Forget the police. If you want protection, buy Death Insurance from Lemma Quartz.

Lemma sells black market insurance, which guarantees that you will be avenged if you are hurt or killed. She excels at sales, and she resents her employer for not promoting her to be an assassin.

And Lemma has the perfect cover: she works as a caretaker to her young handicapped neighbor, Milligram. Lemma helps Milligram walk around the neighborhood on crutches, gives him snacks when he’s grumpy, and tucks him in at night. She’s fine with selling Death Insurance to his teachers on the side, as long as Milligram never finds out.

Then, Lemma discovers a string of bizarre deaths: people drowning in bathtubs, or freezing to death in meat lockers. She’s thrilled to be assigned to the case, but it becomes impossible to solve without constantly lying to Milligram about her line of business. Racked with guilt, but obsessed with proving herself as a detective and assassin, Lemma dives headfirst into the case, praying that she can keep Milligram safe from the people she works with.

“Venge” is YA dystopian thriller, and the debut novel of Will Isenberg.

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[headshot] Will Isenberg graduated from a fancy Ivy League school that taught him absolutely nothing about the real world. He performs stand-up comedy in Madison, Wisconsin, and writes short stories at https://icebergking.com. His short stories have appeared in House of Zolo’s *Journal of Speculative Literature*, and Feral Cat’s *Dear Leader Tales*. In his spare time, he works a riveting 9-5 desk job where he turns unorganized data into slightly less unorganized data. He can be followed on Twitter at @isentrigger or reached at willisenberg2@gmail.com.