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22 Lines

Censorship

As an incarcerated writer
in order to correspond with my writing mentor
I have to work through our prison's ***** department.

So when ***** refuses to forward my poem
(because it contained the word "*****_*****")
My mentor never receives it.

There is no discussion, appeal or due process.
***** has done this to 3 different works of mine... so far.

I can't use the word *****
Or write about *****_*****
Or use my thesaurus to find synonyms for joy about continuing to work with my mentor.

I try to self-censor
Edit
Redact revolutionary and overly-creative ideas
Sanitize

And dress-it up... hoping it makes it past *****
who thinks she is protecting the outside world from my words.

Just writing this poem could get me in trouble.

And if I can't get by *****,
my writing remains nothing more than handwritten squiggles
forever trapped between the lines of
my writer's notebook.