

THIS IS MY LAST ENTRY. I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT BTB'S TO BE A GREAT PLATFORM FOR INMATES TO REACH OUT, WRITE, DRAW, VENT, WHATEVER HELPS THEM. ALTHOUGH I HAVE NOT TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF IT NEAR ENOUGH, I AM GRATEFUL FOR ALL THOSE WHO MAKE IT POSSIBLE.

I NEVER REALLY KNEW ANYONE WHO WENT TO PRISON SO MY IDEA OF IT WAS ONLY WHAT I SAW IN MOVIES, WHICH HAS BEEN THE LEARNING INSTITUTION FOR AMERICA FOR MANY YEARS. THEY PLAY MOVIES FOR US IN HERE, I DON'T THINK MOVIES IMITATE LIFE, BUT SOMETIMES LIFE IMITATES MOVIES, MORE TIMES THAN NOT WITH DISSAPPOINTING RESULTS AND WITHOUT THE COMPENSATION OF POPCORN. I'VE ALWAYS LIKED HORROR MOVIES, I SUPPOSE MOST OF US ARE DESENSITIZED TO THEM AND RARELY WILL ONE SCARE YOU. AND THEIR NEVER AS SCARY AS HALF THE PEOPLE WHO APPEAR EACH SUNDAY MORNING ON 'MEET THE PRESS' OR 'FACE THE NATION'.

BUT WHEN I FIRST HEARD THAT METAL DOOR CLANG SHUT BEHIND ME ON MY ARRIVAL, I KNEW THAT EVEN THO I DIDN'T SEE THE WHITE RABBIT, I DEFINITELY FELL INTO WONDERLAND. AFTER FIFTEEN AND HALF YEARS I'VE GONE INSANE ENOUGH TO QUALIFY FOR A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. FOR SURE THE DMV.

YOU LEARN PRETTY QUICK IN PRISON, AT LEAST SCDC, THAT THE ONE'S RUNNING THE PLACE DOESN'T WANT TO BE CONFUSED WITH COMMON SENSE OR THE TRUTH! BECAUSE THE TRUTH CAN BE COMPLICATED, AND COMPLICATED ISN'T WHAT OUR INFORMATION-OVERLOADED SOCIETY IS GOOD AT GRASPING. MOSTLY BECAUSE IT WOULD REQUIRE THEM TO FOCUS MORE THAN TWENTY

SECONDS WHICH MOST PEOPLE SEEM INCAPABLE OF THESE DAYS.

IN HERE YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK, AT ALL. THEY TELL YOU WHEN TO LIE DOWN, WHEN TO GET UP, WHEN TO EAT, ETC. YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK, BUT THATS ALL YOU END UP DOING. LIVING INSIDE YOUR HEAD, AND THAT CAN DANGEROUS. YOU MAY START BELIEVING YOUR OWN LIES, YOUR OWN B/S, OR THE WEIGHT OF THE GUILT CAN CRUSH YOU. WHEN YOU LOSE EVERYTHING IT CAN DESTROY YOU, OR IT CAN FOCUS YOU. SO MANY GUYS IN HERE THINK THAT SINCE THEY WOUND UP ALONE THAT THEIR RELATIONSHIP WAS FOR NOTHING. OTHERS, LIKE ME, REALIZE THAT EVERY MOMENT OF MINE HAD MORE MEANING THAN I COULD RECOGNIZE AT THE TIME, I TOOK FOR GRANTED THE LOVE AND LAUGHTER OF EACH DAY. I DIDN'T SEE THE SACREDNESS OF IT UNTIL IT WAS TO LATE, AND WHEN ITS TO LATE YOU REALIZE THAT IT WAS EVERYTHING. FIFTEEN YEARS LATER AND THE WEIGHT OF THE LOSS STILL DRIVES ME TO MY KNEES, HOW DOES ONE STOP WAGING THOSE FEROCIOUS MENTAL WARS TRYING TO PURGE THE PAST?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT SOME OF THESE GUYS LIFE WAS LIKE ON THE STREET. I CAN ONLY ASSUME SOME WERE PRETTY AWFUL BECAUSE SOME SEEM TO BE GENUINELY HAPPY IN HERE. I THINK I'VE TRIED IT ALL, I'VE SUBMERGED MYSELF IN RELIGION, MEDITATION, HELPING OTHERS, BUT I'VE NEVER FOUND ONE MOMENT OF PEACE. I LIVE IN A BATHROOM WITH ANOTHER MAN WITH ZERO

EXPECTATION THAT THERE WILL NEVER BE MORE THAN THIS. IT'S NOT A LONGEVITY CONTEST BEHIND THESE WALLS. I'M SCHEDULED TO GET OUT WHEN I'M 86 YEARS OLD. WHO WANTS TO LIVE THAT LONG IN HERE? A LIFE WITH NO PLEASURE OR QUALITY.

IT'S LIKE I ALREADY CROSSED OVER TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD WITHOUT THE GOOD MANNERS OR COMMON SENSE TO DIE FIRST. TO ANY WHO READ THIS AND KNEW ME, I HOPE YOU CAN FORGIVE ME AND TRY TO UNDERSTAND. AND TRY TO REMEMBER ME AS BEING BETTER THAN I AM, WHATEVER IS WAITING ON THE OTHER SIDE I HOPE WILL BE AN AMAZING ADVENTURE THAT WE'LL ALL TAKE TOGETHER. I LOVE YOU ALL

JOE GAILLARD 613