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MONSTROUS BEINGS: EPISODE 3 "BREAKOUT"

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL/SURGERY ROOM A-5

Joshua Waits is strapped to a chair, liken to a dentist's chair. His eyes are closed; he seems to be asleep. He has wires electrically taped to both temples, coming from a large rectangular machine with buttons, knobs, and digital read-outs.

Also in the room are Dr. Elliott Cooper, nurse Holly and two men (who look to be in their forties): Italian surgeons Dr. Drake and Dr. Floyd.

DR. COOPER

Are you sure this contraption is legit? The damn thing looks like a soda machine.

DR. FLOYD

It's completely infallible, I assure you. Dr. Drake himself has approved it.

DR. DRAKE

(to Dr. Floyd)  
Don't put it all on me.

DR. FLOYD

You're the one who invented the damn thing, I only sold it.

DR. DRAKE

I wanted it used for governmental matters only. It was your idea to bring it to the public.

Dr. Cooper, hearing this banter, seems even more skeptical.

DR. COOPER

It *has* been tested before, right?

DR. DRAKE

Yes. On several people... One of whom was an actual Titanic survivor.

DR. FLOYD

The real thing, not the movie... For those who saw the movie, there is no cure.

DR. DRAKE

This patient was haunted his entire life, and after this procedure he remembered nothing about the tragedy at all.

DR. COOPER

The Titanic? How old was this guy?

DR. FLOYD

One hundred and eleven. But that's beside the point. For the last five days of his life he was completely cured.

CUT TO:

EXT. MENTAL HOSPITAL/PARKING LOT - DAY

A man in a white trenchcoat, liken to a doctor's uniform, with dark green pants leading to a pair of black boots, is walking from the parking lot towards the entrance of the Ewing Mental Hospital. He is carrying a large duffel bag. We don't see his face. He walks onto the mat of the automatic door - the door opens - he walks inside the hospital.

BACK TO:

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL/SURGERY ROOM A-5

The Italians look about ready to roll. But Dr. Cooper's expression is still one of concerned-apprehension.

DR. COOPER

Joshua isn't some random mental patient. He's my brother-in-law and I want to make sure everything goes smoothly - with *no* side effects.

DR. FLOYD

As long as the machine runs for *exactly* twenty seconds - no more, no less - there's nothing to worry about.

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL/CORRIDOR

We see the man in the trenchcoat (still not seeing his face) walking up to a doorway with a card in hand. He slips the card into a slot.

A red light on a display near the door turns green, followed by a buzzing sound. The man turns the knob, opens the door, and walks inside.

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL/SURGERY ROOM

DR. COOPER

Tell me... What happens if the surgery doesn't run its full course?

DR. FLOYD

Only one incident occurred where the procedure was interrupted halfway through... In the days that followed, when the patient was back home, he didn't seem to remember his past experience at all. He was very tired, lethargic, distant... yet still seemed cured from his original trauma. But then, one afternoon while in public, something triggered his memory, and he turned into a complete lunatic. Almost like a werewolf, but without the fur and fangs, of course. His eyes widened, he began to tremble, and then...

DR. DRAKE

(interrupting)

If I may, Claudio... Let me back up a little for Dr. Cooper...

(to Dr. Cooper)

As a teen, this particular patient had been mugged, and almost beaten to death, by a man wearing a Stetson hat - like the cowboys wear in your John Wayne pictures. And... well...

Both doctors are quiet for a few beats, until Dr. Floyd resumes:

DR. FLOYD

He ended up violently killing two men wearing cowboy hats.

DR. DRAKE

It was a horrible incident. But it turns out both men were tourists: oilmen from Texas, so it wasn't a great loss.

DR. COOPER

But how was the surgery not completed? What went wrong?

DR. DRAKE

It was aborted halfway through *on purpose*. We had to find out what would happen if it stopped before twenty seconds... And now we know.

DR. COOPER

Look guys... whatever you do in Italy is *not* my concern. I just don't want Joshua becoming a knee-jerk basket case on a killing spree.

DR. FLOYD

That would only occur if the machine were to turn off by itself, which is an impossibility.

DR. DRAKE

(in a more soothing tone)  
There's nothing to worry about, my young American Friend. Everything will be fine.

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL/CORRIDOR

The white-trenchcoat man is walking down a narrower corridor. He walks up to a door that reads: ELECTRICAL ROOM.

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL/SURGERY ROOM A-5

DR. COOPER

Okay. I guess I'll have to put my faith in this foreign contraption. Go ahead, turn it on... Let's get it over with.

