

REPLT 10: e2xj

Dear Rita,

10-17-22

Howdy! It's so good to hear from you! I got your last letter in the mail and I'm working on catching up on writing back.

I'm glad to hear you got some rain. Hopefully there won't be any more major fires in Europe.

Yah! I'm so happy to hear your paintings were chosen! That's wonderful! I like your artwork, too.

I've never been much of an artist myself.

So, as I understand it, you'll be able to have your own solo art show next year? That's great! Do you have any of your art showing in galleries now?

I'm also happy to hear your friend Joshua will be released soon. I'm always glad for people who are getting out. Hopefully he can continue working on his art and the two of you can stay in touch. It's also great that he'll be able to get a job as a certified optician. You would think federal prisons would offer more opportunities like that, but they don't.

My job in the kitchen isn't too bad. I don't come in until 3:00 pm and we usually get off at 6:30-7:00 pm (I'm only part-time). For the most part, I just wipe tables and get to walk around and visit with various friends - that part I enjoy.

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Since you asked, I received this in the mail on Oct. 6. For some reason I got a second (duplicate) the following week which was a copy of the original (since they copy all our mail).

Sorry you're not having any luck on the LT site. I've pretty much given up on love and feel like I'll spend the rest of my life alone. I'm not cute anymore and I've got way too much baggage.

I'm glad to hear that your eyes are better now. I will be so glad when I get out of here and can get contacts again instead of glasses.

I'm also glad to hear you're still taking classes and staying active! Good for you!!

Yes, I was very saddened and surprised at the death of Queen Elizabeth. I thought she'd live longer. (If anyone from the UK is reading this, my heart goes out to you).

Even though it's sad, it's also exciting to have a new King Charles III on the thrown for the first time in my life! I wish him the best and hope his monarchy is very successful. I have so many books on their history! Much love & hugs to you Rita!!

Love, DD

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Sun. 10/09/22 10:30A

Howdy. Once again I'm going through a rough time.

This past Wed. was my b-day, and it was much more depressing and stressful than usual. I'm still on that goddamn encumbrance after six months, so I couldn't buy anything for myself. I did manage to beg & borrow (not steal) several chocolate-related snacks and ate myself sick, which was the only bright side. However, I was still sore and very stressed (and still am) due to a violent encounter I had with my latest cellie the day before.

My previous cellie, Jeff, the druggie-loser, ended up in the Hole on Sept. 14 after getting slapped in the day room by his even bigger druggie-loser friend over one dollar which Webb (the friend) decided Jeff owed him at the last minute. Everyone warned Jeff not to hang out with Webb, but Jeff is extremely stupid.

I was still moving stuff around after the CO packed Jeff's stuff when the former "#1" and my former co-worker, Long, who had just been released from the Hole, told me that the Counselor had put him in my cell. ("#1" in the Dishroom)

Fucking great. I couldn't stand Long when I had to work with him and now I'm forced to live with this douchebag.

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Lony is a two-faced liar, hypocrite, and a coward, among other things. What is pertinent to what happened on the 4<sup>th</sup>, practically every day he would come in the cell and go on and on about how much he hated this place 'cause staff can get away with anything they want because everyone here is too afraid to stand up to them and do something about it.

Well... this past Mon., the 3<sup>rd</sup>, a Lieutenant locked Lony in a cage in the Hole from about 5p to 8:30p for no reason, when Lony hadn't done anything wrong. (The details aren't important right now).

When he got back to the unit, everyone told him that he needed to file a complaint against the Lt. His first reply to me was that he was afraid of what they'd do to him if he filed a complaint - which he quickly changed to "it doesn't do any good."

Fucking hypocrite coward.

The next day, Tues., I told two other guys in the unit what he said. They both called him a hypocrite, and one of them called him out for it at lunch.

Well... he immediately comes to the cell and starts screaming at the top of his lungs, accusing me of calling him a hypocrite (which I didn't) and of talking about him behind his back (I only told the truth about what actually happened. He had repeatedly called one guy here "gay" behind his back, but quickly recanted when the guy confronted him about it.)

