

VICTOR UNCHAINED
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PREVIOUSLY IN EPISODE 2 of VICTOR UNCHAINED

Victor goes from a hunted man into a strategic adversary:

- The state escalates to full surveillance.
- GCHQ enters the field.
- MAPPA becomes a weapon. A tactical team prepares a raid.
- Victor counters with encryption, and a dead man's switch releasing his files globally.
- The machine realises he cannot be quietly erased.

Episode 2 ends with the countdown ticking.

EPISODE 3, ACT 1 - THE CCRC STALL

Tone: investigative, claustrophobic, morally fraught – the quiet dread of Atonement, the procedural tension of Carrington VC, the paranoia of Enemy of the State, and the injustice of An Innocent Man.

PREVIOUSLY ON VICTOR UNCHAINED EPISODE 2 ACT 5

A rapid montage, tense and atmospheric:

- Victor confronts a detective at The Engineerium, revealing his dead man's switch – a 24-hour encrypted failsafe that will leak the entire conspiracy if he disappears.
- In Whitehall, panic spreads: MI6, GCHQ, and the Prime

Minister realise Victor's suppressed defence patents were strategically valuable – and that burying him was a catastrophic mistake.

- A physical hit is ruled out. The new plan:
administrative exhaustion.

- Victor narrowly escapes a staged vehicular attack on a Sussex Lane.

CUT TO BLACK.

EPISODE 3 – ACT 1 SCREENPLAY

INT. CCRC HEADQUARTERS – ST PHILIP'S PLACE – BIRMINGHAM –
DAY

Fluorescent lights hum overhead. Grey carpet. Grey walls.
Grey souls.

A corridor lined with lever-arch files – each one a
ruined life.

We move deeper, past security doors, until–

A windowless conference room.
Neutral. Sterile. Designed to erase accountability.

Inside sits DAME VERA BAIRD KC, newly appointed Chair of
the CCRC. Her cold cup of Earl Grey rests untouched.

Across from her:

KEN MCCALLUM, Director General of MI5.

ANNE KEAST-BUTLER, Director of GCHQ.

No laptops. No aides. No minutes.
Just plausible deniability.

Silence hangs like a noose.

MCCALLUM

(quiet, measured)

Victor did report the Wealden officers. The trail is immutable.

Dame Vera's eyes sharpen.

DAME VERA

Did Sussex Police assist the cover-up?

Keast-Butler leans forward.

KEAST-BUTLER

The intercept data confirms it. Files destroyed.

Unlawfully.

Cameron knew. May knew. Starmer knew.

All of them.

A beat. Heavy.

DAME VERA

Then his conviction cannot stand.

MCCALLUM

It means Sussex Police were implicated. They could not investigate him lawfully.

DAME VERA

R v Sussex Justices .

MCCALLUM

Exactly.

Dame Vera stands, pacing – her legal instincts burning.

DAME VERA

Then we must refer his case. Immediately.

Keast-Butler raises a hand.

KEAST-BUTLER

If you must refer it... play down the structural corruption. Focus on the medical discrepancies.

DAME VERA

And the judge? His summing up was catastrophically wrong.

MCCALLUM

If you move at all... push the medical points.

But better yet – stall.

The CCRC excels at attrition.

Dame Vera bristles.

DAME VERA

Not after Malkinson. The public trust is hanging by a thread.

McCallum's tone hardens.

MCCALLUM

This comes from the top.

Burnham's cabinet. Mahmood. Reeves. Norris.

They don't want the boat rocked.

Dame Vera freezes.

DAME VERA

The entire justice front bench?

Both intelligence chiefs nod.

DAME VERA

What if he goes to Strasbourg?

Keast-Butler smiles – cold, analytical.

KEAST-BUTLER

They rejected him before.

They'll likely reject him again.

Delay is the government's friend.

McCallum offers a dry, humourless laugh.

MCCALLUM

A temporary sacrifice of the few... for the stability of the many.

Dame Vera sinks into her chair, staring at her cold tea – the weight of thirty years of institutional malice pressing down on her.

CUT TO:

INT. CCRC MAIN INVESTIGATIVE POOL – SAME TIME

A bustling open-plan office. Phones ringing. Papers rustling.

Senior investigator M slams her telephone receiver down, knuckles white.

Across from her, researcher Q looks up from dual monitors displaying Victor's heavily redacted file.

Q

Let me guess.

Another verbal directive?

M

No emails. No memos.

Just a call.

Victor's application is now in an "extended administrative review cycle."

Q

Which means—

M

They're letting the clock run out.

She leans over Q's shoulder, pointing at the screen.

M

Look at this evidence.

The social services logs.

The threats.

The suppressed medical sheets.

The 1997 planning petitions.

It's the cleanest frame-up I've seen in twenty years.

