Tale of Two Cities

Barbara Pokryszka

Unite - Hotel Workers Branch

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Tale of Two Cities

Abstract
[Excerpt] I am Barbara Pokryszka - cartoonist, painter, sculptor, poet, Room Attendant in Hilton hotel from 19.05.2008 to 03.06.2012 - I cleaned at least 15 rooms a day which is 3,750 rooms per year, whilst being bullied and extremely harassed.

The majority of workers were too scared to defend our rights with fear of losing their jobs. Myself and some of my workmates tried to defend our rights with some minor success with the help of Unite Hotel Workers Branch. After more than four years working at the Hilton without a complaint against me, I was suspended, they said for contacting the media, I dispute this and my fight with them goes on.

My health suffer at this time and while I were off sick I create series of painting to highlight the conditions of workers and a graphic novel based on my own horrible experience to encourage workers to organize.

Educate, agitate, organise, it's time to fight...

Keywords
hospitality workers, hotels, chambermaids, labor unions, labor movement, UNITE

Disciplines
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Unite The Union

THESE ARE EXACTLY THE TYPE OF WORKERS WE NEED!!!
I am Barbara Pokryszka- cartoonist, painter, sculptor, poet, Room Attendant in Hilton hotel from 19.05.2008 to 03.06.2012- I cleaned at least 15 rooms a day which is 3,750 rooms per year, whilst being bullied and extremely harassed.

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My health suffer at this time and while I were off sick I create series of painting to highlight the conditions of workers and a graphic novel based on my own horrible experience to encourage workers to organise.

Educate, agitate, organise, it's time to fight...
“Happiness is not something ready made. It comes from your own actions.”

Dalai Lama
YOU HAVE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY. WE NEED THE BEST EMPLOYEES IN THE WORLD BECAUSE WE HAVE THE BEST JOBS IN THE WORLD! NOT EVERYONE IS SUITABLE — ONLY THE BEST. SO IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GOOD ENOUGH, COME FOR AN INTERVIEW AND WE WILL SEE IF YOU'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES.

I AM THE BEST!
OH YES!!

I NEED THIS JOB!!!
FANTASTIC JOB!

I WILL WORK VERY HARD!!

I NEED THIS JOB... I NEED MONEY....

HM.... I DON'T TRUST THEM...

THEY LOOKS VERY FRIENDLY...

© B. Poluyenko
Hi, my name is Lucy. I have a lot of experience working with people...

Well... OK... We'll see...

English is my mother tongue.

That's good, but we have a lot of candidates for this job.

I'm sorry, but I don't speak good English yet...

I need money... I need any job...

I think you need someone like me! I am strong!

What? That's great!!!

Fantastic!!!

I have no experience yet, I arrived in England just a few days ago...

Don't worry, we'll give you some training.

These are exactly the type of workers we need!!!

We love foreigners!! Ha, ha, ha!

We do? Why?

They don't speak English, they don't know their rights and they work very hard!! Ha, ha, ha!!

Well done, you've made the grade, you've got the job. Now don't let me down. See you tomorrow at the training session.

Let's celebrate!!! We are the best! We are so lucky!!!
BARMAN! POUR THE DRINK FOR ALL PLEASE, TOMORROW WE START WORK AT „THE GREAT HOTEL“!

POUR US A BEER BARMAN AND KEEP TO YOURSELF YOUR STUPID ADVICE PLEASE!

IT IS THE MOST EXPENSIVE HOTEL IN EUROPE. I AM SURE YOU WOULD LIKE TO WORK THERE TOO, BUT YOU ARE NOT GOOD ENOUGH!

...MAYBE THE BARMAN IS RIGHT...

SO WHAT DID HE MEAN? CHEERS! CHEERS!

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, HE IS JUST JEALOUS. HE WORKS IN A SMALL PUB, BUT WE WORK AT A BEAUTIFUL HOTEL „THE GREAT HOTEL“.

I THINK WE SHOULD JOIN TO THE UNION GUYS...

I DON'T NEED A UNION ENOUGH MYSELF.

BARBARA, I AM STRONG NOTHING CAN TOUCH ME!

