

DEATH'S ROW

by  
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FADE IN:

1 INT. EXECUTION ROOM OF A PRISON - NIGHT

IMAGES: Flashes, on and off, of B&W surreal looking images and sounds of a PRISONER being taken into a room then strapped down by GUARDS, getting prepared to be executed.

CUT TO:

2 INT. PRISON CELL ON DEATH ROW - NIGHT

We hear muffled grunting sounds in darkness.

A PRISONER jolts up into a sitting position in the lower bunk of a dark, dingy cell. He is gasping for air and covered in sweat.

The prisoner's name is VINCENT. He is in his 30's, tattooed and menacing looking. He is on death row for murder and is unrepentant. He is startled by the intense nightmare he just awoke from and takes a minute to catch his breath and calm down.

VINCENT

Oh, man! Holy shit!

(beat)

Shit! What the fuck?!

(beat)

Oh, shit!

Vincent still trying to catch his breath, eventually lies back down. He stares upward for a moment, his eyes darting from side to side in fear, as he reviews the images in his mind. Eventually he takes a deep breath and closes his eyes to go back to sleep.

3 INT. HALLWAY OF PRISON WITH WALL PHONE - MORNING

Vincent is on the phone leaving a message for his attorney. He is becoming more enraged as he leaves his message.

VINCENT

This is the 3rd message I've left and I'm getting pissed.

(beat)

Either call me back today or show up and let me know what the hell is going on! You said we'd have an answer by Monday if I'm getting a 'stay'. It's now Wednesday! We're running out of time.

(MORE)

VINCENT (CONT'D)

(beat)

You piece of shit! I'm going to  
break your fuckin' neck if I don't  
hear from you today!

Vincent hits the phone hook (cradle) several times with the  
phone receiver before finally hanging up.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

I'm gonna kill that asshole!

4 INT. PRISON CELL ON DEATH ROW - LATER

Vincent is lying on the lower bunk. A Guard walks into  
Vincent's cell to do a quick inspection. He is all business  
and pays no attention to Vincent.

Vincent is antagonistic and tries to bait him.

VINCENT

Hey, pecker checker! I thought I  
told you to knock before you come  
into my house!

The guard just shakes his head slightly and ignores everything  
Vincent says as he inspects the cell.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Hey! You still gettin' your knees  
dirty in the hole, you bitch?!

As the guard leaves...

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Hey hack! How about I get one of my  
homies to pay a visit to your wife  
when you're not home!

(beat)

What a dick!

FADE OUT:

5 INT. EXECUTION ROOM OF A PRISON - NIGHT

IMAGES: Intense flashes again, on and off, of B&W surreal-  
looking images and sounds of the same execution but slightly  
further along in the sequence.

CUT TO:

6 INT. PRISON CELL ON DEATH ROW - NIGHT

Vincent wakes suddenly again from the nightmare and is drenched in sweat, gasping for air and introverted with fear.

VINCENT

Oh, Shit!  
(beat)  
Oh, God!  
(beat)  
Oh, God!

Vincent hits the wall with his fist.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

This is bullshit!

Vincent sits up on the edge of his bunk. He sits silently for awhile then hears a VOICE, not his own, in his head.

VOICE (V.O.)

Hey, asshole...

Vincent looks startled, not sure if the voice is in his head or elsewhere.

VINCENT

What? Who said that?! Who the fuck  
is in here?

Vincent jumps out of his bunk and looks up toward the top bunk. It's empty.

Vincent then looks to his left as though he's looking for someone in the cell with him. He is freaked.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Fuck! I'm losin' it.

Vincent walks over to the bars of his cell to look out to see if anyone is there.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Hey! Who's out there?  
(beat)  
I heard you jerk off!

VOICE (V.O.)

You're the jerk off, asshole!

Vincent, startled again, turns quickly back toward his bunk but sees no one.

VOICE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 You still think you're getting out  
 of here?

VINCENT  
 Shut the fuck up!

VOICE  
 Your lawyer isn't calling you back  
 because there is no 'stay', asshole.

Vincent goes back and sits down on his bunk. He is very agitated.

VOICE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 Face it asshole, you're fucked!

Vincent lowers his head and puts his hands over his ears trying to block out the voice. He is on the brink of losing it.

VINCENT  
 Shut up! Shut!...Up!

7 INT. PRISON CELL ON DEATH ROW - MORNING

Vincent is pacing around in his cell. He's agitated and afraid and tries to mask it by acting tough. He is talking out loud, erratically, to himself.

VINCENT  
 I don't give a shit! I don't man!  
 (beat)  
 You wanna kill me? Go ahead! It  
 doesn't matter! It doesn't matter  
 no more!  
 (beat)  
 I don't give a fuck! You can kill  
 me. Don't mean a thing to me no  
 more. I'll be free. I'll be out of  
 this hell hole. You lose, I win!  
 (beat)  
 You assholes!

Vincent sees a guard walk by his cell and moves toward the bars.

VINCENT (CONT'D)  
 Hey! When do I give you my last  
 meal request?

The guard looks back but ignores Vincent and keeps walking.

VINCENT (CONT'D)  
 Hey! Did you hear me?!! I want to  
 give you my meal request!!  
 (beat)  
 Hey! Jerk off!  
 (beat)  
 Come back here!!!

Vincent becomes enraged and hits the bars.

8 INT. PRISON CELL ON DEATH ROW - LATER

Vincent is sleeping on the lower bunk when a GUARD unlocks his cell door and enters with an empty cardboard box.

Vincent wakes up groggy. He sits up in his bunk as he watches the guard walk over to a small desk (with two shelves above) and begin to dump Vincent's stuff in the box.