Q highlights a blacked-out field — GCHQ's clearance flag.

Q

Don't you mean the dirtiest? They know he's innocent.
But if he walks into the Royal Courts of Justice and
clears his name...
He pulls the thread that unravels everything.

M

So we just sit on it?
Let him rot on MAPPA while Whitehall plays musical
chairs?

Q hesitates — fingers hovering over a secure backup
drive.

Q

We follow protocol.
Unless... someone accidentally leaks the review logs to
Hayes Hodges' production team.

M looks at him — a dangerous understanding forming.

The machine wants a stall.

But the machine has cracks.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. 10 DOWNING STREET — CABINET ROOM — DAY

The room feels heavier than usual — the air thick with
political consequence.

The National Security Council sits in executive session

behind soundproofed doors.

At the head of the table:

PRIME MINISTER ANDY BURNHAM – calm, analytical, carrying the weight of inherited sins.

To his left:

ELLIE REEVES KC, Attorney General – razor-sharp, legally precise, every word measured.

Opposite her:

ALEX NORRIS, Secretary of State for Justice – plain-spoken, pragmatic, instinctively attuned to public sentiment.

Between them:

KEN MCCALLUM (MI5) and ANNE KEAST-BUTLER (GCHQ).

Burnham leans forward.

BURNHAM

Let's drop the diplomatic gloss.

Victor von Woolfe isn't just a CCRC headache.

If the media gets the truth – the file destruction, the Sussex Police cover-up – we're looking at Horizon 2.0.

Silence. Heavy.

BURNHAM

I want options.

How do we deliver justice... without inheriting thirty years of Tory and civil service corruption?

Norris taps his pen – the negotiator in him already

working angles.

NORRIS

The public doesn't care about procedural cycles.
They care about fairness versus bullying.
If we defend the machine, we inherit the blame.
If we expose it... we own the reform.

Reeves adjusts her glasses – cautious, calculating.

REEVES

Flipping the script sounds good on camera, Alex.
But I have to protect judicial functions.
If the Crown concedes a quashing outright, the narrative
becomes:
"State collapses under its own guilt."

Keast-Butler leans in, voice soft but carrying the weight
of GCHQ's vaults.

KEAST-BUTLER

Unless the narrative is:
"New Government uncovers legacy cover-up and enforces
accountability."

McCallum slides a slim blue folder across the table.

Reeves opens it.

REEVES

What is this?

MCCALLUM

The intelligence framework for a managed turnaround.

Previous administrations stalled Victor because they feared fallout.

But the assessment is clear:

Victor is relentless.

Journalists are closing in.

And the CCRC is an eggshell waiting to crack.

Burnham's eyes sharpen.

BURNHAM

So what's the play?

Keast-Butler lays out the strategy with surgical precision.

THE STRATEGIC PIVOT PROTOCOL

1. Independent Review Injunction

Reeves orders an expedited, independent audit of suppressed medical and municipal records – bypassing the CCRC stall.

2. Isolate the Legacy Elements

Frame the corruption strictly as a failure of past Conservative administrations and regional authorities – not the new government.

3. The Unopposed Appeal

When Victor reaches the Court of Appeal, the CPS does not oppose quashing – citing re-examined medical consensus.

4. The Champion's Narrative

Norris leads the public response, positioning the government as reformers who finally listened to the

underdog.

Norris grins – seeing the leverage instantly.

NORRIS

We don't get dragged down by the cover-up.

We get credit for tearing it down.

Reeves nods, turning a page.

REEVES

It's legally sound.

Anchor the Crown's non-opposition on the medical evidence.

Victor gets full exoneration.

No retrials.

And we set a precedent for transparency.

Burnham looks to the intelligence chiefs.

BURNHAM

And MI5, GCHQ?

You're comfortable with this data coming out?

McCallum offers a rare, slight smile.

MCCALLUM

Prime Minister...

Holding down a pressure cooker until it explodes damages national security.

Controlled venting preserves it.

You'll have the redacted evidentiary packages tomorrow.

Burnham stands, buttoning his jacket – the decision made.

BURNHAM

Ellie, draft the reference.

Alex, prepare the statement.

We're not stalling anymore.

We're giving Victor von Woolfe his day in court –
and we're taking the credit for setting an innocent man
free.

CUT TO BLACK.

CLIFFHANGER – END OF ACT 1

INT. CCRC BASEMENT ARCHIVE – NIGHT

A lone figure – we don't see the face – slips into the
restricted archive.

They pull Victor's unredacted file from a locked cabinet.

A dimly lit room.

A single desk lamp.

A stack of classified files – Victor's files – spread
across the table.

A gloved hand places the NSC Playbook folder beside them.

Footsteps echo outside.

The figure freezes.

A shadow moves past the frosted glass.

