

Hey, let's watch some TV!!

(But we're gonna do it closely and carefully)

(Yes, I said "gonna"!!)

Type: TV Drama

Show: *The West Wing* (Season 2, Episode 22, Air Date: 5/16/2001)

Writer: Aaron Sorkin (*A Few Good Men, Moneyball, The Social Network, Steve Jobs*)

What you need to know to help you plot the plot: This show follows U.S. President, Jed Bartlet, and his staff as they attempt to navigate their term of public service in the Whitehouse. He is Catholic, attended Notre Dame, and considered becoming a priest (until he met his wife). He has a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics, wrote an economics textbook, and won a Nobel Prize in Economics. He has a fierce intellect and a fondness for trivia, and he enjoys quizzing his staff. He is a member of the Democratic Party and is up for re-election, but it's a rocky road. He has been stricken with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), but he's never revealed it publicly, so the perception that he lied to the American people becomes an obstacle politically.* There was a recent assassination attempt on his life, and one of his staffers, Josh Lyman, was nearly killed. Delores Landingham, the President's secretary (who is older than he is), was killed in a car accident after she bought her very own first car, and this episode involves her funeral. He cares deeply for her, and it is in this episode that we begin to understand why. John Hoynes is mentioned briefly. He is the current Vice President and would be the favored candidate if Jed Bartlet decides NOT to run again.

**This would be a good time to teach you the term "Lie of Omission". It means that leaving out important information is considered by some to be the equivalent of a lie.*

Relevant Characters & Info for West Wing: Two Cathedrals

- Josiah "Jed" Bartlet — President of the United States
- Leo Thomas McGarry — White House Chief of Staff
- Claudia Jean "C.J." Cregg — White House Press Secretary
- Charles "Charlie" Young — Personal Aide to the President
- Joshua "Josh" Lyman — Deputy White House Chief of Staff
- Donnatella "Donna" Moss — Senior Assistant to Josh
- Tobias "Toby" Ziegler — White House Communications Director
- Sam Seaborn — Deputy White House Communications
- Delores Landingham — The President's personal secretary