

ERIS: About how our coffee and chilling out here helped you to come up with your ideas. It'd totally help us out.

SOPHIA: It's not true. We didn't come up with the idea here.

ERIS: Yeah, but we inspired you, fired those creative sparks – pop pop pop! And nobody's going to care where you actually came up with the idea. Come on, it'd be awesome. *(When she gets no reaction)* It'd really help us out.

SOPHIA: *(Matter of fact)* Sorry. When it's something that doesn't really matter *(indicates cafe)* you can get away with telling stories, but we need to be completely honest. Everything we do gets fact checked. And anyway, I... we *(indicates VÖR)* didn't come up with the idea.

ERIS: Oh, I heard it was you.

SOPHIA: Well... yes...it's not likely that the idea would have got so far without me.

VÖR: Lots of companies have tried it and failed.

ERIS: Ah, but you made it work!

SOPHIA: Yes, that I did do.

VIDEO – voice call coming in. Michaela Green, Board Chair DNAlicious.

SOUND – ring tone

VIDEO - OGHMA is sat with a steering wheel.

I need to get this.

Good morning Michaela.

OGHMA: Morning. I'm on my way, just checking to make sure you're at the office.

ERIS starts videoing SOPHIA on her phone without her noticing.

SOPHIA: Just getting coffee, then heading in. Do you want one?

OGHMA: Already had mine. I'm surprised you're not there. Is everyone ready?

SOPHIA: Yes, yes they are... well, no. Look, I don't think they should meet the science team. In fact I decided to make a video about the science side of things that we can show them instead. The team's just checking it out now.

OGHMA: Not meeting the team? I'm hearing about this now?!

SOPHIA: It was a last minute thing...

OGHMA: Are you sure? The tour is usually the only interesting bit in these things. They like to see who they're spending their money on. A video...? It really needs to be short. Did you keep it short?

SOPHIA: Yes, we never got round to making the explainer, so we don't actually have anything to show how it works. But I figured that we have a stack of documents in Dropbox that cover that. We just need to tell a good story and turn them into believers!

OGHMA: OK, fine. I'll be there in about 20 minutes. I'd like to watch it before they turn up.

She cuts the call.

SOPHIA: *(To phone, a little sarcastically)* OK, bye then.

ERIS stops videoing her, SOPHIA doesn't see what she's doing.

VIDEO: SOPHIA makes a call to Violet Rutherford.

Violet, I'm sending you a video. Michaela wants to check it out when she gets into the office in about 20 minutes.

LILITH: Sorry, we're tidying up the labs.

SOPHIA: *(A little irritated)* Michaela doesn't want them visiting the labs. We'll just be showing them the video. Can you start watching it now? I need to know if there's anything in there that's wildly wrong. I'll be there in 10. The investors are coming at 9, so we'll not have time to make changes.

LILITH: *(Resignedly)* Fine, we'll take a look. See you soon.

Sophia ends the call and then sends the email with the video.

ERIS: One long black, one flat white, extra shot. My advice – completely free and unbiased – is that no matter how busy you are, you should always stop and take a moment to commune with the first sip of coffee. It's a like a small gift of joy from the gods. And that moment can change everything!

SOPHIA: My advice to you – free and unbiased – is that you'll never be successful if you waste time daydreaming in cafes. If you think making Tiktoks is going to make you successful, you'll never move on. You need to work, work, work! *(To VÖR)* Let's go.

VÖR: You go ahead, I'll just get some coffees and muffins for the team. I'm guessing they headed in early.

SOPHIA: We don't have the budget for that.

VÖR: This is on me. See you soon.

LIGHTS down.

LIGHTS up in a simple meeting room, chairs around a table. Whiteboard. SOPHIA stands still at the door for a moment, apparently contemplating her next move.

LILITH and ULLR are in lab coats. They are sat watching the projected screen and we see the end of the video she has made. It focuses on her competence, how she brought order to technical chaos and her ability to lead into the future. They don't notice that SOPHIA has arrived and are groaning and exclaiming things like 'bullshit'. It ends.

SOPHIA: *(From the door)* What do you think?

Surprised, they turn around to see SOPHIA. Lilith stands.

LILITH: I think it might be safe to say that we're all disappointed. *(Nod from ULLR)* You don't talk about the science, how it works, who made it. The team that's been working on this for 10 years.

SOPHIA gets increasingly agitated and angry as the scene progresses.

SOPHIA: I just need to be sure that there's nothing wildly wrong. This is being shown to the investors, so we can't be making claims about the tech that aren't true.

ULLR: There's nothing in there that wasn't already cleared for the press releases. But you do make it look easier and faster to scale up and launch than what we've planned for...than we can actually do.