

## ***Interview On The 27th Floor***

**By Andres Lanza**

Tick...Tick...Tick. The clock on the worn down wall, with its white paint chipping and its outer shell weakened, continued to tick as Janet prepared for her interview. This interview was possibly the most stressful thing Janet had ever had to go through. This interview could literally change Janet's life, for better or for worse. And in a time where she needed all the focus and concentration she could possibly get, this clock continued to yell and scream at her with its ticks. As Janet dealt with the everlasting ticks and her obvious anxiousness, she thought about what brought her here in the first place. This past year had been rough on her. She had lost important relationships and been let go from a job that was the only thing keeping her afloat. It was a miracle that she was even able to land an interview for this job opening in the first place. Janet knows the business world is tough, and being the only woman in a world full of men doesn't help either. Literally all the people behind Janet in line for the position were men. But she tried to not let that effect her. But this all made her think that maybe this just wasn't meant to be. Maybe she wasn't made to be a corporate manager of some company that made aerosol sprays. Like really, what would she be contributing to the world by being a manager of an "aerosol spray" company? What's the point of life if you don't feel like you're contributing to society and making the world a better place?

Finally the door to the interview room opened and a loud, blaring voice yelled "Next!". Janet took in a deep breath, and like a batter to the plate during the 9th inning, stepped in with all the confidence in the world. Three men sat at a long white desk with applicant questions and infos in front of them. One of the men immediately noticed Janet and said "Oh, secretary interviews are currently taking place on the 28th floor sweetie. This floor is reserved for management position interviews only." The two other men burst out laughing, and Janet nervously chuckled along with them. Then the interview began. After only about

a minute in, the man who had made the secretary joke earlier said “Are you sure about this position sweetie? You’re too pretty for anyone to take you seriously as a manager. I hope I don’t sound rude, but the three of us are just very busy people and we have a lot of serious candidates to get through. So thank you for coming in but that will be all.” Janet was shocked. She didn’t know how to respond to this situation. She responded with simply saying “I understand. Thank you”. She gathered her things and left, but just as she was about to step out of the interview room, the man who had humiliated her said “And remember, 28th floor, secretary interviews. I would hate to see that pretty face go to waste.”

Janet stormed out of the building sad, humiliated, defeated, and most of all angry. Angry with herself for not standing her ground and defending herself back there. She thought to herself, how could the system allow for men like this to be put in positions of power? If her hope and passion for finding another job in the business world had not already been dead prior to the interview, it definitely was now. Janet found a bench, sat down, and began to cry. What was next she wondered. Does she really want to continue to pursue a career in a field where she’s set up to fail? In that moment, Janet had an awakening. She remembered an old saying her mother used to tell her. “Never accept the world for what it appears to be, dare to see it for what it COULD be.” With these words running rampant in Janet’s mind, she realized her calling. She could use her experience to educate others on the damages of male patriarchy. She would be daring to see the world for what it could be. Those tears of sadness suddenly turned into tears of joy. Finally her life would have meaning, and finally her path had given her joy.