A voice – muffled, tense:

UNKNOWN VOICE

We have a problem.

Victor's Strasbourg filing is imminent.

And Europe will be asking questions.

The figure reaches for the lamp switch—

CUT TO BLACK.

TITLE CARD:

TO BE CONTINUED...

EPISODE 3, ACT 2 - THE ARTICLE 13 FILING

(Series Two — Episode Three, Chapter Three: The Article 13 Filing)

PREVIOUSLY ON VICTOR UNCHAINED

A tense montage:

The NSC secretly agrees to pivot: expose legacy corruption, fast-track an independent review, and prepare for an unopposed appeal.

A shadowy figure retrieves Victor's unredacted file from the CCRC basement.

Europe begins asking questions.

Victor continues building his renewed application — unaware that every keystroke is being mirrored by MI5 and GCHQ in Cheltenham.

Victor's renewed application triggers emergency alerts at GCHQ and MI5.

The NSC agrees to pivot: expose legacy corruption, fast-track an independent review, and prepare for an unopposed appeal.

CUT TO BLACK.

EPISODE 3 – ACT 2 SCREENPLAY

Tone: investigative, atmospheric, morally charged – the quiet dread of Atonement, the procedural weight of Carrington VC, the paranoia of Enemy of the State, and the underdog fire of An Innocent Man.

EXT. SUSSEX COUNTRYSIDE – DAWN

Mist clings to hedgerows.

The first grey light seeps across the landscape.

INT. VICTOR'S WORKSHOP – DAWN

A battlefield of paper:

lever-arch folders, transcripts, statutory authorities, redacted disclosures – everywhere.

Victor stretches his aching back.

Simba, curled on a warm rug, chirps softly.

A faint scratching behind the timber panels.

Simba's ears snap toward the sound – hunter mode.

Victor steps over a pile of briefs.

VICTOR

Wow, Simba. Look at this paperwork.

He pours tea, returns to his desk, and opens a blank

encrypted document.

He breathes in – slow, steady.

VICTOR

(whispers)

Alrighty then, Simba.

Statement of Grounds.

Here we go.

He begins typing – rapid, mechanical.

CUT TO:

INT. GCHQ – SIGNAL INTELLIGENCE SUITE – SAME TIME

Rows of analysts.

Banks of monitors.

Optical character recognition feeds scroll Victor's
keystrokes in real time.

A red priority flag flashes.

ANALYST

Madam... von Woolfe's filing just went live.

Within seconds, MI5's Thames House node mirrors the
alert.

CUT TO:

INT. 10 DOWNING STREET – CABINET ROOM – MORNING

Emergency session.

Prime Minister ANDY BURNHAM sits at the centre, rubbing
his eyes.

A secure video link from Cheltenham flickers.

BURNHAM

I assured the King we had von Woolfe contained.
Do we not?

CUT TO:

INT. VICTOR'S WORKSHOP - 10:00AM

VICTOR'S REALISATION

Victor pauses mid-sentence.

The optical drive light on his terminal flickers
rhythmically – too rhythmically.

He stares at it.

VICTOR

(low)
Simba... they're mirroring me.
Not just MAPPA, I'll wager.
GCHQ.

Simba's tail twitches – alert.

Victor leans back, voice low, reflective.

VICTOR

The CCRC isn't a remedy at all.
Even if they refer it today...
It can't undo fourteen years of refusal.

The delay is the weapon.

He turns back to the screen – jaw set.

He begins typing the lethal third ground – the bridge to Strasbourg.

CUT TO:

INT. GCHQ – SIGNAL INTELLIGENCE SUITE – SAME TIME
Sir Ken McCallum stands behind an analyst's workstation, watching Victor's live text stream mirror onto the main display wall.

Paragraph 5.4 appears.

McCallum's stomach tightens.

MCCALLUM

Oh Christ...

This isn't domestic anymore.

We'll have to respond to Europe.

He pulls out his encrypted satellite phone.

MCCALLUM

(into phone)

Ellie? Ken here.

CUT TO:

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS

Ellie Reeves KC sits in her private office, headset on, coffee steaming.

REEVES

Morning, Ken.

I'm looking at the live feed now.

MCCALLUM

We'll have to raise all the usual objections in
Strasbourg, I presume?

Reeves takes a slow sip – thinking.

REEVES

Quite so.

We plead exhaustion of domestic remedies under Article
35(1).

But eventually...

We'll have to appear reasonable.

We cannot look like a rogue state running a legal black
hole.

McCallum nods – but he needs operational clarity.

MCCALLUM

Do we apply pressure locally?

Thumb screws via Sussex Police?

Reeves suddenly sits bolt upright – eyes wide.

She scans paragraph 5.4 again.

Her legal mind catches the trap instantly.

REEVES

Ken – absolutely no beating this chap up.

