

The Republic Story Bible

By Evan Tarver

*evan@evantarver.com
1411 N. Mansfield Ave
Los Angeles, CA, 90028*

The Republic

by Evan Tarver

A modern American take on the rise and fall of Populare leader Julius Caesar, resulting in civil war and the creation of a new government - one truly made by the people, for the people.

The American political system is broken. Political action committees (PACs), career politicians, and members of the one percent have turned the United States into an oppressive oligarchy. Gone are the days of fair representation and idyllic views of freedom and justice - the voices of the people silenced by those in power.

America faces a problem. Holding the reigns of our nation are politicians who will do anything to stay in power; pass any law, swing any vote, accept any bribe. Anything, that is, except putting the interests of the American people above their own.

This errant system makes one thing clear - the United States isn't a model western democracy, but rather a representative republic eerily similar to ancient Rome. It's a political system thousands of years old, kept that way because it benefits the select few in perpetual power.

In ancient Rome, the founding ideals of honor, virtue, and fair representation warped over time, resulting in a conniving and back-stabbing political culture. Wealthy elitists created an income and power gap insurmountable by the common person. The empire was sliding down a dark path, only to be pulled back into the light by the political reformation of a boy-genius, a champion of the people - *Julius Caesar*.

Like Rome, America faces a crossroads. Change its political system and save the American people, or maintain the status quo and risk spiraling down into complete bedlam. We can't do it alone; we need a savior more now than ever. Someone strong-willed, an outside-the-box thinker who can stand up for the people of this great nation.

Like Rome, we need our Julius Caesar.

The World: Modern American Politics

America is often viewed as the ideal western democracy. Stemming from the times of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, and John Adams, the United States was built on an idyllic view of inalienable rights for the common person - specifically life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

To many, the American political system is the best there ever was, and depending on who you ask, the best that ever will be. However, while the United States was founded on great ideals, the truth is that American politics isn't so different from the political republic of ancient Rome, static and unchanging.

In America, the two-party system makes it impossible for a fresh perspective, creating an "us vs. them" mentality, causing politicians to focus on beating the opposition rather than serving American citizens. Incumbent politicians are warned against toeing the party line, forced to champion the watered down message of their political party over reason or prudence.

Campaign financing and the desire for re-election warps American politics even further, with politicians deep in the pockets of politically-active businesses and members of private industry. Once in power, politicians are forced to keep promises made to wealthy individuals at the expense of their constituents.

The system is even failing at the structural level. Congress is too small to represent our growing nation, and the Senate and Supreme Court too powerful. The way we vote is outdated, politicians focusing more on gerrymandering and winning key swing states rather than fairly representing the will of the people.

The catch? Like Rome, all of this is done under the loose guise of honor, valor, and fairness, as if politicians are acting on behalf of American citizens, rather than in their own self-interests.

Cast of Characters

The following are the principal characters of *The Republic*. Each character is modeled after a historical Roman figure or “analog” from the time of Julius Caesar.

Julian Graham

Roman Analog: Julius Caesar

Born into a renowned American family fallen on hard times, Julian Graham grew up on the poor side of town in Austin, Texas, next to brothels and bars. Touted as a boy-genius, Julian’s father died when he was 16, forcing him to take over as the man of the house. Julian’s recognizable last name and poor disposition gave him exposure to the rich and poor, powerful and desolate.

Choosing a life in the military, Julian enlisted in the Navy, spending time overseas in the Middle East and Asia. Upon his return to Austin, Julian studied law and opened his own practice - representing the lower class and those who couldn’t pay for fair legal counsel. He became known as a champion of the people and someone who prosecuted corruption and scandal.

Leveraging his growing reputation in law and his background in the military, Julian ran for Congress and eventually the Senate, winning both seats. As a member of the legislative branch, Julian was faced with more corruption than he’d ever seen during his time as a prosecutor, and decided something needed to change. America needed a strong leader, a President who could clean up American politics and fix the political system - Julian is up for the task.

However, while his ideals are great and his intentions true, other politicians see him as a threat to their carefully crafted status quo and rise up against him. Julian is unable to make any of the changes he wants, realizing that perhaps the only way to fix the political system is to bring it down from the inside, creating a new system from the ashes like a phoenix.

