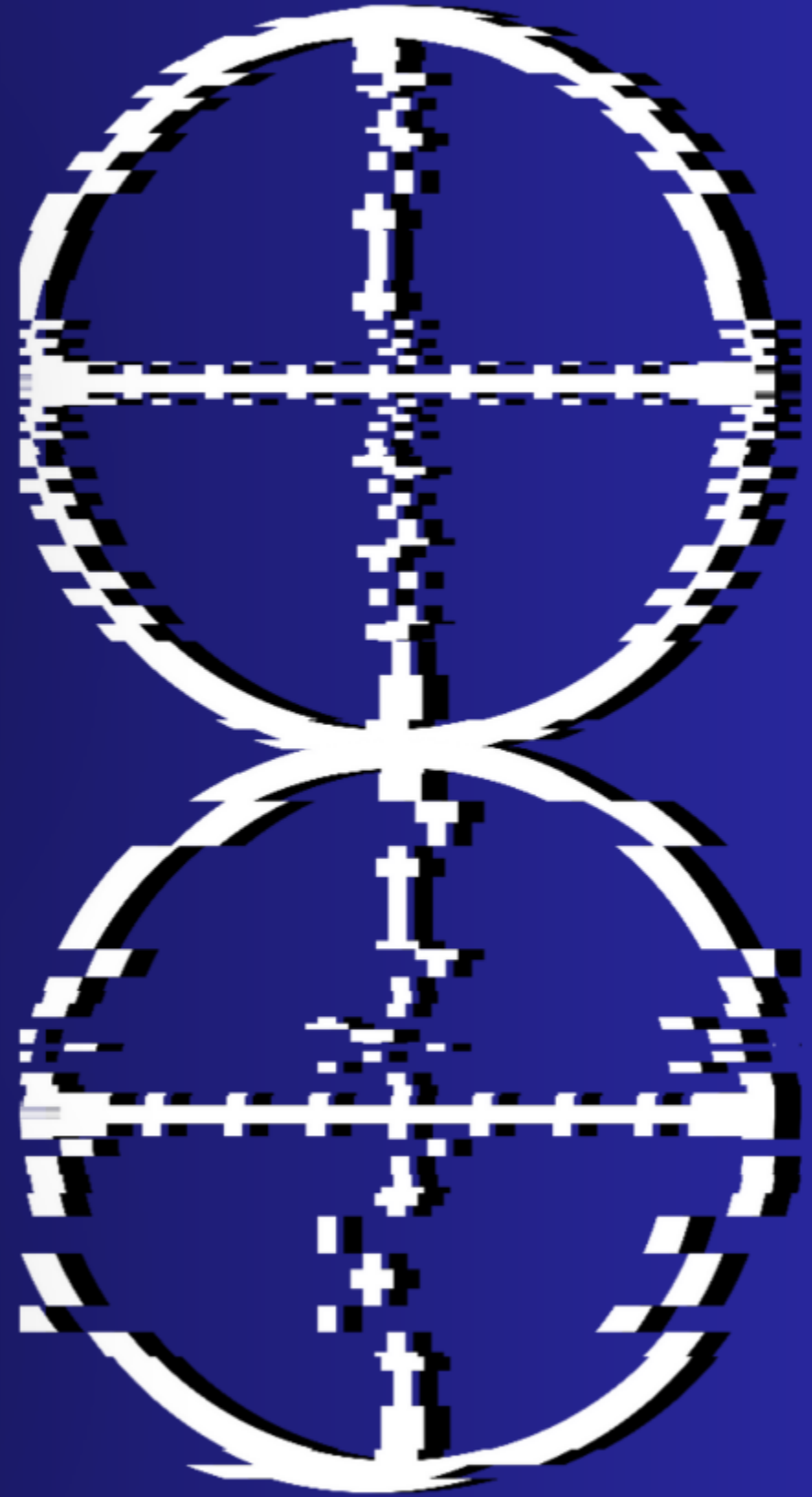



2
AN ACTION THRILLER



LOG LINE



An FBI agent who's recently lost a child in a school shooting must negotiate with the female leader of a paramilitary group who's taken 50 family members of Senators hostage in the Capitol, demanding the repeal of the 2nd Amendment in 24 hours.

A high-angle, top-down view of a grand, circular marble staircase. The staircase is composed of multiple levels of white marble steps and railings, spiraling downwards towards a central point. At the very center of the spiral, a single, small, glowing light fixture illuminates the space, creating a focal point. The overall atmosphere is one of architectural elegance and symmetry.

"The idea of an action political thriller that directly addresses gun violence in the US is a stunning one, with the potential to affect a wide commercial audience if this project gets strong attachments. This draft delivers an elegant thriller, exploring a theme that feels imperative. With further development, this story could be both thrilling and breathtaking."

-Black List reader

CHARACTERS



Wheeler... is the leader of "28," a paramilitary group dedicated to the repeal of the 2nd Amendment. Ten years back, she lost her son to gun violence. She's smart, myopic in her mission, and not interested in debating the issue of gun violence any longer. Pass her amendment or the loved ones of Senators will die. An earlier chance encounter with Ames led to a one-night stand. Learning that he also lost a child to gun violence, she decides to ensnare Ames in her plan to take 50 family members of U.S. Republican Senators hostage in the U.S. Capitol in order to achieve her goals.



