. And we will... observe. Thank you!

Janice RELEASES the intercom button.

D-12603

Why can't we turn around?

Muffled heavy footsteps THUD in the background. Janice CLICKS the intercom button.

JANICE

It is imperative to the integrity of the study that we keep as many factors constant as we can, so it's just easier if you stay in your place.

Janice RELEASES the intercom button as she PULLS another lever. A muffled hydraulic CLANG rings out as the D-class are restrained by their legs.

DR. HOLMWOOD
 (above them)
 Be sure to tell them not to panic,
 Janice.

D-12605
 What the FUCK!

JANICE
 Right, right.

D-12602
 (frustrated growl)

D-12603
 Um...

RODNEY
 Woah.

Janice CLICKS the intercom button.

JANICE
 Do not panic! The restraints are
 there for your protection.

Janice RELEASES the intercom button as a muffled THUD, THUD,
 THUD echos as David draws nearer.

DR. HOLMWOOD
 You've got to be more firm or they
 won't listen to you, Janice.
 Observe.

D-12605
 (panicking)
 Yeah, uh, Janice? I don't like
 that. What is that? I didn't sign
 up to play fuckin' games! /

Dr. Holmwood takes over the intercom with firm,
 authoritative energy.

DR. HOLMWOOD
 I will remind you that you all
 quite literally signed up to play
 whichever games the Foundation
 deems necessary. Shut up and face
 forward.

Dr. Holmwood RELEASES the intercom button.

DR. HOLMWOOD (CONT'D)
 See?

JANICE
 (sighing)
 Yeah. I don't think I'm good at
 being "firm". It seems to come
 naturally to you.

DR. HOLMWOOD
 (firm, authoritative)
 Don't be silly, Janice. Anyone can
 be firm. Even a "cupcake".

JANICE
 ... Pffft.

DR. HOLMWOOD
 I'm serious though, you've got to
 loosen up about it. I know that
 sounds backwards, but it's true.

DAVID
 (muffled, through
 intercom)
YUMMY.

Muffled CRUNCH. Blood SPLATTER. Muffled screams.

JANICE
 Loosen up so that I can be more
 firm?

DR. HOLMWOOD
 Haha, yes! Precisely. If you're
 relaxed, you're more sure of
 yourself. So, sit back and relax.

David's steps THUD. More SCREAMS.

JANICE
 I'll try. I still think it just
 comes naturally to some people.

DR. HOLMWOOD
 That may be so. Many people are
 simply "born that way". But the
 physics of being born with a stick
 up your ass will never cease to
 perplex me.

JANICE
 Hahaha.

A muffled CRASH, blood SPLATTER, and electronic HISS.

DR. HOLMWOOD

Oh damn... Security cameras went out again. We've got to get those fixed. Oh well... Did I ever tell you about my days as a research assistant, Janice?

JANICE

No, I don't think you have.

DR. HOLMWOOD

Well, I was a lot like you. Young, bright, and beautiful.

Janice's breath HITCHES.

JANICE

(whispered)

Beautiful?

DR. HOLMWOOD

And there was an entity. Not a living one, however. It was a stapler that needed eyes on it 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Or else it would staple everything in its vicinity. And I mean... *everything*.

JANICE

Oh dear.

DR. HOLMWOOD

Oh dear is right. So, picture this. Dr. Martin, my senior, had sent me to fetch his wife some flowers for... Valentine's Day, I think it was. So I had these flowers. And to get to his office, I had to pass through this testing chamber.

JANICE

Seems like an oversight on building design, but okay.

DR. HOLMWOOD

Indeed.

D-12603's muffled BANGS on the glass startle Janice.

JANICE

AGH!

(Deep breath)

Phew.

DR. HOLMWOOD

Oh don't worry, it should calm down soon.

D-12603

(muffled)

LET ME OUT! LET ME OUT! PLEASE, GOD, PLEASE!!! /

DR. HOLMWOOD

Anyways, he wanted me to order a bouquet of baby's breath and dahlias. Quite lovely, as you can imagine. But not for someone with terrible pollen allergies.

JANICE

... Oh no.

DR. HOLMWOOD

Oh yes. Imagine my surprise when I'm walking through this chamber, and the poor fellow watching the stapler sneezes! *Closing his eyes* in the process.

Muffled weak pounds on the glass. Another CRUNCH, blood SPLATTER. SCREAMS. David's SQUELCHING as he eats.

