

October 25, 2011

Hello World!

Continuing from my previous blog - so what does one do when the end of all things occurs?

Naturally, you sit down and cry. Then as I stepped off the prison bus in San Quentin, I sucked it up and tried to look like a tough guy. It helped that I am 6', and back then, being a muscled surfer, I weighed 180. What didn't help was I possessed sandy blonde hair, had no scars or tattoos and all my teeth. I would not have called myself a pretty boy, but handsome? Yes, I've been called that. What I was called was *Fish*. A new guy. More like a fish out of water. Fortunately, in 1987, all inmates who had a sentence of life were given the privilege of a single cell (no roommates). Mine cell was 5-D-19. Fifth tier, cell #19, in the cellblock named Donner Section. I often wondered if it was named after the Donner Party who ate each other after being stuck while trying to cross the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

My 5'x10' cell contained a single platform bed, a stainless steel combination sink and toilet, and a double steel shelf for my property. My property? It consisted of a lunch size, paper bag with a 4" toothbrush, pink tooth powder, a bar of prison made soap, and a small booklet containing the rules. Atop my bunk was a thin, lumpy mattress with two folded sheets, a scratchy wool blanket, a plastic pillow with case, a roll of toilet paper, and a 3"x5" box of tobacco with rolling papers and matches. I don't smoke but I guess the state wanted me to kick back, relax and have a smoke as I was going to be in that cell for a long time. I was officially on orientation. Prison would begin when in 7-10 days, the cell door opened and I would be forced to mingle with my new 'friends.'

"God," I asked, "Why couldn't the bus have crashed en route, killing me instantly?"

I never wanted that cell door to open.

Please stay tuned.

Thanks for checking in on me.



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Novel: *A Thundering Wind* (Amazon.com) (Check it out.)