

# San Francisco Chronicle

THE VOICE OF THE WEST

December 16, 1997

Torey Tuesday South  
Inmate J-39424 5263  
California Men's Colony  
P.O. Box 9101  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93409-8101

Dear Torey:

Hi again! I hadn't intended to write you again so soon, but I had a nice chat with Janice yesterday on the phone, and I am even more enthusiastic about going forward on your story than I was before – and I was already pretty enthusiastic!

I wasn't able to reach Susan yesterday, but am trying again this afternoon. Since I have no idea when I will actually be able to meet you, I thought I would go ahead and start trying to pull together basic background information right away by mail, if that is okay with you.

I have a million questions I want to ask you, but don't have any particular order in which to ask them, so probably the easiest way to begin is at the very beginning. Can you write me a letter setting out some of the basic facts about your early life? Janice tells me you were born in Chicago and attended at least some schools in that area. Help me by filling in some of the details: when and where you were born, what you can recall about your life up until you were 13, the age you were in the photocopied picture you sent me in your first package (school, growing up, family relations and so on.) I am particularly interested in the personal details – how your gender identity affected your relationship with family and other children, what your favorite subjects were in school and how you did at them – in other words, the works.

Be as detailed or as brief as you want (or have time for.) If I need to know more about some of the things you tell me, I will get the additional details from you later, either through further correspondence or in person when we are finally able to meet.

On a more specific level, I really want to know everything you can tell me about your gender status, since to me, that is really the essence of your story and what makes it so compelling.

From what little I know about your background, you are completely different from any TS woman I have ever heard of. Most TS women I know lived as biological men but were never happy with that gender identification because they always psychologically identified themselves as women trapped in a male body that prevented them from expressing their feminine nature. While they felt they were women, they had a clinically

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male physiology with no female attributes. When they had the ability to do so, they opted for surgical intervention to become biological women. Once they made that change, they had no interest in changing back.

You, on the other hand, have apparently lived successfully as both a man and a woman, and apparently (from what Janice told me) have had some of the physiological attributes of both from birth. While you are obviously an attractive and very feminine female now (judging from the photo you sent me showing what you looked like in Arizona), in the past you have clearly been an equally handsome and very masculine male. As a result, there is a gender ambiguity about you that I have never seen in other TS women I know.

I am most curious about when your cross-gender status was first medically determined and what sort of early medical treatment you received as a result. I gather from the photocopy of the picture you sent me of you and your mother that you lived at least part of your childhood as a girl. From the photocopied news clipping you send me, it is equally obvious you were presenting as a very masculine male when you were in the service, and Janice tells me you maintained a male gender presentation for at least part of the time you were a fugitive. On the other hand, Janice told me that she lived with you during periods when you presented as a male and as a female. I am curious about how your relationship changed as a result. Did Janice know you were transgendered when you first fell in love? If not, how did you share this incredibly intimate information with her and what was her reaction?

Can you clear up for me the periods of time and places where you were living as a man and as a woman, and some of the thinking that led you to present as that particular gender at the time? I am assuming that you made the decision to cross over at some point – possibly more than once – and that you selected a particular gender identity at one time or another for personal and psychological reasons. I am very interesting in hearing the reasons why you decided to adopt differing gender identities at various times in your life.

It may be too early to get into this subject with you, but I will raise the question anyway: most TS women I know attempt to leave behind their male identity once they start living full-time and transitioning as female. To adopt a new, female identity and pass and be accepted as a biological woman, even though pre-op TS, is almost a TS fantasy. This is precisely the situation you were in when you were underground – successfully living what would be a fantastic dream to many TS women -- but you chose to return to California and turn yourself in to face the outstanding criminal charges that were filed against you as a man, even though you clearly had decided to become completely female through sexual reassignment surgery. I find the decision you made totally fascinating and am dying to know why you made the choice you did.

Whew! On re-reading this letter, it occurs to me I am probing pretty deep for someone who has never actually spoken to you in person. I am sorry to be so blunt, but I think asking these questions straight out is better than pussyfooting around. As for my snooping, that I can't help, since it is part of my job description. I hope you don't find

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this interrogation off-putting, but I am dying of curiosity, and my interest isn't solely professional. Although I may disagree with some of the things you have done (such as becoming a fugitive -- although I am not so sure I wouldn't have done the same thing if I had been in your shoes), I admire you very much. You have shown amazing courage in fighting for your identity as a woman under circumstances when most people would have simply taken the path of least resistance and avoided conflict with an institution like the prison system that has the power to cause them great harm.

I need to know everything there is to know about you in order to give your story the treatment it deserves, but if these questions make you uncomfortable, just let me know. I hope that isn't the case, because I think you are an amazing person, and have a story to tell that could change people's lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Wallace". The signature is fluid and extends across the width of the page.

Bill Wallace, Chronicle Staff Writer