



Capitol Betrayal

William Bernhardt

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William Bernhardt's bestselling novels explore politics, power, ambition, crime, and the law. Now he scales new heights of suspense as, in one harrowing day, lawyer and former senator Ben Kincaid enters the eye of an international storm, a crisis with consequences beyond calculation.

Kincaid is in a meeting with the president in the Oval Office when Washington suddenly explodes into chaos. Facing an imminent threat to the White House, Kincaid is whisked, along with the president and his advisors, to the underground PEOC—Presidential Emergency Operations Center—built to withstand a nuclear blast, but vulnerable to another kind of attack.

Inside the bunker, defense specialists realize that a malevolent foreign dictator has hacked into the U.S. nuclear defense system and now has a finger on the trigger of America's most dangerous weapons. The dictator's message is clear: Heed his demands or suffer unfathomable destruction.

Forced to make critical, split-second decisions, the president seems to be falling apart under the pressure. The vice president wants to strip him of his powers—a move that could have a disastrous impact on national defense. But even during this time of upheaval, in order for the president to be removed, there must be a trial. With the clock winding down, Kincaid has precious little time to defend the president.

While Kincaid faces the trial of his life, legendary CIA agent Seamus McKay races through the clogged streets of Washington, searching for a hidden command center—guarded by murderous fanatics—that now controls U.S. ballistic missiles.

Two sides of one unforgettable story, McKay and Kincaid home in on their targets. One uses a gun—and any weapon he can get his hands on; the other employs his intuition and the law. And in William Bernhardt's spectacular thriller, as both move closer and closer to uncovering a world-shattering plot, the ultimate act of betrayal is launched from the heart of America's capitol itself.

Capitol Betrayal Details

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Author : William Bernhardt

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From Reader Review Capitol Betrayal for online ebook

Doug says

Why did the author think he had to invent an evil dictatorship in a fictional country that lies near and sounds like, but is not, Iraq? The protagonist gets computer help from a computer science grad student. This is melodramatic pulp with weak characters and a weak plot.

Joyce says

The President is taken to his White House Bunker when it is learned that terrorists have gotten hold of a nuclear device. A CIA Agent is tracking that down in his investigation learns that the terrorists have hacked into the US Military computers and now control the US Missiles.

Seamus McKay, the CIA Agent, tracks down the terrorists and works at solving the takeover and finding the bomb. Meanwhile the Veep is attempting to oust the President for incapacity while in the bunker. I will not go into details about it, but a trial takes place with Ben Kincaid as the President's defense counsel.

The book is well written and fascinating. The premise and politics gripping. Good reading.

Steve says

1-20-2015 actually re-read it 6 months ago.

re read 5-2014 still 5 stars

This is a 2010 Ben K Washington DC story that I hadn't read.

I liked the two separate but concurrent stories being interwoven throughout the book.

Of course, the Ben K portion was the primary story and what a story!?!?!?

I tip my hat to Bernhardt - that white House scenario had never entered my head - holy cow!!!!

I rarely give 5 stars and rarely give one or two stars. Probably as a result of my

training as an elementary school teacher with the 4 3 2 1 system. You have to be either defiant or non-participatory to get a "1" and you have to be at the nedxdt grade level to get a "4". That leaves you with a "2:

for partially proficient and a "3" for proficient". (Can you guess I just finished grades for this year?)

But I digress....great read!

Cindy says

Like series and premise of this episode. Well narrated and recommended.

KateMoxie says

I thought the pace of action in Dan Brown books was unbelievable, but this one goes to a new level. Especially true with the pushing 50 CIA (?) agent who jumps from elevator car roof to another to slide down the cables and attack multiple bad guys - who wail on him as well; jumps from a moving escalator as he fights to get the target - who fights back; then there are more beatings, etc. etc. all within a matter of a couple of hours.

The part of the story dealing w/ an attempted coup d'état using the 25th Amendment was interesting given the current climate in D.C., but.....

Undecided if I'll give this author another try or not. Definitely not up to the level of Balducci or Connelly.

Ronald Howell says

Another Bernhardt quick read. Kincaid saves the presidency!

Susan Mehring says

I've read all the series of Ben Kincaid books by William Bernhardt. If that hadn't been the case, I would not have finished this one. Is this the last one in the series? If not, maybe it should be. The side story with the CIA agent was good, the main story with Ben Kincaid, not so much. I missed the usual cast of characters (and btw, what happened to Loving?). Ben's situation was completely unbelievable. And the ending? Please! We all know how it's going to end, did it have to drag out til the final two seconds?

Mary says

Tulsa lawyer and former senator Ben Kincaid is in a meeting with the president in the Oval Office when Washington suddenly explodes into chaos. Facing an imminent threat to the White House, Kincaid is whisked, along with the president and his advisors, to the underground PEOC—Presidential Emergency Operations Center—built to withstand a nuclear blast, but vulnerable to another kind of attack.

