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When I think of a woman who has truly made a difference in my life, my mind goes straight to Titch, (Tina Pirie) the Commercial Operations Manager I had the privilege of meeting while working at Warner Brothers in Auckland. From the moment I met her, Titch stood out—not just for her expertise, but for the warmth and understanding she brought to every interaction.

I was new to the team, navigating a fast-paced environment where deadlines loomed large, and expectations were high. It could have been overwhelming, but Titch had this incredible ability to put everyone at ease. I remember one particularly chaotic week when a project I was working on hit a snag—data wasn't aligning, and I was scrambling to figure out why. Instead of pointing fingers or adding pressure, Titch pulled me aside with a smile and said, "Let's sort this out together."

What inspired me most about Titch was how she led with empathy while still challenging the status quo. In a role that could easily have been all about numbers and processes, she made it about people.

One memory stick with me: during a particularly grueling month-end close, when tensions were high and exhaustion was setting in, Titch simply says teamwork." It was small, but it was everything. She had a way of making you feel seen and valued, no matter how big or small your role was.

Titch's leadership wasn't loud or flashy—it was steady, kind, and forward-thinking. She showed me what it means to balance strength with compassion, and her influence rippled beyond just me

it shaped how our whole team worked together. She's a reminder of the power women have to transform workplaces and lives, not through force, but through understanding

and a willingness to challenge things for the better. I'll always be grateful for the time I got to work with her—and I know I'm not the only one she inspired along the way.