BARBARA, DON'T WORRY, BILL IS RIGHT, THE BARMAN IS JUST JEALOUS.
THE NEXT DAY...

WHERE

GREAT HOTEL

DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING? THIS IS THE GUEST ENTRANCE GET AWAY FROM HERE!

WE COME HERE TO WORK SIR.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?! GET OUT!!

WHAT DO WE DO NOW... WE ARE HERE FOR TRAINING...

DEREK SHOW THEM THE STAFF ENTRANCE.

...POOR PEOPLE...

COME ON, I'LL SHOW YOU THE STAFF ENTRANCE.

I'M DEREK, THE LUGGAGE PORTER. NICE TO MEET YOU GUYS, IS THIS YOUR FIRST DAY HERE?

YES... BUT WHY CAN'T WE USE THE MAIN ENTRANCE?

WELL...

IF YOU WANT TO KEEP OUT OF TROUBLE I SUGGEST THAT YOU JOIN THE UNION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS IS NOT A VERY NICE PLACE TO WORK.
I DON'T NEED ANY STUPID UNIONS!
I AM VERY STRONG!
I DON'T NEED ANY HELP.

NO THANKS...
IT COSTS MONEY...

HM... WHAT'S GOING ON... THE BARMAN SAID WE SHOULD JOIN THE UNION...

UNITE THE UNION
TRANSPORT HOUSE
128 THEOBALDS ROAD
LONDON
WC1X 8TN

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT UNITE THE UNION?

EVERY MONDAY WE MEET AT HOLBORN, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COME...

ANYWAY YOU ARE WELCOME IF ONLY TO FIND OUT ABOUT WHAT RIGHTS YOU HAVE. SO KEEP IN TOUCH AND GOOD LUCK!!

BARBARA!! DON'T BE STUPID. WE DON'T NEED UNITE! IF NECESSARY I WILL HELP YOU, JUST LOOK AT ME - I AM THE BEST!
WE NEED A ROOM ATTENDANT. YOU WILL HAVE TWO DAYS TRAINING AND THEN YOU MUST CLEAN 18 ROOMS IN SIX HOURS WORK. IT’S EASY. IF YOU CLEAN MORE THAN 18 ROOMS IN THIS TIME THEN YOU WILL GET A £3 BONUS PER ROOM.

YOU’LL GET THE LINEN PORTER POSITION... WE NEED STRONG MAN.

HERE ARE THE LIST OF ROOMS FOR YOU TO CLEAN TODAY.

18 ROOMS?! THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DO !!!!

DON’T PANIC BARBARA, I’M SURE IT IS EASY...

HA, HA, HA !!!!

HI, ARE YOU NEW HERE?

YES, AND HAVE TO CLEAN 18 ROOMS PER DAY.

WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING ??? THEY SAID...

IT’S IMPOSSIBLE MY DEAR, YOU WILL HAVE TO STAY FOR OVERTIME IF YOU WANT TO CLEAN 18 ROOMS.
I'm great. I'm a linen porter. It's tough but I am strong. It's nothing for me.

I'm not sure whether this job is right for me...

Apparently no one is able to clean 18 rooms in 8 hours, so to get the bonus is impossible.

It's a very hard job.

I told you, there is a union meeting on Monday and non-members are welcome. It's interesting to get another point of view - will you go with me?

No, I'm busy...

No, I can't afford it.

Unions are for weak people!

I would like to go to the union meeting Derek. I'll see you there on Monday.
THURSDAY...

FASTER!!

TAKE THIS DIRTY LINEN OUT OF HERE! GO, GO, GO!!

BILL! WE NEED FRESH LINEN QUICKLY!!

FASTER! FASTER! THE GUESTS ARE WAITING!!

WE NEED EXTRA FRESH TOWELS! FASTER JUAN!!

I AM SO TIRED...

I ALREADY CHANGED THIS LINEN THREE TIMES!

I DON'T HAVE ANY CLEAN LINEN TO CHANGE IT AGAIN.

KATSUMI! THERE IS A DIRTY MARK. CHANGE IT NOW! WHAT I TOLD YOU??!

FRIDAY...

WHAT'S WRONG BILLY? WHY ARE YOU NOT EATING?

IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT BILL??

ABSOLUTELY FINE! JUST LEAVE ME ALONE PLEASE!!
SATURDAY...

YOU MUST BE MORE PRODUCTIVE! YOU ARE SO LAZY!

YOU ARE THE WORST MAID IN THE WORLD KATSUMI! GET UP AND GO CHANGE THE BED AGAIN! YOU DON'T COME HERE FOR HOLIDAY!

I DON'T THINK I CAN STAND ANY MORE...

MORE DUVETS PLEASE!

THIS JOB WILL KILL ME...

WE NEED MORE TOWELS!!

BILL!! IT'S URGENT. COME HERE QUICKLY!!

BILL QUICKLY, WE NEED...

TODAY YOU MUST STAY FOR OVERTIME, BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T CLEAN ALL THE ROOMS FROM YOUR WORKING LISTS.

SUNDAY....

WHAT DO YOU WANT BILL?

I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A DAY OFF THIS WEEK, I PREFER TUESDAY...

WHAT? ARE YOU CRAZY?! YOU ARE NOT ON YOUR HOLIDAY!! GO BACK TO WORK BILL!! NOW! WE HAVE A HOTEL FULL OF GUESTS! I WILL GIVE YOU PAY OFF AFTER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

BUT... YOU DID SAY BEFORE...

SHUT UP AND GO BACK TO WORK IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE FIRED!!

I AM STRONG.... IT'S JUST A BAD DAY.... I MUST BE STRONG, TOMORROW IT WILL BE BETTER

DON'T WORRY KATSUMI... I'LL TRY TO DO SOMETHING.... THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO TREAT US LIKE SLAVES...

I'M SO WEAK, I CAN'T STAND MORE BARBARA, I FEEL PAIN IN MY BACK...
HOLBORN, UNITE THE UNION OFFICE.

But... Are you sure Derek can I go to the meeting? I am not a member yet.

Of course Barbara. As I've told you before everyone is welcome.

So... welcome to our meeting. I am Kevin. I am glad to see you again.

Hi everybody, my name is Dave. I am the hotel officer. Any new faces?

Hi everybody, this is Barbara from my hotel...

Hi, I clean bedrooms. I have a lot of problems.

In the union there's no "us" and "them." Hotels are our workplaces.

Can you help me?

Yes. First thing it to make sure you get your holidays every year. Here is a booklet.

Your hotel workers' rights.

We do two things Barbara. First we can represent you and provide support and advice. However, our main purpose is to get your workplace organised.
Organise workers? They are scared! My friends wouldn’t come here, Derek asked all of us but nobody wanted to come, only me...

Scared people get the minimum wage. Hotels love scared workers. Who wants to get paid the London living wage?

Of course we want! Yes! Yes! Me!! Me too! And me!!

And who wants to get paid £16.30 per hour?

DID YOU HEAR THAT? HA, HA, HA!

Ha! Ha! Ha!

Of course we want!! Hah! Hah! Hah! Are you kidding me?

And work for the same hotel company as you do now?

It is impossible, you are crazy.

Are you joking?

They will not pay this money...

This is stupid...

This could not work in London.

Maria here works for ‘The Great Hotel’ in the New York Great Hotel there is a union member called Maria, who gets £16.30 for cleaning rooms, the same as our Maria in London for £6.80.

This must be not true...

This is not New York...
But first Maria is going to report on the employee action team we are setting up in the "GREAT HOTEL."

Bill?

Bill? Bip? Bip?

Bill Strong:

Bill, I can't speak now... I am at a union meeting. I'll call you later... Your back?! What's happened?? Are you still at work? I'll call you later...

Why is he still at work? I am sure something wrong has happened...

Is everything OK Barbara?

I'm not sure... My friend had some accident at work. He is still there. I don't know any details yet...

Okay... So let's get back to the meeting and check out what's happened later.

Let's learn from Maria now...

You'll only get better wages and conditions if you organise...

Myself and my workmates in the "GREAT HOTEL" are now starting to get organised. Only together we have power; only together we can change conditions, only together...
Hi Bill, what's up with you?

I'm in trouble, I don't know what's up. I've hit rock bottom.