Krista Graham

Roman Analog: Cleopatra

Born into a powerful American family in Puerto Rico, her father a career politician, her mother unknown. Taking after her father, Krista took a liking to politics, advocating for the fair representation of her home territory and on behalf of her beloved people. She quickly became a local darling, the citizens calling her the daughter of Puerto Rico.

Krista met Julian Graham while he was visiting Puerto Rico on a political mission as a U.S. Congressman. Hearing that Julian had a soft spot for powerful women, she sought his

audience, smuggling herself into the United States Consulate with the intention of charming Julian into becoming an advocate for the annexation of Puerto Rico.

Upon meeting each other, sparks flew, Julian attracted to this strong-willed woman, Krista attracted to Julian's altruistic political intentions. Before long they were wed, Julian relying heavily on Krista's advice and council. Together they traveled back back to Austin, Texas, where Krista decided to further her political initiatives on behalf of Puerto Rico, her homeland.

Monica & Brayden Graham

Roman Analog: Caesar's Children from First Marriage

Monica and Brayden Graham, both children from Julian's first marriage. Monica is eleven years old and already set on forging her own path, separate from her parents. Brayden is eight years old and reveres his father. Krista loves them both as if they were her own, and both Julian and Krista become more politically active to create a better future for their children.

Mark Davis

Roman Analog: Mark Antony

Former member of the military, served under Julian Graham in the Middle East and Asia, securing important victories for Julian. Mark displayed exceptional military leadership on the battlefield, earning Julian's trust as well as political distinction. This created a strong bond between the two men, and when Julian takes up a life of politics, he convinced Mark to join him as his right-hand man.

Mark played a key political role in Julian's rise to power, helping him secure seats in both the House and Senate while acting as second in command to Julian. Unlike others in politics, Julian can trust Mark, and confides in him like a brother. When Julian runs for President, he asks Mark to be his Chief of Staff, which Mark accepts, running Julian's day-to-day, protecting him from political opponents like a guard dog and even making political decisions on behalf of his mentor.

Simon Booker

Roman Analog: Marcus Licinius Crassus

Business magnate and real estate speculator, Simon Booker is regarded as one of the richest men in America. Coming from a wealthy Texas family that had lost its fortune, Simon made it back by buying dilapidated homes in disaster areas, rebuilding them into projects for low income families. From there, he turned to commercial properties, building some of the largest skyscrapers in America.

After rebuilding his lost fortune, Simon became politically active, using his massive wealth to sway political campaigns and push through laws that directly benefited him. It's at this point he meets Julian Graham, getting swept up by Julian's altruistic political intentions and largely funding his campaigns for the Congress and Senate.

When Julian becomes acting President, he implores Simon to help him as Secretary of State. Simon is cautious at first, but believes in the lore of Julian Graham and accepts, forming the first part of the Triumvirate, the eventual political alliance between Julian, Laura Feinman, and himself.

Laura Feinman

Roman Analog: Pompey the Great

Laura burst onto the political scene many years ago as a girl-genius, becoming the youngest person ever to be voted into Congress. Now a party leader and multi-term Senator from Florida, she isn't afraid to vote with her gut on behalf of her constituents, even if that means reaching across the aisle to side with the opposition Liberty Party.

It's in Congress that she meets Julian Graham, and while their views often differ, they become friendly. However, while Julian is driven by altruistic intentions, Laura is driven more by her desire to cement her legacy as a powerful politician. This causes unrest in the Congress and Senate, with other politicians fearing Laura's power and lofty ambitions.

It's at this time Julian introduces her to Simon Booker, and while both he and Laura share similar ambitions, their political views vary widely. Still, they trust Julian, and therefore trust each other. Together, the three form a powerful political alliance known as the Triumvirate in an attempt to battle fierce political headwinds and create a new American political system, even if it costs them their friendships.

Gary Youngman

Roman Analog: Cato the Younger

Distinguished Senator coming from a long line of successful politicians and a family devoted to the United States. Branded a constitutional literalist, Gary Youngman is known for his high moral integrity, immunity to bribes, and disdain for corruption. Believing staunchly in stoicism, his reputation as a pious and just politician earned him the position of Senate Majority Leader during Julian's Presidency.

