

The Assistant

featuring Ms. Smookie Bijoux



Gloria Joynt-Lang

Back in March during the COVID-19 pandemic, I hired an assistant. Because of self-isolation there were only two candidates cleared to work in my home office. I considered hiring the below candidate, however he slept through the interview.



Therefore, I was left with the only other candidate, Ms. Smookie Bijoux. Full of spunk and sass, she is far from an ideal employee. Although I find her annoying, frustrating, and challenging, my family and friends love her. If she was working for any other company, she would likely have been fired by now. But I just don't have the heart. She's got these big brown eyes and every once in while she does something sweet. I hope you appreciate her charisma and if you have any tips on how to handle a spirited employee please let me know. I'm not saying all those gray hairs popping up on my head are because of her, but I do remember a time, not so long ago, when I was a brunette.

The following pages represent a day by day account of just some of the issues that have arisen with my assistant. I have never been so thankful for the weekends.

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Unfortunately, the assistant I hired doesn't seem to take her job seriously. She's been dogging it all day.



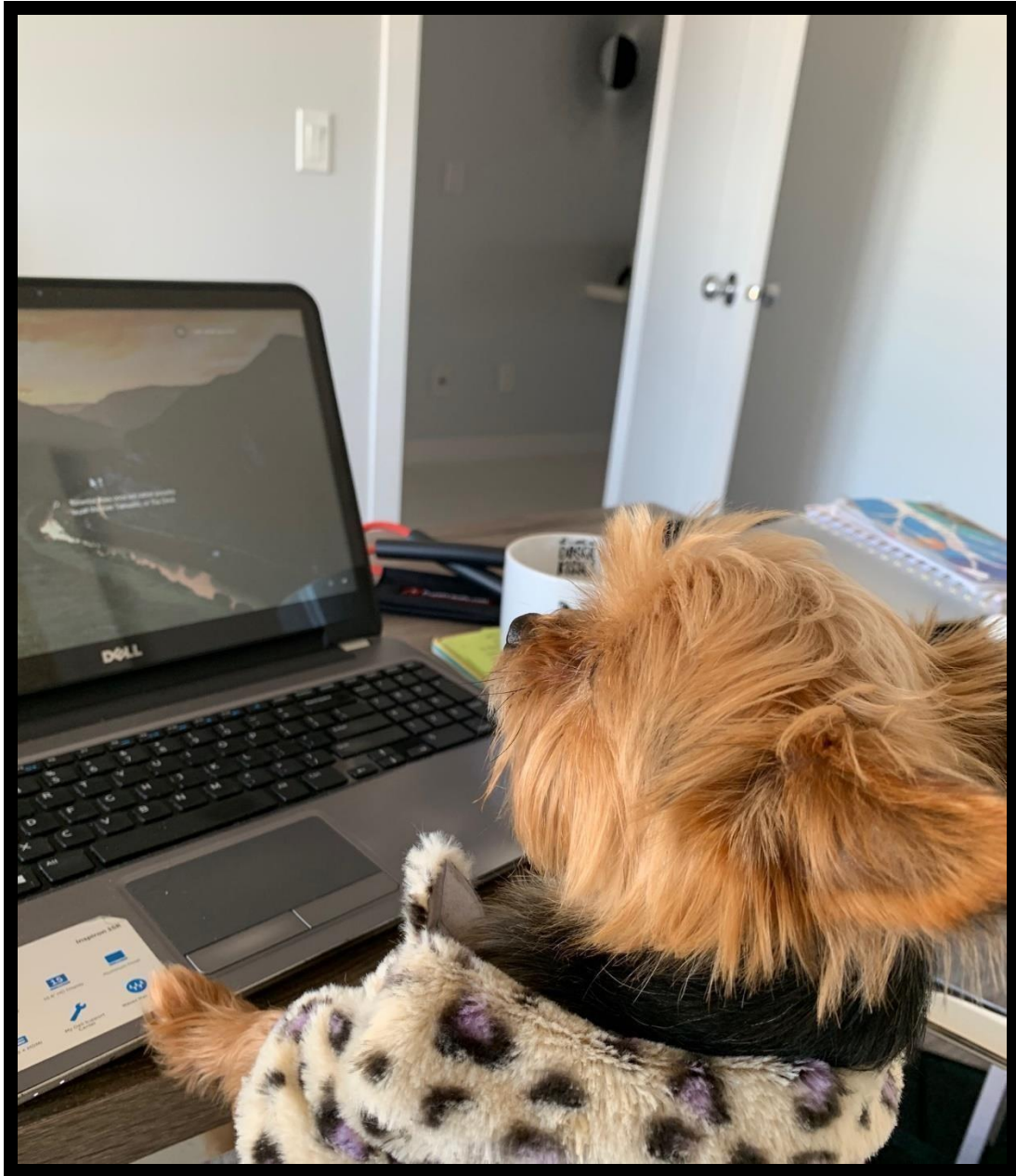
Wednesday, March 25, 2020

My assistant came to work with a better attitude today. Should I mention she forgot to wear pants? Or is that nitpicking?



Thursday, March 26, 2020

Increased my assistant's pay by 10% more kibble and found her at the office working before she had a chance to take her coat off. Still not wearing pants.



Friday, March 27, 2020

The hottie from accounting is in my office crunching numbers all day. It's no coincidence that my assistant ran home at lunch time and did her hair. Now she's prancing around my desk and not getting any work done.



Monday, March 30, 2020

My assistant dragged her sorry ass into work an hour late. Yup, definitely hungover. Another non-productive day. One might say she's as sick as a dog.



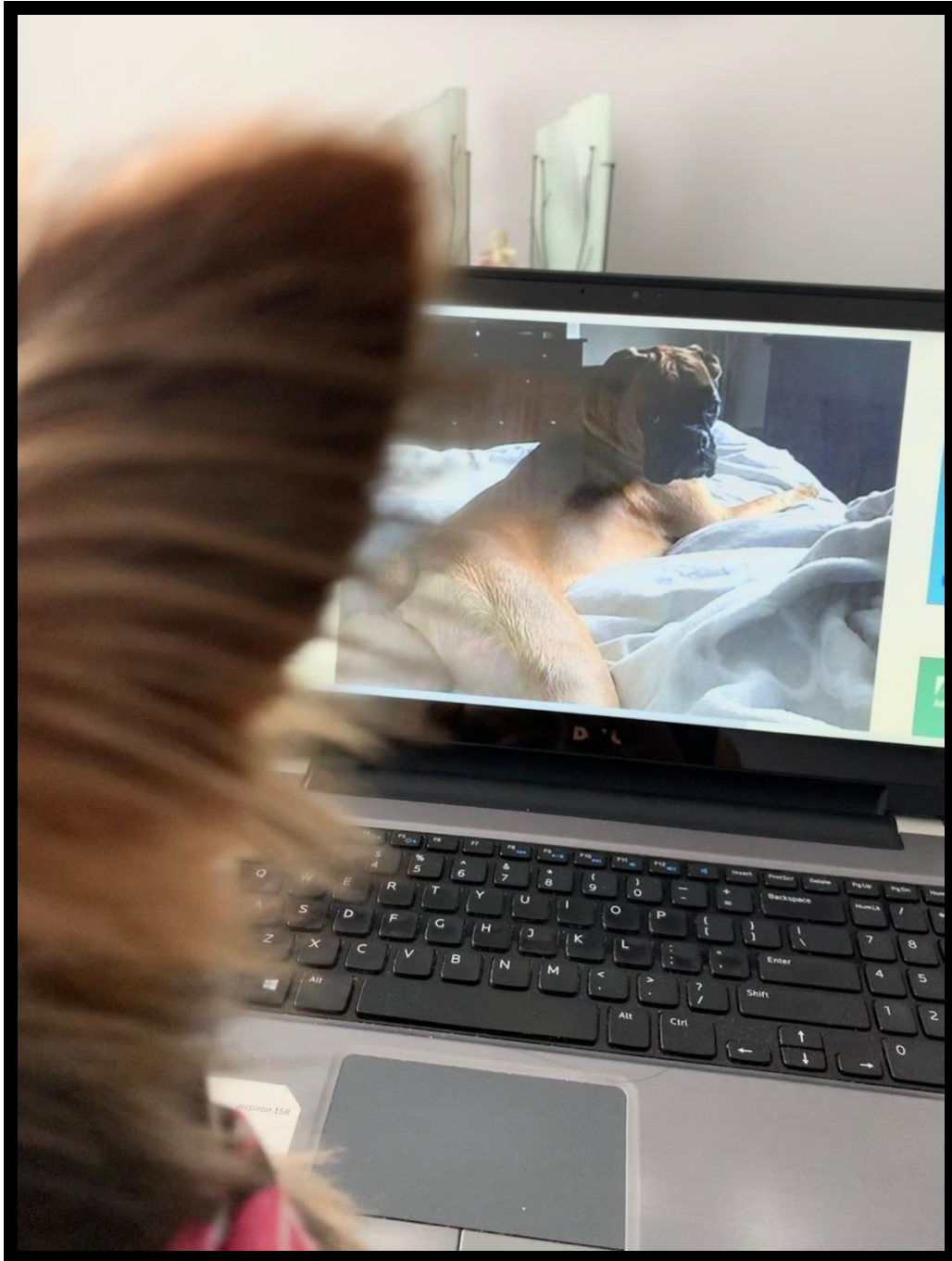
Tuesday, March 31, 2020

Found my assistant in the lunchroom eating MY breakfast. She completely ignores social norms. On the plus side she is appropriately attired, wearing a sweater dress that covers her bum.



