

THE DONOR

Paula Smith  
Email: [Paula@Script2ScreenLLC.com](mailto:Paula@Script2ScreenLLC.com)

FADE IN:

MONTAGE

EXT. PRISON -- DAY

An old building. One of those massive stone containers for lost humanity that screams medieval. Barbed wire along the rim. Various views of the buildings, hallways.

INT. PRISON -- DAY

In each cell is a mattress. No sheets. No furniture.

PRISONERS wear white jump suits with the word "Convict" in black across their backs and down the left leg. They wear flip-flops with no socks. In their cells most lay on the bare cots. Some sit on the cots reading well-worn books, painstakingly struggling over each letter. Others read, pointing to each word. Others appear more educated and zip through the task.

STAIRS

Prisoners walk down the stairs. They keep one step between each. They don't talk nor look around. They walk one after the other keeping time with the first man.

END MONTAGE

INT. PRISON CAFETERIA -- DAY

The prisoners are arranged in small groups. They each have two sandwiches and paper cups of water. Some eat slowly, still savoring their first jelly sandwich. Others are on their second sandwich eating like it's their last meal - and for some it will be.

DUTCH, is a Charles Manson kind of a man, except ten times larger sits at the table.

NIGEL, bigger than Dutch, sits across from Dutch and eats like a gentleman.

MIDGE, smaller than both Nigel and Dutch sits next to Nigel across from Dutch. He looks totally out of place with these two.

Dutch opens his sandwich to observe the thin layer of jelly.

DUTCH

I've seen better rotting under my shoe.

NIGEL

Better than I grew up with.

MIDGE

Good. Needs gravy.

Dutch reaches over and takes Midge's second sandwich. Midge doesn't seem to notice.

DUTCH

Think I could trade a body for a t-bone?

NIGEL

You could get t-bone if you wanted.

Dutch looks at the other prisoners.

DUTCH

I don't see no t-bones.

NIGEL

Russo joined that study Doc's doing.  
Eats steak and lobster. Television.  
Computer time. Blankets. New books.  
Anything.

Dutch looks at Nigel like he's hallucinating.

DUTCH

Right.

NIGEL

It's real. Talk to Doc.

INT. PRISON DOC'S OFFICE -- DAY

A bare bones office. A desk and two chairs. Small bookcase with a skeleton skull, books. Files on the desk.

DOC

There's no guarantee. We do our best. We ask you to sign a release. And your relatives.

DUTCH

I have no relatives.

Dutch grins.

DUTCH (CONT'D)

That are still alive.

Doc looks at him. He occasionally forgets the scum he works with. Today he remembers.

DOC

You'll need to read these and sign them.

Doc hands Dutch a stack of papers.

DOC (CONT'D)  
Read these carefully. You can have  
a lawyer look at them.

Dutch signs without reading.

DUTCH  
No one who's read my file would screw  
me.

Dutch hands Doc the papers.

DOC  
I'm still going to give you the  
details.

DUTCH  
Fine.

DOC  
We stop your heart for two minutes.

Dutch laughs.

DUTCH  
Only two?

DOC  
Brain damage occurs at four. Most  
people have the experience commonly  
called "near death" or "white light"  
within one minute of clinical death.

Doc hands Dutch a piece of paper.

DOC (CONT'D)  
This is your copy. These are the  
questions we'll ask.

DUTCH  
When do I get my steak and lobster?

DOC  
We'll be moving you this afternoon.

INT. PRISON CELL -- DAY

An unlikely prison cell. A cot with linens. Television.  
Stereo.

Dutch stretches out on the cot and places the pillows against  
the wall.

A GUARD arrives with a tray.

Dutch looks at his watch.

DUTCH  
You're two minutes late. Do this  
like those fancy restaurants.

The guard removes the lid from the plate. A large lobster  
tail and steak.

DUTCH (CONT'D)  
Do you speak French?

GUARD  
Do I look like I speak French?

DUTCH  
No tip for you. And call me sir.

GUARD  
Yes, sir. Can I get you anything  
else?

INT. PRISON HOSPITAL OPERATING ROOM -- DAY

Dutch is on an operating table. He is connected with tubes.

