

# BACKYARD COLD WAR

## DAVIS'S SECOND TERM

*The End of the War on Drugs*

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<b>Authors:</b>	<b>Matt Charles Stadnik and Roger Paul O'Keefe</b>
<b>Screenplay Adaptation:</b>	Darlene Corson
<b>Presented by:</b>	Prana Media
<b>Genre:</b>	Political Action Thriller / Espionage Fiction / Romantic Suspense
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## OVERVIEW

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**BACKYARD COLD WAR, DAVIS'S SECOND TERM** is a high-velocity political action thriller set against the backdrop of a second presidential term unlike any America has ever seen. When the recently re-elected 47th President of the United States, Mike Davis, loses his second son to a fentanyl overdose in the first week of January 2025, his administration transforms into something unprecedented in the history of the Republic: a war machine driven not by policy, but by grief — and by rage that knows no constitutional limit. Davis's second term becomes the Davis Doctrine: military invasions of Venezuela, Colombia, Cuba (annexed to State of Florida), and Mexico; seizure of the Panama Canal; a network of military bases stretching across the Western Hemisphere; a black-budget domestic assassination program targeting the gang leaders distributing fentanyl on American streets; and the installation of a shadowy Russian-connected successor, Dmitry Melnikoff a Russian born in Cuba, as Vice President of the United States. This is not a political thriller about ideology. It is a thriller about what happens when the most powerful man on earth decides the rules no longer apply to him — and no one is willing to stop him.

Into this storm step two unlikely heroes whose own lives have been shaped by the same opioid epidemic consuming the President. Former international operative and Texas Senator Felix Sanchez has lost someone he loves deeply to fentanyl. His grief mirrors Davis's — but his agenda is different, more strategic, and ultimately more dangerous. Felix sees Davis not as a monster to be stopped, but as the most powerful tool available for the one cause that defines him: restoring Mexico's sovereignty from the murderous grip of the cartels. Ex-CIA agent Catherine Castillo arrives with her own dark history, her own moral complexity, and a ferocity of purpose that rivals anything Davis has deployed through executive order. Catherine has seen the world's darkest corners. She has operated in the shadows. And she has made herself one promise: her children will grow up in the America she knows and loves — not in whatever Davis and Melnikoff are quietly constructing in its place.

Together, Felix and Catherine fall in love, share their darkest secrets, get married — and take on the President of the United States in the most unexpected, audacious way available to them. *BACKYARD COLD WAR, DAVIS'S SECOND TERM* delivers everything readers of Tom Clancy, Vince Flynn, and Brad Thor demand — geopolitical stakes, kinetic action, institutional intrigue, and moral complexity at every turn — while layering in a love story that is raw, real, and as urgent as the democracy hanging in the balance

around it. This is the political thriller the current American moment demands: propulsive, unsparing, and impossible to put down.

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## SECTION 2

### THE HOOK

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*A president unhinged by grief launches an undeclared war across the Western Hemisphere — and no one in Washington will stop him. A former international operative and Texas senator with a hidden agenda plays both sides of the most dangerous gambit in American political history. A former CIA operative with everything to lose — two children, a country she loves, and a future she refuses to surrender — walks into the center of it all with her eyes wide open. Together, they will do what armies, courts, and constitutions have failed to do: force the most powerful man on earth to back down. Because when the dust settles on Davis's second term and Dmitry Melnikoff stands poised to inherit the presidency, Catherine Castillo has one answer for all of it — fierce, final, and non-negotiable: "Dmitry Melnikoff, my ass — no friggin way."*

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## MARKET POSITIONING

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### Primary Genre Categories

- Political Action Thriller
- Espionage Fiction
- Romantic Suspense
- Political Satire