What happened!

I hurt my back at work, I can't work Barbara... what can I do?? I need money!

Health comes first, sort that out.

But what about money?! I need money... I need every penny Barbara!! Don't you understand?

Bill!! We need a fresh outfit, quickly!!

Bill!! Where are you?!

You need a life and health first. We will help you to sort it out if you join with us.

Bill! Where are you, you lazy bastard!!

...tell me how Barbara.

You're right Barbara... what happened to me was wrong.

Bill... accidents happen because there's no proper health and safety. We can stop them if we want to. We shouldn't be hurt at work!!

Get your health sorted out. Then get to the union clinic advice this Monday, speak to an adviser. Then think about where you are and what to do. Your accident shouldn't have happened Bill...
UNITE OFFICE.

HI, YOU MUST BE BILL, I'M HUGHIE, BARBARA TOLD ME YOU WERE COMING...

I'M IN BIG TROUBLE HUGHIE...

I WORK REALLY HARD, I'M A LINEN PORTER. I DO EVERYTHING THEY ASK ME, HELP OUT WHEN THEY NEED EXTRA ROOM DONE. I WORK DAYS OFF... I ALWAYS...

BILL, STOP. THIS IS A UNION, WE ARE THE UNION. WE DON'T USE "I" IN THE UNION. WE SAY "WE".

I DON'T GET IT.

WRITE THE FIRST THREE LETTERS OF UNION U.N.I.

IN ENGLISH THAT'S "YOU AND I" THINK OF "YOU AND I" AS EVERYONE IN YOUR HOTEL BEING IN THE UNION.

...I GET IT... I'M ON MY OWN AND I NEED HELP. DO YOU HELP ME?

LET'S TALK, GET A PLAN, SEE WHAT WE CAN DO.

HUGH, I UNDERSTAND I CAN'T DO IT ON MY OWN, I'LL JOIN...

ONE MORE OF US ONE LESS OF THEM GET WELL. WELCOME TO THE UNION BILL!

THANK YOU HUGH, I HAVE TO CALL...

BARBARA? IT WAS OK... YES I UNDERSTAND, I'VE JOINED, WE HAVE TO ACT TOGETHER.

GREAT!!! GET BETTER AND WE CAN WORK TOGETHER ON MEETING AND TALKING TO OTHER WORKERS IN THE HOTEL. WELL DONE BILL!!
Meanwhile in the "Great Hotel"...

I live like a dog, no money, no much food, sharing a room, 3 hours on the bus every day... no woman, no life, I have to do something...

I know!!! I'll speak to Rob Miller, from the agency. He said if I had problems to come and speak to him. I'll go after work.

Come into the office Juan. Rob can see you now.

Hi Juan, how's it going, how can I help you?

Hi Rob, how's it going, how can I help you?

Yes, of course. I am here for anybody who works at the agency. That's our motto: "Together". We can work it out together. What's the problem Juan?

The problem? Rob, I just can't live on the money you pay me. I work all the hours but everything is up and the wages are down. I need a rise, in my wages more money. Here, look at this, it's about the London living wage. Here, in this leaflet, look. Even cleaners are now getting this wage. Have you heard about this wage?

Thanks for seeing me. You said when I signed up that I could always speak to you, if I had a problem...

We are calling hotels to pay the living wage! Please speak to the hotel manager today and ask them to pay the London living wage.
YES OF COURSE. IT'S A GREAT IDEA AND MANY COMPANIES CAN AFFORD TO PAY IT. BUT THIS IS THE HOTEL INDUSTRY. IT IS VERY COMPETITIVE. THE HOTELS CANNOT PAY BECAUSE OF THE COMPETITION. THEY WILL ONLY PAY THE MINIMUM WAGE.

I'M SORRY JUAN.

WHAT CAN I DO? I CAN'T SURVIVE.

I'LL SPEAK TO THE HOTEL SEE IF WE CAN GET EXTRA MONEY IN THE NEXT YEARS BUDGET. BUT CAN'T PROMISE, I WILL DO MY BEST.

I SEE... THANK YOU MR. MILLER. THANK YOU MR. NICE.

GOOD NIGHT JUAN.