Inside the bunker, defense specialists realize that a malevolent foreign dictator has hacked into the U.S. nuclear defense system and now has a finger on the trigger of America's most dangerous weapons. The dictator's message is clear: Heed his demands or suffer unfathomable destruction. The president seems to develop some mental problems.

Jim says

This is the first book by William Bernhardt that I've ever read. To tell you the truth, I hadn't even heard of him until I signed up for a couple of continuing education courses in legal writing and guess who was the instructor ...

The classes were very good but, ever the cynic, I probably still would not have run out to buy this book. After all, I've still got a stack of unread books at home from Borders' going-out-of-business sales. But, luckily for me, I scored highest on Bernhardt's grammar quiz and received this book as a prize.

I really was lucky to have won the quiz because I enjoyed the book. It is definitely a fun ride. And it seems that that is what it is intended to be.

Capitol Betrayal is the latest in a series of books featuring superlawyer hero Ben Kincaid. Kincaid, presumably, begins the series as more typical Oklahoma lawyer, not unlike Bernhardt himself and likely his alter ego. By this point in the series, however, Kincaid's career trajectory has followed career path surpassed by only Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan, and Kincaid is a former U.S. Senator serving on the White House staff. But I can forgive Bernhardt for this because, after all, if fictional heroes did in real life what they tend to do in book after book, their careers would take off too.

By a quirk of fate and timing, of course, Kincaid happens to be at the White House when a crisis begins. That external crisis quickly splits with a connected crisis in the White House itself and both proceed, rapidly and enjoyably, to an ultimate, virtually simultaneous conclusion, or so the reader is led to believe.

I do have one criticism but it isn't with the writing or the story, it is with the politics included. Kincaid, and presumably Bernhardt, are liberal Democrats, and their views are oversimplified and, as you would expect, presented with unopposed glee. And for many, opposition is necessary. Even as a conservative Republican, I didn't let Kincaid's viewpoints bother me too much. After all, though frustrating, Bernhardt's spin is no worse than that of ABC, NBC, CBS, CNN, or Hollywood.

Again, my take on this one is that it is intended to be fun. It succeeds. You'll need to suspend your disbelief a little to enjoy the tale, but when you do, you may not be able to put the book down until you find out how it ends. It is hard to ask for much more than that.

Rick Ludwig says

With his final Ben Kincaid novel, William Bernhardt does a fantastic job of weaving an intricate and well told tale while still maintaining the wonderful personalities of his continuing characters. This was not just icing on a wonderful cake it was a full and robust final course in a fabulous banquet of relevant and exciting individual courses, eighteen in all. I will miss Ben and his colleagues, but I look forward for a new banquet to come as well as those individual feasts that Bernhardt has served up before in his none-Kincaid works. I had the pleasure of attending Mr. Bernhardt's Level Two workshop in Honolulu this year and can attest to his ability to effectively share the skills that are so evident in his work to those of us who are striving to share our own visions in print. He puts an enormous amount of effort into his work to make it look effortless and succeeds admirably.

Barbara says

DNF. Can't get into a book that starts with a thrilling CIA op vs terrorists chase then pauses a handful of paragraphs later to wax lyrical over touristy scenery.

Randy says

Lawyer and former senator Ben Kincaid is meeting with the president when Washington suddenly explodes into chaos. A fanatical foreign dictator has hacked into the U.S. nuclear defense system and now has a finger on the trigger of America's most dangerous weapons. Kincaid is whisked, along with the president and his advisors, to an underground bunker, but the president seems to be falling apart under the pressure—and the vice president wants to strip him of his powers. While Kincaid scrambles to defend the president, CIA agent Seamus McKay races through Washington, searching for a hidden command center that now controls U.S. ballistic missiles. As McKay and Kincaid move closer to uncovering a world-shattering plot, the ultimate act of betrayal is launched from the heart of the American capitol itself.

Kate Woods Walker says

Not my cup of tea, but a fine representation of formula mystery/thriller fiction by a very successful writer. William Bernhardt mixes light (*very light*) progressive politics with what seems to be admiring regard for some of the worst abuses of the Bush era, making for a somewhat confusing narrative tone.

But *Capitol Betrayal* is a political thriller and an action-adventure tale with lots of explosions, broken bones, and square-jawed and manly torture. It's chock full of what's expected in that genre.

We bid adieu to one heroic protagonist (this is the last of the Ben Kincaid series) and say hello to another, as CIA tough guy Seamus McKay enters center stage to crack heads and spit out catchphrases.

Women don't come off very well. One betrays her heroic boss, and another is imperiled and then rescued, just in time to reveal her fulfillment in a role that would make June Cleaver proud.

Jerry King says

2010

Chris says

Seems like this one was hastily put together, not not the best Kincaid novel I've read. The use of the word "man" was annoying and out of place, such as "What are you doing, man?".

Just seems like there wasn't a lot of thought put into the plot. A computer hacker that Seamus worked with on

another case "just happened to write the code that was used to take over the US satellite computers. Then, when Seamus asks him where other computer hackers might be that could infiltrate and take over the system might be, the villain just happens to be walking out of the place on their first drive by.

Just didn't have the makings of a great thriller.
