

# MURDER

OF A PRESIDENT

1 x 113, 2 x 54 HD



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On the morning of July 2, 1881, a wildly delusional madman named Charles Guiteau shot President James Garfield as he was walking through Washington's Baltimore and Potomac railroad station. Just four months after Garfield took office, Guiteau fired two bullets at the president, and amazingly, Garfield survived. For the next 79 days, the nation held its breath while his medical team and others—including inventor Alexander Graham Bell—struggled in vain to keep him alive.

As Garfield's life hung in the balance, the divided post-Civil War nation united and remained riveted to news reports while thousands of letters of support poured in for the ailing American president. Weakened by pain and riddled with infection, Garfield remained stoic and conscious until the end, when he died on September 19, 1881. Based on Candice Millard's best-seller *Destiny of the Republic*, this story combines science and medicine, party politics and love to follow the life of one of the most extraordinary men ever elected president.

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160778

**CREDITS**

*Director:* Rob Rapley

*Producers:* Rob Rapley, Stephanie Haberman Bordas and Kathryn Lord

*Executive Producer:* Mark Samels

*Image:* WGBH Educational Foundation



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