

Carlotta's Revenge

17-DE05-W30

A very successful woman comes face to face with a childhood bully. However, this time the power has shifted.

INT. OFFICE- DAY

Carlotta Lyles, mid 30s, sits at her desk in her corner office overlooking the city skyline. She is reading her daily devotional when there is a tap on the door. She places the book in a drawer as the person comes in without waiting for a response.

STEPHIE
Good morning Boss!

She smiles and takes a seat in front of Carlotta
Ready for the rundown?

CARLOTTA
Hit me!

Carlotta's assistant, Stephanie, begins to read from her iPad. Carlotta peers out the window to the side, deep in thought.

STEPHIE
It's Tuesday, so staff meeting at 10. You have an investor lunch today at noon. John has questions about next month's layout and would like to see you around 2:00. Then your final interview for the Fashion Editor is at 3:00.

CARLOTTA
(she turns back to Stephanie)
Maybe during the investor lunch, I can convince Jennie to come back and we can avoid that 3:00.

STEPHIE
Is she gonna be at the meeting?

She asks suprisingly.

CARLOTTA
Yes, she is!

She says, matter of factly.
She may have stepped down as Fashion Editor, but she's still my business partner.

STEPHIE
(stands to her feet)
Well, we all miss her around here.

(CONTINUED)

CARLOTTA

I know, right? It's so much quieter.

They both laugh. Stephie walks toward the door, but turns back.

STEPHIE

By the way, the offer still stands. You can come to our Women's Bible Study any Thursday night.

CARLOTTA

Smiles appreciative.

Thanks Steph. I'll think about it.

INT. OFFICE - LATER THAT DAY

Stephie taps on Carlotta's door and walks in. She hands Carlotta a folder.

STEPHIE

Your 3:00 is here.

She turns to leave.

CARLOTTA

(groans and opens the folder)

Ok thanks.

(looks up from the folder)

Give me two minutes to look over her resume, then send her in.

Stephie smiles and walks out of the office. Carlotta pulls out the papers from the folder. Her eyes stretch and her mouth flies open.

She drops the folder on her desk and quickly runs to her door. She opens it slightly and peeks out. She sees the applicant sitting alone in the lobby and gasps.

CARLOTTA (CONT'D)

Its her!

She whispers to herself as she quietly closes the door. She stands in the middle of her office with a frightened look on her face for a few seconds before she begins to pace.

CARLOTTA (CONT'D)

No, no, no, no, no. This can not be happening!

(CONTINUED)

She stops pacing and walks quickly to her desk. She picks up her cell phone from the desk and sends a quick text.

A few seconds go by and Stephie taps on the door. She opens the door to find Carlotta standing in front of her desk panicked.

STEPHIE

What's wrong? Why'd you text me?

CARLOTTA

Because I didn't want her to see me
or hear me on the speaker!

(points toward the door)

STEPHIE

Who? You don't want who to see you?

CARLOTTA

Her! Jessica Fenton.

STEPHIE

You know the applicant?

CARLOTTA

Yes! And I refuse to interview her.

STEPHIE

Why?

(confused)

CARLOTTA

She

(points toward the door)

Is the Devil!

STEPHIE

What?!

Stephie gently takes Carlotta by the shoulder and directs her to her chair. Then takes a seat in front of the desk.

STEPHIE (CONT'D)

Ok. Take a deep breath.

Carlotta inhales and exhales, slowly.

STEPHIE

Now tell me how you know the
applicant and what she did that's
got you so upset!

(CONTINUED)

Carlotta is gazing out the window as she begins to speak. Her demeanor has changed to somewhat childlike and her voice is a little hoarse.

CARLOTTA
I grew up in the country.
(turns to Stephie)
You knew that, right?

Stephie nods.

CARLOTTA (CONT'D)
Well, what you don't know is that my senior year of high school, my dad got a new job and we moved. And my first day of school, was a nightmare! Because of her!

FLASHBACK - FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Carlotta, a somewhat overweight young girl, dressed in a flowery long dress and green cowboy boots, walks into a classroom. No one looks up so she smiles and moves toward an empty seat she's spotted in the back of the room. Just as she is about to sit down a girl steps in front of her.

JESSICA
That's my seat.

