GLASS CEILING

Meredith failed her interview to lead a research team. Can she sweep away prejudice and break the glass ceiling?
GLASS CEILING
WARNING!

This book is printed in the Japanese reading direction: from right to left.
That means that right now, you're at the end of the book. Turn it over and follow the box guide.
Enjoy!
I would like to thank the Ipsen Foundation and its team, for his constant listening and support; Dr Olga Markova, whose advice has allowed me to get as close as possible to the reality of life as a researcher and the complications involved; Dr Geneviève Almouzni, for the time she kindly gave me; and Anissa Benaissa for guiding me on feelings and atmosphere to give to this story. I also thank the AAA school, for giving me the opportunity to participate in this project and create this manga. Finally, I thank my family, my friends, and my companion, for their unfailing help and presence. The realization of this manga was an experience at the same time very emotional and full of learning.

- Emilie Tosello

The mission of the Fondation Ipsen is science for people. In our Manga series we have connected leading young manga artists with established scientists. This book has emerged through this collaboration. This is a powerful medium and we are thrilled to bring you these books.

- James LEVINE MD PhD, President.
  www.fondation-ipsen.org
SO?!?

THANK YOU, GOODBYE.
I'M CALLING BACK!

YES, HELLO...

THE MANAGEMENT DIDN'T LIKE HIS BEHAVIOR!

VASILE GOT LAID OFF!

HAAH!

OKAY. I GOT THE MESSAGE.

LET'S HOPE THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST GOOD NEWS OF THE DAY...

...I'M CALLING BACK!
OH, MY GOD, LENA!!
STILL NO ANSWER? I CAN'T HOLD ON ANYMORE !!!!!
I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE STAYS CALM!
PERFECT. THAT'S ALL. THANK YOU.

HUH... I HATE WAITING!

OH, MY GOD, LENA!!

"CALL BACK IN TWO HOURS"
IT'S NOT THE END OF THE WORLD, ADAM.
Final stretch.

Thank you, Miss. Go on.

She also asks this question to men?!?!

Uh… no…

Uh, sorry. Before, a quick question: are you married?

Uh… no…

The results I have obtained are very promising. With funding and an adequate team, within 10 years, we will be able to enable a revolution in treatment against...

Please, can you tell us, on a 10-year projection, what results will be brought to our institute by your team?

She also asks this question to men?!?!
And then came the third and last day.
The grand jury.

GOOD MORNING.

SIT DOWN, PLEASE.

GOOD MORNING.
MY NAME IS MEREDITH, FLORENT.

I AM 32 YEARS OLD AND I HAVE BEEN PRACTICING AT THE ROBINSON INSTITUTE SINCE 6 YEARS.

I WILL PRESENT MY RESEARCH PROJECT TO YOU.
THIS ONE CONSISTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW...
THAT'S AN EXCELLENT QUESTION. THANK YOU. INDEED ... CALM-DOWN MERE.

WE'RE ALL WITH YOU !!!

THAT'S AN EXCELLENT QUESTION. THANK YOU. INDEED ...

CALM-DOWN MERE.

WE'RE ALL WITH YOU !!!

THAT'S AN EXCELLENT QUESTION. THANK YOU. INDEED ...

WE WERE THE FIRST TO BE SURPRISED.

AS PRESENTED IN SLIDE 4,

WE HAVE ADOPTED, FROM THE BEGINNING, A WHOLE NEW APPROACH FOR THIS PROJECT....
Everything was going well …

until that question.

MISS, WHAT YOU ARE SAYING CONTRADICTS THE LATEST RESULTS PUBLISHED BY LESTER, THE SPECIALIST IN THIS FIELD. HOW DO YOU ...
When it was my turn!

A man so sure of himself that he didn't stay in place.

I saw a woman so stressed that she couldn't speak anymore.

And several other candidates.

Come on...
NO, I JUST CAME TO ASSURE YOU OF MY SUPPORT.
IT SEEMED IMPORTANT TO ME...

GOOD LUCK TO YOU!

YOU...

DON'T YOU DO THE INTERVIEW?

WHAT?

WHAT?

WHAT DOES HE HAVE IN MIND?

