

## START HERE

STEVIE

Can you listen to me, please? The district manager came / in—

MARGARET

Okay, I understand. I've been late, and I won't be anymore. You can tell him I got the warning. (*Heads back inside*)

STEVIE

(*Stops her*) No, this isn't a warning. You've *had* warnings. I've given you seven warnings in the last two months.

MARGARET

You know I can't leave Joyce alone. You know that. She's like a baby. And Dottie doesn't always show up when she's supposed to. So what am I / supposed to—?

DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE

STEVIE

It's not like I have a choice in this. If I don't let you go then *I* get fired.

MARGARET

*(Beat)* What do you mean, let me go?

STEVIE

I told you it could happen.

MARGARET

Now, come / on—

STEVIE

Every week the district manager comes in to look at those punch cards.

MARGARET

I won't be late again. Tell him I promise.

STEVIE

I cover for you all the time, and he won't have it anymore. He wants me to let you go.

MARGARET

I'll get somebody else to look after Joyce.

STEVIE

That's what you always say.

MARGARET

*(Beat)* This is about the Chinese girl, isn't it.

STEVIE

*No*, and she's not Chinese.

GOOD PEOPLE

MARGARET

She might be a little faster at the register, but she makes more mistakes.

STEVIE

First of all, she doesn't make mistakes. / Secondly—

MARGARET

She lives two blocks away! It's easier for her to get here on time!

STEVIE

Margaret, stop.

MARGARET

No, that guy comes in, and looks over your books, and who's getting paid what per hour—!

STEVIE

That's not what this is.

MARGARET

And because I've been here three years, I make a little bit more than the other girls, which costs the company a little bit more money—

STEVIE

You're not reliable.