

RADICALS



WRITTEN BY NANCY OSTERTAG & VANESSA RUANE

Characters



Sarah Brown

Sarah Brown is a twenty-four-year-old, healer from a family who've been free for generations. In addition to her work as a midwife, she manages Dr. Randolph's clinic and herbal pharmacy with her mother. Sarah wants to make an impact in her community. She is single-minded, even to the point of recklessness.

Elizabeth Shaw

Lizzie Shaw is a nineteen-year-old artist who comes to Washington to live with her grandfather, Dr. Randolph, after losing her parents in a hurricane. Rebelling against her grandfather and the expectations of society, Lizzie does not want to marry and settle down. She wants independence, and adventure.



“Each friend
represents a
world in us, a
world possibly
not born until
they arrive.”

Anias
Nin

Sarah & Lizzie



FROM DOCTOR AND PATIENT TO FRIENDS

Thrown together by circumstance, Sarah treats Lizzie's wounds and stands up for her when her grandfather thinks she has hysteria. They discover a shared interest in chemistry and build trust as they work together.

TESTED BY WAR & GRIEF

Sarah and Lizzie are each tested by war and grief. Separated, they communicate through letters, their friendship deepened by shared sacrifice. When the war ends, Reconstruction brings new challenges. Back in Washington full time, they begin working together again.

COMPATRIOTS

Sarah and Lizzie fight to stop Anthony Comstock from destroying all they've built.

Supporting Characters



20 years old

Anthony Comstock

Anthony is a self styled “moral crusader,” obsessed with sex, who wants to eradicate all forms of what he calls obscenity, and make a name for himself in the process.



27 years old

Reverend John Hayden

John is the devout minister of a progressive black church. Together with Sarah he leads a group of dedicated activists.

28 years old

Isabella Wheeler

John's recently widowed sister Isabella runs the church mission, working as an educator and advocate for the parishioners, while being an active leader in the group's underground activities.



30 years old

Jack Stephenson

Lizzie's business partner, Jack is a "committed bachelor" and a strategic businessman who runs the city's largest photo studio along with multiple side hustles.

28 years old

Peter Sullivan

"Sully" is a beloved actor and local celebrity. He is a hedonistic attention seeker, but also a true and loyal friend. Sully and Jack fall for each other the first time they meet, and remain together for the rest of their lives.





24 years old

Charity Dodson

Sarah's oldest friend, Charity is
a fourth generation midwife.

She is confident and social,
with a wicked sense of humor.

21 years old

Teresa Bagioli Sickles

Lizzie's best friend Teresa, is the gifted young wife of an influential freshman Congressman. New to Washington but not to politics, she is classically educated, elegant, and a reckless narcissist.



48 years old

Mary Ann Hall

Lizzie's friend and mentor, Mary Ann runs a successful underground lobbying business out of the city's finest parlor house.

21 years old

Virginia Spencer

An actress with the National Theater company, Virginia came to Washington from Belfast when she was only 15 years old. She is idealistic, passionate, and cruel when angry.



50 years old

Margaret Brown

Sarah's mother is an herbalist and co-owner of the infirmary she runs with Dr. Randolph. Meg is kind, and loving to Sarah, but slow to warm up to anyone else.

63 years old

Dr. Robert Randolph

Lizzie's grandfather is a Republican abolitionist, and respected Thomsonian doctor.



45 years old

Alice Hayden

John's mother Alice is the strategic mind behind Zion Baptist and the Underground Railroad station there.



24 years old

Temperance Purdy Butler

"Tempe" was raised by her widower father in the telegraph office and knows everything there is to know about the telegraph business.



