

COSMOPOLITAN

SINGAPORE

November 2011 • \$5.00 (incl GST)

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The Naughtiest Thing I've Ever Done

“I FAKED AN ILLNESS TO GET MY WAY”

Marianne, 28, feigned an illness just so those around her would let her have her way. But guilt eventually got the better of her. Read her confession below. BY NICOLE ANN

My work as an events planner was exciting and unpredictable. But, it was also extremely stressful. While I loved the creative aspects of the job, I detested the people part. Dealing with clients was a chore to me and I hated making small talk with them. Most of my clients were society ladies who loved throwing fundraisers and gala balls. They were well-connected and counted CEOs and celebrities as their best friends. My boss loved pandering to their egos and vanity and expected the rest of us to do the same. It was soul-killing. She even went as far as volunteering us to help these socialites run their errands for them. I once had to deliver a stack of fast-food coupons to a client while she and her kids waited at the fast-food restaurant.

Having had enough of this servile existence, I decided to resign from my job. I thought my boss would just accept my resignation and let me serve my notice but I was wrong. It turned out she really wanted me to stay on! She spent an hour trying to persuade me to change my mind and kept asking if there was something she could do to make me stay. Finally, she asked, “Is there a reason why you want to leave so badly?”

“I’m very sick and my doctor recommends that I take time off work to rest,” I blurted out. I didn’t mean to lie but something inside just made me say that because I thought it would get my boss off my back. It didn’t. Instead, she told me that she and my colleagues would do their best to ensure I wasn’t overworked and that I could take time off whenever I needed.

I was wracked with guilt. I decided to stay on and give my 101 percent until I found another opportunity to quit. The next two weeks, I found myself doing the job I had signed up to do. I was left to draft proposals, plan programmes, and create music playlists that’d suit the events we were doing. My boss and colleagues continued to head out to meet clients to run their



5 BEHAVIOUR OF SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYEES

A survey among bosses found the top traits they appreciate most in an employee are:

1. Ability to take directions and instructions
2. Willingness to learn from failure
3. Composure in times of a crisis
4. Passion for your work
5. Trustworthiness

mundane errands. As much as I enjoyed myself, I couldn’t shake off the guilt that I was lying to people who genuinely cared about me. I decided to come clean. I scheduled a meeting with everyone and broke the news to them, apologising profusely. At first my boss was livid and a couple of my colleagues almost wanted to claw my eyes out. But when things cooled down, my boss actually apologised to us! She realised that she had taken “go the extra mile” too far and promised she would manage the clients better. Although I’m no longer working for my boss, we remain as friends. I was humbled by this lesson and swore I’d never do something like this again. ■

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If your story gets published, you will receive a one-night Hotel Re! Relax-themed stay and Re!Fresh massage for two, worth over \$400. The stay includes buffet breakfast for two. All names will be changed to protect the not-so-innocent.