

JANUARY, 1987
SAN FRANCISCO

A POSITIVE MENTAL
ATTITUDE IS ESSENTIAL TO
SURVIVING OUT HERE.



IT'S THE ONE THING
I CAN CONTROL.

BUT IT'S A BATTLE.



NORMAL LIFE GOES
ON ALL AROUND ME...

...A CONSTANT
REMINDER.



MY THERAPIST AT THE BOYS'
HOME, TANYA, SHE TAUGHT
ME THAT NEGATIVE FEELINGS
RESULT FROM NEGATIVE
THOUGHTS.

THAT I CAN'T
CHANGE REALITY...



...BUT I CAN CHANGE THE
WAY I FEEL ABOUT IT.

AND I TRY.

THERE AREN'T MANY UPSIDES TO
SLEEPING UNDER AN OVERPASS
AND EATING GARBAGE.

JUST ONE.



I'M NOT IN THAT
FUCKING HOME
ANYMORE.

PHIL SIMMS
AND THE GIANTS ARE
UNSTOPPABLE,
MAN.

FIVE HUNDRED
BUCKS SAYS
THEY DON'T SEE
THE PLAYOFFS.

PARANOID LATELY.



FEEL LIKE I'M BEING WATCHED.

BUT NOBODY SEES ME. NOT REALLY.

THEY LOOK THROUGH ME.



ANYTHING HELPS.

I GOT NOTHIN'.



THEY WONDER WHY I LET THIS HAPPEN.

THEY THINK I MUST BE WEAK.

SO, YOU IN?

EASIEST FIVE HUNDRED BUCKS I EVER MADE.



CAN'T IMAGINE THEY COULD END UP HERE.

SOMEONE WALKING BY THEM, IN THEIR SHANTY HOME, IGNORING THEIR EXISTENCE.



IT'S JUST WAY EASIER TO JUDGE THE POOR THAN TO BE CHARITABLE.



EASIER TO THINK I'VE DONE SOMETHING TO **DESERVE** THIS.

AND IN MY CASE--

MAYBE THEY'RE RIGHT.



FEBRUARY 6



TODAY'S MY BIRTHDAY.

I GOT PNEUMONIA. PRETTY TRADITIONAL GIFT FOR A KID'S FOURTEENTH, RIGHT?

IT'S ALSO GOOD PRESIDENT RONALD FUCKING REAGAN'S BIRTHDAY.

SOME IRONY.

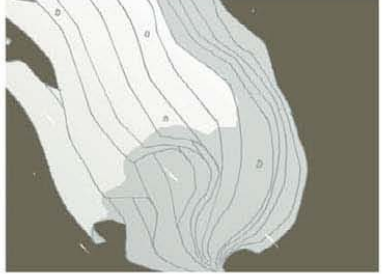


STILL BETTER TO SHARE IT WITH THE GIPPER THAN WITH CHIP'S FISTS AND MRS. RANKS' STALE DING-PONGS OF GUILT.

ANYTHING HELPS.



HERE. JUST WHAT YOU NEED.



HELPING ME TO HELP MYSELF.



LESSON LEARNED, PICKHEAD.



THE BAD VOICE TELLS ME TO GET HIS ADDRESS OFF THE DRIVER'S LICENSE.

PAY HIM A VISIT.

THE BAD VOICE IS WINNING.



AND SOMEONE IS WATCHING ME.

MARCH 13

I HATE THE WINTER.

JACKET SOAKED BY ICY MIST.

I KEEP LOOKING FOR A POSITIVE SIDE TO SLEEPING ON DAMP, COLD CONCRETE.

BUT IT'S NOT THE COLD KEEPING ME AWAKE TONIGHT.

IT'S THE DREAMS OF SUNSHINE.

SEEING THE TWO OF THEM AGAIN MAKES THE COLD THAT MUCH HARDER TO BEAR.

MARCUS LOPEZ ARGUELLO, HE HAD TO CHANGE HIS NAME AFTER WE CAME HERE, SO I TOOK IT.

HE WAS A COP.

A COP WHO WAS TRICKED INTO HELPING REAGAN'S C.I.A. SMUGGLE ARMS TO THE CONTRAS.

THE SANDINISTAS BLEW UP OUR HOME IN PAYMENT.

I WAS FIVE WHEN WE FLED NICARAGUA.



THIS ISN'T A DRESS REHEARSAL, MARCUS. YOU ONLY GET THE ONE TURN.

LIFE IS A SERIES OF UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES.

IT'S OUR JOB TO FIND THE HAPPINESS IN EACH ONE.



WE WERE GIVEN REFUGE HERE, IN SAN FRANCISCO.



AFTER YEARS OF TURMOIL MOM AND DAD WERE FINALLY HAPPY.

REAGAN CUT FUNDING TO U.S. MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES.

RELEASING HUNDREDS OF MENTALLY ILL ONTO THE STREETS.

INCLUDING BARBARA SALINGER, SUICIDAL SCHIZOPHRENIC.





I TRIED TO BE AS WELL.

BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN TERRIFIED OF THE FUTURE.

AND BAD THINGS ARE WAITING AROUND EVERY CORNER.

BUT IN THE END...



EVEN BACK THEN, I COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT WHAT EVERYONE ELSE IGNORED SO SKILLFULLY.

WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE.



...IT DIDN'T CHANGE ANYTHING.

...ALL OF THAT ANXIETY...

...ALL THAT WORRYING ABOUT THE FUTURE...



BARBARA SALINGER, WHO MADE EVERY FEAR I EVER HAD COME TRUE.

