

“A COMPANY KILLING”

PLOT SUMMARY BY SECTION

SECTION 1: The 12 Days of Christmas

Two weeks ago, this timid church usher had a pretty normal life. Then he killed his boss.

SECTION 2: Lifeboat

(Note: story goes back in time to the events leading to the murder)

Shamed, humiliated, and set up by a crafty newcomer, he realizes his thirty-five years of tenure at work ultimately mean nothing in terms of potential career advancement. For the first time ever, Morris begins loathing his job. Unfortunately, though, as his daughter requires an expensive medical procedure to live, he must endure the anguish while he seeks a sorely needed promotion.

SECTION 3: Priceless

As his strange new co-worker, Damien, befriends his retiring boss, this supervisor, a long-time friend, starts acting noticeably aloof. Is Damien poisoning his colleague against him? Formerly a hard-working employee, Morris' job performance suffers as he continuously endures sinister dreams and disturbing threats. Although he's shocked to unearth a gun in Damien's office, his findings must remain a secret. Morris develops paranoia, feeling he's constantly being followed. *Is it just his imagination?* Inexplicably, he loses entire life savings and his financial situation quickly turns desperate.

SECTION 4: Beginning of The End

The menacing phone calls escalate and threatening notes mysteriously appear at his doorstep. Who'd want to hurt his family? His great anxiety continues affecting his job performance causing the reassignment of an important project to the ruthless Damien. Morris discovers Damien making false, disparaging comments about his work to co-workers. Why is he being set up? Quickly, the charming Damien befriends all of Morris' associates. Meanwhile, Morris appears to be losing his grip on reality. Unfortunately, he's unable to compete in Damien's flashy world and Damien compounds the anguish in his relentless pursuit to make Morris appear inept at work. When his daughter's condition abruptly deteriorates, he realizes he must get "his" promotion very soon. The threats escalate, leaving Morris fearful for his family's safety. At the hospital, Damien is found lingering in Morris' daughter's room. When Morris is called into the boss' office for a serious talk, it marks the beginning of the end.

SECTION 5: Making a Decision

Morris painfully learns he's lost the promotion to Damien and must now work under him. Wracked with despair, he feels he's failed his family. His entire world is quickly turned upside down and he likens the news to a death sentence for his beloved daughter. Morris realizes that if Damien were gone, all his problems would be solved. The pain over losing the promotion he so counted on is excruciating,

all the while the snide Damien continually rubs salt in his wounds. Morris falls apart, taking refuge in the restroom in an attempt to conceal his brewing rage and overpowering despair. Damien mercilessly frames him at work, and finally, he threatens Morris' daughter. Morris contemplates his meager options and ultimately makes a dubious plan.

SECTION 6: Ending a Life

The culmination of rage and fear lead Morris to take his evil boss' life. Immediately afterwards, Morris knows he's made a huge mistake when he learns he killed Damien *for nothing*. In a panic, he rushes home. Soonafter, unbearable guilt sets in, but Morris can't tell anyone what he's done - especially not his family. Severe remorse eats him up inside.

SECTION 7: Moving Into The Abyss

Morris fears his crime will soon catch up with him and can't believe others don't realize what he's done just by looking at his face. He withdraws from his family and is afraid to return to work. Somewhat unsuccessfully, he attempts to act innocent after Damien is found dead in his office. Do the others notice anything? What about the police? He can barely hold it together. Morris is shocked to discover that the crime scene was found altered from how he'd left it and nearly falls apart when the coroner stops squarely in front of him carrying Damien's corpse. Morris is continuously tormented by a ghastly stench which no one else can smell. Good news: He gets the promotion he so needed. Bad news: He must now work from within the very office he murdered Damien.

SECTION 8: Ending My Life

Morris uncovers shocking information concerning the deceased, revealing that he could be in serious danger. Barely able to survive each day at work, he feels his world has come to an end. Eerily, cryptic notes appear in his mailbox - and he receives calls from his dead boss. Are they real? Does a co-worker know of his crime? Are the police testing him? Is he losing his sanity? Morris is startled to realize he left incriminating evidence behind on the day he murdered his boss. Consumed by guilt and fear, he suffers through a myriad of nightmares and desperately wants to give up. Suddenly, mysterious things are discovered in his office. Is he going crazy? Is it possible that Damien is still alive? The threats intensify and he becomes increasingly paranoid. Items unexplainably vanish from his office leaving him terrified of what will happen next. Has he been caught? Should he turn himself in? Should he take his own life?

SECTION 9: Afterwards . . .

Just when you thought it was over comes the shocking and emotional conclusion. You will be stunned.