

Back in Jail
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INT. JAIL CELL - MORNING

JAMES lies on the bottom bunk with covers all over his body. Above him is a CRIMINAL (20) in an orange overall, sitting with his legs dangling over the bed. The jail cell is bare, apart from a metal toilet, sink and desk. The metal door is shut.

JAMES
(positively)
Ah, the start of a new day.

CRIMINAL
(darkly)
Yep.

JAMES
How long are you here for, again?

CRIMINAL
Another ten years.

JAMES exhales deeply.

JAMES
Wow, ten years? That's tough.

CRIMINAL
Just taking it one day at a time...

JAMES
I'm only here for another few days.
For hitting my friend, Dan.

CRIMINAL
Oh. That's nothing.

JAMES
There are just so many things I'm
looking forward to after being
released. Not like you. You're here
for an unbelievably long time.
Especially as the time must go by so
slowly for you. I mean it's bad
enough for me, but you? Wow.

CRIMINAL
How about that?

JAMES
When I'm out, I'm going to go for a
meal, I'll have a VERY long holiday,
a huge party, all sorts of great
things? You on the other hand?

(MORE)

JAMES (cont'd)

All you have to look forward to is
rubbish food and prison violence.
That must be really hard for you.

CRIMINAL

Not really.

Footsteps are heard from outside getting louder. The noise gets ignored.

JAMES

Oh come on. You must be feeling
unbelievably low! Especially when
compared to me. Did I tell you I'm
going bungee jumping, skydiving, the
list is endless! I literally can't
wait, it's going to be so exciting.
Not like your life, it really is the
same old same old everyday for you,
isn't it?

CRIMINAL

Look, why do you keep going on like
this?

JAMES

Like what?

CRIMINAL

Like you're trying to get into a
fight with me?

JAMES

I'm sorry?

CRIMINAL

The things you're saying... You're
pretty much saying the worst things
imaginable...

JAMES

I'm just having a conversation,
that's all.

The walking stops. Banging is heard on the door.

PRISON WARDEN

Get out of bed, it's 8 AM!

JAMES

God I hate having to do what he says.
You must be really sick of him now.
Especially as you hate other people
telling you what to do even more than
me...

CRIMINAL
I'm warning you...

JAMES
But you can't warn the prison warden
can you? He has complete power over
you, THAT must be hard. In many ways,
you're like a helpless baby.

JAMES gets out of bed, showing he has slept in his orange
clothes. The CRIMINAL jumps off the bed soon after.

JAMES
I want you to shake my hand.

CRIMINAL
Why??

JAMES
Just shake it.

JAMES puts out his hand. In a daze it does get shaken.

JAMES
I just wanted to thank you. Thank you
for making me feel better about my
life. Your life is total trash, you
really did throw your whole life away
when you robbed those banks. Very
dumb.

JAMES'S hand stops being shaken.

JAMES
Not even your fellow prisoners
respect you as you did such a bad
job...

CRIMINAL
Yeah. Well you certainly aren't
respected here.

JAMES
The prison staff respect me.

CRIMINAL
Why?

JAMES
I keep snitching on people. I've most
definitely snitched on you. Remember
when you hid home made wine in this
cell? I told the warden all about it.
You'll be hearing from him very
shortly.

More knocks are heard on the door.

PRISON WARDEN

Yes, thanks for snitching on your cellmate, James. You'll be out of jail in no time. Not the other guy, he's looking at many years of pure rubbish... Hell...

JAMES

Oh I really will snitch on ANYONE.

PRISON WARDEN

And I love you for it! Have a nice day.

Footsteps are heard getting fainter.

CRIMINAL

Is that true?

JAMES

Sure.

JAMES smiles innocently.

INT. PRISON HOSPITAL - AFTERNOON

JAMES sleeps on a cover-less bed with black eyes. He gradually opens them to see another orange-dressed PRISONER (30) with the same injury and on a similar bed by his side. A NURSE (40) notices JAMES is awake.

NURSE

Ah, you're awake.

JAMES

(sleepily)

I took it too far...

NURSE

Took what too far?

JAMES

The taunts, the put downs... I did too many...

NURSE

I'm a mental health nurse too, you know? Would you like to say what's going on in your mind?

JAMES

I... don't know!