

Day 30

Psychosomatic

by

Chris Leyva

1.

Amber and Tina.

AMBER

It's been a week.

TINA

Not a week. 5 days.

AMBER

Work week.

TINA

That's not bad.

AMBER

You've missed 5 weeks in the past 3 months. Days here and there, but 5 weeks.

TINA

You've been keeping track?

AMBER

It's my job to keep track. You're getting dangerously close to getting written up.

TINA

(Exaggerating)

Oh no, not written up! Anything but that!

She laughs.

AMBER

Once you're written up, if you miss 2 more days, you're terminated.

TINA

You make it sound so clinical. Can't just say "fired?"

AMBER

It doesn't matter which word I use, it still means you're gone.

2.

Brandon and Beth at a table in a break room. They're snacking. They look exhausted. Tina enters.

TINA

You guys don't happen to have any Tylenol or Ibuprofen or something do you?

Beth digs in her bag, tosses a bottle to Tina.

TINA (CONT'D)

Thanks.

She swallows 3 pills, handing the bottle back to Beth.

TINA (CONT'D)

Any chance of pepto bismol or something?

Beth and Brandon shrug.

BETH

Sorry.

TINA

It's just my stomach. Don't know if something's going around. Have you seen anyone else? It's like a migraine, sinus, and the stomach. I'm not trying to be crude, but I'm in the toilet like once an hour with diarrhea.

BETH

If you feel that bad, you should go home.

BRANDON

You don't want to get the rest of us sick.

TINA

It's probably not contagious. Something I ate. I had Taco Bell last night. Good idea, bad idea.

She exits.

BETH

She should go home.

BRANDON
She's not sick.

BETH
She's faking?

BRANDON
Not faking. But she's not sick. It's psychosomatic.

BETH
Probably.

BRANDON
Nothing against her.

BETH
No, she's great.

BRANDON
If you're unhappy, you should just quit.

BETH
That's irresponsible to say.

BRANDON
Why? If you're not happy--

BETH
What jobs are out there? You leave, you're jumping off a ledge.

BRANDON
There's always something else out there.

BETH
Better to stay with the devils you know, than the ones that, you know, you don't know.

BRANDON
I guess.

3.

Amber and Collin.

Do we have to say anything?
COLLIN

It's customary.
AMBER

Is it though?
COLLIN

People are going to ask questions. It's better to nip it.
AMBER

Who's going to ask questions? They'll all know. It's no secret. It's all attendance. They know the policy, they know her and the work she's missed, they know what happened.
COLLIN

I just think something, an email, needs to go out.
AMBER

And say what?
COLLIN

Tina is no longer with the company. Something.
AMBER

That would cause more questions that just letting it go.
COLLIN

Beat.

She threatened to sue.
AMBER

That'll be good.
COLLIN

Discrimination.
AMBER

Yeah, discrimination against people who don't come to work.
COLLIN

She said she has a disability.
AMBER

COLLIN

Faking illness isn't a disability.

(Beat.)

She's not going to sue. She doesn't have the money to sue.

AMBER

I'm going to send an email.

COLLIN

Don't send an email.

AMBER

I'm going to.

COLLIN

I don't want to have to write you up.

AMBER

For writing an email?

COLLIN

Insubordination.

AMBER

For writing an email?

COLLIN

I'm warning you. This is your warning. Send that email and I'm writing you up.

4.

Beth and Brandon in the break room.

BETH

It was pretty cryptic.

BRANDON

You know she was fired.

BETH

You don't know.

BRANDON

The email said she's "no longer with the company." That means fired.

BETH

What would she have done?

BRANDON

There's only two things that get you fired here: attendance or stealing things.

BETH

Amber was never late. I don't remember her ever calling in sick. I don't think she even took vacation.

BRANDON

Then stealing.

BETH

Amber stealing?

BRANDON

What else would it be?

Beth shrugs.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

Why even send the email?

BETH

She was a manager. Collin had to give information. People would have asked questions.

BRANDON

We *are* asking questions.

BETH

Different questions. He's being transparent.

BRANDON

Transparent like frosted glass.