

UNITED WE STAND

Abraham Tadesse

A man in a green hoodie with a grey backpack enters his apartment, closes door and looks through peep hole. He takes out phone and dials a number, taking a seat on his couch.

OPERATOR  
Thanks for calling. Input code now.

The Man dials a cod into his cellphone.

OPERATOR (CONT'D)  
Thank you, please hold.

"Opus No. 1" - Tim Carleton begins playing: <https://youtu.be/N7xn5zeJ4D4>

The Man is on hold, stand up from his couch, and he lightly starts to dance. This takes place for 5-6 seconds.

CUSTOMER SUPPORT 1  
Thanks for calling, my name is  
Lindsay, how can I help you?

ASSASSIN  
The job is done.

CUSTOMER SUPPORT 1  
Hello sir, my name is Lindsay, I  
think you said your hob has hung,  
is that correct?

ASSASSIN  
No, I said 'the job is done'. In  
New York.

CUSTOMER SUPPORT 1  
I didn't quite catch that. How  
about this, press 1 for live  
customer support. Press 2 to....

There is no actual option two. Assassin looks at phone and sits back down and places phone to ear. He presses option 1.

CUSTOMER SUPPORT 1 (CONT'D)  
Thank you! We'll have a live person  
on the line shortly. Please hold.

Music plays again. He slowly gets back up to dance. Stops once a person is on the line.

DEBRA

Thank yo for calling, this is real life person Debra, Customer support executive analyst assistant, how may I help you?

ASSASSIN

Hi Debra, this is Operator 2435-G, and I'm-

DEBRA

I'm sorry, one moment sir is that "2" like the letter?

ASSASSIN

No, like th number.

DEBRA

Ok, I got ya. And that's 'G', like Gefilte fish?

ASSASSIN

I think so.

DEBRA

Sir, it's either a yes or a no.

ASSASSIN

Yes.

DEBRA

Fantastic. How may I help you 2435-G.

ASSASSIN

The New York job is complete.

DEBRA

Umm-hmmm, understood sir. New York WITH A 'y'?

ASSASSIN

I- Yes? N-E-W Y-O-R-K.

A beat.

ASSASSIN (CONT'D)

Hello?

DEBRA

Sir, I could not understand what you just said. If you'd like, please spell it out on your key pad.

ASSASSIN

No, it's New York City in New York State. The assassination has taken place.

DEBRA

Alright sir, I understand. Thank you for the notice. Is this your first assassination with us?

ASSASSIN

Yes.

DEBRA

(Pause)

Ok, I'm seeing this is your first assassination with us. Have you ever been caught, captured, interrogated, snitched, imprisoned, or otherwise work for a state-sanctioned killing team previously?

ASSASSIN

No.

DEBRA

Alright sir I can see you were pulled over once.

ASSASSIN

I was 18, that was from a long time ago. What does that have to do with what's happening now? Look, I'm just updating you that the job was done and I'm looking for payment.

DEBRA

Sir, you void all payment if you're not honest with your records.

ASSASSIN

I WAS PULLED OVER! I'd like to speak with the manager in charge of payment-

DEBRA

Sir, this is not the payment line, this is the general assassination line. Please hold while I transfer you.

ASSASSIN

Please don't transfer me-

Hold music plays again. Assassin looks pissed. Slowly gets up to dance again, he hesitates several times. Finally he's about

to dance until the line picks up once more.

MANAGER  
Payments section, can I please have  
your operator number.

ASSASSIN  
2435-G.

MANAGER  
Very good sir. I see here you're  
calling about a recent  
assassination that took place in  
New York City?

ASSASSIN  
Yes.

MANAGER  
Ok, that's great, one moment.

A beat.

MANAGER (CONT'D)  
How's the weather?

ASSASSIN  
It's actually not bad.

MANAGER  
That's great.

A beat.

MANAGER (CONT'D)  
Ok, you still there?

ASSASSIN  
I am still here.

MANAGER  
Alright, here's the good news, I am  
seeing your records here and do see  
that a CEO was killed earlier this  
today.

ASSASSIN  
Yes, that's me.

MANAGER  
Great. Ok, I'm also seeing this is  
your first time with us. Did you  
fill out all necessary paperwork  
for pre-approval ?

ASSASSIN

Yes, I believe so. To be honest, it was a simple hit, nothing extraordinary, very basic procedure. I've done the same in Europe before and there was barely any paperwork involved. This seems overly complicated.

MANAGER

I understand sir, but we have to follow all company protocols to get you approved. Ok so good news, payment will proceed, however I am seeing a bill here for a hotel room and gun that we will have to take out of your pay. It appears doing the math you will owe \$1,203.56. Would you like to pay that with cash, card, or human head?

ASSASSIN

This is crazy, I shouldn't owe anything! I did the job, and by the way, I used my own gun! I shipped the gun you gave me back to you!

MANAGER

Sir, we have yet to receive it. Can you recall the 38-digit package number off the top of your head?

ASSASSIN

No!

MANAGER

Sir my hands are tied. Card?

ASSASSIN

NO, NO CARD!

MANAGER

One moment sir.

A beat.

MANAGER (CONT'D)

Did you inscribe the bullet casings with, "Deny, delay, depose"?

ASSASSIN

Yes.

MANAGER

Ok, so in situations like these where you leave a mark on the whole of society, this would go from being a professional hit to a personal one. Unfortunately sir, this hit would now fall out of coverage.

ASSASSIN

THE TARGET IS DEAD- THIS IS RIDICULOUS, CAN I PLEASE SPEAK TO A MANAGER-MANAGER!

MANAGER

Please hold.

Hold music plays.

BABA YAGA

(Russian-accented English)

His is Baba Yaga, how may I kill for you?

ASSASSIN

Listen, I conducted a targeted assassination, and now I'm paying for my own hit. I wanted coverage and I've jumped through all these hoops to get coverage. Now I'm being denied?

BABA YAGA

(Russian-accented English)

Sir, you are screaming too much, it could lead to a heart attack.

ASSASSIN

I CAN SCREAM AS LOUD AS I WANT! IN FACT, MAYBE I COME DOWN TO YOUR CALL CENTER AND TAKE A HIT OUT ON YOU!

A beat.

BABA YAGA

(Russian-accented English)

Ok sir. Do me a favor. You use a gun to kill, correct?

ASSASSIN

Yes.

BABA YAGA

Great. Look out that window.

(MORE)

BABA YAGA (CONT'D)  
 What do you see.

ASSASSIN  
 NYC?

BABA YAGA  
 (Russian-accented English)  
 Closer.

ASSASSIN  
 Glass?

BABA YAGA  
 (Russian-accented English)  
 Wider.

ASSASSIN  
 A window?

BABA YAGA  
 (Russian-accented English)  
 Ding-ding-ding. That is my weapon  
 of choice. Please stop screaming at  
 me or you will go through it.

ASSASSIN  
 Ok, sorry It's just I don't have  
 that amount right now.

BABA YAGA  
 (Russian-accented English)  
 It's alright. Would you be  
 interested in financial assistance?

ASSASSIN  
 Sure.

BABA YAGA  
 (Russian-accented English) Perfect!  
 We work through health insurance  
 funny enough. What's YOUR insurance  
 company?

ASSASSIN  
 United Healthcare.

BABA YAGA  
 Wow, you know that CEO is an  
 asshole.