### Comparable Fiction Titles

Title & Author	Shared DNA with <i>Backyard Cold War</i>
<b><i>Enemy of the State</i></b> Kyle Mills (continuing Vince Flynn's Mitch Rapp series)	Rogue government actor, CIA operative protagonist, and hemispheric political stakes operating outside the law
<b><i>The Manchurian Candidate</i></b> Richard Condon	A sleeper political figure ascending to the presidency through manipulation; the corrupted transfer of executive power
<b><i>Clear and Present Danger</i></b> Tom Clancy	Drug war military action, Latin American geopolitics, CIA operative as reluctant moral center, institutional betrayal at the highest levels
<b><i>The Night Agent</i></b> Matthew Quirk	Insider White House threat, deep-state conspiracy, and a romantic pairing of protagonists operating under mortal pressure

### Comparable Films & Series

- *Clear and Present Danger* (1994) — drug war, Latin America, CIA, presidential complicity
- *Enemy of the State* (1998) — surveillance state, government overreach, ordinary people vs. unchecked power
- *Jack Ryan* (Amazon Prime Video) — hemispheric geopolitics, CIA tradecraft, political conspiracy, cinematic scope
- *Narcos* (Netflix) — cartel sovereignty, Latin American political corruption, morally complex protagonists

- *Sicario* — borderland violence, U.S. government complicity, the human cost of the drug war

### Nonfiction Audience Overlap

Readers of political memoirs and insider policy accounts — including those by Mark Esper, William Barr, Mike Pompeo, and H.R. McMaster — represent a substantial crossover audience: readers who crave insider tension, high-stakes national conflict, and the mechanics of power, but who want their politics dramatized and entertaining rather than analytical. *Backyard Cold War* delivers exactly that experience.

### Cinematic Development Signal

A feature film adaptation, written by Darlene Corson through Prana Media, is already in circulation — an unusual and commercially significant signal of the property's screen appeal and its readiness for cross-platform development. This positions the novel for co-promotion across book, film, and streaming audiences from the moment of publication.

## SECTION 4

# TARGET AUDIENCE

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### Primary Audience

- **Readers of political and espionage thrillers, ages 30–65** — the core commercial audience for Tom Clancy, Vince Flynn, Brad Thor, Daniel Silva, and their successors
- **Male readers who enjoy action-forward political fiction** — drawn by the hemispheric military action, CIA tradecraft, institutional conspiracy, and the novel's unflinching examination of executive power

- **Female readers drawn by the romantic suspense arc and strong female protagonist** — Catherine Castillo is a fully realized, morally complex, fiercely protective woman whose arc is as emotionally compelling as any action sequence in the novel
- **Politically engaged readers across the spectrum** — those concerned about democracy, drug policy reform, executive overreach, and the future of U.S.–Latin America relations who want their political concerns dramatized with urgency and wit

### Secondary Audience

- **Viewers of political action series** — *Jack Ryan, Narcos, Designated Survivor, The Night Agent, Sicario* — who migrate naturally to novels with equivalent cinematic energy
- **Policy readers** interested in the War on Drugs, U.S.–Latin America relations, immigration, border security, and the fentanyl crisis — readers who want their policy concerns given narrative urgency
- **True crime and political memoir readers** who want the insider machinery of government rendered as gripping fiction rather than analytical nonfiction

### Built-In Market Opportunity

The fentanyl crisis has touched virtually every American community.

A political thriller that places the War on Drugs at the center of a presidential power struggle arrives at precisely the right cultural and political moment. 150 million Americans voted in the last presidential election. Even 0.5% market penetration among that population alone represents

750,000 potential book sales

— before accounting for the international market, the streaming and film audience, and the Latino readership reached by the novel's Mexico sovereignty arc and San Luis Potosí setting.