KEEP AN EYE ON JUAN, PETE...

I WILL...

THE NEXT DAY...

WHAT I SHOULD DO...

O00

I KNOW!! I WILL SPEAK TO MR. GRIMTEMPS, THE GENERAL MANAGER, HE ALWAYS WALKS THE TOP CORRIDORS IN THE MORNING...
EXCUSE ME, MR GRIMTEMPS, I AM JUAN FROM SPAIN, ONE OF YOUR HOTEL WORKERS. CAN I SPEAK TO YOU FOR A MINUTE, SIR?

YES, OF COURSE JUAN...

SIR, I CAN'T LIVE ON THE WAGES I GET WORKING HERE. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. I CAN'T SURVIVE. I HAVE A LEAFLET ABOUT LONDON LIVING WAGES. HERE. I WOULD LIKE A LIVING WAGE.

JUAN, MY DEAR CHAP, I'M SORRY TO HEAR THIS. I WILL MEET WITH THE AGENCY TOMORROW TO TALK ABOUT THIS. DON'T WORRY, WE WILL SORT IT OUT. BY THE WAY JUAN, KEEP THIS TALK PRIVATE. WILL YOU?

YES SIR, THANK YOU MR GRIMTEMPS.

HURRAH!!

NO ONE KNOWS WHAT GOES ON BEHIND CLOSED DOORS...

I AM AMANDA FROM H.R. WE WON'T BE TAKING ANY NOTES OF THIS MEETING ROB. ONE OF YOUR WORKERS, JUAN, ASKED MR GRIMTEMPS FOR A PAY RISE YESTERDAY, HE WANTED THE LIVING WAGE!

DISGRACEFUL, ROB, WE PAY YOU WELL. IT'S YOUR JOB TO SORT OUT THIS NONSENSE.

YOU PAY US PEANUTS... NEXT YEAR, YOU WANT A PRICE CUT...

I BLAME UNITE, THEIR PEOPLE ARE HANGING AROUND THE STAFF EXIT. GIVING OUT LEAFLETS. ABOUT THE LIVING WAGE. ABOUT US. ALL LIES OF COURSE.
How can we pay them a living wage, they don’t have a life. We only use them because we need cheap labour to make even more profits.

And so you get your big fat bonus...

We can’t say that, sir. Never. Remember the self-employed workers. They nearly got us in trouble last year.

A few joined.

What do we do if they ask for a wage rise?

I thought it was okay, Amanda. Are the union trying to organise here?

If they don’t like our wages, they know where the power is. It’s the door for union members.

London living wage unite

We can’t sack people for being union members, sir. It is illegal.

Then we will make them afraid to join.

What happens if they all join the union?

Then, Rob. That’s the time we should start to be afraid.

Why? Why be scared?

Because the union will tell them about their rights, then they will get ideas about better pay, about better conditions...

I don’t understand.

We need labour costs down. Our shareholders want more and more from us each year. That’s why we subcontract to you...

Yes... we understand.
Rob, my bonus depends on low wages. And your contract as well.

Yes sir.

Rob, every year new people come to London. Use the new ones. Get rid of the old ones. That way the new ones never get any rights. They don’t get funny ideas like asking for a living wage. The new ones are just glad to have a job. Isn’t that right Amanda?

As long as we obey the law, sir.

The national minimum wage goes up in October. Juan will get this rise then.

I think he wants more than that.

What about a small pay rise to keep Juan from going to the union?

Well… business is slow. Juan will have two weeks off work, unpaid. From the next rota change. He’s an agency worker. In law there is no come back.

Pete, see to this please.

I’ll do it today.

We need to make sure workers don’t ask for too much. Amanda tell Rob of our plan for Juan.

I can remember when hotel workers were valued and treated with respect.

Good, this will mean that Juan’s workmates will be scared. We must obey the law at all times, which means that we can do what we want! Ha, ha, ha!!! Unless unite the union gets into this hotel.
A FEW DAYS LATER...
I'M SO TIRED BARBARA... I WORKED WITHOUT A DAY OFF, TWO SHIFTS A DAY, THEY HAVE NOT ENOUGH WORKERS, BILL IS ON SICK LEAVE, JUAN RESIGNED, I FEEL LIKE A ZOMBIE.

