

THE GLASS APPEAL

THE TINKER CHECKUPS 1

Written by

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JASON

The wealth gap in the fractured United States is horrible. The rich have access to everything, including new life-saving procedures, while the poor are stuck with age-old fixes. That's where we come in, the Tinkers. What we do isn't for ourselves. It's for those less fortunate and the betterment of humanity.

SFX: Jail door closing.

SFX: Opening theme.

INT. DR. VENEZIA'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

SFX: Doors open and close. Dr. Venezia is busy scribbling something on a piece of paper.

JASON

Hello? Dr. Venezia?

SFX: The scribbling stops.

DR. VENEZIA

My my my. Now what brings you here today?

JASON

(confused)

Isn't today our scheduled appointment?

DR. VENEZIA

Appointment?

SFX: She hastily opens a drawer and searches through it.

JASON

I'm Jason Cawfield. My guard brought me here. Was he mistak-

SFX: She slams the drawer shut.

DR. VENEZIA

Right! Right right right. I forgot. Have too much on my plate, but your visitation exchange was just too appealing to pass up.

JASON
(confused)
What do you mean? Do you mean the
point system?

DR. VENEZIA
No no no. I meant your exchange. If
it wasn't for me, you wouldn't be
able to have your fuzzy
visitations.

(beat)
Those points are just to make you
feel good. They're pretty worthless
honestly, as I have final say in
who needs an appointment.

JASON
Oh... I see. I don't see how
they're supposed to do that, but
whatever.

DR. VENEZIA
Now now now. Sit down.

JASON
These checkups aren't recorded,
right?

DR. VENEZIA
No no no. Not at all.

JASON
Okay.

SFX: Jason walks and sits down in a chair.

JASON (CONT'D)
So... what are you going to do for
this checkup?

DR. VENEZIA
(slight chuckle)
These tinker checkups are for my
amusement. I've never worked on a
tinker before.

JASON
Is that why you chose this prison?
To be able to work on tinkers.

DR. VENEZIA
Oh heavens no. I just thought
working here would be exciting.
(MORE)

DR. VENEZIA (CONT'D)

I didn't even *know* there was a tinker section inside.

JASON

Exciting? Isn't being a doctor stressful? Why make it more stressful by moving to a prison?

DR. VENEZIA

What's the point of doing a boring job? It'd be the same thing, day in day out. No fun.

(beat)

Now *this* place - amazing. Fun even. Death-row inmates, stabbings, gang fights you name it.

JASON

O...k.

DR. VENEZIA

Hmm. Now what should I work on today? What to do what to do what to do. Hmmmmmm.

(beat)

Oh, I know! Why don't you tell me about yourself first?

SFX: She pulls up a rolling chair and sits.

JASON

Well... what do you want to know? Where I grew up? My family?

DR. VENEZIA

No no no. None of that boring shit. I want to know about your enhancements. Your change from human to tinker, if you will.

JASON

My change? I'm still very much human.

DR. VENEZIA

(sigh)

I suppose, but with enough change we all can become something we'd rather not be.

SFX: Silence for a beat.

JASON

Huh...

DR. VENEZIA

Yes yes yes. Now, onto your modifications. Which was your first one? Why?

JASON

Do I have a choice? I'd rather not talk about my mods.

DR. VENEZIA

Oh, is that so? If that's the case, you may leave then.

JASON

Really? It's okay if I do?

DR. VENEZIA

Yes, certainly. That is if you'd like to no longer have visitations.

JASON

Oh... nevermind. I'll tell you.

(beat)

So, I have O.N.L installed and it's fo--

DR. VENEZIA

O.N.L? Please explain.

JASON

O.N.L stands fo--

DR. VENEZIA

Ah!

JASON

What? What is it?

SFX: She quickly stands up and rushes to her desk.

DR. VENEZIA

Wait just a moment!

SFX: She rummages around, grabs something and returns back to her seat.

JASON

Are you ready?

DR. VENEZIA

Quite so. You may continue.

JASON

As I was saying O.N.L stands for
Ocular Night Lens.

SFX: Dr. Venezia scribbles it down.

DR. VENEZIA

I see. I'm assuming the purpose is
for night vision? But, before you
answer, I need you to weave a tale.
Tell me its story.

JASON

...I'm not trying to tell you a
story.

DR. VENEZIA

That's just it! You *must*, otherwise
I'll bore of this checkup rather
quickly.

(beat)

If I do, I may have to cancel the
other exchanges as well.

JASON

(hastily)

N-no! That's not necessary. I *need*
my visitations.

DR. VENEZIA

Is that so? Well, I'd suggest
getting better at telling stories
then.

SFX: Silence for two beats.

DR. VENEZIA (CONT'D)

Well? Have you found a way to
dazzle me?

JASON

Uhh, I think so.

DR. VENEZIA

No no no. *That* will also not do.
You need to *know* if you've found a
way. Otherwise, I do not care.

JASON

Okay okay! I've found a way to
dazzle you.

DR. VENEZIA
(amused)
Go on then. I am waiting.

JASON
Okay, so this happened while I was
abroad with Tint.

SFX: Scribbling.

DR. VENEZIA
That is the international tinker
organization, correct? The one you
were indited for being a part of?

JASON
Yeah, that's right. And here I
thought you had forgotten about me
, until I showed up at the door that
is.

