



# Office Temptations Exposed

MEMO TO ALL STAFF

FROM: **MANAGEMENT**

RE: **OFFICE TEMPTATIONS EXPOSED**

**Attention all employees: Harlequin's Romance Experts are here to expose the most shocking workplace behaviors.**

Based on this year's Romance Report survey results, we've determined that in each office lurks at least one employee colleagues should be wary of. To help you spot these shady characters, we've developed a list of their common traits and provided tips on how to avoid office politics and overcome difficult personalities. Read on to discover what's really going on behind your colleague's closed door.

## **The Nosy Cubicle Neighbor**

Peek-a-boo, I see... your paycheck! Harmless but annoying, the nosy cubicle neighbor cannot resist a good piece of gossip. From inappropriate chitchat about salaries to who should get promoted next, they thrive on being "in-the-know". With more than half of men and women (56%) admitting to having peeked at a colleague's paycheck, be cautious of what you say around the office.

**How to resist dangerous territory:** Divulging too much information around the nosy cubicle neighbor can be dangerous. If you want information to be kept private, your best bet is to keep it to yourself. They simply cannot be trusted.

## **The "Gifted" Newbie**

The "Gifted" Newbie apparently aced the interview, has all the experience in the world and is over-qualified for the position – so they say. Your boss thinks they are the newly hired superstar, who is much more capable than you, but what they don't know is that the newbie is a wolf in sheep's clothing. What they are good at is befriending colleagues who can do the work and using them to help mask their own shortcomings.

**How to resist dangerous territory:** Patience is a virtue and the "Gifted" Newbie will soon be found out. You don't want to be the one responsible for exposing them if you can help it, so keep working hard and doing your best. If your employer does not treat you properly, find a company that will appreciate your great ideas and hard work.

## **The Snake in a Suit**

Sneaky and extremely slick, the Snake in a Suit will strike when you least expect it. With 41% of survey respondents admitting to having wished failure on a colleague because they were jealous of their success, this toxic personality is insecure and inclined to act out their vindictiveness. Whether it's taking credit for a colleague's work or purposely sabotaging co-workers, the Snake in a Suit is willing to advance their career at all costs.

**How to resist dangerous territory:** Keep it civil with the Snake in a Suit. You don't want them to know you've discovered their shady behavior and as long as you keep it gracious in the office, it's difficult for them to attack. Try surrounding yourself with more positive colleagues who will bring out the best in you – not the worst.

## **The Too-Eager Beaver**

Every employer wants a smart employee, but no one wants a know-it-all who tries way too hard to impress. There is a fine balance between being proactive and being overly aggressive, and the Too-Eager Beaver crosses that line. Consistently correcting others, gloating about their own success and being obsessed with climbing the corporate ladder – even at the expense of their work relationships. Looks like everyone in the office is fair game for this character...

**How to resist dangerous territory:** It's hard to compete with the Too-Eager Beaver because they are often right. Frustration can build when working with them, but put aside your ego and make the best of the situation. Learn from them and, at the same time, teach them how to work better with others.