Doc in surgical gown and mask stands by Dutch. The NURSE  
and ANESTHESIOLOGIST surround him.

DUTCH  
Just do it.

Doc gives a nod to the ANESTHESIOLOGIST who starts a drip.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST  
He's out.

DOC  
Now.

A machine shows a flat line.

The doctor and nurse watch the clock. Fifteen seconds.  
Thirty seconds. One minute. One minute thirty seconds.  
Two minutes.

Doc has paddles in his hand.

DOC (CONT'D)  
Clear.

The machine shows Dutch's heart line.

Dutch wakes up. He is terrified.

DOC (CONT'D)

First question. Were you aware you were dead?

Dutch is still trying to regain his composure.

DOC (CONT'D)

Were you aware you were dead?

Dutch just nods, yes. Still in shock.

DOC (CONT'D)

Question two. Did you see a white light?

DUTCH

A light. It wasn't white. Black fire. I can't put into words. A feeling.

DOC

Question three. Did you experience a sense of well-being?

Dutch shakes his head. He shakes with fear. Screams.

INT. PRISON CELL -- DAY

Dutch paces. He is as distraught as he was earlier. Doc enters.

DUTCH

I can't die.

DOC

I have seven more questions to ask.

EXT. PRISON YARD - DOG CAGES -- DAY

PRISONERS exercise in their individual "dog cages." Dutch leans against the wall. There's a sadness to him. He appears lost in thought. Nigel, sad, is in the cage next to Dutch. He peels a Band-Aid with cotton from the crook of his elbow.

DUTCH

How is she?

NIGEL

Not good.

Nigel rolls up the Band-Aid and tosses it.

NIGEL (CONT'D)

They said my type won't work. Have you been tested?

INT. PRISON HOSPITAL OPERATING ROOM -- DAY

Dutch is on the operating table. Doc is next to him.

DUTCH

You sure it won't be too big for her?

DOC

Too big is better than too small. Her organs will move for the kidney.

INT. PRISON DOC'S OFFICE -- DAY

Doc examines the scar where Dutch's kidney was removed.

DOC

You're ready to continue with the study?

DUTCH

No. I'll never be ready for that again.

DOC

We can let you cancel. I'll say the donation of your kidney. . .

Dutch interrupts.

DUTCH

I need to know.

INT. PRISON HOSPITAL OPERATING ROOM -- DAY

Dutch is on the gurney. Doc, the anesthesiologist and the nurse stand by him.

DOC

One minute this time, instead of two.

Dutch nods.

The anesthesiologist starts the drip.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST

He's out.

Doc watches the clock. Five seconds. Fifteen seconds. Thirty seconds. One minute. Doc puts the paddles on Dutch's chest.

The machine registers a heart beat.

Dutch comes to. He is once again in hysterics.

DUTCH  
I have to do more.

INT. PRISON DOC'S OFFICE -- DAY

Dutch sits across the desk. Doc is in his chair.

DOC  
I can't give you copies of donor registers.

DUTCH  
You can search them.

DOC  
This is unheard of. People don't donate body parts, except for close relatives until they're dead.

DUTCH  
I'm as good as dead. I'm only alive because I volunteered for your program. And, you forget. You could have signed the death certificate.

INT. PRISON CELL -- DAY

Doc watches Dutch as he signs a paper.

DOC  
We won't take much. A two year old has a very small liver.

DUTCH  
Just leave me enough to live.

INT. PRISON CELL -- DAY

Dutch examines another scar above the previous scar.

The guard arrives with a food cart.

GUARD  
Sorry I'm late.

DUTCH  
That's fine.

The guard removes the lid. A large salad is on the tray.

GUARD  
Your salad, sir.

DUTCH  
Thank you. And please don't call me sir.

Dutch removes the napkin and finds a large bug. H carefully takes the napkin with the bug and puts it on the floor.

Dutch picks up the television remote and aims it at the t.v. he pushes the button and the screen springs to life. A NEWSCASTER reads the copy.

INT. NEWSROOM -- DAY

NEWSCASTER

A fifteen year old boy, visiting his dad in a casting plant, mangled his hand and most of his arm in a grisly accident. Doctors will remove the arm as soon as the boy is stable.

