

(Micro Escape)

by
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(Based on, If Any)

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INT. PRISON KITCHEN - DAY

BILL, 60, dressed in a gray jumpsuit, slowly peels potatoes, and drops the skins on a cutting board. He repeatedly looks out the window.

PETER, 45, dressed in an orange jumper, mops the floor with a half-hearted effort. He also looks toward the window.

PETER

It's twilight now. Your snow would
stop melting. That's unless
something bright comes down.

Peter puts the mop down and makes an effeminate gesture.

BILL

O go way butterfly.

PETER

O go way butterfly! I'm among
friends.

BILL

Really.

He picks up the knife and some masking tape, and heads toward the lavatory.

INT. PRISON KITCHEN LAVATORY - CONTINUOUS

Bill looks at himself in the mirror.

PETER (O.S.)

Your candor has its privileges. You
told everybody. You really, um,
confessed. It takes a man for that.

Bill slips into the lavatory with the knife. He gazes at the flesh-colored handle. He unzips his prison garb, and looks at the healing scar and fresh remaining stubble on his chest.

BILL

(to himself)
This won't hurt.

Bill tapes the knife to his chest, and returns to the kitchen.

INT. PRISON KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Bill heads right for the window. Over the horizon, a fireball slowly descends to earth. On the bottom there seems to be a rocky substance. It hovers before it lands.

PETER
You were waiting for this.

BILL
How do you know?

TOVINA, 35, dressed in motorcycle drag, walks in.

PETER
You got in?

TOVINA
Let's go, Bill.

PETER
Bill's got privileges?

TOVINA
So have I. As long as he didn't knock me up.

They walk down an long hall, between several tents. The distant horizon glows as if from northern lights. They look in on the cadre bunk, with its computers. One of the monitors has a feed from CNN with Breaking News.

CNN REPORTER
The object landed above the little town of Dustin, about 100 people. We don't have any information on the town, other than the two bystanders who reported intense heat and who now say they have gone blind.

The monitor shows a shot of a small town of about ten houses and low buildings, and they appear to be glowing. Small people seem to me moving around them.

CNN REPORTER
We repeat, this is very early in the process. We don't want to jump to conclusions.

Bill looks at the cadre room, and sees a cot, with blood pressure and similar monitoring equipment on the stand.

The PRISON GUARD turns away from the computers and looks at Bill. Tovina follows in and grabs Bill's hand.

PRISON GUARD

It looks like you're glad you gave it all up. Those fantasies you know.

TOVINA

He told all. Nobody else did.

PRISON GUARD

But you have to finish the detail. Oeter is looking for you. Sorry I have to do this.

The prison guard fixes a bracelet around Bill's hairless ankle. He then walks out.

PRISON GUARD

I just have to enter the code.

Bill walks out into the yard, where the other prisoners are raking gravel on a new black-topped road. OETER, 35 and fat with a really bulging belly, approaches Bill.

Bill looks down the road, to the river crossing. He tries to gallop and the ankle bracelet seems to weigh him down.

BILL

Shit.

OETER

You don't say stuff like that, Bill. I do.

The horizon explodes, with a series of firecrackers. Pieces of roofing and boards fly in the air, as do a few cars. Bill steps out of his bracelet, unzips his coveralls, yanks out his knife, and stabs Oeter in the gut, slicing off some of the gut, which plops on the ground, a bloody mess.

Bill runs down the road, getting his slippers messy tar. He reaches the stream. The bridge has caved in to the water. TOBEY, 28, fit and handsome, shirtless and in shorts, stands across the stream. Behind him are railroad tracks and a box car.

TOBEY

Bill, it's over your head.

The stream is running.

TOBEY

Bill, kick off the bracelet, and
then get in.

In the distance, he can hear a train whistle, which
approaches quickly.

Bill runs down the broken overpass. He gingerly steps into
the current, which grabs and yanks him into the water.

TOBEY

Arch your back!

Bill struggles and then stops. Tobey dives in and reaches
him, pulling him to shore, and yanks him up the bank. He
reaches over and gives Bill one chest compression, when Bill
vomits and comes to. Tovina races down the overpass, jumps
in, and swims across.

BILL

(groggy)
We're escaped.

The train approaches. It consists of a switch engine and one
box car, door open.

TOVINA

Now they're just assistants.

TOBEY

They're from town.

BILL

Guys like you don't hurt people/

TOVINA

But he can take them over.

Bill looks up, and sees two Grays in the boxcar. He
approaches. Tobey puts his arm around Bill and leads him
inside.

TOVINA

Bill, you'll have to go through the
initiation. Tobey won't have to.

BILL

But he's done the SIBM.

TOVINA

It didn't count against him. There
were no babies.

They climb on and the train starts moving, across the open desert, covered with patches of snow. Thunder claps, and it starts to rain.