

# Autobiography Notes - 2015

By Jennifer Gann

## Dedication

This book dedicated with love to my mother, Peggy Ann, to Nana, and to my great-grandmother Dolores. They are strong and beautiful women who continue to inspire me deeply. I will live and fight in their memory — as a woman!

## Introduction

"When i dare to be powerful — to use my strength in the service of my vision — then it becomes less and less important whether i am afraid."

— Audre Lorde

I have always wanted to write a book! These "Autobiography Notes" (2015) are my first serious attempt at doing so.

When i was just an elementary school kid in Riverside, California, i participated in a class project

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where we developed a simple story plot and used cut-and-paste pictures & illustrations to format our own DIY children's book. My mother, Peggy, helped me with this art/publishing project, and we created a cute story about my pet cat, Morris. Then we had a show-and-tell where I had the opportunity to share my book in front of the whole class. I was quite proud of myself, and so was my mom.

Since this early experience with creative writing, my life has been from one extreme to the other. A lot of traumatic events have occurred, which have led to depression and suicide attempts. I've survived car wrecks, drug overdoses, and sexual abuse. Not to mention decades of incarceration and torture!

In spite of all of that, I have continued to pursue my education, obtaining a GED in 1988 at the Orange County Jail and earning college credits as an undergrad student toward an Associate in Arts

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(AA) degree at Coastline Community College.

I've developed a unique writing style through many years of personal penpal correspondence. As a Jailhouse Lawyer and self-taught activist, I learned how to write legal documents, business letters, and revolutionary political theory. As a queen/trans woman and an Amazon Feminist, I also started my blog on the Between the Bars website, which I conceived of as an online journal. I've also become an aspiring artist and poet in the process.

I've had this idea of someday compiling material for a memoir, or writing an autobiography. So, this is my story written the way I want, it's my chance to speak for myself. However, it's not complete as the rest of my life is yet to be lived with utmost vigor!

I've considered various tentative titles for this book. Such as "Baby Girl" (my prison nickname), or "Amazon Queen" (which is how I identify and view

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my existential reality in the social war against patriarchy). A poignant subtitle would be "Autobiography of a Revolutionary Queen/Trans Woman."

As a Skinhead gangmember, i renounced white supremacy and revolted against the Anyan Brotherhood prison gang, spent over a decade in solitary confinement at Pelican Bay SHU, and then struggled to come out as a transgender woman behind the walls of men's prisons as an inmate in the California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation. (CDCR).

Today, i am inspired by earlier prison writers such as Jack Abbott (In the Belly of the Beast), George Jackson (Blood in My Eye). I'm inspired by revolutionary heroes like Assata Shakur (Women in Prison: How We Are), and Che Guevara (The Motorcycle Diaries).

I'm inspired by queen/trans authors such as Janet Mock (Redefining Realness: My Path to

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Womanhood, Identity, Love & So Much More), and the poetry of Maya Angelou (Phenomenal Woman and Still I Rise!). I've published some of my own works online, and in print, and share a selection of original poetry here.

So, with that I'll end this quick introduction and hope you'll enjoy reading whatever flows from my heart to my mind to my pen. At the very least, I hope to educate, entertain, inspire, and ignite the People toward revolution and total liberation.

Viva the Amazons!

Viva Anarchy!

With love and solidarity,

Jennifer Gann (A)

Jennifer Gann, P.O.W.

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Kern Valley State Prison