The Citizenship Divide

B Alan Bourgeois · Opening excerpt · 1 of 2

James Caldwell sat in the Oval Office, the grandeur of the room doing little to calm his racing thoughts. The President, flanked by his closest advisors, leaned forward, his expression a volatile mix of determination and apprehension. The air felt heavy, thick with the weight of an irreversible decision.

“We need this done, James. The American people deserve a system that protects our national integrity,” the President said, his voice laced with the conviction that had carried him through countless campaign rallies.

James nodded slowly, his mind spinning with implications. "You want us to go back three generations? That’s going to affect millions of citizens."

"Millions who shouldn't have been here in the first place," the Secretary of Homeland Security chimed in, her eyes steely. "We're talking about strengthening our foundation."

James's eyes drifted to the folder on the polished mahogany desk before him. Inside lay the draft policy that would redefine American citizenship, challenging the very principles enshrined in the 14th Amendment. He had always believed in the law, in fairness, but this... this was different. It felt like a betrayal.

Reading sample — continued

"Your task is simple," the President continued, his piercing blue eyes locking onto James with an almost desperate intensity. "Undo the damage. We can't afford to have people claiming rights that were never truly theirs. You have my full support, but I need results fast."

James hesitated, his fingers tracing the edge of the folder. "I'll get to work," he said finally, his voice betraying none of the storm raging inside.

“One more thing James,” began the President. No one is to know about this until I am ready to tell them. Do you understand me?”

James nodded his head, as he left the Oval Office, the reality of what he'd just agreed to weighed heavily on him. What if this policy did more harm than good? Who could be harmed by this law?

Chapter 1: The Discovery

James's team operated out of a highly secure government facility, where historians, genealogists, and legal experts pored over records dating back to the late 19th century. The goal was clear: identify those who could not prove a direct generational link prior to the 14th Amendment being passed in 1868 to be considered as American citizens. All others had to show that their lineage came over with legal authority, via some sort of visa, etc.