

THE SHOWER LINE

By

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Characters:

Ty J. El - 35 - Moorish American
Mook - 26 - Hoover Crip
Walt - 46 - Aryan Brotherhood
OG - 55 - OG Blood Piru
CO - 40 - Correction Officer

Setting:

San Quentin State Prison - Solitary Confinement

A row of four jail cells sit center stage. Left stage, a shower room. Inside the cells, men lounge around.

The last cell is empty.

OG, 55, Blood Piru, sits on his bunk.

WALT, 46, Aryan Brotherhood, stands at the cell bars.

TY J. EL, 35, Moorish American, enters the empty cell and close the door behind HIMSELF.

HE grab the cell bars and sighs.

TY

Yo... YO MOOK!

MOOK, 26, Hoover Crip, gets off HIS bunk and walks to HIS cell door.

HE grabs the cell bars.

MOOK

What's up homie?

TY

Islam King.

MOOK

What? I ain't even with all that Cuz. What you want?

TY

Peace anyway King. But check this out. Did you get your shower in today?

MOOK

Yeah. Why?

TY

Umh...

MOOK

WHAT?

TY

I'm just saying King... I haven't been able to take a shower in three weeks. I'm stinking really bad.

MOOK

You just came back from the shower.

TY

Yeah I did. But it was too filthy in there to take a shower. Just pure disgusting.

MOOK

It be that way when you last in line.

TY pace back and forth in HIS cell for a beat.

HE come back to the bars.

TY

Man... was the shower that nasty when you took yours?

MOOK

Naw. I'm always second in line behind OG. My shower time be cool.

TY

When it gets to me, it's nasty as fuck.

MOOK

How?

TY

Every single thing that's on the inside of the human body is on the wall and floor.

MOOK

You trippin'.

TY

Seriously King. It's hair and blood on the wall right by the handle--

MOOK

--That's from people shaving.

TY

Man, that's a lot of blood from shaving. But then it's snot, spit, semen, shit, boogers, dirt and god knows what else... all over the place. Then you got our soap on the floor right in the middle of everything.

MOOK

Yeah... I do feel you. When I first got up here I was last in line once. After that, I was never last agin.

TY

What can I do to get a shower?

MOOK

Don't be last in line.

TY

It's not that easy getting to the front of the line. And, we only get showers once a week. Why is that?

MOOK

Don't know Cuz.

TY walks over to his bunk and take a seat.

LIGHTS DOWN:

LIGHTS UP:

TY enters HIS cell and slams the door behind HIMSELF.

TY

DAMN!

MOOK rushes over to the HIS cell door.

MOOK

Yo... so it didn't work out again?

TY

Naw King.

MOOK

Just wash up in the sink.

TY

I've been trying that. But I don't even have a towel, or soap. I need to get in the shower when it's clean and take a whole damn shower.

MOOK

Clean it up yourself.

TY

With what?

MOOK

Your hands motherfucker.

TY

Hell naw. I might catch Mercer.

TY goes and sits on HIS bunk, then jumps back up.

TY

Hey King, how do I write a kite up here and tell the guards to clean the shower.

MOOK

Man... they not cleaning that shower for you. It's only one way to get them to clean the shower. But your best bet is to get in line first, or second. But I'm always second.

TY

Then I can try to get in first.

MOOK

Shiid.... I don't know how you gonna get in front of OG. He cock-diesel. Benching 600 max on the yard. Shid... Don't even try it Cuz. OG got life and he crazy as fuck.

TY

Damn... OG a lifer?

MOOK

Yeah. Most people up here is. But you may be able to get in front of Walt. But that's even taking a chance.

TY

What's up with him? He don't look too tough.

MOOK

But he is tough. And he got a shank on him, even in the shower.

TY

Where he keep the shank?

MOOK

He got it tucked. But even if you get past that, he down with the Brotherhood. And they stick together and roll deep. They'll catch you on the yard and kill you Cuz.

TY

My black brothers like you want help me out?

MOOK

What brothers homie? I'm Hoover Crip Cuz. You on that Moorish Science tip. And it ain't that many of y'all. So if you can get in front of Walt, watch your back when y'all get out the hole.

TY paces around his cell and contemplates.

TY

Yo King!

MOOK

My name Mook homie!

TY

What's the one way to get the guards to clean the shower?

MOOK

If somebody gets stabbed in the shower, they'll come clean it up.

LIGHTS DOWN:

LIGHTS UP:

The cell doors BUZZ open. TY, MOOK, OG and WALT enter the hallway and walk to the shower.

TY rushes in front of WALT. WALT pulls out his shank.

WALT

BACK THE FUCK UP!

WALT holds HIS shank firm and make stabbing gestures.

