

# AMBASSADOR STEPMAN

HCD

## The Diplomat

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From the time you were young, you have been fascinated by two things: language and human interaction. While you like people and like being around them, you have always been something of an observer. You would rather stand quietly and listen to what people said rather than jump in. When you were young, your family had a Puerto Rican housekeeper. You learned Spanish by following her around, listening to her songs and conversations, and occasionally talking with her yourself. One day, you were walking on the street with your parents and someone asked you for directions in Spanish. Your parents were very surprised to hear you answer nearly fluently: they had never realized how much you picked up.

In high school you learned German and Japanese. You also learned much more about social dynamics. The group you had started hanging out with was being manipulated by a jerk who had forced her way into the role of de facto leader. From there, it was her way or the highway. If she didn't like you, you had no future with the group. You didn't like what she was doing, so you started looking for ways to bring her down. You found that without clearly insulting her, you were able to make her look bad every time she opened her mouth by subtly twisting what she was saying back on itself. By doing this for a few months, you exposed her for the jerk she was, and she wound up drifting out of the group.

In college you double majored in linguistics and psychology, and from there got a job in the State Department. You were able to use your knack for understanding people to smooth things over, and put pressure on other diplomats in careful, subtle ways. Frequently you got yourself assigned to countries that hung in a delicate balance, places with fragile governments and poor populations. More than once you helped to delicately maneuver a change of politicians to get people in power who were more receptive to the USA's calls for improvements. You fought within the State Department to push harder for human rights and democracy.

When President Carroll came into office, you were serving as ambassador to Saudi Arabia. It was a difficult and prestigious assignment. You had to work to decrease terrorism and increase the standing of women, while not rocking the boat on America's oil interests. President Carroll was impressed by your work and appointed you the US permanent representative to the UN. It was a great honor, and you have worked hard to live up to it.

**President Carroll** appointed you US permanent representative to the UN. Since then, you have shuttled between New York and DC, handling your duties as a representative. You were called back to DC by President Carroll to address something important, but you can't remember what.

**Secretary Gutierrez** is the current Secretary of State. As representative to the UN, you're not really part of the state department anymore: you're a cabinet member on your own. However, Gutierrez was a good person to work under. You're glad you got this appointment, because otherwise you might well have been competing with Gutierrez for the job, and you would hate to be in that position.

**General Markoff** is one of the harder military leaders to work with. As an ambassador, you often deal with tense military situations. This means dealing with military leaders. You have had to work with Markoff a few times, and, give the choice, you would take almost anyone else.

**Secretary Highmore** is the current Secretary of Defense. You lost a lot of respect for Carroll because of that choice. Highmore was clearly only appointed due to large campaign donations.

**Major Roderick** is the child of an old friend of yours, Colonel James Roderick. You are very glad to see Roderick following in James's footsteps. The military needs more caring leaders like James. Major Roderick seems to be living up to James's legacy, and you try to keep an eye out for your old friend's kid when you can.