

“An Act of Self-Defense”

Logline:

A few years into the future as America slides into corruption and tyranny, four patriots present Congress with a deadly ultimatum; one that will forever replace professional politicians in Congress with citizen legislators. The political aristocracy responds violently.

Synopsis:

Set in the near future and after a political aristocracy has taken control of the federal government, a corrupt Congress controls the election laws to insure that their incumbent members are always reelected. They reward the wealthy corporations and unions who support them with legislation and subsidies that increase their wealth and power. But as legislation and regulation control more and more of the economy, businesses fail and the economy grinds almost to a halt.

In an attempt to reverse the slide into economic devastation and tyranny, four patriotic idealists risk everything.

They give Congress 3 days to pass an amendment to the Constitution that will forever remove professional politicians from serving in Congress. And they threaten Congress with the use of deadly force if the deadline is not met. The reaction from federal law enforcement is swift and brutal but it only hurts innocent people and it fails to stop the four patriots. The brutality inflames the nation. When Congress misses the deadline and refuses to consider the amendment, the four patriots begin removing the longest-serving, most powerful and corrupt members of Congress.

For more than 8 months Amazon reader reviews ranked An Act of Self-Defense #1 political thriller.

Five Season Treatment

Season 1

Episode 1: Nicolo Carpenter, 32 years old, lives with his grandparents, cares for them and works their farm; it will someday be his. He tries to obtain Oxycodone for his grandmother who suffers from an inoperable painful spinal nerve injury. It is the only drug that provides relief but doctors in her area will not prescribe it for her because they fear the DEA. The DEA is arresting doctors who, they feel, prescribe too much Oxycodone. Nicolo must find a source and is forced to buy from a drug dealer. Unfortunately the seller is part of a DEA sting operation. Nicolo is arrested and sent to prison. His grandparents are made to pay a heavy fine. They must return to Italy to get the medicine she needs.

Anna, Nicolo's sister, and their brother Chris, are enraged at the damage to their family. They have long been opposed to the authoritarian government that is wrecking the economy. They join with two others to compel a radical change in the Congress. Anna is a 35 year old computer geek; she is a consultant with ready access to information systems of various federal agencies. Chris, 37, is a weapons technologist with the CIA. He also has access to federal law enforcement and military agencies. Jacob, a Professor of Economics, conceived the idea that would radically change Congress and the federal government, returning it to its Constitutional role. Over a 2 year period that prepare to assassinate the most corrupt of the long term members of congress to compel them to make the needed changes.

Anna, disguised as Sue Thomas, a DOJ agent with top clearances, evades detection and is passed into DOJ headquarters. She deposits 378 letters in the mail room for next day delivery. The letters addressed to long-term incumbent members of Congress appear to be from the Attorney General. The letters demand acceptance by Congress of Constitutional Amendment XXVIII. The amendment will mean an end to professional members of Congress. Congress is given 3 days to pass the amendment so that the nation's voters may approve it. In 3 days, *if the amendment has not been approved, we will take the lives of two of the long-term incumbent members of Congress who have not resigned. We will continue to remove two members each day until the proposed term limits amendment has passed both houses of Congress. It is signed the Term Limits Resolution.* Various members of Congress and the President make threats and promise the TLR will be caught.

Episode 2: Senator Morgan Harlowe defends Congress in a fiery speech on the Capitol steps, but admits in private the need for leaders to make decisions for an ignorant public. Term limits threatens and angers congressional staff and most government employees. The press is in a feeding frenzy. Anna and Jacob briefly remember his teaching and her auditing his courses 5 years before. Attorney General John Hammar meets with FBI Director Proctor to TLR threat and tactics for catching them. O'Brian is appointed Special Agent in Charge and guesses he will be required to use methods he morally opposes. Hammar wants him to investigate two think tanks.

Episode 3: Anna is supposed to be on a sailboat in Turkey. She is snooping on members of Congress and DOJ and FBI computer files. White House press secretary Jerry Young fends off questions from the press about how Sue Thomas got past face-scan and eye-scan technology. Is there a mole in the DOJ? John Hammar appears and shows the tapes of Sue Thomas going through security, in the mail room and leaving the building. He announces a \$50 million reward for information leading to capture of any TLR member. Anna is concerned about killing a member of Congress. Chris tells her she will only have to press a button. He shows her the small radio transmitter with a button.

