

March 22, 2013

"Year by year, slowly but inexorably, his spirit had withered. Dry of heat and dry-eyed. During his nineteen years imprisonment he had not shed a tear." --Victor Hugo, 'Les Miserables'

Dear Readers,

How convenient. As I start typing, "I Will Survive" by Gloria Gaynor plays on C3PO. Goddess bless disco!!

Howdy! Well...what to report. It's finally officially Spring and yet the temps this week are around 20 degrees below what they should be. YUCK! At least the ornamental pear trees are in bloom. They're so beautiful! If only they could stay that way longer in the year. In any case, I can't wait until it gets warmer.

I finally had my DHO hearing on Thurs. for the "shot" for writing another inmate. I think the DHO (hearing officer) threw it out! I'm not sure why, and I was so stunned (and scared) that I didn't question. I almost wasn't sure about leaving and made sure to ask if it was OK. He didn't sanction me, so what a huge relief. I guess he did throw it out! WHEW! It's absurd that we aren't allowed to write other inmates. They open and inspect our mail anyway, so if we're writing another inmate they could inspect it much more closely and make sure that nothing wrong or bad is going on, so why the hell shouldn't we be able to write each other?? After 9 freakin' years in prison, my support system is composed of other inmates. Period. I have one friend who helps me and that's it. The people who are my friends and my daily support are other prisoners, so when someone leaves or is transferred, you're just supposed to say, "That's that. We can't be friends anymore." Absurd.

It's a new quarter. The officers rotate each quarter, usually. Sometimes there's an exception where someone will work the same unit and shift for more than one quarter, like our daytime officer, who really gets on my nerves. I sleep late, 'cause I stay up late. Leave me the freak alone until 9 a.m. He LOVES tapping the bed and saying on a daily basis that they might inspect that day. Really, you're allowed to be under one cover as long as the rest of your bed is made. I don't really see the point of that either, but whatever.

I got 3 books on queens this past week. On Joanna I of Naples/Sicily, Eleanor of Aquitaine and Catherine the Great. LOVE IT! I'm such a queen I like reading about my fellow queens. For the record, Edward R. Hamilton Bookseller has great prices on books and is a favorite of inmates (and normal folks too, I'm sure). Check 'em out.

The psycho bitch unit manager, Gregory, made an announcement this week about how she's going to start writing "shots" for excess property, like, for example, you're only supposed to have 5 books in your possession. I'm not sure how they figure it when you have your 5 books and then you buy some more to read with the intention of mailing them out when you're done. Common sense is not a feature of BOP employees. In any case, a unit manager should have better things to do with his/her time. She actually looks for ways to screw with people. She's the one who flips out if you happen to have any jewelry and will confiscate it. (She already took 2 bracelets of mine). Get a life! This has no penological purpose. Really. I wouldn't be surprised if I get in trouble for typing this, but perhaps they should check out the First Amendment.

I've been killing myself buying music for C3PO (my MP3). Before I went to the Hole last, I had 106 songs. I'm now up to 225. Oops!! I seriously need to stop. I have a shopping addiction.

Anyhoo...love y'all. Hope you have a beautiful Spring!

OH! PS...check out Startpage.com. It's a search engine I heard about on Coast to Coast which doesn't track you like Google and keeps your life private. Check it out!

Love & Blessings,

kelly