Finally, the afternoon arrived. The dreaded time of the presentation...

HOW WERE THE INTERVIEWS?

I DON'T KNOW. VASILE CAME TO SEE ME...

WHAT?
HELLO MERE-DITH!

SO HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

WHAT’S HE PLAYING AT?!

DON’T WORRY, I CAME TO HELP YOU.

IS MY LAST INTERVIEW WITH HIM?!
On the morning of the second day...

I had to finish my interviews with PIs.

GOOD LUCK
ANYWAY, MISS!

THANK YOU!

I had to finish my interviews with PIs.

COME ON, ONE MORE!

WHAT ?!
Convince them that...

I am about to make exceptional discoveries.
The first day was... meetings with PIs.

About an hour each.

And to explain my research project.
MERE-DITH!!!

WE'VE COME TO SUPPORT YOU!

SURPRISE!!!

YOU'RE GONNA KICK ASS!

MERE-DITH!!!

WELL SAID!

YOUR SUCCESS WILL BE OUR REWARD!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

I HAVE TO GO.

THANKS!

YOU'VE HELPED ME SO MUCH!

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU.

YOU'RE GONNA KICK ASS!

RELAX!

I HAVE TO GO.
HERE WE GO AGAIN.
WAIT TILL YOU SEE ... 

MY PRESENTATION!
I'LL HAVE TO TEACH YOU HOW TO HANDLE STRESS, LENA.

I'M SO EXCITED FOR YOU!

I'M SO PROUD OF YOU!

DO NOT FORGET THAT I AM WITH YOU WHOLEHEARTEDLY AND THAT I WILL SUPPORT YOU WITH MY THOUGHTS!
HELLO, DID YOU SLEEP WELL?

I COULDN'T SLEEP ALL NIGHT.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. BUT YOU?

I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE NERVOUS.

WHY ARE YOU UP ALREADY?
I was finally ready!

And after several months....
That's how I got back to work.

With the help of Adam, Lena and Natalia.
LET'S START OVER ON A GOOD BASIS!

MEREDITH, I'M SORRY I WAS A COWARD WITH YOU AND ADAM. I FEEL REALLY BAD.

WELL, IT'S FORGOTTEN! AFTER EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED...

YOU KNOW WHAT, MEREDITH?! WE'LL SHUT HIS MOUTH! WE'LL ALL GET TOGETHER AND I PROMISE YOU THE NEXT JOB WILL BE YOURS!
WELL, AT LEAST...

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GETTING BACK TOGETHER WITH HIM!

IT'S CLEAR!

AHAHAHA!
I just had a fight with him. He learned that I missed my interview for the PI position. He threw it in my face while he was gloating. He treated me with the greatest contempt and even insulted me.

If you decide to stay with him...

What you think is manhood is sexism! He's a bad guy.
I DON'T WANT TO GET IN THE WAY, BUT, OBVIOUSLY, HE USES YOU AND REJECTS YOU WHENEVER HE WANTS.

YOU KNOW THAT. YOU'VE ALREADY HEARD HIM TALK ABOUT WOMEN....

I KNOW YOU HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH VASILE...

I WAS...

IN THE MICROSCOPE ROOM THIS MORNING.

I DON'T WANT TO GET IN THE WAY, BUT, OBVIOUSLY, HE USES YOU AND REJECTS YOU WHENEVER HE WANTS.
LEAVE ME ALONE MEREIDTH.
I WANT TO BE ALONE.

NATALIA,
PLeASE,
FOR ONCE, LISTEN TO ME.
A LOSER?!

So now, if you'll excuse me, sir.

I find it rather funny coming from a person as misogynistic as you.

What's behind this constant need to belittle women?!!
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!

WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?!

LISTEN TO ME, YOU FOOL!

YOU'RE JUST A LOSER!

NOW THAT YOU UNDERSTAND, GET OUT OF MY SIGHT.

HOW DARE YOU INTERFERE IN MY LIFE WHEN YOU'RE UNABLE TO PASS AN INTERVIEW?!
I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE ME ALONE!
VASILE!
GET OUT.
LEAVE ME ALONE!

