

"24" at Christmas

By Paul Gibson



The following scene takes place between the hours of 9:00 and 11:00 AM on Thursday, December 15

"Are you going to the party on Friday?"
- What party is that?

"You know, the company Christmas party!"

- Oh yeah, I forgot about that. I have been so busy with the Christmas shopping, I completely forgot! Where are we going this year?"

"Well, I don't remember the name of it, but it's a great restaurant near Bernabeu Stadium. And plus, the boss isn't coming so we can do whatever we want!"

- Are you sure he's not coming?"

"I'm positive. I talked with Sonsoles, his secretary, and she assured me that he wasn't planning on going."

- Cool. What are you going to wear then?

"I was thinking of kind of going casual, maybe some nice-looking jeans, maybe a sweater, and definitely hair spray."

AT THE PARTY, Friday
December 16

"Are you as bored as I am?"

- Common Sergio, it's not that bad...common, let's go talk with Kiko, he's getting a whisky sour, what are you having?

"I'll have a screwdriver or a martini..."

- Have you made up your mind yet?

Yeah, now that the boss isn't here...maybe I will go for that screwdriver (vodka and orange juice).

10 minutes later...

"Hey Sergio, what were you talking about with the boss last week...you seemed like you were having a pretty intense conversation... Is there anything wrong?"

- No, everything is just fine. We were talking about the fact that Manolo is sick with depression and we may need to pull together to cover all the bases before they can find a replacement.

"Manolo is depressed? He always seems so happy. I wonder what's wrong..."

- I don't know. But I overheard Patricia talking with Esther the other day, and I think he may be making the whole thing up just to get the medical leave.

"I had no idea Manolo would do something like that. Does the boss think he's making it up too?"

- Well, from the looks of it, she's planning on having him sacked before he can get disability benefits, but don't tell anyone I told you so. I could get into some pretty big trouble if anyone ever found out. You know what I mean?

"Yeah, I know what you mean."

Monday, December 19
6 DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

"Morning Kiko..."

- Morning Sofia

Did you hear Sergio got sacked this morning?

- No, I had no idea. What happened? We were just having drinks on Friday at the party. What went wrong?

"I am not entirely sure to tell you the truth. The only thing I know is that I think Esther mentioned something about overhearing a conversation where Sergio mentioned some personal details about Manolo."

"What are you talking about? Personal details? What do you mean?"

- Hey, don't ask me. I just saw Esther and Manolo arguing this morning and I think Esther finally blew up and spilled the beans about some medical condition Manolo is suffering.

"So what does that have to do with Sergio?"

Well, Sergio was talking to a friend of his at the party and apparently, Esther was serving herself a drink nearby and did a bit of "eavesdropping" if you know what I mean... The long and the short of it is that Manolo was furious and the boss was worried about him taking legal action against the firm, so they decided to get rid of Sergio instead...Pretty hard to believe, isn't it?

Or is it.... This is obviously a fictional story, but it could happen to you! So keep your mouth shut and enjoy the party!