

# “In High Places”

## CHARACTERS

### **Wendy Whitelaw**

The Prime Minister of Australia. A middle-aged woman who has reached the unexpected pinnacle of her career and is still dealing with that. An astute woman, but basically a regular, educated person, maybe playing the role of the position she finds herself in, rather than fully inhabiting it, and the better for it. Dressed formally for the press conference which she is scheduled to front.

### **Penny Austin**

Personal Adviser to the Prime Minister. Of similar age and disposition, as expected given their tight working relationship. She has ridden the hard rails with Wendy, but is a more assertive version of her, having been waiting for this opportunity for a long time. Dressed sharply but for the office rather than a public appearance.

### **Raisa**

An Afghan woman of similar age to Wendy and Penny. She is dressed traditionally in robes and head covering but not in black. She has been in Australia for a number of years and is quite comfortable with the language and most practices of the culture. She is as purposeful and astute as the two Australian women but not as suppressed by systems and accepted procedure. A passionate woman, and attractive because of it.

### **Phillip Edwards**

Attorney-General of Australia. A late-fiftyish political aristocrat. Pompous and opinionated. Driven by the concept of a “divine right to govern”, with no time for those (Opposition, commentators, journalists, voters) who stand in the way of what he knows to be right.

### **Anwar**

Raisa’s eldest son, who has been educated through his vital years in Australia and so shows little any more of his native culture, apart from physical appearance. He has just graduated from a Secondary College but is perhaps 18. He is dressed as his contemporaries would dress.

### **Barry Walsh**

A smart journalist, heard in Voice-Over only, and so a probable actor-double with Anwar.

**Male Journalist Host/Female Compere/Comedian/Shock-Jock** Voice-Overs