Ames Wiedner... has not only lost his daughter in a shooting, but also his career with the FBI Hostage Rescue Team, and maybe even his marriage. When he joins the Capitol Police, it unexpectedly puts him at the center of the highest-profile hostage situation in the nation's history as the sole negotiator with 28. Complicating the situation is the fact that he's slept with Wheeler, and shares her unimaginable pain as a parent who's lost a child to gun violence. He's torn between his desire for meaningful gun control, and his instinct for saving lives and bringing terrorists to justice.



MOOD

- Thrilling
- Harrowing
- Suspenseful
- Heart-wrenching
- Intense

Julianna Wiedner... is Ames's wife, a high-powered attorney who sues tobacco and gun companies for a living. She finds herself unable to function as a lawyer or a wife after the loss of her child Daisy Grace, and asks Ames to move out after he chooses to go back to work rather than start a foundation in Daisy's memory. She identifies with Wheeler as a mom dedicated to actually achieving meaningful gun control by any means necessary. Fiercely anti-gun, she ironically ends up at the center of the final standoff with Wheeler, armed with an AK-15.



Senate Majority Leader Rich MacDonald...

has a cozy A+ rating from the NRA. This uber-conservative politician would *never* negotiate with domestic terrorists. That is, until his 18-year-old grandson is a hostage. Believing Wheeler is bluffing, the Senate kills the resolution. Wheeler responds by killing the first hostage. MacDonald gets the message, and Congress passes the resolution in a hurry. On the down low, he orchestrates the kidnapping of Wheeler's daughter by NRA-linked gunmen. When Wheeler refuses to negotiate for her own child's release, he realizes he must get the resolution ratified by 3/4th of the states to save his grandson.



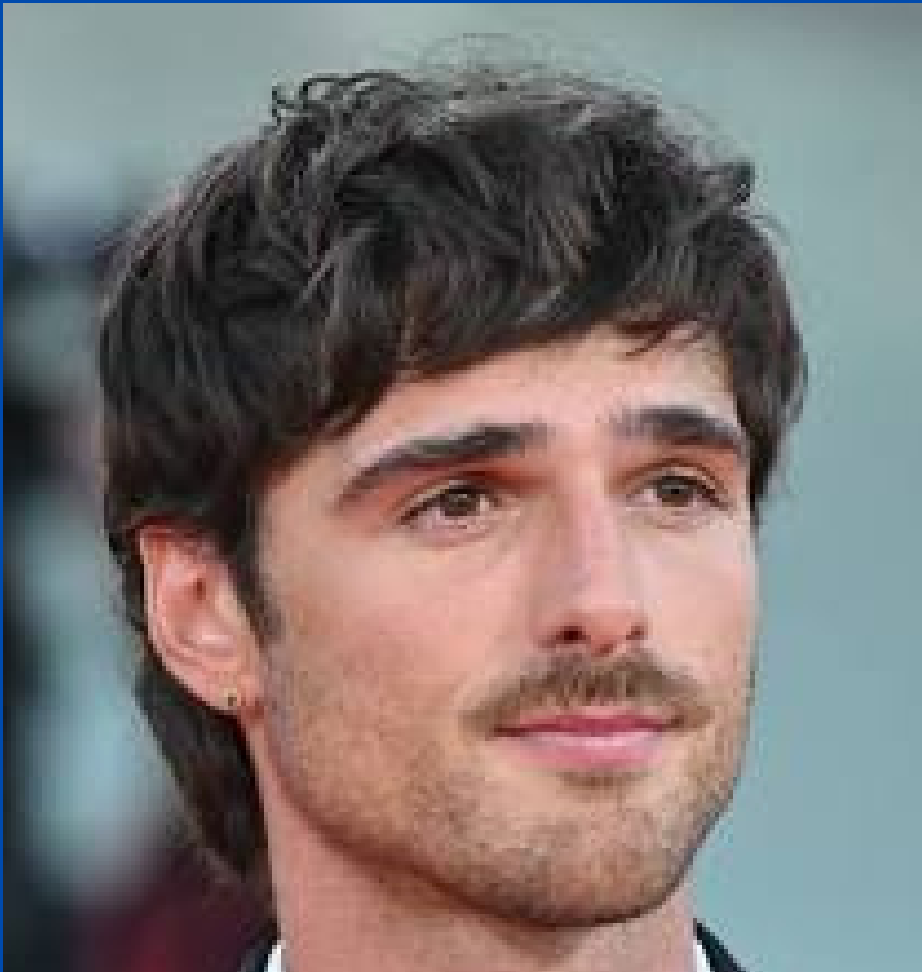
CHARACTERS

TO NE

- Aggressive
- Dark-humored
- Introspective
- Complex
- Defiant
- Mournful
- Outraged
- Tragic



CHARACTERS



King Johns... is the foul, right-wing extremist son of infamous conspiracy theorist Alan Johns. Walking in his father's footsteps, he spews on social media his belief that all school shootings are staged. He has Senator Rich MacDonald's grandson, "Dick the III," as his guest on his RiteWars.com live stream show. He accepts Dick's invitation to attend the Young Republican Senator Organization's annual meeting at the Capitol. It's there that he's taken hostage by 28 along with 50 young family members of Republican U.S. Senators.