Wednesday, April 1, 2020

I was so impressed with my assistant's dedication until I realized what she was doing on the computer. Sent her to HR for the talk.



Thursday, April 2, 2020

Today during an important meeting, my assistant jumped up on a client's lap and licked him. I was utterly horrified. On a side note, we did get the account.



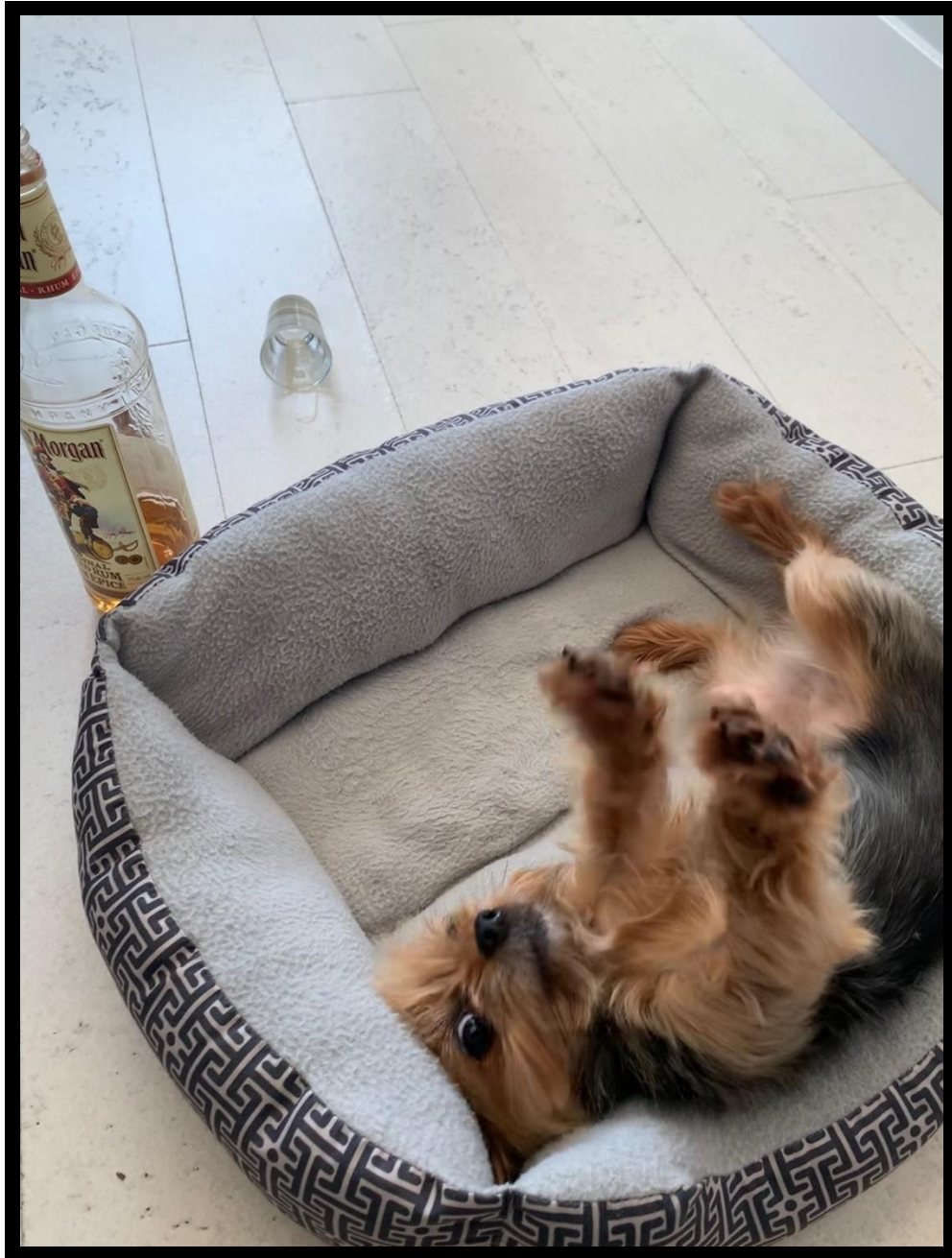
Friday, April 3, 2020

Went to check on my assistant to see how she was doing on the project I gave her. Found her in the cubicle shaving her legs. Geez, who does that? Decided not to say anything because she did complete the assignment. Just won't be setting my coffee cup down in her workspace.



Monday, April 6, 2020

My assistant was frustrated preparing the upcoming budget. She left and mumbled something about Morgan. I assumed she was talking about getting advice from the guy in accounting. Found her in the break room sprawled out naked on the floor and giggling.



Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Feeling bad about yesterday's drinking incident, my assistant offered to clean my office. She did a great job EXCEPT for changing the photos on my desk.



Wednesday, April 8, 2020

Curious about how my assistant got the job, I went to HR and pulled out her resume. I have so many questions.



Resume

Ms. Smookie Bijoux (a.k.a Ms. Furbulous)

Best Qualities: stubborn, feisty, and domineering (but all in a good way)

Experience:

Casual security guard

Worked mainly from home - guarding the house and the yard.

Personal Companion

Main duties consisted of following the boss.

Lap Artist

(don't ask)

Education:

Basic obedience, remedial obedienc x2, and the "why can't you get this" class

Thursday, April 9, 2020

My assistant followed me into the executive restroom to tell me about her date last night. I was flabbergasted not only by the invasion of privacy but also by her oversharing. The girl knows no boundaries.



