

(Bradley Compilation 1.2)

Action Movie Marathon

Bradley:

I shouldn't smoke, but I don't want to quit. I don't want to stop smoking. Don't ever start. You'll never want to stop. That's what happened to me.

It's a great day, isn't it? Gorgeous. Not too cold. Love winter. The snow. People complain, but it doesn't bother me. Having a good New Year? I had good one. Had a real good Christmas, too. Went to bed at 7:00 the night before. Got up at 7 am. Spent the day watching movies. An action movie marathon: Lethal Weapon, Die Hard. It was the best! You don't need to let things get you down. Because the little things in life are the best things. You know? That's what I say. This Christmas I made myself bologna sandwiches. I just got out the bread and put on the bologna and spread the mayo. And I smoked, must've been, 20 cigarettes. At least. One after the other. It was like – *(puts head back)* ahhh! Not saying you should smoke, but for me, it was the best Christmas ever. You gotta enjoy life. It's the simple things, you know?

You asked me a while back if anything gets me down, and I didn't have an answer. It's not like nothing gets me down, but I really wanted to think about it. And I didn't know when I'd see you so I've been thinking about it for a while. Then I came up with what I

was going to say, but I haven't seen you around, so I forgot what it was. Anyway, I'll answer the best I can.

I guess it's unhappy people. The people who are left to fend for themselves and they can't do it because they can't afford medication. They can't get medicine or services or they're mentally ill and they can't get help. Maybe they don't even think they need help anymore and they're out there causing problems for other people, or maybe just for themselves. And it's like we've given up on them. Sometimes I don't know where I'm going to be. I have somewhere to stay for a few more months and then I don't know. But I'll figure it out - I know how to get by. I like being on my own. There's a place in the woods where no one can find me. It's quiet, and away from everything. I even got through the winter there. Could you get through a week with nothing but a backpack? For two days? Not many people can do that. You should write about that: What you'd put in your backpack.

I feel like people should do whatever they want, but I hate it when they say things or do things just to be hurtful. All the people arguing about guns and politicians. Don't even get me started on politics. I don't think you'd agree with me and I once I get going I can't stop. But I don't want people telling me what to do. Sometimes when people walk right by me, I feel like I'm invisible. I'd rather be by myself than be invisible. I don't like mean people. That's it, I guess.

Back when I was with Tracy, I didn't care because I was so crazy about her that she could treat me so bad that started to feel normal like it had always been that way. And I could get down about that too, except if it weren't for what happened with Tracy I would never have met Mariah. Mariah was...ohh, you know, she was that person. I think that there's one special person out there and when it clicks you're complete and you're never the same - it's as close to perfect as it gets. We just understood each other and we could talk about anything, but we were also fine just sitting there and not talking. When she died, I didn't know how I was going to keep going. I didn't want to live anymore and I almost committed suicide, but then I started going to therapy and I started writing and I couldn't stop. Now writing's my therapy. I've never shown anybody what I've written -it's just for me, but it keeps me going. Fifteen years. It's hard to believe.

I still think about her all the time. Especially around the holidays. This Christmas I made peanut butter and jelly and listened to the radio. No that was last year at Kevin's. He doesn't have a TV. Bologna and mayo sandwiches. That's right, I already told you about that. I lined them up and ate one after another. They were so good! And I watched action movies all day. It's the simple things in life, you know?

Well, nice seeing you. It's starting to get a little cold out here. I'm going to go in and get some coffee.