

EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE
A SERIES

EPISODE 1: Executive Privilege

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. CATOCTIN MOUNTAINS MARYLAND - DAY

Aerial: A black limousine races along a winding road through the heavily forested Catoctin Mountains.

NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)

In a surprise move today, the President invoked Executive Privilege when challenged by Congress to deliver documents concerning illegal arms shipments.

EXT. FOREST ROAD NEAR THURMONT MARYLAND - DAY

A foggy drizzle penetrates the thick forest canopy. The black limousine rounds a corner and races past. Damp, decaying leaves swirl into the darkening forest.

INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY

POV: A TV monitor is tuned to a news program. A FEMALE NEWSCASTER is speaking. A banner scrolls across the bottom of the screen:

PRESIDENT INVOKES EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE

FEMALE NEWSCASTER

In other news, the nation waits with baited breath for the Supreme Court Decision regarding the President's latest initiative. The Supreme Court's decision could have a significant impact in the upcoming election.

A charcoal gray-suited arm reaches up and switches off the TV. The hand is dappled with age spots. SIGH.

EXT. GUARD SHACK - DAY

The black limousine pulls to a stop next to a military guard shack. A US MARINE in parade dress, with rain gear, steps out of the guard shack. The darkly tinted rear driver's side window rolls down.

INT. LIMOUSINE - DAY

POV: The dark suited hand shows an ID badge. The marine salutes and waves them on. The limousine rolls forward as the window rolls up.

EXT. CAMP DAVID MAIN LODGE - DAY

The limousine pulls up to the main lodge and stops. A LIMO DRIVER steps out and opens the rear door. An old man, JUSTICE GEORGE BLACKBURN, struggles out of the limo and stands with the help of a cane. The driver helps him up the porch steps. The front door opens and another US Marine in parade dress, complete with white gloves, invites them in.

INT. CAMP DAVID SECURITY COMMAND CENTER - DAY

The security command center is futuristic hi-tech. TWO SOLDIERS in desert camo sit at consoles monitoring all aspects of Camp David. NAVY SEAL COMMANDER JOHN WEST (28) paces behind the soldiers.

ON SCREEN above the soldiers, Justice Blackburn hands his cane to the Marine.

ON ANOTHER SCREEN, a door opens and the President walks down a rustic hallway. A Marine guard snaps to attention. As the President passes by, the guard presses an ear piece.

GUARD 1
POTUS on the move.

SOLDIER 1
Acknowledged.

The President passes from MONITOR 1 to MONITOR 2.

GUARD 2
POTUS in transit.

SOLDIER 2
Acknowledged.

The door to the command center opens. Commander West turns to look. A large man in a dark suit, SECRET SERVICE AGENT NORRIS, enters the command center.

JOHN WEST
Agent Norris.

AGENT NORRIS
Commander. How do you like
babysitting duty?

West smiles.

JOHN WEST
Beats Kabul.

ON SCREEN, above the men, the President greets Justice
Blackburn. West and Norris watch.

THE PRESIDENT
George, I'm so glad you came.

JUSTICE BLACKBURN
(gruffly)
This is highly unusual.

INT. CAMP DAVID GRAND HALL - DAY

The President puts his hand on Justice Blackburn and guides
him toward the study.

THE PRESIDENT
I'm sure you'll understand once
I've explained the situation.

JUSTICE BLACKBURN
(gruffly)
I understand the situation.

INT. CAMP DAVID SECURITY COMMAND CENTER - DAY

Commander West and Agent Norris stand in back of the soldiers
and watch and listen to the action ON THE MONITORS. Easy
duty.

ON SCREEN, The President and Justice Blackburn step into the
study. A SERVANT waits near the door.

THE PRESIDENT
Sit down, George. Can I get you
something?

George doesn't sit.

JUSTICE BLACKBURN
We're busy men, Mr. President.
What's this really about?

AGENT NORRIS
You boys want something to eat?

SOLDIER 1
Steak and eggs.

SOLDIER 2
Lobster for me.

AGENT NORRIS
How about you commander? It seems
the Navy has more money than the
Secret Service.

JOHN WEST
No thanks, Agent Norris. I've got
a dinner date in a few hours.

AGENT NORRIS
Suit Yourself.

Agent Norris makes a point to open and close the door to the
command center, but does not leave the room.

ON SCREEN above the soldiers, the President pulls a glock 9mm
pistol out of a cabinet.

SOLDIER 1
Gun.

John West snaps to attention.

JOHN WEST
I see it.

SOLDIER 1
What do we do?

John taps a console button.

JOHN WEST
Smitty, we may have a problem.

ON THE MONITOR above, a guard responds.

GUARD 2
What kind of a problem.

ON THE OTHER MONITOR, the President aims the gun at Justice
Blackburn.

JOHN WEST

The President is pointing a gun at
the Chief Justice.

GUARD 2

What?

BOOM. The soldiers at the consoles jump.

On the monitor, Justice Blackburn crumples to the floor.

SOLDIER 1

(incredulous)

The President just shot Justice
Blackburn.

ON THE MONITORS, Secret Service Agents appear and draw
weapons on the guards and fire.

JOHN WEST

What the hell's going...

Agent Norris shoots Soldier 1, then Soldier 2 in the back of
the head. John tackles Agent Norris before he can fire at
him. They slam into the equipment lined walls.

Wrestling and fighting.

John is getting the better of Agent Norris when AGENT
SMITHSON, bursts in, gun drawn, military stance.

AGENT SMITHSON

(shouting)

Stand down, commander.

John pummels Agent Norris.

AGENT SMITHSON (CONT'D)

STAND DOWN.

John has no choice. He stands down. Agent Norris' mouth and
nose are bleeding.

JOHN WEST

What the hell is going on?

CUT TO: BLACK