

You had everything going for you. You made some interesting discoveries in grad school, and then landed a highly coveted funded post-doc. You were hot on the path of a major development in gene therapy. You had figured out how to make a new delivery virus that didn't cause cancer like so many. Even better, you thought you might have a way to turn transmission on and off. You could inoculate entire populations. You could make viral vaccinations and treatments that would spread themselves among people. You could save poor countries from so many diseases. People wouldn't need to travel for days to get to a doctor, the treatments would come to them in the form of their friends.

You had some preliminary work that was showing success. Your advisor was afraid of getting scooped, but you knew this was really hot, and you convinced her to let you present at the big conference that winter. You had never had so many people attend your talk. You were walking on air for weeks, and spent many, many long nights in the lab. Then, months later, just as you were putting the finishing touches on your experiments, the unthinkable happened. Someone else published first. Not just anyone, but Dr. Raines, a leader in your field, who you greatly admired. You had been so excited to see such a luminary at your talk. It had never occurred to you that such a great light in science would stoop so low as to steal your work.

Your advisor was very kind. She never rubbed your mistake in your face, but there was really nothing she could do. Two years of work down the drain, and your funding was running out. You thought that, once you had published this work, you would be guaranteed a good job, but now you found yourself struggling even to find a second post-doc. Finally, after months of applications, Dr. Raines reached out to you. You hated the thought of working under the person who had destroyed your career, but you were running out of options, and the project sounded really exciting. It was an opportunity to keep working on your virus, and to use it to cure autism. It would help so many people, and it could get your career back on track. Plus, it was only a post-doc. You could stand it for a few years. You just needed to swallow your pride and take the job.

**Dr. Raines** stole your work and destroyed your career, but you must admit that the Raines lab does good work. You have taken this job because it was all you have left, but now you have to deal with that bastard.

**Dr. Langdon** is in a position that's rather similar to yours. Dr. Langdon and Dr. Yu used to be married and divorced over life-work conflicts. Dr. Langdon came to work here because of an invitation from Dr. Yu. Now the two of you commiserate about working in such strained situations.

**Dr. Solan** is the head of the Resonance Project, and one of the people you can turn to when Raines is a little too much.

**Assistant Carlisle** works for Dr. Solan, but winds up being a tech to nearly everyone. Carlisle is very bright and shouldn't let Solan run roughshod just because of being only a tech. Carlisle should have a good career ahead.

**Assistant Zuckerman** isn't quite right. You never know what you're going to get when you request something of Zuckerman. Sometimes Zuckerman's work is brilliant, and sometimes Zuckerman forgets all about the plates you asked for and comes back with hours worth of protein crystal models.