

# READING EXERCISE

## The Adventures of Lola Badiola

### CHAPTER 2: THE RESIGNATION

Lola Badiola got on the subway train, switched on her iPod and turned up the volume. It was half an hour before the start of rush hour. She was almost alone in the carriage. Once again, she thought about the coming day and wondered if there would be any trouble ahead.

She felt a little dazed. She had only slept four hours the night before. At 3am she had got out of bed and gone to her home office. She had turned on her computer, opened up the Zoom application and invited her American friend Maddy to a webinar meeting.

Maddy worked as an Executive Director at an Investment Bank in New York. They had met at university during an Erasmus exchange and become intimate friends. They were from very different backgrounds, but they shared a deep ambition to be in charge of their own destiny. Lola often called Maddy for advice and vice versa.

That night Maddy's recommendation was simple:

"Firstly, remember it's a business transaction, don't let them use personal arguments to convince you to stay.

Secondly, do not tell them where you are going, they'll give you a hundred and one reasons why it's bad idea.

Finally, and most importantly, do not change your mind. If you do, they will no longer respect you or trust you. The next time the company needs to downsize, you will be the first one out of the door.

Remember Lola, it's a dog eat dog world out there."

Lola got off the train, switched off her iPod and walked towards the concrete building of her downtown office in Madrid, still thinking about Maddy's late-night advice. Her American friend always saw the world in black and white.

Lola reached the elevators inside the company headquarters and while she was waiting, she saw the elegant figure of Mario Ruiz de Velasco entering the building. He had been CEO of the company during the last ten years of exponential growth. He wore a linen suit, a white cotton shirt and a green silk tie that perfectly matched the colour of his penetrating eyes.

Lola rode the elevator to the fourteenth floor of the building, her heart beating a little faster than normal. She arrived at her spacious office in the cybersecurity services division of the company, sat down at her desk and waited. She took a deep breath and looked at a photograph of her mother on the wall. This gave her strength.

At that time in the morning there weren't any telephones ringing, there weren't any machines buzzing, in fact there wasn't any noise at all. But slowly the building filled up.

At a quarter to nine her direct boss walked through the entrance with a porcelain cup of coffee in his hand. Lola knew what she had to do.

"Luis, I need to speak to you."

"Just a minute Lola, there's some important news about last night's DoS cyberattack."

Luis was an empathetic manager with a beautiful wife and wonderful family. He had always been good to her.

"This can't wait." Lola insisted.

Luis stopped and looked at her intensely. Lola didn't normally speak to him like this.

"Ok, follow me." he said. They walked to his corner office and he politely asked his secretary to hold all the calls.

"What's going on?" he asked.

"I'm resigning."

Lola said the words loudly and clearly without any elaboration.

And then she waited for Luis to reply.

#### **COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Approximately what time did Lola take the Metro?
2. How many hours of sleep did Lola get the previous night?
3. Where did Lola and Maddy meet?
4. Where did Maddy work and what did she do?
5. What do Lola and Maddy have in common?
6. What three pieces of advice did Maddy give to Lola?
7. What was Mario Ruiz de Velasco, the CEO of the company, wearing?
8. What division of the company did Lola work in?
9. What kind of office did Lola have?
10. What was Luis, Lola's manager, like?