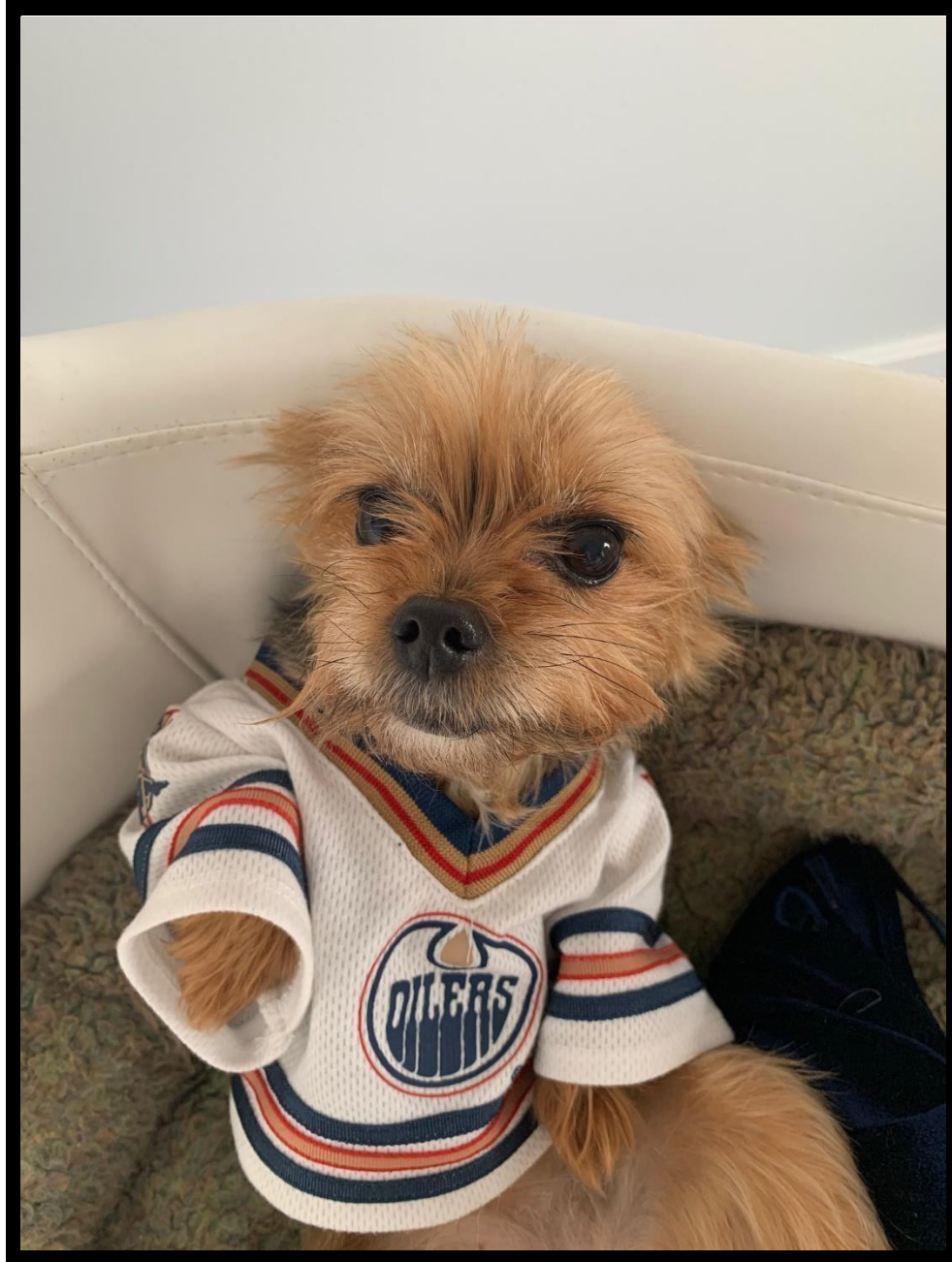
Monday, April 13, 2020

Asked my assistant what's up with the bandana on her head. "Bad hair day," she replied and then handed me a scarf.



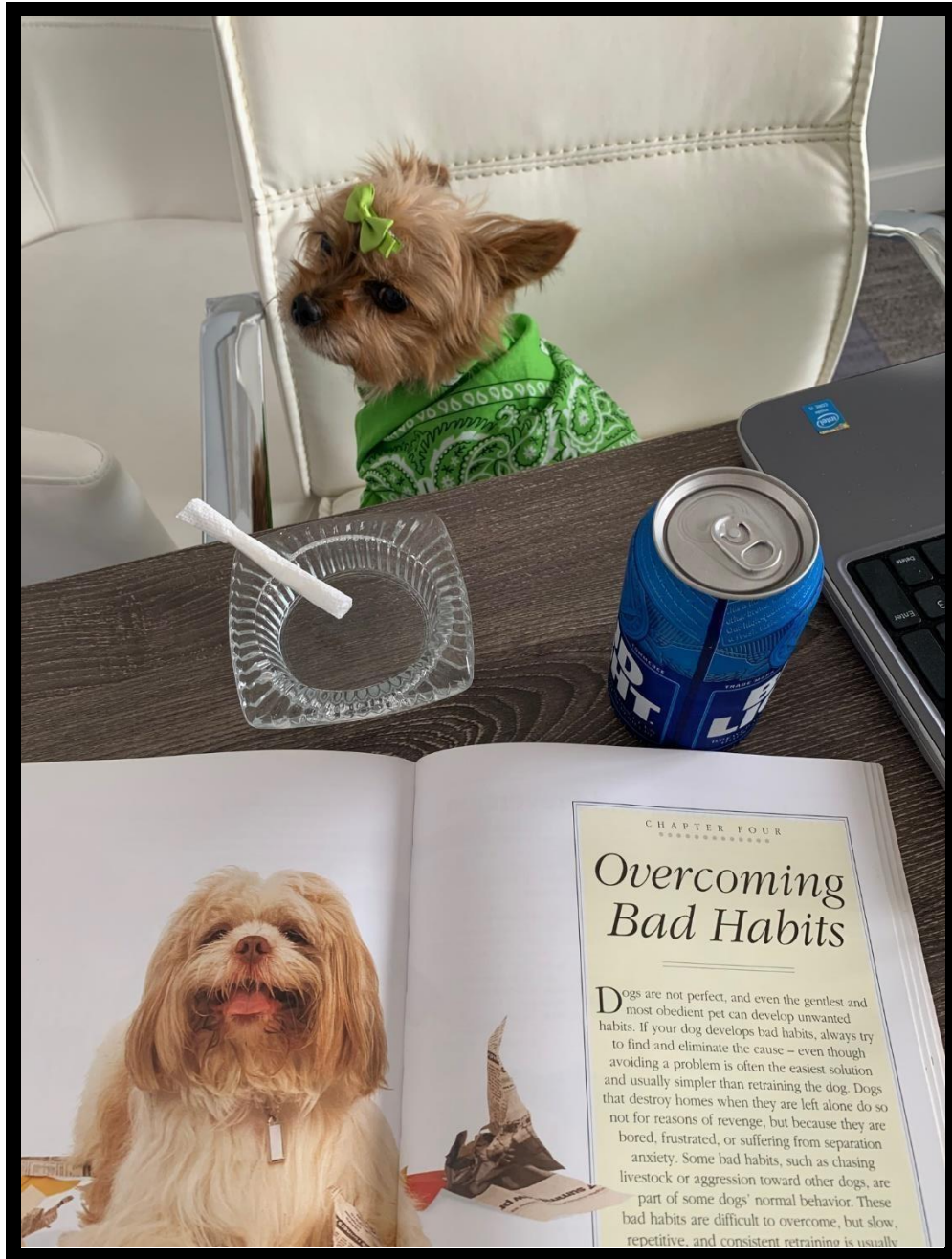
Tuesday, April 14, 2020

My assistant came to work full of energy and in a great mood. “It’s game day,” she kept yelling to all who walked by her cubicle. I didn’t have the heart to tell her tonight’s NHL hockey game is a rebroadcast from 2017.



Wednesday, April 15, 2020

During yesterday's meeting with HR, my assistant vowed to make changes. I'm guessing progress will be slow.



Thursday, March 16, 2020

Not only did my assistant spread her lunch all over my desk, but it had to be salmon and potato. Now my office smells of fish. Guess I should be thankful she's not enjoying a liquid lunch...YET.



Friday, April 17, 2020

Looked all over the place for my assistant. Finally found her in the yoga studio. She has perfected *downward dog*.



Tuesday, April 21, 2020

I'm a bit worried about my assistant. It's normal for her to chew with her mouth open, but now she's eating off the floor. I'm going to buy her some dishes as a gift. I hope she won't be offended.



Wednesday, April 22, 2020 My assistant must have overheard me talking to HR about my concerns with her eating her lunch off the floor. Not only did she bring in her own set of dishes to the office today, she also gifted me with a coffee mug.



Thursday, April 23, 2020

My assistant is using her cubicle for activities that are NOT work related. Guess I should be thankful it wasn't my office...this time.



Friday, April 24, 2020

Found my assistant in the lobby. She alleges she was pruning the flowers, which, incidentally, are fake. Claims the martini glass must belong to one of the guys in shipping and receiving.



Monday, April 27, 2020

My assistant brought me a gift today. Although I suspect she might have raided the executive restroom, I'm sure she paid for the bow.



Tuesday, April 28, 2020

My assistant had the nerve to stick out her tongue when I told her to get back to work after a two-hour coffee break. She says reading helps to strengthen her brain and makes her more productive. Valid point but it only works when you actually open a book. She then blamed the author for having a cover that distracted her.