HEY!!
I'M TALKING TO YOU!!!
OH NO, THIS TIME IT'S NOT GOING TO BE LIKE THAT!

WHAT?!

HE'S LEAVING?!

MERE?!

OH NO, THIS TIME IT'S NOT GOING TO BE LIKE THAT!

THANK YOU, SEE YOU LATER, REYNALD.
THAT'S ENOUGH!
DID YOU NEED TO BE SO BRUTAL?!
I feel so bad for her.

I... can I help you?
REYNALD, I NEED YOUR HELP. YOU HAVE A MINUTE?

UH... HELLO, EVERYONE. DO YOU MIND?

AH! WELL, THERE SHE IS.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, NATALIA? YOU LOOK TERRIBLE.
HAVE YOU SEEN NATALIA?

ENJOY YOUR MEAL!

MY SISTER WHEN SHE EATS VEGETABLES...

VEGETABLES ??
ARE YOU ON A DIET?

ON A DIET!? NO!

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, MER? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE SOMEWHERE ELSE.

WHAT IS THIS QUESTION ??!

THAT'S BECAUSE SHE'S ON A DIET.

UH...
SORRY?
YES. THANK YOU.
YOU TOO.

HAVE YOU SEEN NATALIA?
Adam:

We're going to eat. You coming?

Me:

I'm coming

---

In the meeting room:
I CAN'T BELIEVE VASILE COULD BEHAVE LIKE THAT?!

VASILE AND NATALIA!?!?

I CAN'T BELIEVE VASILE COULD BEHAVE LIKE THAT?!

HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO STUPID?!

WHAT A JERK!

NATALIA SHOULD BE AWARE OF THAT!!

NATALIA SHOULD BE AWARE OF THAT!!
But that’s Natalia’s voice!

Vasile, I don’t want to hide anymore. When can we finally take our relationship public?

Are you kidding me?
LET'S HOPE THEY WILL LEAVE SOON...

WHAT'S THAT NOISE?!

CAN'T THEY DO THAT AT HOME?!!

WHAT'S THAT NOISE?!?!
This is the microscope room.

For the purposes of the experiment

We have to work in the dark.

The curtains are used to separate each work space.

But I was talking about your plans, not the job!

I'm going to the microscope room.

I was just coming to say hello to you during coffee time.

How are you doing?

Yes, yes, I'm fine.

But I was talking about your plans, not the job!

I'm fine.

I was just coming to say hello to you during coffee time.

How are you doing?

But I was talking about your plans, not the job!
HELLO, MERE!

ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?

GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE! HI ADAM.

HELLO, MERE!
THANK YOU.
COME ON, KEEP YOUR SPIRITS UP, YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT!

NOW, TELL ME ABOUT IT.
WHAT EXACTLY DID THEY SAY?

NOTHING SPECIAL, ACTUALLY...

SHE JUST TOLD ME I WASN'T BEING CALLED BACK.

THAT'S IT.
I DIDN'T GET ANY MORE DETAILS.

I AM SO LUCKY...

THANK YOU.

TO HAVE HER IN MY LIFE....
TO GET RID OF THE SLUMP?!

HERE, SOMETHING TO CHEER YOU UP.

WELL ... I'M HERE.

MEREDITH? I AM HOME!

OH, THANKS LENA!

HEY, HEY, MY FAVORITE CAKES...

TO GET RID OF THE SLUMP?!
FINALLY HOME!

IF I HAD BEEN A MAN, HE WOULD NEVER HAVE...

FREAK!

I'M SICK OF IT. WHAT A ROTTEN DAY.

SPOKEN TO ME LIKE THIS!

FINALLY HOME!
GO ON, I'M OUT OF HERE, BITCH !...  

BUT SHUT UP, WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, POOR GIRL?!  

HE IS CRAZY !?!
SORRY.

CAN YOU MOVE OVER?!
AND YOU ALREADY TAKE UP A LOT OF SPACE SO...
I'M JUST IN MY SPACE.

CAN YOU MOVE OVER?!

UH...
HOW IRRONIC IT IS ...

AND THIS IS REALITY, PERHAPS ?!
SERIOUSLY?

