

The Assassin Kit

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By James Collins

The receptionist was very smart and alert. She had recently transferred in from one of the outlying manufacturing facilities and was on her way up to becoming an executive secretary. The telephone call was unusual and put her on guard. The person on the other end indicated they were unable to order their desired product as no one was answering the phone. The receptionist asked, "What phone extension were you attempting to reach?" and she wrote down the number. What was the name of the product you wished to purchase so I can put you in contact with the correct sales person?" He replied, "The assassin kit."

In all her years in the company, the receptionist had never heard of this product and wanted to help the potential customer. She asked him where he had seen the product advertised and he answered, "Soldier of Fortune magazine." This was not a magazine that the company used to place ads. She then asked, "Could you please tell me the month of publication for that magazine and the page, if you have it, so that I can notify marketing and we will then get back to you and let you know the availability of that product."

He replied, "I have it right here. It was in this month's November issue on page 56."

She said, "Thank you very much. "

The receptionist then obtained the customer's phone number and his name and promised that someone would call him back. Then she notified her manager and related this unusual phone call. The manager in turn, repeated the information to the general manager who immediately sent the security manager out to a local store to purchase the magazine. He returned about an hour later. There on the identified page was an ad for an assassin kit listing the company phone number and the extension for the librarian. This immediately identified the employee who placed the ad and was illegally using the company's phones for advertising.

The kit, according to the ad, consisted of an innocuous briefcase with a hole, drilled in the end of the case, for a bore mounted laser and fixed blocks, which could accommodate several shapes. Further, it had a trigger mechanism and the mountings for various types of pistols. The ad was specific that no pistol was included but that the person who purchased the kit could install his or her own weapon. Needless to say, security fired the employee within the hour; management notified all receptionists to refer any calls for such a product and for that extension to the security department. The company never manufactured or sold any assassin kits. The former employee never received any type of recommendation.

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