



Image from Prison Legal News.

Christopher Pressfield

### The Prison Instrument

I write with a pen filler  
wrapped with brown paper  
wrapped with twine. Knuckles  
bruised—bloodied by  
forms of concrete  
connecting each aspect  
of the world I  
write in—as  
with a tool as soft  
and cruel as hours

when a hard moon stalks  
west over the carbon sky.

### 3 Prison Haiku

Field made of concrete;  
electric sleeps underground.  
Razor-wire crocus.

Gray nature of stone;  
no wind, rain absent for months.  
Tiers rising sky deep.

Whistles and gunshots;  
gray wall covered with photos.  
A book by Hawthorne.

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Christopher Pressfield is author of *Stone Cameo* and *South*. His work has appeared in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Briar Cliff Review*, *Atlantic Review*, and *Rattle*.