As a Constitutional literalist, Gary is a firm supporter of Thomas Jefferson and the original Jeffersonian Party that preached small government and believed that to build and maintain a great nation, the Declaration of Independence and resulting Constitution should be followed at all costs, carrying out the founding fathers' true intentions and ideals, even today.

Because of this, Gary opposes Julian and his radical views on a changing government. Afraid that Graham wants to tear apart the Constitution, he allies with Chris Orlan on his quest to oppose Julian Graham and his political goals at all costs, for the good of the Nation.

Chris Orlan

Roman Analog: Marcus Tullius Cicero

Career politician and masterful orator, the Speaker of the House during Julian's Presidency. Starting as a lawyer, Chris Orlan, similar to Julian, soon made the leap into politics, regarding it as the most important endeavor of his life. Chris relies on his rousing speeches and engaging rallies to win favor with the American people and his fellow politicians.

Chris is a staunch supporter of his Liberty party, believing in the "us vs. them" mentality and opposing Julian on most - if not all - of his political goals. He vows to make it nearly impossible for Julian to achieve the political changes he wants, afraid to relinquish power and return it to the masses.

He believes the American people don't know what's good for them, twisting and warping his altruistic intentions into something more sinister. Rather than empowering American citizens, he believes in his core that the best thing for the country is to keep the wealth and power in the hands of the one percent as stewards of the masses.

Miranda Lawton

Roman Analog: Plebeians

Reporter for the Washington Post, a young political correspondent living in the heart of Washington D.C. Representing the will of the people, Miranda Lawton sees it as her duty to accurately report and provide opinions on the shifting American political landscape.

Because of this, she takes an interest in Julian Graham and his outside-the-box thinking. Reporting on the Presidential race, she meets Julian and is swept up in his good nature and charm, believing in her heart that maybe he really is what the nation needs - a champion of the people.

However, there's a darker side to Julian Graham, one that Miranda witnesses first-hand. The ever good reporter, Miranda digs deeper into Julian's past and finds things that makes her question whether Julian's reform is a good thing. She begins to wonder if his public personal is a guise, a ruse to hide much darker intentions, worried that perhaps the American people just elected a megalomaniac as President.

Clodius Clay

Roman Analog: Brutus the Younger

A family friend of the Grahams, Clodius Clay has known Julian since childhood, helping his political career as a wealthy member of private industry. Julian loves the man, and when Clodius asks for favor, Julian is quick to help, even if it means tarnishing his own legacy.

However, as Julian gains power and attempts to change the American political system, Clodius comes to oppose him and his heretical ways, siding with Gary, Chris, and the Liberty party. Before long, Clodius is in an all-out feud with Julian Graham, slowly realizing that to save the republic, Julian Graham needs to be stopped at all costs and by any means necessary.

Storylines in The Republic

The Republic follows closely the rise and fall of Julius Caesar, with modern day America as the backdrop. Caesar was known as a “Populare”, a champion of the people, coming to power and reforming much of the old Roman republic to more fairly represent its citizens. Similarly, Julian Graham comes to power with the same goals, hoping to create a new American democracy, even if he dies trying.

The specific storylines of *The Republic* include:

- **Julian Graham’s political reform** - The major storyline in *The Republic* follows Julian Graham’s rise to power and the implementation of his political reform. Starting as a local Congressman, Julian rises through the political ranks in America only to realize how broken the system is, understanding that the only way to fix it is to bring it down from the inside, culminating in civil war and a new constitution that rises from the ashes.
- **Opposition and political corruption** - Julian Graham faces strong headwinds as President, with the opposing Liberty party controlling the House, Senate, and Supreme Court. Believing Julian seeks absolute power, Speaker of the House Chris Orlan and Senate Majority Leader Gary Youngman oppose President Graham at every turn, trying to preserve the warped American oligarchy and keep power in the hands of the undeserving one percent at the expense of the American people.
- **Miranda Lawton and the Washington Post** - Miranda Lawton, young political correspondent for the Washington Post, uncovers damning evidence that could be used to Impeach President Graham and thwart his political reform. Still believing that Julian Graham is a good man, Miranda digs deeper into his checkered past to uncover President Graham’s true intentions and report her findings to the American citizens.
- **Krista Graham and the refugee crisis** - Julian’s wife and First Lady Krista Graham is a strong-willed and politically active person, serving as Julian’s council and sounding board. President Graham comes to power during a global refugee crisis, with Mexicans crossing the border in droves, fleeing violent drug cartels. Krista tries to solve the crisis as her initiative as First Lady, but her husband sees it as an opportunity to assume emergency powers and institute his political reform without opposition.