Episode 4: The President orders Secret Service to organize protection of the 378 long term incumbents. O'Brian appoints Katherine Bradley his second in command. They put together 2 teams directed by Ward and Barnes. General Faedester pushes his way onto O'Brian's team. Faedester is the Director of the agency at NSA that collects all data available through the internet. Assistant A. G. Koberg also helps O'Brian with his decisions. O'Brian's authority is rapidly diminished. Hammar insists O'Brian go after Jeffersonian Freedoms Institute and Term Limits Now. He thinks they may be involved. The first organizing meeting of the JTTF team exposes the conflicts. Senator Hackman is interviewed as Anna watches. He will be the first target and he may be her target. He says his family is frightened but he must be brave. She has hacked him and knows he has a mistress. He is one of the Senators with a bomb near his pillow.

Episode 5: Ward's team raids TLN at night using warrantless surreptitious entry. Paper files are photographed and digital data is copied. Evidence gathered may be useful in catching Jackson in a lie. That would mean a prison sentence which would be useful as a bargaining chip. Jackson's calendar has him meeting Hayes here at 10 am tomorrow. Two cleaning women show up and are harshly told they cannot say anything to anyone about what they have seen. Not husbands, not an attorney, ever, or they will go to prison for a long time. They are made to wait until Ward's team is finished. O'Brian heads to JFI. Barnes group at JFI is busy. It is a large building with a large staff. They need all night to copy everything. Some staff are treated harshly. At midnight Anna sends Jacob's Wednesday message exposing how Congress controls elections to insure incumbents always win. It went to 100 major news organizations, the office of each member of Congress, and to the DOJ.

Episode 6: O'Brian and Bradley meet with the joint terrorism task force. Koberg, Faedester and Hammar are present. Hammar is enraged by the latest TLR message attacking an unconstitutional government that to stay in power has made it impossible to throw them out of office. He is certain Hayes and Jackson are involved and probably writing the messages. O'Brian will pursue them harder. He asks Faedester for help with computer analysis of the massive information his team found in questioning JFI and TLN staff. O'Brian discovers Sue Thomas left some clues that are being followed.

Chris comes over with the bad news that an artist is producing multiple views of what Sue Thomas might look like with or without changing the makeup, hair, eyes

and so on. Hammar will show them later today. The good news is the Bureau is swamped with so many positive identifications of Sue Thomas it will take two weeks for the agents to follow up.. Anna is anxious. Lots of people she knows will be watching. Most believe she is sailing in Turkey. Congressional resignations. President assures the nation their Members of Congress will be safe.

Episode 7: Barnes says the JFI raid turned up nothing incriminating. They put agents on the other names Faedester provided, not investigating just Hayes and Jackson. Murphy found photos of the car and plates from the garage where Sue Thomas parked while visiting DOJ. It's registered to Congressman Fargin. Her badge turned up at the municipal landfill still transmitting its GPS signal. They will check it for prints. O'Brian and Bradley confront Hayes and Jackson at their 10:00 am meeting. O'Brian demands their help. He wants them to suggest names. They won't. O'Brian is pissed. He gives them 4 hours to produce names. He tells Bradley to get the National Security Letters. Anna watched spellbound as Hammar appeared with several versions of Sue Thomas that looked like Anna. She knew she would be identified soon. Then Chris also. Senator resigns.

Episode 8: Cal Jackson and Don Hayes still refuse to give names. O'Brian is in a box. He can't back down. Hammar, Koberg and Faedester continue to push him to break them. O'Brian sends agents to interrogate everyone at JFI and TLN until they get names. Mention Professor TJ Stewart. He's dead but watch for reactions. He knew everyone supporting term limits. Representative Marcus Ray will resign but will offer the Term Limits Amendment if the Speaker will allow it. Ray complains about the brutal witch hunt that Hammar is pursuing with the JFI and TLN. Ray was a close friend of Jacob's. Jacob fears Ray will suffer as a result of confronting Hammar. Koberg proposes a SWAT team raid on Hayes and Jackson's homes to Hammar. It's the only way to break them and get their information.

