

The Company Therapist Protozoa Pilot Episode

By

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**Pipsqueak Productions
415/668-4372**

Sylvia Bows, Session Two

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CONFORMING

The viewer of this entertainment uses a browser connected to a web site. On screen, we see two lighted office windows. Doctor Balis is mostly in shadow, obscured behind shutters, although his arm is occasionally visible. When Sylvia Bows is in the room, she is performed as a digital "puppet" character animated by Protozoa. The background and the digital puppet are part of an initial download. The audio portion is streamed--downloaded as it plays--together with the information necessary to direct the movements of the digital character.

INTRODUCTORY SEQUENCE

The title music is the song "Twisted."

SINGER

My analyst told me that I was right out
of my head. Said that I'd need
treatment, but I'm not that easily led.
He said...

MUSIC CONTINUES

DR. BALIS

I'm Doctor Charles Balis and I'm a
psychiatrist.

SINGER

...be out of my mind and he thought I was
nuts. No more ifs or ands or buts, oh
no...

MUSIC CONTINUES

DR. BALIS

When I finished at Columbia and decided
to set up solo practice in San Francisco,
I was a bit nervous. So I sold the
majority of my time to an HMO--CalaCare.
There's health care and then there's
CalaCare...that's their slogan. Anyway,
CalaCare made me the treating
psychiatrist for Silicon Impressions Inc--
S.I.I.--a large computer software and
hardware company based here in San
Francisco. When I began, I thought
S.I.I. would be just like any other
company. I had no idea just how much
they needed my services. I'm the Company
Therapist. These are my files.

SINGER

My analyst told me that I was right out
of my head.

(MORE)

SINGER (cont'd)

The way he described it, he said I'd be better dead than live. I didn't listen to his jive. I knew all along he was all wrong and I knew that he thought I was crazy but I'm not, oh no.

INT. DAY - DR. BALIS' OFFICE

DR. BALIS is a psychiatrist practicing primarily with patients from a large computer company, Silicon Impressions Inc. of San Francisco. He is narrating from his notes.

DR. BALIS

Sylvia Bows is a thirty-eight year old vice president of Silicon Impressions Inc. She's smart, tough, and controlling. For the last two years, she's been trying to get pregnant by her husband Tom, without success. She sought my help last week after she found out the reason why--Tom had a secret vasectomy two years ago. When I first saw her, Sylvia was suffering from anxiety attacks, dizziness, and insomnia, together with an elevated pulse and rapid respiration. She also had severe stomach aches. Her emotional state was unstable. She admitted that she wasn't thinking rationally and described her sense of rage as "murderous". I prescribed Zoloft, 50 milligrams b.i.d.

INT. DAY - DR. BALIS' OFFICE

SYLVIA BOWS is an attractive thirty-eight year old woman, strong and self-possessed, with perhaps a trace of a French accent. She is elegantly dressed in a fancy blouse that is unbuttoned too far for modesty. She is not wearing a bra. She's also wearing an unbuttoned red suit jacket. She sits on a chair directly in front of Dr. Balis' desk.

MS. BOWS

Hello, Doctor.

DR. BALIS

Sylvia. Please sit down. So, how were the last couple of days on Zoloft?

MS. BOWS

I'm sleeping a lot better. I'm also feeling more together at work.

DR. BALIS

Uh huh.

MS. BOWS

My concentration is a lot better.

DR. BALIS

Good. Sounds like Zoloft is working for you.

MS. BOWS

Somewhat. I feel this strange separation between my emotions and...I'm not sure how to put this. I feel like I'm observing myself from the side. I'm not sure I like that. But I do like getting a little control over my life. I went to see a lawyer.

DR. BALIS

Oh?

MS. BOWS

I just needed to know my options.

DR. BALIS

And?

MS. BOWS

Let's not talk about that right now.

DR. BALIS

Okay, we can come back to it. We were discussing your thoughts about why Tom had a secret vasectomy. You mentioned that even though you'd been working for two years to get pregnant, Tom is now taking the position that he had the vasectomy for your benefit.

MS. BOWS

Yes. Isn't that interesting?

DR. BALIS

Hmm.

MS. BOWS

Tom's been talking with my mother. Telling her how he is just trying to protect me from myself. That I'm really too old to have children now and he doesn't want me to go through what his sister did. She got pregnant at thirty-eight and about five months into it found out that it was a Down's syndrome kid.