Season One: The Episodes

Episode I: Series Pilot

“Radical” politician Julian Graham wins the Presidency and begins to implement wide-spread political reform.

Plot Points:

- Julian Graham fights a hard battle for the Presidency, winning after a long campaign on the stump. An idealistic outsider in his own Republican-Socialist party, Julian has big ideas for changing the American political system and putting power back in the hands of the people, only to realize that with a Liberty-controlled House and Senate - led by Senator Gary Youngman and Congressman Chris Orlan - and a hostile Supreme Court, his battle for political reform will be hard-fought.
- Julian forms an unofficial alliance with old friend and business magnate Simon Booker and career politician, masterful orator, and colleague Laura Feinman. As the former CEO of a powerful multinational corporation, Simon is appointed Julian's Secretary of State while Laura Feinman assumes the position of Treasury Secretary.
- Krista Graham, Julian's wife, moves forward with plans to address the immigration and refugee crises as her focus as First Lady. Unfortunately, even preliminary discussions are thwarted by Senator Youngman and Congressman Orlan in response to Julian Graham's desired political reforms.
- Miranda Lawton, political beat reporter for the Washington Post, covers Julian Graham's rise to the Presidency as a no-nonsense correspondent that tells it like it is. During her coverage, she witnesses the thuggish shake-down of a fellow political reporter, suspecting Julian Graham and potential foul play.

Episode II

Facing staunch opposition, Julian Graham, Simon Booker, and Laura Feinman form a powerful political alliance known as the "Triumvirate" to force the political change they desire.

Plot Points:

- Julian Graham attempts to implement his "Five Point" plan for political reform during his first one hundred days as President of the United States. Opposing him at every turn are Senator Youngman and Congressman Orlan, together with their political party and powerful Political Action Committees (PACs). Julian realizes that in order to overcome this powerful opposition, he'll need to strengthen alliances within his small, inner circle.
- Julian Graham calls a meeting with Simon Booker and Laura Feinman, highlighting everything wrong with the current political system, including skewed representation, a Congress too small, a Senate too powerful, a Judicial branch too political, and PACs too influential. Together, the three form an official yet secret alliance known as the "Triumvirate" to deal with the opposition and implement Julian's political reform.
- Krista Graham solicits help from friends within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), finding documents and records that implicate the Agency in corruption and scandal. The information she uncovers points to cataclysmic events if the immigration and refugee crises aren't fixed, fast.
- Miranda Lawton and reporter Johnny Rodgers dig deeper into Julian Graham's past, pulling a thread that may prove President Graham committed crimes that would call for his Impeachment and thwart any chance he has at political reform.

Episode III

The Triumvirate brings a fair housing bill to the House of Representatives aimed to help the poor people of America and to spark political action; the bill isn't expected to pass.

Plot Points:

- Sensing the Triumvirate might not be enough, Julian, Simon, and Laura solicit the help of House Majority Leader Chris Orlan, who declines, loyal to Gary Youngman and his party. Julian begins to worry that he lacks the power to make any real impact as President.
- In response to Orlan's snub, the Triumvirate agree to bring a bill to the House floor that would redistribute government-owned land to housing projects for the poor, Julian's first attempt at passing legislation that fulfills his political promises. This "Populare" legislation is staunchly opposed by the Liberty Party, making it necessary for Julian, Simon, and Laura to work back-channels as the bill is prepared to be heard.
- The refugee crisis worsens, displaced people overflowing into the United States. They come by boat, raft, ship, plane, and anything in between, often risking life and limb to smuggle themselves and their family across the border to safety.
- Miranda finds herself in increasingly dangerous waters chasing down Julian Graham's past. On the one hand, she finds President Graham to be idealistic and good natured, focused on turning America into a fair and true democracy. On the other hand, he seems to run his family and political circle like a mob boss, using the American people's will for his own gain and currying favor in return for power.

