

Working Girl Summary:

Tess McGill is an intelligent, working-class woman who has recently received a night school business degree. Her goal: to move into the executive suite. As she turns 30, her dream remains unrealized, but her luck seems to be turning when she is assigned as secretary to Katharine Parker who encourages Tess to share her ideas. When Parker breaks her leg on a skiing trip in Europe, she asks Tess to house-sit for her, but Tess accidentally finds evidence that Katharine was planning to steal one of her ideas. Livid, she begins to scheme against Katherine.

The next day, Tess calls executive Jack Trainer pretending to be Katherine colleague and tells him that she has a proposal to run by him and sets up a meeting. The evening before the meeting, Tess attends a merger party (wearing a sophisticated new hairstyle and an expensive cocktail dress) and there she encounters Jack and makes a fool of herself, however Jack never mentioned his name. At the meeting the next morning, she realizes Jack is Jack Trainer and quickly submits her proposal to him. Returning to her own office, Tess cries to her best friend Cyn that she blew her shot at becoming an executive. Then Jack arrives and announces that his firm will proceed with Tess's pitch but they need to enlist Oren Trask.

Days later, Tess and Jack crash Trask's daughter's wedding, intending to make an appointment and pitch their plan. They succeed and meet with Trask who is interested in the project. Back at Jack's apartment Tess learns of Jack's relationship with Katharine so she decides not to tell him the truth about herself, but the two end up together. On the day of the Trask meeting, Katharine returns and enlists Tess's as her personal assistant at home. At Katharine's insistence, Jack visits but leaves when Katharine mentions marriage. Tess, who was hiding in the closet, comes out after he leaves, and rushes out of the apartment, accidentally leaving her day planner behind. Katharine reads it and discovers what Tess has been up to.

At the meeting for the Trask/Metro merger, Jack and Tess realize they're in love. Katharine barges in, accusing Tess of stealing her idea, and announces that she is, in fact, just a secretary. Tess is unable to make the others understand that Katharine is the liar. Back at the office, Tess packs her belongings and then bumps into Jack, Katharine and Trask in the lobby. As Katharine tries to lead the group onto the elevator, Jack refuses to come, stating that he believes Tess. He and Tess convince Trask that Katharine has been lying (by asking Katherine to recall what gave her the idea for the merger, which, of course, she cannot). Trask assures Katharine she will lose her job over this, and offers Tess an "entry-level" job, which she happily accepts.

Tess moves in with Jack. Arriving at Trask Industries, she sees a woman in an office on the phone, and assumes she once again is just a secretary but in fact the woman is Tess's secretary. Once alone, Tess calls Cyn telling her the good news that she was finally going to be an executive.