

Lue Ann: Hi, Derek. How's it going this week?

Derek: All right. Doing pretty well. How about you?

Lue Ann: I'm doing okay. I'm doing okay. I actually have some exciting news about Bianca and Mick.

Derek: Oh, I hope it's good news.

Lue Ann: It is. It is. They were able to move. A family member had given them a lead on an apartment in the second story of a two family house, so it was perfect. They jumped on it. They quickly moved in and got settled, and they're really happy with the choice.

Derek: Wow. That is like really fast turnaround. I mean, last week we were just talking about them thinking about moving. They must have been really motivated.

Lue Ann: They really were. They were like, "Ah, we're sick of the apartment complex and that manager." This sounded good, and they knew it was a trusted source because the family knew about the neighbor having that open apartment. It just worked out. It was just the right thing for them at this time, and they're happy.

Derek: That's great.

Lue Ann: Yeah. I know. I'm so happy for them too. Bianca's actually been thinking about wanting to go back to work. She's supposed to be calling me. I'm going to have to cut our meeting short a little bit today because in a little while she's going to be calling me. We have some stuff to talk about. She's so excited about a number of things.

Derek: No problem. Yeah. That's cool. Where's the apartment? Is it close to where they were living or-

Lue Ann: It's not far from where they're living, and it's actually still pretty close to the grocery store where Mick works.

Derek: Oh, that's good.

Lue Ann: Yeah. Because it's a house, it's a little bit more residential but still convenient to the bus and all of that.

Derek: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Well, that's really cool news. I'm glad to hear that they got out of there. I know that they were just not getting a good experience for the last couple months at least there.

Lue Ann: No. This is cool. This is like a fresh start. Bianca is stable, now they have a new place to live, no pain in the neck landlord, and no memories of that old place where she wasn't doing well. It's cool.

Derek: Great.

Lue Ann: What's up with your folks?

Derek: Not too much. Actually some pretty good news as well this week. We found out thanks to the help of some of our colleagues that George is eligible to move into his old apartment complex.

Lue Ann: Wow.

Derek: Yeah. You can imagine how excited he was about that. Similarly, the motivation I've seen in him has been really, really exciting and encouraging. He started organizing his stuff to get ready to move. He told me he's going to do a budget to start saving in case he needs a security deposit. Just the fact that he's made a bunch of phone calls recently to inquire and follow up because the people weren't getting back to him quick enough, every time he does it, you can see there's like a real clarity in purpose in the way he's communicating. You can tell it's really important to him, and he's really in that action stage of wanting this change to happen. I'm really proud of him. I haven't been working with him that long. To see this is the best I've probably seen him do since he's been out of the hospital.

Lue Ann: Wow, yeah. It sounds like he's really becoming more confident and, like you said, he's really feeling like he can really make some things happen for himself. I'm so happy for him.

Derek: Yeah, yeah. It was really great to hear. I mean, that was great, but, I mean, Michela blew me away, I have to say, this week. You know she's got the housing issue going on, and we haven't made any headway with that. She still has no idea what she's going to do about when her mom moves, and she's got to be out of the house. On a positive note, she really was proud the other day. I had a meeting with her to kind of go over her goals and finish up her service plan and her recovery plan. She told me she's been sober for seven days from alcohol.

Lue Ann: Oh, good.

Derek: Yeah. I guess she had drank, because we typically meet the same day every week and she had been drinking that night that we had met, and then said something we had talked about just kind of like rang true to her, and she hasn't had a drink since. I was like, "Wow. That's amazing, Michela. Good job." I asked her how long it's been since she's gone seven days without drinking. She said pretty much it hasn't happened in many, many years other than like hospitalization type of situations where it wasn't available to her. Yeah, so that was some good news. That was good news, but that didn't even prepare me for what happened when I got into the office, was it yesterday? I was going through my mail, and there was a letter from a college, not close, I think it's in the next state over actually. It's like this small, little college. It was addressed to me. I opened it up, and it was a transcript for Michela from when she was in school years ago.

I was like, "Ah, this is kind of odd. I wonder why she sent me a transcript or why the school sent me a transcript." I called her up, and I was like, "Did you mean for me to get this?" She was like, "Oh, yeah. I was doing some thinking about school in the last week, and I just happened to be on my site of the school I used to go to. It was free to get a transcript sent. I didn't remember how many credits I had." She wanted to ... I don't know. She's thinking maybe about going back to school. She had her transcript sent to me because she wanted to remind herself or have me remind her to talk about it, and that was her way of doing it. I was like wow. I don't know if the sobriety has led her to kind of think about things and get her on the website and doing a few things related to her recovery goals. It really doesn't matter to me. I'm just happy she kind of seems to be gaining momentum in her recovery. It's really great to see.

Lue Ann: Wow. That is exciting. We were just talking about George making some things happen for himself, and now it sounds like Michela's really trying to do the same for herself. Great.

