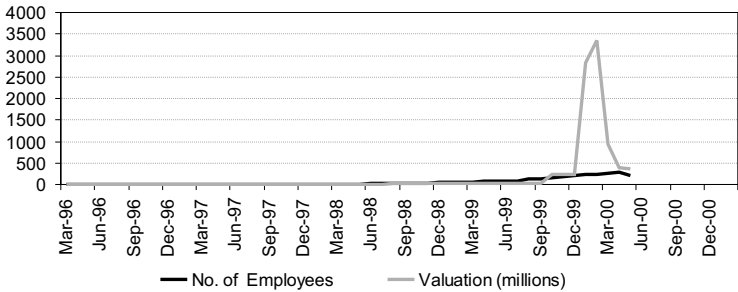


May 2000



Neoforma Lays Off 80 People

Just days after announcing the abandonment of previously announced merger agreements that would have added Eclipsys and its healthcare Internet affiliate HEALTHvision to its holdings, Neoforma.com has announced that it is laying off approximately 80 employees . . .

AuctionWatch
May 26, 2000

Cliffhanger



Thalia was one of those rare women who seemed completely oblivious to her extraordinary attractiveness. Her face seamlessly blended innocence, youth, intelligence and beauty, yet her manner was awkward and self-conscious. She walked as if the act of wearing shoes was foreign to her.

Each time I gave one of my heartfelt, but often rambling, talks to the employees about the bizarre state of our company and the world crushing it from the outside, most of the employees seemed oblivious to, or cynical of, my words. I was as perplexed as anyone by what was happening around us, but I felt obligated to share my core of rebellion and optimism.

Each time I gave such a speech, a few employees would send me a message expressing their appreciation for my talk. This was the extent of my personal connection to the majority of the staff. But that was all I needed to get up the nerve once again to speak, unrehearsed, in front of the increasingly large and unfamiliar group of employees. If my own limited experience was helping a few, that was enough.

Thalia didn't write me messages. Instead, she would nervously approach my office, peek in, and say, "Thank you for your talk today. It meant so much to me. You're so . . . humble."

Well, gosh. What could I say to that? "Oh . . . um . . . thank you. I'm glad that my perspective on things helps someone." And that's about how our conversations went, the times we spoke. Not much else could be said without us both going out of bounds. Thalia was an administrator who worked on the other side of the building. I didn't interact with her at all during the normal course of work.

I was not flirting with her and she was not flirting with me. At a very guarded, yet deep level we were fulfilling a need in each other. I felt increasingly isolated from the company I had formed. And she felt