Not like they did with that other gentleman in Sussex.
We do not want physical torture added to his Strasbourg complaints.

McCallum grimaces.

MCCALLUM

Understood.

And what of the King?

REEVES

The King cannot be involved.

But the Prime Minister has assured His Majesty that von
Woolfe will be contained –
without reputational damage to the Crown.

McCallum leans over the analyst's desk – watching
Victor's argument expand.

MCCALLUM

Does "contained" mean actual justice this time, Ellie?
Or just more bullet-dodging?

Reeves looks out toward Parliament Square – the weight of
decades pressing on her.

REEVES

We were all in the room, Ken.

MI5.

The NSC.

We know the truth.

It's time to bring Victor back to life.

CUT TO:

INT. VICTOR'S WORKSHOP - LATER

Victor types the final sections of his EU application –
Simba watching intently.

VICTOR (V.O.)

Ground 3: Article 3 – psychological torture.

Ground 4: Article 14 – discrimination.

Relief sought:

Admissibility.

Findings of violation.

Immediate quashing.

Just satisfaction.

He finishes typing.

VICTOR

Respectfully submitted...

Victor von Woolfe.

He hits SAVE.

CUT TO:

INT. CABINET ROOM - SAME TIME

The live transcript reaches the final paragraph.

McCallum's face pales.

MCCALLUM

Prime Minister...

He's invoking Article 3.

Psychological torture.

Burnham looks up sharply.

Reeves nods — grim.

REEVES

If Strasbourg accepts this...

It's not just a wrongful conviction.

It's a human rights catastrophe.

Mahmood leans forward.

MAHMOOD

And we caused it.

Thirty years of it.

Defence Secretary WES STREETING exhales, inhales
exquisite fresh coffee aroma.

STREETING

Thank heavens for Costa.

Reeves sets her mug down, caffeine satiated.

REEVES

For sure, Prime Minister — Woolfe has a formidable case.

But the CCRC can string this out indefinitely.

Domestically, he's boxed in.

CUT TO:

INT. VICTOR'S WORKSHOP — SAME TIME

Victor taps his pen, staring at the wall — remembering
2012.

VICTOR

That isn't really a remedy at all, Simba.

Simba meows.

Victor's eyes sharpen – the geometry clicks.

VICTOR

(whispers)

That isn't a dead end...

That's our gateway straight into Europe.

He leans forward – typing faster now.

CUT TO:

INT. GCHQ / MI5 JOINT FEED – SAME TIME

Paragraph 5.4 appears on the main wall display.

Ken McCallum sits forward sharply.

MCCALLUM

Prime Minister...

He's invoking Article 13.

Burnham frowns.

BURNHAM

We don't have Article 13 in domestic law, do we?

Reeves answers grimly.

REEVES

No.

We left it out of the Human Rights Act to protect public bodies.

But Strasbourg enforces it.

And von Woolfe has just built an airtight bridge showing he has zero practical remedy here.

A beat.

The room absorbs the gravity.

REEVES

It's an existential challenge to the legitimacy of our entire criminal justice architecture.

CUT TO:

INT. CABINET ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Wes Streeting raises a hand.

Burnham nods him proceed.

STREETING

Setting aside the legal catastrophe...

This man is incredibly useful to our economy.

To defence.

Burnham's eyebrows rise.

BURNHAM

How so?

Streeting taps a confidential dossier.

STREETING

Three defence patents.

And several cutting-edge designs for electric and solar transport.

Energy Secretary ANGELA EAGLE nods.

EAGLE

He's been pushing clean hydrogen infrastructure for years.

Home Secretary SHABANA MAHMOOD leans in.

MAHMOOD

Wildfires are tearing through Europe as in 2022.
Kent and the Highlands are drying out. Official droughts declared.
He's been warning us for decades – about climate, engineering, judicial corruption.

Her voice tightens.

MAHMOOD

And we tied him up in administrative knots.

Burnham looks down at the summary of the 1990s file destruction – disgust rising.

BURNHAM

All because a handful of local council officers wanted to protect their pensions.
Christ... those stupid, corrupt bastards.

Mahmood nods.

MAHMOOD

Imagine what Strasbourg will make of this.
The continent is burning...
And one of Britain's most forward-thinking innovators is
nailed to a legal cross.

Burnham slams his palm on the table.

BURNHAM

We are done running cover for Wealden District Council.
Done protecting legacy police cover-ups.
The man has laid a trap for us in Europe –
and he's holding all the cards.

CUT TO BLACK.

CLIFFHANGER – END OF ACT 2

INT. VICTOR'S WORKSHOP – NIGHT

Victor finishes typing the last paragraph, closes the
Strasbourg document.

He hits SAVE.

A soft beep.

Simba's ears twitch.

Victor looks up – confused.

