

The Dawn of a New Era
By Eyon Mason

The year is 2021 in New America. The former United States of America collapsed after the 2020 election year. Anarchy and chaos ensued over civil issues or corruption that had not been fully addressed by the prior government. No new President was elected that year. Instead, it became a free for all with states doing their best to protect the interest of their citizens. There were some well-known activists and whistleblowers that grew a following during the fall of the United States of America.

One of those figures being a man named Castiel Mason. Castiel was a 30-year-old African-American man who resided in Georgia with his wife Lisa Mason. He was a fairly tall man, standing 6 feet 3 inches and had a medium build. His hair was black as tar and as wavy as the oceans. For his occupation, he was a whistleblower turned activist that was dedicated to ousting the corrupt politicians and businessmen that polluted the old America. He was very talented at this, and as a result gained many admirers, as well as enemies. Castiel saw that now was the perfect time to rise out of the ashes of chaos and anarchy in order to form something new.

He proposed a new government and partition of the former United States into four districts. District 1 would span from the tip of Florida, west to Texas, north to Tennessee, and east to South Carolina. District 2 would span north from West Virginia to Maine, with its most western state being Illinois. District 3 would be Washington and Oregon to the west, east to Wisconsin and Iowa, and south to Nebraska. Finally, District 4 would be California to the west, Missouri to the east, and Arizona and New Mexico to the south. The reason why Castiel thought of this new partition, is he realized that many Americans placed too much emphasis on the national level of politics as far as what they expected rather than focusing on their states and

individual communities. Castiel proposed the new government has a chairman for each district, with a board of representatives from all the sectors in those districts which were formerly called counties. These four districts are meant to be self-sustaining but work as a collective on matters of foreign diplomacy and war. The remnants of the old federal government's purpose were to provide national security. Castiel drew up these plans called "The New America" in Georgia, and published them online and through his various underground networks. Word spread like wildfire, and the people saw this ideology as a better system than before.

Before Castiel knew it, these plans were set into motion and he was named the chairman of District 1 in February of 2021, which officially became the new election year. Castiel was shocked and nervous, but he was ready to carry out his duties to the best of his abilities. As he prepared to move into the old Capitol building in Georgia, his wife Lisa could not believe they have been delegated such responsibility by the people. She was also worried because she knew and Castiel knew that many would lie their way into the positions of the other three districts. They also realized that the opposing factions could very well come for their lives. Castiel had a very good friend who shared the same ideals on politics, and how there needed to be a change. His name was Ishmael Asfor. Ishmael was of Arab descent, but he was born in America. Ishmael was a younger man, that was 27 years old, and would be the youngest chairman of the group. He was a fairly short man, but he was in great shape and believed fitness and good health should be leading principles in people's lives. He was Castiel's only ally in the realm of new politics. Ishmael was assigned to District 2 just north of District 1. District 3 and 4 had a full board of representatives, but they both had no chairmen. A woman named Gardenia Capur was a rising voice in District 4. She was of Latin descent and aged 35. She was a

very beautiful and charming woman who said what the people wanted to hear. She knew she could feed off of this naivety of the people to cement her position. Castiel dealt with crooks and corrupt people all the time in the old days, and specialized in bringing them down so he kept a close eye on Gardenia. Unknowing to Castiel, Gardenia had secret ties to factions of the old government hiding in the shadows. In March of 2021, Ms. Capur was elected to be the District 4 chairman. The first and only woman to hold a position from its conception. Brock Johnson, a 40-year-old Caucasian man was elected to the District 3 chairman position. Not much was known about him besides the fact that he was a hefty man that loved to eat, and was one of the very few to run in District 3 due to that District holding the least amount of activist and people that wanted change. Brock was easily influenced, and really only wanted the position because of its status and power.