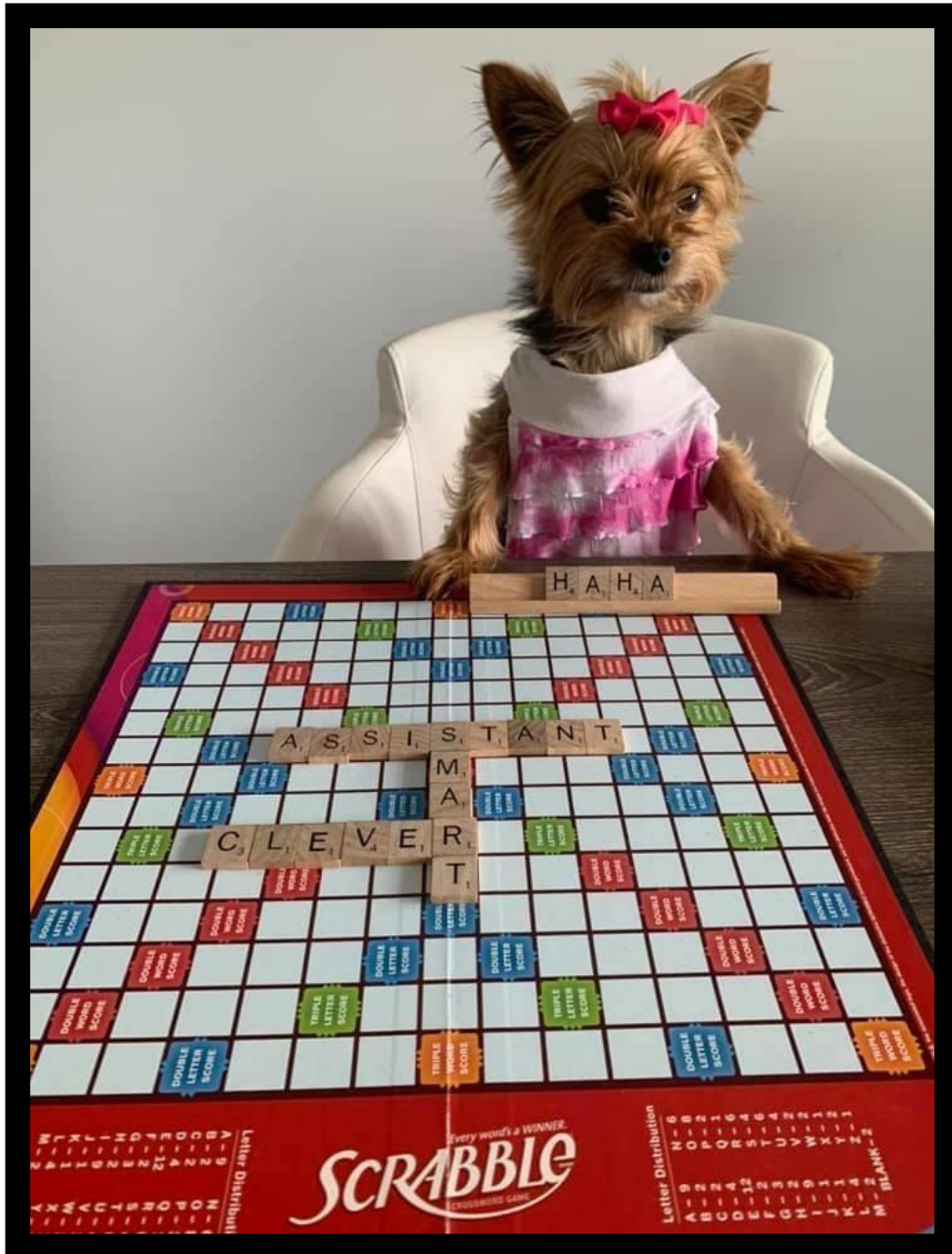
Wednesday, April 29, 2020

My assistant gathered the entire team into the break room to watch the game. Although most of us realized it was the Great One vs the Great 8 showcase (i.e. Gretzky and Ovechkin playing a video game), we did enjoy a great game of hockey and the Oiler win. Kudos to my assistant for her leadership skills.



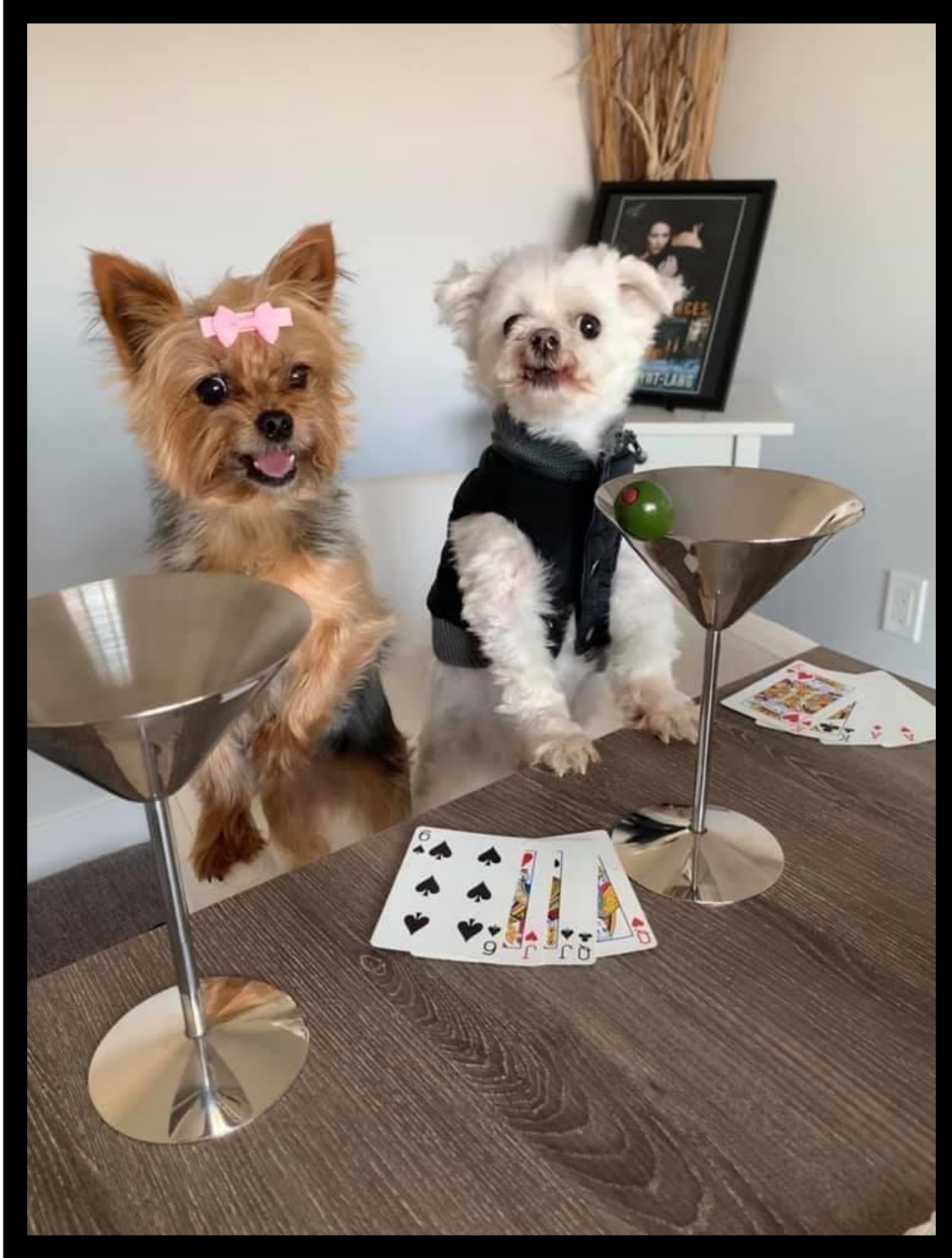
Thursday, April 30, 2020

My Assistant was on yet another long break. Today she's playing Scrabble with the guy from accounting. He might be good with numbers but she's better at words.



Friday, May 1, 2020

My assistant volunteered to work late and catch up on her assignments. None too impressed when I returned to the office and found her guzzling martinis and playing strip poker in my office with the guy from accounting.



Monday, May 4, 2020

Not sure what's up with my assistant.

Is she hung over?

Is she hiding from someone?

Or did she just get back from a weekend in Monaco? Whatever it is, I'm just glad to see her working.



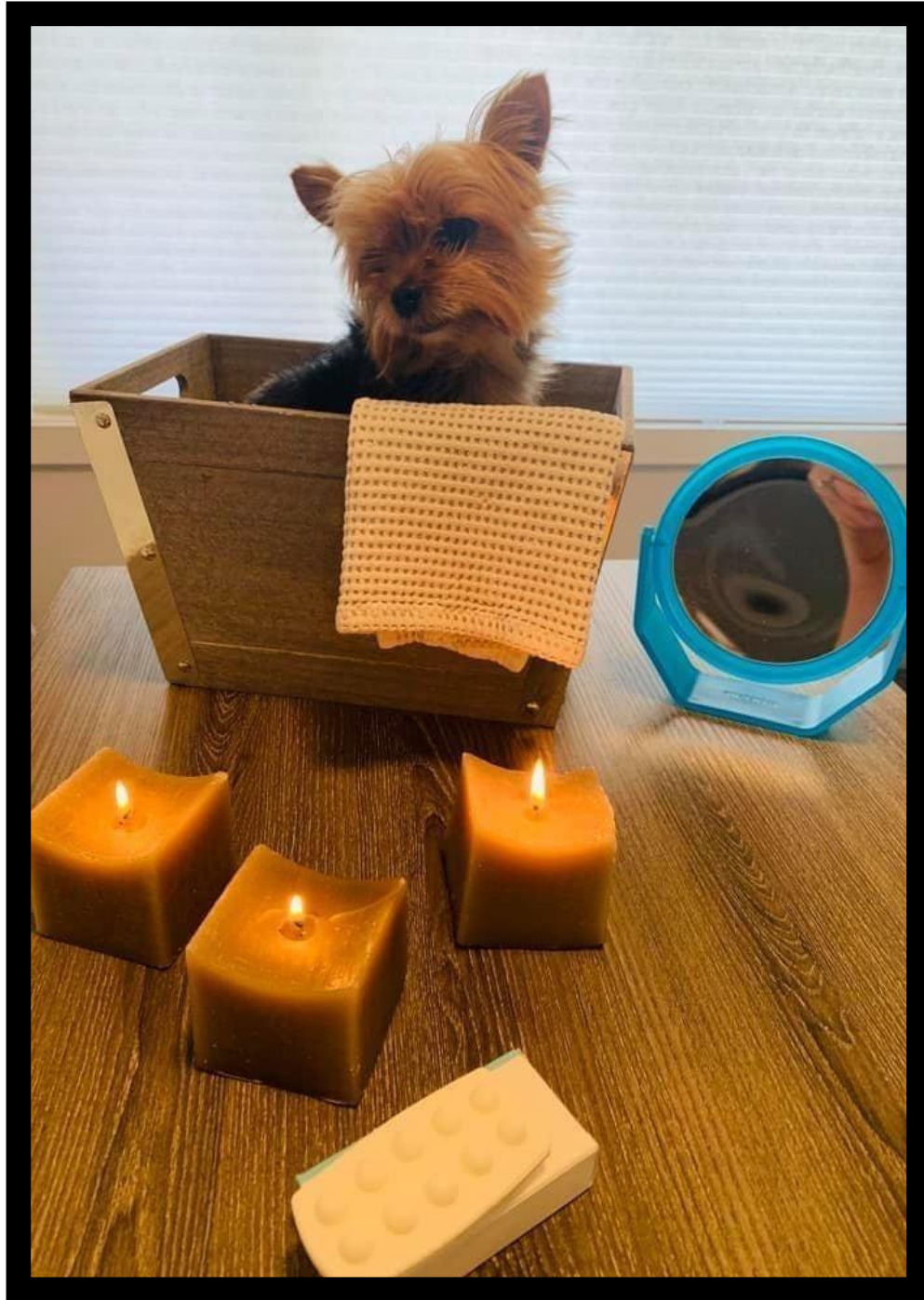
Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Using her not too subtle ways, my assistant is knitting a blanket because she finds it cold in the office. Perhaps if she wore pants, she would be warm.