CARLOTTA
Oh sorry.

Carlotta smiles and looks around for another seat.

JESSICA
(smirks)
They're all mine.

She moves closer to Carlotta. Carlotta steps back.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
I may let you use one if I decide I like you. What's your name?

CARLOTTA
Carlotta Lyles.

JESSICA
Carlotta.
(she looks up and down at her)
I think your name should be Car
Lot.

The entire classroom began laughing. Carlotta stood stiff and tears began to roll down her face.

INT. OFFICE - DAY (BACK TO PRESENT DAY)

Stephie is sitting in front of Carlotta with her hand over her mouth.

Carlotta is still looking out the window.

CARLOTTA

She taunted me for the rest of the year. If it hadn't been for Jennie, I wouldn't have had any friends. Everyone was afraid of her.

STEPHIE

Searching for something to say.
I didn't know your name was Carlotta.

Carlotta looks at Stephie and laughs lightly to let her off the hook.

CARLOTTA

I stopped using Carlotta immediately after high school.

Looks at Stephie apologetically.
I'm so sorry. I haven't told that story in a while. I didn't realize it still had such an affect on me.

STEPHIE

Stands to her feet.
You don't have to apologize. I can't imagine what that must've been like.

CARLOTTA

Smiles graciously.
Thanks Stephie.

STEPHIE

(asks with uncertainty)
So, do you want me to ask her to leave?

(CONTINUED)

CARLOTTA

No, it's ok. I'm ok. That was a long time ago. Just give me two minutes and you can send her in.

Carlotta pulls a small pouch from a drawer. She freshens her make up and lip stick and places it back in the drawer.

There is a tap on the door and she stands.

CARLOTTA (CONT'D)

Come in.

(clears her throat)

A tall pretty girl, mid 30s, with long brown hair steps into the office.

Carlotta sees a flash of 17 year old Jessica Fenton standing in front of her 17 year old self on the first day school.

They turn into those girls.

Carlotta gasps and trips as she tries to sit back down. The chair rolls from under her and she grabs her desk to break her fall.

The girl giggles.

JESSICA

I see not much has changed.

CARLOTTA

(clears her throat)

Have a seat.

They both sit down. Carlotta tries to regain her composure, to no avail. She picks up the folder from her desk and all the papers fall to the floor.

JESSICA

Am I making you nervous?

Carlotta bends down to get the papers and bumps her head on her desk.

Jessica picks up the nameplate from Carlotta's desk.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Is it Carla now?

(smirks)

I wouldn't have anything to do with you changing your name, would I?

Carlotta opens her mouth to speak, but nothing comes out.

(CONTINUED)

JESSICA (CONT'D)

You should just go ahead and hire me now. Save yourself and me the pain of having to sit through this interview.

She drops the nameplate back on the desk.

Carlotta struggles to sit it back up.

CARLOTTA

(whispers)

I have to ask you some questions first.

JESSICA

Stands and walks around the desk and looks down at Carlotta.

You won't be asking any questions. I will start on Monday. I will need my own assistant and my salary will be comparable to yours.

She turns to leave.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

Better make that 10:00. I have a nail appointment at 8:30.

She walks out and slams the door behind her.

Carlotta puts her head down and begins to cry.

INT. CARLOTTA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Carlotta quickly sits up in bed, looks around, sighs heavily and smiles.

CARLOTTA

Oh thank God! It was just a dream.

She lays down turns to her side and goes back to sleep.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Carlotta Lyles is sitting at her desk reading a devotional when there is a tap on the door. She places the book in a drawer as the person comes in without waiting for a response.

STEPHIE

(takes a seat in front of Carlotta)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

STEPHIE (cont'd)
Good morning Boss! Ready for the
rundown?

CARLOTTA
(smiles)
Hit me!

As Stepheie begins to read from her iPad, Carlotta peers out
the window deep in thought.

STEPHIE
It's Tuesday, so staff meeting at
10. You have an investor lunch
today at noon. John has questions
about next month's layout and would
like to see you around 2:00. Then
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Fashion Editor is at 3:00.

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Fashion Editor, but she's still my
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(stands to her feet)
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I know, it's so much quieter.

They both laugh.