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL/ELECTRICAL ROOM

We now see the man is Michael Waits. He's wearing his sleeveless camo shirt - the trenchcoat's on the floor beside the duffel bag. He's scrutinizing several rows of switches on an electric wall-panel, with room numbers listed above. (To the left of the panel is a grid-like map of the hospital.)

Using his finger as a guide, Michael reads the room names till he comes to one in particular: SURGERY A-5. He puts his finger on the switch; he has a nervous, indecisive expression.

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL/SURGERY ROOM A-5

There is a humming sound coming from the machine. The doctors, and nurse, look on anxiously at Joshua, whose eyes are moving behind his eyelids; liken to REM sleep. The machine's red digits are (already in the process of) counting down: 18, 17, 16, 15...

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL/MAINTENANCE ROOM

Michael's unsure expression remains, his finger still frozen on the switch.

Then, this expression quickly changes to a serious, concrete nod of the head: He flips off the switch, picks up the bag, and hurriedly exits the room.

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL/SURGERY ROOM A-5

The room is in darkness. We only hear voices.

DR. FLOYD

Oh my God! What has happened?

DR. COOPER

The count was on ten. It's only half complete!

DR. DRAKE

It's not our machine's fault, Dr. Cooper, it's your damn hospital!

DR. COOPER

We need to get some light in here... Nurse Holly, quick, open up the...

Before he can finish, the door of the room opens, streaming in light from the other room.

Michael Waits is standing there - with the double-decker flamethrower.

MICHAEL

Okay you bastards. Get my son out of that chair, or else!

DR. COOPER

Mr. Waits - wait. You've got to understand, if we don't...

MICHAEL

Do what I say, Cooper, or I'll burn you like morning toast.

Nurse Holly quickly removes the wires from Joshua's head, and takes off the arm straps.

NURSE HOLLY

You can get up now, Joshua.

JOSHUA

(groggily coming to)  
Huh? What? What's going on?

MICHAEL

You're free, son.

Joshua turns, sees his father.

JOSHUA

Dad?

Dr. Floyd, with a scalpel in his hand, moves towards Michael. Michael points the flamethrower at him, presses the white button. Retardant-foam flies out, drenching Dr. Floyd, sending him back against his own machine - knocking him out. While this is happening, Joshua had gotten out of the chair and moved behind his father.

Michael points the gun at Dr. Drake, Dr. Cooper and the young nurse who are standing together.

MICHAEL

One false move and you'll see what this thing's *really* made of.

DR. COOPER

Mr. Waits... I mean, dad... Please let me explain something very important before you...

MICHAEL

No explanations!  
(to Joshua)  
Follow me, son.

Michael and Joshua exit the room.

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL/CORRIDOR

Michael and Joshua run down one corridor, and then turn down another, when a couple big male nurses appear up ahead.

Michael presses the red button. Flames pour out, not reaching the nurses but close enough for a quick sunburn. They both cut back and run the other way.

Michael and Joshua turn another quick corner, now heading towards a white door, with the word LOBBY above it.

INT. MENTAL HOSPITAL/FRONT LOBBY - DAY

An uptight looking well-dressed man and his wife, both around fifty, and a spaced-out, grinning old man around eighty, wearing suspenders and an old Army cap, are facing the receptionist/nurse behind the main desk.

UPTIGHT MAN

I want to be sure my father's well taken care of. He's a mentally unstable war vet.

UPTIGHT WOMAN

He needs peace and relaxation.

LOBBY NURSE

This is the best hospital for your father's needs. Just sign here.

At that moment, Michael - followed by Joshua - crash through the door. As they do, a security guard in the lobby pulls a gun. Michael fires the foam-retardant and it hits the guard's face. The guard yells, holding his eyes. Michael and Joshua run out of the hospital.

The uptight couple, and the nurse, are in shock. The old man, though, has a big terrific smile, looking at the front doors where Michael and Joshua had exited. He holds up a clenched fist.

OLD FATHER

Give 'em hell, Harry! Take no prisoners!

INT. MICHAEL'S HUMMER - DAY

Michael and Joshua get inside Michael's camo jeep-hummer. Joshua still looks distant and groggy.

Michael puts the keys in. He starts the car, and backs up quickly.

MICHAEL

Times have changed, son. We're no longer the happy-go-lucky Waits family.

Done backing out, the car aimed forward, the hummer takes off towards the parking lot exit.

MICHAEL

We're a team now, kiddo... Nilbog doesn't have a chance!

Joshua curves his brows as if he's not quite sure what his dad's talking about.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE MENTAL HOSPITAL - DAY

The hummer, going from the hospital parking lot into the street, screeches off as if in a drag race.

But no other cars are around, making it a clean, successful getaway.