(MORE)

MS. BOWS (cont'd)

She had an abortion and a nervous breakdown. She lost her job. And now she and Kent might split up. So you can see how my mother could easily transfer Tom's sister's situation onto me. He's so good at convincing everyone that he's right. I think that's his major talent.

DR. BALIS

Did you speak with your mother?

MS. BOWS

I tried. We spoke about a week ago. But you saw me last week. I was too angry to convince anyone of anything, especially my mother. Maybe in my new Zoloft state, I'll be better at it. I'm certainly surprising Tom.

DR. BALIS

How so?

MS. BOWS

Oh, in different ways. I don't break down during our conversations. In fact, when I talk with him now, I'm the ice queen. I get so cold he actually starts to get emotional. I think I'm getting him worried. He probably thought that he'd be able to talk his way out of this and ride it through. He was figuring he'd come out on top.

DR. BALIS

What do you mean by "on top?"

MS. BOWS

Winning has always been very important to Tom. Being the best at everything. He graduated at the top of his class from Columbia. Then he went on and got his MBA with honors. We met in New York. He was in the last year of his MBA, and I was finishing up my double degree in journalism and psychology at NYU. We were both driven perfectionists. We both wanted to be the best. I guess it was then we decided not to have children-- they would have interfered with the lifestyle we envisioned for ourselves. Now it all seems so selfish.

DR. BALIS

You think Tom sees your current crisis as a couple as something that he needs to win--like there's a winner and a loser?

MS. BOWS

You're beginning to understand him. That's definitely what he thinks. His poor wife had temporary delusions about parenthood and children. He was there to prevent a terrible mistake. And now his job is to get me over this unfortunate emotional episode and back to normal again. And all of this with a minimum of interruptions to his busy work schedule. I don't think so.

DR. BALIS

What do you mean?

MS. BOWS

Nothing, Doctor. I'm just talking.

DR. BALIS

You mentioned that you're getting Tom to be emotional.

MS. BOWS

Yeah, that surprised me. It's like he has to be emotional because I'm not--an emotional counterweight or something. Last night, when I came home from work, he was there. But this time, I was civil to him. I said hello, asked if he'd had dinner yet. I was able to maintain my cool and distance myself enough from my emotions and feelings not to show them to Tom. He didn't know how to take it. Then I took a long bath. I left the door open. I wanted Tom to see me naked. I'm not sure why I did it. And even though I didn't actually catch him, it felt really good to know that he was looking at me. I know he was. Then I just wore this light cotton nightgown to bed. Nothing else. I knew it would turn Tom on to see me in it. I wanted him to want me a lot.

DR. BALIS

How did Tom react?

MS. BOWS

He noticed. But he didn't touch me. Needless to say, we stopped having sex when I found out about his indiscretions with the urologist. This morning, I got dressed in front of him. I gave him the whole show. He kept pretending that everything was as usual. But he was looking. I could see him from the corner of my eyes in the mirror. I took off my nightgown by letting it drop at my feet and I got into the shower. When I came out, I methodically dried myself with a towel, bending down and stretching to carefully absorb every drop. Then I walked into our bedroom and put cream on my arms, legs, and thighs. I put on a very sexy pair of underwear. With all the weight I've lost, it looks really great on me now. I don't know if you can tell, Doctor, but I am not wearing a bra. Tom knows. I know he was shocked that I'd go to work like this. But he didn't dare say a word. I wished him a good day and left.

DR. BALIS

Why do you think you put on a show for Tom?

MS. BOWS

I wanted him to want me. To want me and not be able to have me. I want him to think of me all day today. I want him to go crazy and lose his concentration. I want to feel on top for awhile.

DR. BALIS

Do you feel like you're on top?

MS. BOWS

Yes, Doctor. More than you might think.

DR. BALIS

What do you mean?

MS. BOWS

I didn't go to work today.

DR. BALIS

I thought you had meetings all day today. We even had problems scheduling time for this appointment.

MS. BOWS
I canceled my meetings this morning.

DR. BALIS
Why?

MS. BOWS
I met someone.

DR. BALIS
Today? This morning?

MS. BOWS
Yes.

DR. BALIS
Where?

MS. BOWS
At Starbucks, down the street. I went there before work for a cappuccino.

DR. BALIS
And?

MS. BOWS
He had an espresso.

DR. BALIS
Are you reluctant to talk about this, Sylvia?

MS. BOWS
I guess I am. A little. Richard and I shared a table. I saw him sitting alone and invited myself to join him. He said that he was surprised but delighted.

DR. BALIS
Why?