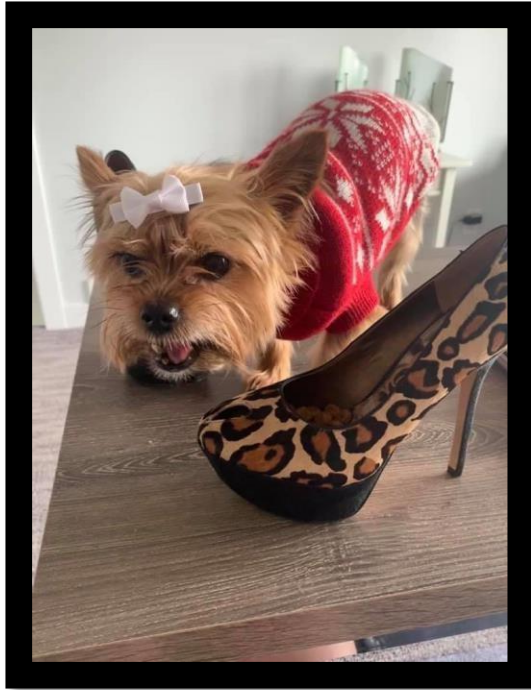
Wednesday, May 6, 2020

When I discreetly took my assistant aside to talk about her hygiene (apparently she washes only twice a month), I hadn't meant for her bathe at the office...and out in the open.



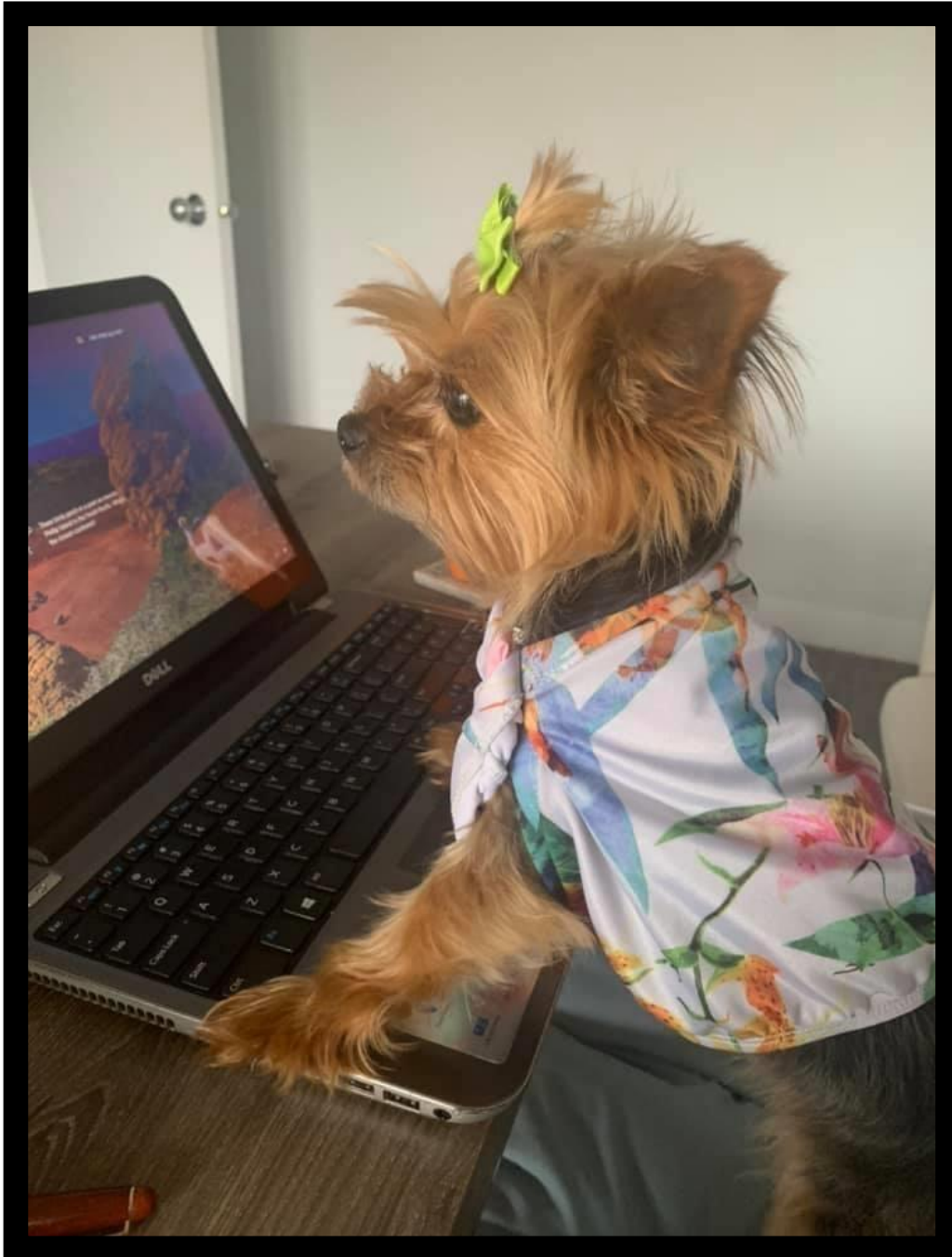
Thursday, May 7, 2020

Upon returning to my office after a lunch hour yoga session, I found my assistant in my office. Not only was she using my coat to nap on, she also was eating her snacks out of my shoes. Obviously, boundaries remain an issue for her.



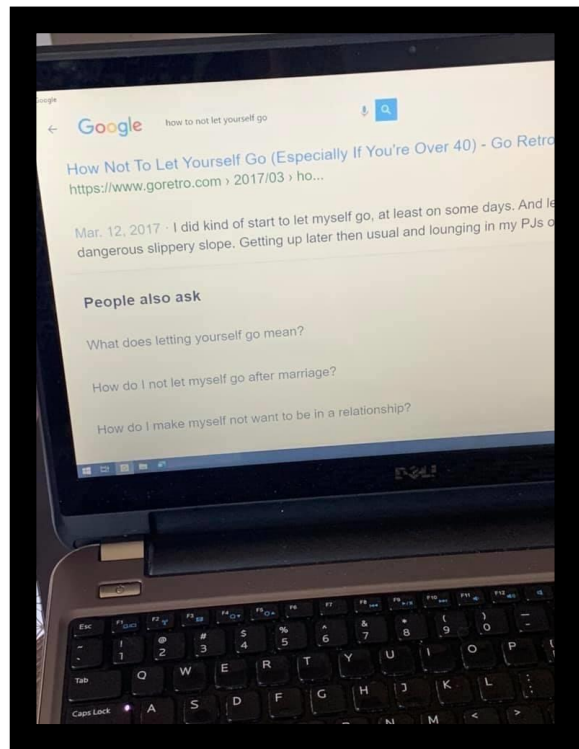
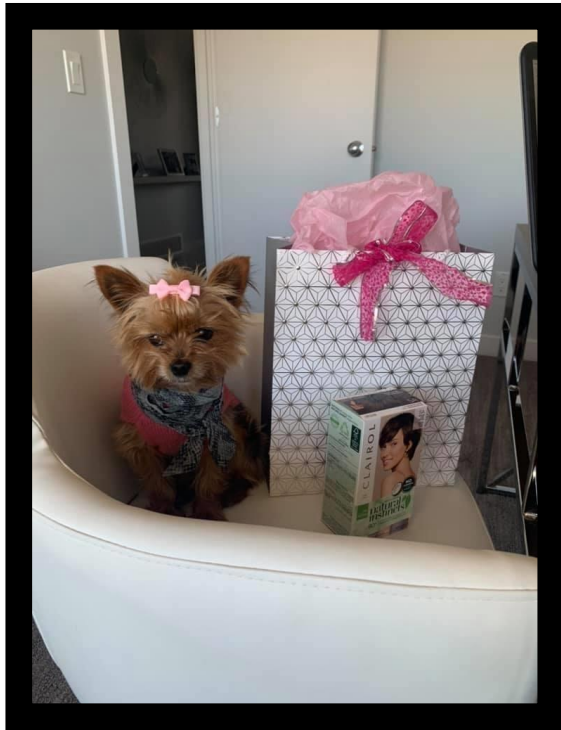
Friday, May 8, 2020

