

PRISON ESCAPE

By

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INT. ARENA BLUE CORNER - TIME UNKNOWN

1

FADE IN to a small, all-white room in which a single man is standing. He's wearing a jumpsuit, and a collar around his neck that has blinking lights on it. His brown hair is messy and dirty and his beard isn't trimmed. He's silent and still, staring at the door in front of him, waiting for it to open, almost apathetically. His name is JASON SMALLS.

From somewhere outside the room, WE HEAR bright, peppy, Monday-Night-Football-type music starting up. It grows louder and louder until we cut to -

2

INT. SPORTS TALK SHOW STUDIO - SAME TIME

2

SAL DERRINGER and TREVOR WASHINGTON smile warmly at the camera from behind their sports announcer desk.

SAL

Good evening, fans of PRISON BREAK!
We've got a great show lined up for
you tonight, with two contestants
we've been excited about for a long
time now.

TREVOR

You know, Sal, I'm particularly
interested in Jason Smalls in this
match -

As he talks, a graphic above his head and to the right shows Jason's face, along with his vitals displayed below.

TREVOR (CONT.)

- it's rare to see a Striker of his
raw power level, and look at this
record: twenty-three counts of
assault and battery and six counts
of murder before they brought him
in, one of those murders, of
course: Senator Robert Jones. I
think he's gonna give us quite a
show.

SAL

Well, no doubt, Trevor, but don't
forget about his opponent, Arken
Masterson -

We see an identical graphic appear on the screen, showing Arken: a fiery red-head with a carefully beard, vitals beneath the picture.

3 INT. ARENA RED CORNER - CONCURRENT 3

Over the continuing dialogue from Sal and Trevor, we see Arken standing in his own all-white room, wearing the same jumpsuit and blinking collar as Jason. He stands calmly looking at the door, utterly unafraid.

4 INT. SPORTS TALK SHOW STUDIO 4

SAL (CONT.)

- never actually charged with murder, but a Controller who made millions by playing the stock market and using his powers to manipulate company executives and government officials, including the same Senator Jones who Smalls later murdered.

As he talks, we see graphics of newspaper articles of Arken's exploits.

TREVOR

That's right, he got away with it for a long time. Only got discovered when he crashed the entire Federal Healthcare system, indirectly leading to the deaths of thousands. This is not a nice guy.

SAL

Well, we've met the contestants, and with only a couple of minutes until showtime, let's check out today's arena.

INCLUDE DESCRIPTION OF ARENA BASED ON WHAT WE PUT TOGETHER WITH FX.

TREVOR

All right, we're getting word from stadium control that the contestants are about to be released. Today, one of them will face the ultimate punishment, the other will be sent to Paradise Island to spend the rest of his days. In exile, but out of jail and still alive.

5 INT. ARENA BLUE CORNER - CONCURRENT 5

Blue lights begin to pulse in Jason's ready room. He looks up at them nervously. As they reach the top of the door, they meet above its center, and the door slides open. He runs outside and into the nearest piece of cover.

6 INT. ARENA RED CORNER - CONCURRENT 6

Red lights pulse slowly and steadily in the red corner where Arken is waiting. He doesn't react, except to smile slightly as he watches the door in front of him. Finally it slides open and he dashes out into the open arena.

7 INT. SPORTS TALK SHOW STUDIO 7

SAL

And here we go!

(For most of the rest of the film, Sal and Trevor's dialogue will be in the form of VO's over the action between Arken and Jason)

8 EXT. COMBAT ARENA - DAY 8

Jason runs into the bright sunlight, momentarily shielding his eyes.

TREVOR

The keys to the contestants' collars have been hidden in two locations in the arena, indicated by flashing lights of each contestant's color. For one of them to get an edge, they're going to need to find those keys.

Jason scans the area, trying to find the blinking blue light that indicates where his key is hidden. He sees nothing, so he picks a direction and runs, keeping a careful eye out for Arken.