Episode 9: When Hayes attempts to give O'Brian a list of term limits supporters that are volunteers from his staff, O'Brian has his agents grill the entire JFI staff most of the night. They do not get anything of value. The same thing happens at TLN. O'Brian has FBI Cyber Action Forensics team verify Faedester's results. They don't match. Hayes and Jackson have never incited violence. O'Brian thinks Faedester is helping Hammar destroy Hayes and Jackson. President reassures the nation and Congress that no one will be harmed. The strongest possible measures, law enforcement from surrounding states supporting the Secret Service etc. Anna heard her computer alert, someone was calling her apartment phone. Her answering machine received a message from Preston, her former husband. He has seen the photos and wants her to call immediately. Jacob wonders why he called if he is so sure? Anna first has to deal with Jacob's message. She sends it from a cell phone she leaves in a garbage container. The message tells the nation why this is a legitimate act of self-defense.

Episode 10: Anna must convince Preston she is in Turkey on a sailboat cruise. If he calls the FBI everything will fall apart. She uses Turkish telephone services, VOIP

servers and a Turkish market scene from youtube for audio background. It works. He is convinced. Chris calls. He's angry. In the message Jacob mentioned two years of planning. Someone will notice. Attorney General Hammar and O'Brian meet with Congressional leadership, all of them furious with O'Brian because he hasn't arrested Hayes and Jackson. After they leave, Hammar tells O'Brian time is up. He must raid

Episode 11: Chris visits Mark Adams, the FBI weapons range officer at Quantico, and a former Special Agent at the Bureau. Chris hears that the JTTF is looking at connections to former Professor T.J. Stewart and that Mark is a JFI member. Chris says was also—two years ago.. Mark also discovers Chris was a former student of TJ Stewart.

Jacob, Anna and Chris meet with Burton at the Tilghman Cove house on the Chesapeake to distribute weapons and plan the assassinations. The mood is tense in anticipation of drawing straws to determine the order in which each will become an assassin. On television they hear that Marcus Ray was able to introduce the Amendment. A freshman Congressman had yielded his scheduled floor-time to Marcus. Congress is in turmoil.

Hammar, under heavy congressional pressure, demands O'Brian use his powers under the Patriot Act to arrest Hayes and Jackson for aiding terrorists, seize their property and bank accounts, arrest their wives as accomplices, and put their children in foster homes. That will break them. And then they will give up the names of the TLR. O'Brian is overwhelmed with shame at his cowardice but realizes the raid will go on with or without him.

Episode 12: The raid on the Hayes and Jackson homes is planned. Barnes team at Hayes' home and Ward's team at the Jackson home. O'Brian is ill with shame. Koberg is there and gloating. At the last moment before the armed agents leave he announces he has organized SWAT teams to go in first. Hayes is unconscious. His hand is badly smashed. His family hysterical. All are sent to the Federal Detention Center.

Goals and Resolutions of Seasons 1-5

Season 1

TLR goal: Reverse the growth of a brutal authoritarian state and the loss of individual liberty by forcing professional politicians out of Congress with lethal force.

Resolution: The public begins to hope for regaining freedom and many support the TLR. The frightened state lashes out at those who defend freedom.

Season 2

The TLR goal: Avoid the Joint Terrorism Task Force while assassinating enough long term incumbents to make Congress approve the Amendment.

Resolution: The leaders of the freedom movement have been smashed by the state but many members of congress have resigned and some are calling for a vote.

Season 3

TLR Goal: Seek public support for the term limits amendment with messages that reveal the brutality and corruption of the government. Force the signing of the Amendment with assassinations. Hide from JTTF.

Resolution: Anna and Chris are identified. They avoid capture but know it will be soon. Congress will vote on the Amendment.

Season 4

TLR Goal: Force Congress to pass the Amendment while protecting their families from DOJ attacks.

Resolution: DOJ attack on Anna and Chris's family fails due to public support for them. Brutal attempt embarrasses administration. But JTTF knows that TJ Stewart is alive and leading the TLR.

Final Season, Season 5

TLR Goal: Push Congress over the edge. Make them pass the Term Limits Amendment.

Resolution. After torturing a TLR supporter, Attorney General Hammar locates the TLR. They cannot escape. As his helicopters drop troops to kill Anna, Chris and TJ, the Senate passes the amendment.