

## ACT TWO

Yawning, SOPHIA reaches round the door and turns on the office LIGHTS.

She heads into the office with her bag, coffee, phone and coat. She dumps these and puts calming music on her phone. She tries to do some yoga moves, but fails, then sits – awkwardly – cross legged and stares ahead blankly.

VIDEO – SOPHIA's phone showing unknown caller  
Sound – Her phone rings

She sighs, thinks about ignoring it, then answers it. It is a producer (voiced by TYCHE).

SOPHIA: Hello?

TYCHE: Finally! Hello, is that Sophia at DNAlicious (struggles with name)?

SOPHIA: Yes, how can I help?

TYCHE: (Businesslike) Amber from the Morning Show on SWS. I'm just following up on my email. We're about to go live with your segment. Are you able to join the call?

SOPHIA: What? Sorry, I've not checked my emails yet.

TYCHE: Do you have a camera there?

SOPHIA: Err, no. Well yes, I've got my phone.

TYCHE: That'll have to do. Do you have a stand you can put it in? Some way of avoiding shake?

SOPHIA: I'll find something.

TYCHE: Good, they've just played your video and we're on an ad break, We'll be going live in about 1 minute. I'll call back in a moment with a video call, then connect you in. Great idea by the way.

The call ends. Sophia frantically looks around for a suitable stand, ends up using a cup and, as it keeps sliding down, some blue-tac off a poster on the wall. All the while...

SOPHIA: Fuck. Fuck fuck fuck. Fuckity bollocky fuck!

The phone rings, she answers. First just a voice...

TYCHE: OK, picture's fine. You'll see them but not yourself. Just don't move. Going live in 10 seconds. Good luck.

LIGHTS up on a very basic morning TV studio.

Two hosts – ERIS and TYCHE – on a sofa at the back of the stage. LILITH is also there off to the side, now as a film star who might have been interviewed earlier. SOPHIA is front of stage with her back to them, she fuffs with her hair and clothes. We hear an offscreen voice

VOICE: Going live in five, four, three...

SOUND – short Morning Show intro music

ERIS: (Using a different voice and mannerisms, leaving space for the silent two and one) Welcome back to the Morning Show with me Sam Scarlett...

TYCHE: (Using a different voice and mannerisms) And me, Saffron Karma. Before the break we were talking about DNAlicious which has just received investment to fund its development of healthy junk food. We're pleased to have Sophia Ignari, the company's CEO, join us. Sophia, good morning and congratulations, you must be very happy.

SOPHIA: (Looking at her camera, not the hosts) Good morning, yes, er... it's an exciting time for the company.

ERIS: What you're doing sounds too good to be true. As I understand it, you're getting people to take DNA tests – like the ones people take to figure out if they're descended from Vikings – and then designing junk food that somehow matches with their genes and won't make them fat. Is that about right?

SOPHIA: Almost, yes, we're looking at genetic data to figure out – from individual to individual – which food ingredients are and aren't a good fit. And then working with food manufacturers to design personalised foods, foods that work well for the individual. So I wouldn't call it junk food.

ERIS: These are the fast food companies, right?

SOPHIA: Er... At the moment, mostly, yes. They are the early adopters who...

ERIS: (Interrupting) So companies that are currently selling what most of us would call junk food?

SOPHIA: I guess, yes, but...

ERIS: (Interrupting) Companies that want to sell more junk food by tailoring it so that we can eat more without worrying about it?

SOPHIA: The companies we are working with have a genuine desire to help reduce obesity and diabetes....

ERIS: (Interrupting) By selling more junk food.

SOPHIA: No... not...

TYCHE: (Interrupting) I for one will be taking the test and eating more donuts! What do you think Amethyst?

LILITH: (Using a different voice and mannerisms) This is the best thing ever. It's perfect for Hollywood. We're under so much pressure to look our best but then we have really high pressure scenes to do, followed by a huge amount of downtime, and all we want to do it eat fast food! Where can I take that test! I want to be the first to try it.

SOPHIA: Well, it's not quite ready yet, but, errr, we're not far away.

ERIS: Your press release says you'll be launching later this month. Where can people find out more and sign up?

SOPHIA: (Panicked) It does..?! It's, errm, all under wraps at the moment, but... information about the service will be available on our website and social media platforms... very soon.

LILITH: Awesome! Make sure you put my name at the top of the list.

**TYCHE:** You've appeared in Capital Life magazine as one of the 30 women under 30 to watch, smashing through that glass ceiling in the world of tech. You must be very proud of what you've achieved.

**LILITH** does some quiet clapping & gestures to show her approval.

**SOPHIA:** It's really not about me, it's a team effort. Many of the leaders in the company are women and we've built the company....

**ERIS:** (*Interrupting*) Before the break we were hearing about the impact you personally had on the company after you joined, turning a... (*reads from press release*) 'basic idea that was going nowhere' into reality.

**SOPHIA:** I wouldn't say it was an idea that was going nowhere...

**ERIS:** (*Interrupting*) That's what it says here.

**SOPHIA:** ...but I was able to build the connections with the testing companies, the food companies and the investors so that the initial idea...

**TYCHE:** (*Bored*) Very interesting, I'm sure. Maybe next time you can bring some donuts for us to try! Sophia Ignari, thank you for joining us this morning. After the break, we'll talk to Amethyst about her latest role in the thriller 'Non Player Character' which premieres on Thursday.

LIGHTS down on **ERIS**, **TYCHE** and **LILITH**.

**ERIS**, **TYCHE** and **LILITH** exit. Sophia is sat looking stunned. A call comes in on her phone. She answers. **OGHMA** and **ULLR** enter and sit on the sofa. *The projected background changes to a book-lined lounge.*

VIDEO – mum and dad calling on her phone.

SOUND – ring tone

LIGHTS up on **OGHMA** (Mum) and **ULLR** (Dad) as her parents.

**SOPHIA:** Hi mum, hi dad.

**ULLR:** (*Using a different voice and mannerisms*) Hello Soph, we just saw you on TV and...it seems like they took you a bit by surprise.

**OGHMA:** (*Using a different voice / mannerisms*) Or that you weren't prepared, Sophia!

**SOPHIA:** (*Still a bit dazed*) Yes, some of the information they had... I need to check...

**OGHMA:** It looked to me like you haven't a clue what's going on in your own company. And like you've just got out of bed.

**SOPHIA:** Give me a break, mum, I had no idea I was going on until, like one minute before!

**ULLR:** We had no idea that things were so close to being launched. No wonder we haven't been seeing you much.

**OGHMA:** Is it close to being launched, or is that just another one of your fantasies?

**SOPHIA:** No... Yes, it's close...

VIDEO - Her phone shows a Chris Cherry from Cherry PR (**ERIS**) call coming in.

SOUND – ring tone

I've got a call coming in that I need to take. I'll call you later. Bye.