

M/W + D

MIKE STANTON

"Linda Bodum's Sentence"

"COMMANDER IN CHIEF"-Ep. 109- PRODUCTION DRAFT-10/24/05 29.

CONTINUED:

STANTON
MAC-w

ANGLE - KATE AND NORA

Nora tries to make conversation.

NORA
I hear the President's going to run for re-election.

Kate smiles pleasantly. She won't be pumped for information.

KATE
I like to cook my turkey in a paper bag.

NORA
(taken aback)
You mean like a grocery bag?

KATE
It's very "en papillote" --in an All-American way.

NORA
We don't have any grocery bags in the White House.

KATE
You may have to go to the market. Plain paper bags, no store names. We don't want any ink in the gravy.

NORA
No, ma'am...

She's gone paws up, eyes averted.

18

INT. EAST ROOM, WHITE HOUSE - DAY

18

MIKE STANTON, early 50s, attractive, charismatic, takes in the room as he gets an insider tour from Eli:

ELI
After his assassination, President Lincoln lay in state in this room --

STANTON
I read General Sherman wept openly.

Mac appears at the door...

MAC
Watch out, Eli, Mike's a Civil War buff, he knows all the trivia.

(CONTINUED)

1/4

Commander - In - Chief

START

Mike Stanton

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CONTINUED:



Stanton lights up, goes to her...

STANTON

Mac!
(catching himself)
Madam President.

She embraces him warmly, as an old school friend.

MAC

Mike...
(to Eli)
Give us a few minutes?

Eli nods, excuses himself. Stanton gestures at the room...

STANTON

Impressive...

MAC

Sorry I can't show you the Oval office.

STANTON

Next time.

MAC

I only have a few minutes, sort of snuck this in...

STANTON

I want you to commute Linda Bodum's death sentence.

MAC

You're as direct as I remember.

STANTON

Only have a few minutes, I need to spend them on her.

MAC

Supreme Court denied your appeal. Presidents don't commute state-mandated death sentences.

STANTON

Presidents can commute any sentences they want.

Commander-In-Chief

(CONTINUED)

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Mike Stanton

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CONTINUED:

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MAC

I can't unilaterally revoke the death penalty, much as I might like to, it's not realistic...

STANTON

I'm not asking you to. I'm not even asking you to go out on a limb-

MAC

-- Really? --

STANTON

Federal Crime Bill, 18 USCA Section 3596c: "a sentence of death shall not be carried out upon a person who is mentally retarded." Congress adopted this legislation over twenty years ago, all you have to do is cite the law of the land.

MAC

It's not that easy --

STANTON

Linda Bodum has the mental acuity of a five year old. She doesn't understand what's happening. She doesn't understand her crime. She certainly doesn't understand DC politics.

MAC

Doesn't make them less real.

This isn't a discussion between an attorney and the President: it's just two passionate school friends.

STANTON

I told her I was going to try to see the President to save her life. I told her I knew you from school and the woman I knew wouldn't let her die. She drew this for you.

He shows her a drawing: it looks like the work of a child.

MAC

Come on, Mike, this is beyond manipulative.

STANTON

What choice do I have?

(CONTINUED)

Commander - In - Chief

3/4

Mike Stanton

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CONTINUED:



MAC

What choice do I have?

STANTON

You're President of the United States, it is your choice!

MAC

Don't be naive! There's a reality to this office!

STANTON

Reality is you hold her life in your hands.

(then)

There may be a political cost, but if you do nothing, you may as well put the needle in her arm yourself.

(end)

19

INT WEST WING GALLERY - DAY

19

Nora buttonholes Rod at the coffee pot. She's fighting tears.

NORA

The President's mother is interfering with your job, Mr. Calloway.

ROD

(puzzled)

I hadn't noticed.

NORA

She's acting like she's the First Gentleman.

Rod stifles a laugh.

NORA (CONT'D)

She's just the First Mother.

ROD

(nodding)

Right.

He obviously doesn't understand how serious this is.

NORA

You have to do something, Sir. She's taking over! The menu, the cooking, the china, the crystal, the decorations...

(CONTINUED) (end)

4/4

Commander - In-Chief