The encrypted terminal flashes a new message:

"REMOTE ACCESS REQUEST DETECTED – SOURCE UNKNOWN."

Victor freezes.

Simba growls – low, warning.

The workshop lights flicker.

Victor reaches for the dead man's switch phone—

CUT TO BLACK.

TITLE CARD:

TO BE CONTINUED...

EPISODE 3, ACT 3 – THE DIPLOMATIC FRICTION

(Series Two – Episode Three, Chapter Three: The Diplomatic Friction)

PREVIOUSLY ON VICTOR UNCHAINED

A tense montage:

Victor completes his Article 13 and Article 3 Strasbourg bridge, triggering emergency alerts at GCHQ and MI5.

The NSC panics as the European Court of Human Rights admits Victor's application – bypassing the 4-month rule.

The Chamber of Seven issues a Rule 54 § 2(b) Communication, forcing the UK into a 12-week window for an amicable settlement.

Victor's workshop terminal detects an unknown remote access request.

Whitehall realises: Victor has outplayed them.

CUT TO BLACK.

EPISODE 3 – ACT 3 SCREENPLAY

Tone: John le Carré – subterranean rooms, stale air, moral rot, quiet panic, bureaucratic espionage.

INT. SUBTERRANEAN BRIEFING ROOM – 70 WHITEHALL – NIGHT

The air tastes of slate, ozone, and cold panic.

A heavy oak table dominates the bunker-like room.

Dim lights hum overhead.

The walls feel too close.

A single envelope lies in the centre – thick parchment, embossed with the crest of the European Court of Human Rights.

Prime Minister ANDY BURNHAM sits at the head, pale, glasses fogged.

He wipes them with a silk handkerchief – slow, deliberate, buying time.

BURNHAM

Let's run it again.

Because I want to be sure I'm not hallucinating.

A single Strasbourg judge... admitted it?

Attorney General ELLIE REEVES KC shifts uneasily, her tablet glowing faintly.

Her fingers tremble.

REEVES

Worse than that, Prime Minister.

The single judge tried to bin it – as they do with most domestic filings.

But Victor invoked Articles 3 and 13 together.

He argued that because the UK has no Article 13 mechanism...

the four-month clock never began.

Burnham exhales sharply.

BURNHAM

A procedural paradox.

He turned our own statutory silence into an infinite clock.

REEVES

Precisely.

She swipes her tablet – a cold blue light reflects across her face.

REEVES

The judge kicked it to the Committee of Three.

They flagged Article 14 discrimination.

At first, they thought the single judge had lost his mind.

Then they checked Victor's archive citations – two identical convictions referred by the CCRC... both quashed.

Same fabricated medical evidence.

Same grounds.

She pauses – the weight of it settling.

REEVES

They realised Victor was arbitrarily singled out.
The CCRC used "Take a View" as a shield for institutional malice.

Burnham's jaw tightens.

REEVES

The Committee passed it straight to the Chamber of Seven.
The Chamber was... appalled.
They suspended adversarial proceedings.
And issued a Communication under Rule 54 § 2(b).

A beat.

REEVES

We have twelve weeks.
Twelve weeks for an amicable settlement.

Home Secretary SHABANA MAHMOOD folds her arms tightly.

MAHMOOD

We tried to let the CCRC drag their heels.
Victor bypassed the delay entirely.

Justice Secretary ALEX NORRIS leans forward, voice low.

NORRIS

If we don't settle...
we enter the contentious phase.
Formal written observations.
On the international stage.

The room absorbs the horror.

NORRIS

Article 13 – the ghost of the Human Rights Act –
is about to expose us as an un-reviewable executive
dictatorship.

Silence.

Burnham turns to MI5 Director General SIR KEN MCCALLUM.

BURNHAM

Sir Ken?

McCallum sits beside dormant monitors linked to GCHQ's
intercept suites.

He looks genuinely mystified.

MCCALLUM

Prime Minister...

We only surveil.

We provide intercepts.

We cannot draft your pleadings.

Burnham snaps back to Reeves.

BURNHAM

What then?

REEVES

We follow protocol.

We've been formally notified under Rule 54 § 2(b).

We must prepare written observations on admissibility.

Mahmood leans in.

MAHMOOD

We could argue our system is Article 13 compliant.

Burnham stares at her – cold, unimpressed.

BURNHAM

You're saying a pensioner should front the astronomical
cost of Judicial Review
just to assert a basic human right?

Norris speaks quietly – ashamed.

NORRIS

That's what we've argued for twenty-five years.

Burnham rubs his face – exhausted, disgusted.

BURNHAM

How did our Human Rights Act become so dysfunctional?

Reeves raises her hands defensively.

REEVES

It was enacted before my time.

Burnham's voice echoes off reinforced walls.