VINCENT  
 Hey, what the hell?!  
 (beat)  
 What are you doing? Aren't you a  
 little early?  
 (beat)  
 Hey! That's my shit, homes!

The guard looks back over his shoulder at Vincent for a moment with disdain and then continues to take the stuff off the two shelves and desk.

The guard picks up a FAMILY PHOTO of Vincent's.

VINCENT (CONT'D)  
 Get the fuck out of here! You can't  
 take my shit yet!

The guard looks over at the bunk, first the top bunk then the bottom where Vincent is sitting.

The guard stares right at Vincent. Vincent is agitated and stares right back.

GUARD  
 Adios, ass-wipe.

The guard drops the photo into the box.

VINCENT  
 You know what asshole? I don't give  
 a crap. You can take that shit and  
 shove it up your punk ass!

The guard shakes his head slightly and smirks. He takes one last look around the cell to make sure he has everything and then turns to leave.

Vincent gets up and follows the guard to the edge of the cell bars. Vincent maniacally yells through the bars at the guard as he walks down the hallway.

VINCENT (CONT'D)  
 That's right! I don't need that  
 shit! I don't need anything. Kill  
 me! Go ahead and kill me!  
 (beat)  
 I'll be free!  
 (beat)  
 You hear me! Free!!

Vincent hits the bars. The guard looks back for a second then continues on his way.

FADE OUT:

9 INT. EXECUTION ROOM OF A PRISON - NIGHT

IMAGES: Intense flashes again, on and off, of B&W surreal-looking images and sounds of the same execution but, again, slightly further along in the sequence.

CUT TO:

10 INT. PRISON CELL ON DEATH ROW - NIGHT

Vincent wakes suddenly again from the nightmare and is again drenched in sweat, gasping for air. He's terrified.

VINCENT  
 Oh, Jesus...Oh, Jesus...Oh, Jesus  
 (beat)  
 Enough of this shit!  
 (beat)  
 Enough! Let's get this shit over  
 with!

Vincent sits up on the edge of the bunk.

VINCENT (CONT'D)  
 I can't take it.  
 (beat)  
 I can't take this shit no more.

Vincent looks terrified and defeated. He eventually lays back down.

11 INT. PRISON CELL ON DEATH ROW - DAY

Vincent is leaning against the wall in far left corner of his cell, near the metal toilet, opposite his bunk. He becomes anxious when he hears FOOTSTEPS coming down the hall.

A NEW PRISONER is escorted into the cell by TWO GUARDS. One guard stands at the cell door while the other one brings the prisoner in and unlocks his chains.

The prisoner stands for a moment until the guards leave and then sits down on Vincent's lower bunk. Vincent looks stunned and annoyed. He looks directly at the new prisoner.

VINCENT

(calmly)

Hey cuz, get your ass off my bunk.

The new prisoner ignores VINCENT.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Hey! Did you hear me bitch? Get your punk ass up before I tear you apart!

The new prisoner smirks, shakes his head and doesn't get off the bunk. Vincent starts his move toward the new prisoner.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

(angrily)

Okay asshole!

Vincent gets up close and bends over slightly to grab him. He reaches for him with both hands and, as he does, his hands go right through the new prisoner's body, like air!

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Huh? What the fuck??!

Vincent is stunned. He tries again to grab the new prisoner but again his arms go right through. Vincent is terrified at what he realizes must be true.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Oh no!

(beat)

No. No. No!

Vincent, breathless, takes a step back.

CUT TO:

12 INT. EXECUTION ROOM OF A PRISON - NIGHT

IMAGES: Intense flashes of B&W images and sounds of the same execution but much clearer and distinct.

We see Vincent being strapped down by GUARDS. Vincent has a hood placed over his head. We see a clock showing midnight.

An OFFICIAL gives a nod to commence the execution. A switch is thrown and Vincent's body ridges-up in pain as a lethal dose of electricity is sent through his body.

We hear muffled screams and see smoke. Then it suddenly stops. A DOCTOR checks for a pulse to confirm that Vincent is, in fact, dead.

13 INT. PRISON CELL ON DEATH ROW - MOMENTS LATER

Vincent, in complete shock, backs up slowly toward the wall opposite his bunk.

Vincent bumps into the desk and grabs it behind him with both hands. He stares at the new prisoner who is just sitting there looking straight ahead as though Vincent isn't even there and nothing has happened.

Vincent, still in shock, looks up to the top bunk and jolts back a bit.

VINCENT

Ahhh!  
(beat)  
Ohhhh shit!

Vincent sees ANOTHER PRISONER, ghost-like, laying on his side with his head propped up with one arm. He is looking at Vincent with a slight, evil smile.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

No!  
(beat)  
No! Oh, fuck!

Vincent looks left toward the back of the cell and is again startled.

VINCENT (CONT'D)

Ahhh!  
(beat)  
Oh, no!!

Vincent sees a second GHOST-LIKE PRISONER sitting on the metal toilet, pants down at his ankles, with a newspaper in his lap. He looks up at Vincent and smiles.

GHOST-LIKE PRISONER  
Welcome to Hell, asshole!

Vincent screams in terror.

As he backs away, he bumps into the chair in front of the desk and nearly falls.

Vincent turns quickly and then moves toward the bars at the front of his cell to call out for help.

He looks through the bars and sees several GHOST-LIKE PRISONERS stuck in the cells across the hallway!

Vincent's face shows sheer horror and fear as he shakes the cell bars.

VINCENT  
(screams)  
Nooooooooooooo!

CUT TO BLACK:

CREDITS ROLL.