

# The Trial of Andrew Johnson

## ACT 5

### PRESSURE FROM HIS OWN POLITICAL PARTY

- Narrator:** The scene takes place on Capitol Hill. The final day of the trial. It is Judgement Day. Senators Charles Sumner and Ben Butler and Representative Thaddeus Stevens, the forces behind the impeachment proceedings against Andrew Johnson, are waiting on the steps of the Capitol as Senator Edmund Ross of Kansas approaches.
- Ross:** I will make a decision that I will have to live with the rest of my life. It will be my vote that will decide the issue of whether Andrew Johnson remains in the White House or becomes the first president to be thrown out of office by the will of Congress. It is my vote that will decide this issue.
- Mrs. Ross:** *(In a faint, hand-to-her-forehead manner.)* Oh, Edmund, I fear for you.
- Butler:** Good afternoon, Senator Ross.
- Sumner:** Good day to you, Senator Ross.
- Stevens:** A good day, Senator.
- Ross:** Good afternoon, gentlemen. It is always a pleasurable experience to have the leadership of the Republican party on hand to greet their colleagues.
- Steven:** Senator Ross, the pleasure is all ours.
- Sumner:** Dear Senator Ross, I have always pushed myself on behalf of my fellow senators, even junior senators, so that they could benefit from my advice, experience, and expertise.
- Butler:** Damn it, man. Find out how he's going to vote. And let's all forget this sweet talk.
- Sumner:** Now, now, Senator Butler, let's not be hasty. It's a lovely day, and it doesn't do any harm to exchange a few nice thoughts and kind words.
- Ross:** Thank you, Senator Sumner. I knew that your greeting me in this fashion had more to do with the fact that we've always cooperated fully in the Senate, and we've enjoyed the best of relations.