SECTION 5

**EMOTIONAL PAYLOAD**

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From its opening pages, *Backyard Cold War* puts the reader inside a democracy under extraordinary strain — and refuses to let them look away. The reader will feel the horror of a presidency consumed by grief and revenge, watching executive power bend and warp under the pressure of one man's unchecked rage until the institutions that were meant to hold him are barely recognizable. They will feel the moral vertigo of Felix Sanchez — a man who uses the President as a political weapon while wrestling, in private, with a past that is darker than anything he has confessed to his constituents or his allies. They will feel the fierce, protective love of Catherine Castillo — a woman who has operated in the world's most dangerous shadows, who knows exactly what she is walking into, and who refuses, with every fiber of her considerable will, to let her children inherit the country Davis and Melnikoff are quietly dismantling. They will feel the paranoid thrill of watching a democracy bend, creak, and nearly break under the weight of unchecked executive power — and the cathartic, hard-won satisfaction of watching two flawed, brilliant, perfectly matched people outmaneuver the most powerful man on earth. And underneath all of it — the military campaigns, the political gambits, the blackmail, the coup — there is a love story. Raw. Complicated. Real. Two people who know too much about the darkness of the world and choose, against all evidence, to build something together in it. At its heart, *Backyard Cold War* is about what we're willing to fight for — our country, our family, and the future we refuse to let anyone take from us.

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SECTION 6

## FULL SYNOPSIS

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### **Opening: The Grief Doctrine**

The first week of January 2025. President Mike Davis — freshly re-elected as the 47th President of the United States — receives the news no father should ever receive: his second son is dead. Fentanyl. The grief is total. The rage is presidential. And within hours, the trajectory of the second Davis term is irrevocably altered.

Davis convenes his closest advisors and issues what will come to be known as the Davis Doctrine — a sweeping, historically unprecedented authorization of military force across the Western Hemisphere. U.S. forces invade Venezuela, Colombia, Cuba, and Mexico. Davis seizes operational control of the Panama Canal. He establishes a massive military base in Costa Rica, expands operations in Puerto Rico, enlarges the detention and intelligence facilities at Guantanamo, and installs what can only be described as a Sicilian-style Mafia operation in Haiti, designed to choke off cartel supply lines at their Caribbean hub. Black-budget domestic assassination teams are deployed against U.S. gang leaders identified as active fentanyl distributors on American streets. Davis deports millions of undocumented immigrants and sends ICE agents into sanctuary cities with explicit orders to provoke civil unrest — manufacturing the justification for escalating military presence within American borders.

His most audacious move arrives quietly, buried beneath the noise of the invasions: Davis legalizes and federalizes synthetic drugs across the United States, making his administration the sole legal supplier of controlled substances nationwide. Daily doses are delivered to registered addicts at government distribution sites — the government cornering the market it once fought a war to destroy. Davis extends his presidential term unilaterally to eight years. He eliminates FISA court oversight. And he installs his handpicked successor — the shadowy, Russian-connected Dmitry Melnikoff — as Vice President of the United States.

### **Felix and Catherine: The Gambit Takes Shape**

Felix Sanchez has lost someone he loves deeply to fentanyl. His grief mirrors the President's in its depth and its permanence — but his agenda is different. Where Davis sees vengeance, Felix sees leverage. He sees in Davis the most powerful instrument available for the single cause that defines his political life: the

restoration of Mexico's sovereignty from the cartel networks that have turned it into a narco-state. Felix is not a simple man, and he is not, by his own reckoning, a good one. But he is a purposeful one.

Felix moves between Dallas, Houston, Washington D.C., and Mexico City, building his coalition of allies with methodical patience. He cultivates Davis — bonding with the President over shared loss and shared enemies, earning his trust, positioning himself as an indispensable advisor and ally. Davis, a man whose grief has narrowed his circle of trust to nearly nothing, believes Felix entirely. He should not.

Into Felix's world enters ex-CIA agent Catherine Castillo. She is brilliant, guarded, and carrying a history that would unsettle anyone who knew its full shape. Their attraction is immediate; their recognition of each other is immediate. Neither of them is an angel. They are, in some fundamental way, made from the same material — shaped by loss, defined by purpose, and unwilling to be gentle about either. Catherine has made herself a single, non-negotiable promise: her children will grow up in the America she knows. Not in whatever Davis and Melnikoff are constructing in its place.

