



GOING OUT ON A LIMB

by John Busser

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Cast of Characters

ANGELA:
MRS. KREPKE:
ISABELLA:

Female, 20's – 40's
Female, 30's – 60's
Female, 20's – 40's

Place

An office

Time

Thursday, end of shift

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At lights up, MRS. KREPKE is at her desk filling out some paperwork. There is a knock at the door. ANGELA enters. She wears a Tinkerbell-style outfit and has 2 small wings. One of the wings has a small hole in it.

ANGELA

Mrs. Krepke, you wanted to see me?

MRS. KREPKE

Ah yes, Angela. Please come in, take a seat. Just get in?

ANGELA

Yes. My shift ends in 10. *(She sits)*

MRS. KREPKE

Well, this won't take long. *(A beat)* Angela, how long have you been with us?

ANGELA

I don't know. A long time, I guess.

MRS. KREPKE

A long time, indeed. In fact, you're one of our longest-running operatives. You've been here longer than practically everyone else. And with a success rate that is unsurpassed by anyone else in our employ.

ANGELA

Well, as cliché as it sounds, I do love my job. I like to think I'll be here until I retire or drop, whichever comes first.

MRS. KREPKE

A field agent to the end? Never had ambitions of moving upstairs, perhaps?

ANGELA

Oh, I don't know. I've never really wanted a desk assignment. I like being out there on the front lines, kicking ass and taking names...

MRS. KREPKE

Well, it's not really NAMES you're taking now, is it?

ANGELA

True. But I'm doing something important. I'm making a difference. And let's face it, not everyone can do this job.

MRS. KREPKE

It can be difficult, can't it?

ANGELA

It can be a real tooth pull sometimes.

MRS. KREPKE

(In a warning tone) It had better not be.

ANGELA

You know what I mean. As hard as it can be, I wouldn't trade this job for anything.

MRS. KREPKE

It's nice to find someone who enjoys their work so much.

ANGELA

And I've got the wings to prove it. (*She indicates them*)

MRS. KREPKE

It's a shame, really, that we have to let you go.

ANGELA

(*She stands, furious*) You WHAT?

MRS. KREPKE

We have to let you go.

ANGELA

What? WHY? Is this about the cutbacks? I'd heard the rumors...

MRS. KREPKE

I'm sorry to have to do this...

ANGELA

No! No! You don't have to do this! Why do you have to do this?!

MRS. KREPKE

Angela...

ANGELA

Was there a complaint?! No one has EVER complained about my work!

MRS. KREPKE

Your work is exemplary. It's not that...

ANGELA

Then why the hell are you doing this!!

MRS. KREPKE

(*Standing*) Angela! I need you to dial it down and I need you to sit down, right now. Let me explain.

ANGELA

(*Stunned, ANGELA sits*) I don't believe this...

MRS. KREPKE

(*MRS. KREPKE grabs a report off her desk and hands it to ANGELA. She then sits*) I'd like you to take a look at this report.

ANGELA

What is this? (*She flips through the report*)

MRS. KREPKE

It's a lot of numbers-crunching and actuarial mumbo-jumbo, most of which will mean nothing to you or I, until you get to the top of page 24.

ANGELA

What's on page 24? (*She flips to it*) It's a chart. So what?

MRS. KREPKE

It's a financial projection for the next ten years. And it shows why we are being forced into downsizing our current staff. Unfortunately, seniority in this position works against you. The highest paid agents are going to be the first to go.

ANGELA

Alright, hold on. This is just a projection, right? It doesn't mean things are going to go downhill for sure. Just that they might.

MRS. KREPKE

Everyone's quotas are drastically behind where they were just a year ago--

ANGELA

We've had slow periods before. Remember the fluoride scare? Things went back to normal.

MRS. KREPKE

Not like this. Look, you're an exceptional agent. You'll have no problem finding other work.

ANGELA

Other work? Mrs. Krepke, I'm a Tooth Fairy! What the hell else am I qualified to do?!

MRS. KREPKE

I'm sorry, Angela, but you won't be any longer.

ANGELA

But people need me.

MRS. KREPKE

Now that they're starting to take better care of their teeth, why would they?

ANGELA

What about little kids? They're our bread and butter. Babies lose their teeth all the time.

MRS. KREPKE

Yes they do. But have you taken a look at the birth rates nowadays? Between better sex education, abstinence camps, condom dispensers in high schools, 2 income households with no time for families, there is less time, less inclination and less accidents. And that means less kids. We can't survive on baby teeth alone.

ANGELA

Yeah, but there's always going to be a need for what we do. We're like barbers. Everyone needs a barber.

MRS. KREPKE

What about the bald?

ANGELA

What about them?

MRS. KREPKE

Or chemo patients?

ANGELA

Okay, fine!

MRS. KREPKE

Or Telly Savalas?

ANGELA

ALRIGHT, BAD EXAMPLE!

MRS. KREPKE

Please don't take this personally, Angela. It's not just you. Every department is losing staff. Processing. Records. Accounting. They're all taking a hit.

ANGELA