Stepheie walks toward the door, but turns back.

STEPHIE
By the way, the offer still stands.
You can come to our Women's Bible
Study any Thursday night.

Carlotta smiles appreciative.

CARLOTTA
Thanks Steph. I'll think about it.

Wrinkles her face, looks puzzled.
Are you sure it's Tuesday?

STEPHIE
Yes Ma'am.
(sarcastically)

CARLOTTA
(smiles)
Good!

Stephie leaves the office and Carlotta immediately opens her desk and pulls out a manilla folder.

Ah ha! It hasn't happened yet!

Talking to the papers in her hand. She holds them up and shakes them.

You have humiliated me for the last
time Jessica Fenton!

There is a tap on the door and she stands.

CARLOTTA (CONT'D)
Come in.

A tall pretty girl, mid 30s, with long brown hair steps into the office.

Carlotta sees the flash of 17 year old Jessica Fenton standing in front of her 17 year old self on the first day of school, again. But Carlotta has a different reaction.

CARLOTTA (CONT'D)
Hello Jessica. Have a seat.

JESSICA
Carlot...ta?

CARLOTTA
Yes. Carlotta.

JESSICA
But my interview was with Carla
Lyles.

CARLOTTA
I stopped using Carlotta years ago.
(sarcastically)

(CONTINUED)

Carlotta sits down. And opens up the manilla folder. Looks briefly at the papers inside and slams it down on her desk.

CARLOTTA (CONT'D)

Didn't really suit me any more.

JESSICA

(gulps)

Carla is nice.

Carlotta stands and walks around to Jessica's side of the desk.

CARLOTTA

Things are different now.

Looking down at her.

You can't intimidate me any more.
I'm the boss! I make the rules!

JESSICA

Yes Ma'am.

(nervously)

I think it's great you have your
own magazine.

CARLOTTA

And since I'm the boss. This is how
it's gonna go. I am gonna hire you.
(smirks)

But not for the fashion editor
position. No, you're not qualified
for that. Seems I'm so busy these
days I need a second assistant.
I'll hire you for that.

Jessica's looks stunned.

JESSICA

Carlotta...

CARLOTTA

Ms. Lyles

JESSICA

Ms. Lyles, if you look at my
resume you will see that I am more
than qualified for this position.

CARLOTTA

When I look at your resume all I
see is someone who has breezed
through life on her looks. Well,
that stops today!

JESSICA

I have worked hard for what I have.

CARLOTTA

Assistant! Take it or leave it!

Carlotta goes back to her side of the desk and sits down.

You can see yourself out.

She turns her chair so that her back is to Jessica. She hears the door slam and turns around.

She faces the closed door. A smile slowly appears, but only for a second. Her face changes and she now looks sad.

An alarm sounds.

INT. CARLOTTA'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Carlotta jumps up, grabs her cell phone and shuts off her 6:00 alarm.

She sighs and shakes her head.

CARLOTTA

I have got to stop eating pizza
before bed!

She gets up and goes into the bathroom.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Carlotta is at her desk talking on her cell phone.

CARLOTTA

It was so weird. I had two separate
dreams about this interview!

A voice on the other end of the phone.

JENNIE

I get it. You're anxious. But who
wouldn't be? This person made your
senior year of high school almost
unbearable. You can just cancel the
interview, ya know!

CARLOTTA

I know... and I really want to. I
can't though, she is actually the
best candidate for this job.

(sighs)

And I have to face her sooner or
later!

(CONTINUED)

JENNIE

I guess you're right, about facing her. But you know I'll support you either way.

CARLOTTA

I know and I appreciate it.

JENNIE

Look at it this way. People do change.

(enthusiastically)

Look at you. You're nothing like that shy timid girl you were in high school. Maybe she's changed too.

CARLOTTA

Let's hope so!

There is a tap at the door.

CARLOTTA

Time to face the music, she's here. Gotta go.

(toward the door)

Come in.

JENNIE

You got this!

Stephie walks in.

STEPHIE

Your 3:00 is here.

CARLOTTA

You can send her in.

Stephie nods and turns to walk out.

CARLOTTA (CONT'D)

Stephie... I want to take you up on your offer. What day is the bible study, again?

FADE TO BLACK.