

## Wake Up

By Victoria Dennis 5-16-21

Living the life, no end in sight, each day an adventure, no risk to great,

Mistake after mistake, pride before my fall, one day to the next, each more fun,

Eating crow, pride just too much, no help when I needed it, no memory for months,

Hours of questions, answers I don't have, finally a booking, paper gown for weeks,

Prisoners spitting, cussing, calling me names, what's going on, why am I in such pain,

Three years of tests, trials, and court, civil and criminal, and family no more,

Pack up, to prison, intake, oh wow, a different world, can't settle, time for chow,

Wake up, eat, to work and back, shower and sleep, over and over, like that,

Day after day, wake up, wash dishes, rinse and repeat,

Three more years will go by, don't stop, count time, let's eat, some drugs let's try,

Is that a girl or a guy, how cute, I guess I'll give them a ride,

May as well, nothing else around here to do, she's going to another prison, I will too,

Oh wow, this is better, more freedom, more fun, wait there's working with wood?

Vocational certificate, maybe two, maybe three, as clerk, as aide, just for me,

Look there! It's puppies, can I have one too? Too pretty if I was a guy? No way,

A fight and a battle, change some policy, there, now I've a puppy, it's work, it's fun,

Life is kind of good, forget the steel and the wire, eight years its been since feeling this good,

Wake up, eat, to work and back, shower and sleep, over and over, like that,

Going to the chapel, not to get married, going to the chapel, someone's getting buried,

Daddy lost his battle, the cancer has won, last words that were said can't be undone,

Days before I could think again, time where I met my forever friend,

What am I doing with my life, spinning wheels, wasting time, same as before,  
Make something of myself, follow my dreams, education? Not here, time to go back,  
Start college, great job, savings, new future, years pass, I've grown and matured,  
Fly mom down, first visit, sixteen years, a few months later, cancers the word,  
Video visits, and email too, I've got to go, better communication, I'm there,

Thank God, no cancer, no way, not fair, cancer stalks her spouse instead, chances are low,  
Chances, opportunity, fill this place, choose positive, choose negative, choice is mine,  
Learn coding, college reading, volunteer, and enjoy, go to college, do something,

Twenty years prison, warehouse, no help, help myself, growth, chance when it comes,  
Nearly half my life, here already, fourteen more left to go, can only imagine,  
Wake up, eat, to work and back, shower and sleep, over and over, like that.