

I Wanna Work for Her!

Here are a few bosses for whom we'd gladly burn the midnight oil:

■ The sour economy wreaked havoc on Lola Gonzalez's Florida business, Accurate Background Check. But she didn't have the heart to fire any of her employees. So she fired herself instead and took a job elsewhere for less than half her previous salary.

■ Cato Syversen, CEO of Creditsafe, a British credit report company, celebrated its 15th year in existence by treating his 500 employees to an all-expenses-paid trip to the Spanish island Majorca.

■ When Joe Lueken of Bemidji, Minnesota, retired at age 70, he considered selling his three grocery stores to the highest bidder. Then he had a better idea: He gave his stores away to his 400 employees.

■ After Brandon Reyna suffered a seizure in his State Farm office in Southlake, Texas, his boss, Amanda Moreno, put into practice the CPR she had learned three weeks earlier. It worked.

■ Howard Cooper retired from his successful Honda dealership in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and wanted to show his appreciation to his employees. So he gave them each \$1,000 ... for every year they had worked for him.

■ With her husband deployed and her family 500 miles away, Ashley Harr had no one to be with her when she gave birth in New London, Connecticut. In stepped her boss at the real estate company. Melissa Giangrosso acted as both a birth coach and a surrogate mother as the new mom slept.

Sources: metro.co.uk, annarbor.com, cbsdfw.com, USA Today, norwichbulletin.com

49 I was performing with another comic, and part of our deal was a free meal. After my set, I asked our waitress if I could get a bite. She said no, so I asked to speak with the manager. Next thing I knew, he was charging straight at me, screaming that I was rude to his waitress. He chased me around the table, yelling and lunging at me. Thankfully, the bouncer separated us.

When the other comic got off-stage, I said, "You won't believe this, but the manager tried to kill me!"

"Really?" he said. "I didn't think your set was that bad."

D. F. Sweedler, New York, New York

And the WORST boss is ...

50 During my brother-in-law's first performance review, his boss said, "I'm not quite sure what it is you do here. But, whatever it is, could you do it faster?"

Jeanie Waara, Phillip, South Dakota

RAINN REPLIES

Now, this is my kind of boss. Insulting one's inferiors has produced some of humanity's greatest achievements. Would those heads on Easter Island have ever been raised by the Pacific Islanders without some prodding from their alien overlords? No!

How to Be the Big Cheese BY RAINN WILSON

People ask me all the time, "Rainn, what makes a great boss?" Two words: *leader* and *ship*. People will then respond, "Rainn, that's actually one word." And then I will have them sent to my private "rehabilitation chamber," the one next to my trailer on the set of *The Office*, and they'll never be heard from again.

You see, by leadership, I'm not talking about the ability to communicate, listen, or know that *leadership* is actually one word. No, a great boss inspires his legions through power, like North Korea's Kim Jong-un. Plus, he has a spiffy title: Supreme Leader. That sounds way better than vice president in charge of sales.

OK, yes, disappearances and murders of rivals may be taking it a step too far. And frankly, it's bad business sense. Remember, as the boss, you have to replace all those people and train the new hires. A good boss, therefore, knows how to rule with an iron fist, not with an atomic bomb.

A good boss also wears many hats. Literally. Designing uniforms for your minions is crucial to leadership in the modern workplace. For instance, employees of a tire store could wear form-fitting latex outfits. At accounting firms, they could dress up as giant numbers! What a great team-building exercise!

One of the more important responsibilities a boss enjoys is the doling out of discipline. To this end, Bond villains are a great source of inspiration for me. At their desks you'll often find a sequence of buttons, the sole purpose of which is behavioral correction. Any modern manager will thrive with one of those fear-the-boss workstations. Personally,

I've always dreamed of having a shark tank underneath the floorboards. But with corporations cutting back on perks, a cheap yet still effective method would be to rig employees' chairs with electric charges. I find that you can coax better and faster work with a 310-volt jolt here and there.

Of course, not all employees "get it," if you know what I mean. They don't understand what it takes to be a modern boss. They'll go over your head or to the unions. "He's not treating me fairly!" "He yelled at me!" "He connected my chair to a 310-volt charge!" They might even write in to *Reader's Digest*, much like the whiners who have sent in their horrible-boss stories here. Feel free to have those people see me. ■

