

Bi: April Dawn Preda

As of today July 31st 2019, I sit in my 10 my 4 concrete cell with a blue steel door, with no visibility at a purposely fogged out window, (so we can't see the sky, for what reason I do not know) with a hatch for air meals in a maximum level 4 unit locked down for 23 hours a day to the beat of commercials, banging, clanging and screaming at all hours of the day. I'm at Elmhurst Correctional Facility in Milpitas California and have been in Maximum Level Security ever since I've banged on a door without stopping back in 2014. My behavior has been what it can only be back in these remote, forgotten parts of the jail, muted and subdued, yet I am denied from any classification to downclass, although I have completed the only two programs they allow back here several times over, meaning I complete the same "cycle" of material to receive a certificate (6 wk course for the yoga/meditation and a 12 week course for the substance abuse journaling program) then, upon the end of that

2)

program, we just begin at the same never-ending cycle again, over and over, just like the commercials, TV shows, CO's and their attitudes picking favorites and bringing their petty jealousies and feelings to work, along with every other female based here, some who feel as I do and some unfortunately who go against the grain and forget what uniform their wearing (meaning jail issue) and from lack of morals and respect turn against other females who share their own burden of being locked up, strained, drained and frustrated right alongside with them but only make matters worse with talking about the next female behind her back taking her burdens to a whole other level by destroying what chance of unity and building each other up we might have. For example, today as I sit here, because of the female locked up right beside me we can no longer clean our own unit and

3)

are subjected to a level (1) random cleaning by inmates who aren't housed here and could care less about how clean they get our showers or our hot pot being filled. This wouldn't even be an issue if we had plenty of time to program but as I mentioned before a maximum of an hour is what we get, if we get it and then we have our phone calls, showering, cleaning of our cells and exercise on the yard if we're extremely motivated, so remember, this decision to have the level (1) inmates randomly clean comes from one girl's wrath of unfair treatment. Her wrath is also another reason they won't program a girl she's afraid of with her group. Another reason they won't downclass me to a unit where there's all kinds of programs available

64.)

and opportunities to improve and rehabilitate myself, which I am frustrated at being denied the opportunity for this simply because a girl has mixed her math with insinuations that are untrue and are dictating the decisions on a whole other level. There in many cases are the reasons for violence. In Chancellors facility, CW and other contact allowed facilities - "switching" is not tolerated and ~~will~~ will be dealt with swiftly and violently. My solution is why the need to do this anyway when simple conversation between two incarcerated individuals or group concession would have been met with respect on the lowest level, simply because the community's (because that's what we are back here) needs are voiced point blank period. Instead this individual

5.

creates an unsafe hostile environment for herself, when in reality it could've been avoided in the first place by simply voicing her needs respectfully. So, amongst other things I am currently facing my 3rd stroke and because I am indigent I was forced to plead out = openly = to EO to life. I was forced because my public defender threatened that if I went to trial I would lose and I would get 121 to life. He told me my Aunt told him I was guilty and to trust him. He further said if I kept prolonging to "open" plea "things" (meaning the DA) would take the Romero option that they were considering striking some of my strikes off the table, because of the stress and frustration I was causing at wasting their time, playing games and the "under 21 year sentence they were considering

6) would ~~turn~~ into a much high number".
So you, as the reader, must be
thinking, now, she must be a
violent striker right? I got my
first strike for stealing a
bicycle out of target in 1996.
I was 21 years old in LA and
been in twin towers for 59
days (at that time a very long
time for me) I was offered time
served to take the strike
a P.C. 211 or plead out to
a PC 666 for 16 mo's in prison.
I had no idea what a strike meant
or the penal codes all I heard
was time served and the other
option was prison. My public
defender simply told me never
to get in trouble again.
This is where the system went so
wrong with the striker initiative
in the 1st place, originally
the striker law was ~~built~~
invented for Billy Klause a 12

7)

40 year old victim who ~~was~~ kidnapped,
raped and killed. The 3 strikes
your out law: was invented
for molesters, rapists and
killers. I am far from any
of these things and am
just an addict that supports
my addiction through petty
theft but because of the
District Attorney's thirst for
easy convictions fell
victim to ~~the~~ system

3,000

~~machine~~ whose machine was
in full gear around the
time when I first pled
unknowingly to the severity
of that strike, only being
told that I could go home
to San Jose that day and
to never get in trouble again
at 21 years of age.

Which brings me to now, where as a
40 year old woman I saw my life
flashing before my eyes in that
courtroom, actually having to psychologically

8)

remove myself to ensure I had no emotional
breakdown or outburst which instinctually
I knew would not help me, when I heard
the numbers flying at of his mouth
before I even knew what I was
being charged with at my own
arraignment, when he had snapped
at me for the way I had given
him my birthdate, he then told
me that if he were me he would
have so much attitude if he
were facing GO to life. That's
when I had said "for what?"
He then told me my charges of
1st Degree Burglaries to which still
today I was at a loss, but after the
days that followed, after I saw
the many times as the lead
public defender ~~there~~ who had
been in that court room for
near 20 years and had the
respect of not just other lawyers,
but many inmates, District Attorneys
and the entire staff, including the

9.)

Jude, I realized that this man, in this small courthouse, held my future literally in his hands. And if he didn't want to go to preliminary because he didn't believe in my innocence and was on a first name basis with the D.A. himself that was prosecuting me, how his own paralegal came and tell me he was "God", then what ~~were~~ my options? Represent myself? Give him and get another county appointed counsel who would not have the same small town god ole boy camaraderie in a 98% conviction rate county and get bulldozed around by this public defenders buddies that live in that court house with him? The system is too great a machine for a little guy like me to fight, when

10)
just recently San Jose Mercury's own
headlines boasted correctional
officers 2nd degree murder convictions
based on "texts" and circumstantial
evidence and murder convictions
with no bodies found in others
cases, unbelievable indictments
~~with~~ in some cases with over
200 suspects named with no
other reason other that they
are related to a suspect
with vague criminal convictions
bored investigators like to
label quickly with gang affiliation.
Bottom line is this is just a
small city trying so hard to
put it's big boy pants on no
matter however they can to
make their own name for themselves
whether it's recreating downtown for
the supertechgiant Google's takeover
that will cost thousands of old bussness's
their livelihoods to ignore the
housing crisis that has almost

11)

10,000 homeless (and these are the ones who decided to participate in the census) to making living here so unaffordable even the new millenials entering into the tech world created their own sub roommate sites online. To the drumbeat of money today there are now two classes of people living in Silicon Valley, the people who can and the people who cannot afford to live here and that doesn't ~~even~~ any longer include the middle class family, let alone the criminal justice system's victims who are stuck in a machine so slick the average wait for a capital defendant going to trial here in this county is anywhere from 2 to 9 years, and let us not forget that conviction rate of 98 is more like a solid 99 today. I am just another sacrificial pawn in a neverending game.