

## The LOST YEARS

Today I am sitting here watching a marathon of reruns of MTV's Puckwild. Shows like this are entertaining to me but I can't help but be reminded that I've already lost ten of the best years of my life to prison. I never went to the prom or high school graduation. I've never been to a club or experienced getting drunk out of my mind. I've never just sat around or had raucous fun with a group of friends. I can't remember the last time I laughed. My youth has been taken from me. I can never get those years back and they were the best of my life. When I smile in the mirror it feels more like a grimace than expression of happiness. I will be almost 40 when I am released. As it is I spend weeks without talking to another person. What will I be like after years and years of isolation without mental or emotional stimulus? When will the day come that I smile naturally again?

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