Together, Felix and Catherine design a gambit of breathtaking precision and audacity: they will blackmail President Davis. Using intelligence carefully assembled over months — evidence of Davis's most legally and constitutionally indefensible actions — they construct leverage that even the most powerful man on earth cannot ignore. In the second year of Davis's term, their plan executes with near-flawless precision. Davis is forced to withdraw U.S. military forces from Mexico and return Mexico's sovereignty. The cartels' American patron is removed. Catherine's declaration, when it comes, is fierce and final: *"Dmitry Melnikoff? My ass. No friggin way."*

### **Revelations: Dark Secrets and a New Life**

Felix runs for re-election to his Senate seat and loses. Freed — for the first time in years — from the calculus of political survival, he and Catherine finally speak their deepest, darkest truths to each other. Neither of them emerges from these conversations clean. Their pasts are complicated, morally ambiguous, and in some ways genuinely dark. But they emerge honest. And for two people who have spent their adult lives operating in the shadows, honesty is the rarest and most precious thing available to them. They marry. They honeymoon in San Luis Potosí, Mexico — Felix's birthplace — and purchase a 100-acre ranch outside the city where they intend to raise their children in the country whose sovereignty they helped restore.

## **The Melnikoff Threat: What They Won Is Not Enough**

The CIA's intelligence apparatus surfaces a discovery that reframes everything: President Davis has been diagnosed with cancer that has metastasized to his lymph nodes. The prognosis is brutal. Three months, perhaps less. The political calculus is immediately, terrifyingly clear: Davis's loyalists have already accepted Melnikoff's installation as Vice President. With Davis's death — imminent, inevitable — Dmitry Melnikoff will inherit the most powerful office on earth. A Russian-connected ideologue, installed through the machinery of a presidency that rewrote the rules of executive power, now stands one heartbeat from the nuclear codes.

Felix is recruited by the outgoing Vice President — a figure of genuine patriotism operating in the shadows of his own marginalization — to serve as a diplomatic liaison to the President of Mexico in an attempted U.S. military coup targeting Melnikoff before he can assume the presidency. The plan is bold, precisely organized, and morally fraught in ways that Felix understands completely. He agrees anyway.

The coup fails.

## **Resolution: One War Won, One War Waiting**

President Davis lives three weeks longer than the CIA's initial prognosis before passing. The succession is orderly. Melnikoff ascends to the presidency of the United States with the full machinery of the Davis administration behind him.

Felix and Catherine, watching from their ranch in San Luis Potosí, hold their restored victory close: Mexico's sovereignty is intact. The cartels have lost their American patron. The cause that defined Felix's political life — the thing he and Catherine fought for and won — holds. That is not nothing. That is, by any honest measure, enormous.

But the larger question hangs in the air between them, unanswered, as they stand at the edge of their land and look north across the border toward the country that Catherine refuses to abandon and Felix has never stopped loving: Will they have the last word on restoring America's sovereignty too? The ending is deliberate. One battle won. The larger war unresolved. The sequel is waiting, already seeded in every choice the protagonists have made — and in everything Melnikoff has not yet done.

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SECTION 7

**CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER OUTLINE**

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**PART I — THE GRIEF DOCTRINE (CHAPTERS 1-6)**

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**Chapter 1 — "The Call" | POV: President Mike Davis**

January 3, 2025. President Davis receives word of his son's death from a fentanyl overdose in the early hours before his first full week back in the Oval Office. The chapter establishes Davis as a man of genuine love for his family — which makes his subsequent pivot into fury all the more credible and frightening. Narrative function: humanize the antagonist before the machinery of power corrupts him.

