

What Makes us Human

Written By

Emily Ansert

&

Elizabeth Dresdow

Address
Phone Number

WOODED AREA - DAY

ETHAN, in uniform, is standing with several other men in black military uniforms. Five prisoners kneel in front of them with their hands bound and wearing execution hoods.

ETHAN

Ready. Aim. Fire.

the guards pull out guns simultaneously and fire.

The prisoners collapse.

Ethan enters the truck and has a meltdown.

ETHAN (V.O.)

They tell us we are here to cleanse society. They say we are making the world a better place by crushing out creativity. But in all reality? We have lost all our humanity.

He pulls a medicine bottle out of his pocket. He pours a few pills into his hand and knocks them back.

Bodies are thrown into the back of the truck.

He calms down as a guard enters the car.

The car drives away.

OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Ethan is sitting at his desk; everything is perfectly organized. He files the set of executions he just finished.

Piper brings a set of new assignments, the files are askew.

PIPER

Here's next week's.

ETHAN is visibly frustrated at the disorganization on his desk.

They glare at each other.

She leaves.

ABANDONED LOT - DAY

SCARLETT is sitting in an abandoned lot, frantically swiping her hands left and right, she is sobbing. She stands up and dusts off her hands to reveal a beautiful surrealist chalk painting.

She pants and wipes the tears from her face and sits with her back to the wall, hugging herself and crying quietly.

She takes out a bottle of Xanax and pops a pill in mouth.

She swallows.

ABANDONED LOT - CONTINUOUS

ETHAN and two guards are on patrol when they see SCARLETT in a state of distress.

She sees the guards coming and quickly throws the bottle in her backpack.

They approach her.

GUARD 1
Miss, are you all right?

SCARLETT
Yes, sir, I'm fine.

GUARD 2
All right. Have a good day, ma'am.

SCARLETT swings her backpack on her back as the officers and ETHAN walk away. They notice the chalk drawing.

GUARD 2 goes to pour out a bottle of water on it. The pill bottle falls out of SCARLETT'S backpack and rolls to ETHAN'S feet.

He picks it up; looks between her and the pill bottle and the chalk drawing.

ETHAN
Miss, I am going to have to ask you to come with us.

SCARLETT turns to see the pill bottle in ETHAN'S hand.

He nods towards the guards.

She tries to run but they catch up with and handcuff her. They lead her over to the chalk drawing.

ETHAN

Did you do this too?

SCARLETT does not respond. He watches the drawing disappear as Scarlett is led away.

INTERROGATION ROOM - LATER

SCARLETT is sitting in sterile light. The room is bare except for another chair and a table between the two.

ETHAN enters and sits opposite her. He sets down her backpack next to his chair.

ETHAN

Scarlett Hampton; is it true that you have in your possession the drug xanax?

SCARLETT begins to react nervously, but says nothing.

ETHAN

And is it true that today you were not only using it to treat a panic attack but also defacing public property with chalk?

Still no response.

ETHAN places the backpack on the table.

ETHAN

Is this yours?

She looks up at the backpack without responding.

ETHAN opens up her backpack and takes out several notebooks. He flips through them. They show drawings, poems, and clips of magazines arranged artistically.

He returns everything into the pack and places it on the ground.

ETHAN writes on a piece of paper and looks up at her.

ETHAN

For possession of illegal drugs to treat mental illnesses and the defacing of public property, you are found unfit to perform the duties of society. Tomorrow, at 1:00 p.m., you will be relocated to a more appropriate location for your kind.

Scarlett collapses into a heap, sobbing.

ETHAN straightens up and walks out the door as two guards enter.

SCARLETT

Without my art, I would be dead.

ETHAN stops and turns to look at her. Their eyes meet. He looks away and leaves.

POLICE OFFICE/MILITARY BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

ETHAN is sitting at his desk, looking over the sketchbooks.

His hands begins to shake and reaches for his pills as the door opens.

He quickly covers his tracks.

Piper walks in and brings him more papers.

She gives him a perplexed look, shrugs it off, and walks away.

CITY - AFTERNOON

GUARD 2 and ETHAN are patrolling the city. They come to the place where SCARLETT was taken.

ETHAN

Remember that girl the other day?

GUARD 2

Yeah. What about her?

ETHAN

She looked so normal. Without that
pill bottle hitting my feet, I
would have never known something
was wrong.

Beat

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Daniel, do you ever think we have
the wrong idea about these people?

GUARD 2

Thoughts like that will get you
locked up, Ethan.

ETHAN

Yeah, I guess you're right.

They continue to walk.

MILITARY BUILDING/CELL BLOCK - NIGHT

ETHAN walks over to a cell and unlocks it. SCARLETT is inside. She slowly stands up. ETHAN does not talk but he brings a finger to his lips to silence her and shakes his head. He motions for her to follow him.

They pass a security camera that SCARLETT notices has been dismantled. ETHAN opens three other cells and rescues the people inside; five.

They follow him out through the door.

THE FOREST - EVENING

ETHAN leads the people out into the forest.

ETHAN

You are all free to go. I suggest
you go undercover until it is safe
again.

The others run off. ETHAN takes off SCARLETT'S backpack

which he had been carrying. He pulls out the sketchbooks and hands them to SCARLETT.

SCARLETT takes the sketchbooks and backpack. She gives him one of the sketchbooks.

She smiles and leaves the scene. ETHAN watches her go, a determined expression on his face.

POLICE OFFICE/MILITARY BUILDING - NEXT DAY

ETHAN is looking through the sketchbook. He is sitting on a bench outside an office door.

He pulls out a piece of paper and writes something on it.

He stands up, sketchbook in hand and turns towards the door. The nameplate reads the name of the Director, the leader of the organization. He raises a hand to knock on the door.