

WHO'S AFRAID OF THE
BIG, BAD BOSS?



How to Survive 13 Types of
Dysfunctional, Disrespectful,
Dishonest Little Dictators

MARILYN HAIGHT

THIS IS THE BOOK BOSSES DON'T WANT YOU TO READ!

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BOSS HAS OWN BUSINESS ON THE SIDE

"...I started this...job 2 ½ months ago. My boss talks about this...business he and his wife have on the side and says she works at it full time and he only works at it on weekends. I don't believe him. He's never around and I think he's working on his own business when he's supposed to be at work here. I asked him what I should do when he's not around and I have to ask him about something and he told me to ask this one peer of mine, who seems to be a good friend of his just like the other people in my department. She doesn't tell me everything I need to know and it seems like she purposely leaves out important details. I'm not allowed to talk to anyone outside of our department without getting my boss's permission first..."

"...I like the work, but I don't like all this secrecy and I don't like them holding back the information I need to do my job. I can't believe he's getting away with this... I'm thinking of turning him in to his boss..."

Dear Abandoned Employee,

Wait! It is possible that your boss may be working on company business while he's not in your department, but it's a pretty good bet that he's working at his own business and has his friends at work covering for him. They're probably getting away with things they shouldn't be doing, too, in exchange for covering for him, so be careful what you say to them--don't let them know you are suspicious or disapprove.

There are three reasons *not* to report your boss to his boss. First, you don't have enough information. You need absolute proof, not just conjecture. It's unlikely that you're going to get concrete evidence unless you have someone follow your boss and take pictures with dates and times on them. Second, if your boss finds out you complained to his boss, he's either going to make your work life miserable or invent a reason to fire you. Third, since this has been going on for the entire time you've been there, it's likely that your boss's boss doesn't want to know, approves of what's going on, or is also involved. Bad bosses get away with their misbehavior because they report to bosses who don't want to manage people, so you will be unwelcome.

You're probably not going to be able to do as good a job in this position as you'd like to do because you're not getting the information you need, so your evaluations will be disappointing. It also seems like you're not going to be included as a valued peer or contributor with this clique unless you join them in their unethical activities. I suggest you get out of there before you get sucked into something you may regret later, or before you get blamed for things gone wrong that you didn't cause. It hasn't been long since you found this job, so just continue your original job search and don't tell anyone what you're doing.