

MATRIX OF LEADERSHIP

by

Andrew Watters

Andrew George is an ordinary guy who decides he has had enough of the politicians in Washington. A relatively prominent lawyer in his community in California, Andrew builds a coalition of outsiders and runs for office. Surprisingly, he defeats the local incumbent in the House of Representatives and attains a position in Congress.

In a montage straight out of a Frank Capra movie, years go by. Andrew rises to leadership positions in the House and interacts with other politicians constantly. Finally, the logical conclusion of his career is to run for President.

After a brutal primary battle, the election itself is heavily contested-- not just because both major candidates want the position, but because of the opportunities to make influential judicial appointments and foreign policy. The voters have a choice between Andrew, a reasonable middle-of-the-road Democrat, and a Donald Trump-type right wing demagogue. The conservative trend in American politics makes it a close race because single issue voters favor the pro-life, fiscally conservative Republican. Complicating matters is Andrew's stance on gun control: there shouldn't be any. Andrew fights hard for the endorsement of the National Rifle Association. Despite being a lifelong member, a Benefactor Member, and donating thousands of dollars to the organization, Andrew loses the endorsement to the Republican candidate (a non-member) because of the Supreme Court vacancy that is expected to occur during the next Presidential administration.

Election night returns come in and show that Andrew wins the electoral vote by a narrow margin. He gives a heartfelt acceptance speech in which he pledges to follow the will of the people and tell the truth.

Two years pass. Andrew's approval is good, but not great.

He takes a few select visitors on a tour of the White House, stopping at what looks like the Matrix of Leadership from Transformers in a glass display case. Andrew explains to the visitors what the Matrix of Leadership is in Transformers and what it means to him. The Matrix of Leadership is not found; it is an honor earned by those who exhibit courage and self-sacrifice. Andrew doesn't claim to have these traits; the Matrix he has is just a collectible.

One day, NASA announces that it has discovered an alien civilization just forty light years away. The discovery is made because the aliens are altering the spectrum of their star by launching nuclear waste into it, creating a signal beacon. The signal is a stream of prime numbers.

Andrew isn't happy about this discovery. He is paranoid and afraid. He falls into what appears to outsiders to be an obsessed, manic state in which he increases the military budget and maxes out R&D to fight an interstellar war.

Concerns are raised in the highest levels of the corridors of power. People wonder why Andrew is focusing more on interstellar problems that have not manifested instead of national or local problems like poverty, welfare, and education. Andrew's approval rating drops precipitously.

The re-election campaign is a disaster. The right-wing demagogue from before is replaced by a reasonable, likeable, normal seeming female candidate who closely resembles Ann Coulter in looks but closely resembles Sarah Palin in ideology.

Andrew loses re-election.

Andrew decides to give a final State of the Union address, as a "lame duck" President no less. Andrew's speech focuses entirely on interstellar war and the threat posed by aliens, and makes no sense to anyone except himself and the few true believers in his administration.

But it turns out Andrew was right; the aliens are malevolent, not benevolent. They are looking for real estate to expand their civilization, and Earth happens to be close and reasonably suitable for them. They don't want to share this world.

The aliens attack during the State of the Union address. At first, no one knows what is happening. But then an alien materializes in the House chamber and walks toward the podium Andrew is using to deliver his speech.

Unexpectedly, Andrew just laughs and shakes his head. To the viewing public, it looks like he is losing it. This impression is compounded by weird facial expressions and sounds, as if Andrew is having a seizure. But after a few moments, it becomes clear what is happening; Andrew isn't human.

Andrew's hair gets long, he gets more handsome, he bulks up, and his skin turns into obsidian glass. He sprouts wings from his back. He picks up a Pelican case that was sitting next to him, and opens it. Inside is a giant battle axe. He looks how people imagine Archangel Gabriel.

Andrew walks over to the First Lady, who is not as shocked as everyone else. She had Andrew's Matrix of Leadership in her purse, and hands it to Andrew. Andrew reaches for the sky and concentrates, and sparks fly from the Matrix of Leadership.

The Attorney General and Director of the FBI, who were watching the address with everyone else, walk toward Andrew and also transform into angel-like beings. As the Matrix of Leadership continues to spark, more angel-like beings come into the House chamber. They circle around Andrew and an energy field appears to circulate among the assembled beings.

Meanwhile, news reports are starting to trickle in about the alien attacks. It's global devastation. Andrew was right to fear the aliens.

The assembled angels and others from around the world gather in Earth's upper atmosphere. Andrew is the leader. They battle the aliens by forming large limbs of a giant being bigger than themselves individually, like a biological version of Voltron. Andrew directs the movements of the giant being with gestures.

The "angels" are more powerful than the aliens, but there are more aliens and they are trying to kill humans, not necessarily kill the angels. So the angels try to defeat the aliens as quickly as possible with no regard for their own lives. Many angels die, sacrificing themselves, or else Andrew sends them to their deaths.

The aliens are eventually beaten back enough where they retreat.

Andrew and the other angels return to Earth and reveal that they were sent by God. They go back to their human forms. Andrew discloses that he can see the future, and he knew he was going to be President and have to risk his life and the lives of many other heaven-sent beings to save the world. He did not tell anyone except his immediate family and other "angels," because no one would believe any of that.

Andrew retires from politics and finally gets a chance to live a relatively normal life without becoming world-weary. He never has to transform again. Those who share his gifts understand; those who don't do not.