

"THE EYE OF PROVIDENCE"

BY BENDICT BURGESS

LIGHTS UP. The Oval Office. Empty. The President's desk and chair upstage center. The room is oddly barren. The sun sets behind the window, lighting the room with a golden hue.

SECRET SERVICE OFFICER enters, opening the front door for **REP. ISAAC SANDERS**.

SECRET SERVICE

The President will be with you shortly.

ISAAC

Thank you.

Secret Service closes the door and waits behind the desk. Isaac stands center, taking in the room.

THE PRESIDENT enters from a secret door.

PRESIDENT

Representative Sanders. Thank you so much for coming on such short notice.

ISAAC

How could I refuse, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT

I'm sure you could. Independent Isaac, isn't that your whole act?

ISAAC

It's not an act, Mr. President. My constituents elected me to be their voice. Not the Party's. Not the donor's.

PRESIDENT

And that's why I admire you, Isaac. That's why I want you to be around for the next Congress. We need votes like yours.

ISAAC

We?

The President claps. MENACING LIGHT CHANGE. **THREE LOBBYISTS—MILITARY, BIG PHARMA, and GUN CONTROL**—materialize into the Oval Office, each carrying a briefcase. They stand still. Observing. Eyeing Isaac with great interest.

ALL LOBBYISTS

We.

ISAAC

What?

ALL LOBBYISTS

Let us in, Isaac.

ISAAC

Who are you people?

GUN CONTROL

Advisors.

BIG PHARMA

Helpers.

MILITARY

The conscience of the Gods.

ALL LOBBYISTS

We come bearing gifts.

ISAAC

Gifts?

The Lobbyists simultaneously open their briefcases. They are filled with riches.

ISAAC

Oh my...

PRESIDENT

You are blessed, Isaac. The Eye of Providence has foreseen great things.

SECRET SERVICE & ALL LOBBYISTS
Blessed be the Eye.

PRESIDENT
But the Eye has also foreseen your defeat.
You are too valuable to lose. Yet, too
vulnerable to survive without assistance.

The Lobbyists advance on Isaac. Isaac backs up to the door. The
Secret Service Officer is blocking the exit.

PRESIDENT
Just listen to them, Isaac.

BIG PHARMA & GUN CONTROL
(Hissing)
Listen.

Military Lobbyist extends his hand. Isaac tentatively takes it.

MILITARY
What do you desire, dearest, blessed, Issac?

ISAAC
I want my constituents to be happy.

MILITARY
They can be happy. I can make them happy.

ISAAC
Money can't buy happiness.

MILITARY
But it can buy power. Prestige. Security. I
can give it. If you just let me in. Let me
in!

Isaac whirls around, but finds himself face to face with the Big
Pharma Lobbyist.

BIG PHARMA

Let me in, Mr. Representative. Let me fill
your soul with riches. Respect. Power over
life and death. Just let me in. Let me in!

Big Pharma and Military offers their riches. Isaac reaches for
them, dazzled, but then breaks away and runs for the door.

The Gun Control Lobbyist steps forward, dropping her briefcase.

GUN CONTROL

Bernstein Elementary.

Isaac stops.

GUN CONTROL (CONT'D)

October 31st. One gunman. Four teachers.
Thirty-five children.

Isaac turns to face Gun Control.

GUN CONTROL (CONT'D)

Isn't that why you ran? You wanted to help.

ISAAC

Yes.

GUN CONTROL

To make things right.

ISAAC

Yes.

Isaac is pulled toward her, as if by gravity.

GUN CONTROL

Then let help me you. Let me aid your fight.

ISAAC

I also promised not to sell myself. I
wouldn't be in debt to anyone but my people.

GUN CONTROL

This not a debt, Mr. Representative. This is a gift. Will you let me give it to you, Mr. Representative? Will you let me in?

Beat.

ISAAC

Yes...Come on in.

Isaac stands center. LIGHT CHANGE. CRIMSON. The President dons a black robe and stands on the desk. The Lobbyists form a triangle.

LOBBYISTS

(Chanting)

Emerald. Aurum. Americana. Emerald. Aurum.
Americana.

The Lobbyists gyrate violently as they chant.

LOBBYISTS (CONT'D)

Emerald. Aurum. Americana.

The President extends his arms out.

PRESIDENT

Oh, Eye of Providence, enter this man. Fill him with your power and fortune.

Isaac struggles to BREATHE. His body tremors. He closes his eyes.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Enter, oh, Eye of Providence. Enter him!

Isaac convulses. The Secret Service Officer approaches Isaac from behind.

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Enter! Eye of Providence, Enter! Enter!

Isaac tears off his shirt. The Secret Service Officer removes his glasses. His eyes are shut. Isaac SCREAMS.

LOBBYISTS (CONT'D)

Emerald! Aurum! Americana!

PRESIDENT (CONT'D)

Enter! Enter! ENTER!

The Lobbyists link arms. The Secret Service Officer raises his arm high in the air and grabs Isaac's shoulder. Their eyes open. All freeze. Isaac mouths along to:

SECRET SERVICE

The Eye is open. Let the light shine in.

The Secret Service Officer slams his hand down on Isaac's chest. Black. Isaac SCREAMS.

Lights up. Isaac lies on the floor. A bloody handprint on his chest. The Lobbyists shower their riches on him and disappear back into the darkness. The President kneels to next Isaac.

PRESIDENT

Good talk, Mr. Representative. And good luck in the election.

The Secret Service Officer drags Isaac out of the room. The President exits through the secret door.

The Oval Office is empty.

LIGHT CHANGE. CRIMSON LIGHT.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.