**Chapter 2 — "The Doctrine" | POV: Davis's National Security Advisor**

Davis convenes his closest advisors within 48 hours of his son's death and outlines the Davis Doctrine in terms that leave no room for procedural objection. Military planning for invasions of Venezuela, Colombia, Cuba, and Mexico, and begins immediately. The NSA advisor's horrified internal monologue provides the reader's moral compass as institutional guardrails begin to bend. Narrative function: establish the scope and velocity of Davis's radicalization.

**Chapter 3 — "The Senator" | POV: Felix Sanchez**

Felix Sanchez learns of Davis's son's death while in Dallas, where he has just attended the private funeral of someone he loved who also died from fentanyl — a secret he has never shared publicly. His grief is private; his calculation is immediate. He calls his chief of staff and books a flight to Washington. Narrative function: introduce Felix and establish that his motivations are genuine, personal, and strategically dangerous.

**Chapter 4 — "First Strike" | POV: Joint Chiefs**

U.S. forces make first contact in the opening hours of the Venezuela and Colombia operations. The chapter is rendered through the eyes of a conflicted general who executes orders he privately believes are illegal — a

character who will recur throughout the novel as the institutional conscience the administration has chosen to ignore. Narrative function: ground the geopolitical action in human cost and institutional moral failure.

### **Chapter 5 — "The Introduction" | POV: Catherine Castillo**

Catherine Castillo, former CIA operations officer, is living in Virginia when a former agency contact reaches out with a request she declines — and then, after a long night, reconsiders. Her dream of having children appear briefly: the precise, specific human stakes of everything she is about to do. Narrative function: introduce Catherine, establish her personal stakes, and signal her arc from reluctant participant to committed protagonist.

### **Chapter 6 — "Gravity" | POV: Felix Sanchez**

Felix secures his first private meeting with President Davis — ostensibly to express condolences and offer legislative support. The meeting runs ninety minutes. Davis, who trusts almost no one, trusts Felix. The chapter ends with Felix calling Catherine. Narrative function: establish the Felix-Davis relationship, set the blackmail strategy in motion as a distant idea, and initiate the Felix-Catherine connection.

## **PART II — THE GAMBIT (CHAPTERS 7-12)**

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### **Chapter 7 — "First Meeting" | POV: Catherine Castillo**

Catherine meets Felix in person for the first time at a restaurant in Georgetown. The attraction is immediate; the wariness is mutual. Neither says anything entirely true. Both say things that are exactly true enough. Narrative function: launch the romantic arc and establish the professional dynamic between two people who recognize each other as equals — and as threats.

### **Chapter 8 — "The Panama Maneuver" | POV: Davis (dramatic irony)**

Davis personally supervises the seizure of the Panama Canal's operational infrastructure, believing it to be his greatest strategic achievement. Intercut with Felix and Catherine, watching the same news from a hotel room in Mexico City, quietly cataloguing the action as evidence. Narrative function: establish Davis's escalating megalomania through his own POV while showing Felix and Catherine beginning to build their leverage file.

### **Chapter 9 — "Mexico City" | POV: Felix Sanchez**

Felix meets with the President of Mexico in a clandestine session brokered through back-channels Felix has spent a decade cultivating. The Mexican president is terrified, furious, and desperate. Felix offers him something no one else has: a credible plan. Narrative function: establish the Mexico sovereignty arc as Felix's driving purpose and show his extraordinary competence as a political operator.

#### **Chapter 10 — "What Catherine Knows" | POV: Catherine Castillo**

Catherine begins accessing intelligence channels she was never formally supposed to retain — a reminder that former CIA officers do not retire cleanly. She assembles the first substantive layer of the blackmail dossier: documented evidence of domestic assassination operations, constitutional violations, a compromising video from decades earlier with a high class European call girl, and the Melnikoff installation's Russian connectivity. Her past darkness is hinted at, not yet revealed. Narrative function: establish Catherine's operational competence and begin surfacing her backstory.

