**Confessions of a Fraudster**

0:07
Hi, I'm Heather. And yes, the Heather ran the one that stole all that money from the government department.

0:15
Look,

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I want to set the story straight. I'm not the bad person the news has made me out to be.

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I admit some of my activities were not vet legit, but I had my reasons and it wasn't all my fault.

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If you knew what I did and how easy it was, maybe you'd understand.

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So when did it start?

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I got the job five years back, did such a great job on my CV. OK so I told a few fibs but who doesn't? I knew I could do the job in my sleep and no one even bothered to check the details.

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Well that was their first mistake. I've been working in the private sector, you know how it is, loads of perks, but I was bored and the government job looked pretty sweet. More status, bigger salary, but none of the perks. I really didn't plan on things going the way they did,

1:15
but the perks weren't there. I got my salary and that was it.

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It just wasn't fear for all the work I did.

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So it started with the little stuff. You know the type of thing. Taking a Peck of printer paper home. Using the eftpos receipt instead of the invoice from the Curry house to hide all those wines from lunch. Claiming a taxi ride home after working late.

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Who doesn't stream movies on their work phone? Can you believe they call that theft?

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Then there were the things that pushed the limit a bit, like claiming a new pair of glasses for me and my daughter to get the two for one special. I was claiming the right amount. I just got the optometrist and missed a few details off the invoice so it looked like both glasses were for me and they say that was fraught.

2:07
All these things were just so easy. No one even questioned me.

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They trusted me. It was their second mistake.

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No follow up, blind trust, no cheques. So $20 became 40 dollars, $40 became $80.00. You get the idea.

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Then I had to be more careful and mix up my claims. Learn the pattern of who picked things up and who didn't. Knew when my manager was distracted by Project Platinum to drop a few extra expenses.

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It was all pretty easy. Things were going good

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in October happened,

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I needed some major car appears, got some hefty medical bills, and to top it all off I was passed over for a promotion that I deserved. I was working my \*\*\*\* off for Project Platinum and we had to get some external consultants at.

3:00
Do you know how much those guys earn? I was doing all the work but got paid half as much.

3:09
Remember the day it hurt me

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whilst working at home? My bells on one side, the consultant's bells on the other.

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So

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what if I started billing the work I'd been doing, but as a consultant?

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Seating it up was too simple. I knew I had to be careful to not arouse suspicion. I started out low, only $1000. That was fair. 4 hours of work. The amount of overtime I was putting in. I didn't even describe the work, just put in consultancy services or hours worked as discussed. I got away with it Amazing. My manager was too busy to be interested. As long as the work was getting done,

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I made sure I covered my tracks.

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That was their third mistake.

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They didn't follow their own controls.

4:02
It did make holidays a bit tricky. Couldn't take too much leave and had to keep the work to myself. Suited me fine

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once I had the pattern going. It was just so tempting to increase the hours and frequency just like all the consultants did. And I won't lie, and money was really nice and got me out of the financial strife. Was nice to be able to treat my family for once. Maybe I'd have eventually tailed it off,

4:29
but then I got the news from Project Platinum.

4:33
After all my hard work, the steering group rejected my approach. I just couldn't believe it. The Intel we'd gathered was a total no brainer and now it would never see the light of day.

4:46
I thought the public really needed to know.

4:50
I made sure the media got a draught copy. Wow, you all know the storm that erupted. I still can't believe that stealing report, not the money, was my downfall.

5:02
Might have been able to talk my way out of that one,

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but it was the worm who sat next to me who took me down, speaking up.

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He's run, making out like he'd save the world,

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raise some questions about the work and suddenly I've got a micro manager who started asking questions and pouring over the invoices with a fine tooth comb. Internal audit got involved and then it was all over

5:27
convicted,

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dragging us all through the mud.

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And let me just say, home detention is not fun at all.

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But it wasn't my fault.

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They had blind trust in me. They didn't check my CV, they didn't check their invoices, they didn't follow their own process. On top of all that,

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just didn't care enough about what was going on with me.

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Maybe I got a bit greedy, but I wasn't the only one

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and there were others getting away with little things that weren't right and they knew it.

6:07
They will have a big job to rebuild their reputation.

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They really can't afford to be complacent.

6:14
Sorry

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if that's you. Remember what happened to me

6:18
and think again.