

May 1, 2011

A Brief Introduction

Greetings and welcome,

My name is Jennifer. I am a 41-year old, transgender woman in a California state prison, maximum-security, men's facility.

These blogs/letters are intended to be posted on-line at the betweenthebars.org website, and will include my own artwork, poetry, and writing.

It's my sincere hope that people will find what I have to share interesting. I welcome your comments, criticism, feedback, and questions.

I am a biologically sex-assigned male, born October 6, 1969, in Riverside, California. My mother named me John David Gann.

In 1988 and 1991, I was convicted of robbery and sent to California state prison, where I eventually was given a life sentence, under the draconian

"three strikes" law, for assault and possession of an inmate-manufactured weapon. I regret these mistakes. I am remorseful for my harmful and self-destructive criminal behavior, but I am a better person now and feel that I have adequately paid for my crimes after more than 21 years in prison.

During my imprisonment, I have suffered additional "cruel and unusual punishment", I have been beaten, brutalized, humiliated, mistreated, sexually-abused, tortured, and mentally traumatized.

While I am grateful for the opportunities I have had in prison to learn and rehabilitate myself, I don't feel that I deserve to stay here for the rest of my natural life. So many people are in prison unjustifiably, it's such a waste of public funds and resources!

I am a pre-operative, transsexual woman on a regimen of hormone therapy (estrogen). My physical appearance and preferred gender identity is unmistakably femme. I hope to, eventually, undergo sex-reassignment surgery (SRS).

I am so uncomfortable and vulnerable in a men's prison, around sexual predators and testosterone-induced male aggression. I wish I could be transferred to a women's facility, where I belong.

My prison friends and comrades call me "Baby Girl", or "Nena", and refer to me as a "Queen." I'm so girly! I'm a big fan of Lady Gaga, riotgrrrls, Katy Perry, Pink, and The Donnas! I watch the Wendy Williams Show and subscribe to women's magazines.

I am an Amazon and Wonder Woman fanatic!

I am a bi-sexual/Lesbian/transsexual woman with dreams and hope for the future. I hope to someday have another chance at freedom, and to become ~~A~~ productive member of society. I have a lot to offer the world, besides being a prisoner.

I am ambitious, creative, honest, friendly, original, motivated, positive, respectful, sincere, spiritual, and unique.

I am an activist, blogger, feminist, humanitarian, survivor, organizer, revolutionary, student, volunteer, and worker.

I'm an aspiring artist, author, entertainer, fashionista, musical performer, poet, singer/songwriter, and world-traveler.

I am an avid beach-goer, BDSM enthusiast, foodie, hedonist, pet-lover, reader, and Siddha Yoga disciple of Swami Chidvritasananda, affectionately known as Gurumayi.

I am grateful and thankful
to my mother, and Mother Nature,
for all that I am. XOXO.

Jennifer Gann
California Correctional Institution
May 1, 2011