MS. BOWS
He works for S.I.I., too. We've seen each other around the building, and I apparently have a reputation for being a bit standoffish. All business. So when I asked his permission to join him, he was...

DR. BALIS
Surprised.

MS. BOWS

Yes.

DR. BALIS

You said you didn't go to work today.

MS. BOWS

Richard and I spent the rest of the morning together. Richard also noticed that I wasn't wearing a bra. Do you think I have nice breasts?

DR. BALIS

I really couldn't say. I haven't been looking at your chest.

MS. BOWS

I don't believe you, Doctor. From where you're sitting you should be able to see a part of my left nipple. Before I came into your office, I made sure you could. And I've seen you look.

DR. BALIS

Ms. Bows, are you sure you're feeling all right?

MS. BOWS

In some ways, Doctor, I've never felt better. Would you like to know what happened next?

DR. BALIS

What do you mean?

MS. BOWS

Richard and I got our drinks to go and went back to his place. Should I go on?

DR. BALIS

If you like.

MS. BOWS

Richard has a beautiful body. He reminds me of Tom about ten years ago. He made me feel beautiful, and sexy, and very desired. Do you think it was wrong of me?

DR. BALIS

It's not my job to judge your actions, Sylvia.

(MORE)

DR. BALIS (cont'd)

But I am concerned over what seems to be a major change in your behavior since you started taking this medication. Maybe we should adjust your dosage.

MS. BOWS

Doctor, it's not the Zoloft. I just feel that I need to take back some control now. And if having sex with strangers is part of it, then I think that's okay. I've never let myself have this kind of freedom before, and I think it's time to experiment a little.

DR. BALIS

Sylvia, I'm just worried about you. I want to make sure that you are fully aware of all the consequences of your actions. I don't want you to decide later that you made a mistake.

MS. BOWS

Don't worry, Doctor. I won't blame you.

DR. BALIS

That's not what I'm saying. I just want you to be sure you're doing this because you really want to and not because your personality has been altered by some drug.

MS. BOWS

As I said, don't worry Doctor. I know what I'm doing. And I think you're doing a wonderful job with me so far.

DR. BALIS

I hope you're right. Let's set up our next session. I'd like to see you next Tuesday. How does four in the afternoon work for you?

MS. BOWS

I'll be there, Doctor. I am learning to make time for myself. And thank you so much for worrying about me. But I'm really okay, honest. Goodbye, Doctor.

DR. BALIS

Goodbye, Sylvia. And don't hesitate to call me if you feel the need.

MS. BOWS

Thanks. I won't.

SINGER

They say as a child I appeared a little bit wild with all my crazy ideas, but I knew what was happening. I knew I was a genius.

INT. EVENING - DR. BALIS' OFFICE

Dr. Balis is again narrating from his notes.

DR. BALIS

The woman surprised me. She laid a trap for me by opening a button on her blouse so that her nipple was exposed, and then she caught me looking at it. I fell right into her trap--denying I had seen anything. She knew I was lying. Apparently, the Zoloft has made Sylvia more distant from her own emotions, allowing her to act as a dispassionate observer even while she's feeling the emotion. She thinks she has more control, but it turns out she skipped work this morning and instead had a sexual encounter with someone from S.I.I. whom she barely knew. This was after Sylvia had taunted her husband by flaunting her now inaccessible nudity. Sylvia and Tom both see their relationship as a power struggle. And Sylvia has discovered that she can use sex as a weapon against Tom, who seems unused to losing any conflict. Sylvia wants Tom to think about her all day, knowing that he can't have her--they've stopped having sexual relations since Sylvia found out about Tom's vasectomy. I suggested that Zoloft might be responsible for her behavioral changes, especially involving sex, but Sylvia denies it. Since Zoloft is a serotonin reuptake inhibitor, Sylvia should be watched carefully for mania or hypomania together with other undesirable changes in her behavior, especially sexual behavior.

SINGER

My analyst told me that I was right out of my head. The way he described it, he said I'd be better dead than live. I didn't listen to his jive.

(MORE)

SINGER (cont'd)

I knew all along he was all wrong and I
knew that he thought I was crazy but I'm
not, oh no. My analyst told me that I
was right out of my head, but I said,
"Dear Doctor, I think that it's you
instead..."

End Program

Credits:

Sylvia Bows was performed by Caitlin McClure

Charles Balis was performed by Bill Krauss

Twisted was written by Wardell Gray and Annie Ross, performed
by Annie Ross, and published by Fantasy, Inc. For the
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The audio track was written, produced, and directed by Olga
and Christopher Werby.

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