It's Friday. The day my assistant normally slacks off. But today she's working. Really working. There's not even a hint of Baileys in her coffee cup. Announcing an employee of the month program appears to be a good move.



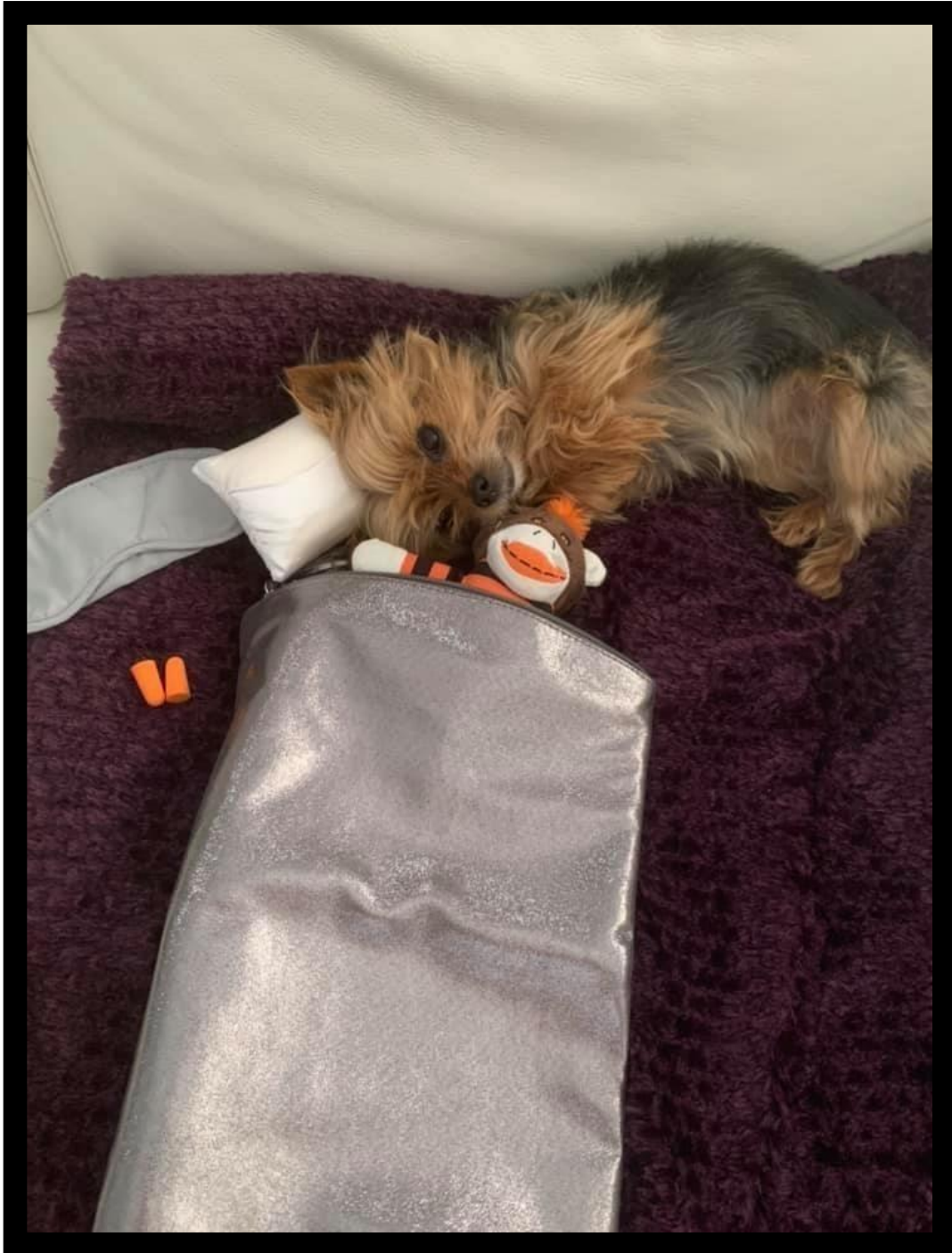
Monday, May 11, 2020

My assistant brought me a gift and also started up my computer this morning. I decided to be flattered that she thinks I may still be in my forties.



Tuesday, May 12, 2020

My assistant slept at the office last night. Either she is taking this employee of the month seriously or she ended up getting evicted for growling at the landlord.



Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Caught my assistant trying to take the company vehicle. She claims she had an urgent matter to attend to. Now I'm stuck driving her because 1) it's urgent (or so she says), 2) she has no license, and 3) she can't reach the peddles.



Thursday, May 14, 2020

Yesterday I wasted half a day taking my Assistant to an “urgent” appointment. I was seriously worried about her. Today, I found out she went to the spa to have her nails and hair done. I had a few choice words with her and now she’s staying in her cubicle as opposed to bouncing around the office socializing. And yes, I know her pedicure looks great, but that’s not the point.



Friday, May 15, 2020

Having been banned from the executive washroom for spending too much time in front of the mirror (and for not being an executive), my assistant brought her own mirror to her cubicle. Now she's spending the day admiring her new haircut and letting the work pile up.



Tuesday, May 19, 2020

I'm not upset that my assistant spent two hours at the company gym (I'm used to her sauntering into the office late), but did she really have to show up in a towel? Guess I should be grateful she showered this time.



Wednesday, May 20, 2020

My assistant called me to come meet her in the garage. Fearing she was planning to drive one of the company vehicles, I rushed over. To my surprise, she had snuck in and placed this sign in front of the man cave signage our male co-workers put up. Although I don't approve of day drinking, I did have to toast her clever tactics. Major points to my assistant. The girl is fearless.



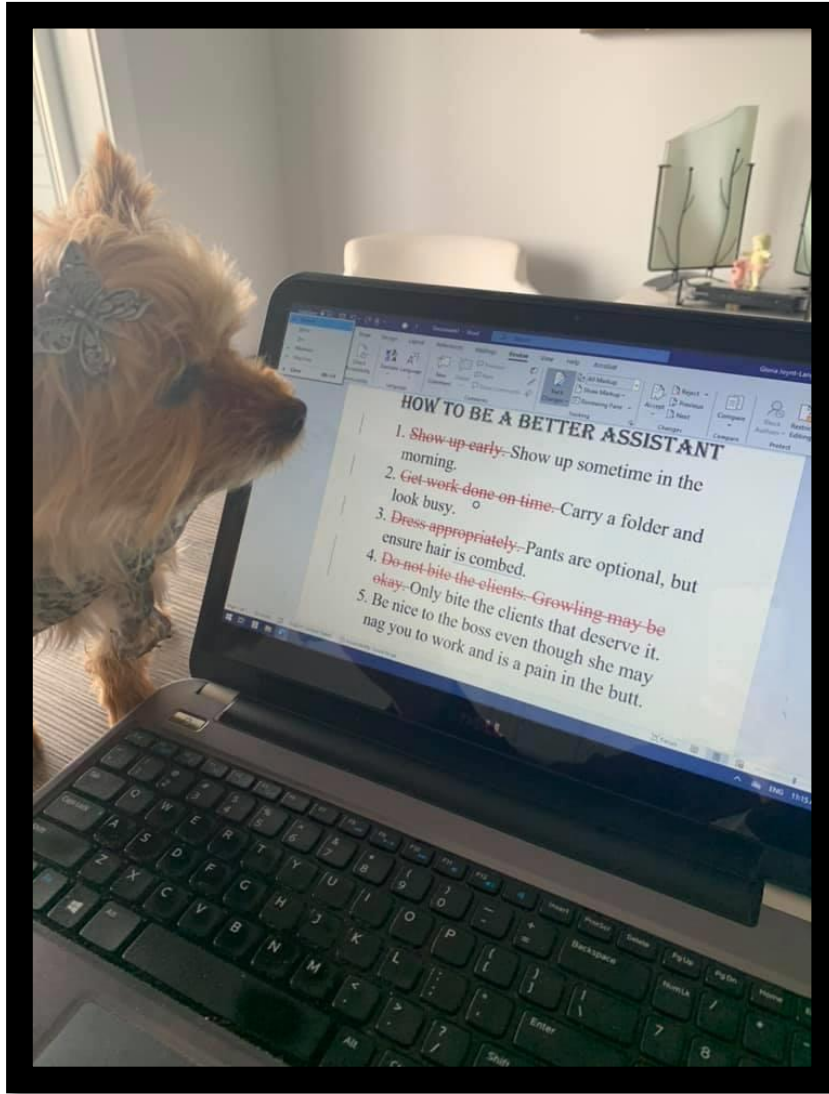
Thursday, May 21, 2020

Found out my assistant hides food, drink, and unfinished paperwork under her desk. All this time, I thought she had completed her projects and sent them off to administration for filing. She's going to have some long days ahead getting caught up.