Dick the III... is the grandson of Senate Majority Leader Rich MacDonald and the president of the Young Republican Senator's Organization (YRSO). He's a clean-cut conservative who is not quite as extreme as King Johns, but there's potential there. He's one of the 50 members of YRSO who is taken hostage by Wheeler and 28. He is the last hostage in custody and serves as Wheeler's shield during an epic chase through the deserted Capitol building.



THEMES

- End justifies the means?
- Trauma-induced mental illness
- Tables being turned
- Political hypocrisy

THE

STORY

TRAGEDY STRIKES

Ames and Julianna Wiedner work too much. They vow to make time for their rocky marriage and their only child, 5-year-old Daisy Grace. Their lives are shattered when a security guard, angry at the election of the first woman president the previous day, guns down Daisy and fourteen of her classmates.

The marriage falls apart when Ames, against Julianna's wishes, goes back to work as his way of coping with the tragedy. He flies to Idaho to investigate the FBI's concerns with the paramilitary group *28*, as internet chatter suggests it's planning an assassination attempt on the president-elect. In a chance meeting, Wheeler seduces the grieving, intimacy-starved Ames. He makes a bad professional decision and sleeps with someone he's surveilling, but the intense chemistry between them is unmistakable. When Ames later discovers a backpack nuke on the *28* compound, he serves Wheeler with a warrant that goes wrong. Wheeler's colleague and dog die. Ames resigns from the Bureau.





AN UNEXPECTED REUNION

Starting a new chapter in his life, Ames joins the Capitol Police.

On the first session of the new Congress, he's stationed at the Old Senate Chamber, where the Young Republican Senator's Organization is meeting. He's shocked when he's reunited with Wheeler under very different circumstances. She and 28 colleagues, with the help of a police mole, take the 50 members of the YRSO hostage. When she rolls out her master plan for the repeal of the 2nd Amendment, she makes it clear she will only negotiate with Ames.

When Wheeler's bluff is called, the first hostage dies. A NRA-linked group retaliates by kidnapping Wheeler's estranged husband and daughter, Wheeler makes it clear to Ames: no trades. She's prepared to "water the soil of liberty with her own blood." Horrified that Wheeler is willing to sacrifice her own daughter for a 28th amendment, Ames sets out to rescue the child. He does. Senator MacDonald has his own realization: Wheeler is not playing. The Senate follows the lead of the House, and passes the resolution. Now it's onto the states for ratification. 3/4th are needed to succeed.

TICKING CLOCK

In the 50 state capitols, legislatures go into all-night sessions to ratify the amendment. Meanwhile, Ames has a horrifying realization: the backpack nuke he saw at the 28 compound in Idaho is likely on the premises. He changes strategies, playing up the sexual dynamic between him and Wheeler as a way to manipulate her into agreeing to release hostages when a state ratifies. But 13 "hold-out" states ban together and vow not to vote on the amendment.

As the 24 hour clock ticks down to T-60 minutes, Wheeler counters: every five minutes, a remaining hostage dies until the resolution is ratified. Ames advises against it, pointing out that with every hostage shot, she'll lose that state's vote, therefore diminishing the chances of the amendment being ratified. But Wheeler only needs one of those 13 states for the 28th amendment to become law. She likes her odds.





HEART-STOPPING CLIMAX

Julianna shows up at the U.S. Capitol, and goes rogue by entering the Old Senate Chamber and offering to represent Wheeler if she'll surrender. She hopes that a face to face, grieving mother to grieving mother encounter will resolve the standoff. This hope is dashed when her presence triggers Wheeler and she takes Julianna hostage.

Ames makes a daring, dramatic rescue attempt, freeing everyone but his wife and Dick the III, Senate Majority Leader Rich MacDonald's grandson. Wheeler reveals that she in fact has the backpack nuke that could destroy the Capitol and kill up to 100,000 people unless the last needed state ratifies the resolution. With minutes to go before the bomb detonates, the building and the entire city evacuate.

An epic chase ensues through the deserted building, with Dick the III as Wheeler's shield. The film ends on the roof of the Capitol with breathtaking views and heart-stopping action, bringing the film to a thrilling, surprising climax.

**"The soil of liberty
must be watered
from time to time
with the blood of not
just its enemies, but
its defenders."**

**Wheeler, quoting Thomas Jefferson,
making it clear she's willing to
sacrifice her own child's life for the
cause.**







FROM THE WRITER

Does the end justify the means? Can gun violence be the way to gun control? I remember thinking after Sandy Hook, if our politicians don't care enough about first graders being shot in the classroom, they'll never care.

Unless it's their loved ones at gunpoint...

2

an action thriller



THANK

YOU