#### **Chapter 11 — "Closer" | POV: Felix Sanchez**

Felix and Catherine share their first honest conversation — not about the plan, but about why they are in it. Neither fully discloses. But the emotional distance between them shrinks measurably. Felix realizes he is falling in love with a woman who is simultaneously his most valuable asset and his greatest vulnerability. Narrative function: deepen the romantic arc and begin the process of mutual revelation that will culminate in their marriage.

#### **Chapter 12 — "The Dossier" | POV: Catherine Castillo**

The blackmail strategy is complete. Catherine walks Felix through the full dossier — every piece of leverage, every contingency, every delivery mechanism. Felix asks her if she is afraid. She tells him she is afraid of exactly one thing: that it won't work. Narrative function: crystallize the plan, raise the stakes, and deliver the scene that locks the protagonists' alliance and romantic commitment simultaneously.

### **PART III — THE RECKONING (CHAPTERS 13–18)**

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#### **Chapter 13 — "Delivery" | POV: Felix Sanchez**

Felix delivers the dossier to Davis through a private channel — not as a threat, but as a communication between two men who understand each other. Davis reads it alone. The chapter's final line is Davis's response, delivered

in a single sentence. Narrative function: execute the blackmail with precision and demonstrate Felix's extraordinary nerve and political intelligence.

#### **Chapter 14 — "Withdrawal" | POV: President Davis (dramatic irony)**

Davis orders the withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Mexico. His public statement frames it as a strategic redeployment. His private fury is total. The chapter reveals that Davis has always known Felix was not entirely what he presented himself to be — but that he never imagined Felix capable of this. Narrative function: complete the Mexico sovereignty arc and show Davis's response as a man whose pride has been destroyed along with his leverage.

#### **Chapter 15 — "Catherine's Declaration" | POV: Catherine Castillo**

Catherine watches the military withdrawal news from her kitchen in Houston. She makes a phone call. She says, simply: *"Dmitry Melnikoff? My ass. No friggin way."* The chapter that follows is her most vulnerable — because winning has made her realize what she almost lost. Narrative function: deliver the novel's emotional pivot from victory to vulnerability and set up the Melnikoff threat as the next act's driving conflict.

#### **Chapter 16 — "The Election" | POV: Felix Sanchez**

Felix loses his Senate re-election bid. The loss is narrow, almost certainly influenced by forces connected to the Davis administration. He concedes with grace in public and relief in private. That night, alone with Catherine for the first time in weeks, he tells her everything — every dark secret, every compromised choice, every moment of his past he has never confessed to anyone. Narrative function: complete Felix's emotional arc and initiate the climactic mutual revelation between protagonists.

#### **Chapter 17 — "What Catherine Told Felix" | POV: Catherine Castillo**

Catherine's turn. Her past, rendered in full — the operations she ran, the decisions she made, the lines she crossed and did not cross back. Felix listens without judgment. They are married three weeks later in a private ceremony attended by people who love them and ask few questions. Narrative function: complete the romantic arc, deliver Catherine's backstory, and establish the marriage as the emotional resolution of the love story even as the political story escalates.

#### **Chapter 18 — "Melnikoff" | POV: Dmitry Melnikoff**

Melnikoff — seen here for the first time from his own interior — is neither the cartoon villain Davis's critics imagined nor the loyal lieutenant Davis believed him to be. He is patient, intelligent, and already governing in all the ways that matter, from the office of the Vice President. He knows about Davis's cancer. He has known for weeks. He is waiting. Narrative function: establish Melnikoff as a fully realized antagonist and deliver the dramatic irony of his foreknowledge of Davis's terminal diagnosis.

## **PART IV — THE AFTERMATH (CHAPTERS 19-24)**

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### **Chapter 19 — "San Luis Potosí" | POV: Felix Sanchez**

Felix and Catherine honeymoon in San Luis Potosí — Felix's birthplace — and purchase a 100-acre ranch outside the city. The land is beautiful, the future visible. The chapter is quiet and deliberate: two people who have earned peace, briefly inhabiting it. Narrative function: provide emotional respite before the final act's escalation and establish the ranch as the novel's closing symbol of what the protagonists have built and chosen to defend.

