

## Context:

After a viral video of a striking worker being assaulted by company security damages LoopFinance's public image, the executives are forced into a crisis-management Zoom call. Jim and Preston immediately begin blaming each other, revealing the dysfunction and insecurity underneath their authority.

Charles is the CEO of LoopFinance. In this scene, we want to see his authority completely override everyone else in the room. He begins controlled and observational, allowing Jim and Preston to expose themselves through their arguing, before finally stepping in when he has had enough.

When Charles speaks, he is calm, direct, and absolutely in control. His dominance comes from certainty rather than volume. He is practical, ruthless, and unbothered by moral framing. There is also a dry, dark sense of humour to him, which makes his threats feel even more unsettling.

This is a performance of command: Charles does not compete in the conversation, he ends it.

ON SCREEN - ZOOM CALL - DAY

Jim, Preston and LoopFinance's CEO, CHARLES, are on a Zoom call.

Charles sits in a dimly lit private library, framed like a monarch. He's a bear of a man with a powerful presence. His Zoom tile dwarves his subordinates.

Jim sits at his desk, trying to keep it together.

Preston is calling in from his office. As he speaks we notice his voice sounds thinner, lacking its usual arrogance.

PRESTON

Our stock price has been bleeding since this video went viral. It's going to take a PR miracle to clean this up. You're jeopardising everything we worked so hard to build!

Charles looks pained by that comment. He puts his face in his palm.

JIM

(defensive)

You're the one who called that psycho in the first place!

PRESTON

Because the manager of one of my branches is a beta who can't control his office. I had no choice!

JIM

You're meant to be supporting me, but everything you've told me to do has backfired!

(beat)

You... you... jerk!

Charles can't take the pathetic bickering any longer.

CHARLES

That's quite enough. Let's cut the bullshit, shall we? Jim, you're a pussy, and Preston, that degree I paid for hasn't made you half as competent as you think.

Jim looks petrified. Preston's tail goes between his legs.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

I've seen the cancerous effect of unions. They start at one office or factory and suddenly an uprising spreads quicker than my ex-wife's herpes.

Preston looks slighted.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

So before this becomes a burning, itchy mess, we need to crush their feeble minds and destroy their belief.

Charles points directly at his webcam.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

Jim, we'll be visiting the office in the next few days. And when I shake your fragile little hand, I'm either going to say, "Thanks for your service, and fuck off!"  
(leaning in, calming down)  
Or "Congratulations on the promotion". You get to choose.

JIM

But what should I do, sir?

CHARLES

The ringleaders. Set them free.

JIM

If I fire even one of them, they'll all quit.

CHARLES

I didn't say anything about firing them...

Jim and Preston look confused.