BURNHAM

The culprits fled long ago.
We've inherited this mess –
like the collapsed economy and climate change.
A total, unmitigated foul-up.

Mahmood taps her pen.

MAHMOOD

Could someone pull Dame Vera's chain?
She was appointed to shake up the CCRC.

Norris's eyes sharpen – tactical instinct returning.

NORRIS

If she refers Victor's case now – immediately –
we can tell the Chamber of Seven
that an amicable domestic settlement is already underway.

Reeves allows herself a thin, cold smile.

REEVES

Leaving Article 13 out of the equation entirely.

The room falls silent.

The panic shifts – crystallising into cold, calculated
statecraft.

Whitehall will do what Whitehall always does:

Throw a bone to the courts.
Protect the Crown.
And pray the truth stays buried.

CUT TO:

CLIFFHANGER – END OF ACT 3

INT. VICTOR'S WORKSHOP – NIGHT

Victor finishes drafting the Strasbourg application.

Simba watches — tail flicking.

Victor hits UPLOAD.

A progress bar appears.

UPLOADING TO ECtHR SECURE SERVER... 12%

Suddenly —
the workshop lights flicker.

The terminal displays:

"FOREIGN SERVER HANDSHAKE DETECTED — NON-UK ORIGIN."

Victor freezes.

Simba growls — low, primal.

The progress bar jumps:

87%... 92%... 100%

A new message appears:

"APPLICATION RECEIVED — CHAMBER OF SEVEN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
ISSUED."

Victor exhales — stunned.

Then—

A second message flashes:

"REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL MATERIAL — 48 HOURS DEADLINE."

Victor's eyes widen.

Simba hisses.

Someone — somewhere —
is accelerating the case.

CUT TO BLACK.

TITLE CARD:

TO BE CONTINUED...

EPISODE 3, ACT 4 - CORPORATE INSURER PANIC

(Series Two — Episode Three, Chapter Four: Corporate Insurance Panic)

"THE HAND ON THE LEVER"

A detective-investigative espionage thriller in the style
of John le Carré

PREVIOUSLY ON VICTOR UNCHAINED (ACT 3)

A tense montage:

The Chamber of Seven at Strasbourg issues a Rule 54 §
2(b) Communication, forcing the UK into a 12-week window
for an amicable settlement.

Whitehall panics: Article 13 threatens to expose the UK's
justice system as structurally non-compliant.

Dame Vera Baird is pressured to refer Victor's case to the Court of Appeal to neutralise Strasbourg.

Corporate insurers realise they may face catastrophic liability if Strasbourg finds systemic violations.

A Zurich Municipal director hints at "tragic accidents" – signalling the machine may still try to eliminate Victor.

CUT TO BLACK.

EPISODE 3 – ACT 4 SCREENPLAY

Tone: John le Carré – bureaucratic rot, quiet menace, moral corrosion, cold rooms, colder people.

INT. CCRC HEADQUARTERS – FIFTH FLOOR – MORNING

The building looks like an insurance back office that gave up on hope in 1997.

The glass-and-chrome elevator opens.

DAME VERA BAIRD steps out, coffee in one hand, encrypted tablet in the other.

She walks with the weary grace of someone who knows she was hired to fix a reputation, not a system.

Her office door is ajar.

Inside sits MARCUS VANCE – Senior Legal Director, face polished smooth like a river stone worn down by decades of burying inconvenient truths.

VERA

You're early, Marcus.

Or you never left.

VANCE

Whitehall didn't leave, Dame Vera.

He holds up a secure memory key.

VANCE

Courier arrived at three this morning.

Direct from Ellie Reeves' office.

Vera freezes.

VERA

Strasbourg?

VANCE

Strasbourg.

He sets the key on her desk – a small metallic guillotine.

VANCE

Victor's filing didn't just clear the single judge.

The Chamber of Seven issued a Communication.

Twelve weeks.

Or they audit our entire Article 13 framework on the international record.

Vera leans back – a flicker of cold amusement.

VERA

Victor von Woolfe.

The man who refused to die quietly in a Category B cell.

VANCE

He's a menace.

He used our own refusal letter – "Take a View" – as Exhibit A for Article 14 discrimination.

Two identical cases referred.

Both quashed.

But him?

We buried it.

Vera's eyes harden.

VERA

Because twenty-five years ago, someone promised Sussex Police that the von Woolfe file would never see daylight. And now the bill has come due.

Vance leans forward.

VANCE

The Attorney General's directive is explicit.

Pull the file out of deep freeze.

Sign a Section 14 Referral to the Court of Appeal.

Vera picks up the key – turning it between her fingers like a loaded coin.

VERA

And the narrative?

VANCE

"Routine re-evaluation based on emerging scientific consensus."

We tell Strasbourg domestic remedies are underway.

