

DRYLANDS PRISON, HOME OF THE INFECTED

Written by

Simon K. Parker

Based on, If Any

EXT. DRYLANDS - OUTDOOR PRISON - DAY

Several large tents are set up on the dry hard ground, surrounded by intimidating thick barbed wire with armed mask wearing guards keeping close watch.

A prison in the desert.

Around these tents sit men and women, all dressed in white. Their heads shaved, maskless. Looking sick, red spots on their hands and necks.

Suddenly one of these sick prisoners makes a run for it, throws down a blanket on top of the barbed wire and attempts to climb over it to freedom.

But those mask wearing guards quickly spot him, take aim and fire, gunning him down.

Dead, his lifeless body is dragged away. The blanket is removed from the barbed wire and thrown back inside the confines of the open air prison.

Then a deep man's voice booms out over a tannoy system.

MASTER

Try to remain calm. You are being looked after. You are here for your own wellbeing. You are infected. We are here to help you.

The other sick prisoners remain outside their tents. Not moving, no reaction.

The voice simply repeats itself. A recording, it plays over and over again.

MASTER (CONT'D)

Try to remain calm. You are being looked after. You are here for your own wellbeing. You are infected. We are here to help you.

We zoom in on one of the female prisoners. She's clearly heavily pregnant. She breaks down crying. Can't take it anymore.

The other prisons hurry over to her, they take her inside her tent. All of them disappearing out of view.

The masked guards continue to keep watch. Finger on the trigger, ready to fire at a moment's notice.

INT. TENT - NIGHT

AJ, 25, the pregnant prisoner is on her back, screaming out in labour pains. Others are gathered around her, trying to help, to offer comfort.

One older woman dabs her head with a wet towel, another fans Aj to try to keep her cool.

Another older woman, NICOLA, 60, paces back and forth in front of Aj.

NICOLA
(biting at her nails)
This is such bullshit.

PETER, 30, who's been holding Aj's hand stands up.

PETER
(to Nicola)
I thought you said you were a
doctor in the old world?

Nicola scowls across at him, snapping back.

NICOLA
I was. A damn fine doctor too.

PETER
Then do something.

NICOLA
With what? No drugs, no equipment,
barely even any fresh water,
nothing. How can I deliver a baby
with nothing?

PETER
Well it's coming.

AJ
(shouting)
Please!

Nicola gets down onto her knees in front of Aj, she lifts up the sheet providing her with a little bit of dignity to take a look.

NICOLA
Alright, this is going to hurt like
hell but you're just going to have
to push, push, push.

PETER

And what do you want me to do?

NICOLA

Be with your wife. Let her squeeze the shit out of your hands. Hopefully she can break a few bones so you can feel a tenth of the pain she's feeling.

Peter sits back down beside Aj, he takes hold of both of her hands. She squeezes as hard as she can. Screaming out in pain.

Nicola gives her a tired smile.

NICOLA (CONT'D)

You're doing great. We might actually pull this off. Just keep pushing.

EXT. DRYLANDS - OUTDOOR PRISON - DAY

Prisoners quietly line up, each one holding onto a metal food container.

At the gated entrance, CANTEEN WORKERS, in masks and heavy aprons, wait next to two huge food drums filled with what can only be described as slop.

Armed guards keep a close watch. The prisoners take it in turns, one at a time to step forwards and get their containers filled with the slop.

INT. TENT - DAY

Aj sits on a makeshift bed on the floor. She holds onto her new born baby wrapped up with lots of towels.

Aj looks exhausted, but she's beaming with pride. Nicola and Peter sit to the side of her.

All the other prisoners are in here too, crammed into the tent eating their slop from their food containers. No utensils, have to use their fingers.

Aj gazes down at her baby.

AJ

He's beautiful.

NICOLA
(smiling)
And healthy.

PETER
Not a mark on him.

Nicola chuckles to himself.

NICOLA
That's right. He's not infected is he?

One of the other prisoners steps forwards.

PRISONER
Then you need to show the guards.

AJ
(angry)
No. Those bastards aren't getting near my baby.

PRISONER
They'll find him eventually.

AJ
No. They'll experiment on him, they'll do awful things to him. I won't allow it.

PETER
We need to get him out of here.

Peter stands up, addressing the other prisoners.

