

Alan (male, any age)

John I was afraid I might not be able to concentrate enough to finish the financial report in time for the AGM. **But-** there it is.

Alan Good, John. Excellent. Look- there's no easy way for - either of us. *(Pause)* Is there?

John I hope not, or I would have misjudged you.

Alan Bottom line is - Harvey's unhappy with your work.

John You know, I'm inclined to agree with him.

Alan That's why he asked Personnel to drop you a line.

John Break the ice.

Alan Yes. Our shares took another hammering yesterday.

John I saw.

Alan The City is predicting poor results.

John To be honest, they'll see it as a miracle if we don't declare a loss.

Alan That's why Harvey's asked me take over these figures of yours. He's having trouble working out their basis for authenticity.

John It took inspiration to show we made anything at all last year.

Alan Harvey isn't going to appreciate facing the shareholders with the happy news that we won't be paying them a dividend.

John I know. He won't be very popular.

Alan The point is, John, I'm - he's left with no choice but to-replace you.

John Alan, don't struggle to find a polite way of saying I'm sacked. The writing's been more than on the wall.

Alan I've asked someone from Security to clear your desk.

John For God's sake!

Alan It's not me, John. It's procedure nowadays. When it's all verified, you will receive a cheque for six months' compensation, as stipulated when the company was taken over. I'm sorry to ask, but have you got anything here? Documents - you know.

John Have a look, there might be some paperclips with Harvey's signature on.