Friday, May 22, 2020

Although I may not entirely agree with this list, my assistant is making an effort to improve.



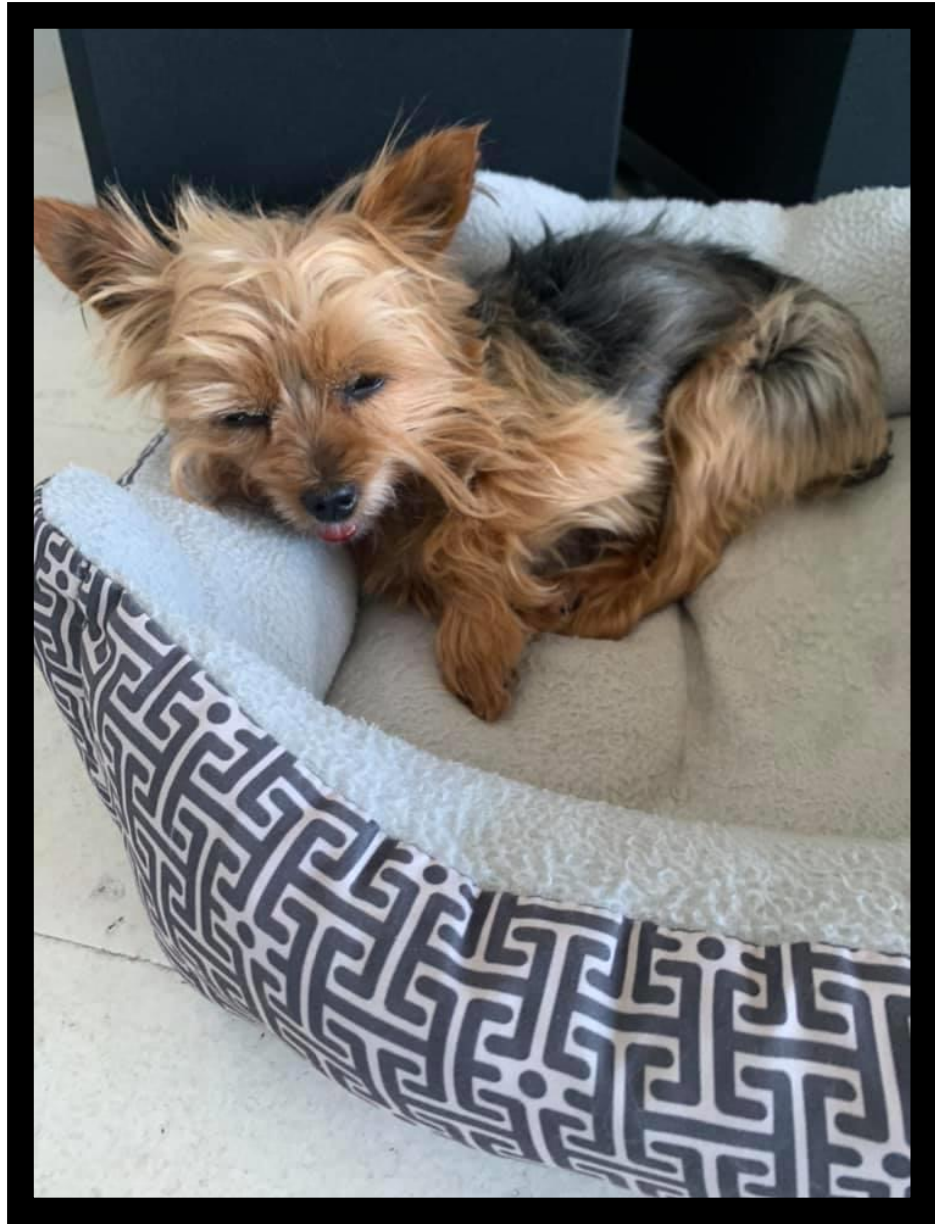
Monday, May 25, 2020

My assistant volunteered to accompany me on an offsite meeting. After months of being stuck at corporate headquarters, she is thrilled to work in the field. She's acing sticking her head out the window and panting, although I'm not sure if that's a transferable skill.



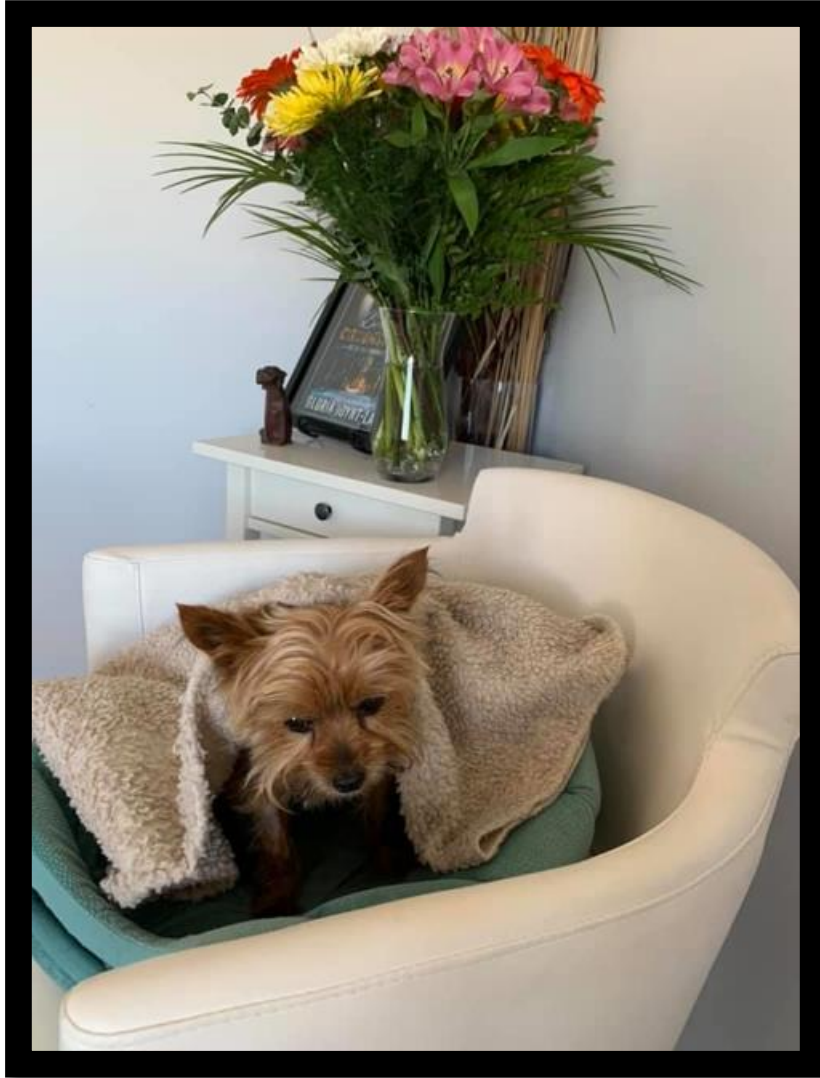
Tuesday, May 26, 2020

My assistant took the day off due to a dental appointment. She ended up having 34 teeth removed. She is now recuperating. Thanks to some good meds, she is feeling no pain.



