

PROJECT ZED

A man wakes up in a safehouse, the wind buffeting the tin roof. It is the UK in 2069. He is Outside, in a toxic landscape of farmland and poor communities. Though his memory is stilted, he knows two things: his prison number and his journey from Inside the Dome, a rich high-tech, high-surveillance megacity. Battered and confused from his experience in Dome Corp's prison system, "I didn't escape" he says, "I got released".

As prisoner A168NPR relays his story to his rescuer Rose, he begins to piece together his memories and nightmares: flashbacks to horrific medical operations, secret bio-technology labs and heavy handed security. Are his memories of prison real? Who was he before he was incarcerated? Did he really manage to hack his personal probation bot? Who he can trust? Does his aching body hold the key to a complex conspiracy at the heart of Dome Corp?



Project Zed is a 20 minute radio play, a sci-fi conspiracy co-written with prisoners at HMP Lincoln. A self-selected group of four men took part in a week of workshops, and through discussions about civic engagement, society, utopias and dystopias, the group worked together to devise the characters and plot. Each member of the group holds a Creative Commons license to produce the play. It is currently being professionally recorded, to be aired on National Prison Radio and other platforms across the UK. Two murals, drawing on the history of sci-fi book covers to represent the story, will be displayed inside and outside the prison.

Project Zed is part of a project by artist Ruth Beale, commissioned by Mansions of the Future. Inspired by the Magna Carta and the Charter of the Forest and their distinction of 'free men' and 'the unfree', Ruth Beale chose to explore the legal and social structures around the concept of freedom, justice and society, and work with prisoners as one of Lincoln's hidden communities.