### **Chapter 20 — "The Diagnosis" | POV: CIA Director**

The CIA surfaces Davis's cancer diagnosis through a source inside the administration's medical staff. The Director convenes a restricted assessment: with Melnikoff as VP and Davis's death imminent, the succession scenario is the most dangerous moment in American governance since the Cold War. Felix is identified as a potential asset — the one American with both the Mexican government's trust and the audacity to participate in what is being quietly discussed. Narrative function: pivot the novel into its final act and bring Felix back into the American political story he thought he had left.

### **Chapter 21 — "The Ask" | POV: Felix Sanchez**

The outgoing Vice President — a man of genuine institutional loyalty who has been systematically marginalized by the Davis-Melnikoff axis — travels to San Luis Potosí personally to make the ask. Felix listens. He says he needs to speak with Catherine. Narrative function: establish the coup's moral stakes through the VP's voice and show that Felix has changed — he will not make a decision of this magnitude without his wife.

### **Chapter 22 — "What Catherine Said" | POV: Catherine Castillo**

Catherine's response to the ask is not what Felix or the reader expects. She is neither reflexively opposed nor immediately willing. She spends a night alone on the ranch, looking north. By morning she has her answer. Narrative function: deliver Catherine's most fully realized moment of agency and establish her as the moral compass of the novel's final movement.

### **Chapter 23 — "The Coup" | POV: Felix Sanchez**

The attempted military coup targeting Melnikoff's assumption of power is executed — and fails. The chapter is rendered with precision and restraint: what goes wrong is not spectacular. What goes wrong is bureaucratic, human, and entirely foreseeable in retrospect. Felix escapes. Others do not. Narrative function: deliver the novel's climactic action sequence while subverting thriller convention — the coup fails, the hero does not save the day, and the story honors that complexity.

### **Chapter 24 — "North" | POV: Felix and Catherine**

President Davis dies, three weeks past his prognosis. Melnikoff is sworn in. Felix and Catherine watch from their ranch. Mexico's sovereignty is intact — that was real, that was won, and no one can take it from them. But Felix takes Catherine's hand and they both look north, across the border, toward the country that is now Melnikoff's. The final line is wordless: a look between two people who have not finished. The sequel is implicit in every sentence of the closing chapter. Narrative function: resolve the central conflict, honor the protagonists' victory, and open the series forward.

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## SECTION 8

### **AUTHOR BIOS**

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#### **Matt Charles Stadnik**

Matt Charles Stadnik is a novelist, storyteller, and co-founder of Prana Media whose work is defined by political audacity, cinematic scope, and an unsparing examination of how power corrupts and how

ordinary people resist it. His writing draws on a lifelong engagement with American politics, military weaponry, Latin American geopolitics, and the human cost of the War on Drugs — themes that converge in his debut novel, *BACKYARD COLD WAR*, *DAVIS'S SECOND TERM*, co-written with Roger Paul O'Keefe. Stadnik brings to the collaboration a storyteller's instinct for pacing and character and a political imagination broad enough to conceive a presidency that feels simultaneously outrageous and entirely plausible. He is currently developing the next installment of the *Backyard Cold War* series through Prana Media.

## **Roger Paul O'Keefe**

Roger Paul O'Keefe is a novelist and educator whose work blends political insight, emotional depth, and cinematic storytelling into fiction of genuine urgency. He is the co-author of *BACKYARD COLD WAR*, *DAVIS'S SECOND TERM* and the co- author of *ENEMY IN THE WHITE HOUSE: THE END OF A DEMOCRACY*. His writing explores the intersection of democracy, love, and human resilience — the conviction that individual people, armed with purpose and each other, can outlast the machinery of institutional power. O'Keefe lives in Carlsbad, California, where he is a co-founder of Prana Media and is actively developing *Backyard Cold War*, *Enemy in the White House*, and *Matt and he's latest spy novel, Money*. The trilogy, a series is in flight toward publication and screen adaptation.