SAL

Yeah, although last week the contestants found each other before they found the keys - not a flashy finish, but you had to admire the raw quality of the fight once they got their hands on each other.

(CONTINUED)

WE SEE footage from the last fight, one of the contestants slamming the other's head on a rock, then kicking him repeatedly on the ground.

TREVOR

If it comes down to that today, my money is on Jason Smalls, this guy is a real piece of work. Let's take a quick look at his police interview, courtesy of the New Hollywood PD.

TITLE: PLAYER PROFILE

9

INT. POLICE INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

9

WE SEE grainy, poorly lit footage of Arken in a police interview room. He's wearing the power-dampening collar. Two plainclothes detectives are interviewing him.

COP #1

How exactly did you get into Senator Jones' house?

Jason is silent a moment before he answers.

JASON

He only had two guards. I took care of them.

COP #2

Killed them. You killed them.

JASON

'S what I said.

CUT AHEAD IN THE FOOTAGE

COP #1

What happened next?

JASON

I crushed him against the wall.

COP #1

With your hands?

JASON

No. Powers.

(CONTINUED)

COP #2

What about the second one?

JASON

He was still freaking out. I had a knife, and I...I didn't want him to follow me or call the cops.

COP #1

But why stab him? It took him...
(he looks at a report)
...almost two hours to bleed out.

JASON

I like to make an impression.

CUT AHEAD IN THE FOOTAGE

COP #2

When our boys picked you up, you said, "They had to die." Why did they have to die, Smalls?

Jason doesn't answer.

COP #2

I asked you a question -

Jason leaps up and grabs the cop by the throat, taking him to the ground.

JASON

THEY HAD TO DIE! THEY HAD TO DIE!

The other cop leaps up and tazes Jason in the back. He falls to the floor, writhing.

10

EXT. COMBAT ARENA - DAY

10

We're following Jason from afar as he continues to search for the blinking blue light.

TREVOR

I got chills the first time I saw that.

SAL

I still do!

TREVOR

Hold on, look at this.

(CONTINUED)

Jason pulls up short, looking into the distance. There's a blue light blinking in a copse of trees. He begins to run for it flat-out.

TREVOR (CONT.)

It looks like Jason's going to get his hands on his keys first, Sal! This may be a quicker match than we were expecting!

SAL

Not so fast, Trevor, look at this!

As Jason runs by a low hill, out comes Arken from behind it. They both screech to a halt, about 20 feet away from each other, hands up, ready to go for each other at the slightest provocation.

SAL (CONT.)

You can feel the tension from up here, Trevor! Are they going to go for it right here, or is Jason going to go for that key?

TREVOR

Sal, I think Arken's spotted his key, too!

Jason and Arken continue to circle each other warily. Arken's gaze shoots over Jason's shoulder, and Jason risks a quick look backward. Behind him, about the same distance away as the trees where his own key is waiting, he sees the blinking red light for Arken's key. He looks back to the red-headed man, calculating.

TREVOR (CONT.)

And it looks like they're going to make a run for it.

SAL

Sure does, Trevor.

Arken and Jason carefully move in a circle until they're each closer to their own keys. At the same time, they make a break for it, sprinting full-speed for the blinking lights. Jason grabs his and, in an instant, inserts it into the collar and deactivates it.

CUT TO Arken, whose key is on the ground. He scrambles for it, trying to fit it into the collar quickly. It doesn't go immediately, and he curses as he tries to work it. Finally it gives and he whirls -

(CONTINUED)

- to see Jason standing and summoning a brilliant blue bolt of energy. It's too far away for Arken to make contact easily and he dives behind a tree as the blue bolt impacts against it, blasting bark in all directions. Arken tries to poke his head out around the tree and make eye contact, but a blast of fire makes him duck behind it again.

TREVOR

Sal, it looks like Arken is pinned down here, this fight may be over sooner than we thought!

SAL

Don't rule him out yet, Trevor, if there's one thing this player's background tells us, it's that he's resourceful.

