

Lawrence Mills ^{27.}

Graves eyes the SECURITY GUARD hanging back.

GRAVES
The guard. Take him outside. Talk to him. I need to be alone.

Isaiah hurries to the guard as Graves opens the briefcase removing the Japanese SEPPUKOO SWORD from his desk.

CUT TO:

EXT. SANTA FE DESERT - AERIAL - DAY

We SWEEP ACROSS the desert to meet a TOWNCAR on the road driving toward Graves's sprawling adobe compound --

EXT. GRAVES'S HOUSE - GRAVES COMPOUND - SAME TIME

The TOWNCAR parks as... LAWRENCE MILLS, a fastidious gay speech writer, gets out and approaches the SECRET SERVICEMEN.

LAWRENCE
Another post-apocalyptically hot day.

SECURITY GUARD
Yes, sir.

LAWRENCE (PRE-LAP)
Ramona! Where is the big guy?

INT. GRAVES'S HOUSE - SOON AFTER

Lawrence approaches Ramona, who hates him, cleaning a counter as the cook, Charlie, smiles.

RAMONA
The President is working today in his study. Door is locked.

INT. DEN DOOR - SOON AFTER

Lawrence knocks on the door.

LAWRENCE
Mr. President, it's Lawrence. Thought we'd kick around the cancer speech for tomorrow.

Sc. 1
Start
→

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INT. DEN - LATER ON

Lawrence enters with a SECRET SERVICEMAN, with a key, to see an empty den and an open window. They stop in their tracks.

SECRET SERVICEMAN

Jesus...

They are staring at the model of the Graves Presidential Library - the glass case has been SHATTERED by a golf club.

LAWRENCE

Get Mrs. Graves on the phone.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRAVES PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY - DAY

Isaiah speaks to the Security Guard outside the library when... President Graves rushes out with his briefcase.

SECURITY GUARD

Sir.

GRAVES

Freddy. Good to see you.

(to Isaiah)

Let's get out of here, kid.

ISAIAH

Nice to meet you, Freddy --

Graves yanks Isaiah toward his Prius. The Security Guard turns back toward the museum...

INT. PRIUS - MOVING - DAY

Graves gets into the car as Isaiah takes off.

GRAVES

GO!

INT. GRAVES PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY - SOON AFTER

The Security Guard enters the library. He stops. Face goes slack seeing that... Graves has RANSACKED the library...

Every photograph and mural of Graves, in the library, now has his face and head totally cut out - removed from his body...

The floor is littered with the DECAPITATED PHOTO HEADS that Graves cut out of the exhibits...

Glass cases, housing MEMORABILIA, have been SMASHED IN...

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MARGARET
Tore it apart?

JACOB
As in he took a sledge hammer and
destroyed the place.

Jacob shows her iPhone PHOTOS of the damaged exhibits.

MARGARET
(shocked)
My God. Richard didn't do this.
He would never in a million years --

She turns to Isaiah, his face stricken with guilt.

JACOB
We have to shut it down for
repairs. I'll keep you posted.

Jacob leaves as... LAWRENCE, dressed in a bathrobe and flip
flops, enters, waving a speech in a binder.

LAWRENCE
Quite literally, this is the best
kid's cancer speech ever written.

MARGARET
(reeling)
Not sure we're going to need it.

LAWRENCE
Tell me you're kidding.

Agent Quinn turns to Margaret, hand on his earpiece.

AGENT QUINN
They found the President.

Cut to...

EXT. GOLF COURSE - SOON AFTER

WIDE SHOT - Picking up where the opening teaser left off...
sprinklers blasting... Graves has been covered in a blanket,
being walked off the golf course by Isaiah toward the carts --

CLOSER - Isaiah holds the blanket over a hunched Graves,
dripping wet. He grabs Isaiah's arm. Emotional.

GRAVES
I'm too close to the end not to
start living. Understand?

ISAAH
(gently)
I do, sir. I understand.

Sc. 2
Start →

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GRAVES (O.S.)
And I will help you get there, my
friends!

GRAVES raises his arms, on fire, possessed...

GRAVES
Because I'm awake now, WIDE awake!
On a mission of atonement! And I
promise you I will be, until the
day I die, your biggest advocate,
your beacon of hope, your GODDAMNED
PRESIDENT!

THE AUDIENCE rises to their feet...

PRESIDENT GRAVES, his arm around Margaret, waves to them.
Margaret waves as well. Then...

Graves turns to the CANCER SURVIVORS behind him. He hugs
them, one at a time, coming to a YOUNG GIRL.

GRAVES
You are such a brave little girl.

IN THE WINGS...

Lawrence turns to Isaiah. With a sigh, he drags his finger
across the letters, B.M.E.H., above Isaiah's mouth:

LAWRENCE
Black. Men. Enter. Here.

ISAIAH
(hand to mouth)
Oh my God.

LAWRENCE
He's a monster.

ON THE STAGE...

President Graves hugs the young cancer survivor. She melts
into his huge arms. He holds her tightly, emotion rising.
Graves's eyes fill with tears, taking him by surprise.

GRAVES
God bless you.

The girl smiles, feeling wholly comforted, and loved.

GRAVES
God bless you.

SLAM TO BLACK

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