

She's The (Wo)Man

by Laura Sansoterra, Nate Davis, and Jason Dernay

SCENE 1: Interviewer, Natalie, Dave

INTERVIEWER

Welcome back to Beyond the Business. Today we have with us Natalie Sarasota, the supermodel of the finance world. But don't let her looks fool you, Natalie is the *newly appointed* female CEO of Faulkron, and she was selected as one of 2020's "30 Under 30". As an employee reference for today's discussion, we have the brilliant Mr. Dave Lunghammer, her longtime apprentice who is an upcoming business mogul in his own right and will surely make waves himself. Thank you so much for being with us today.

NATALIE

Thank you so much for having us, we're so happy to be here!

DAVE

Yeah, yeah, it's great to be here! Thank you!

INTERVIEWER

So, Mr. Lunghammer, what's it like to be with a corporation on the rise? Being so young yourself, how does it feel to watch a company grow from a startup to an industry pillar?

DAVE

It's been a lot. It's, uh, it's a very demanding, fast-paced work environment. Ms. Sarasota has been an absolutely remarkable mentor and I truly cannot thank her enough for her investment in my individual future. To be completely honest, I was so nervous to work with Ms. Sarasota my first few weeks that I was constantly making mistakes, but my experience learning from Ms. Sarasota at Faulkron has been invaluable.

INTERVIEWER

(Warmly)

It seems their investment in you has really paid off.

(Blunt)

Natalie, as the only female CEO listed on the "30 Under 30", it is wonderful to see some representation in a career where women are marginalized. What types of challenges do you face working in a male dominated industry? I expect that you've had to work especially hard to reach your position, do you feel lucky to have been *chosen* for this position? Did your *appointment* make it difficult to earn respect from your male subordinates?

NATALIE

(Careful, but pointed)

Similar to everyone on the “30 Under 30” list, I’ve had to work extremely hard to *earn* my position and, unfortunately, I face personal and systemic sexism in my career. It did not simply stop once I became the CEO. However, I believe that my work as the Chief Executive at Faulkron has been more than respectable, both externally and internally, regardless of any gender perceptions.

INTERVIEWER

(Moving along)

Well, it is always wonderful to see female representation in a male dominated industry, *especially* at the level of Chief Executive.

(a beat)

Now, Mr. Lunghammer, as we have discussed working with a growing company, and obviously you have prospects of your own, so where do you see yourself in 5 or 10 years?

DAVE

Oh boy, that is a tough question. Ms. Sarasota has created very promising models for satellite branches internationally to sustain our growth and, if I’m not too bold, I would hope that in about 5 years I could be directing one of those offices. I feel like that’s a good goal for myself and I believe that my education under Ms. Sarasota would build the perfect skill-set required.

INTERVIEWER

(A joke)

Ms Natalie, we all know you’re under 30 now,

(Genuinely concerned)

but we all know time flies. Where do you see yourself in 5 to 10 years? Would you feel comfortable working and creating these satellite offices as your, *(searching)* biological clock, runs out?

NATALIE

I’m not sure I see what the starting of satellite offices has to do with my personal life-

INTERVIEWER

I’m sorry! I didn’t mean to *offend* you. There’s an oversaturation of the “billionaire playboy entrepreneur” which you obviously do not fit. To combat this image, I was wondering if you are willing to sacrifice the possibility of ever settling down in your personal life?

(Supposed to be a joke, does not come of as one)

Or are you bold enough to think you can “do it all”

NATALIE

(Enlightened)

I think I will be able to handle it just fine. Things change throughout my life, the fact that I'm young and will grow older doesn't have anything to do with that. I will be able to live my personal life the way I want, my business is flourishing, I think I will be just fine.

(Pivot)

INTERVIEWER

Do you see yourself as a role model for young women looking to pursue a passion in business?

NATALIE

Yeah, I mean, I would say so. I think that it is important that there are role models that represent themselves, so I do think that it's good for children to see a person that looks like them in a, uh, higher-up position in a business, yeah.

DAVE

If I may, I have always admired the career, brilliance, and mindset of Ms. Sarasota. Personally, I have found her to be a wonderful mentor and role model and I am very glad that not only is she visible to children, but her accomplishments and intelligence as well.

INTERVIEWER

Wow, it's not everyday you hear something like *that*.

Thank you Mr. Lunghammer for your illustrious answers and thank you Natalie Sarasota for being the woman who can not only *do it all* but complete something *near impossible* for women. I have just one final question for you. I did not expect your answers to be so... concise, so we have one more question for you:

(The world changes, it is tight, almost dreamlike)

What does it mean to be a woman in today's world?

NATALIE

(Taking her time to really think about her answers)

I am just me, a person, a person trying to do my best to achieve what I want to and be who I want to. I don't know why being a woman means so much to the world, but I do, sometimes, identify myself by that singular aspect of me. Would I want to be just a CEO rather than a *female* CEO? Being a *female* CEO, both acknowledges my triumphs over systematic opposition but also feels like I'm being othered, an incomplete title, as if I can never just be a CEO. I have so many questions and so few answers. I'm tired. I'm strong. I'm a person, a human. I don't want to have to justify my existence.

(A pause)

I'm done with this interview.