Render Article 13 moot.
Get the Chamber to archive the application.
Give Victor his day in court –
on narrow technical grounds.
Keep the systemic corruption out of the judgment.

Vera stares out at the slate-grey skyline.

VERA

We give him his freedom...
to buy the state's silence.

VANCE

It's what we do.
We're the safety valve on the boiler.
If we don't vent the pressure...
the whole house blows.

He leaves.

Vera inserts the key.

The screen lights up – the Commission Seal waiting for
her signature.

The lever is in her hand.

CUT TO:

INT. COUNTY HALL – LEWES – SUSSEX – THIRD FLOOR – MORNING
Rain lashes the brutalist concrete.
Inside, six officials sit around an oval mahogany table.

EDMOND BLACK – Senior Claims Director, Zurich Municipal –

lays a pale blue file on the table like a surgeon preparing an incision.

BLACK

So.

This is the town where Thomas Paine spoke against British persecution?

BECKY SHAW, Chief Executive of East Sussex County Council, nods.

SHAW

Founding fathers.

Mayflower.

Pilgrims.

Yes.

Black glances out at the rain-blurred street.

BLACK

Irony.

The White Hart opposite the Crown Court.

A stone's throw from where they burned dissenters.

ANDY WOOLEY shifts – uncomfortable.

WOOLEY

Incredible humans were treated that way.

Black turns – eyes sharp, icy.

BLACK

Is it?

Is that not precisely what you did to von Woolfe?

You crucified him.

Legally.

Conspiratorially.

Silence.

JO SHINER, Chief Constable of Sussex Police, stiffens –
trapped in the event horizon of a twenty-year cover-up.

TREVOR SCOTT speaks – voice raspy.

SCOTT

Woolfe was roasting the planning department alive.

Holness.

Every Chief Executive after him.

He was relentless. Threatening citizens arrests.

Black's voice is void of emotion.

BLACK

So you orchestrated a frame-up.

Leaned on George Weston through masonic channels.

Leveraged emotional blackmail to manufacture a false
allegation.

All because Victor ended an engagement.

Becky Shaw cuts in – cold, controlled.

SHAW

And now you want Zurich to take the moral high ground?

You wouldn't let us admit wrongdoing in 1997.

Non-admission was mandatory for indemnity.

Black's jaw tightens.

SHAW

Whitehall has no choice under Article 13.

The State will be forced to offer Woolfe a massive settlement.

Just Satisfaction.

To stop Strasbourg issuing a formal judgment.

Black's eyes narrow.

BLACK

And you expect Zurich to underwrite the State's corruption?

Shaw ticks off departments on her fingers.

SHAW

You insure Wealden.

East Sussex County Council.

Sussex Police.

The CPS.

HM Courts.

The Prison Service.

Every cog in the machine that crushed Victor.

She leans forward.

SHAW

If Strasbourg finds systemic violations...

liability shields vaporize.

A domino effect.

Like Robert Kearns vs Ford.

Once Ford fell, every auto giant paid out.

Black opens the file – actuarial tables in red ink.

Wooley speaks – nervous.

WOOLEY

Is one hundred million even enough?

After what we did to him?

Black snaps the file shut.

BLACK

Von Woolfe still has hurdles.

The Court of Appeal hasn't quashed anything yet.

The machine moves slowly.

We may yet trip him up.

Wooley stares – horrified.

WOOLEY

You mean... sabotage?

Black doesn't blink.

He lifts his briefcase.

BLACK

It is early days.

And in cases like this...

tragic accidents are not uncommon.

CUT TO BLACK.

CLIFFHANGER – END OF ACT 4

INT. VICTOR'S WORKSHOP – NIGHT

Victor reviews the Strasbourg upload confirmation.

Simba curls beside him – uneasy.

A soft tap echoes at the window.

Victor looks up.

A silhouette stands outside – unmoving.

Simba growls.

Victor reaches for the dead man's switch phone–

The silhouette steps closer.

CUT TO BLACK.

TITLE CARD:

TO BE CONTINUED...

EPISODE 3, ACT 5 - THE INTERNATIONAL MANDATE

PREVIOUSLY ON VICTOR UNCHAINED

A tense montage:

Dame Vera Baird receives a midnight directive: pull Victor's case from deep freeze and refer it to the Court of Appeal.

Zurich Municipal panics – their liability exposure could reach £100 million.

A Zurich director hints at "tragic accidents," signalling the machine may still try to eliminate Victor.

Victor's Strasbourg application is uploaded – and acknowledged by the Chamber of Seven.

A silhouette appears outside Victor's workshop window.

CUT TO BLACK.

EPISODE 3 – ACT 5 SCREENPLAY

Tone: John le Carré – exhausted ministers, collapsing systems, intelligence dread, procedural warfare, quiet menace.