DR. VENEZIA
Nonsense. I may have many things
going on, but once I remember
something, it all comes back to me.

JASON
Got it. So this was my first time
abroad and it was to Uzbekistan.

SFX: Scribbling.

DR. VENEZIA
What were you doing all the way
over there?

JASON
Well, we went to help a rural
village with an epidemic. I'm
afraid I can't tell you anymore
than that at the moment. At least
about the mission.

DR. VENEZIA
I see.
(disheartened)
That's understandable. I suppose,
but in due I shall require more
information if we are to continue
having these.

JASON
I understand.

DR. VENEZIA

Now, how is it that you obtained those eyes? For what purpose?

JASON

Uzbekistan doesn't have much light at night and we needed to do work, obviously. One day, I got injured because I couldn't see and one of the guys told me about the operation.

DR. VENEZIA

How was the operation? Did it hurt?

JASON

It hurt a bit, but they said it was pretty standard and the procedure went well.

SFX: Scribbling.

DR. VENEZIA

I see I see. Now, else does it do?

JASON

What do you mean? That's all it does.

DR. VENEZIA

(disapproving)

Jason Jason Jason. I know you have secrets that you'd like to keep, but here's the thing: I. Don't. Care.

(beat)

This is my office, my... sanctuary and you'll have to comply with my rules. That is if you'd like to continue talking to your friends and family. But, who am I to judge. Perhaps you'd rather not talk to any of them. If so, you're free to g--

JASON

(irritated)

Stop threatening to take away the one thing I can forward to in here.

DR. VENEZIA

(chuckle)

I'm simply telling you of a reality that could be, nothing more. I'd rather not have you cease these checkups, but that is not something that *I* can decide.

JASON

Why is that? What's so special about me? There are about a hundred or so tinkers locked in here. Why not get one of them instead?

DR. VENEZIA

There *is* nothing special about you. You agreed to this exchange, did you not?

JASON

Yes, I did.

DR. VENEZIA

Second, you signed the contract, correct? It stated what would be required of you during these checkups, right?

JASON

(sigh)

I did.

DR. VENEZIA

Then I'm confused on what the problem is. You *knew* that I could ask you about your modifications. Honestly, what other reason did you think we had this exchange for anyway?

JASON

I... I hadn't really thought about it, but I understand it fully now.

DR. VENEZIA

It's never too late to realize something.

(beat)

Now, back onto the subject at hand. I *know* that you're lying about your eyes.

JASON

I'm not lying. That's all the use there is for them.

DR. VENEZIA

Uh-uh-uh. See... there's a way that I know you're lying - don't ask me how, but I just *know*. So, I can safely conclude that there's more than meets the eye.

(laughing at her own joke)

That one was pretty good!

JASON

Okay.

DR. VENEZIA

Okay what?

JASON

I'll tell you. The other function of the O.N.L is AR vision.

SFX: Scribbling.

DR. VENEZIA

And what exactly does this "AR" vision allow you to do?

JASON

It allows you to see the body. Like under the skin.

DR. VENEZIA

(excited)

So something akin to X-ray vision?

JASON

I suppose you could call it that. It let's us operate without actually hitting a major vein or artery.

DR. VENEZIA

(excited)

Well, that's fun in its own right.

(exhale)

A patient on death's doors and you're the only one who can save them. I *do* love me a challenge.

JASON

That's ummm... aren't all doctors supposed to be like...

DR. VENEZIA
Sympathetic? Afraid?

JASON
(hesitant)
Not happy about... death? I don't
know.

DR. VENEZIA
I think what you don't realize is
the reason some become doctors in
the first place.

JASON
Obviously it's to help people.

DR. VENEZIA
For the most part you're right, but
that's not all there is.
(beat)
You've forgotten about those who
want to feel powerful. Those who
like the adrenaline that comes with
the job. Why do you think there's a
bunch of trigger-happy cops running
around?

JASON
Because... they aren't trained to
do their jobs.

DR. VENEZIA
Oh, yes. That's part of it, but the
other half is because they *like* it.
They love the rush of firing a
weapon.

JASON
Huh. So what you're saying is that
that's you?

DR. VENEZIA
Exactly! There's no point in doing
something if it's boring. That's my
motto and something I live by
everyday!

JASON
I see. Well, is that all?

DR. VENEZIA

I suppose. I'd like to examine your eye further, but I know the warden wouldn't like me holding a prisoner in here too long.

JASON

Why's that?

DR. VENEZIA

Well... let's just say I got a *little* enthusiastic with a death-row member.

JASON

(scared)

W-what'd you do to him?

DR. VENEZIA

Well... let's just say he's no longer on death-row.

JASON

Y-you...

DR. VENEZIA

Now now. It's alright. Nothing like *that's* going to happen to you. I won't allow it! You are after all, my first tinker patient.

JASON

(under his breath)

I'm beginning to see why that is.

DR. VENEZIA

Hmmm? What'd you say? I didn't quite hear you.

JASON

(hastily)

N-nothing. I'll just take my leave then.

DR. VENEZIA

Alright. I'll be looking forward to your next story *and* modification.

JASON

Right...

SFX: Jason gets up and walks towards the door.

DR. VENEZIA
Buh-bye!

JASON
Yeah, see ya.

SFX: He opens and shuts the door.

End of episode.