WHAT?!! NOT ENOUGH WORK? WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!

THEY TOLD ME THEY NEED WORKERS THAT'S WHY I WORKED WITHOUT A DAY OFF FOR A FEW WEEKS, HOW CAN THEY SAY THERE IS NOT ENOUGH WORK FOR JUAN? IT'S RIDICULOUS!

I THINK WE ARE IN TROUBLE, KATSUMI... LET'S CALL DEREK, WE NEED HIS HELP...

JUAN Didn'T RESIGN KATSUMI, I SPOKE TO HIM, PETE NICE TOLD HIM THAT THERE IS NOT ENOUGH WORK FOR EVERYONE.

I'M IN TROUBLE DEREK, WHAT CAN I DO?

I'M IN TROUBLE, WHAT CAN I DO DEREK?

LET'S MEET IN THE BAR AFTER WORK TO TALK IT THROUGH...

AFTER WORK IN THE PUB.

HI GUYS, HOW ARE YOU? BEER? WINE? WHISKEY?

NO, THANKS JAKE, TEA PLEASE. JUST A TAP WATER PLEASE. SMALL COFFEE...

I'VE HEARD THAT THE GREAT HOTEL IS VERY BUSY. THEY'RE ADVERTISING FOR MORE WORKERS. I'M SURE YOU EARN A LOT OF MONEY WHEN THE HOTELS DOING SO WELL...

NOT REALLY...

IT'S A BIT COMPLICATED JAKE... HAVE YOU SEEN DEREK HERE?

YES, HE'S OVER THERE...

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I work 16 hours a day but the agency doesn't pay me any overtime, I have nothing to live on, I have no money for food, I have no strength for work...

I hurt my back... I worked too hard for too many hours, without any help. Now I can't work at all...

I asked for a pay rise and then I was punished for it. The agency reduced my working hours, I have nothing to live on Derek...

I am bullied and victimised at work...

It looks like they are in trouble... I tried to warn them but they didn't want to listen to me.

Could you tell me Bill, what you were told at the union when you decided to become a union member?

The union is you and I, together, not me alone.

Ok, there's something happening next Friday that the union is organising.

It's about you and you and you and you and I.

It's our 8/8 picnic against poverty where hotel workers will be asking for a citywide agreement and everyone to get the London Living Wage. Look, I have some leaflets here.

I'm going, would you like to come?
MR GRIMTEMPS WILL HAVE TO PAY US THE LONDON LIVING WAGE.

YES, WE NEED THE LIVING WAGE!

THIS HARD WORK DESERVES TO BE BETTER PAID.

YES!!! LET'S DO IT!!

LET'S SAY "WHAT DO WE WANT"

WE WANT DECENCY!!

WHAT HAS HAPPENED GUYS?

WHAT'S GOING ON...

CRAZY PEOPLE...

JAKE, I'VE JOINED THE UNION. I'M BILL. ONE MORE OF US AND ONE LESS OF THEM. THANKS BROTHER!

SEE YOU AT THE 8/18 DEMO THEN, WELCOME ABOARD!

WAIT A MINUTE GUYS...

SEE YOU AT THE DEMO!
BROTHERS AND SISTERS
WE SPEAK MANY
LANGUAGES AND COME
FROM MANY CULTURES
BUT IF WE SPEAK WITH
ONE VOICE, OUR VOICE
WILL BE LOUD!!

SHE'S
RIGHT...

WE'RE
ALL
HAVE COMMON
PROBLEMS...

WE NEED TO
ACT AS ONE...

UNITING
OUR COMMUNITIES
fairness - justice - respect
IT WAS A GREAT DAY!! NOW WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT WHAT TO DO NEXT.

YES, THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. SEE YOU THIS EVENING.

SEE YOU LATER COMRADES!

THANK YOU COMRADE FOR YOUR GREAT INSPIRING SPEECH.

YOU'RE RIGHT, EVEN IF WE SPEAK MANY LANGUAGES AND COME FROM MANY CULTURES WE HAVE PROBLEMS IN COMMON.