INT. VICTOR'S STUDY – EAST SUSSEX – 4:15 AM

Stacks of paper tower around Victor – Council of Europe procedural etiquette, declarations, formatting rules designed to drown an unrepresented pensioner.

An encrypted transmission pings.

Victor opens it.

The Strasbourg critique appears – razor-sharp, uncompromising.

ON SCREEN:

"The Applicant has exhausted all functional domestic remedies."

Victor exhales – stunned.

The legal gate is open.

The four-month barrier is shattered.

He rubs his eyes – burning from exhaustion.

VICTOR

They're trying to sink me under filing rules.

His AI interface responds instantly – calm, clinical.

AI

They are deploying procedural friction.

I have reformatted your submissions into strict compliance with Rule 47.

You are fully operational.

Victor leans closer.

VICTOR

What's Zurich's next move?

Deep scan.

Dark web archives.

Everything.

The AI pauses – running predictive modelling.

AI

Warning.

Zurich Municipal, in collusion with Wealden District Council and Marcus Vance, evaluated radical damage-limitation scenarios.

Primary: armed police raid – "James Ashley" style accidental shooting.

Secondary: targeted poisoning.

Victor freezes – a chill down his spine.

VICTOR

Why didn't they execute?

AI

Risk analysis failed.

An armed raid after a Strasbourg ruling would provoke immediate media outrage.

A poisoning would be dissected by international forensic teams.

Whitehall, MI5, and GCHQ have warned them off.

You are too dangerous to martyr.

Victor sits back – absorbing the cold truth.

CUT TO:

INT. WHITEHALL – SUBTERRANEAN NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
ROOM – MORNING

The bunker hums with stale air and dread.

Prime Minister ANDY BURNHAM sits at the center – haggard, bloodshot.

Outside, Britain burns under a record heatwave – droughts, water shortages, wildfires.

BURNHAM

First business.

Climate change.

We can't duck it.

Angela?

ANGELA EAGLE, Environment Secretary, looks grim.

EAGLE

We can't.

The Conservatives sold off water and electricity to offshore private equity.

MIATTA FAHNBULLEH, Energy Secretary, adds:

FAHNBULLEH

Starmer talked big about the Grid; storage.
Delivered nothing.

Burnham slams his hand on the table.

BURNHAM

Just admit it's a cock-up and give me solutions!
I don't need a history lesson!

Silence.

Sir KEN MCCALLUM clears his throat – nervous.

MCCALLUM

And... that brings us to Victor von Woolfe.
The eco-warrior we nailed to the cross.

Burnham's gaze sharpens.

BURNHAM

Have you read my brief?

Everyone has.

No one speaks.

MCCALLUM

Zurich and their insured considered eliminating him.

Ellie Reeves KC, Attorney General, shakes her head –
disgusted.

REEVES

Stupid bastards.

Strasbourg issued a scathing critique.

They want blood.

They know our domestic system is a hollow shell.

Shabana Mahmood, Home Secretary, admits:

MAHMOOD

We threw in all the usual curly excuses.

Procedural delays.

Jurisdictional challenges.

But Victor parried every move.

Anne Keast-Butler, Director of GCHQ, leans forward –
urgent.

KEAST-BUTLER

Because he isn't working alone.

He's getting real-time tactical help from advanced AI –
Gemini and Copilot.

He's running an intelligence agency from his desktop.

We should consider banning public access to LLMs.

Alex Norris scoffs.

NORRIS

Absurd.

We use AI everywhere.

We can't ban the internet because one man outsmarted us with it.

He leans in – voice hardening.

NORRIS

We need to emphasize to the CCRC that now is the time to make up for their laggard performance.

Victor should've been cleared in 2010.

Armed with facts, the EU and AI will make fools of us if this reaches an open chamber.

Burnham looks around – the collapsing state pressing down on him.

BURNHAM

Get it done.

Tell Vera Baird to expedite the Court of Appeal referral.

Wash our hands of the cover-up.

And someone get me an emergency plan for these wildfires.

CUT TO:

CLIFFHANGER – END OF ACT 5

INT. VICTOR'S STUDY – SAME TIME

Victor reviews the Strasbourg critique again.

Simba curls beside him – uneasy.

A soft vibration.

His encrypted terminal displays:

"REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL MATERIAL — 48 HOURS DEADLINE."

Victor's eyes widen.

Simba's ears twitch.

Then—

A second message appears:

"CHAMBER OF SEVEN HAS REQUESTED LIVE TESTIMONY."

Victor freezes.

Simba growls.

Outside, a siren wails in the distance — faint, rising.

CUT TO BLACK.

TITLE CARD:

TO BE CONTINUED...

VICTOR WILL RETURN: "UNCHAINED" IN EPISODE 4, CHAPTER 1 —
TRANSMISSION NIGHT