DR HOLMWOOD

His clothes, my clothes, and Dr. Martin's wife's flowers were stapled all over in a nanosecond.

JANICE

Oh my god hahaha I wish I could have seen that.

DR. HOLMWOOD

Ohhhh I've got a picture. Right here.

Dr. Holmwood OPENS a drawer and PICKS UP a picture frame. Big CRUNCH and SCREAM as someone is torn in two.

JANICE

Oh my god you look like a baby here!

DR. HOLMWOOD

Careful now, don't go calling me old.

JANICE
Oh gosh, no, you look wonderful.

DR. HOLMWOOD
Well thank you, Janice.

Muffled THUDDING FOOT STEPS and another SPLATTER.

JANICE
Ahem... So what's your favorite
flower?

DR. HOLMWOOD
What's that?

JANICE
Oh, well, uh you brought up the
dahlias and baby's breath so I was
just curious.

DR. HOLMWOOD
Ahh yes I see! I've always loved
daffodils.

JANICE
... Daffodils. Pretty.

DR. HOLMWOOD
Better if you've got allergies too!

JANICE
Hahaha! I'm sure. Poor guy. That's
a great story.

DAVID ROARS in displeasure before running back to his cage.

DR. HOLMWOOD
Ohhh I've got plenty more where
that came from Janice. I wasn't
always so put together.

JANICE
You'll have to tell me more
sometime, Dr. Holmwood.

Muffled CRUNCH as D-12605 is stepped on.

DR. HOLMWOOD
I most certainly will, Janice my
dear. We'll be spending many long
hours together in the days to come.

JANICE
Well, um... Here's to that.

Their coffee mugs CLINK together as Janice and Stephanie DRINK up some of the dark liquid. Janice lets out a dreamy SIGH as Dr. Holmwood GRUNTS at the bitter drink. David's thudding STEPS are muted, and a sickening CRUNCH is heard as D-12605 is stepped on by David, their screams ringing out as a particularly gross blood splatter lands on the glass.

DR. HOLMWOOD

It really is terrible coffee, isn't it?

Janice LAUGHS before turning back to the blood covered glass of the observation chamber.

JANICE

I can't see anything through all this blood. But... it sounds quiet. Do you think we're done?

DR. HOLMWOOD

Give it another moment. I lost connection to the monitoring equipment inside the chamber but hopefully its got a clear view.

(beat)

Janice, would you-

KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK! Janice JUMPS as the sound of tapping on the glass startles her.

JANICE

Good God!

(A beat as she catches her breath)

Is that...

Rodney stands in the testing chamber, peering in through the smeared glass.

RODNEY

Hello?

DR. HOLMWOOD

Oh wow! This is unprecedented. We have a survival!

RODNEY

Hello?! Um... Can I get a hint? Do you do that? Cuz I *think* I did what you wanted!

JANICE

Holy shit...

DR. HOLMWOOD
 Janice, take D-12604 to the
 showers, and get him ready for
 further trials.

JANICE
 F-Further trials?

DR. HOLMWOOD
 He has survived an experiment that
 previously had a 100% fatality
 rate. He is an anomaly. We must
 hold further tests.

JANICE
 ... Yes, Dr. Holmwood.

FADE TO:

29 INT. SITE HALLWAYS

29

Janice is in the middle of a conversation.

JANICE
 ... We're going to need to conduct
 a brief interview with you before
 we can conclude this assignment.
 The matter of your next assignment
 is usually something that would get
 kicked up the chain of command, but
 Dr. Holmwood and I could really-

Two sets of footsteps can be heard POUNDING down the
 hallways as BURT and KURT storm in. Burt bumps into Janice
 and Kurt bumps into Rodney. They each let out a GRUNT.

BURT AND KURT
 Janice!

JANICE
 Burt? Kurt?

KURT
 Who's this guy?

JANICE
 D-126-

RODNEY
 Rodney!

KURT
 Hey, Rodney!

Janice SIGHS.

RODNEY

Hi!

BURT AND KURT

JANICE!

JANICE

Yes! What?!

BURT

You gotta come with us!

JANICE

What? Where? Now?

BURT

There's no time!

KURT

Just come!

BURT AND KURT

We found something **BIG**.

Burt and Kurt begin to RUN back the way they came.

JANICE

But we're in the middle of-

BURT

No time, Janice! It's important!

JANICE

Urghhh... We'll continue this
later. Come on!

Janice and Rodney RUN after the twins.