Arken looks around and sees a river not far away. He risks another glance around the tree, and nearly loses his head to a solid beam of energy.

ARKEN

(loudly)

I don't suppose there's a chance we can talk about this?

JASON

Not really.

We see them from the grainy footage of a camera placed by the TV station, with a mic somewhere close to them picking up scratchy audio, before cutting back closer in to their conversation.

ARKEN

Come on, now. I'm sure if we worked together here we could figure out a way out of the arena and escape together.

JASON

I make eye contact with you, and it's game over. Do you think I'm an idiot?

ARKEN

Guess I was just hoping you hadn't seen the news for a while. You've been locked up for a long time, Jason. So many people dead.

(CONTINUED)

JASON
(angry)
They had to die.

ARKEN
Oh, sure they did.

Arken reaches up and grabs a low branch, ripping it off and throwing it in the opposite direction of where he just looked. Jason blasts it with a bolt of light, but Arken is already sprinting for the river. Jason gets one last shot off, which goes wide, before Arken dives into the water, submerging completely and presumably swimming downstream and around a bend. Jason runs to the water's edge, frustrated, and fires beams randomly into the water.

SAL
Well, that was a close one, Trevor,
but Masterson was able to avoid
Smalls's attacks and yet was unable
to make eye contact before
escaping.

TREVOR
There's no saying exactly what
he'll do if he does get the best of
Smalls, but I think we can guess
that it's gonna be unpleasant.
Check out this TDC exclusive clip
from our own Jessica Jones'
interview of Masterson in his cell.

11 INT. JAIL - TIME UNKNOWN

11

We're watching an interview conducted by shaky handheld camera and a cute, reporter-looking woman with a handheld mic. Arken is in a cell, sitting calmly on the bed, wearing his power-dampening collar.

JESSICA
Mr. Masterson, you chose to plead
Guilty during your trial, even
facing a minimum life sentence.
What was your reasoning behind such
a move?

ARKEN
It's better than the death penalty.
The game was up.

(CONTINUED)

JESSICA

You've repeatedly referred to your actions as a 'game', despite the immense death toll they inflicted on the populace. Do you really think other people's lives are so insignificant that they're there for your own amusement?

Arken looks over at her, genuinely seeming confused. He gets up, and calmly walks over to the bars, looking out between them. Jessica backs up, and glances at the camera nervously.

ARKEN

What else would they be there for?

The shot slides out of existence on the screen, taking us back to -

12 INT. SPORTS TALK SHOW STUDIO

12

TREVOR

I think he scares me more than Smalls, Sal.

SAL

I don't know, he doesn't have the sheer animal brutality that Smalls has, and in Prison Break, that counts for a lot.

TREVOR

Alright, it looks like Smalls's hunt for Masterson is continuing, and the proximity indicators in their collars tell us the action is about to resume, let's take a look.

13 EXT. COMBAT ARENA - DAY

13

Jason is hunting through an old, destroyed building, looking for Arken.

CUT TO a wider shot, the camera cranes down behind a low wall, and we see Arken hiding behind it. Jason is walking toward the wall, looking around carefully.

CUT TO a high, "show camera" shot, slightly grainy, showing both Arken and Jason.

(CONTINUED)

TREVOR

We're about to have an encounter here, this could be the conclusion of the game.

Arken throws a rock, causing Jason to look in that direction. Arken pops up from behind the wall and says:

ARKEN

Jason.

Jason turns on instinct and looks into Arken's eyes. Arken's eyes go white as his Controller powers activate. Jason tries to get off a shot -

ARKEN (CONT.)

Freeze.

Jason stops. Arken cocks his head, smiling slightly.

ARKEN (CONT.)

Fall down.

Jason drops to the ground, lying on his back, continuing to look into Arken's eyes. Arken slowly climbs over the wall and kneels next to him.

TREVOR

It looks like Masterson truly has the upper hand here, Sal, I think we're about to see the big finish!

SAL

I think you're right, Trevor, Masterson's Controller powers are extremely developed, mental resistance is utterly impossible.

