

Surprise Visit

Employee Perspective

CHARACTERS



NORMA
Director



JANE
Ted's manager



TED
Team member



BECCA
Coworker

SCENE 1

Jane is on the phone with Norma, having their usual status check-in.

NORMA: So, what's up next?

JANE: A performance issue. I'm having some concerns with Ted.

NORMA: Ted, really?

JANE: He seems to be coming in really late, and other team members are complaining about doing his work because he's not in the office. I told him he could have some flex time to deal with his personal matters, but that I still expected him in by 9:30 a.m., and if not, he needs to let me know.

NORMA: Hmm, are you sure there's an issue?

JANE: He isn't contacting me when he's running late, and sometimes he arrives as late as noon.

NORMA: Have you seen this happen? Or is that what people are telling you?

JANE: Since I work at another site, it's tough for me to monitor the work and hours. I'm going to plan a trip to the field office next week. I haven't told the team though. I want it to be a surprise.

NORMA: Oh okay, I guess you could do that.

SCENE 2

Jane arrives at the field office at 7:30 a.m. to find Ted sitting there.

TED: Hey Jane. Good morning.

JANE: Oh, hi Ted. Good morning.

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SCENE 3

Jane sits with Becca in a restaurant booth having lunch.

BECCA: I have to admit, I was surprised to see Ted in so early today. Did you tell him you were coming? He's never here that early.

JANE: No, the only person I told that I was visiting this week was Norma.

BECCA: Well, there's your mistake. I bet she told him.

JANE: Why's that?

BECCA: Didn't you know they were involved romantically?

JANE: *(surprised)* Oh.

BECCA: He's always texting with her, and he makes it sound like they talk on the phone almost every night. Plus he's been going on all these business trips with her. Then he comes back and tells me about all of these great restaurants and entertainment they go to. Meanwhile, I end up doing all of his work.

JANE: I had no idea.

BECCA: People don't even bother to reach out to him anymore. Everyone just comes to me.
