

* BETTER DAYS * (MAY 2013) 04.23.2013 (AN EXCERPT)

I'M SORRY, TERESA. IT'S LIKE WE JUST GOT STARTED TALKING AND WE HAVE TO STOP! I CAN'T WAIT TO JUST HAVE DAYS WITH YOU! FACE TO FACE.

I JUST PICTURE YOU NOW WALKING AROUND YOUR APARTMENT AFTER OUR PHONE CALL GOT CUT SHORT. DO YOU FEEL LOST, LIKE I DO, JUST A LITTLE BIT? LIKE YOU GAINED THE USE OF YOUR LEGS FOR TEN MINUTES AND SUDDENLY (BOOM!) YOU'RE AGAIN PARAPLEGIC?

TODAY WAS A BIG DAY. FOR THE REASONS I TOLD YOU. THE PSYCHIATRIST EVALUATION, TALKING TO MY GRANDPA AND HAVING A PLACE TO PAROLE TO. AND THEN YOU... IT WAS GOING TO BE PERFECT. THEN THEY CUT US OFF. YOU AND ME ON A TRACTOR. FRESH CUT FIELDS ALL AROUND. WE'VE MADE IT THIS FAR, IT WENT SO MUCH OF A JUMP TO MAKE IT THAT FAR.

I WAS TALKING TO THE PSYCHIATRIST, ABOUT WHAT. ABOUT WHAT AFTER PRISON. "WHAT WILL YOU DO? WHO WILL YOU BE?" YOU KNOW?

AND IT WAS LIKE: "I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND IN MILWAUKEE." LIKE: "I. HAVE. A. GIRLFRIEND. IN. MILWAUKEE. I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND IN MILWAUKEE WHOM I TALK TO ON THE PHONE. I CAN MAKE HER SMILE..."

I'M ACTUALLY GOING TO MAKE IT OUT THIS SHIT AINT I, BABY? AND YOU ARE GOING... YOU AND I ARE GOING TO... WE WILL. LIKE, THERE ACTUALLY WILL BE A POINT IN OUR STORIES WHERE WE MEET AND...

AND TWO PEOPLE, OUT OF SEVEN BILLION, FOUND EACH OTHER AND... TWO MINDS. TWO BRAINS. SIMILAR AGED BRAINS WITH THIRTY-SOME-ODD YEARS EACH OF MEMORIES, PAIN, JOY, HOPES, DREAMS...

TO MEET EACH OTHER. TO TRY AND PRESS OUR BONES AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE INTO EACH OTHER SO OUR BRAINS, CAN, POSSIBLY TOUCH.

AND THEN I'M LEFT WITH THE CONVERSATION WITH MY 85 YEAR OLD GRANDPA. THE FAMILIAL BRAINS INTERPRETING MY WORDS TO HIM BECAUSE HIS HEARING SHOT. — THE MOON. SHE AND I ON A TRACTOR...

