

When your client (or boss) throws you under the bus

6 lessons
about
workplace
betrayal and
misdirected
panic



1

Pressure can make allies turn on each other

- When stakes are high,
fear overrides logic
- Don't take friendly fire
personally



2

The person with the most to lose acts worst

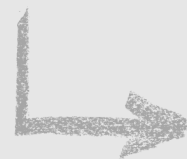
- Their reputation is on the line
- For you, it might be just a project



3

Panic needs a target

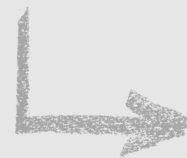
- Scared people lash out at whoever's closest
- Misdirected stress looks like personal attacks



4

Don't absorb their fear

- **What I did:**
Took it personally
and fought back
- **What I'd do now:**
"You're under a lot of pressure.
How can I help?"



5

Success (or time) heals

- Good outcomes can repair damaged relationships
- Even brutal moments can lead to gratitude



6

Separate the person from the pressure

- People act differently under extreme stress
- Don't judge their character by their worst moments



When allies attack you, they're usually drowning.

Your instinct will be to defend yourself.

But it may be more effective to throw them a life preserver.

And address the behavior when the crisis passes.



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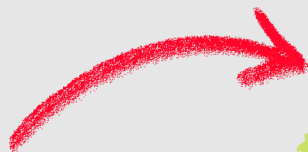
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