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LET'S DO IT!

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Let's Do It!

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Chapter One

Mike drove into the office car park and parked his car. He got out of his car and got into his wheelchair. He wheeled over to the front entrance of Sunrise. Dean was sitting in his wheelchair in front of the building. He was talking to Jonathan. Jonathan was standing next to Dean.

"Good morning," said Mike. "What are you both doing outside? It's cold today."

Dean looked at the office entrance door and then at Mike.

"A man from the government is here," he said quietly.

"Really? What does he want?" asked Mike.

"I don't know," said Dean. "But there is a meeting at nine o'clock."

"Maybe he wants to give us more work," said Mike.

"I don't think so," said Jonathan. "I think it will be bad news."

Mike smiled. "You always think things are bad," he said.

"That's because most things are bad," said Jonathan.

"Come on, let's go inside," said Mike. "We have work to do."

The three men went up the ramp and into the small office building.

There was a man from the government standing by the window. He was looking at some documents in a file.

The other workers started to arrive. Abeni walked into the office.

"Good morning!" she said brightly. Then she saw the man from the government. She walked over to Mike. "Why is he here?" she asked quietly.

"I don't know," said Mike. "But we have a meeting at nine."

Mike sat at his desk and turned on his computer. He looked at the time. It was 8:50am.

I have a lot of work to do, he thought. But I'll wait until the meeting has finished.

At 9:00am, the man from the government said, "Good morning, everyone. I have something to tell you." He stood at the front of the office. The ten workers in the room sat and listened to the man.

"The government opened this office, Sunrise, ten years ago. We needed people to enter data into our system. We thought it was a good job for people with disabilities. It has been a great success. You have all worked very hard. You do a good job with the work that we send you. You are always very fast and accurate. I'd like to thank you for doing a good job. But times have changed. The economic situation in the town is not good. The local government doesn't have much money.

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"This building needs upgrading. It will be expensive. We were worrying about this. Then a large company in another city came to see us. They say they can do all the work that you do for the same amount of money, and we won't have to fix this building. So, I'm very sorry, but we are going to close this office."

"What?"

"Close this office?"

"What about our jobs?"

Everyone started asking questions. They looked at each other. They were shocked.

"What are we going to do?" asked Mike. "We have disabilities. It will be difficult for us to find other jobs."

"I don't think so," said the man. "You are good workers. I'm sure other companies will want to hire you."

"But very few companies have a barrier-free environment," said Dean. "Our work options are limited."

"You will find new jobs. I'm sure," said the man.

"When will the office close?" asked Abeni.

"Next month," said the man.

"Next month?! That's so soon!" shouted Jill. "You can't do this to us! I can't work anywhere else. Sometimes I am too depressed to come to work. Other companies won't hire me."

"I'm sure they will hire you," said the man. "I'm sorry, but that is the situation. Good luck in finding new jobs."

Everyone watched him walk out of the office.

When the man had gone, everyone started talking.

"They can't do this to us."

"What are we going to do?"

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