(5)

After the screaming, he said that since he was assigned to the bottom bunk, (where I slept), then he was taking it. He then proceeded to rip my mattress off and the various clothes, books, and papers underneath (there's not much storage space in a locker).

Rather than just stand there, I started grabbing stuff and putting it back. Now, Tony weighs at least 100 lbs. more than I do, and he started shoving me around 'cause he's also a bully on top of being a slimeball. I ended up with my left knee being messed up so that I limped for a few days, my right knee was scraped from being pushed onto the floor, and my sternum is bruised somehow so it hurts to cough or breathe deeply.

Even after the other guys said that they were the ones to call him a hypocrite (and that he was), he still refused to apologize and said he was keeping the bottom bunk since, he claimed, he had been assigned to it.

Well... it just so happens that he was on the "callout" sheet (list of appointments) that night - which is rare 'cause callouts are few and far between, and also lucky for me. Because... the callout has your bunk assignment and he is listed as being assigned the upper bunk.  
Fucking slimeball.

So I got roughed up by yet another cellie and had all my property on my bunk thrown on the floor when he's not even supposed to be on the bottom bunk. And everything I had said was the absolute truth. I really

(6)

hate this motherfucker.

Someone tried to help me get rid of him by offering to switch cellies in a couple of different combos, but no one will take Long as a celly 'cause he's such a piece of shit.

I was, however, able to get the bottom bunk back the next day (my b-day), after I pointed out that I am assigned the bottom bunk and not him. I still hate this piece of shit and want him out of this cell.

Fri. 10/14/22 3:50p

Hey y'all. I'm back at work in the Kitchen after a long absence. Yesterday was my first day back.

On Sept. 12 they closed the Chow Hall for "renovations," and from then until Oct. 12 we did the "grab and go" with those styrofoam trays which they were giving us previously during the pandemic. Since I am a part-time worker who usually worked wiping tables and such, I wasn't needed and had a glorious month off. I had been thinking of taking time off anyway and definitely wanted the week of my birthday off, so this worked out great for me.

But let me tell you... they REALLY fucked up the Chow Hall.

I hadn't been to a cafeteria-style restaurant in the Real World since the mid-90's, but the old serving area was fairly similar. There was a plastic or glass divider that went up to chest-height or so and it was open the rest

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of the way. Well, some idiot staff member (I've heard both the Warden or the Food Service Administrator) decided they wanted a whole wall up with just a hole to slide the trays through.

It's really stupid. The tray slots are only about at the four-foot level, so they're really low. If you're a "line server" - which is what I'm doing right now 'cause they're short-handed - you can't see when guys are coming in or when they stop coming in. The area in back where we did the trays was set up well in assembly-line fashion and worked smoothly. Now there's less room and we're using temporary (?) tables to do the trays. Also, it's much hotter 'cause there's a lot less air-flow. So stupid.

Word is that there are more renovations in the works, including plastic dividers where the rails are between the tables and the walkway to the serving area, a turnstyle to scan our IDs (the staff previously used a hand-held scanner), and new tables (longer ones?) to replace the four-man tables they now have.

Another rumor is that the Warden wanted to keep the Chow Hall closed until all the renovations were completed, but the FSA insisted on opening up 'cause the other stuff is on order and would take too long.

Of course, everything was perfectly fine before and all this is a huge waste of money with no forethought about how it would work. It's all about more control and nothing more.

In more news... I previously wrote about how staff were taking pillows and locker buddies and writing "shots" for possession of them. (I may have forgotten to mention the locker buddies - they're items made of cloth with storage pockets which hang on your locker door). Well, the first week of Sept. they started selling pillows and locker buddies at Commissary for \$20 and \$15 respectively. Neat? Rips off? I'd leave you to decide.

Also, remember the color-coded lanyards and what a stupid idea that was? And how at first we were required to wear them? On Sept. 9 they started taking all the lanyards and said they would write a "shot" against anyone found in possession of one. Do figure. Typical idiotic behavior by BOP staff and yet another waste of government (taxpayers') funds.

