

Freedom

By

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INT. HOLDING CELL - PRE-DAWN

Disheveled ALCOHOLIC AND DRUG ADDICT (man), skinny and shaking VICTIM (female), DEBTOR (man) in a pin-striped suit, PEOPLE PLEASER (woman) in business casual wrings her hands, DISTORTED SELF-IMAGE (woman) in baggy clothes, PERFECTIONIST (woman) in a little black dress with jewelry, hair, and nails to impress, and CONTROL FREAK (man) constantly looks around the room; they're lined up in a dimly lit room with their heads down, staring at the floor in shame.

The prisoners have black tape over their mouths with the words addiction, victim, debtor, people pleaser, poor self-image, perfectionist, and control freak written on the tape.

PRISON GUARD with a SOUTHERN DRAWL wears a scowl on his face as he walks by the new arrivals.

PRISON GUARD

What have we here? Thought ya were strong enough to beat the system, didn't ya? Thought no one would notice. Thought ya could run and hide. Well, ya can't run and hide! Don't ya know that? Ya're all weak!

The prisoners continue to look down at their feet with shame. Victim prisoner releases a tear from her eye and the prison guard sees it. He walks over to Victim, gets in her face, and wipes the tear from her eye.

PRISON GUARD

It's too late for tears honey.

Victim takes a deep breath and rips off black tape.

VICTIM

It's never too late. I will not be a punching bag again.

The prison guard is startled. The other prisoners begin to rip off their black tape.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION

Free, free from the needles and poison.

DEBTOR

I free myself from the shackles of debt.

(CONTINUED)

## PEOPLE PLEASER

I free myself from putting others  
before me and neglecting my needs.

## DISTORTED SELF-IMAGE

To hell with what everyone thinks  
about me! I choose confidence.

## PERFECTIONIST

I'm not perfect, and I don't have  
to be. I choose to show my real  
face.

## CONTROL FREAK

I relinquish the tight grip I have  
on my life and emotions.

## PRISON GUARD

Shut up! Ya can't choose freedom,  
it doesn't work like that.

Victim looks at her fellow inmates and then at the prison  
guard.

## VICTIM

You're wrong! We control our  
destinies, not you, not anyone. We  
have the right to choose, to  
change.

The prison guard moves and stands before Victim and peers  
into her eyes.

## PRISON GUARD

I'm warning ya. One more word out  
ya and I'm gonna...

## VICTIM

Going to what? You can't hurt me  
anymore than I hurt myself or  
others have hurt me. You have no  
power over me!

Prison guard is about to SLAP Victim across the face when  
the door BURSTS OPEN. A MAN dressed in a white suit enters  
the room. The sun is coming up and light begins to fall  
through the windows.

Man points at the prison guards.

## MAN

Don't even think about it! Step  
away from these prisoners, they're  
free to go.

(CONTINUED)

Prison guard shakes his head.

PRISON GUARD

What? No! I have my orders. They disobeyed the law.

MAN

They've acknowledged their offenses. They're free to go.

PRISON GUARD

I won't let them go.

MAN

You will! Release them now!

The man and prisoners walk outside; the prison guard follows them.

EXT. OUTSIDE HOLDING CELL - DAY

PRISON GUARD

Mark my words, all of ya will be back.

VICTIM

No, we won't. Freedom and life are precious. We'll protect them at any cost.

PRISON GUARD

Git out of here!

VICTIM

We are free! Salvation is ours!

The prisoners hug each other in celebration because they've gained freedom from their offenses.

FADE OUT