

PAY DAY

A two-minute monologue

By JANE CAFARELLA

AUDREY, 40+, asks her boss for a pay rise.

I just wanted to say thanks for the birthday card. It's lovely that you do that for us all. And the bottle of champers. Not many other bosses do that.

But the thing is, what I really wanted for my birthday, was (*cautions*)... a pay rise.

Beat.

Sighs. Of course, I'm happy here. That's not the point. I've been happy here for two years and I've never had a pay rise.

What I've had is a work rise. It keeps piling on and on and on!

It's partly my fault, I know. I come from that generation of women who learned not to ask for what they wanted.

The generation of women who were grateful to have a job.

The generation of women who felt to ask for a rise was... pushy.

But it's not just that. I've seen what happens to the others – the women who ask, and what you do and say about them.

Like Katherine – my manager. She works like a dog – and looks like one, according to you. *She takes out a notebook and reads from it.*

And I quote:

“The CEO says 20 per cent of those executives have to be tapped and marched.. We've got to throw a body out the window so it may as well be that bitch leading that bunch of hand-writers, nail-biters and knicker-twisters in the comms department.”

She puts the notebook in her pocket.

You always said I took excellent minutes.

Beat.

It is outrageous. I agree completely!

I think the union would too.

Beat.

You'll consider it? I thought so.

You should also consider the other hand-wringers, nail-biters and knicker twisters in our team who've never had a pay rise.

They're considering a class action.

Sigh. Why are women always so under-estimated?

She reads from the notebook again.

Business talk is fascinating!

And I quote: "You're in the sucker seat, sunshine!"

282 spoken words

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