Sat. 10/15/22 6:33p

Hey y'all! I'm sitting on my bed locked in my cell as I've been all day.

This morning the sky outside the window (and my privacy curtain) appeared to be getting lighter and lighter with still no click of the door being unlocked. I figured it was fog again as we've had a bit of that recently, but as the sun started shining through the window all I could think was, "What now?? Please don't let it be COVID again!"

Eventually the CO brought us a box meal for breakfast

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and told my cellie that we were locked in 'cause the power was out. I don't think there was a storm last night, but the TVs are off, so I suppose we're just on generator power.

They've also thrown in all these extra counts today which as ~~usual~~ usual makes no sense since we've been locked in these cells since 9p last night. We haven't gone anywhere, y'all! There's no reason to add extra counts!

In other news... the quarter changed the last Sun. in August (remember how the BOP can't figure out how a normal quarter in a year works?) and we were able to get rid of that horrible CO Prince.

According to [Inmate.com](http://Inmate.com), even the senior staff in this unit didn't like Prince and changed the day shift days off from Sat/Sun to Thurs/Fri (I think - I haven't been paying that close attention) to get rid of him.

Unfortunately, on the evening shift we got a black female CO (I've mentioned how they're usually the worst), and she has been pretty bad. She keeps locking us down early whenever anyone pisses her off (7:30p on Thurs.) and she's never around to unlock the door when someone needs in or out. (She's usually in the middle staff offices, I suspect flirting (or more) with the (-South officer).

Remember how they took away our jackets? This fall has been much cooler than normal. All the staff are wearing jackets while we freeze. And on Sept. 30, the remnants of Hurricane Ian came through with cool

(10)

temperatures, wind gusts of 31 MPH, and lots of rain. And no jackets.

We are finally supposed to be issued jackets next week, but there was no reason to force us to remain wet and cold all this time.

Good news! That fucking encumbrance was FINALLY taken off on Oct. 13 after several requests to the Captain. I've already gone over how unfair that was - not to mention a violation of due process and denial of access to courts.

Bad news. I sent that article about the lawsuit regarding the shakedown last time (did it get posted?). The judge denied the inmates' request to file as a "class action" and forcing all of them to proceed individually, making it much harder for them to keep going as most have no clue how to proceed. Another example of how courts are biased against inmates and lets the BOP get ~~away~~ away with anything.

Lastly, I just finished reading "Corrections in Ink" by Keri Blakinger. It's a very well-written book about the crap that goes on in jail and prison. Check it out! Until next time, I wish you...

Love & Blessings,  
J.D.

#GONELONGENOUGH

(11)

Personal Note to Julia in The Netherlands:

Dear Julia,

10-15-22

If you're still out there...

Howdy! I saw there was another Tropical Storm  
Julia this year! Ha!!

I didn't follow to see how much damage "you" caused  
in Central America, but when I heard there was another  
storm named after you in the Caribbean I had to laugh  
and wanted to send you a shout-out.

What I want to know is, why the heck don't they  
ever name a storm Kelly??

Good health and happiness to you!

Best wishes,



Personal Note to T in England:

Dear T,

10-15-22

If you're still out there...

Howdy! I wanted to follow up on your comment a year or more ago about using Vick's Vapor Rub.

Although I tried it years ago, I kept thinking about your post and decided that I'd try it for longer this time (I've got nothing but time, right?)

Well, ~~as~~ they don't sell Vick's here, they have "Personal Care Vaporizing Chest Rub." I don't know how it compares to Vick's, but among its active & inactive ingredients are: Camphor, Eucalyptus Oil, Menthol, Cedar Leaf Oil, Nutmeg Oil, Thymol and Turpentine Oil.

OK, so I started using it twice per day from Dec. 18, 2021, till I went to the Hols on Feb. 25, 2022. It was then lost and I couldn't buy more till July 2 and have used it twice every day since.

I won't go into details (cause some people think it's gross), but I will say that there have been "changes" and I am hopeful that my nails will eventually grow out normal & healthy.  
<fingers crossed>

Good health and happiness to you!

Best Wishes,  
DD