

The Sound and The Fury

by Jeremy Pinson

It is 2:00 a.m. and the chaos persists. Inmates began breaking out windows, breaking fire sprinklers, breaking concrete tables off walls and using them as battering rams. The cops have responded by saturating the air with oleoresin capsaicin gas, deployed concussion grenades, non-lethal munitions. I sit here amid the chaos with a wet towel around my face. I try to filter out the gas but it still makes me gag and cough. My eyes are bloodshot and my throat raw. The noise sounds more like a warzone, gunshots and fire alarms, than a prison. This is the ADX. The "worst of the worst." Why am I here? To witness it all? To bear witness to the truth. That the cops mercilessly antagonized these men then responded with brutal force once they got the rage they went looking for? This is a night I've lived 1,000 times now. A cycle I've seen before. This movie ends badly for everyone. Myself included despite my not being involved.

- TOMMY PINSON