Derek: Yeah. Well, one other thing. I don't know if it's good or bad. She also broke up with her boyfriend, that guy Max she was seeing. Yeah. I don't know if he was the best influence on her or not. They were sort of on again, off again. Yeah. Apparently it's off, but she told me in no uncertain terms this time around that it's never happening again with him, so I don't know. I'll take that for what it's worth. Definitely some changes going on in Michela's world. To see her interested in school is really great. I'm going to have to do some research on some resources that might be available to her in the community. I could certainly help her register, but if she needs additional help, I want to have some things lined up for her in the event that it really is something she wants to do sooner rather than later.

Lue Ann: Yeah, yeah. That sounds good. Yeah. Finding out what's there that she can make use of. She could take advantage of what's there. That sounds cool. That sounds cool. I'm glad we got to catch up a little bit because ... I see my phone right now. I better take this phone call.

Derek: Oh yeah. That must be Bianca, right?

Lue Ann: Yeah. Let me take this phone call.

Derek: Okay. No problem. I will catch up with you next week, Lue Ann.

Lue Ann: Okay. Take care.

Derek: Take care. Yep.

Lue Ann: Hello. Bianca?

Bianca: Yes. Hi, Lue Ann.

Lue Ann: Hi. How are you?

Bianca: I'm doing good. We're doing good. Mick and I are so happy in our new place.

Lue Ann: Oh, wow. That's a relief. I'm so happy too. It made no sense in staying at that other place where it just wasn't as, I don't know, friendly and comfortable. This place sounds so convenient. Yeah.

Bianca: It's just really allowing us to have a new beginning here. The change was hard, but we're really making it work and things aren't too bad for us to get where we need to go. It's so much better.

Lue Ann: Wow, great. Yeah, yeah. So it sounds like, of course, the transition could be a little bit rocky, but, in the end, it was the right thing to do for you to be in a place that's better. Wow.

Bianca: Oh gosh, yes.

Lue Ann: Wow, so you had mentioned briefly to me that you wanted to talk about maybe work?

Bianca: Yes. Mick's going to work. He has his thing, and I really want to get back into things that I want to do also and kind of contribute to where we are and what we're doing. I want to get back to work. I want to have a new start too.

Lue Ann: Okay, okay, so it sounds like Mick has been very helpful and giving in to your budget and your living stuff, but you also want to be able to do it for yourself and make a difference to the household.

Bianca: Yeah. I do. I mean, it's been so long since I've worked. I mean, it has to be like 10 years now. I used to work in retail and that was okay, but, to be honest, I don't really want to get back into that kind of stuff again. I don't want to get into retail. I want to have something new, a new start. I want more than just a new start. I don't want to start at the bottom and have to work my way up from having nothing. I mean, I have some experience. I don't know.

Lue Ann: Right, right. It would be why should you have to, like you said, start at the entry level and kind of feel no real satisfaction or anything like that. It sounds like maybe you want to do something a lot more or something maybe with room for advancement.

Bianca: Yeah.

Lue Ann: Yeah.

Bianca: I do.

Lue Ann: Okay. Cool. Maybe you could just tell me a little bit about maybe the area you think you're interested in pursuing?

Bianca: You know. That's a good question because I was trying to think of some things that I might be good at. I don't know. I don't even know where to begin or even how to figure out where to go. I know I want to move forward, and I feel like things are going in the right direction, and this is my next big step to make things better. I just don't know how to do it. I was kind of hoping maybe I could work with you a little bit, or you could help me a little bit with this.

Lue Ann: Mm-hmm (affirmative). No. Totally, totally. It seems like you want to try to get a handle on what you're good at and what kind of things that you could try and stuff like that. I could help you with some kind of resources that are available hopefully close by in your neighborhood. I do want to probably check with a couple of my co-workers. It's been a while since I've been working with someone who has either been like changing jobs or going back to work, so I'm not completely sure which place would be a good avenue to try. I'm going to talk to my co-workers about if there's something in the community that we can access, which could help you figure all that stuff out.

Bianca: Oh, that would be so amazing. That would be so great. I feel like things are going so well, and I want to stay with this and really have things get better.

Lue Ann: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah, yeah. Keep up the momentum, and like you said, make even more progress. Why don't I see what I can do. Probably what I could do is I could look into it, and then we could actually meet in person and then we can review. Then we could say okay, where are we going, what do we need to prioritize, and what's our next step?

Bianca: Yes. I think that would be great. You've been such a support for me to really want to try these new things and put myself out there. I would really love that opportunity to spend time with you to do that.

Lue Ann: Okay, cool, so I will totally follow up with you and give you a call back. We should probably have our calendars out and see when we can meet within the next few days, okay?

Bianca: Yeah. That's great.

Lue Ann: Okay. All right. Cool. I will call you back, and I'll talk to you real soon. Take care.

Bianca: Thank you, Lue Ann.

Lue Ann: Okay. Buh-bye.

Bianca: Bye.