Episode IV

Julian Graham seeks council with a friendly Supreme Court Judge on his executive reach as President, using the failing bill as leverage to grant himself more power.

Plot Points:

- The Liberty party gets word of the Triumvirate's upcoming bill. With Gary Youngman the Senate Majority Leader and Chris Orlan the Speaker of the House, they both agree to stop the bill from passing, unwilling to give Julian Graham an inch.
- Knowing the Liberty party has a supermajority in the House, Julian seeks the counsel of Chief Justice Cathy Roberts, a no-nonsense and centrist judge. Julian hopes there's a legal way to circumvent the supermajority and get his bill passed.
- Krista Graham speaks out on the refugee crisis, imploring the American people for aid. However, long droughts have caused a global food shortage and increased prices in America, and U.S. citizens are afraid that letting refugees into the country will worsen the issue.
- Miranda, with the help of Johnny Rodgers, uncovers corruption in the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), implicating Clodius Clay and Julian Graham. Miranda wants to verify the story, but Johnny wants to publish.

Episode V

Julian Graham's bill is struck down in the House, forcing him to arrest Chris Orlan and Gary Youngman; Simon Booker and Laura Feinman disagree, forming a crack in their alliance.

Plot Points:

- Julian's bill is brought to the House floor for debate. In support are the Republican-Socialists, led by Laura Feinman; opposing it is the Liberty party, holding a supermajority and led by Chris Orlan. As expected, representatives keep to party lines and the bill has no shot of getting passed.
- In response, Julian instructs the Secret Service to arrest Chris Orlan on Constitutional grounds in an attempt to silence the opposition and scare the Liberty party into voting with his Republican-Socialists. Simon Booker and Laura Feinman vehemently disagree with this move, causing a rift in the Triumvirate and weakening Julian's position.
- The refugee crisis comes to a head, the DHHS unable to keep up with the influx of people seeking asylum. Krista Graham works with her friends within the Agency to triage the situation and do their best to accept, track, and place refugees without upsetting the American people.

Episode VI

With the Senate and House majority leaders behind bars, Julian Graham declares a state of emergency, giving himself unilateral power. In response, Laura Feinman leaves the Triumvirate.

Plot Points:

- Laura Feinman becomes fearful of Julian Graham and what he's capable of, afraid he's abusing his power by arresting the Speaker of the House. She breaks the Triumvirate and opposes Julian Graham, her only perceived option. Simon Booker remains allied with Julian, but he's also become weary of his old friend.
- Julian again consults with Chief Justice Roberts, staunchly believing the he and he alone knows what's best for the American people. At Roberts' suggestions, Julian calls a state of emergency to address political corruption and the growing refugee crisis.
- Using the Liberty party's policies against them, Julian uses his partisan Presidency and new emergency powers to alter policy directly through unblockable executive orders, rather than via traditional means such as passing, appealing, or amending laws through the House and Senate.
- Miranda Lawton and Johnny Rodgers find evidence that holds Julian Graham responsible for the refugee crisis. Still, Miranda believes in Julian's desired reform and she buries the story, joining Julian in Washington as his press secretary to provide the American people with an unobstructed view into the White House.

Episode VII

Julian Graham uses his self-annointed powers to create a new political party, forcing the political reform promises he made on the campaign trail, one-by-one.

Plot Points:

- Fed up, Julian Graham uses his emergency powers as a platform to create a new political party, turning American politics into a three-party system. With his new powers, Julian fulfills the promises he made on the campaign trail, one-by-one: Cumulative voting, fair representation, and legislative and campaign finance reform.
- Liberty party leaders, including Gary Youngman and Chris Orlan, flee Capitol Hill in fear of the statehead. They set up an alternative government in Atlanta, Georgia, claiming that they're the legitimate American republic and that Julian Graham has gone rogue.
- Krista Graham works behind the scenes to bring the two warring factions together, using Miranda Lawton as the emissary and White House representative.
- Miranda continues to report on the situation, starting her own political newspaper in the style and tone of Ben Franklin's Silence Dogood. What she continues to find is that although Julian might be a radical, his intentions are pure and his political reforms well thought-out and positively impactful.

Episode VIII

Political refugees flee Washington, including the two members of Julian's Triumvirate. With near absolute power, Julian drafts a new constitution aimed at codifying his political reform for good.