INT. PRISON CELL -- DAY

Dutch stretches out his hand, turning it, studying it.

INT. PRISON DOC'S OFFICE -- DAY

Dutch sits in front of Doc's desk. Doc is on the phone.

DOC

The donor's ready. We can have the arm there by this evening.

Doc hangs up the phone and looks at Dutch, concerned.

DOC (CONT'D)

I don't understand why you're doing this.

DUTCH

You don't need to understand. It's my arm.

DOC

Before the near death experiments, did you donate anything?

DUTCH

You're joking, right?

DOC

I'm afraid the experiment is having a negative effect on you. I'm going to recommend terminating your involvement.

DUTCH

You can't. I've never felt better. I have a direction. A purpose.

DOC

By mutilating yourself.

DUTCH

It's not mutilation. It's redemption.

Doc puts his chin in his hands and studies Dutch.

INT. PRISON HOSPITAL OPERATING ROOM -- DAY

Dutch is on the operating table. The Doc, anesthesiologist, nurses stand by him. His left arm is exposed. A nurse scrubs the arm. Dutch looks over.

DUTCH

I should have gotten a manicure first.

DOC

I don't think a fifteen year old boy would appreciate that.

The anesthesiologist starts the drip.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST

He's out.

Doc places the scalpel on Dutch's arm.

INT. PRISON CELL -- DAY

Dutch lays on his cot. He has a wrapped stump where his left arm should be. Doc slowly unwraps the bandage.

DUTCH

I need to go under.

DOC

I don't think you're ready.

DUTCH

I want to. Today.

Dutch grabs Doc's jacket.

DUTCH (CONT'D)

Now. I have to.

INT. PRISON HOSPITAL OPERATING ROOM -- DAY

Dutch is on the operating table. Doc, the anesthesiologist, nurses stand over him. The anesthesiologist starts the drip.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST

He's out.

The heart machine shows a flat line.

They watch the clock. Ten seconds. Twenty seconds. Thirty. One minute.

Doc puts the paddle on Dutch.

The machine shows his heart line beating.

Dutch comes to. He is still hysterical.

DUTCH

It's not enough. It's not enough.

INT. PRISON CELL -- NIGHT

Dutch eats his salad and turns on the television. On the monitor is the Newscaster. On her screen is a collapsed building.

INT. NEWSROOM -- DAY

NEWSCASTER

A fire fighter lost both legs, last night, when the roof of a building collapsed.

INT. PRISON HOSPITAL OPERATING ROOM -- DAY

Dutch is on the operating table. His left leg is exposed. The rest of his body is draped.

Doc, the Anesthesiologist, and nurses stand over him.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST

He's out.

Doc holds a saw over Dutch's leg.

INT. PRISON HOSPITAL OPERATING ROOM -- DAY

Dutch is on the operating table. Doc, the anesthesiologist, nurses stand by. The anesthesiologist starts the drip.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST

He's out.

The heart machine shows a flat line.

They watch the clock. Ten seconds. Twenty seconds. Thirty. One minute.

Doc puts the paddle on Dutch.

The machine shows his heart line beating.

Dutch comes to. He is still upset but not as much as he was the first time.

DUTCH

It's still not enough.

INT. PRISON CELL -- DAY

Dutch eats his salad. Both legs and his left arm are now stumps. He turns on the news. The Newscaster is on the monitor.

INT. NEWSROOM -- DAY

NEWSCASTER

A fire today killed seven people.  
Four children were severely burned.  
Doctors are looking for donors to  
provide skin grafts.

INT. PRISON HOSPITAL OPERATING ROOM -- DAY

Doc, the Anesthesiologist, and nurses watch the drip.

ANESTHESIOLOGIST

He's out.

The heart machine shows a flat line.

Doc and the nurses watch the clock. Ten seconds. Twenty seconds. Thirty. One minute.

Doc holds the paddles.

The heart machine comes to life showing Dutch's heart beating.

On the operating table is a remnant of Dutch, but there is a softness in his eyes that didn't exist before.

Dutch looks over at Doc. He appears to be at peace.

DUTCH

Next time, you don't have to wake me  
up. And find someone who needs the  
eyes.

FADE OUT: