

Lesson 2

READ THIS STORY #1, Advanced

Losing a Job

Jim was a division manager, and he had worked for a large corporation for twenty years. His telephone rang early one morning. It was his boss, who said that the corporation needed to become more profitable.

Consolidation plans required that all division managers be released. From now on, those management functions would be conducted from headquarters in New York.

Jim's boss was sorry to inform him that by the end of the month, Jim would be out of a job. Jim was stunned. He was aware that many companies were downsizing. The papers had printed numerous reports of layoffs due to the poor economy.

But Jim had deceived himself by believing that he was an essential part of the management team. He had the most seniority, and there had never been a complaint about his work. In fact, he had received several performance awards and promotions.

At first Jim was angry. His brusque dismissal seemed like a personal affront. Then Jim became concerned. Were his skills still in demand? Could he find another job? His financial security was imperiled.

On an impulse, Jim phoned his wife. He felt better when he heard her say, "Don't worry. It will be all right. We'll make it through this together."