

# UNDERSECRETARY BOURNE

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## The Lucky Break

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You try to be careful, to play things by the book. You get more done in politics that way. It is efficient, effective. The problem is that sometimes your impulses just get the better of you. You couldn't count the number of times you've put your foot in your mouth, though your detractors sure could. The only thing that has kept this pattern from completely scuttling your career is that you've been right more often than not when you go with your gut. It has put a very clear upper limit on your career path though, just the same.

You almost certainly hit that upper limit as the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. That is probably for the best though. This is the sort of job where you can get things done and mostly stay out of the spotlight. Your interest in public service has always been more about serving your country than about reaching the top. All things considered, you've come pretty far for someone whose parents were immigrants. You attribute it to your intelligence, your dedication, and more than a little luck in amusing the right people and not pissing off the wrong people.

Project Resonance is one of literally thousands of efforts that the DoD was funding. It earned a whole lot of attention though, and with that a lot of funding. You had reservations about it violating numerous international laws, but in one of those moments when you decided to throw caution to the wind because of the potential benefits, you backed it anyway. It looks like luck sure wasn't with you this time...

**Secretary Highmore** is the Secretary of Defense. Highmore is a good boss, and good at the job. Highmore has an instinctive understanding of how to run a large organization. Coming from Wall Street, Highmore may not know too much about the military, but with an organization like this, that doesn't matter too much.

**Deputy Thatcher** is one of Washington's eternal bureaucrats. Whatever organization Thatcher is in, papers will get pushed, things will be organized, and Thatcher will keep working towards an ever-important pension. You wish you were happy with that sort of life. It would be a lot easier.

**Secretary Stern** ran against you in your first failed run for congress. You were riding a tide of dissatisfaction with the military and winning over the hawkish Stern. Then some agents uncovered a local terrorist cell weeks before the election. You've always thought that was just a little too convenient. You have never trusted Stern since then.