24 years old

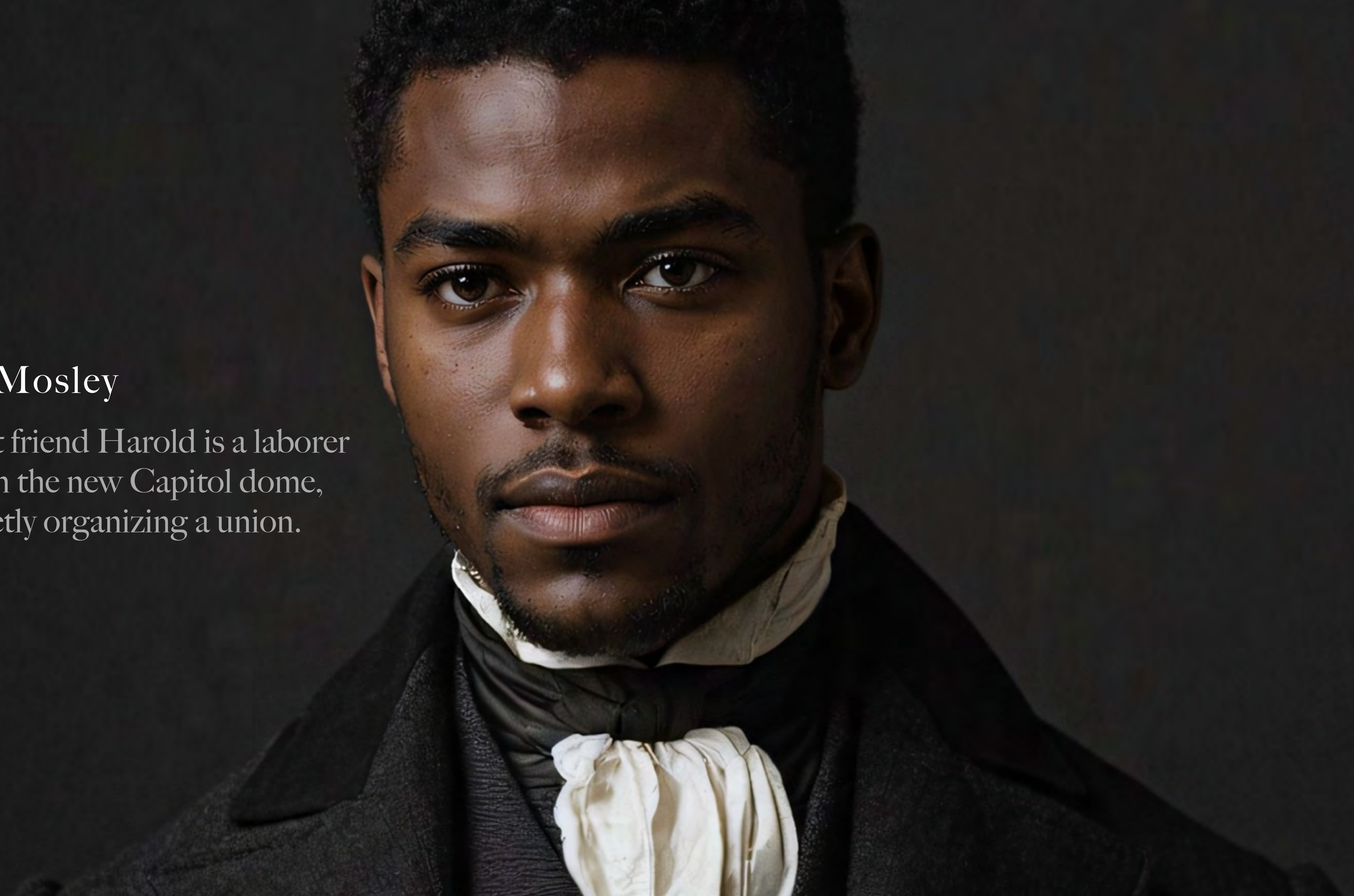
Reed Butler

Tempe's husband, Reed is a telegraph operator who sees a future for himself as a leader in Washington business and politics.

27 years old

Harold Mosley

John's best friend Harold is a laborer working on the new Capitol dome, while secretly organizing a union.





67 years old

Nelly Wisdom Taylor

Sarah's mentor and friend, Nelly is an enslaved midwife, "living out" with her free husband and granddaughter, Charity.

27 years old

Ellen Mary Taney

Ellen moved to Washington to care for her father after the death of her mother and sister. She is devoted, but frail herself, and prone to fits of depression.



79 years old

Chief Justice Roger Taney

Sickly and grieving after recently being widowed, Justice Taney shares a modest apartment with his two unmarried daughters.