ARKEN

It's really not fair that you're here, actually. But it does have a certain element of closure.

JASON

Shut the fuck up and get it over with.

CUT TO a "show camera" angle.

TREVOR

Can you hear what they're saying, Sal?

(CONTINUED)

SAL

No, it doesn't look like we have
mics in that area.

CUT TO a closer angle on Arken.

ARKEN

It's okay, Jason. You can remember
now.

CLOSE UP on Jason, and his eyes go wide as he remembers:

14

FLASHBACK: INT. BAR - NIGHT

14

Jason is sitting at a bar with a few empty shot glasses in
front of him. He downs another. A man sits down next to him,
just the edge of his body on screen. It's Arken.

ARKEN

I'll have two of whatever he's
having.

Jason looks over at him, somewhat blearily.

JASON

Thanks, bud.

Arken doesn't look him in the eyes yet.

ARKEN

Don't mention it.

Jason extends a hand.

JASON

Jason Smalls.

Arken takes his hand and shakes it, still not looking him in
the eyes.

ARKEN

Arken Masterson.

JASON

Holy crap, I've heard of you. Some
big-time wall street investor,
right? Didn't think guys like you
came to places like this.

ARKEN

Actually I came to see you. I need
you to do something for me,
something you're not going to like.

(CONTINUED)

Jason looks back over to him, smirking.

JASON

If I'm not gonna like it, why do
you think I'm gonna do it?

Finally, Arken makes eye contact, and his eyes go white.
Jason freezes.

ARKEN

You're going to do it because I
told you to. And because you won't
remember that I told you to do it.
You'll think it was your own idea.

Jason is still. Arken slides a piece of paper across the bar
to him.

ARKEN (CONT.)

On that paper is a list of names.
You're going to kill them, do you
understand? They have to die.

JASON

They have to die.

Arken finishes his shot and walks out of the bar.

ARKEN

Have a nice life, Jason. I'll be
seeing you on the news.

15 EXT. COMBAT ARENA - DAY

15

We're CLOSE UP on Jason again. He's gritting his teeth and
shaking as he remembers the scene.

JASON

You son of a bitch!

ARKEN

Yeah, sorry about that.

JASON

I killed six people.

ARKEN

You did. But don't worry, you only
have to kill one more, and then
I'll be living the good life on
Paradise Island. Now put your hand
to your face.

(CONTINUED)

Jason does as he's commanded, though we can see he's fighting it.

ARKEN (CONT.)
Now let's have a fireball.

Suddenly, Jason smiles at him.

JASON
Enjoy your freedom.

The fireball goes off. It's massive.

CUT TO a long shot as we see both Jason and Arken completely engulfed by the flames.

CUT TO a "show camera" angle showing the blast from afar.

TREVOR
Holy (bleep)!

SAL
Whoah-ho-ho! And just like that,
it's over. What a dramatic finish
to this contest!

TREVOR
I guess now we'll never know what
they said to each other right at
the end there.

The show starts cutting in to closer "show camera" angles, showing two blackened, twisted bodies at the center of the blast. The image shrinks and becomes a graphic in the -

16 INT. SPORTS TALK SHOW STUDIO

16

We're back with Sal and Trevor in the studio as they close out the show.

SAL
Well, we hope you enjoyed this
week's PRISON BREAK, everyone.

TREVOR
We'll see you next week. Have a
great night - and stay safe.

The show ends.

17 EXT. COMBAT ARENA - DAY

17

A cleanup crew runs out to take care of the mess. They approach the two bodies and we see a CLOSE UP of Jason's blackened skeleton. Men wearing gloves lift the body into a bag and zip it shut. Two others move to Arken's body and begin to move it.

Arken moans. The two men recoil.

CUT TO Arken's body. His jumpsuit is burnt and tattered, his whole body a charred, contorted mess.

He starts to gurgle and moan. One of the guards looks down in horror.

CLOSE UP on Arken's face as he screams and screams.

- THE END -