

Saturday May 11, 2024.

Dear Dr. Kate,

I hope all is well. Sorry I didn't write sooner. I was taking a couple of classes, and got a little overwhelmed. My classes are over and I have time now. I hope this response isn't too late.

Reflections on the podcast:

I'm very glad I had the opportunity to participate in this podcast. It's always amazing to me when our voices can be heard from behind the prison walls. I'm grateful there are people who share my belief that our stories are important. I believe most people think people in prison aren't capable of change, but that has not been my experience. I know how much I have changed and I have met some of the most amazing women I know right here in prison. I believe with all my heart that so many of these women deserve a second chance at life and this podcast helps to show why. There needs to be more opportunities for us to share our stories and show society the fuller picture of who we are. The fact that you all worked so hard to make this happen makes me feel blessed, lucky, supported and loved.

I was surprised at some of the things I talked about from my childhood. I hadn't spoken about those things in many years, but I can see the value of remembering how things began for me. My friends have commented that they learned a lot about me and were impressed with how resilient I was, even at a young age. I'm sure those early experiences, in a weird way, prepared me for being in prison. This is a very difficult reality, but I can endure it because of the hope I hold onto. Even though I can't comprehend how, I feel that things will work out. I do my best with each day in front of me and hope that my circumstances will change one day.

Listening to myself talk made me emotional. I was surprised at how sad some of what I talked about was. It was as if I was hearing myself say it for the first time. I think it came out so easily because it was Dr. Kate asking the questions, someone I trust completely. I doubt anyone else would have been able to evoke such a response from me.

As for moving forward, I don't know. I'd love to be able to hear the entire podcast. Maybe they can play it here on the institution channel. I wouldn't mind hearing myself again, either. I've only ever heard it that one time. [REDACTED]

Dr. Kate, you can always share my words. Like I said, I trust you completely. [REDACTED]

Dr. Kate, I wanted to share something with you. I think you know that there is a tv show currently airing about my crime. The series is called Nightmare Next Door. I haven't seen the episode about me, but I'm keeping an eye out for it. The series runs on HLN here about once a week. It certainly has me on edge that anyone can see such explicit details about my crime. I went through a lot deciding if I even wanted to watch it, but finally decided to watch, just to know what is being said about me.

What you do is so different. I'm so grateful to know you. You have always tried to present us in a way that humanizes us, and I will always participate in anything you ask me to do. Thank you so much for the opportunities you've given me. I wish the world was full of more people like you.

If there's anything else I can send, please let me know. I won't let so long go by before I respond next time. Take care.

With love,