April 18, 2021, was when the first convention was held In the New America era. This convention was held to discuss the issues of commerce, jurisdiction, security, and drafting a new constitution. This event was televised to all of New America, and was a highly anticipated event. The people wanted to see their new leaders, and were very optimistic about change. The convention was located at a central point between all the districts in Denver, Colorado. Castiel and Lisa were the first to arrive at the convention room. Ishmael, Gardenia, and Brock followed shortly after. This was also the first time the group had met each other so greetings were exchanged. The other 3 chairmen applauded Castiel for creating this New America. Castiel was a modest man however and hesitantly thanked them. As they took their seats, so did the board of representatives from each district. The representatives totaled 300, and all had a list of grievances and expectations from the people. This conference was to last a week to tackle as

many issues as possible. The key difference in New America was an emphasis on the government exists to serve the people's needs and make the country better. Although the states were partitioned, they were all still meant to be unified by shared beliefs. The days of pure capitalism and stepping on the next man's back to get ahead was over for the most part. As day 1 of the conference ended Castiel and Lisa were returning to their hotel room when they noticed a note tucked away in the door. The note read, "Stop while you're still alive, the old regime will return." Castiel immediately tensed up and urged Lisa to pack her belongings so they could move to a different hotel. This was alarming to Castiel. The chairmen and the hotel staff were the only ones who knew which room they were in. Castiel immediately began to form suspicions, so he called his trusted friend Ishmael to see if he received any notes of the sort. Once Lisa was safe in the new hotel room, Castiel hurried to meet with Ishmael to discuss this incident in person. Castiel frantically knocks Ishmael's door. Ishmael let him in and said, "I couldn't believe that someone would want to return to the old ways when the new foundation was so much more democratic in its roots." They started doing what they do best, which is digging and uncovering. These two men were not politicians by trade but rather concerned and active citizens who were chosen by the people to fulfill a duty. They came upon a dark web website that had an anti-New America campaign. To their shock, the page had Gardenia listed as its leader. They now had a suspect and scheduled an impromptu meeting between the chairmen.

They all met at a warehouse, each with their armed guards. The suspicious thing, was both Gardenia and Brock showed up late but together. So, Ismael and Castiel were starting to question his involvement as well. The pair of friends showed the other two the site they found,

and Gardenia denied she was tied to the organization and that it was a ploy by her competitors to slander her name. Castiel instructed her to hand over her phone for him to make sure she was telling the truth by checking her online activity. Brock looked nervous as if he knew something was going to happen. Suddenly, Gardenia laughs and says, "Wow, you two really are good at what you do huh? Too bad you won't be alive to carry out your dream." Castiel yelled, "Run!". As they both turned to run, Gardenia's men opened fire on them both. Castiel and Ishmael's men returned fire and bloodshed ensued. Gardenia threw an explosive charge near Castiel's men and it exploded! Many of Castiel's men were instantly killed from the blast or shrapnel. The firefight paused, and Gardenia and Brock's men were outnumbered and surrounded by the federal police who were secretly sent to spy on the meeting by Castiel. Gardenia and Brock were struck but no fatal wounds occurred. Castiel alerted Ishmael that everything was under control and that he could come up. Sadly, Ishmael was fatally struck in the chest in the crossfire. Castiel pleaded and pleaded for his friend to wake up as he held him in his arms. His tears fell on Ishmael's face full of saltiness and pain. Ishmael gained consciousness only for a moment to say his final words. He said, "Carry on our dream of true peace and democracy, and always be willing to die for your cause." Medical attention arrived on the scene minutes later but it was too late for his old friend.

Gardenia and Brock were both sentenced to life for domestic terrorism, treason, murder, and conspiracy to commit assassination. Brock was only a pawn in Gardenia's game, but nonetheless, he was held accountable. Castiel and Lisa attended Ishmael's funeral, and the whole country mourned for their fallen leader. New America was almost shattered, but withstood one of its first major challenges and overcame it with tenacity. Ishmael will always be

remembered for his courageousness and innovation. Castiel served his maximum 8-year term after he was reelected by the people due to his outstanding achievements on reconstruction, economy boost, and civil affairs. He and Lisa left the office very accomplished and with one little boy and girl. He named his son Ishmael to commemorate his fallen friend and his daughter was named Carmelicia. The foundation he and Ishmael laid as well as the new District 3 and 4 chairmen paved the way to prosperity in New America. This era was named the “Second Enlightenment.”