# The Tattoo

**JANET:** Hey, Bill. How did the interviews go?

**BILL:** Ugh, terrible. Not a single hardworking kid among them.

**JANET:** Really?

**BILL:** Really. Honestly, one kid didn’t even wear a tie. An untucked shirt and jeans. I mean, come on, who taught him how to interview?

**JANET:** That’s rough. What about that girl, Susan? She had some great references from her last place.

**BILL:** Which one’s Susan again?

**JANET:** Short woman, blonde hair with big glasses.

**BILL:** Oh, yeah. She’s got that big tattoo, doesn’t she?

**JANET:** It’s not that big, but yeah.

**BILL:** I don’t know. I wasn’t very impressed.

**JANET:** Why?

**BILL:** She didn’t really strike me as professional.

**JANET:** I don’t understand. Was she dressed poorly?

**BILL:** No, she dressed nicely enough.

**JANET:** Was there a problem with her resumé?

**BILL:** No, no. Great resumé, great references—she had all that stuff. On paper, she looks great. But I don’t know. I just didn’t get a good vibe.

**JANET:** A vibe? This isn’t the ‘70s, Bill. What do you mean, vibe?

**BILL:** I can’t really explain it. She just seemed unprofessional.

**JANET:** This is about her tattoo, isn’t it?

**BILL:** What? No.

*(JANET gives Bill a look.)*

**BILL:** Ok, maybe the tattoo had something to do with it.

**JANET:** I knew it!

**BILL:** I mean, who does that? I can never understand why someone would want to mess up their skin like that.

**JANET:** Maybe it means something to her. Did you ask?

**BILL:** No, why would I do that.

**JANET:** There could be an interesting reason why she has it, that’s all.

**BILL:** I don’t care why she got it—just have the decency to cover it up is all I’m saying.

**JANET:** It’s not like it’s offensive or anything.

**BILL:** It’s offensive to me!

**JANET:** IT’S A BUTTERFLY, BILL!

**BILL:** I don’t care if it’s the Virgin Mary, it’s weird.

**JANET:** Everyone has tattoos. Get over it.

**BILL:** No one who works here does.

**JANET:** I have a tattoo.

**BILL:** What?

**JANET:** A couple, actually.

**BILL:** You’re messing with me.

**JANET:** Nope, want to see them?

**BILL:** I … um … I guess so.

*(JANET rolls up her sleeve to reveal a tree.)*

**JANET:** My grandma used to read me stories under a tree like this. She passed away last year, and I wanted something to remember her by.

**BILL:** Oh, I’m sorry, I didn’t know she passed away.

**JANET:** It’s okay.

*(JANET rolls up her other sleeve revealing a cat in a spacesuit.)*

**BILL:** Was your cat an astronaut?

*(JANET laughs.)*

**JANET:** Nah, I just thought it was cute. So, you going to fire me?

**BILL:** No, of course not.

**JANET:** Why not?

**BILL:** You’re a good employee.

**JANET:** Uh huh.

**BILL:** Don’t give me that look. *(He sighs.)* I guess times have changed.

**JANET:** People used to think facial hair was bad.

*(BILL laughs.)*

**BILL:** Looks like I wouldn’t have gotten hired then.

**JANET:** No, you would not.

**BILL:** I’ll call Susan and ask her to come back in for another interview. I still think tattoos are stupid.

**JANET:** You don’t have to like them. You just need to respect that it’s an individual’s choice to get one and that it doesn’t automatically make them a bad person.