

Title: **Caveat Venditor**

By: Frank Wiffen

Director: **Samantha Young**

Genre: Fantasy/comedy/horror

Synopsis:

Business Admin Manager Paul Allcock is not very popular at the company where he works. His loyal but overworked and unappreciated PA, Priscilla, can attest to that.

He prides himself on being a hard-headed, no-nonsense businessman.

Two women from Tick Tock will challenge his worldview. Poised and professional, they are supremely confident in the value of their product even though their methods are somewhat unorthodox.

Will Mr Allcock see through their skilfully woven strategy?

Characters

Mr Allcock – Unlikeable Business Admin Manager for a large company.

Priscilla Crabbe – Extremely capable P/A and unappreciated dogsbody, does most of Allcock's work.

Maisy Bell - Elite saleswoman for Tick Tock Enterprises - glamorous and refined.

Agnes Morgan - Maisy's assistant and biggest fan.

Setting – Consists of 2 visitor's chairs in front of a desk with a speakerphone, a chair behind the desk and a spare chair off to the side..

RUNNING TIME: 12 minutes

Mr Allcock

I agreed to start using the Google app yes, but I didn't say we would *stop* using the book. I expect you to keep both of them up to date.

Priscilla

But you didn't tell me...

Mr Allcock

Don't make excuses! I crossed that out yesterday - you should have seen it.

Priscilla

Yes Mr Allcock. Shall I send them away?

Mr Allcock

Who are they? What are they selling?

Priscilla

They're two ladies from a company called Tick Tock Enterprises...

Mr Allcock

Time management! I've had three of those already this month. Time wasters they should be called. Two ladies you say ... well I suppose I can see them for a few minutes. Can't have the company looking bad because of your incompetence. Better show them in.

(Priscilla turns to go.)

But Priscilla...

Priscilla

Yes Mr Allcock?

Mr Allcock

Make sure they understand that they need to be as brief as possible. As you know the AGM's this afternoon. By the way, I've been reading the presentation you prepared. Now I know you've been working very hard on this doing research and so forth in your own time...

Priscilla

Yes Mr Allcock I've been up till midnight every night for the last 2 weeks working on it...

Mr Allcock

And I'm sure were very grateful for your efforts Priscilla but there's a few changes I'd like to make to some of your "more fanciful" recommendations. I've marked them on the hard copy, please make sure they're done by lunch time.

Priscilla

Yes Mr Allcock.

(Priscilla exits S/R)

Mr Allcock

(To himself) Stupid girl...

Mr Allcock

Over two and a half grand for an hour! It would have to be a pretty damn important report! Come on that's enough. Time to leave.

Maisy

Just one more example Mr Allcock. Say your driving over a railway crossing ...

Agnes

Ooh! I like this one!

Maisy

Thank you Agnes. Suddenly your car stalls and it just won't start. You try several times with no success. Then the gates come down...

Agnes

(Very loudly) Ding! Ding! Ding! Ding! Ding!

Maisy

Thank you Agnes. You try and undo your seat belt but it jams. Then you hear the train's horn...

Agnes

(Even more loudly) Paaaaaaaaaaaaarp!

Maisy

Thank you Agnes - that was amazing. So. You realise it's all over. You're going to die. Then suddenly you remember our app. 3 quick taps and time freezes. There's an eerie silence. A huge locomotive is standing there stationary just a few metres away. You calmly release your seat belt, collect your belongings and move well back from the crossing, making sure to hit record on your phone camera of course. Now Mr Allcock, how much do you think *that* minute is worth?

Mr Allcock

Very good! Very convincing! If only such things were possible eh! I'd buy it in a flash. Now come on who put you up to this? It's got to be Barry, he's the only one stupid enough. Was it him?

Maisy

Mr Allcock. This isn't a joke. We are deadly serious. How can we convince you?... I know! People say "put your money where your mouth" is don't they Agnes?

Agnes

They absolutely do Maisy. I've said it myself when I wanted to find out if someone was bullshitting or not. "Put your money where your mouth is" that's what I always say to them.

Mr Allcock

So what are you actually saying now?

Maisy

What we're saying Mr Allcock is this - how about you sell us some of your time?

Mr Allcock

Ah! (sarcastically) So you're going to give me money now? Ok sounds good to me. How many minutes do you want?