

A graceful exit

Written by Julie Desmond
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Jordynne caught her supervisor walking down the hall after lunch last week. She asked, “Do you have a minute to talk?” As they headed toward an open conference room, he said, “This is a bad news walk, isn’t it?” Jordynne tried to talk, but just nodded instead. Then she explained that she had been wanting to try a different kind of work, and had found something that felt like the right next step. It was a tough decision, she said, and it was going to be hard to leave the place she’d worked happily and successfully for two years.

Jordynne offered to give two weeks’ notice, but as often happens, her employer has a policy of no notice, meaning this was Jordynne’s last day. As she quietly cleaned out her desk, co-workers stopped by to say goodbye, to wish her well, to remind her to keep in touch. The owner of the company stopped by to remind her she’d always be welcome back.

Other people leaving the same company have left with the heat of bridges burning at their backs. The reason Jordynne’s experience was so much more positive is probably because of who she is and how she approaches her work and her co-workers.

Jordynne is reliable: she arrives on time and keeps her commitments. If you ask her to meet you somewhere, plan an event or complete a project, she does it. As promised and on time.

She is consistent: her performance is superior to that of others on the team simply because it is the same all the time - methodical, thorough, thoughtful. She has challenges and stressful days like everyone else, but she drives straight ahead, no melodrama or excuses, consistently completing quality work.

Let’s be honest. In addition to all the professional attributes people like Jordynne have mastered, it helps to be friendly and fun to be around. Jordynne takes her work seriously, but never takes herself too seriously. A quick smile, a loud laugh, a joke at her own expense is exactly what she brings to the table every time.

Whether this is day ten or year ten on the job, chances are good that you will, at some point, leave the position you have. You will say goodbye to co-workers and let the door close behind you for the last time. Question is, what will that day be like for you? How will you be sure it goes the way you envision it, rather than going horribly wrong?

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