IT'S NOT REALITY.

SERIOUSLY?
YOU'RE REALLY NAIVE. DON'T TELL ME YOU AGREE WITH HIM?

THE DAY YOU'LL GET HIS CAREER...

YOU MADE A FACE!

YOU CAN TALK ABOUT IT!

I DO. VERY FEW WOMEN KNOW HOW TO MANAGE STRESS, THAT'S NOTHING NEW!

DON'T TELL ME YOU AGREE WITH HIM?

PSS. YOU'RE REALLY NAIVE.

BUT YOU'RE HOPELESS TOO, TELL ME!
THAT’S BULLSHIT...

HELLO, CAVEMEN...

FORTUNATELY, NOT EVERYONE THINKS LIKE THAT!

AS IF A WOMAN WAS...

ACTUALLY LESS COMPETENT THAN A MAN!
AH, AH, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MISSED AT LUNCHTIME!
REYNALD IS CONVINCED...

ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE.

THAT'S ENOUGH, I NEED TO THINK...

LEAD A TEAM!
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

THAT A WOMAN CAN...

OLD REYNALD IS CRAZY!

STOP.
NO KIDDING; WHERE DID WE SEE THAT?

HEY, HEY, "WOMAN IN THE LAB, WOMAN IN THE BACK..."

THAT A CHICK HAS THE CHOPS FOR THAT?!!!!
YOU CALL AT THE RIGHT TIME!

YES. BUT I Didn’T GET THE JOB.

NO. YOU DID THE RIGHT THING! SORRY, I HAVE TO GO. WE’LL TALK ABOUT IT TONIGHT.

I’M NOT READY.

NO, NOTHING, FORGET IT.

NO, YOU CALL THEM??

WELL, THEN ??

YOU CALL AT THE RIGHT TIME!

PARDON.

AH, MY SISTER.

NO COMMENT...

HAVE I BECOME INVISIBLE OR WHAT?

PARDON.

NOTHING, FORGET IT.

OH, MY SISTER.
A WORD...

HERE YOU ARE.

CAN YOU PASS ME THE WATER?

IT'S BETTER NOT TO SAY...

SHE JUST LACKS SELF-CONFIDENCE.

NO! IT'S MUCH MORE THAN THAT!

UH...

TOY TO TOY TO KIHOU
YOU'RE A LITTLE HARSH, VASILE, AS ALWAYS...

Benedict doesn't have the stature.

You're a little harsh, Vasile, as always...

Oh! It's nothing! I'm just kidding!

Why? Are you jealous?

TSS...

Disappointed by myself...

I... I absolutely do not agree!

Disappointed by myself...

How could I have screwed up?

I am so disappointed...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'M SURE YOU'LL GET IT NEXT TIME.

IS THERE SOMETHING GOING ON BETWEEN YOU TWO?

AND THEN I'M GONNA HELP YOU!

THANK YOU.
No, but it's obvious, I wasn't up to it.

Mer, stop denigrating yourself; no one succeeds at first.

Thank you, that's very kind.

Come on, let's go.

I know you can do it.
I DIDN'T GET IN FOR THE JOB.

So, are you coming?

Mer?!! What happened?
FLORENT.

MEREDITH

FLORENT.

HELLO?

THANK YOU,

GOODBYE.

I WAS INTERVIEWED TWO WEEKS AGO...

THE POSITION OF TEAM LEADER...

THANK YOU, GOODBYE.
Come on, let's eat?

He's in a meeting. But maybe I can help you?

Go ahead. I'll join you there.

I have a phone call to make.

Fiou... come on, let's eat?
HOW CAN YOU WATCH SUCH NON-SENSE?!

I'M LOOKING FOR YOUR P.I.?
DO YOU KNOW WHERE REYNALD IS?

THE « P.I. »
This is the "Principal Investigator", i.e. the team leader within the laboratory. He manages research projects and is responsible for their publication. This is a position of responsibility, particularly coveted.
THAT'S RIGHT, THIS SHOW IS GREAT!

YES. I LOVED THE LITTLE GIRL'S PASSAGE.

IT WAS INCREDIBLE. SHE HAS REAL TALENT!