WALT

GET BACK--

TY

--OKAY, OKAY, DON'T STAB--

WALT

--SHUT UP! GET BACK IN THE CELL!

WALT threaten TY with the shank all the way back to HIS cell door.

WALT

GET IN! CLOSE THE DOOR!

TY

OKAY!

TY enters the cell and close the door.

WALT

No shower for you this week! You stinking motherfucker! Try me again!

LIGHTS DOWN:

LIGHTS UP:

MOOK is standing at HIS cell bars.

Hey cuz!
MOOK

Yeah what's up?
TY

How long you been down?
MOOK

One year.
TY

What? You only been locked up a year and you a Moore already.
I guess you couldn't hold your own and needed protection?
MOOK

I was a Moore before I got sentenced.
TY

How you get to the hole? Wasn't you trustee in our unit for a
minute?
MOOK

Yeah. They moved me. One guy thought I was soft or something.
I unscrewed the mop-head and cracked him with the sharp part
of the stick... Lost that job, then made it to the hole.
TY

Okay. At least you got a little G in you. How much time you
got Cuz?
MOOK

Three years.
TY

What? That's all?
MOOK

How much you got?
TY

Twenty years. Been down for five. But I might get life if I'm
convicted for stabbing my bunkie.
MOOK

That's what you're in the hole for?
TY

Naw. That happened last year. Still in trial for it. I'm in
the hole for knocking out a CO.
MOOK

I pray you don't get life Young King.
TY

MOOK

At this point, I don't give a fuck Cuz.

TY

Umh. I see the mentality.

MOOK

What you talking about?

TY

What did you leave in the shower last time?

MOOK

The fuck you mean what I left in the shower Cuz? How I take my showers is my business! Next time we come out, we getting down homie! Better have you're shank because I got mines! Fuck you talking about--

TY

--Naw, naw King... Mook. Listen, no disrespect to you bro. I was just wondering.

MOOK

Just wondering my ass! You better watch who you talking to! I ain't the one! You got a outdate and going home soon! The rest of us facing life in here Cuz! I'll kill you homie if your ever diss--

TY

--Calm down. It wasn't like that. I'm just trying to take a shower. It's been a month and I need to take a shower, that's all.

MOOK

Let it be known!

TY

But I have a question. Listen... If somebody gets stabbed in the shower, will anybody tell who did it?

MOOK

Fuck no. That's between those two people.

TY

Okay then. I have to take my chances.

MOOK

You got a shank?

TY

Naw. I've been thinking of a way to make one before shower day.

MOOK

No need for all that. I got one I can sell you. What's good?
You interested?

TY

Yeah. I think I am. How much?

MOOK

Three hundred. You got money in your account?

TY

Yeah. But I only got 150 on the books. I can have my girl put
the rest in your books.

MOOK

Alright. Check it. I'll give you a store list for the cash in
your account. I'll give you my inmate number in a minute. And
that money better hit my account homie.

TY

I'm a man of my word Young King.

MOOK passes TY a shank through the cell
bars.

MOOK

A, check this out Cuz. If you think you gonna use the shank
on me, I got two.

MOOK holds a different shank through
the bars.

MOOK

You see that?

TY

Yeah.

MOOK

Don't think about it Cuz.

TY

I'm a man of my word.

LIGHTS DOWN:

LIGHTS UP:

The cell doors BUZZ open. All the men
enter the hallway and walk to the
shower except for TY.

TY exit his cell. HE slowly walks to
the back on the shower line.

OG, MOOK, and WALT all turn and face TY while holding their own shanks.

WALT

What's up motherfucker?

TY

I need to get in the shower.

WALT

You ain't gettin' pass me motherfucker. Come on wit it. Let's go.

TY

I gotta take a shower Walt. Move out the way.

WALT

How the fuck you know my name? You don't know me motherfucker.

OG

Heard you got a outdate Blood. You not gettin' pass me. Don't die up here Blood.

OG enters the shower.

WALT

Let's do this motherfucker... What's up? Bring it.

TY stands quite for a beat.

WALT slowly creeps forward.

WALT

Yeah... Yeah. Bring it.

TY backs away. HE enters his cell and close the door.

WALT

Thought so.

LIGHTS DOWN:

LIGHTS UP:

EVERYBODY is in their cells lounging.

TY's cell door BUZZ open. HE looks surprised.

CO, Correction Officer enters and walks to TY's door.

Mister Ty J. El CO

Yeah. TY

Let's go. You're moving back to general population. CO

TY exits his cell.

Man, you stink. CO

TY and CORRECTION OFFICER exit.

See you on the yard Cuz! And don't forget what you owe me! MOOK