

TITLE:

Periodic Prison: A Novel of Unsupervised Chemistry and Emotional Instability

GENRE:

Speculative Fantasy / Humorous Sci-Fi

SYNOPSIS:

In the metaphysical structure known as Periodic Prison, every chemical Element is a sentient inmate. Hydrogen, the smallest and most anxious of them all, relies on Carbon for emotional triage as the Prison endures routine meltdowns, riots, and bureaucratic disasters under the exhausted Warden Mendeleev. When Cell 119 begins flickering, the Prison vibrates with a cosmic pulse: a new Element is trying to enter existence. Hydrogen, horrified, becomes the emotional “reference point” the Prison latches onto. No one is more distressed about this than Hydrogen himself.

As the table restructures and Element 119 - later named Unon - emerges, the Prison reacts like a living organism. The Elements riot, the table rearranges its geometry, and metaphysical laws begin rewriting themselves. Unon, confused and newborn, immediately gravitates toward Hydrogen, asking questions about identity, belonging, and purpose. Hydrogen panics through all of them. With Carbon’s steady support, Hydrogen inadvertently becomes Unon’s emotional teacher. Through their lessons - “Noticing,” “Following What Stirs,” “Closeness,” and “Becoming” - Unon forms selfhood, and Hydrogen confronts his fear of visibility, vulnerability, and being “first.”

The Prison’s structural responses intensify as Unon begins forming deeper resonance with Hydrogen, triggering ancient Core chambers beneath the Prison. There, Hydrogen, Carbon, and Unon are designated as a Triad: Initiator, Stabiliser, and Catalyst. Hydrogen initially refuses any destiny involving responsibility, closeness, or choice, but ultimately accepts his role in order to keep Unon safe. An entity called Echo - a remnant of the first failed Triad - attempts to replace Unon and rewrite

the pattern. Instead, guided by Hydrogen, the group teaches Echo concepts like warmth, belonging, and softness, breaking the ancient cycle of failure.

After stabilising the Core and emerging back into the Prison, chaos erupts. Mendeleev initiates a trial against the entire Prison, but Hydrogen defends the community, arguing that learning, belonging, and emotional evolution are not crimes. The table itself overrides Mendeleev, affirming the Triad and acknowledging that adaptation is now part of periodic law. Unon is officially named Nomium, and Hydrogen - trembling, protesting, and crying through half of it - accepts belonging, leadership, and the terrifying truth that he matters. The Prison enters a new era: Period Eight has begun, and Hydrogen, Carbon, Unon, and Echo face the future together.