PETER (CONT'D)
They're never going to let any of us leave this place. Never. And you've seen what they do to anyone who tries to escape. They just want us all dead. And that food, can't even call it food, we can't survive on it. And they know it. They're killing us slowly.

They all nod in agreement.

PETER (CONT'D)
But my child, my son. Just a day old. He's one of us. He's infected. But in the outside world. No one will know.

MALE PRISONER

Then what do you want us to do?

PETER

I'll tell you. Make so much noise, cause so much disruption that he gets a chance to get out of here. we get all the guards down here. All of them. We all act like we're trying to break through the gate, giving him a chance to slip under the barbed wire on the opposite side.

MALE PRISONER

How far is a one day old baby going to get?

PETER

My wife. She'll leave with him.
(scans the prisoners)
Now, who's with me?

Aj shakes her head.

AJ

I can't move. I can't even stand. I can't leave like this.

Peter grabs Nicola's arm.

PETER

Then it has to be you.

NICOLA

(shocked)
Me?

PETER

You're a doctor. You're the smartest one around here. You take my son and you get him to safety. You must still know people on the outside?

NICOLA

Of course I do.

PETER

Then you have to take him.

Aj offers the towels out to Nicola.

AJ

Please. You know what they'll do to him if they discover he's here. They know I'm pregnant, if they don't see me out there they'll come in here looking for him. We don't have long. We have to do something now.

Nicola lowers her head, and knows that Aj is right.

NICOLA

Jesus.

AJ

Will you take him?

Nicola slowly lifts her head back up.

NICOLA

If that's really what you want me to do. I will.

Aj breaks down, sobbing, and can only nod. Too emotional to speak.

Nicola takes the bundle, looks down at the new born baby.

NICOLA (CONT'D)

So beautiful. Only to be born in the worst place possible.

Peter returns to the other prisoners.

PETER

I asked who's with me. We do this now. We cause such a powerful distraction, Nicola and my son get at least a good chance to escape. So who's with me?

Slowly a couple of prisoners raise their hands.

PETER (CONT'D)

(shaking his head)

They told us none of us would ever leave here. But we can show them that they're wrong. That we're not just going to roll over and give up. We might be infected, but we're still human.

(MORE)

PETER (CONT'D)

And we've got the chance to make sure that one of us, a baby no more than one day old, isn't just going to be allowed to be killed here just because some faceless evil says so. So I ask, who's with me? Who's going to set my son free?

Now all the other prisoners raise their hands, they're all ready.

Peter turns to Aj, she smiles tired at him. Then he focuses on Nicola.

PETER (CONT'D)

You've got quite the task on your hands, doctor.

She nods.

PETER (CONT'D)

But I trust you.

Peter kisses the top of the baby's head, then exits the tent. Instantly followed by all of the other prisoners.

EXT. DRYLANDS - OUTDOOR PRISON - DAY

Peter leads all the other prisoners out of his tent and marches them over towards the gate entrance to their prison.

Peter raises a fist high above his head.

PETER

(chanting)

Let us out. Let us out. Let us out.

As the other prisoners gather behind him, they too join in with the chant.

EVERYONE TOGETHER

(chanting)

Let us out. Let us out. Let us out.

Peter is first to reach the locked gate. He grabs a hold of it, and with all of his strength he begins to pull and shake it.

The other prisoners then copy, each grabbing onto the gate, pulling and shaking it. The gate is very quickly getting damaged and weakened.

If they keep this up, they really will break out.

Those armed guards rush to form a defensive line on the other side of the gate. They aim their guns at the infected.

They keep on chanting, the gate is becoming seriously weakened.

INT. TENT - DAY

Aj is left alone on her bed. No one else is in the tent with her. She puts her head in her hands and sobs.

EXT. DRYLANDS - OUTDOOR PRISON - DAY

On the other end of the prison Nicola manages to crawl unnoticed underneath the fence and the barbed wire. With the baby in her arms she's able to make her escape.

The armed guards suddenly open fire, gunning down the protesting prisoners. Killing them all.

Nicola flinches at the sound of the gunshots, but she doesn't stop. Breaking out into a sprint she carries the baby and makes her escape. Just looking forwards, running. She knows she can't stop, so she just keeps going.

Fade to black

The end.