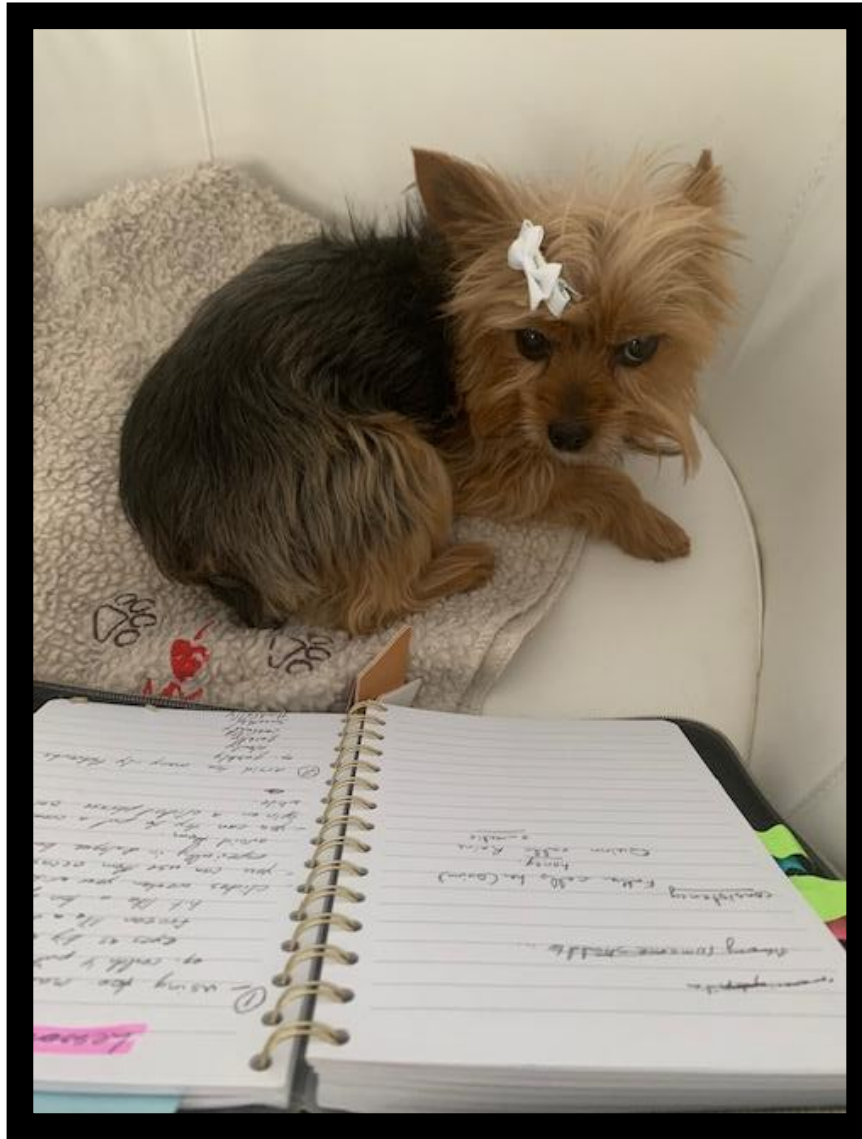
Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Although I told her to take time off after her dental surgery, my assistant decided to show up for work. I think she doesn't like being alone when she's feeling under the weather. Her glazed look is due to the pain meds. I can't believe I'm saying this, but I miss her sassy attitude.



Thursday, May 28, 2020

My assistant is feeling much better today. Her hair is nicely coiffed and she ran to the office window to growl and the neighbor's assistant. She's not in the mood for Spike's perkiness. He had the nerve to chase a ball.



Friday, May 29, 2020

Located my assistant on the patio having a mid-day drink (i.e. a liquid lunch) with the guy from accounting. From the look on his face, my assistant might have shared her pain meds with him. Not sure when Casual Fridays became clothing optional.



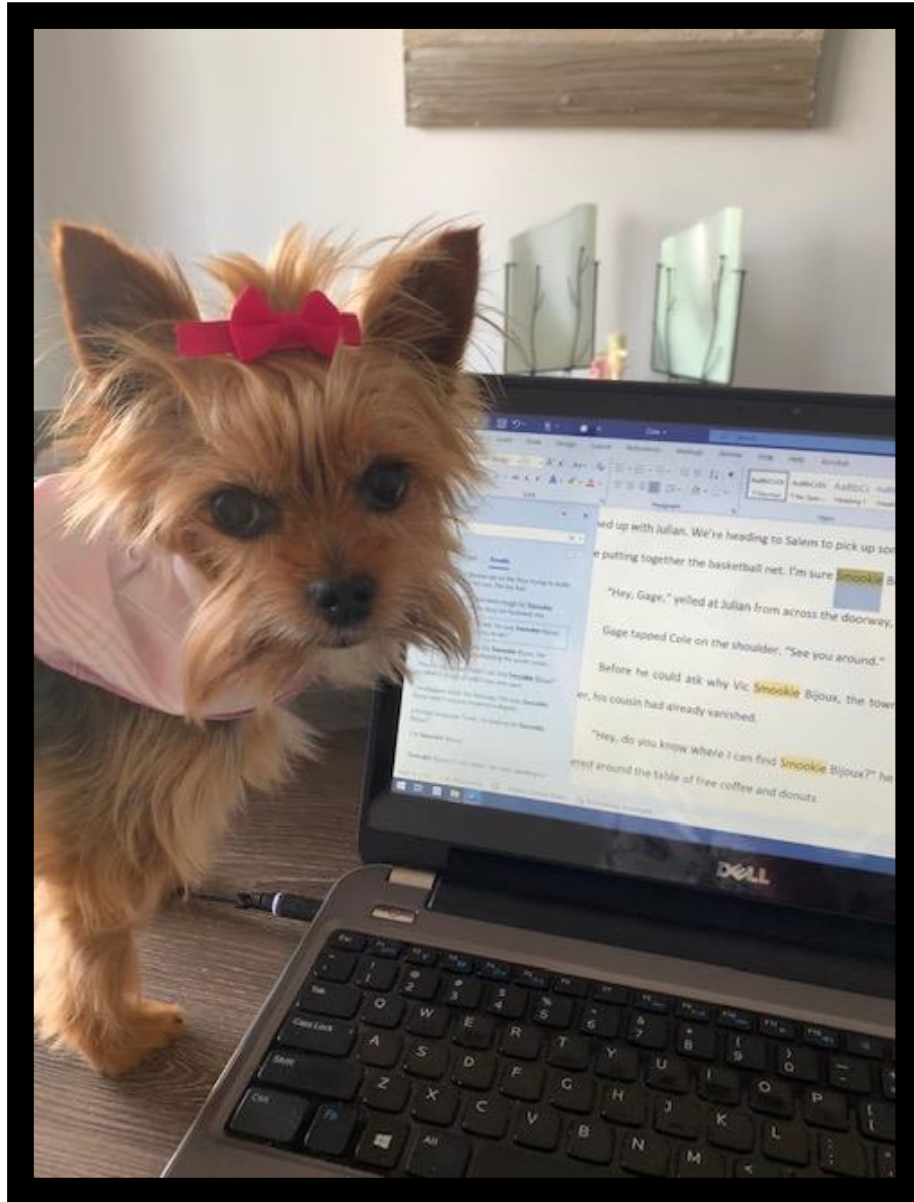
Monday, June 1, 2020

Thirty days ago, I caught my assistant drinking in my office and playing strip poker with the guy from accounting. From there she proceeded to eat out of my shoe, hide uncompleted work assignments, and break every imaginable rule of office etiquette. Miraculously she turned things around. She volunteered to work in the field, she stayed late to catch up on outstanding projects, and returned to work early after major surgery. Today, I am pleased to announce Ms. Smookie Bijoux as Employee of the Month. With the designation comes her own parking spot. It's a shame she doesn't have a car, although with her resourcefulness, I'm sure she'll rent out the stall. From the company's catalogue of gifts, she picked an aluminum set of luggage. She loves to fly and hopefully someday soon, she'll get an opportunity to use her suitcase, or use it to discreetly carry her flask of whiskey to the office.



Tuesday, June 2, 2020

My assistant replaced the name of my main character in my WIP with her own. All 53 times! I appreciate her invaluable input with my canine characters, but I refuse to make her the center of this novel.



Wednesday, June 3, 2020

Repeatedly told my assistant that her services were not required at my business lunch. Unbeknownst to me, she hopped into my purse and came along. She ordered the most expensive meal on the menu knowing the client would be picking up the tab. No food was wasted as she insisted on taking a doggie bag home. Fortunately, the client got a kick out of her antics and personally invited her to next week's lunch.



Thursday, June 4, 2020

I expected my assistant to download reading material when I asked her to do some research. I just wasn't expecting this.



Friday, June 5, 2020

Asked my assistant to help clean the office. She surprised me when she barked NO. Apparently, she has 'history' with the vacuum cleaner. (No idea what that means.) Sent her to do light dusting in the lobby. She ran off eager not knowing I locked the lobby's liquor cabinet.



CHECK BACK LATER FOR THE CONTINUED STORY OF THE ASSISTANT