

THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1063 The Worst Thing About Your Worst Boss

Every boss does certain things that workers find strange, or wish they wouldn't do, or just plain hate. I hope you've had nothing but good bosses. However, if you've had a bad boss...a really bad boss...what was the worst thing about this boss? Tell Ray in the chat if you're catching this on Facebook. I'm Jerry Roberts and we'll explore some of the worst stuff about the worst of bosses, next, on The Extra Point.

Most of the bosses I've had in my working years, when I was not self-employed, have been what I would term average, honest, decent people who did the best they could. There was nothing particularly great about them, and nothing particularly horrible.

That said, there have been a few exceptions. Two were terrific and incredible examples of leadership, and four did things I promised myself I would never do when I became a manager. Here's the rundown.

Boss #1. This man chewed me out in front of other workers three times. It turned out he was in the wrong all three times, and when he had calmed down he summoned me to this office to apologize.

However, the room was empty, except for him and me. Where were all the workers he had ripped me in front of? He punished publicly and said he was sorry in private. That's bad form, don't do it.

Boss #2. This was a different job. During a team meeting, I mentioned that I had met the owner of the company many years before when he was just starting out, and how he got things rolling. It's was a bit of history nobody knew, and seemed to be well received.

The manager of my department somehow took issue with this, but instead of talking to me after the meeting, he wrote me up for my comments, which had been complimentary.

How did I know? A friend in HR came to me as she was quitting, and told me what he'd done. She said the guy was not to be trusted. No sweat. From that moment forward, I didn't.

I wasn't there much longer, but made a point to let him know that I thought what he'd done was cheap. If he'd had a problem with me, he should have just said so, straight up. He tried to alibi, fumbled for words, and ended up walking away.

Boss #3 was a run-of-the-mill cheat. He paid commissions very slowly and stone-walled former employees who left, forcing them to sue for their money, or never see it.

I had to go the legal route. It took a while, but I got paid. The thing is, he had the money to pay normally and knew he owed people, but seemed to get some kind of weird satisfaction out of ripping them off. Bizarre.

Boss #4. I've talked about him before. He did things that broke the terms of contracts with clients, then wanted me to lie and say that everything was fine. I refused and was fired.

The thing about it is this man was one of the brightest people I have ever met. He became a legit billionaire at one time, but he had this desire to be seen as a supreme deal maker. He loved Donald Trump's book, *Art of The Deal*, dressed like Trump (think the Trump of the 1980s), combed his hair like Trump, and treated people sort of like Trump treated them.

I've said it before, I learned more from that man than almost any other boss, with the exception of Big Ed. The only trouble was, most of the stuff I learned was what I didn't want to do to others.

(Con't.)

I've talked to people and have read plenty about what others have found objectionable with their bosses. The things that drove many people to quit.

Among them, bosses that:

- Are ego-maniacs
- Blame everyone but themselves
- Take credit for the work of others
- Criticize constantly
- Are total screamers
- Don't care about workers' opinions
- Curse and berate employees
- Assign extra work at the end of the day or on the weekend
- Grade you lower on performance reviews, because "you should have room to improve"
- Talk about workers behind their backs

If you're a manager, make sure you don't give your workers any reason to include you on a list like this. Treat 'em well.

That's the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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