

# Changes

*A short play set in the late 1980s, in a manufacture/warehouse building's management offices.*

CAST: KYMBA, the new manager and “new broom”, Cathy, The Staff Spokesperson; JIMMY WALLACE, Manager, an old dyed-in-the-wool traditionalist; ALICE, a lower management suck-up; a TECH GUY.

SCENE: The Meeting Room – office staff have been called to a meeting. All sitting chatting

KYMBA: *[enters the room, group turns; she meets their gaze, smiles]* Good morning everyone, my name is Kymba Leigh, and I am the new **Director of Operations in Scotland...**

*[Room goes quiet]*

ALICE: Oh hello, Kymba, would you like a cup of tea?

KYMBA: Who are you? Tea? I'll have a Perrier.... chilled... with lemon.

ALICE: Perrier, aye, eh, I'm no sure we have that in stock at present. Can I fetch you a glass of water?

KYMBA: Sure, you do that, whatever. *[KYMBA goes to desk and turns on the projector. A PowerPoint appears on the screen and she pulls out a telescopic pointer. Room goes quiet. KYMBA points to the opening slide]* Productivity is on a downwards trajectory and we need increase our bluesky thinking to streamline production and therefore improve our financial bottom line.

SCENE ENDS

SCENE TWO

KYMBA: *[switches of the projector]* ...and, voila, computerisation! That is senior management's new plan fro the organisation *[her pager goes off, she looks at it ]* I need to take this call. *[She leaves room].*

CATHY: *[looks round at her colleagues]* Well, what do you think of that, then?

JIMMY: *[angry]* Never heard so much nonsense in my life... computers? What's wrong with this *[slams pen on the table]*

ALICE: aye, pens...

JIMMY: and this! *[slams notepad on table]*

ALICE: aye, notepads, nothing wrong with th... aw, Jimmy, we've done a great job up till now, why the need for these changes?

CATHY: Will we get training... paid more? Or *[looks worried]* be made redundant?

ALICE: *[excited]* maybe we can get to play Pac-Man, or Space Invaders? *[giggles]*

JIMMY *[looks at ALICE, rolls his eyes and groans]* Och, help ma boab! My asteroids are giving me gyp! (asteroids was a 1970s/80s console game similar to space invaders)

***Needs more discussion dialogue here before closing scene. Jimmy worried about changes, Cathy concerned about jobs, learning new skills and how it will affect the work they already do. Alice will simply agree with management... and colleagues.***

SCENE ENDS

SCENE THREE

KYMBA: *[returns]*

**Crisis point:** Kymba knows she has thrown a cat amongst the pigeons and expects a negative reaction. This is her team so she needs to get them onboard with the new plan. If not...

TEAM: give reasons not to change: some stated above, usually fear of change. Is it change for the sake of it? Team believes they do a good job.

CATHY: has concerns about how will these changes make things better without overwork and stress? Is it rationalising jobs will there be sackings?

KYMBA: I know you're going to be stressed about you work, your wages, about training, but we need to be more efficient. However, no jobs are at risk here.

CATHY: *[turns to look at her]* what about other branches?

KYMBA *[stutters, surprised at question]* currently no jobs are at risk... here!

CATHY: *[folds her arms]* okay, I understand... *[goes quiet]*

ALICE: *[smiles]* see... I told yeez, we'd be fine! Absolutely nothing to worry about.

*[Team begins to feel reassured]*

KYMBA: *[still talking]* ...

JIMMY: *[is quiet]* He still doesn't like the idea of having to learn new skills... "at his age"

Electronic Mail (not called email yet)

Spreadsheets more accurate

Communications with colleagues and clients improve

Orders taken and dispatched more quickly

Clients are demanding it.

No plans to cut jobs ...*[here... so where]* Cathy believes other branches will lose jobs. Will she call her colleagues there and give them a heads up... threat of strikes?

training will be given *[to whom?]*

possible increases in pay.

***For Next Week: Complete dialogue and action for Scene 3. Use WhatsApp to collaborate.***

JIMMY: *[stands up and begins to shout. He loses the plot]*... he argues with Kymba.

*[Kymba and team try to calm him]*...

JIMMY: *[shouts]* I QUIT! *[storms out the room]*

ALICE: *[runs after him]*

*[Cathy and Kymba look at each other shocked and surprised]*

SCENE ENDS

#### SCENE FOUR

**Office:** Alice pours Jimmy a cuppa tea at his desk as he throws stuff into a bag. Alice tries to talk him into not quitting. Jimmy and Alice suddenly notice a large PC with a keyboard on a desk across the office... there's a Tech Guy sitting in front of it. Jimmy sits down with his back to it. Alice goes over to the desk.

Cathy and Kymba come through to the office.

Jimmy sits at his desk... depressed

Alice is talking with the Tech Guy

TECH GUY: It's aw made up for ye; ye just punch the numbers intae the right columns and it aw adds up here and here [*points to totals boxes*].

JIMMY: [*turning with a scowl on his face*] that is what my calculator is for!

.... take the script towards denouement.

**Each of you to write *SCENE 4* with your own ending.**

**Use the same format as used above.**

***Time: Two Weeks.***