Plot Points:

- Next to leave Washington are many of Julian's supporters and members of the old political guard. With them are two-thirds of the Triumvirate, Laura Feinman and Simon Booker. However, stuck in their ways, rather than joining forces with the Liberty party against Julian, they form their own faction on the west coast, also claiming political legitimacy.
- With most politicians gone and with near absolute power, Julian and his remaining friend and ally Mark Davis begin drafting a new constitution to replace the old and outdated American doctrine. Expecting resistance, Julian musters what's left of the loyal American army, calling for military lockdown and blackouts across the U.S. while he implements his new doctrine.
- Miranda Lawton continues to act as a conduit to the people. Julian appoints her Press Secretary, and uses her honest reporting as a way to communicate with the American citizens, many of whom stand behind Julian and his desire to reform the political system.
- Krista Graham becomes a leader and advocate for the people, using her power and stature to work with her husband on reform that actually helps the American citizens. In the background, she continues to meet with members of the Liberty and Republican-Socialist factions, looking for a peaceful solution.

Episode IX

Opponents of Julian Graham finally take up arms, causing a civil war and forcing Julian to implement a police state.

Plot Points:

- The Liberty party and Republican-Socialists finally join forces, mustering as many Military Police and AWOL military as they can to stand against Julian Graham. However, with dictatorial powers and a much stronger military force, Julian quickly subdues the opposing forces, tragically killing Laura Feinman and Simon Booker in the process.
- Julian is distraught, sensing victory but feeling pain at the loss of his respected and former friends and allies. Famously, he calls for the heads of whomever killed Laura and Simon, calling back the remaining members of the House and Senate to ratify his new constitution and begin to heal the wounds caused by his political reform.
- Miranda Lawton remains as Julian's Press Secretary. Always a diligent reporter, Miranda hears whispers that members of the House and Senate are conspiring to overthrow President Graham when he next speaks at the session to ratify his new constitution.

Episode X

Julian finishes his new constitution, bringing it to the House floor. Little does he know, an old friend and assassin awaits, killing Julian Graham. In the wake of his death, the new constitution is ratified and order brought back to America.

Plot Points:

- The calendar turns to March. Julian Graham prepares for the House session to ratify the new American constitution, but is warned by Miranda that there may be an assassination attempt, to which Julian responds, "the best death is a fast one," staunchly believing that his political reform is more important than even his life.
- At the House session, Julian is confronted by Clodius Clay and members of the old republic's inner circle. Clodius wields a knife and stabs Julian, spilling his blood on the House floor and killing him before help can arrive.
- Miranda is in attendance, and reports live while the assassination is happening. The common American people are in an outrage at the death of their champion, angry that a small group of aristocrats would commit such an act.
- The will of the people is overwhelming, and any hope of re-establishing the old republic is squashed. Riots break out on the streets, protests crop up across the U.S., and the House and Senate have no choice but to ratify Julian's new constitution, thus establishing the fair and well-represented republic President Graham always wanted.
- At the end, Mark Davis picks up the banner left by his beloved Julian Graham, hinting at a new reign and a new American order, led by Mark as Julian's disciple.

The Republic Tone & Themes

Modeled after the rise and fall of ancient civilizations, *The Republic* has a very Roman feel. Gaudy and ornate buildings, larger than life characters, political corruption and intrigue, and disenfranchised citizens combine to create a modern Roman republic set to the backdrop of American politics. For this reason, the major theme of *The Republic* is the reformation of the American political system with a strong tone of righteousness.

The overarching goal of this theme is to show viewers that political change isn't only possible, it's often necessary. America is a great nation, yes, and it once was the leading model for fair and equitable democracy, but is it currently the best western democracy? Many would say no. Still, American citizens are passive, knowing their political system is broken but doing nothing about it. After watching *The Republic*, hopefully this will change.

Another key theme is honor and valor. Roman society thousands of years ago was steeped in virtue, manifesting itself via strong family values, piety, and self-righteousness. However, this was often warped in ancient Rome, where political elitists would follow through on favors and promises in the name of honor, even if it resulted in corruption and scandal. For this reason, honor and valor play a central role in *The Republic*, causing even the most corrupt characters to have virtuous intentions.