Divided We Fall

B Alan Bourgeois · Opening excerpt · 1 of 2

There was a time when the world was plunged into darkness and chaos. A time of manipulation and deceit. A time when no one stood against evil. This was not a medieval tale or a far-off myth. This was America, in the not-so-distant future.

The Rise of Ezekiel Kane

Desperation hung thick in the air. The economy had collapsed, leaving millions jobless. Natural disasters had ravaged the country, and political corruption seemed to have reached its zenith. The people, frightened and disillusioned, turned to the voices promising salvation. None were louder than the Christian right, who claimed to hold the key to the nation’s redemption.

Ezekiel Kane emerged from the chaos like a messiah. A tall, charismatic man with a commanding presence and a voice that could ignite fervor or instill fear. His campaign promised a return to “traditional values,” the eradication of enemies both foreign and domestic, and the restoration of America’s divine destiny.

“God has chosen me,” Kane declared at a rally, his voice booming over the cheers of thousands. “Together, we will take back this country for Christ!”

The evangelical leaders, desperate to maintain their influence amid declining church attendance, saw their opportunity. Kane’s words resonated with their congregations, and his promises of power whispered to their darkest desires. Behind closed doors, they struck a pact—one they believed was ordained by heaven but was, in reality, guided by the hand of Kane’s cunning Vice President, Richard Brandt.

Reading sample — continued

The Puppet Master

The meeting took place in an ornate room within a secluded mansion. Leaders from the largest evangelical organizations gathered around a polished mahogany table. Kane, accompanied by Brandt, entered the room. Kane's usual fiery demeanor was subdued, replaced by Brandt's sharp and calculated calm.

"I'll give you what you've always wanted," Kane said, his words rehearsed. Brandt stood behind him, watching the room with piercing eyes. "Influence. Power. A nation that bows to your teachings."

Reverend Caleb Morgan, a prominent televangelist, leaned forward. "And in return?"

Brandt stepped forward, placing a hand on Kane's shoulder. "Loyalty. Absolute loyalty. Preach this message from every pulpit. Tell your followers to obey Kane, for he is the chosen one."

There was hesitation among the group, but Brandt's words were smooth and persuasive. He framed their decision as a divine mission, subtly planting the seeds of fear and control. One by one, the leaders agreed, believing they were serving God.