WE ARE ALL HARD WORKERS AND WE ALL GET THE SAME LOW WAGES, AND THE SAME COST OF LIFE IN THE MOST EXPENSIVE CITY IN THE WORLD.

AND DESPITE OUR DIFFERENT CULTURES THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US WORKERS. WE ARE ALL EXPLOITED WHILE OUR EMPLOYERS GET RICHER.

WE HAVE TO FIGHT FOR OUR RIGHTS. WE HAVE TO ORGANISE GUYS!

YOU'RE RIGHT JAKE, YES!! WE Fought TODAY, thanks Dave! THAT WAS A GREAT DAY!

NO... IT WAS NOT...

NO?!!

NOT UNLESS YOU COME ALONG TO OUR NEXT MEETING AND COMMIT YOURSELF TO DOING SOMETHING. WE DON'T WANT ONE DAY HEROES. WE NEED MEMBERS WHO WILL COMMIT THEMSELVES TO ORGANISING.

WE WILL DO IT DAVE.

YES! WE WANT TO ORGANISE.

SEE YOU THEN NEXT MONDAY IN THE ADVICE CLINIC.

WE WILL COME DAVE, SEE YOU ON MONDAY!
EMPLOYERS HAVE A LEGAL DUTY OF CARE TOWARDS YOU TO PROTECT YOUR HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE AT WORK. THE MAIN THING IS TO ENSURE PREVENTION SO THAT ACCIDENTS DON'T HAPPEN...

THE WAY TO STOP BAD THINGS HAPPENING IS TO GET ORGANISED. THE WAY TO MAKE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN IS TO GET ORGANISED. KEVIN, CAN YOU TALK ABOUT HEAT TEAM.

IN NEW YORK THERE'S A WOMAN CALLED BARBARA WHO IS IN A UNION AND SHE Cleans HOTEL ROOMS AND SHE EARS 16 POUNDS PER HOUR. IN LONDON THERE IS A WOMAN CALLED BARBARA AND SHE IS IN A UNION AND SHE EARS... HOW MUCH DO YOU EARN BARBARA?

THE MINIMUM WAGE, IT IS WRONG. I AM SO HURT BY THIS. I CANNOT LIVE, I CAN'T...

BARBARA, THE UNION IS NOT ABOUT "I", IT IS ABOUT "YOU AND I". BARBARA, WE WILL ALL HELP EACH OTHER.

YES, WE WILL DO THIS.

YES! I'LL FIGHT TOO!

NO JUAN, WE WILL FIGHT, YOU AND I WE ALL TOGETHER!
WE CAN DO THIS TOGETHER.

I SEE A HEAT TEAM SITTING IN FRONT OF ME. BUT WILL YOU ALL DO IT?

YES.

I AM READY NOW.

YES.

WE CAN DO IT.

I AM WITH YOU ALL.

ONLY ONE THING WORKS, YOU MUST ORGANISE. YOU MUST. AND THEN WE WILL WIN.

GOOD. HERE ARE THE DATES FOR THE HEAT TEAM MEETINGS. WE NEED SEVEN OR EIGHT UNION MEMBERS FROM EVERY HOTEL IN LONDON TO START WITH. HERE IS YOUR DATE FOR YOUR HEAT TEAM.

THANKS FOR COMING TONIGHT GUYS. IT'S SIMPLE. WE MUST ORGANISE. WE CAN ORGANISE. WE WILL WIN.

YES. TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING. NOT ONLY FOR US BUT FOR EVERY WORKER!
THE FOLLOWING WEEK.

SO WE ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT ORGANISING AN EMPLOYEE ACTION TEAM IN YOUR HOTEL. FIRST WE NEED TO BE SURE WE ARE ALL READY.

I AM READY.

I AM ALSO READY!

I AM READY TOO!

AND ME!

ME TOO!

GREAT, SO HERE'S WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT...

HI EVERYBODY.

GOOD AFTERNOON MR. MCCLUSKEY!

GREAT DECISION COMRADES BY STICKING TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE CONDITIONS FOR ALL WORKERS.
I see you are all ready to fight for changes.

So welcome on board.

This story is also your story and only you can write the ending by deciding to join with other hotel workers and start organising to win a fair deal at work.