

## **PRIVILEGED HISTORY**

**by John C. Wilson**

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First drafted in FPCT's Introduction to Playwriting class, summer 2023

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PRODUCTION HISTORY: Reading hosted by Fells Point Corner Theatre on August 14, 2023.

SYNOPSIS: Coming-of-age meets come-uppance in this domestic drama. Grandson Cameron visits his grandmother Beth seeking help with his history homework. His interview assignment reveals the closeness of their relationship, their shared values, and a few surprises along the way — when they're not being interrupted by Cameron's helicopter mom, Charlotte. Themes include teen procrastination, job loss, book banning, political campaigning, and genealogical disclosures. The characters draw inspiration from Stephen Schwartz' 1972 Broadway musical *Pippin* as they seek their "corner of the sky."

SETTING: Present day sunroom in affluent home in Easton, Maryland. Unit set furnished with white wicker love seat and chair, cedar chest coffee table, bookcase, and many live, potted plants.

TIME: Spring, present day

ACTORS: 3 actors; 15-year-old male, 66-year-old woman, and a 40-year-old woman.

Cameron Donnelly, bright high school sophomore needing to interview a family member for history project assigned by his favorite teacher.

Beth Campbell Talbot, widowed grandmother who recently lost her job as librarian resisting library board's book ban.

Charlotte Talbot Donnelly, Cameron's overbearing mother and mayoral candidate.

## PRIVILEGED HISTORY

A Play in Two Acts

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Characters:

Beth Campbell Talbot, age 66

Cameron Donnelly, her grandson age 15

Charlotte Talbot Donnelly, Cameron's mother, age 40

Setting:

The sunroom of Beth's home in Easton, Maryland

Time:

Present day

### ACT 1, SCENE 1, late afternoon

*(As curtain rises, BETH is DSL with water can, tending her plants.)*

BETH:

Hello my friends. Need a sip of water?

*(CAMERON enters USR into the sunroom and drops his backpack on the wicker loveseat as he crosses to his grandmother.)*

CAMERON:

Hi Gramma! *(He kisses her cheek)* Thanks for helping me with my history project. Mom said you would have time this week.

BETH:

*(BETH crosses to her wicker chair and sits.)*

Happy to help Cameron. And I'm happy to spend the afternoon with you. It's been a while. Before you settle in, I made you a surprise snack — it's in the fridge.

*(CAMERON exist USL to the kitchen and returns with a parfait glass and spoon.)*

CAMERON:

Pistachio pudding — my favorite! *(He savors each bite, and sits on the loveseat)*

BETH:

So tell me about your history project.

*(CAMERON'S phone rings, he answers and puts it on speaker)*

CAMERON:

Hi Mom.