### SECTION 9

## **MARKETING & PUBLICITY STRATEGY**

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- **Screenplay in Circulation:** A streaming service adaptation, written by Darlene Corson through Prana Media, is already in circulation — an unusual signal of the property's screen appeal and cross-platform development readiness. The screenplay positions the novel for co-promotion across book, film, and streaming audiences from the moment of publication, and opens doors to entertainment media coverage alongside traditional literary publicity.

- **Fentanyl Crisis Tie-In:** The novel's central premise — a president consumed by the death of his son to fentanyl — connects directly to one of the most urgent and broadly felt public health crises in American history. Targeted media outreach to political and health podcasts, NPR affiliate programs, addiction recovery communities, and current events journalists creates a natural, non-manufactured publicity hook that requires no explaining.
- **Election Cycle Timing:** The 2028 presidential election cycle creates a natural and highly visible media window for a novel set during a fictional second presidential term defined by executive overreach and democracy under strain. Publication timed to the election cycle maximizes earned media and positions the book as a cultural conversation starter.
- **Political Thriller Community:** BookTok, BookTube, Goodreads political thriller shelves, and Reddit communities (r/books, r/politicalscience, r/thrillers) represent active, high-engagement reader communities with strong thematic overlap. These channels are among the most cost-effective and highest-impact publicity venues in contemporary publishing.
- **Latin America Readership:** The novel's Mexico sovereignty arc and San Luis Potosí setting — rendered with specificity and respect — position it for genuine crossover appeal among Latino readers and Spanish-language media outreach, opening a readership that political thrillers frequently underserve.
- **Podcast Circuit:** Political commentary podcasts, national security and intelligence podcasts, drug policy reform podcasts, and literary thriller podcasts represent a natural and enthusiastic environment for author interviews. The book's themes — executive power, the War on Drugs, Latin American geopolitics, democracy under strain — are precisely the subjects that drive engagement in these formats.
- **Civic Organization Partnerships:** Drug policy reform organizations, veterans' groups, democracy advocacy nonprofits, and U.S.–Latin America policy institutes are natural co-promotion partners — organizations whose audiences are predisposed to engage with the book's themes and whose newsletters, events, and social media channels provide additional promotional reach.
- **Author Events:** San Diego, Los Angeles author readings and signings; a Prana Media launch event; and virtual launch programming with political thriller reader communities. Roger Paul

O'Keefe's Carlsbad base and regional network provide a strong foundation for Southern California launch activity.

- **Dual Author Platform:** Two authors with complementary professional networks and regional footprints mean doubled reach for publicity, social media engagement, and interview opportunities — and a more compelling story for media outlets covering the book's publication.
- **ARC Distribution:** Advance reader copies seeded to political thriller reviewers, Goodreads influencers with established political thriller followings, political journalists, and national security and policy writers ahead of publication date — building word-of-mouth and review coverage before launch day.

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## SECTION 10

# MANUSCRIPT STATUS

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The manuscript for *BACKYARD COLD WAR, DAVIS'S SECOND TERM* is complete and polished, estimated at approximately 70,000 words. The work is registered with the U.S. Copyright Office under Registration Number **TXu 2-466-219** and is ready for immediate submission and editorial review.

A screenplay adaptation, written by Darlene Corson through Prana Media, is already in active circulation — underscoring the property's strong cinematic and television adaptation potential and positioning it for cross-platform development from the moment of acquisition.

The authors welcome editorial collaboration and are committed to working closely with an acquiring editor throughout the revision and publication process. The following materials are available upon request:

- Partial or full manuscript

- Full book proposal (this document)
- Feature film screenplay adaptation

All inquiries and requests should be directed to:

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