

365 Days in Jail

Day 1

The food in jail isn't as bad as I thought.

Day 2

I even got a PlayStation, to play my favorite games.

Day 3

I also get books to read.

Day 4

Despite the good treatment and luxuries, I have a nagging feeling.

Day 5

The other inmate asked me why I am here.

Day 6

Today I reminisced about the time when me and Matt walked along the bay close to our former apartment, all the way to another side of town.

Day 7

I didn't brush my teeth.

Day 8

Sleep has been good lately, but last night I woke up at 4am and couldn't fall back asleep, so I was tired the whole day.

Day 9

Had my weekly talk with the prison counselor. He wanted to ask about my past, but it was hard to talk about it.

Day 10

I thought about the time when I studied philosophy for one semester.

Day 11

Today the staff decided to give us a treat and told us they'd arrange for us to cook together. We cooked lentil soup and it was delicious.

Day 12

The other inmate, Stan, told me that prior to coming here, he had dreamed of writing a book and learning to paint. I told him, he could still write a book and learn to paint.

Day 13

My father called. He said he was going to buy me a MacBook Pro and bring it over. He said, it would be so that I could get a chance to learn programming, which had been something I wanted to do.

Day 14

I thought about Andrea. It was really overwhelming and I couldn't concentrate on eating.

Day 15

Day 16

The prison counselor asked me,

Day _

I thought about Robin. It was a long time ago I thought about her because I had been trying not to think about her.

Day _

I can't remember how I got here.

Day _

Philosophy is interesting, isn't it? I often wonder, how people can be so preoccupied with that which does not matter, and not even think about the things that do matter.

Day _

Sophie and James got married. They seem to be truly happy together. I think the reason why I'm here is because I'm not like them.

Day _

I told the prison counselor, that I had suicidal thoughts. He said, let us talk about those feelings. But I said, it's because I'm here that I have those feelings. He said, don't you remember, that one day your time here will also be finished? I think it was a rhetorical question.

Day 66

Mom called and asked if I wanted some apples from the garden or a new jacket because it was getting cold. I said no. I wished that she would instead ask me how I was and if I needed someone to talk to.

Day 112

Once I finish my book, I can kill myself. But not before.

Day _

My 30th birthday. I never thought, that I would spend my 30th birthday in jail. Still, Matt came with champagne, and we celebrated in style.

Day 187

I asked Matt, why he keeps on supporting me and why he hasn't left me already. He said, because I don't think you deserve it.

Day 256

The guard told me there was a letter for me. It was from Matt. Matt told me to not give up hope and that one day I would get out, and we would be happy together. I cried, because I didn't believe him.

Day 365

Matt came to see me. He brought those mini firework sticks and we lit them in the courtyard. He said, spell something. So I moved my arms around and wrote "Matt" in the air. And he took a long shutter speed photo of it which turned out really nice. I almost look forward to the new year, but I know, that it won't be different. But I know now, that he loves me, and I love him too.

Beichen Chen
2020-09-12